

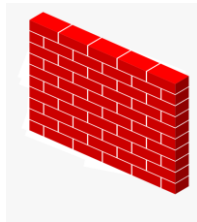
# St. Mary's Catholic Church

20<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday

August 16, 2020

Dear sisters and brothers:

One of the tragedies of life is that very often governments of nations, church members and even individuals build **walls** or barriers around themselves. It is bad enough when this is done to hem people in (as happened when the Berlin wall was built) but it is even worse when it is done to keep others out because of fear, mistrust, discrimination, hate or prejudice. Our God does **not** build walls or barriers but rather God builds **bridges** to connect with us and the world. All of today's Scripture readings for today remind us that God's love and salvation is meant for everyone. God brings down **walls** and barriers so that all people can experience His everlasting and unconditional love, compassion and mercy.



In our first reading the prophet Isaiah speaks of foreigners who will join themselves to the Lord. Isaiah makes it abundantly clear that Non- Israelites can be God's children. For the Jewish people this was very hard to accept. They were taught that thru their covenant with God they were set apart as a holy people chosen by God. But now Isaiah tells them that the Temple in Jerusalem was a "house of prayer for all peoples." Thus individuals of foreign descent were welcome to worship in the Temple as long as they observed the Sabbath and follow the commandments.

In our second reading Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, proclaims that God wants to "have mercy upon **all**." Paul himself experienced the Lord's mercy on the road to Damascus and now he wants to exhibit that mercy to the world; to both Jews and Gentiles. Paul reminds his listeners that **all** people are saved only by the free grace of God and not because they belong to the "right group."

Today's Gospel passage from Matthew is a perfect example of how Jesus Himself brought down **walls** that separated people. Jesus withdrew from Galilee and went to the gentile area near the cities of Tyre and Sidon. The frequent invectives of the prophets against the people of these cities made them for the Jews proverbial examples of corruption and wickedness. Upon his arrival Jesus is confronted by a Gentile woman requesting that He come and expel a demon from her daughter. This mother had three strikes against her: women weren't supposed to speak to men in the street (especially rabbis), she was asking for a cure for a girl and not the more favored male child, and she was a Gentile from a hostile tribe. Jesus' disciples find the woman to be an irritant and coldly wanted Him to get rid of her.

*Continued...*

## Weekend Masses

|            |            |                   |
|------------|------------|-------------------|
| Sat Aug 15 | 4:00 p.m.  | Mel Schroeder     |
| Sun Aug 16 | 8:00 a.m.  | For our parish    |
| Sun Aug 16 | 10:00 a.m. | Kathy Sehlhorst   |
| Sat Aug 22 | 4:00 p.m.  | Special Intention |
| Sun Aug 23 | 8:00 a.m.  | For our parish    |
| Sun Aug 23 | 10:00 a.m. | In thanksgiving   |

## SUNDAY COLLECTION

|        |            |                |
|--------|------------|----------------|
| Adults | \$2,660.00 | Loose \$212.00 |
|        | Total      | \$2,872.00     |

51 envelopes returned = 24%



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

## Assignments for August 22 & 23, 2020

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

**Greeters:**  
**Cantor:** Jenny Roby  
**Ushers:** Dave Siefker, Chuck Niese  
**Lector:** Amy Tabler  
**E.M.:** Jennifer Tschuor  
**Servers:** Elizabeth Honse  
**8:00 a.m.**

**Greeters:**  
**Cantors:** Kevin Vance  
**Ushers:**  
**Lector:** Shannon Wannemacher  
**E.M.:** John Schulte  
**Server:** K.J. Hohenbrink

**10:00 a.m.**

**Greeters:**  
**Cantor:** Kevin Vance  
**Ushers:** Mike and Rhonda Maag  
**Lectors:** Anna Crisp  
**E.M.:** Cathy Hermiller  
**Servers:** Ally & Izzy Stechschulte

## **Readings for August 23, 2020** **21<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Sunday**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 22:19 – 23  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 11:33 – 36  
Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13 – 20

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20<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday

August 16, 2020

... But Jesus perceived in her something that the disciples did not recognize or sense. However Jesus' initial response seems strange and out of place. Jesus declares that His mission is only for the Jews. But the woman continued to aggressively plead with Him for His help. To her unrelenting persistence and her language of faith, Jesus' final reply was as enthusiastic and warm as His initial response had appeared aloof and cold. Jesus granted her request and "her daughter was healed from that hour." In doing so, Jesus tore down the **walls** that separated a Jewish man and a Gentile woman and He showed God's desire to have an end to barriers based on religion and gender.

Realizing that all of us at times set up **walls** and barriers which separate us from God and from one another, let us try to develop three attitudes. The first is **gratitude** for all the blessings we have. The second is **humility** and the avoidance of smugness that can turn others away from what we stand for. And thirdly, **compassion** by which we can truly "feel with" the sufferings of others to the point of breaking the vicious cycle of evil. If we continue to develop and live these attitudes then in turn we might inspire others to do the same. If all of us work together we can tear down the **walls** and barriers that separate the human family. Have a blessed week.

Love and prayers,  
Fr. John

**IMPORTANT:** Our restrictions and guidelines for the return to Mass remain extended until further notice. 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.

**Catechist Aide Wanted** Our Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) is looking for an aide for our Kindergarten class. The volunteer would preferably be a high school or junior high student willing to help weekly, or as our PREP classes are allowed to meet. Other volunteers are welcomed though. To volunteer, suggest a volunteer, or for more information, please contact Kelly at [khski7@aol.com](mailto:khski7@aol.com)

Dear parishioners:

Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for your overwhelming support of our preschool program. Whether you have supported us through prayer, spread the good news of our program, donated gifts, or gave monetary donations... **THANK YOU!** With your help, we have created a special place in our preschool classroom. Our sweet students get to prepare for kindergarten and grow in love for Jesus! St. Mary's Christian Preschool is a place where children can **PREPARE, PLAY, & PRAY.**

With Sincere Gratitude,  
Miss Katie & Miss Amanda



**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

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

