

# St. Mary's Catholic Church

22<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Sunday

August 30, 2020

Dear sisters and brothers:

Being a faithful, committed Catholic can be very difficult. Being a true follower of Jesus can be very challenging. As Brennan Manning states in his book **The Ragamuffin Gospel**: "Following Jesus is as unsentimental as duty, as demanding as love-that is: It's not going to be easy." Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran pastor, theologian and anti-Nazi dissident who died in the Flossenberg Concentration Camp once wryly commented on today's Gospel passage saying: "From its very inception, the Church itself has taken offense at the sufferings of Christ." Bonhoeffer who scorned the idea of an "easy" discipleship stated in his book **The Cost of Discipleship**: "Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross." Taking to heart the words of today's Scripture readings, we are reminded of how difficult and challenging it is being a faithful committed Christian and a true follower of Jesus.

The prophet Jeremiah's lament in today's first reading shows how difficult and challenging it is to do God's work. Jeremiah served God during the last decades of the kingdom of Judah (600 B.C.). The collapse of Judah could have been avoided had the king and people heeded Jeremiah's message. Judah had wandered far from God multiple times over many years. The kings and people worshipped false gods, broke God's commandments and cozied up to leaders of foreign nations. It was into this state of chaos that God sent Jeremiah to prophesy. God asked Jeremiah to speak to the leaders and people demanding them to stop hiding from the reality of their comfortable lives, face up to their failings and sins and repent by returning their hearts to God. Jeremiah did so and his message was heard as treason. Jeremiah was despised and treated as an outcast. He was scorned, ridiculed, imprisoned, tortured and threatened with a death sentence by those whom he confronted with the truth. His anguish and suffering is known to us because he includes among his oracles personal reflections on his experience. Today's passage is one of these reflections in which we hear Jeremiah complaining to God: "You duped me! All the day I am an object of laughter; everyone mocks me." Jeremiah could have refused God's invitation to be God's spoke-person (thus avoiding suffering) but he didn't. Rather Jeremiah did as God asked him and delivered God's message, knowing what was at stake-Judah's salvation.

Today's Gospel passage features Matthew's version of Jesus' first passion prediction as Jesus describes what being a Messiah truly means.

*Continued...*

## Weekend Masses

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
Sat Sep 5	4:00 p.m.	George Donaldson
Sun Sep 6	8:00 a.m.	For our Parish
Sun Sep 6	10:00 a.m.	Kathy Sehlhorst

## 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 September 5 & 6, 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 September 6, 2020** **23<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Sunday**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Ezekiel 33:7 – 9  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 13:8 – 10  
Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:15 – 20

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...Today's passage follows the one we heard last Sunday which recounted the great moment when Peter affirmed that Jesus was the Messiah and the "Son of the living God." From that event, Jesus now moves forward and tells His disciples what it truly means for Him to be the Messiah: going to Jerusalem, suffering greatly at the hands of the religious leaders, being killed and then on the third day being raised. Peter is shocked, becomes angry and objects vehemently to what Jesus had said. Jesus then sharply rebukes Peter: "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me." Peter who earlier was praised by Jesus is now cursed by Jesus and Jesus renders Peter as a scandal (obstacle).

Having redefined what it truly means to be the Messiah, Jesus then explains to Peter and the other disciples what being a disciple means. Discipleship is **not** about accumulating power, fame, glory or fortune. Rather, according to Jesus, discipleship is about: self-denial, taking up one's cross, and total commitment. These stipulations **will** result in a profound reversal for the meaning in one's life. Jesus then tells His followers that in order to save one's life, one must lose it. And losing one's life for Jesus' sake will result in finding it.

If we want to be a committed faithful Catholic and a true disciple of Jesus then we must give up all forms of **self-centeredness**. We must turn our attention away from ourselves and focus on the needs of others. We must not flee from suffering but rather embrace it as a way of identifying with Jesus, realizing the cross leads to resurrection. And we must be totally committed to following Jesus both in **word** and **action** rather than following our own expanded ego. Have a blessed week.

Love & prayers,  
Fr. John



We congratulate Anna and Garrick 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**

**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

