

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Today's Readings: Vigil: Jeremiah 1:4-10/1 Peter 1:8-12/Luke 1:5-17

GOSPEL GLIMPSES

Great Expectations

Parenthood is one of God's greatest gifts. When a loved one is "expecting", we spend nine months planning and dreaming of the child's future. Friends and strangers alike are regaled with tales of our hopes, our vision for the new arrival. We have great expectations, and we joy in sharing them, especially if the child has been long awaited.

Zechariah spent his nine months of expectation in total silence, struck mute when he doubted the angel Gabriel's announcement. In silencing Zechariah's unbelief, God allowed the miracle of faith to grow wordlessly, treasured deep in Zechariah's heart. Then as Zechariah wrote the words "He will be called John", his tongue and heart poured out what God had taught him during that "great expectation". Zechariah's doubt had become a faith filled witness for the world. May today's gospel remind us of God's power to work through both our faith and our doubt, pondering in the stillness of our hearts the great expectations He has for us, His children.

Next Sunday's Readings: 1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21/Galatians 5:1, 13-18/Luke 9:51-62



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Every year the traditional Peter's Pence Collection is taken up throughout the world on or near the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul.

The proceeds are forwarded to Pope Benedict in Rome, who uses them for emergency relief assistance to those who suffer from war, oppression, disease and natural disasters. Through these works of charity, a powerful witness of love is given to empower the weak, the defenseless and the voiceless, and to sustain those who suffer.

The theme for this year's Collection is **Let us make sure that none of God's children ever feels alone.** The theme is based on a September 2006 homily given by Pope Benedict, in which he explained how those who are baptized create one family of believers who are never alone.

In our Diocese of Toledo, Peter's Pence is one of the few national collections that is not covered by our Annual Catholic Appeal. This year, Peter's Pence in our diocese is scheduled for June 30th/ July 1st.

As we participate in this special appeal, we join more than one billion Catholics worldwide in a loving expression of solidarity. We share in the concern of the successor of Peter for the many different needs of the universal Church and for the relief of those most in need around the globe.

I ask you to consider contributing to the Collection this year, and I am grateful for your generosity. Together let us ask the Lord to bless the Holy Father and us, as well as those in need throughout the world.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Bishop of Toledo

YOUR ST. MARY COMMUNITY FESTIVAL TICKETS ARE IN CHURCH

Why should you buy (and sell) festival tickets?

- Because you can't win if you don't buy a ticket
- Because helping the parish is always a good thing.
- Because you can always use the extra money.
- Because your friends can always use the extra money.
- Because if you sell a winning ticket, you have a chance to also win.

There will be five winners in the raffle this year.

1st prize- \$1,500 cash

2nd prize- \$750 cash

3rd prize- \$500 cash

4th prize- \$250 cash

5th prize- 1 pie a month for 1 year from Bud's Restaurant.

\$100 to the seller of the winning ticket.

In addition there will be a \$25 Early Bird drawing each Monday starting August 6. Sell your tickets and turn them in to qualify for the drawings. This drawing is for those who sell tickets. You can turn in raffle tickets in the collection basket, in the mail or bring them to the parish office. Additional tickets are available at the parish office. Thanks to everyone who has turned in tickets already and for the many who have volunteered to help at the festival.

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

Planning for the Future

On June 13th a number of parishioners from St. Mary and St. John met to review some of the work that has been underway over the past year. In attendance were:

- the pastors from both parishes, (including Fr. Todd Dominique, the new pastor at St. John's)
- Pastoral Councils and Finance Councils from both parishes
- Defiance Catholic School Council
- School Facilities Committee, (a sub committee of the school council that has been evaluating our present school facilities as well as looking at the Anthony Wayne School building, soon to be auctioned)
- the Rectory Committee (looking at housing possibilities for both pastors)
- St Mary Parish Long Range Planning Committee

All totaled we were about 50 folks who spent the evening looking at how to best plan for the future of Catholic Community in Defiance. We didn't come up with any clear answers, not yet anyway. Sr Joyce Lehman, from the Diocesan Office of Pastoral Leadership was on hand to facilitate some discussion on how the two Defiance parishes might continue to build on the good work begun, and develop a clearer plan for the future. We'll work hard to communicate as much as we can, as often as we can, and we'll also need the input and leadership of as many parishioners as possible. If you have interest in learning more about the planning process, or, even better, if you have the skills and the desire to be a part of this process, please let me know. Call the parish office; leave a message on my voice mail; or email me (tmkstmary@defnet.com). – Father Tim.

Defiance Catholic School

Benefit Calendar Winners May 2007

Sarah & Chad Cabrelage \$100, Heidy Seiple, Jeanne Coressel, Tiffany Jack, Jessica Lopez, Ruth Johnson, Larry Florence, Dan Fishpaw, Kari Hart, Brittany Mealer, Don Fee Sr, Ryan & Kara Miller, Bob Heil, Tony & Kaylor Klear, Chris Collins, Cordell Stover, Mary Ann Seskar, Mark & Trina Stepansky, Donna Jack, Sue Kosier, Dan Pahl, Todd Cereghin, Patrick & Sheila Murphy, Dan Light, Kirk Jones, John & Carol Ehlinger, Trudy Meyer, Carol Gable, Pat Morgan, Jennifer Hufford and Helen Webb.

School Council Elections...Congratulations & Thanks!

A word of thanks to all six candidates that offered to be members of the School Council for our Defiance Catholic School. Congratulations to Bryan Keller, Kristi Pry and Todd Shafer, the three new members, selected by last weeks balloting. The members from our parish who are completing their terms on Council are: Bryan Keller, Penny Relyea and Shelly Shafer. Thanks to Bryan for his willingness to serve a second a term, and thanks to Penny and Shelly, who have served so well. Thanks to all who continue the long history of support and leadership for our Defiance Catholic School.

Defiance Catholic School Survey Results

Do you remember....during Catholic Schools Week....filling out a survey? There were 470 parish and school website responses to the Catholic School survey.

- 60% of the survey responses were from people that had attended a Catholic School.
- 80% strongly agree that a structured Religious education is important.
- 65% strongly agree that Teacher-Student ratio is important.
- 59% strongly agree and 29% agree that DCS provides values and character building.
- 50% strongly agree and 34% agree that DCS provides a quality academic education.
- 28% strongly agree, 32% agree and 27% somewhat agree that DCS provides sufficient extra-curricular activities.
- 66% strongly agree that DCS provides a safe learning environment.
- 38% strongly agree and 32% agree that cost is a factor in the decision of sending a child to DCS.

The Institutional Advancement Committee would like to express our appreciation to everyone who took the time to fill out the survey. The results are valuable in giving the committee a future focus for marketing.

For more detailed survey information log on to www.defiancecatholicschool.org and click the Survey Results link.

NATIVITY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

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.

Junior High Youth Ministry

Leaders Needed!

We need two dedicated persons to lead our Junior High School students on Wednesday evenings. One person will lead Grade 7 students and the other will lead the Grade 8 students. You will work with the Coordinator of Youth Ministry during the summer to establish the curriculum for meetings starting in September 2007 through June 2008. Our leaders will present approximately 15 lessons. Benefits include working with an energetic and joyful group of young people, sharing your faith, learning more about your faith and your faith community and investment in a retirement plan that is out of this world. For more information and to discuss this in more detail, call Deacon Jeff at 438-6790 or leave a message at the Parish Ministry Center 782-2776.

Needs Assistance!

We are looking for two persons with good organizational skills and energy to help coordinate and assist the Junior High meetings on Wednesday evenings beginning in September 2007 through June 2008. You would assist the leaders of the meetings by helping gather materials, line up treats for the students and phone parents as necessary. You will work with the Coordinator of Youth Ministry and the Junior High Leaders through the summer to help develop the program for the fall. Benefits include working with an energetic and joyful group of young people, sharing your faith, learning more about your faith and your faith community and investment in a retirement plan that is out of this world. For more information and to discuss this in more detail, call Deacon Jeff at 438-6790 or the Parish Ministry Center 782-2776.

Habitat for Humanity, Mozambique

In last week's bulletin we shared that a parish member; Sue Hoeffel, will be leaving on a three week mission trip to Mozambique. While there the team will be building houses to primarily help vulnerable children, many of whom are orphans raising other children. If you would like to contribute to this effort, envelopes marked **Habitat for Humanity-Mozambique** may be found in the pews. You may put them in the collection basket or drop them off in the parish center. Thank you!

H.U.G.- II

Have you experienced the death of a loved one? The Bereavement Support team has started a new group, meeting once a month (the 2nd Tuesday) at 7:00 pm, in the Parish Ministry Center. Our next gathering will be July 10th. This group is for anyone in the surrounding area and is a place to meet and share fellowship and support through this difficult time. Any questions please call 419-782-2776 and one of the team members will get back with you.

Parish Liaison/ Auditor

The Diocese of Toledo is recruiting an Parish Liaison / Auditor. This position is the primary contact between the Diocese and the parishes and schools relating to accounting and records management. This includes review and improvement of internal controls, conducting training for parish/school staff, conducting internal control reviews at all diocesan parishes and audits when deemed appropriate. Additional responsibilities include design, develop and implement training programs for parish Finance Councils, assist with year end process as needed and maintain the diocesan accounting manuals. Candidates must have at least a Bachelors Degree in finance or accounting, 3-5 years direct experience in auditing, demonstrated experience with computerized financial management. Candidates must also be a practicing Catholic and have an understanding and commitment to the Catholic Church. Please send cover letter and resume with salary history to the Diocese of Toledo, PO Box 985, Toledo OH 43697. You may also email resumes to rcoutts@toledodiocese.org.

Parish Finances - Stewardship of Treasure

Last Week You Gave.....	\$9,758.50
Need Weekly	\$11,173.00
<i>Below Budget</i>	(\$1,414.50)
Contributions to Date	\$544,474.74
\$11,154 x 51 Weeks	\$569,823.00
Year to Date <i>Below Budget</i>	(\$25,348.26)

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

A Family Perspective: The question in today’s gospel, “What will this child be?” concerns all parents. We spend years trying to influence and shape the answer, hoping our children will be “strong in spirit”, like the Baptist, and also “blessing God” like Zachariah.



The National Marriage Encounter 2007 Great Lakes Family Conference is July 26-29 at Bowling Green State University. The three-day conference is geared toward families, with activities planned for adults and children to attend both separately and together. Each day features keynote speakers, workshops, and programs for children and teens. The cost of the conference varies, depending on family size and type of room. Meals are included with the conference. More information and registration forms are available at www.marriagefamilyconference2007.org or by contacting Jim and Sue Ariss at 513-542-0594 or cincyariss@aol.com.

Medjugorje, the Shrine of Our Lady of Peace, September 18 to the 28th with two nights in Dubrovnik and two nights in Orebic. Fatima, Lourdes or Rome can also be added if desired. Call for information 419-263-2950.

Do you...? know if your insurance meets your needs? Find out more at **Financial Peace University**. Classes starting again this fall.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, June 25

8:00 AM Communion Service

Tuesday, June 26

8:00 AM Communion Service
11:00 AM Mass with 55 Plus Club
2:15 PM Laurel’s Mass

Wednesday, June 27

8:00 AM Mary Wannemacher

Thursday, June 28

8:00 AM Adam & Ella Jurcevich

Friday, June 29

8:00 AM Josephine English

Saturday, June 30

4:30 PM Wilber Steinbrener
Living & Deceased Members of Simonis Family

Sunday, July 1

8:00 AM Gerald Deveaux
9:30 AM Dolores & Robert Dieringer
Dennis & Nancy Schuller 40th Anniversary
11:30 AM Herbert Carroll

Events For This Week

Monday, June 25

SVDP 7:00 pm PMC
Charismatic Prayer Group 7:00 pm PMC

Tuesday, June 26

Art Committee 11:00 am PMC
55 Plus Club 12:00 pm PMC
Respect Life Committee 7:00 pm St. John’s
Altar Society Planning Mtg 7:00 pm PMC

Wednesday, June 27

Shep of Christ Prayer Grp 6:00 pm Church
Parish Feast Day Mass 6:00 pm K of C

Thursday, June 28

Cantor Rehearsal 5:00 pm Church

Friday, June 29

Spanish Bible Study 7:00 pm PMC

Sunday, July 1

Financial Peace Session 6:30 pm PMC

Daily Readings for This Week

Readings for the Week of June 24, 2007

Monday:	Gn 12:1-9/Mt 7:1-5
Tuesday:	Gn 13:2, 5-18/Mt 7:6, 12-14
Wednesday:	Gn 15:1-12, 17-18/Mt 7:15-20
Thursday:	Gn 16:1-12, 15-16 or 16:6b-12, 15-16/Mt 7:21-29
Friday:	Acts 3:1-10/Gal 1:11-20/Jn 21:15-19
Saturday:	Gn 18:1-15/Mt 8:5-17