

# St. Mary's Catholic Church

23<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Sunday

September 6, 2020

Dear sisters and brothers:

There is a story about a college professor who taught an ethics course. This professor introduced his students to Aristotle's idea that ethics is rooted in the virtue of friendship. The professor used Aristotle's argument that: "Only a friend knows when to press and when to hold back. A true friend has the right to tell you the truth and truth-telling can be inherently painful."

During the course of the semester the students presented their own experiences of ethical dilemmas and explained their responses. At the end of the semester the professor noted how he was struck by the number of experiences in which a student avoided challenging a friend or another classmate who was involved in some hurtful or self-destructive behaviors. The students justified their silence along the lines of: "Who am I to judge?" Or "Why should I get involved, it's their life?" Or "I didn't want to jeopardize our friendship." The professor's response to their lame excuses was simply: "You give friendship a bad name. Whereas Aristotle made friends the basis of ethics, you made friendship the excuse for unacceptable ethical behavior."

Navigating between keeping the peace and saving or protecting a loved one from hurting themselves or ruining their life is a fine thin line to walk. We resent being challenged, questioned and judged so we avoid doing the same to others. Yet we are devastated when we hear how someone destroyed their life. It is never easy informing or warning others that they are heading down the wrong path. We struggle with the idea of whether or not we should say something or should we just remain silent and just mind our own business. The question arises within us: "Am I my brothers/sisters keeper?" As Christians the answer should be: **Yes**.

Meaningful **presence** to and personal **responsibility** for others is the theme of today's Scriptural readings. Our readings remind us that as Jesus' disciples **we are** our brothers/sisters keepers and that we **are responsible** for their well-being. The greatest harm we can cause to others when they are in danger (physical, emotional or spiritual) is to do nothing and just look the other way. Therefore, we should not be afraid or not be hesitant to engage, confront and admonish when necessary, and above all, love them when they are in need. Each reading today looks at the kinds of moral **responsibilities** we have for others: to **speak**, to **respect** and to **forgive**.

We have a moral duty to **speak** the truth about what is right or wrong to individuals or to society. This idea is clearly expressed in our first reading. God appointed the prophet Ezekiel to be His watchman for the Israelites. Ezekiel's responsibility was to **speak** the truth and steer God's people toward the "path of life." God demanded that Ezekiel sound the alarm warning the Israelites, pointing out their sins and demanding that they change their evil ways and return to God. Like Ezekiel we have the duty to **speak** the truth when we notice others going in the wrong moral direction. To say nothing is to become complicit in the wrong another does.

We have the moral duty to **love** and **respect** others. In our second reading St. Paul tells the Romans that; "**Love** is the fulfillment of the law."

*Continued...*

## Weekend Masses

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
Sat Sep 12	4:00 p.m	Jim Alt
Sun Sep 13	8:00 a.m.	Wanda Kiene
Sun Sep 13	10:00 a.m.	Dennis Warren

## SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$2,110.00	Loose \$167.00
	Total	\$2,277.00

51 envelopes returned = 24%



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

## Assignments for September 19 & 20, 2020

**Money Counters: Deb Buck, Courtney Gerten**  
**4:00 p.m.**

**Cantor:**  
**Ushers:** Chuck Niese and Dave Siefker  
**Lector:** Jason Swartzlander  
**E.M.:** Jeanne Parinello  
**Servers:** KJ Hohenbrink

### 8:00 a.m.

**Cantors:**  
**Ushers:**  
**Lector:** Shannon Wannemacher  
**E.M.:** John Schulte  
**Server:** Will Schulte

### 10:00 a.m.

**Cantor:**  
**Ushers:** Mike and Rhonda Maag  
**Lectors:** Anna Schroeder  
**E.M.:** Rachel Rader  
**Servers:** Ethan Hoffman

## **Readings for September 13, 2020** **24<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Sirach 27:30 – 28:7  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 14:7 – 9  
Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21 – 35

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... The obligation to **love** one another is not just one virtue among many but rather it is the heart of Christian existence which informs all Christian ethical conduct. If we **love** one another then we will **respect** each other.

Our Gospel reading describes a deeper level of our **responsibility** for others especially when dealing with conflict. This level is known as "fraternal correction". We can call today's passage from St. Matthew: "Jesus' teaching about conflict resolution/management." Jesus' teaching addresses the issue of how a Christian should deal with someone who does something wrong to them or hurts them. Matthew presents a three-stage wise progression of Jesus' thought. The **first** step is to go to the offender and point out their fault one-on-one between just the two of you. This should be done in a way that won't humiliate the offending person. If this doesn't work, the **second** step is to bring one or two people along with you (not for the purpose of proving the other person wrong) to help in the reconciliation process. If that doesn't work, you proceed to the **third** step- refer the matter to the local community of faith (Church members). This whole process should be motivated by a spirit of **forgiveness** and **healing**.

Christian **love** is not a feeling or emotion but rather it is a **responsibility**. Let us continue our **responsible presence** to others by growing in **love** with them. May we, by our **presence** to others, lift those who have fallen, calm those who are frightened, **forgive** those who have done us wrong, give mercy without judgment and welcome corrections of **our** own faults from others. Have a blessed week.

Love & prayers,  
Fr. John

**Are you a Young Adult between the ages of 19-35** (single or married) and you would like to deepen your relationship with Jesus and strengthen your Catholic faith? Would you like to meet, pray, and socialize with other Young Adults in our St. Mary's Community? Would you like to come to ask questions and discuss topics that are relevant in your personal faith journey and in our Catholic Church today? If so, then I invite you join our Young Adult Ministry Group that we will be starting up in our Parish in the near future. If you would like more information, please contact Fr. John or Rachel. If you are interested in joining our Young Adult Ministry Group please leave your name and phone number with Rachel in the Parish Office. Thank you and God bless.

Peace, Fr. John

**PREP begins!** Parish Religious Education Program begins again this Wednesday, September 9, from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. for kids in K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades. Please remember to bring in your registration forms before classes start! Please also remember to pray for a good year for our students and catechists. At this time, we are also still looking for a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade catechist, please contact Kelly Honse if you are interested in volunteering.

**MHCO Chicken BBQ Fundraiser** The Menonite Home Communities of Ohio Service Group is hosting a Chicken BBQ Fundraiser to purchase a new transport van. Tickets are \$8/person and will be available before and after Mass until September 19. You can also contact Edna Conkling at (419) [REDACTED] (cell) or (419) [REDACTED] (home) to purchase your tickets. Thank you in advance for your support!!

**Office Closed** The office will be closed this Monday, September 7 in observance of Labor Day. We will still celebrate Mass at 9 a.m.

**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

**A very generous donor** has donated the Formed.org subscriptions to all the parishes in the Toledo Diocese. This is a great opportunity to watch video programs that explain the Catholic faith, explore the deepest meaning of marriage, receive Bible studies on a variety of topics and includes inspiring audio talks. To register, go to: <https://signup.formed.org/> and type in St. Mary or use our zip code, 45817, and click on our parish. Enter your name and email, and then check your email for a link to begin using FORMED. It's that easy!

**FORMED**

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## **Prayer for Vocations:**

Send forth your spirit, Lord, into the hearts of your faithful people, that we may be conscious of our vocation to holiness and service to others. Grant that many of us may dedicate ourselves to you through the priesthood, religious life, and lay ministries.

We pray for the needs of our parish and diocese. Grant that we may always have sufficient good and holy priests and deacons, dedicated sisters and brothers, and committed lay ministers to serve our community.

We pray too for the Redemptorists, that generous men may join them to become zealous missionaries, preaching the gospel in word and action to the most abandoned, especially the poor.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.