

# St. Mary's Catholic Church

17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday

July 26, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Making choices between **wants** and **needs** is a conundrum that we face on a daily basis. We are constantly being bombarded with newspaper, radio and television ads for the newest car or Pick-up truck, home improvements, household appliances, phones, computers and other technological gadgets and toys. These ads subliminally tell us if we want to be someone we need the latest and best material things. These ads remind us if we simply satisfy all our material desires we will surely become a much happier person. The truth is it takes a **wise** person to step back from these enticing ads and ask themselves, "Do I truly **need** this latest and newest device or do I merely **want** it in order to make myself feel better? This question demands a discerning mind, heart and soul. Our Scripture readings for today speak of **desire** and **purpose**. Our readings challenge us to realize although it is human to **want** things, we **must** make discerning **needs** our priority.



In our first reading from the 1<sup>st</sup> Book of Kings we hear how King Solomon forgoes the **wants** for fame, fortune, popularity, power, security and admits his **need** for the gift of wisdom so that he could govern, rule and judge the people of Israel with truth and justice. Solomon succeeded his father David as king of Israel around 961 B.C. In a dream God told Solomon that he could have whatever gift he wanted. Realizing his inexperience and desiring to serve God the best he can, Solomon asks for an "understanding heart" (wisdom) so that he would have the ability to judge well the court cases that were presented before him. God is pleased with Solomon's request. In light of the "What do I **want** or what do I **need** conundrum," Solomon discerned wisely and God blesses him with the gift of wisdom so that he can carry out his royal duties.

Today's Gospel passage concludes Matthew's parable chapter. All the parables in Matthew 13 have focused one way or another on the reality of the "kingdom of heaven." Some emphasized the size and shape while others highlighted how mysteriously the kingdom grows. Several of the parables issued warning about the final judgment and the need to be prepared. Many of them manifested what some would call a "parabolic twist" in which what one expects does not take place while what was not expected, in fact, occurs. To grasp all of this requires a "listening heart." Through the use of parables Jesus instructs His followers what joy they will experience by recognizing their **need**.

*Continued...*

## Weekend Masses

Sat July 25	4:00 p.m.	Sue Schlumbohm, Kent Bullman
Sun July 26	8:00 a.m.	For our parish
Sun July 26	10:00 a.m.	Rosemary Meyer
Sat Aug 1	4:00 p.m.	Cassie Kiene
Sun Aug 2	8:00 a.m.	For our parish
Sun Aug 2	10:00 a.m.	Teresa Rieman

## SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$2,640.00	Loose \$312.00
Total	\$2,952.00	
51 envelopes returned = 24%		



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

## Assignments for August 1 & 2, 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 August 2, 2020  
18<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday**  
1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 55:1 – 3  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 8:35, 37 – 39  
Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:13 – 21

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...Jesus' first two parables in today's Gospel passage liken "the kingdom of heaven" to a valuable buried treasure and a fine pearl of great price. In both parables the finder of the treasure and the pearl realizes the great value of what they have found and commits to do whatever it takes to keeping these valuable treasures. The finder sees these treasures as a **need** and sells everything to obtain it. The motivation for their action is joy (not greed) because what they have discovered is the "kingdom of heaven." Jesus' third parable (net thrown into the sea) is similar to His parable about the weeds among the wheat. A net is cast into the sea collecting all kinds of fish-what may be **wanted** as well as what is **needed**. When the net is hauled ashore, the good fish are collected into buckets while the bad are thrown away. This is another reference to the mixture of the good and bad accumulated in "the kingdom of heaven." Ultimately at judgement time the good will be preserved while the bad will be thrown into the fires of hell.

So what do we **want**? What do we **need**? We **need** Jesus to give meaning and purpose to our lives. Jesus is our **only** true treasure who gives us the joy of discovering the meaning of life and of finding ourselves involved in the adventure of holiness. If we **want** Jesus in our hearts then we must detach ourselves from material things and attach our hearts and souls to Him. Have a blessed day.

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.

## Parents of St. Mary's Youth programs 5th grade and older:

We are beginning the fundraising season for Catholic Youth Summer Camp (CYSC) for the summer of 2021 (barring any COVID-19 issues). The first fundraiser is selling limited concessions at the Bluffton Pool for the remainder of the summer.

We have chosen six days and have several items we are requesting. The Signup link is:

<https://signup.com/go/DAYpXOf>

Please sign up to work and/or donate treats for the concession stand. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Danielle Althaus at 419.306.5803 or Amanda Stechschulte at 419.303.3290.



## St. Anthony's Church Festival plans have changed!

This year's festival in Columbus Grove will only be hosting their popular CHICKEN- BEEF carryout dinners on **SUNDAY, August 2 from 11:00 – 3:00 p.m.** The dinners include chicken or beef, noodles, dressing, mashed potatoes, home-made coleslaw and dessert for just \$10. They will also be selling tickets for a chance to win \$20,000 toward a new vehicle or \$15,000 in cash.

Their very popular Garage Sale will be open Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup> 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

A poster for St. Gerard Parish 2020 Wingfest. It features a cartoon chicken giving a thumbs up. The text includes the event name, date, time, location, and a raffle promotion.

**ST. GERARD PARISH 2020 WINGFEST**  
Saturday, August 1st, 2020  
11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
240 W. Robb Ave.  
Lima

Raffle tickets on sale now at the parish office! \$20.00 each with a chance to win \$10,000.00! Get yours today!

**Featuring festival food favorites:**  
Our famous chicken wings!  
Fresh cut french fries  
Fresh egg rolls and fried rice  
Cotton candy  
Baked goods

Drive in the parking lot off of N. West Street. Stations will be set up for your convenience. Volunteers will come to your car and deliver your food to your car.

**CASH EVENT ONLY.**