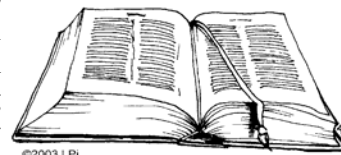


## ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Today's Readings:** Amos 8:4-7/1 Timothy 2:1-8/Luke 16:1-13 or 16:10-13

### **GOSPEL GLIMPSES: Step by step**

Some tasks are just too big to face all at once. Major projects like moving to another city, renovating your home, starting a totally new career can make us feel overwhelmed with all there is to be done. When we stare down that long road of detail after detail we're sure it'll never be finished. If our eyes stay focused on that daunting picture for too long, we'll succumb to despair and quit before we're even started. How many dreams have we decided are impossible without even trying?



Living a truly committed, spirit filled Christian life can feel a bit like that. How can we be sure not to stumble on the way? But what we forget is it's not about the big picture. Jesus wants us to be faithful in the small things first. Those little do-able daily challenges. As Jesus teaches us in today's gospel, when a servant is faithful in the small things, they will be faithful in the greater things too. To prove ourselves ready for bigger tasks, we must choose God's way instead of the world's, in all the little decisions we make. Each small step of faith taking us closer to Him, closer to the true and trusted servant He knows we can be.

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Amos 6:1a, 4-7/1 Timothy 6:11-16/Luke 16:19-31

**Thank you! Thank you!** We would like to express our thanks to all who helped make last weekend's festival such a wonderful celebration of community. First of all, thank you to the good Lord for such wonderful weather. Thank you to all who allowed us to put festival signs in their yards (**Please remember to return your sign to the parish office so it can be used next year**) and all of our advertising sponsors who made our advertising efforts possible. Thank you to all the helpers who served food, worked at the children's and adult games and the duck and horse races and bingo, or donated to the Altar & Rosary Society's bazaar. Thank you to all who helped with the set up and the tear down, to those who donated pies for Sunday's dinner, and to all the committee heads for their leadership and organization. Thank you to all of you who supported the festival with your presence and for making this festival a great parish community celebration!

-Festival Chairpersons; Rob Carr, Laurie Coressel, Denny Gable, Becky Saxton & Joanne Santo

**Thanks to everyone who purchased raffle tickets.** The happy winners are: Laurie Coressel, \$1500; Walt & Rita Batocha, \$750; Brayden Dumire, \$500; Julie Nagley, \$250 and Elevation Sanchez, Pie a month from Bud's.

**St. Peter & Paul Parish is the recipient of \$5120.00.** Your generous contributions to help our sisters and brothers recuperate from the flood damage are a true sign of God's message to love one another. As in the past St. Mary Parish Community answers the call to give when there is a need. God Bless all of you who gave.



Hope you all enjoyed our Generations of Faith kickoff with Matthew Kelly and are ready to jump right into "Morality- Doing the next right thing." Last week I talked about how we are all responsible to help pass on the baton of faith on to others. Have you registered yet? Forms can be found in the pews and dropped in the collection basket, the Ministry Center or you can fill out a form on our parish web site.

Take advantage of our discount prices by registering NOW. **Do the next right thing...join us at Generation's and pass on the faith**

**The Calista Olds/Jerry Lightle Memorial CROP Walk will be held on Sunday, October 7 at 1:15 pm** starting at St. Paul Methodist Church. CROP Hunger Walks help to support the overall ministry of Church World Service. If you would like to walk please call Shelly Shafer at the Parish Ministry Center 782-2776 or 784-9153 (home). Read the bulletin insert for more information.

**Today is the Annual Collection for St. Vincent de Paul.** Once a year we appeal to you for a contribution of \$1.00 to help those less fortunate. Your donation enables us to give financial assistance for utilities, medical care, housing, etc... Please use the SVDP envelope located in the pew. If you are able to give more than \$1.00, that is great; however any amount is sincerely appreciated! Thank you!

**The Defiance Choir Boosters will be holding its Second Annual Pre-Game Taco Dinner** fundraiser from 5-7pm, Sept. 28 at the Defiance High School Cafeteria, prior to the Defiance/Shawnee football game. Cost is \$7.00 and tickets may be purchased from any choir member or at the door. The authentic taco dinner, prepared by Raul & Christa Sanchez, includes two tacos, beans, rice, dessert and drink. Carry out is available.

**St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church  
Fest for All**

Saturday, October 13 6:00 pm– 10:00 pm  
Sunday, October 14 11:00 am– 4:00 pm  
Please join the fun: Lots of food, cash bar, lots of games for kids, Texas Hold 'Em Tournament, Pull Tabs, 50/50 Raffle, Bake Sale, Craft Raffle, Silent Auction, Len Collier's Band, and lots more!

**OCTOBERFEST at St. Michael's Catholic Church**, Hicksville, on October 7, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Chicken & Ham Dinners, game tent, bingo, craft & bake sale, silent auction, Raffle and much more. Come join the fun! For more information call 419-542-8202.

**55+ Club Meeting:** Tuesday, September 25 at St. Michael's Ridge. Rosary will be at 10:45 am, followed by Mass at 11:00 am. There will be a catered dinner at 12:00 noon. Our guest speaker, Bill Price, will give an informational and educational presentation on long-term care and preserving your assets, along with his musical humor with comedy entitled "Medicaid Blues". Committee includes: Betty Mekus, Alma Seimet, Rosemary Justinger and Ruth Bauer. For reservations please call by Friday, September 21 to Delores Ryan at 782-9441 or Georgiana Wagner at 497-3762. Non-members are invited.

**Mozambique.....**Traveling toward Massaca, we knew we were in a third world country but we started on blacktopped roads so we felt fortunate. As we distanced ourselves from the border we encountered missing pieces of road, dodging potholes until most travel was on dirt roads. Down one of those dirt roads was our new home, Massaca, where we could settle in and unpack.

My home away from home was a simple room; one with 2 beds, a space between them large enough to place a suitcase and a narrow wood bench under my window. Each bed had a mosquito net. Those are forever etched in our minds. There are too many stories of fights in the middle of the night in which the mosquito net won. The bathroom was difficult to get used to; the water was cold, the toilet had no seat and even when they scrubbed it, it looked dirty. We had been warned not to use the water even to brush our teeth so bottled water was always close at hand.

This is a place where you saw the common and were reminded of the Holy. Looking out my window, I watched as our laundry was done by hand, on a concrete basin similar to an old washboard. There was community water nearby that she returned to regularly in order to do laundry as well as wash her small son. To the side of my room was a wire fence which kept the chickens, goats and anything else that wasn't supposed to be there out. There was a steady flow of animals and those tending them would generally greet me and wave as they moved along. Looking over the fence I also saw that everything was thrown on the ground and allowed to decay back into the earth. There is no sanitation or grand re-cycling system other than mother earth.

The short row of block buildings in front of me was filled with hope. These were small buildings which had been built or were under construction for training in areas such as woodworking, concrete and sewing. The most popular was the bakery. By 6 AM you could hear the buzz as people waited in line for bread. As I passed by on my way to breakfast, I was greeted to the day by many who interrupted their conversation to say hello.

Meals did not vary much. Breakfasts consisted of a hard roll with one egg, a small cake and hot water for coffee or tea. All of our meals were outside. When I entered inside the cooking area to ask for something, much to my surprise, they were cooking everything on an open flame much like I think of camping, but they were inside of a building that had electricity. Even the bread in the bakery was cooked with an open fire with piled wood close at hand.

The first sound you noticed was the crowing of the roosters. It seemed like there were hundreds of them scattered all over the country side, yet right outside your door, and they sure didn't know when sun rise was or how to work together. There was the sound of what I initially thought to be blaring music but the rhythm was different and it became part of the evening landscape. Beyond the roosters, the absence of noise.... the silence, along with the lack of lights is what I remember. It was so inviting and life giving in its own special way. It was an invitation from God; one that I personally seem to forget when at home but was so warm and embracing half way around the world.

Yours in Christ, Sue Hoeffel

## TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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**Defiance Catholic School News:** This week our students will be learning and experiencing opportunities “outside” the classroom. These trips let the students see the curriculum “in action.”

On Monday, the fourth graders are going to the Butterfly House in Whitehouse. This trip will show the interdependence of life-plants and animals. They will observe hundreds of butterflies from North America, Central America and Asia.

Wednesday, the sixth graders will be heading to the Medieval Festival. They will see persons in dress of that period. They will watch jousting, taste the foods of that time and much more!

On Thursday, both fourth and fifth graders will head to Grand Rapids. The fourth graders will ride the Canal boat and visit the Mill. Fifth graders will visit a Native American village and learn about their customs and lifestyle.

Last Friday, the sixth graders went to Camp Lakota. This day is an annual event sponsored by the Defiance County Soil and Water Conservation District. Presenters discussed: Wildlife Conservation and Activities, Black Swamp Raptors, Water Cycle, Wetlands and Forestry.

In addition to learning outside the classroom, our students are learning to be aware of community needs and how they can reach out to others. These past two weeks, the sixth graders have been working on a project for the Hospice Fall Festival. It is a unique Christmas tree table decoration that will be auctioned off at the Festival.

Our sixth graders continue to live out their Mission Statement (that I will share at a later date) by volunteering at the St. Mary Parish Festival and attending the Hospice Fall Festival.

Something NEW... the DCTV Class has changed its format. Instead of meeting after school, the students go to the DCTV studios during the day. You may know that the studio is now at a new location,

the “old” church on Wayne Street. So, every Thursday, for an hour Vincenza Tremante, Aubrey Stanfield, James Howard, Katie Hancock, Brandon Niese, David Michel, Katelyn Hoeffel, Gabe Arreguin and Christian Driftmeyer will be at the studio. Curt Aldrich and Mark Newman of DCTV will work with the students on the technical aspects (camera use, editing, music selection, lighting, etc..) of making a television program. Both Curtis and Mark hope this experience will encourage the students to volunteer at DCTV even after they leave DCS. These students are very eager and were seen taping at the Parish Festival, at Matthew Kelly and the annual golf outing. When you see them, smile and wave— you may be on DCTV!

All of these activities help to enrich and enhance the diocesan course of study based on the State of Ohio standards. All of our teachers want to take advantage of these nearby opportunities and can easily do so because of our class sizes. These experiences are some of the many things that make Defiance Catholic School Different by Design and Strength for the Future.

A special salute to ALL of our parents! September 23-29 is Parent Appreciation Week! On Tuesday, September 24, families are encouraged to celebrate a meal together. Maybe you could arrange that in your home and/or plan some other family activities especially during this week.

I invite all families to come celebrate our school liturgy on Wednesday— 9:15 at St. John’s. Because we are a Catholic school, we have this opportunity to gather and pray together every week. Maybe this particular Wednesday, you could make a special effort to be there and join us in prayer for all parents!

Mark this date, parents: October 3 at 6:30-7:30 Booster meeting in St. Mary Parish Ministry Center—Fireplace Room. Don’t know who or what a Booster is? Tune in! More information coming!! Enjoy this last week of September! Miss Sandy

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**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! Families with children already in Catholic school and those planning for the future are encouraged to attend. The workshops will be held on Monday, Sept. 24 and Wed, Sept. 26 from 7:00– 8:30 at Little Flower School, 1620 Olimphia Rd., Toledo. Call 419-244-6711 ext. 621.

**Defiance Catholic School Scrip:** Don’t forget to place your order by Monday to have it ready by Friday. Orders can be dropped off at the school office, Parish Ministry Center, or in the Sunday collection in an envelope marked “Scrip.” Help support our school by buying gift certificates through us.



**A Family Perspective:** The members of our family are placed in our care for a divine purpose. Today Jesus tells us, “Prepare a full account of your stewardship. You cannot serve both God and Mammon.” Choose wisely, choose your family.

**Parish Finances - Stewardship of Treasure**

Last Week You Gave.....	\$8,834.50
Need Weekly .....	\$10,885.00
Below Budget.....	(\$2,050.50)
Contributions to Date .....	\$121,200.50
\$11,154 x 12 Weeks .....	\$130,620.00
Year to Date <i>Below Budget</i> .....	(\$9,419.50)

**Defiance County Furniture Bank**

Your help is needed! The Defiance County Furniture Bank, managed by St. Mary Parish Defiance, is in need of good usable basic furniture (couches, chairs, dressers, etc.) beds (queen size and smaller, mattresses, box springs, bed frames), bed linens, baby items (cribs, high chairs, etc.), working electrical appliances (stoves, microwaves, toaster ovens, washers and dryers, etc.) and house wares (pots, pans, dishes etc.). All donations can be made by calling (419)782-2776. Cash donations are always welcome. Your support of this project is greatly appreciated.

**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 !

**Daily Readings for This Week**

Readings for the Week of September 23, 2007

Monday:	Ezr 1:1-6/Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday:	Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20/Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday:	Ezr 9:5-9/Lk 9:1-6
Thursday:	Hg 1:1-8/Lk 9:7-9
Friday:	Hg 2:1-9/Lk 9:18-22
Saturday:	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a/ Jn 1:47-51

*Wedding Banns*

Banns I Emily Lawson & Louis Maresca

**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 24**

8:00 AM Communion Service

**Tuesday, September 25**

8:00 AM Communion Service

2:15 PM Laurel's Service

**Wednesday, September 26**

9:15 AM School Liturgy at St. John

**Thursday, September 27**

8:00 AM Donald Kahl

**Friday, September 28**

8:00 AM Ethel Buchholz

**Saturday, September 29**

4:30 PM Virginia Burger

**Sunday, September 30**

8:00 AM Herbert Mack

9:30 AM Jim Harley

11:30 AM Richard Kime

**Events For This Week**

**Monday, September 24**

Charismatic Prayer Group 7:00 pm PMC

SVDP 7:00 pm PMC

**Tuesday, September 25**

Stewardship Committee 7:00 pm PMC

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

**Wednesday, September 26**

Shep of Christ Prayer Group 6:00 pm Church

Youth Choir 6:00 pm Chapel

Jr. High Group 7:00 pm School

High School Youth Group 7:00 pm PMC

Folk Group 7:30 pm Church

**Thursday, September 27**

Cantor Rehearsal 5:00 pm Church

**Friday, September 28**

Spanish Bible Study 7:00 pm PMC

**Sunday, September 30**

Celebrate the Word 9:30 am School

Financial Peace 9:15 am PMC

Confirmation Session 10:30 am School

25/50th Anniversary Mass 3:00 pm Toledo