

# St. Mary's Catholic Church

21<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Sunday

August 23, 2020

My dear sisters and brothers:

When the President of the United States or the Governor of a state calls a special press conference, television and newspaper reporters show up in large numbers. Almost everything the President or Governor has to say is newsworthy **not** because their words are always profound or that they will change the course of world or local events but rather simply because of who he or she is. Because of their elected office and their position of power these persons speak with authority. However, once they are out of their office the media and even the general public retains only minimal interest in them and their statements.

Who a person truly is and how others perceive that person makes all the difference in the world. That is why the questions Jesus asked about Himself in today's Gospel passage from St. Matthew are of great importance. Matthew notes that it was near Caesarea Philippi that Jesus asked His disciples what was the word on the street regarding the identity of the Son of Man. Caesarea Philippi was a Gentile town that contained numerous temples. At Jesus' time the town was set up as a center for the worship of Caesar. Jesus asks His disciples an important question: "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" His disciples' response to this question reflected the common rumors of their time. People believed that The Son of Man would be someone in the prophetic tradition of Elijah, Jeremiah, John the Baptist or one of the former Old Testament prophets who returned to the earth. The Son of Man would be the one who carries a message of peace and justice for all and he would care for the needy and most vulnerable. Jesus then asks a very specific question to His disciples: "Who do **you** say that I am?" Peter (acting as a spokesperson for all the disciples) immediately steps up to answer Jesus' question: "You are the Christ, the **Son of the living God.**" Peter's divinely inspired confession recognized Jesus as the long awaited Messiah **and the Son of God.**

Peter's response was very profound and significant because the Jews did **not** believe that the Messiah would be divine. To the amazement of all concerned, Peter boldly proclaimed that Jesus **is the Son of the living God.**

*Continued...*



## Weekend Masses

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
Sat Aug 29	4:00 p.m.	Rosemary Meyer
Sun Aug 30	8:00 a.m.	Thomas Santomieri
Sun Aug 30	10:00 a.m.	Urban Selhorst

## SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$2,500.00	Loose \$143.00
	Total	\$2,643.00

51 envelopes returned = 24%



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

## Assignments for August 29 & 30, 2020

**Money Counters: Courtney Gerten, Chad Wolford**  
**4:00 p.m.**

**Greeters:**  
**Cantor:** Dave Roby  
**Ushers:**  
**Lector:** Jenny Roby  
**E.M.:** Edna Conkling  
**Servers:**

**8:00 a.m.**

**Greeters:**  
**Cantors:** Katie Hohenbrink  
**Ushers:**  
**Lector:** Shannon Wannemacher  
**E.M.:**  
**Server:** Will Schulte

**10:00 a.m.**

**Greeters:**  
**Cantor:** Katie Hohenbrink  
**Ushers:** Jeanne and Jerry Wehri  
**Lectors:** Chris Denecker  
**E.M.:** Jim Tabler  
**Servers:** Conner Gerten

## **Readings for August 30, 2020** **22<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Sunday**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Jeremiah 20:7 – 9  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 12:1 – 2  
Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:21 – 27

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It was clear to Peter that Jesus **is the Son of God** not in the sense that everyone who has faith is a son or daughter of God but rather in a very unique way Jesus **is the Son of God**. Jesus then equates Peter's response with divine revelation: "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father."

Based on Peter's divinely inspired confession of Jesus as being Messiah **and Son of God** Jesus then declared Peter to be the rock upon which he will build His Church. Peter will be the foundation of the Church and he will also be given the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Jesus gave the keys to His newly formed Church to Peter and his successors. Thus the Catholic Church has the keys to bind and loose. The Church also has the power to forgive sins and overcome evil in this world.

Today Jesus asks each of us the same question that He asked His disciples: "Who do **you** say I am?" How we answer Jesus' question will determine how each of us sees Him and how we relate to Him. Is Jesus someone we love and trust? Is He someone we want to spend time with? Do we believe He **is the Son of the living God**? Do we believe Jesus is someone who wants only the best for us? Do we believe that He forgives our sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Do we believe that He is truly present with us in the Most Blessed Sacrament? Is Jesus someone who has the authority to guide us and tell us what to do? Are we willing to listen to Him and follow Him? Is He someone we look forward to spending eternity with? How will you respond to Jesus' question? How will I respond? Have a blessed week.

Love & prayers,  
Fr. John

We congratulate Rachel and Max as they begin their new journey of life together as husband and wife. May God bless you all the days of your life and may our Blessed Mother Mary and St. Joseph watch over and protect you always. Blessings and love, Fr. John and our St. Mary's Community.

**Bishop Daniel E. Thomas has placed Father Michael Zacharias, a priest of the Diocese of Toledo and pastor of St. Michael the Archangel parish in Findlay, on administrative leave effective immediately.** This action was taken immediately upon receiving word of his arrest in Findlay. The Diocese has been informed of the grave and reprehensible charges of a sexual nature, with minors and adults, and is cooperating fully with law enforcement. In response to this initial information, Bishop Daniel Thomas expressed his revulsion at the charges, remarking, "I am profoundly shocked and grieved to learn of these charges against one of our priests. The Church cannot and will not tolerate any such behavior and takes any sexual abuse or misconduct on the part of a cleric with the utmost seriousness. As we await the outcome of the criminal investigation, our prayers go out to anyone affected by this situation." Father Zacharias was ordained a priest in 2002 and these are the first such allegations to be raised against him. In accordance with the Policy for the Protection of Minors and Young People, while on administrative leave, Father Zacharias cannot exercise public priestly ministry, administer any of the Sacraments, wear clerical attire or present himself as a priest. Administrative leave is a precautionary measure while an allegation is being investigated. **Any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor by a priest, deacon, staff member or volunteer affiliated with the Diocese of Toledo should first be reported to local law enforcement where the abuse is alleged to have occurred.** To report any allegation regarding this case, please first contact the FBI at 216-622-6842. **Please also report any such allegation to the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at 419-214-4880**

**Texts from Fr. John** If you have received any texts from Fr. John requesting a favor, please know that this is a scam and is not our Fr. John McLoughlin. If for any reason Fr. John would need something of you, he would personally call – any other suspicious and vague forms of communication from someone pretending to be him should be ignored and considered spam.

**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



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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