

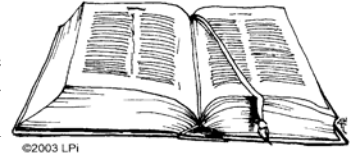
ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

GOSPEL GLIMPSSES

One-sided relationships

There's no escaping the fact that we live in a star struck society. Dozens of new fan magazines and web sites for music, TV and film celebrities are created every day. Sports enthusiasts just as passionately follow the lives of favored players. Fascinated we read and discuss the private, intimate details of these individuals' lives, until we know them better than friends and family. In conversation, we speak of them as personal acquaintances, when they've never even met us.



Sadly, there are many people today who have the same relationship with God. They use Jesus' name, say all the right phrases, but actually He's never met them. Their "spiritual" life is all on the surface, one-sided, with no real connection to God. Jesus tells us in that there will be people who will call out to Him, "Lord did we not eat in your company? Did you not teach in our streets?" But His answer will be, "I never knew you." As we reflect on this passage, let us focus on developing a two-way relationship with God. Asking not "Do I know Jesus?" but instead "Does Jesus know me?"

Next Sunday's Readings: Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Hebrew 12:18-19, 22-24a/Luke 14:1, 7-14



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Teeing Off For Education: The annual Justin F. Corresel Golf Outing for Defiance Catholic School will be held on Friday, September 21. Lunch is at 11:00 am with golf beginning at 12:00 noon. Golf registration is \$80 per golfer. Sponsorships are also available. If one cannot golf or sponsor, all donations for the school are accepted. For further information please contact Bryan Keller at 419-785-3219 or Joe Tumeo at 419-784-5035.

The Noodle Club is a very important ministry at St. Mary and the long-term members have been very faithful in making it work. However; time takes it's toll and some members are not able to work as much, or as often as they used to. Therefore, we need several additional parishioners to step forward to become regular members or back-up members. There is a good community spirit in this group and they are eager for some others to join them. Please consider joining this important ministry at least as a back-up. Please call the office 419-782-2776 to volunteer. Thank you!

Attention Parents of young children: Next month we will begin offering Magnifikid! Magnifikid is a complete Sunday missalette especially designed for children. It will replace the former children's bulletins. Look for it at the entrances of church starting September 1 and 2.

When was the last time you spoke a kind word of encouragement to somebody? Speak one today.

Matthew Kelly— coming September 18 & 19

Congratulations to our third \$25 winner— Dee Mack. Dee's name was drawn as our weekly winner for selling raffle tickets. There are 3 Mondays remaining so you still have a chance to win, just turn in the sold tickets.

Baby Changers are now located in both bathrooms of the church for the convenience of tidying your little one. *Thank you to the parishioner who brought this need to our attention.*

Do you have a son or daughter who is away at college? Our Youth Ministry will be preparing care packages for them. We need addresses of all parish college students. You can email the address to Jami Mains at jmains@defnet.com or call 419-784-5454 with the information. You can also drop off names & addresses at the Parish Office.

Members of the parish, you can also help our Youth Ministry prepare the care boxes by donating items. Items needed are: holy cards or other items representing our parish, hot cocoa mix, microwave popcorn, ramen noodles, gum, candy bars, and single serving snacks. Mark the items College Care Packages/Youth Ministry and drop them off at the Parish Office. Thank you in advance for your kind help in this ministry project ! !

In Loving Memory: Please remember in your prayers James Decker. May he find joy in the kingdom of God and may God console his family and friends.

What Does the Bible Teach About Money?

Financial Peace University at St. Mary's! FREE preview meetings are being offered in the Parish Ministry Center, Saturday and Sunday, September 8 & 9 after each mass. FPU classes will start Sunday, September 23 from 9:15 to 11:15 am and run each Sunday for 13 weeks, finishing on December 16. We hope to have child care available. Registration is due by Monday, September 17. Sign-up forms are available at the church office. Kit cost is \$85. Any questions? Call Denny and Becky Ortloff 393-4266.

Child Care Needed: If you can help for some or all of our classes, please contact the church office or Becky Ortloff 393-4266. Financial Peace University at St. Mary's will need child care services on Sundays from 9:15 to 11:15 am, beginning September 23 through December 16.

Results From Financial Peace University: There were 6 families participating.
Total savings: \$10,918.90
Total Debt paid off: \$15,955.00
Credit cards destroyed: 19!

First Saturday Devotions "The measure you measure with will be measured back to you." Luke 6:38. God has granted us an amazing freedom to determine our eternal and earthly destiny by our choices and actions. Each action and reaction has eternal ramifications. Come to St. John's, Saturday, September 1 to see how our Blessed Mother and our Lord Jesus can provide us with some of the tools needed to make right choices. Mass begins at 8:00 am followed by video teaching, rosary and confession.

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!

Mozambique.....

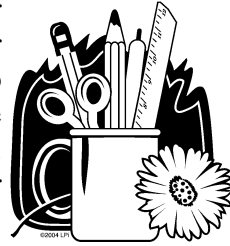
How can I describe a country a world away.... a country of such great contrast.... A country that in 1990 was described as the poorest country in the world, has countless refugees, was later devastated by the worst flood in African history, yet a people full of love, beauty, hope and grace? It is a continent, a country and a mission I was so blessed to be part of even if only for a short time.

My goal was to interact and participate not to over think but I have to admit my first view of Mozambique made me think twice. We had already driven many hours in South Africa and saw such a contrast of beauty, prosperity and devastating poverty which remains hard to describe or visualize. Along that drive, large tents with red and white stripes were pointed out to us. They were easily viewed as they always set apart and otherwise the landscape was brown and a reddish brown with a few trees in the far distance. These tents were taken from location to location as needed when a village had an outbreak of AIDS and many were dying. The family and friends could not travel so funeral services and the meal (prepared by the grieving family) were held there.

As we approached the border of Mozambique we were told to close our windows and generally what to do. Closing our windows was so locals would not reach into them whether it was to try and sell something, or take something from us. In addition to seeing locals and the beginning of what can only be described as true poverty we were also faced with very high metal gates with 2 rolls of barbwire on the top of them which continued on the attached fences. I don't know if they were meant to keep people in or out, but we were going in. After checking our passports, we got back in our car and proceeded down the road. Sounds simple enough but customs got a little more intense. Our group did not approach the counter as a group but rather as individuals. We did not speak Portuguese and they did not speak English and it seemed very chaotic. The lines were long, many languages were being spoken, the building echoed of all the voices and there were countless uniformed men with guns walking around. I had my own personal moment of anxiety when I was at the counter and the officer was getting impatient with me because I was not doing what he asked. It was a simple request, but this was my first exposure to Portuguese, I could see armed men and there was a high volume of noise. Afterwards, while one of my fellow travelers obtained a visa, we mullied around for another 45 minutes outside observing the process and the people from another prospective. People from all walks of life, some locals, some travelers, some vendors, waiting very patiently in line, with armed guards greeting many. We were the outsiders looking in and when we think of armed guards we think of violence. There was none. As we regrouped, we acknowledged a reality different from our own, became thankful for the presence of the Lord and continued on our journey. In future bulletins I hope to continue to share my journey and many blessings. Yours in Christ, Sue Hoeffel

Prayer for Teachers

Heavenly Father,
On this day, we pray for teachers from all walks of life. For those who work in the classroom, may they be models of your compassion and discipline. For those who train people in professions, may others see you in their daily lives and hard work. And we pray for parents, best and wisest of all mentors that their children may learn holiness from their example. Whether their lessons are about math, work or life, give all teachers the grace to show your patience, your virtue and your joy to those near them. Give all teachers love for your truth, life and Church.
Amen.



Do you want to learn more about how you can plan, save and afford a Catholic education for your children? The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Toledo will host two FREE financial planning workshops for families in the Toledo area. Local Catholic schools will also be available before and after the workshops to answer questions and provide you with information on why Catholic schools are truly Different By Design.

The workshops will be held on Monday, September 24 and Wednesday, September 26 from 7:00-8:00 pm at Little Flower School, 1620 Olimphia Rd, Toledo OH 43615. To register for a workshop, call Mary Chalmers at 419-244-6711 ext. 621 or register online at www.toledodiocese.org by September 19.

Families with children already in Catholic school and those planning for the future are encouraged to attend.

Defiance Catholic School News:

Are you ready, boys and girls, moms and dads? This Wednesday we begin the 2007-08 school year, our third year as Defiance Catholic School. We welcome Fr. Tim as our superintendent for the next two years. We welcome Fr. Todd as pastor of St. John. Both priests were welcomed by the school staff at an in-service meeting on August 16. Fr. Todd and Fr. Tim addressed us with words of welcome, support and affirmation for the ministry and benefits of Catholic education not only to the parishes now but also to its future impact on the lives of the students!

Our teachers have been busy getting their rooms ready. (Some have even been around in the 90 degree weather!) I am impressed by their dedication and hard work! All of us invite you to come, see for yourselves on Tuesday, August 28, from 5:30-6:30 pm.

- Mrs. Kathy, Mrs. Klein– kindergarten
- Mrs. Good– first grade
- Mrs. Long– second grade
- Mrs. Rohn– third grade
- Mrs. DeCola– fourth grade
- Mrs. Jones– fifth grade
- Mrs. Mack– sixth grade
- Mrs. Boyd– Music, Art

As you read the roster, I'm sure you noted we have two kindergartens. In order to maintain two classrooms, our School Council was faced with a challenging decision. We have 24 students and felt that was too large a group for one class. So, at the August 2 council meeting, administration and

council decided to have two kindergarten classes and eliminate the P.E. position. For this year, the teachers will be teaching their own P.E. It will be a combination of health, nutrition, physical activities, recess and our walking program. I am confident that our teachers will be creative in their approach. According to diocesan guidelines there is no specified time allotment for P.E. and the course of study is very broad.

As I pointed out, this was a challenging dilemma. We made the best decision we could at this point in time. We will continue to evaluate and monitor this situation as the council undertakes the task of putting together a long-range Strategic Plan for the future. We will be seeking your input and will keep you posted as our work progresses. If you have any questions or comments presently, feel free to call me to chat or schedule an appointment.

Lunch prices for 2007-08 school year:

- pre-k through 2nd- \$2.10
- Grades 3-6- \$2.20

I would be remiss if I did not thank each and everyone of you, who support us with your prayers, your financial contributions not only to the parishes but also to the many fund-raising efforts... with your words/notes of encouragement, affirmation, questions and comments. As you know, it is ALL of us working together that will make Defiance Catholic School STRENGTH FOR THE FUTURE! See you next week! Miss Sandy

Parish Finances - Stewardship of Treasure

Last Week You Gave.....	\$8,997.50
Need Weekly	\$10,885.00
Below Budget	(\$1,887.50)
Contributions to Date	\$78,999.00
\$10,885 x 8 Weeks	\$87,080.00
Year to Date <i>Below Budget</i>	(\$8,081.00)

Eucharistic Adoration Adorers needed: At the Adoration Chapel located at St. Isidore Parish, Delaware Bend. Located along the Bend Road between US Route 24 and State Route 18. The Adoration Chapel is open for all, and everyone is encouraged to utilize this opportunity to Adore Jesus exposed during night and day. Our Pope Benedict XVI said in his Apostolic Exhortation *Sacramentum Caritatis*, "I heartily recommend to the Church's pastors and to the People of God the practice of eucharistic adoration, both individually and in community." "Wherever possible, it would be appropriate... to set aside specific churches or oratories for perpetual adoration". The Adoration Chapel fulfills our Popes requests, but this is only possible with the help and sacrifice of countless people. As the end of summer approaches **the Adoration Chapel is in need** of Adorers to sub or replace those Adorers who must leave for several reasons (college, illness, etc.) **We especially need Adorers or subs for nighttime hours** (midnight till 6am), but also for other hours during the day. If we desire to have the opportunity to visit Jesus at anytime of the day or night from Sunday thru Friday we will need some assistance. If you or someone you know is willing to help in Adoring Jesus **please contact Steve Nicely ph. 658-2981**(or also Gary Seibert ph. 899-4093 if interested in nighttime hours). Pope Benedict XVI said, "I would also like to encourage those associations of the faithful and confraternities specifically devoted to eucharistic adoration; they serve as a leaven of contemplation for the whole Church and a summons to individuals and communities to place Christ at the center of their lives." May you all continue to be a leaven for all of us. Thank you and God Bless You!

We would like to say thank you to Kaufman's Tv and Appliance Repair for advertising in our church bulletin which is at no cost to us. We ask that you patronize them and give them your support.

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 27

8:00 AM Communion Service

Tuesday, August 28

8:00 AM Communion Service

2:15 PM Laurel's Mass

Wednesday, August 29

9:15 AM Kentha Thomas

Thursday, August 30

8:00 AM Earl W. Carroll

Friday, August 31

8:00 AM Paul Schlater

Saturday, September 1

4:30 PM Mahlon & Jean Hall

Sunday, September 2

8:00 AM John Newton

9:30 AM Robert Hoshock

11:30 AM Lucille Mekus

Events For This Week

Monday, August 27

SVDP 7:00 pm PMC

Charismatic Prayer Group 7:00 pm PMC

Tuesday, August 28

Respect Life Committee 7:00 pm St. John's

Wednesday, August 29

First day of school

Shep of Christ Prayer Group 6:00 pm Church

Folk Group 7:30 pm Church

Thursday, August 30

Cantor Rehearsal 5:00 pm Church

Friday, August 31

Spanish Bible Study 7:00 pm PMC

Saturday, September 1

Baptism 5:30 pm Church

Daily Readings for This Week

Readings for the Week of August 26, 2007

Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday: 1 Thes 2:1-8/Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13 (427)/Mk 6:17-29

Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13/Mt 24:42-51

Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8/Mt 25:1-13

Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11/Mt 25:14-30