

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 19, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

When attorneys have a witness on the court stand, the **Federal Rules of Evidence** provides varying guidelines and rules on what they may or may not ask a witness. The guidelines and rules depend on such circumstances as whether the attorney faces his own witness or an opposing one, a hostile or a friendly witness, and are on direct examination or cross-examination. The aim of all of these proceedings is to ascertain the absolute **truth**.

In today's Gospel passage we see and hear how that John the Baptist is a **truthful witness** for Jesus. John the Baptist's function is to give witness to and testify for Jesus before the court of world opinion. John's testimony is honest, humble, sincere and direct. John witnesses to numerous titles that can only be applied to Jesus. The first title might be called "The Greater One." (v.30). John witnesses and testifies to the fact that Jesus existed before him. John accomplished this when he announced that: "a man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me." For John this was hindsight and it always troubled him that he hadn't immediately recognized Jesus as the Messiah. However, enlightenment came to John at Jesus' baptism when God the Father identified Jesus as His beloved Son. John's response to this event was in his words and action: "He must increase, I must decrease."

A second title that John witnessed to regarding Jesus may be termed "The Vehicle of the Spirit." (v.32f.). John stated that even before Jesus' baptism God told him that the one whom the Spirit would descend upon would Himself be baptizing with the Holy Spirit. At Jesus' baptism, John witnessed the Spirit descend from heaven upon Jesus in the form of a dove. This dove remained upon Jesus, indicating to John that Jesus **is** the subject of his testimony and that Jesus **is** superior to him. This superiority will be demonstrated when Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit and not merely with water.

A third title for Jesus as witnessed by John is "God's Chosen One." (v.34). This title comes from an allusion to Isaiah (42:1) recognizing that Jesus **is** the special Son of God, the Chosen One in whom God delights.

The most precious of all the titles that John witnessed to in describing Jesus is the title of: the "Lamb of God"-the vulnerable Lamb of God who dies that we might live. This image and title is very suggestive. Jesus, the Lamb of God, willingly surrenders His life to nourish us, His people, in love, innocence and at His own cost...
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Weekend Masses

Sat Jan 18 4:00 p.m. In Thanksgiving, Mel Schroeder

Sun Jan 19 10:00 a.m. Mary Zaleskie

Sat Jan 25 4:00 p.m. Deceased members of the Mark and Louise Schmersal Family

Sun Jan 26 10:00 a.m. For our parishioners

Communion Service

Fri Jan 24 8:00 a.m. St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults \$2,930.00 Loose \$612.00
Children \$24.16 Total \$3,566.16
78 envelopes returned = 37%



*Thank you for your generosity!
Thank you also to those who give
electronically!!*

Assignments for January 25 & 26, 2020

Money Counters: Janet Begg and Deb Buck

4:00 p.m. – *please sign the sheet in the main entrance*

Greeters: _____

Cantor: Steve McCullough

Ushers: _____

Lector: Jenny Roby

E.M.: Edna Conkling,

Servers: _____, _____

10:00 a.m.

Greeters: Deb Buck

Cantor: Steve McCullough

Ushers: Jeanne and Jerry Wehri

Lectors: Lisa Welch

E.M.: Michelle Risner, John Schulte, _____

Servers: Addison Businger, Makayla Schweingruber

Readings for January 26, 2019

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10 – 13, 17

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:12 – 23

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...John's witness and testimony that Jesus is the Lamb of God brings to mind several Scriptural images: the apocalyptic lamb in Revelation 5: 5-16 and 17:4; the paschal lamb of Exodus 12:7-14; the temple lamb of Exodus 29:28; and the suffering lamb in Isaiah 53:5-7. All these images collectively capture the richness of the meaning of the "Lamb of God." The function of this Lamb of God is to take away the sin of the world. This does not refer to private individual sins but rather to the **collective brokenness** of the world.

God calls each one of us to the high caliber of John the Baptist in witnessing to and for Jesus. By our baptism we have been empowered to be Jesus' witnesses in our communities and boldly give testimony to others on His behalf. By our baptism we are challenged to direct ourselves towards Jesus and bring others to Jesus, the Lamb of God. Have a blessed week.

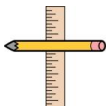
Love & prayers,
Fr. John

P.S. Monday, January 23rd, has been designated by the Conference of United States Bishops as a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. I urge everyone to take a moment to pray for the protection of unborn children and the end of legalized abortion in our country. God Bless America.



Offertory Envelopes If you have not gotten envelopes in the past and would like to receive a box, put your name on the sheet and *they will be ready for you next weekend.*

Council Meetings The Finance Council will meet on Tuesday, January 21st



Preschool Registration is now OPEN to children ages 3-5 that are fully potty trained by August 1. There is a \$35 non-refundable fee required. If you have any questions, please contact Katie Hohenbrink or Amanda Stechschulte.

You give your heart and soul to everything you do, between your work and your family. Are you giving your heart and soul to your marriage? Retrouvaille is a marriage program designed to bring couples closer together. The next weekend in our area is January 24 – 26, 2020. For more information, contact: Joe and Arlene @ 419-481-1116 or visit our website: **HelpOurMarriage.com**

Come be our guest for mass, dinner and a talk on January 23 at 5:45PM at Lima Central Catholic High School. Fr. Mark Hoying, C.P.P.S., Pastor of Kalida St. Michael Catholic Church, will be speaking on his vocational call and journey. The evening is sponsored by The Serra Club of Lima Area, which exists to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life. To make a reservation, please call Kathy McGraw at 419-303-0339.

Travel with Fr. Charles Obinwa, *pastor of St. Joseph's Fort Jennings & Chaplain at St. Rita's*, from June 3 – 13th, 2020. Your trip will include a visit to Portugal (tour the city of Lisbon, Our Lady of Fatima), France (Our Lady of Lourdes), Switzerland (tour the city of Geneva; St. John Vianney place at Ars-Sur-Formans) and Poland (Auschwitz: Concentration Camps/Holocaust Memorial; Lagiewniki: Shrine of Divine Mercy, St. Faustina's convent; Wadowice: Birthplace of Pope John Paul II; visit to Our Lady of Czestochowa, Poland's greatest pilgrimage shrine). The cost for the trip is \$4,699.00 and registration ends the after the first week in February. For more information and details on registration, contact Jennifer Wadsworth at (612) 730 – 2890 or jennifer@procatholicstours.com. You can also visit the website at www.procatholicstours.com

P.R.E.P

Children's Liturgy of the Word is during the 10 a.m. Mass

K-6: Class is this Wednesday, January 22nd, from 6:30 – 7:30

Jr High: Class is today from 11 - 1



God Squad--High School Youth Group



God Squad High School Youth will meet for class today from 11 - 1!