

# St. Mary's Catholic Church

12<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday

June 21, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

No individual, group or nation likes being **intimidated** or **bullied**. We like to arrive at our own decisions without being persuaded or compelled by a stronger party into a submissive agreement. Even if our decision turns out to be a blunder we prefer the freedom to make our own mistakes over being forced to do what others judge to be right. This point is illustrated in a story about King Philip II of Macedon who ruled in 4<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. King Philip had subdued all the major Greek city states except Sparta. The people of Sparta had remained stubbornly independent and Philip decided to make them an offer they could not refuse. He sent Sparta's leaders the following message: "You must submit to me without further delay. If I bring my army to your land I will destroy your farms, slay your people, and raze your city." The Spartan leaders response to Philip's threat was summed up in one word; "**If.**" The Spartans refused to be **intimidated** and **bullied** by Philip and they did not give in to his demand to surrender to him. Consequently, Philip decided to leave the Spartans alone and they remained free city state.



Our Scripture readings for today give us a focus on how we as Christians are supposed to respond to being **intimidated** and **bullied** by others. Our response should be one of courage having confidence in God knowing that our God will see our torment, hear our cry and help us in our distress.

When push comes to shove, people react differently. In today's first reading Jeremiah refuses to be **intimidated** by terror from every side. That doesn't mean that terror doesn't get to him. What it means is that he has no intention of allowing the terror to write his script and dictate who he is. Jeremiah had been abandoned by his friends and they tried to discredit him. He was thrown into prison for his preaching and threatened with death if he didn't change his tune. But Jeremiah refuses to be **bullied** into an agreement because he knows that "the Lord is at his side, a mighty champion." What kept Jeremiah sane amidst all this persecution is his profound belief that God truly cared for him. Jeremiah knows that his persecutors will not triumph! He knows that his persecutors are the ones who will be ashamed as the Lord God will vindicate him.

In today's Gospel passage Jesus appears in strong voice against any sort of **intimidation** of His disciples. Jesus does not disguise the truth that His disciples **will** be confronted by those who threaten, **bully** and **intimidate** them into submissive agreement.

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## Weekend Masses

Sat June 20	4:00 p.m.	Jan Schulte, Mindy Kay Smalley
Sun June 21	10:00 a.m.	Dennis Warren, James Trenkamp, Dolores Hermiller
Sun June 21	12:00 p.m.	For our parish
Sat June 27	4:00 p.m.	In thanksgiving
Sun June 28	8:00 a.m.	Special Intention
Sun June 28	10:00 a.m.	For our parish

## SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$3,720.00	Loose \$817.00
	Total	\$4,537.00
51 envelopes returned = 24%		



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

## Assignments for June 27 & 28, 2020

**Money Counters: Chad Wolford, Tonya Meyer**  
**4:00 p.m.**

**Greeters:**  
**Cantor:**  
**Ushers:**  
**Lector:**  
**E.M.:**  
**Servers:**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Greeters:**  
**Cantor:**  
**Ushers:**  
**Lectors:**  
**E.M.:**  
**Servers:**

## **Readings for June 28, 2020**

### **13<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 2 Kings 4:8 – 11, 14 – 16

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 6:3 – 4, 8 – 11

Gospel Reading: Matthew 10:37 – 42

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...When this does happen, Jesus declares that His disciples should **not fear** or be **afraid** because all will become clear in due time: "Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known." Jesus reassures His disciples that truth and justice **will** prevail because God the Father is always looking over them. Difficulties will come but God will always be there. Just as God supported Jesus in every adversity and calamity so too God will be with Jesus' disciples in their trials and sufferings.

As Catholics we may face **intimidation**, persecution and be **bullied** by the secular world. However, the Good News is that the Lord Jesus is always with us and all **will** be made right, despite the pain and suffering that we may have to endure. At times we may be ignored or ridiculed because of our faith and moral values but we can hold onto the fact that our God offers us His everlasting love and He will support us. Have a blessed week.

Love & prayers,  
Fr. John



**P.S.** I want to wish all the Dads a very Happy and Blessed Father's Day. May God continue to bless you in your vocation of Fatherhood.

**IMPORTANT:** Our restrictions and guidelines for the return to Mass have been **extended until September 1**. The faithful of the Diocese of Toledo **continue to be dispensed from their Sunday obligation until further notice**. Please use your best judgment when considering the gradual return to Mass.

**To read about the new guidelines** that will be implemented at St. Mary's with the gradual return to Mass, please follow this link:  
<https://d2y1pz2y630308.cloudfront.net/2319/documents/2020/5/RECONNECT.pdf>

To sign up for our liturgy schedule for the month of June, please visit this link:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1A9FG4qqyFGtXWPMM4bIcCKm2\\_YN9ZRTX1nVPHFh1pZM/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1A9FG4qqyFGtXWPMM4bIcCKm2_YN9ZRTX1nVPHFh1pZM/edit)

*We are grateful for everyone who has already signed up and appreciate all who are willing to help!*

**As a reminder**, Daily Mass is celebrated at St. Mary's at 9 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of each week.

**There will be no 9a.m. Mass this Friday, June 26.**

**St. Gerard's in Lima** live streams Mass throughout the week at 8:30 a.m. Monday – Friday, on Saturday at 5 p.m., and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. To view this live stream, go to their website: <http://www.stgerardchurch.org/> and click on the icon on the right side of the page that says "Live Webcast Watch Here"

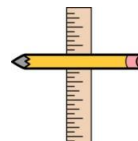
**Congratulations** to the eight children receiving Jesus for the first time today in Holy Communion:



- Isla Deeds
- Maggie Ellerbrock
- Nikol Ewing
- Evan Frideger
- Anabelle Gerten
- Peyton Lieurance
- Dominic Recker
- Payton Schwab



**Laudate** is the most popular and most comprehensive free Catholic app. The app contains Daily Mass Readings (with Saint of the Day and Reflections), Liturgy of the Hours, interactive Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and so much more. If you are needing something to supplement your prayer life, or want to look ahead at weekend Mass readings, download the app from Google Play or the Apple App Store.



**Preschool Open House** Our preschool is hosting an open house on June 24<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 7:30 p.m. If you, or anyone you know, are looking for a preschool in the fall, come check it out! We offer a Christian faith-based curriculum that includes: Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Music, Gym, Fine Motor, & more for children ages 3 – 5. The tuition is \$120 a month for 3 hour sessions on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from September to May. For more information,

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please contact Katie Hohenbrink at (419) 236 –  
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