

St. Mary's Catholic Church

15th Ordinary Sunday

July 12, 2020

My dear brothers and sisters:

From time to time we all bump into the **truth** about ourselves that there is a gap between what we say and what we do, between what we profess to be and how we actually behave. However, often we notice this inconsistency more easily in others than actually seeing it within ourselves. One of life's disappointments is to encounter people who will promise us anything without holding themselves accountable for what they say. Their word or promise is worthless. But sometimes our own words or promises are no bargain either as we lie, draw back, tell half-**truths**, make excuses, or we decorate the **truth** with so many disguises that it becomes unrecognizable.



In sharp contrast to the fragility and the inconsistency of the human word, God's word is **always** effective and **truthful** because of whom God is: "God is no man that he should lie. No son of Adam to draw back. Is it his way to say and not do, to speak and not to fulfill?"(Numbers 23:19). For God to speak is the same thing as to do, to promise is the same thing as to fulfill. God's word creates what it says and things happen. Today's Scripture readings remind us that God's word is powerful, effective and **truthful**.

In our first reading from the prophet Isaiah we hear that the Jewish exiles in Babylonian Captivity had written off God. They had accepted their fate of suffering and languishing in a foreign land. They believed that God could not do anything for them since He was no longer interested in them. Isaiah however comes along proclaiming a message of hope and consolation for his fellow Jews. But it was a hope interwoven with mystery as God's ways were not their ways. God would speak His creative word that would accomplish His will. Isaiah uses the image of rain as a symbol for the word of God. As the rain waters the earth and makes all things grow, so the word of God accomplishes what it is sent to do. God's word is **not** empty but rather it is powerful as it brings about God's purposes. Isaiah reminds his people that just as God's word brought the world into existence so will His word now bring them a new beginning, freedom and life.

One of the ways the Gospel evangelists show that Jesus speaks the word of God is by showing how Jesus speaks with **authority**, unlike the Pharisees and scribes. Jesus in the Gospels speaks a word that is **truthful**, powerful and effective. Jesus commands, rebukes and orders. When Jesus speaks something happens-the wounded are healed, sinners are forgiven, demons are exorcized, ... (Continued)

Weekend Masses

Sat July 11	4:00 p.m	George Donaldson
Sun July 12	8:00 a.m.	Mary Zaleskie
Sun July 12	10:00 a.m.	Teresa Rieman
Sat July 18	4:00 p.m	Jim Alt
Sun July 19	8:00 a.m.	For our parish
Sun July 19	10:00 a.m.	Diane Deitering

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$3,601.00	Loose \$237.00
Total	\$3,838.00	

51 envelopes returned = 24%



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

Assignments for July 18 & 19, 2020

**Money Counters: Deb Buck, Deb Goldenetz
4:00 p.m.**

Greeters:
Cantor: Jenny Roby
Ushers: John Parinello/Roger Brodman
Lector:
E.M.: Edna Conkling
Servers: Conner Gerten

8:00 a.m.

Greeters:
Cantors: Katie Hohenbrink
Ushers:
Lector:
E.M: John Schulte
Server: K.J. Hohenbrink

10:00 a.m.

Greeters:
Cantor: Kevin Vance
Ushers: Greg and Gabe Denecker
Lectors: Chris Denecker
E.M.: Jim Tabler
Servers: Elizabeth Honse

Readings for July 19, 2020 15th Ordinary Sunday

1st Reading: Wisdom 12:13, 16 – 19
2nd Reading: Romans 8:26 – 27
Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:24 – 43

St. Mary's Catholic Church

15th Ordinary Sunday

July 12, 2020

...and people who encounter Him are changed for the better as they face the future with new hope.

But there is another word that Jesus speaks, a word that is **offered** to others and depends on their response if it is to be truly effective. This word is seed sown by Jesus, seed that depends on the condition of the soil (hard, rocky, thorny or rich) if it is to grow and bear fruit. We hear this in the parable in today's Gospel passage from St. Matthew. A variety of responses to the word of God is explored through four types of hearers. There are those who hear the word without understanding it and the word is easily taken away from them by those who oppose its power. There are those whose first enthusiasm for the word cannot withstand trial because the word has never taken root in them. There are those who hear the word but are overcome by a litany of distractions and lose it. There are those who hear the word understand it, take it to heart, make it their own, and yield a harvest through their persistence and perseverance.

The word of God is still scattered today among us as God speaks to us hoping that we take His word in, welcoming it, and making it our own. How would you describe your response to God's word? Do you embrace it by making a serious effort to understand it? Or do you merely hear it and then smother it with your own concerns? Or do you allow God's word to sink in, take root, and grow in your heart and soul producing a harvest of a blessed and changed life? Have a blessed week.

Love & prayers,
Fr. John

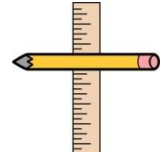
IMPORTANT: Our restrictions and guidelines for the return to Mass have been **extended until September 1**. The faithful of the Diocese of Toledo **continue to be dispensed from their Sunday obligation until further notice**. Please use your best judgment when considering the gradual return to Mass.

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>

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"

Our preschool still has some openings for the upcoming school year. If you would like more information or want to enroll your child, please contact Katie Hohenbrink or Amanda Stechschulte, or leave a message with the office!



Please remember to turn in your receipts from Community Markets for the rebate program. We receive 1% of the total amount of the receipts we turn in.