

# St. Mary's Catholic Church

18<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday

August 2, 2020

Dear sisters and brothers:

The National 9/11 Museum is located in New York City at the site where the World Trade Center Towers formerly stood. The museum is a depository of videos, audio recordings, photographs and hundreds of objects documenting the events of that horrific September day in 2001. One of the personal items on display there is a red bandana that belonged to 24 year old Welles Crowther who was an equities trader on the 104 floor of the South Tower and a volunteer firefighter. After the plane hit the tower and smoke overwhelmed the building Welles put his experience as a firefighter into action. Placing his red bandana over his nose and mouth Welles directed many people towards the stairs bringing them to safety. Welles, however, did not make it out of the Tower alive. Welles' family gave the red bandana to the museum as a reminder of the loving sacrifice that Welles and so many other first responders and citizens made that day so that others might make it to safety and live. At the 9/11 Museum's dedication ceremony Welles's mother Alison stated how proud she was of him: "Welles believed that we are all connected as one family. This is the true legacy of September 11."



Welles Crowther's act of **compassion** and **love** for others is a fitting image for today's theme of our Scripture readings: God's unconditional love for His people. Our readings remind us that God **is** love and God will **always** take care of His people by hearing their cries and satisfying their desires and needs.

In our first reading the prophet Isaiah is offering advice and comfort to the Jews who had been exiled in Babylonian Captivity for almost 50 years. Isaiah is challenging his fellow Jews to trust in God's power to lead them into a brighter future. God has a loving plan for them and they need to become willing participants in that plan. If they choose to draw closer to God and listen to Him then all the advantages promised to their ancestors will be theirs. Their life will be blessed and more secure. Isaiah uses the imagery of a feast, a banquet of divine joy (scriptural symbol of God's **love**) for what is in store for the Jews if they listen to and trust in Him. God will satisfy the deepest longings of their hearts by providing fine food and choice wine. God will provide in sufficient abundance whatever they want and need so that they might live.

In today's passage of St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, Paul reminds us that nothing can separate us from the **love** of God that comes to us thru Jesus Christ. Paul lists a series of ten terrible extremes that will **never** break God's loving relationship with us through Jesus.

*Continued...*

## Weekend Masses

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
Sat Aug 8	4:00 p.m	Jim Alt
Sun Aug 9	8:00 a.m.	Mary Zaleskie
Sun Aug 9	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 8 & 9, 2020

**Money Counters: Tonya Meyer, Barb Galvan  
4:00 p.m.**

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

**No 8 a.m. Mass this week**

## 10:00 a.m.

**Greeters:**  
**Cantor:** Steve McCullough  
**Ushers:** Greg and Gabe Denecker  
**Lectors:** Chris Denecker  
**E.M.:** Jim Tabler  
**Servers:** Elizabeth Honse

## **Readings for August 9, 2020 19<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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...He reminds us that no hardship, or suffering (even death) or experience in life should shake our confidence in God's **love** for us.

Today's Gospel passage is St. Matthew's account of Jesus' miracle of the feeding of the 5000 plus people. The setting for this miraculous feeding is the wilderness. Jesus went there after He heard about the death of his cousin John the Baptist. The crowds sought out Jesus and find Him. They come with their afflictions, illnesses and troubles hoping Jesus can do something for them. Jesus' response to their desire and need is **compassion** as He has **pity** for them answering their requests and healing them. Jesus' desire for personal solitude is overtaken by His **compassion** and **love** for those seeking His assistance. Evening approaches and Jesus' disciples urge Him to send the crowd away so they could find food for themselves. Jesus response is simply to gather a few loaves of bread and some fish and bless these food items. All are feed and there were even baskets of leftovers.

The story of Jesus feeding the crowd reminds us how God **always** has **compassion** for His people. In faith, we believe and know that no matter how precarious the situation might be, we can **always** count on God's **compassion**. God's unconditional **love** and blessings will **always** be available in abundance for us if we merely seek God out. Have a blessed week.

Love & prayers,  
Fr. John

**Fr. John will be away** from Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> until Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be no daily Mass during that time (August 3, 5, 7, 10, and 12)

For Parish matters please contact Rachel in the Parish Office. Please pray for me as I will be praying for you. Thanks.

## Pick an Apple and Help our Preschool Grow

In the main entrance of church this weekend, you can find an apple with various items requested for donation. If you are willing and able, please grab an apple and bring in supplies to the church to ensure our preschool is set up for a successful year starting in the fall! *Thank you* for your continued support of this incredible program!



**Red Cross Blood Drive** We will be hosting the blood drive this Thursday, August 6 from 11:00 – 5:00. The sign-up sheet can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9iGYjNKTASiQ29ZS>

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Please help if you can. Please donate if you can!

**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.

**RCIA is the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** into the Catholic faith. RCIA is for anyone who:



- Is a non-baptized adult
- Baptized in another Christian church and is interested in knowing more about the Catholic Church, with or without the intention of becoming a member
- A baptized Catholic who never received Reconciliation, Eucharist, or Confirmation

**RCIA will be starting** in September. If you have any questions, please call Fr. John in the parish office at (419) 358 - 8631

## 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.

**2020 Census** The census is your chance to shape the future of your community. Be counted!