

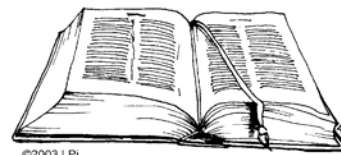
## ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

### **GOSPEL GLIMPSES**      **Whose guest list are you on?**

Admission by invitation only. Membership cards. Passwords and passports. Life has so many gateways of exclusion: who gets in, who gets left out. And though we resent being barred, we build the same barriers in our personal lives. If you've planned a reception you'll remember anguished conversations when trimming the guest list. Keep the boss and rich Aunt Emmeline, but drop those neighbors who won't bother with gifts. It shines an ugly light on our principles and hearts.

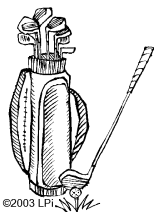


Imagine if the Lord filled out our guest lists. The party would include many people we wouldn't expect. He'd invite the hungry, the homeless, the lonely. There wouldn't be consideration for who could "pay us back," only compassion for those who need. In today's gospel Jesus tells us that when we plan dinners, lunches and banquets we are to remember His invitation to us. He asks us to honor His table when we invite people to ours. It's a matter of being on the right guest list, His list.

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Wisdom 9:13-18b/Philemon 9-10, 12-17/Luke 14:25-33

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**Defiance Catholic School Mass Plan:** Beginning with the Sept. 5th Wednesday morning Mass, there will be only one Mass that day between St. Mary's and St. John's. It will be either at St. John's or St. Mary's. The other church will not have a Wednesday Mass. An example is on Sept. 5th the Mass is scheduled at St. Mary's so St. John's will not have Mass that day. On Sept. 12th St. John's will have Mass and St. Mary's will not. We will make every effort to advertise where the Wednesday Mass will be. Please listen for an announcement on Sunday and check in the bulletin to see where the Mass will be.



**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.

**Congratulations to our fourth \$25 winner– Karl Steinberger.** Karl's name was drawn as our weekly winner for selling raffle tickets. There are 2 Mondays remaining so you still have a chance to win, just turn in the sold tickets.

**In Loving Memory:** Please remember in your prayers Sheila Moll. May she find joy in the kingdom of God and may God console his family and friends.

**To the members of St. Mary Parish:** On behalf of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, Deacon Paul White expresses prayerful thanks for the donation of \$2,410.20 to support the missionary efforts of the Catholic Church. By your sharing, you truly give witness of your faith and help fulfill the command of Jesus to take the gospel to all nations.

### **Bereavement Support Group**

The Bereavement Support Group, *HUG -Helping Us Grieve*, is beginning a fall session September 18; this program consists of five sessions. The group will meet on Tuesdays concluding with the last session in November. The meetings will begin at 7 pm and last approximately 1½ hours. This support group is opened to anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one.

To register, please call St. Mary's Church, Defiance, at 419-782-2776 and leave your name and phone number. Please register by September 14. A group facilitator will call you after that date to provide the meeting location and other details. A small fee will be requested to cover the cost of the book.

**Nationally acclaimed speaker Matthew Kelly** will be speaking at the K of C Hall September 18 and 19. We are in need of helpers for refreshments, set up and tear down. If you would like to donate 1-2 dozen cookies (or more if you wish), please bring them to the K of C between 4:00-6:45 Tuesday or Wednesday, September 18 or 19. Set up will begin at 3:00 Tuesday and tear down will be after the program on Wednesday. Thank you!



**Festival News:** It's approaching faster than you realize! Just two short weeks until St. Mary's Annual Parish Festival! Two days of fun and entertainment for the whole family. There will be dancing to a live band and kids' games and adult games and horse and duck races and Bingo and FOOD . . . there will be something for every kind of appetite; whether it's Sunday's chicken or Swiss steak dinner or something German or Hispanic or American from the food stands on Saturday (American also available on Sunday). And don't forget the Raffle with its \$1000 First Prize and the Altar Rosary Society's Bazaar. Well, we hope you've gotten the idea that there will be something to interest EVERYONE! So mark your calendars and plan on joining us at the Festival on Saturday, September 15 and Sunday, September 16. We're looking forward to seeing YOU!

**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](mailto: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 !

**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.



### Help Us to Help the Poor

With the approval of our Most Reverend Bishop, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will have an Annual Collection for the Relief of the Needy. Please help by giving the weekend of September 22 & 23. Thanks

**St. Mary's Altar & Rosary Society** will have a booth at our Parish Festival. Donations of new craft items, baked goods, fresh produce and plants can be brought to the big tent between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm on Saturday, September 15 or on Sunday, September 16 from 11:00 am till 12:30 pm. Any questions or if you need to make other arrangements for picking up donated items, please contact Rose Pessefall at 782-7094. Visit our booth at the Parish Festival. Thank you!

### DO YOU WANT TO BE A LEADER?

We're looking for juniors and seniors at St. Mary's to join us in leadership positions for the youth group this year. If you're interested please join us after the 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at the Ministry Center in the Fireplace Lounge. Core values will be served. Hope to see you there **If you're interested but unable to attend please call Pam Barnett at 782-4608.**

### 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 or in the back of church. 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. FPU at St. Mary's will need child care services on Sundays from 9:15 to 11:15 am, beginning September 23 through December 16.

When FPU was offered in December we couldn't come up with the funds. When it was offered again we scraped up the money and it was the smartest thing we've done. We'd recommend this class to all couples, but especially to those just starting out. FPU really works! FPU Graduates

## TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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**Defiance Catholic School News:** We're back! The 2007-08 school year started off on Wednesday and we worked so hard that we're enjoying a long weekend!

Last week I listed the teaching staff. This week I want to name ALL the other personnel who help make Defiance Catholic School a viable Christian-centered, academically sound learning environment—

### St. John Campus

Judy Koch, secretary  
Larry Davis, custodian  
Larry Birkemeier, maintenance  
Kris Campbell, Pre-K- tutor both in enrichment and reinforcement  
Brenda Johnson, cook  
Marguerite Willitzer, cafeteria accounts

### St. Mary Campus

Barb Naymik, secretary  
Joe Niese, custodian/maintenance  
Carol Shafer, custodial helper  
Ruth Johnson, cafeteria manager  
Terri Williltzer, cafeteria assistant  
Janet Silvestri, teacher/office aide  
Hope Thompson, tutor

### Both Campuses

Ruth Shindler, Auxilliary Services clerk  
Sandy Bloomfield, speech, hearing  
Nancy Hess, Title I (Reading instructor)  
Carol Moore, technology coordinator

And my apologies to **JODI GUILFORD**, our dynamic Pre-school teacher! I inadvertently missed her name in last week's column. Mrs. Guilford works with our three year olds and four year olds. This year we are excited about our pilot program— all day, 3 days for Pre-school. Because this is our first year, we only registered six students for this all day program. We will continue to develop the program, evaluate it and hopefully expand it in the future. Again, this will be one of the areas for discussion as School Council works on its Long Range plan.

**Did you know:** Auxilliary services is totally funded by the State. Ruth Shindler, our clerk, maintains a budget with these dollars. Based on state guidelines, these funds are used for certain students services. All textbooks (except religion) are bought with this money. Tutoring, technology enrichment and other instructional materials to enhance programs are purchased with these dollars.

School Council will meet Thursday, September 6 at 7:30. Officers will be elected at this meeting and we will continue our discussion from August's meeting with Jack Altenberger and Carolyn Schmidbauer. Highlights from council meetings will appear in future bulletins. Have a good September as we begin our school schedule! Be attuned to the signs of fall around you!  
Miss Sandy

**Mozambique.....**Our first Sunday in Mozambique was in an isolated area outside of Moputo. As every good Catholic on Sunday we were going to go to mass at the outpost church near us. It was to be at 9 AM. Traveling with a priest and seminarians and not being familiar with customs we thought it appropriate to be there by 8:30. While language was always and issue, what we saw and experienced had no language barriers.

As we approached we saw a small tan block building stained from the red ground. It could have been any building. Several men were bent over sweeping the floor and outside ground with branches they had taken off a nearby tree. As they continued with their labor of love, we watched and noticed the lack of people even though it was nearing 9 AM. They each came to greet us, one by one with a traditional hand shake and in my case I got kisses and handshakes. The handshake was gentle, and the left hand was placed on the inside elbow joint of their right hand to signify their words came from the heart, then they proceeded to have several hand gestures of unity. Slowly a few women arrived and put reed mats on the church floor but on one side only. The other side had old fashioned school desks pushed together. Upon their completed tasks they individually greeted us in the same fashion as the men. When they were ready, someone rang a bell hung on a nearby tree. They came from everywhere, slowly they appeared, men, women and children. Many had no shoes and they proudly wore what appeared to be donated clothes. They did not come as families and there was no sense of urgency. Before going in, each man, woman and child came to each of us to welcome us in the same manner as the first men. The warmth, sincerity and the presence of the Lord was almost overwhelming. Entering the church we were honored by having chairs. The men sat on the left, women and very young children on the right and school age children in front.

The Mass was a true celebration. They praised the Lord, as they sang and moved with the vitality of young children. There was the sound of two native drums and a bamboo flute and the music carried a special sound, a different beat. School aged children not playing an instrument participated in liturgical dance and an older woman would join in for no other reason than she felt moved to participate. Dance was part of the mass, not just the procession. The sharing of the sign of peace was almost bigger than life. Almost EVERYONE moved out of their seats and made an attempt to individually greet all others present no matter how long it took. It was quite a stirring and I was embraced and greeted by wide smiles again and again. I could not help but feel I was part of something much greater.

As the Mass ended, a woman asked Fr Tom if he would introduce us. One by one we were introduced and they might ask a question. My introduction included the fact that I am a grandmother. They enthusiastically clapped & cheered and I could feel their smiles. As we stood before them, they came forward, this time to share farewell greetings, hugs and kisses. How could we not feel the sense of community and that the same spirit that lives in us here lives in them there?  
Sue Hoeffel

**Parish Finances - Stewardship of Treasure**

Last Week You Gave.....	\$11,381.50
Need Weekly .....	\$10,885.00
Above Budget.....	\$496.50
Contributions to Date .....	\$90,380.50
\$10,885 x 9 Weeks .....	\$97,965.00
Year to Date <i>Below</i> Budget .....	(\$7,584.50)

**At the next Spanish Mass** on September 8 at 7:00 pm, the Guadalupe Society invites all to a Potluck after the Mass in St. John's basement. We hope to see you there. For more information call Mrs. Hortencia Mendez 784-2870 or Mrs. Teresa Chenhalls 393-4159.

**Ohio Polka Booster Dances:** Labor Day Dance at the Kalida K of C, September 3, 2007. Doors open at 3:00 p.m., with dancing from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. Music by Dave Slivinski. Regular Meeting: (Public Invited), Election and Dance at the Ottawa K of C on Wednesday, September 12, 2007. Meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. with dancing to follow until 10:30 p.m. with The Bavarian Brass.

**Defiance Area Inpatient Hospice Center**

Volunteers needed for front desk reception. Duties include greeting people and performing light clerical work. Shifts are Monday through Sunday:

- 9:00 am to 11:00 am, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
- 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, and 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Please call Stephanie Fisher if interested at 782-5411 or 782-4131

**Henry County Right to Life** would like to invite you to their September meeting. They are changing their place to the Defiance Crisis Pregnancy Center building by the Meijer store. The meeting is Monday, September 10 at 7:30 pm. They have limited active members and are hoping that you might be interested in joining them in their effort to keep an active Pro-Life organization in Northwest Ohio. With your help, they can keep their chapter active. They are willing to meet in Defiance in the future. Hope to see you on September 10th.

**Daily Readings for This Week**

Readings for the Week of September 2, 2007

Monday:	1 Thes 4:13-18/Lk 4:16-30
Tuesday:	1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11/Lk 4:31-37
Wednesday:	Col 1:1-8/Lk 4:38-44
Thursday:	Col 1:9-14/Lk 5:1-11
Friday:	Col 1:15-20/Lk 5:33-39
Saturday:	Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23

**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, September 3**

8:00 AM Communion Service

**Tuesday, September 4**

8:00 AM Communion Service

**Wednesday, September 5**

9:15 AM Richard Kohout  
Lois Mekus

**Thursday, September 6**

8:00 AM Gerald DeVeaux

**Friday, September 7**

8:00 AM David Wickley

**Saturday, September 8**

4:30 PM Louis Janicek

**Sunday, September 9**

8:00 AM Respect for all Life  
9:30 AM Robert Buchholz  
11:30 AM Paul & Frances Bruns

**Events For This Week**

**Monday, September 3**

Office Closed  
No School

**Tuesday, September 4**

School Finance Meeting 7:00 pm Chapel  
Stewardship Committee 7:00 pm PMC

**Wednesday, September 5**

Shep of Christ Prayer Group 6:00 pm Church  
Youth Choir 6:00 pm Chapel  
Jr. High Group 7:00 pm School  
Youth Group Bible Study 7:00 pm Yellow House  
Choir Practice 7:30 pm Church

**Thursday, September 6**

Noodle Club 1:00 pm School  
Cantor Rehearsal 5:00 pm Church

**Friday, September 7**

Spanish Prayer Group 7:00 pm Chapel

**Saturday, September 8**

FPU Orientation After all Masses

**Sunday, September 9**

FPU Orientation After all Masses  
Confirmation Orientation 10:30 am School  
Youth Min. Planning Com. 12:30 pm PMC