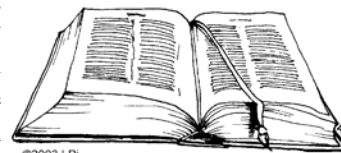


ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Today's Readings: Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10/Hebrew 12:1-4/Luke 12:49-53

GOSPEL GLIMPSES **No politics or religion discussed here**

Political elections can bring out the best and worst in people. Despite a growing cynicism, polls show that our individual opinions are still deeply held and strongly defended. Many of our political allegiances are formed early in life, by ethical, moral and religious codes. As we mature we may find ourselves on the opposite political side from spouses, children or friends. In fact, the combustible subject of politics has been banned from many dinner tables for fear it will permanently sever otherwise peaceful relationships.



If politics divides our households, how can the gospel do less? Jesus' message evokes powerful responses, whether positive or negative. What we feel depends on where we stand, for Him or against Him. As today's gospel says, He has come to draw the battle lines and each of us must choose. It won't always be easy to stand with Him. We may be the only one holding up His banner in our family. We may find ourselves estranged from people we love and respect for His sake. But He offers us this comfort: He is standing beside us, arms open, waiting for them too.

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 66:18-21/Hebrew 12:5-7, 11-13/Luke 13:22-30

Eucharistic Adoration and OLPH Devotions

When friends and family have been generous to you, while in a time of need, most of us send a "Thank you" note, expressing our appreciation of their time and thoughts to us. Jesus and Mary are always there, listening to our call for help. How often do we say we couldn't get through an ordeal of trouble, sickness or death in a family without our faith and the help of Mary and God? But do we ever make a special effort to show our love and thanks? Come to St. Mary Church on Tuesday, August 22, at 4:00 pm to Eucharistic Adoration and OLPH Devotions. They wait! They wait! They wait! Lets say "Thank you" during an hour of tranquility and quiet, for all the intervention of Their presence in our lives. One hour is such a little gesture of our time; the rewards will be great!



Coming in 2 weeks: Magnifikid! Starting the first weekend in September, we will be offering Magnifikid— a weekly booklet to help children follow the Sunday liturgy.

Greeters will be passing them out in church the weekend of September 1 and 2.

Wedding Banns

Banns I Ashley Auch & Ian Yaicher

In Loving Memory: Please remember in your prayers Lois Mekus. May she find joy in the kingdom of God and may God console her family and friends.

Congratulations to our second \$25 winner— Leo Pessefall. Leo's name was drawn as our weekly winner for selling his raffle tickets. There are 4 Mondays remaining so you still have a chance to win, just turn in the sold tickets.

Annual Diocesan 25th/50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration: Last chance to register! Bishop Leonard P. Blair invites couples across the Diocese who have celebrated or are celebrating their 25th, 50th, 60th or more year wedding anniversary in 2007 to a special Mass and reception in their honor. This event will take place on Sunday, September 30 at 3:00 pm at Rosary Cathedral in Toledo. Deadline for reservations is Wednesday, August 22, so please respond today to the parish office at 782-2776.

Two unforgettable evenings with Matthew Kelly: BECOMING-THE-BEST-VERSION-OF-YOURSELF

You are invited to join us as we welcome Matthew Kelly to Defiance on September 18 & 19, 2007 at 7:00 pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

Each night, Matthew Kelly will present a different talk.

Do not miss this opportunity to hear one of the most captivating and sought-after voices of our time!
Questions? Call 419.782.2776.

**ALL AGES ARE WELCOME AND
ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!**

Attention: Calling all parents of a seven or eight year old second grader. Are you thinking that it may be time to prepare your child for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist? Your Sacramental Prep Team can help you! If you haven't received a letter in the mail, please call the Parish Ministry Center (782-2776) and leave your name and phone number by September 1st. We will get back to you.

Do you feel called to serve in your parish? Consider helping the Sacramental and Celebration Team. Please call the Parish Ministry Center and leave your name and phone number. Thanks!

Have you ever wondered how you can make a difference... how you can respond to the huge issues of injustice in our world? Are you struggling to find your own call of the Spirit? Are you hungry for meaning and direction? Looking for a way to engage in spiritual development?

No matter what your age, or position, **you can** make a difference in this world. **The Servant Leadership Center** is a non-profit ministry dedicated to teaching, empowering and mobilizing people to serve people.

Classes are now forming. Come and see the opportunity that awaits you. ***Servant Leadership: Threshold to a Life Transformed*** spiritual growth group information session will be held:

Tuesday, August 21 from 7-8 pm Parish Ministry Center at St. Mary Church with Fr. Tim and Sister Nancy. For more information or if you would like to set up a time to come to the center, contact Erin Battistoni, Director of Outreach Ministry, The Servant Leadership Center, 1618 W Sylvania Avenue, Toledo Ohio 43612; 419-476-0941; ebattistoni@gmail.com; www.servantleader.org.

55+ Club Meeting: Tuesday, August 28 at St. Michael's Ridge. Rosary will be at 10:45 am followed by Mass at 11:00 am. Catered dinner at 12:00 noon, business meeting and cards/bingo will follow. Committee members are Delores Jacob, Audrey Walk, Pat Fronk and Delores Ryan. For reservations please call by Friday, August 24: Delores Ryan at 782-9441 or Georgiana Wagner at 497-3762.

YOUTH NEWS YOUTH NEWS

Youth Ministry-Junior High School

We are busy putting together the Junior High Program for the 2007-08 school year. If you have a student in your house in Grade 7 or 8 and have not received at least one mailing from us, please call the Parish Ministry Center (782-2776) with your name, address, phone number and the name of your student. This will help us complete and correct the mailing list so we can keep you informed about the program. If you have any questions, call Deacon Jeff Mayer at the Parish Ministry Center.

Confirmation News: Attention all sophomores and parents... We are beginning to prepare for Confirmation on **April 20, 2008**. Bishop Blair is scheduled to be here. Letters have been mailed to students and their families with information about the program and orientation dates. If you are a high school sophomore and have not received the sacrament of Confirmation and did not receive a letter, please call the Parish Ministry Center. We'll get the information to you right away. Please call Deacon Jeff if you have any questions 438-6790.

Youth News: Plans are underway for an exciting high school year of programming beginning with an opening event at Putt Putt Golf & Games on Wednesday, September 12th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Registration fee for the entire year is \$25 and includes Putt Putt Golf & Games, a youth group t-shirt and weekly sessions to inspire youth and enhance our Catholic faith tradition are all included. Mark your calendar and come be a part of the group.

Everyone's invited to join in our youth ministry program

Our high school youth will have two opportunities for all parishioners to be a part of youth ministry in our parish. Watch for more details coming soon for **Shares in the Kingdom**, an opportunity to buy a share in our program with incredible dividends, and the **Elder Beerman Coupon Book Sale**, both coming your way in the fall.



Happy week before school starts! Are you ready? How did you do on last week's quiz... anybody besides me get all ten correct?

1. b. Mrs. Kathy Griewe was born and raised in Michigan. Mrs. Griewe, better known as Mrs. Kathy, teaches kindergarten.
2. a. Yes, Defiance Catholic School began the \$100 Club in June 2007. Presently, we have 22 members. Each club member donated \$100 so that we could continue and enhance our educational programs. More details in future bulletins.
3. a. Subsidy means financial support from each parish. Presently, St. Mary and St. John give equal subsidy to Defiance Catholic School. We are grateful to each and everyone of you for your continued financial support to the parish. Your faithful stewardship of you treasure aids us in operating our school.
4. c. \$3,250 is the cost per pupil!
5. a. Sherry Baldwin is a member of our School Council. She is beginning her second year of a three year term. More council information in future bulletins.
6. b. Grade 5 can boast 100% retention into Grade 6! A special thank you to their parents!
7. c. A fourth grade student said, "Defiance Catholic School is a place where your brain and heart can grow".
8. c. Scrip aids in tuition, operating expenses and Camp Mohican trip. Scrip is a program that allows you to purchase store certificates before you go shopping. When you make that purchase through DCS, the school receives a % of that sale. More information coming.
9. b. Boosters is the parent organization that supports the school and works hard to supplement the budget.
10. b. A.R. is Accelerated Reader. Students are encouraged to read by selecting a book from a recommended list and then check their comprehension by taking a test.

Some dates to put on your calendar:

Tuesday, August 28, 5:30-6:30 pm, both campuses will be open for visiting classrooms.

Wednesday, August 29- first day of school.

Monday, September 3- No school, Labor Day

Wednesday, September 5- Opening School Liturgy 9:15 am St. Mary's

If you have any questions, please feel free to call either office. Have a nice week! Miss Sandy

EN THEOS - Enthusiasm for the Faith

The Gospels speak about Jesus' brothers and sisters. If Mary was a perpetual virgin, how are we to understand these Gospel references?

Gospel references to the brothers and sisters of Jesus have been understood differently by the various Christian denominations. Catholics have traditionally interpreted them as referring to members of Jesus' extended family and not his literal blood brothers and sisters. Often the word cousin has been used to communicate the way Catholics understand these references. This method of interpretation flows out of the doctrinal belief that Mary was, according to Augustine, a perpetual virgin. Therefore Mary had no other children.

Most of our Protestant brothers and sisters understand these references to be about actual brothers and sisters of Jesus. However, they still accept and believe the virgin birth of Jesus. They merely assert that after Jesus' virgin birth, Mary had normal sexual relations with Joseph, and they had other children.

On this issue, our Orthodox brothers and sisters come from Gospel traditions that were not accepted as inspired. The infancy Gospel of James states that Joseph was a widower with children when he married Mary. The Orthodox Church interprets the Gospel references to be the children from his first marriage and would be the stepbrothers and stepsisters of Jesus.

Whatever the interpretation of these passages, Mary's virgin birth to Jesus is preserved. This consideration of various interpretations should enhance the rich insights that Scripture can offer us, rather than be a cause of division.

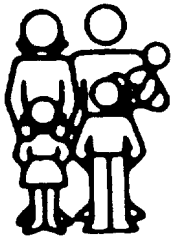
How do you react when others have a different interpretation of Scripture texts than yours?



Parish Finances - Stewardship of Treasure

Week of August 12 You Gave..... \$9,536.00
 2007-2008 Year to Date \$70,001.50
 2006-2007 Year to Date \$69,110.75
 Fiscal Year to Date *GAIN*..... \$10,684.75

Festival: St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, 610 S. Portland, Bryan, would like to invite you to our annual festival on Sunday, August 26 from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm. This year’s events include their chicken and ham dinner, a grand raffle, a silent auction, a bake sale, children’s games, clowns, a quilt raffle and live Christian music.



A Family Perspective: The words of Jesus today, “son against father, daughter against her mother,” sound like a normal family fare. Conflict is the price of intimacy. However, how we handle conflict determines if we live in “peace” or “division”.

Vegetables Needed for Food Pantry

Are you one of those “green thumb” gardeners who always grows more than you can use? Or perhaps you’re one of those grocery shoppers who can’t resist buying “bunches” of the fresh produce now available in the stores? If you have more than you need, please think of the Catholic Food Pantry at St. Mary Church in Defiance. People are really delighted to get fresh vegetables. A good time to drop off your surplus veggies is just before 3 pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We can start using them immediately. Thanks for helping those in need!

**Defiance Catholic School
 Calendar Winners July 2007**

Joyce Stover \$100, Paul Vasold, Carolyn Schira, Scott Koch, Carol Moore, Jim & Lisa Arend, Kelly Monnin, Peggy Diaz, Jane Hoffman, Jeff Noffsinger, Rosemarie Wireman, Nicole Bryant, Bob & Connie Zimmerman, Barb Schlosser, Betty Derringer, D. Becker, Adam Schaffer, Darwood Hohenberger, Garvin Crisp, Carolyn Ordway, Ann Pavka, Joan Auer, Peg Coressel, Nancy & Harold Kunesh, The Muka Children, Marlene Lantow, Jody Keller, Eulalie Haas, Susan Jensen, Bethany Murphy and Nick Noffsinger.

WELCOME to our parish community! We are happy to have you here with us. A *special welcome* to any guests who may be visiting. May your visit be blessed.

Mass Intentions

Monday, August 20
 8:00 AM Communion Service
Tuesday, August 21
 8:00 AM Gerald DeVeaux
Wednesday, August 22
 8:00 AM Communion Service
Thursday, August 23
 8:00 AM Communion Service
Friday, August 24
 8:00 AM Ann Osborn
Saturday, August 25
 4:30 PM Virginia Burger
Sunday, August 26
 8:00 AM Maryanne Kummerer
 9:30 AM Ann Stone
 11:30 AM Norman & Earline Swary

Events For This Week

Monday, August 20
 SVDP 7:00 pm PMC
 Charismatic Prayer Group 7:00 pm PMC
Tuesday, August 21
 OLPH Devotions 4:00 pm Church
Wednesday, August 22
 Shep of Christ Prayer Group 6:00 pm Church
Thursday, August 23
 Evangelization Team 7:00 pm PMC

Daily Readings for This Week

Readings for the Week of August 19, 2007

Monday: Jgs 2:11-19/Mt 19:16-22
 Tuesday: Jgs 6:11-24a/Mt 19:23-30
 Wednesday: Jgs 9:6-15/Mt 20:1-16
 Thursday: Jgs 11:29-39a/Mt 22:1-14
 Friday: Rv 21:9b-14/Jn 1:45-51
 Saturday: Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Mt 23:1-12