

St. Mary's Catholic Church

13th Ordinary Sunday

June 28, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

Hospitality is defined as “friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors or strangers.” Yes, even **strangers**. These days there are so many reasons to protect ourselves, families, communities and borders because of fear of terrorism or criminal activity. “Welcoming” strangers can become a rather difficult task since often strangers are perceived as being “suspect.” However in biblical times, **hospitality** given to a stranger was considered an important and necessary virtue. This was especially true when extending **hospitality** to someone doing God’s work. In the sacred tradition of Israel **hospitality** was regarded as one of the chief responsibilities of a caring people. The Mosaic Law spoke of the moral obligation of “welcoming strangers.” To feed or house a stranger was not simply charitable work; it was one’s duty. There are numerous stories in the Old Testament attesting to this fact.



In Sacred Scripture **hospitality** was viewed as a beautiful form of kindness which sometimes came from surprising sources and produced unexpected results. This can clearly be seen in today’s first reading from the Second Book of Kings. We hear the story of a wealthy woman from Shunem who kindly extends her **hospitality** to the prophet Elisha by providing meals for him. Eventually she asks her husband to provide room and board for Elisha so he can stay overnight. Elisha seeks some way to thank her for her respectful kindness towards him. He wants to reward her for her generosity. Elisha’s servant Gehazi mentions to him that the woman is childless. Her greatest joy would be to have a son who would provide for her in her old age. Elisha announces to her that within a year she **will** have a son. Her kindness and generosity towards him will bring a new life into her home.

Just as the childless woman’s **hospitality** went beyond what was expected of her, her reward went beyond her greatest hopes—the gift of a long-desired baby boy. In the words of Jesus in today’s Gospel passage; “Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet’s reward; and anyone who welcomes a righteous man because he is a righteous man will have a righteous man’s reward.” The woman’s reward for “welcoming” Elisha is the best she could ever have received—a son.

Throughout the New Testament (including today’s Gospel passage from Matthew) we hear stories of how Jesus and His apostles were “welcomed” into towns and villages by people who saw Jesus as a holy messenger from God.

Continued...

Weekend Masses

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.	Larry Mathewson
Sat July 4	4:00 p.m.	In thanksgiving
Sun July 5	8:00 a.m.	Special Intention
Sun July 5	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 July 4 & 5, 2020

Money Counters: Nick Recker, Courtney Gerten
4:00 p.m.

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

10:00 a.m.

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

Readings for July 5, 2020 **14th Ordinary Sunday**

1st Reading: 2 Kings 4:8 – 11, 14 – 16
2nd Reading: Romans 6:3 – 4, 8 – 11
Gospel Reading: Matthew 10:37 – 42

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... We also hear stories of how some folks rejected Jesus and chased Him from their town or village. Those who accepted Jesus received a holy man's reward: the poor heard the Good News, the sick were healed, and sinners came to know the forgiveness of God. Those who received Jesus and His apostles received their reward for their welcoming **hospitality of faith**. Their **hospitality** is not merely a matter of bed and breakfast and goodbye. Rather their **hospitality** is an act of opening their heart to the visit of God who came in the person of Jesus. Jesus' presence rubbed off on them as they caught some of His goodness and values and they were changed because of His visit. Those who closed their doors and hearts to Jesus and to His disciples merely received a cloud of dust.

Today's Scripture readings remind us that we become fully alive through the generous giving of ourselves. It is important that we give of ourselves to others in the way we speak about them, in the way we think of them, in the way we forgive their failings, in the way we encourage and support them and in the way we show hospitality towards them. There are no strangers in God's family. Those who welcome and accept us are acknowledging Jesus and they will be rewarded for doing so. Likewise, when we accept and welcome others we too will be rewarded the gift of eternal life. Have a blessed week.

Love & prayers,
Fr. John

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/1A9FG4qqyfGtXWPMM4blcCKm2_YN9ZRTX1nVPHFh1pZM/edit

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

Our thoughts, prayers, and deepest condolences go out to the family of Larry Mathewson as they mourn his loss. Please remember him in your prayers!

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

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"



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.