

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Today's Readings: Wisdom 11:22-12:2/2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2/Luke 19:1-10

GOSPEL GLIMPSES Go climb a tree

Remember the last time you waited impatiently in a crowd: a parade route, a concert, a sports arena? Frustration with elbow jostling, packed humanity grows as minutes pass. The thicker the mass of bodies the worse tempers flare, especially when an event is important to us. We're eager to get to the front of the pack, pushing people aside for a clearer view. In those sardine-like moments, we become Zaccheus: short of stature and temper, eager to shinny up the nearest tree!

But it isn't a crowd of people that blocks our view of Jesus today. Instead the clutter and noise in our lives makes us Zaccheus, up to our eyeballs and struggling to see over commitments to people, things, goals. We need to climb up and out of the mundane for a clearer vision of the Savior. With our head above the rubble of everyday life, we can hear Jesus call "Come to me, and I will visit with you." Let's pray for the courage today to climb a "Zaccheus tree" and spend a few moments, feet dangling in the air and our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Next Sunday's Readings: 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14/2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5/Luke 20:27-38 or 20:27, 34-38

We are taking applications for one full-time OR two part-time maintenance/custodial positions.

If you or someone you know is interested in this position, please submit a resume (with references) to the parish office, attention Joanne. General maintenance skills are needed and some knowledge of boilers is very helpful. The opening is effective immediately. If you would like a job description, pick one up at the Parish Ministry Center.

Noodle Club this Thursday, November 8th, 1:00 pm at the school. We would love to have more help- so come give it a try!

St. Mary noodles for sale: \$3.00 per bag.

Supporting Water for Life: Water for Life was established in 1978 to fund projects that make clean, safe water available to women and their families. The need for water unites us all because for all it is essential for life. Water for Life has funded wells in Villages throughout Africa and Latin America. They combine construction of irrigation and/or sanitation systems with education about basic hygiene. Our Altar & Rosary Society is asking for your help in supporting these women by making a donation the weekend of November 17 & 18. The weekend of November 10 & 11 brochures explaining Water for Life will be handed out after the Masses. Then on the weekend of November 17 & 18, members of the Altar & Rosary Society will be at the exits to accept your donations which will be sent on to Catholic Relief Services for the Water For Life Program.

Book of Remembrance: During the month of November, we invite you to inscribe the names of your loved ones who have passed away since November 2006 in our Book of Remembrance. This book will be displayed on the left side of the Sanctuary (near the area where the Baptismal Font is located). Each Sunday during the month of November, we will remember and pray in a special way for those whose names are inscribed in our Book of Remembrance.



Our November Generations of Faith will feature a Witness to Life panel- there will be guest presenters who will briefly speak on the life issues of Abortion, End of Life, Scientific Research, Capital

Punishment and making moral choices.

Make the choice to come on either Sunday the 11th or Wednesday the 14th. Both events will be at St. John's. Sign up forms can be found in the pews and dropped off as you leave church today or simply go online and sign up.

Don't forget your yard of fleece for the homeless project. And remember to bring the prayer cubes so we can pass them on.

In Loving Memory: Remember in your prayers the family and friends of Helen Naylor. May they know the peace of God's love.

EN THEOS - Enthusiasm for the Faith

For three Sundays in a row, we read from the second Letter to the Thessalonians. Why this letter at the end of the liturgical year?

As we come to the end of our liturgical year we focus on the struggle of the end times, the second coming, judgment and eternal life with God. The struggle is often portrayed as pitting the forces of good struggling to be faithful against those of evil, trying to undermine and undo the good. These are the themes of this particular letter, which effectively help to focus this part of the liturgical year.

The message conveyed stresses the need for fidelity and trust amidst forces both within and without that would veer us off God's path. The community is warned of these struggles and is asked to be faithful to what they have been taught, focusing especially on the example of Paul and others who modeled true fidelity and trust in the Lord.

Paul, traditionally attributed as the author of the second Letter to the Thessalonians, sounds so differently here than he does in his first letter. The first letter is warm, affectionate and personal in tone and attitude. The second letter is rather cold, distant and impersonal. This contrast has cast doubts on Paul's authorship. Yet, despite such doubts, the letter has something significant to contribute to our faith journey, stressing fidelity and trust in God no matter what the obstacles.

How do you cultivate fidelity and trust in God, even amidst the many challenges and difficulties of life?

At Home With the Word 2008: For the past several years, the parish has provided families with a copy of At Home With the Word. This publication helps individuals and families prepare to listen to God's Word each Sunday. If you are interested in receiving a copy, please complete the form below and drop it in the collection, phone the parish office or sign your name on the list in the back of church. Reflecting on the Sunday readings at home, before you even get to church, is one of the best ways to prepare yourself to participate in Sunday Mass.

Yes, I would like a copy of At Home With The Word 2008

Name: _____

Address: _____

St. Mary Youth Group... Please remember to bring your money envelope from the sale of your Elder Beerman Community Day coupon booklets, all money and any unsold booklets to youth group this Wednesday, November 7th. Any interested parishioner may still purchase an Elder Beerman Community Day coupon booklet for \$5.

Food Pantry Christmas Bags: The bags for the Food Pantry's Christmas project are at the back of church this weekend. Please consider helping with this project as part of your Christmas spirit of giving.



3rd Annual Christmas Party for Kids: Christmas time will soon be here, and a local women's group is in the beginning stages of preparation for the third annual Christmas party for the families of Clinton Circle Apartments. St. Mary parish has been asked to help with kitchen towel sets, hats and gloves for children and school supplies. (crayons, glue, pencils, erasers) If you would like to donate any of these items, drop off boxes will be in the back of church for the next few weekends. Monetary donations can be mailed to: My Gift for Kids, 1474 Terrawenda Dr., Defiance.

Are you looking for an extraordinary experience? Consider Mercy Volunteer Corps! This lay volunteer ministry program sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy welcomes women and men over 21 who want to make a difference in the lives of others. Volunteers spread mercy and justice in the world by committing to social justice, spirituality and a simple lifestyle in community while giving compassionate service to people within the continental U.S., and Guyana, South America. U.S. volunteers make a 1-year commitment beginning the first week in August. International volunteers make a 2-year commitment beginning with cross-cultural training in the summer prior to their August departure. Volunteers receive a small stipend, transportation, housing, medical insurance, school loan deferment, and inspiration to last a lifetime. Apply through www.mercyvolunteers.org. For more information contact Sister Carren Herring 513-221-1800 or sr carren@mercycincinnati.org.

Funeral dinner dishes: Dishes from funeral dinners can be picked up at the Parish Ministry Center. Thank you!

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



November... the month we all become conscious of THANKS–GIVING! I encourage you to take time throughout this month to reflect as family on ALL you have to be thankful for.

On Monday, November 5, we begin the second quarter of the 2007-08 school year! Our students have an opportunity to begin anew– working hard, learning, studying and growing in their faith.

Our sixth graders lived out their Mission Statement once again on October 29. They went to the Defiance Furniture Bank with John Weber. They spent an hour learning what the Bank does and helping with the items. Such an activity raises awareness and helps them realize how persons minister in our own parish/community.

They continue to be leaders in our school and raise money for their class trip by sponsoring “fun” fundraisers– a Halloween raffle at each campus on October 31 and an “end of the first quarter” celebration for each classroom... students could wear jeans, watch a movie and enjoy popcorn and a drink.

On November 5, Josh Bush, from WZOM, will be at St. Mary Campus at 10:15. Our students will be “on the air” to help promote the annual Food Drive. Tune in if you can!

On November 8, our sixth graders will be at Beaner’s. They will assist Rick Small with one of the Live Broadcast Toy Drives. Support the project by coming with your donation! And see our sixth grade leaders “in action”.

Honor Society: Did you know that of the students inducted into the Defiance High School Honor Society ten were graduates from St. Mary or St. John (before consolidation). Congratulations to: Denae Jiminez, Brianna Stover, Ross Weber, Chaz Burkhart, Aspen Ferland, Alexandra Greiwe, Nicholas Lieswyn, Kristen Moninger, Gabriella Sanchez and Jenna Thomas! Catholic Education... Oh What a Gift!

Special recognition to Beth Lloveras, fourth grade. Beth earned 103.1 A.R. points before the end of the first quarter! Way to go, Beth... keep on reading!

Grades 3-6 have completed the new Scantron testing. If you recall, this was the first year for this on-line test in reading and math only. The students worked well and hard. We were very proud of the way they cooperated, followed directions and were respectful of others taking the test. Teachers were able to access results immediately– one feature not available from the previously taken Terra Nova tests.

On November 12, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Moore and I will attend a Scantron informational meeting. At this meeting we will learn how to interpret the test results. We will share information when it is available and applicable.

Friendly reminder: Generations of Faith Sunday, November 11 at 12:45 pm and Wednesday, November 14 at 6:30 pm. Theme: Respect for all Life, Fifth Commandment. Where: St. John’s. How are you doing on your Wednesday Challenge?

Happy first full week of November! Miss Sandy

Sister’s Christmas Catechism-Mystery of the Magi’s Gold: Take a break from the holiday rush and enjoy an evening of fun at the K of C Hall in Defiance, Ohio. On December 15th, the New York based company, Entertainment Events, will perform the off-broadway show “**Sister’s Christmas Catechism- The Mystery of the Magi’s Gold.**” Tickets are \$30 for reserved and \$25 for general admissions. All tickets are pre-sale. Ticket price includes: the performance and pre-show hors d’oeuvres. Other pre-show activities include a silent auction, cash bar, live auction, and raffles. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and performance starts promptly at 7:30 p.m. The event is being sponsored by the St. John’s Catholic Youth Group in Defiance. For tickets call: 782-7121 or 782-2136. Ticket sales are limited.

Gearing up for basketball: If you are a 4th, 5th or 6th grade boy in the parish or a 5th or 6th grade girl who would be interested in playing basketball for Defiance Catholic School, please call St. Mary Campus 782-2751 or stop in the school office to get more information.

You still have time to buy a **Padrone’s pizza card** from the students of Defiance Catholic School. The cards are \$10 and can be used up to 10 times. When you purchase a 14 inch pizza, you get one free. Stop by either school office to purchase your card. Thank you!

Wedding Banns

Banns II Traci Williams & Eric Schultz

Parish Finances - Stewardship of Treasure

Last Week You Gave.....	\$12,215.00
Need Weekly	\$10,885.00
Above Budget.....	\$1,330.00
Contributions to Date	\$186,010.30
\$10,885 x 18 Weeks	\$195,930.00
Year to Date <i>Below</i> Budget	(\$9,919.70)

Adoption Builds Families. The Family Connections Department of Catholic Charities works with domestic and international adoptions everyday. We wish to honor all adoptive and birth families as November is National Adoption Month. By creating a forever family, adoption joins children and parents, links birth and adoptive relatives, and builds friendships between adoptive families. Celebrate adoption in the joy and unity it brings to families from all walks of life. For suggestions of ways to celebrate National Adoption Month or for more information call Catholic Charities at 800-926-8277.

Young Adults: The next Theology on Tap is scheduled for Thursday, November 8th at the Red Pig in Ottawa (just north of Ottawa on SR 65). Registration begins at 6:00 pm and the speaker at 6:30pm. Speaker: Larry Schimmoeller. Topic: My Faith Journey (a father of four, bank president and recently ordained deacon). Any questions, contact Lori Recker email: cg_lrecker@cg.noacsc.org.

Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Ottawa, is having its annual Fall Festival on Sunday, November 4. This years menu will feature turkey or beef sandwiches, hot dogs, noodles, baked beans, cole slaw, applesauce and pie. Serving will be from 11:30 am until 4:00 pm at the Ottawa K of C, 10759 Rd H. Dine in or carryout available. Adults \$6 and children under 12 \$4. Other features include: raffles, theme baskets and big ticket raffle.

Daily Readings for This Week

Readings for the Week of November 4, 2007

Monday:	Rom 11:29-36/Lk 14:12-14
Tuesday:	Rom 12:5-16b/Lk 14:15-24
Wednesday:	Rom 13:8-10/Lk 14:25-33
Thursday:	Rom 14:7-12/Lk 15:1-10
Friday:	Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12/1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17/Jn 2:13-22
Saturday:	Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27/Lk 16:9-15

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, November 5**
8:00 AM Communion Service
- Tuesday, November 6**
8:00 AM Gerald Nussbaum
- Wednesday, November 7**
9:15 AM School Liturgy at St. John
- Thursday, November 8**
8:00 AM Sharon Hiser & Parents
- Friday, November 9**
8:00 AM Tony Parsons
- Saturday, November 10**
4:30 PM Alvin & Rita Kleman
Virgil Fronk
- Sunday, November 11**
8:00 AM Paul, Gertrude & Phil Baker
9:30 AM Jeffrey Walter
11:30 AM James Decker
Paul Mack

Events For This Week

- Monday, November 5**
Altar Attendant Training 9:00 am Church
Charismatic Prayer Group 7:00 pm PMC
SVDP 7:00 pm PMC
- Wednesday, November 7**
Laurel's Service 2:30 pm Laurel's
Shep of Christ Prayer Group 6:00 pm Church
Youth Choir 6:00 pm Chapel
Youth Group Bible Study 7:00 pm PMC
Folk Group 7:30 pm Church
- Thursday, November 8**
NCYC in Columbus through Sunday
Noodle Club 1:00 pm School
Cantor Rehearsal 5:00 pm Church
LMC 7:00 pm PMC
School Council 7:00 pm School
- Friday, November 9**
Deanery Meeting 12:00 pm St. Mike
Spanish Bible Study 7:00 pm PMC
- Sunday, November 11**
Celebrate the Word 9:30 am School
Confirmation Session 10:30 am School
RCIA 10:30 am PMC
Generations of Faith 12:30 pm St. John