
ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

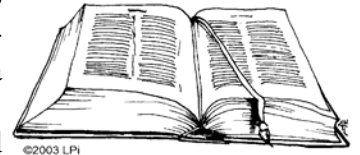
Today's Readings: Wisdom 9:13-18b/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Luke 14:25-33

GOSPEL GLIMPSES What's it gonna cost?

You've been offered your dream life: the perfect house, millions to spend, wonderful clothes, gourmet foods. All you have to do is move in empty-handed. Leave everything behind, absolutely everything and step into a guaranteed paradise. Wouldn't you do it?

Today's gospel has an even better offer. As Christians we're offered heaven, eternal peace and joy in God's presence. But like all precious things, it comes with a price tag. Not a large figure, just one small word: everything. Heaven is ours. The cost: Every single item we possess, every cent in the bank, our stock certificates, retirement funds, property, vehicles, residences. A pretty high price for some of us, when you calculate by currency. But really, the price is just one word: Trust. Jesus says the first step for believers is trusting Him to provide for *all* our needs. He will be our security here on earth and in His kingdom to come. It's a scary bargain, but worth every cent.

Next Sunday's Readings: Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14/1 Timothy 1:12-17/Luke 15:1-32 or 15:1-10



Festival NEWS!! Festival time is just one week away. The festivities begin Saturday evening, September 15 after 4:30 Mass. The Altar & Rosary Society invites you to visit their Bazaar Booth from 5:30-10:00 and check out the fresh baked goods, original craft items, and many other items that they will have for sale. Don't forget to bring your appetite! Whether you're hungry for American, Hispanic, or German food, you'll find your favorites served all evening long, from 5:30-11:00. And there's even dessert! What could be better than Boy Scout cobbler made and served by our own St. Mary's Troop 76? Kid's Fun Night, duck races called and emceed by Rick Small, and adult games will have the grounds buzzing with activity. Starting at 8 pm the dance tent will rock to the sounds of 'The Answer Band' from Fort Wayne playing all types of music for your listening and dancing enjoyment. Sunday's lineup of events promises to have something for the whole family. There will be Bingo, children's games, horse races, and the Altar & Rosary Society Bazaar Booth. Sunday dinner featuring chicken or Swiss steak will all the trimmings will be served from 11:30am-4:00pm in the school hall and the American Food stand will be open on the parking lot from 12 noon-3:00pm. Be sure to turn in your raffle tickets for the 3 o'clock drawing Sunday afternoon. Six lucky names will be drawn for prizes ranging from a Pie-a-Month for a year from Bud's Restaurant to the \$1000 Grand Prize. There are lots of activities planned to make it a great weekend and a great Festival. We're looking forward to seeing you there!

Landscape Committee: On Wednesday, September 12 at 6:00 pm the Landscape Committee will meet to do some clean-up work. Meet by the PMC.

Congratulations to our fifth \$25 winner— James Walpole. James's name was drawn as our weekly winner for selling raffle tickets. There is 1 Monday remaining so you still have a chance to win, just turn in the sold tickets.

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. If you are unable to bring your cookies to the K of C, please call Mary Walz at 784-2611 for pickup. Set up will begin at 3:00 Tuesday and tear down will be after the program on Wednesday. Thank you!

To the members of St. Mary Parish: Prayerful thanks for the additional donations of \$390 to the Society for the Propagation of Faith. That makes our total contribution to date \$2,800.20.

Plan on attending the Matthew Kelly evenings on September 18 & 19 at 7 pm at the K of C Hall. These are two great evenings for the whole family and a kickoff to this year's Generations of Faith series.

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!

St. Mary Altar & Rosary Society will begin another new year on Tuesday, September 11 at 7:00 pm at the Parish Ministry Center. The program for the evening will be on Scam and Crime Prevention, with our speaker John Williamson, Detective from the Defiance City Police Department. Committee Chairs are Becky Mohr and Sandy Simon with it's Committee of Joan Lasek, Debra Pizzo, Marisol Lloveras, Bonnie Hudson, Mary Mohr, Elaine Mohr, Evelyn Baker and Mary Ann Streicher. Hope to see you there!

The Catholic Ladies of Columbia is a fraternal benefit society incorporated on March 12, 1897, as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Ohio. The Society's mission is to meet the needs of Roman Catholics, their families and friends who share an interest in the welfare of the Society through a sound life insurance program and competitive financial products while bringing its members together in fellowship, prayer and service to others. They meet the third Tuesday of the month at 1:30 pm at the Parish Ministry Center for about two hours. Contact person is Rose Pessefall, 782-7094.

The Boy Scouts Need Your Help! On March 31st of 2008, St. Mary's Boy Scout Troop 76 will turn fifty years old. The troop is planning a reunion, which will include a special mass and a reception in the Parish Ministry Center. The troop needs your help in finding and contacting our past members and leaders. If you have family members or friends who were involved with our parish's boy scout troop, we would appreciate if you would provide mailing addresses or phone numbers for us to contact and invite them to the celebration. Send any contact information you have to jacstmary@defnet.com or call the parish office.

Noodle Club News: Please come join the Noodle Club Thursday, September 13 at 1:00 pm in the school. Your help is appreciated!

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. Thank you!**

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.

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 open 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.

Hospice Auxiliary Fall Fair: Thursday, September 27, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the UAW Hall. Auction starts at 11:00 am. A lunch will be served for a free-will offering.

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. We will get back to you.

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dear Friends in Christ,

Although it has been some days now since severe flooding ravaged many areas of our diocese, the work of restoring what was damaged or lost goes on. I have spoken to all the pastors of the hardest hit areas, and last week I was able to visit a couple of the flood sites. My heart goes out to everyone in our diocese and elsewhere who lost their homes, businesses or crops not only in cities and towns but on farmland too.

Our local Church of the Diocese of Toledo has been on the scene from the beginning, with insurance help for damaged parishes and schools. The Director of our Office of Parish Ministries and Social Concerns, Sister Christine Pratt, has been promoting relief efforts for all those who are suffering, in conjunction with what is provided by government agencies.

Last year our Diocese of Toledo partnered with the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux in Louisiana to help them with hurricane relief. Now, in a reversal of roles, the Catholics of Houma-Thibodaux are praying for us in Northwest Ohio and taking up a collection for us.

The most impressive thing of all is the outpouring of volunteers who have come from far and wide to help. I met a whole caravan of people from a parish in the Cincinnati Archdiocese who came ready and equipped to deal with some heavy duty clean-up work. The media has reported many similar cases of volunteers who have been generous with their time and labor. I know that the Lord will bless them for their kindness.

Where there is evil, God can always bring out some good. If nothing else, adversity draws people closer together and makes us more compassionate toward our neighbor. As one priest told me in a heavily damaged area, "People say they used to know their neighbor by name but at a distance. Now they have really come to know one another."

I ask that we not forget those who are suffering, and that we continue to look for ways to be of help until the work of rebuilding is complete. We also need to pray, individually and as parish communities, for our brothers and sisters throughout the diocese.

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



Happy first full, five-day week of school! May it be an enriching one! Next week Matthew Kelly will be speaking at the K of C. I would strongly encourage you to go to both nights. You will find him to be easy to listen to, spirit-filled and very practical. I have been reading his books and listening to his tapes. One of his recurring messages is BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE! (And isn't that what God asks us to do?) I have reflected on that a lot and I make a promise to you that during this 2007-08 school year, I will try to be the BEST I can be. And as Matthew Kelly further states, I will encourage the teachers/staff to be the BEST they can be. They, in turn, will encourage the students to be their BEST. If we all strive to do that, then we will have the BEST Catholic school!

Think about that! Go, listen to Matthew Kelly... reflect on BEING THE BEST YOU!

One way I hope to encourage BEING THE BEST is by acknowledging persons and letting them know I appreciate them. Starting next week, I will list each month's birthdays. By acknowledging these special days, I am appreciating each unique GIFT and BLESSING this person is to our school.

This week, I would like to acknowledge, affirm and thank the sixth grade families for their commitment to our school. They chose to send their fifth grader back to Defiance Catholic School. I salute:

Natalie and Alberto/Veronica
Ivan and Gabriel/Maria
Mackenzie and Eric/Jodi
James and Jim/Mary
Kaitlyn and Greg/Amy
Austin and Greg
Matt and Wes/Patti
Brenna and Don/Dawn
Feliciana and Raul/Christa
Aubrey and Chris/Sandy
Vincenza and Carmine/Vincenza

Five of these students are the youngest and the last of their family to complete their Catholic grade school education. All of us at Defiance Catholic School are grateful for all of them!

May you discover ways to be the BEST you can BE this week!
Miss Sandy

Family Corner- It is very important for us to send our kids to Catholic school. DCS is like a family to us—getting to know others through school and church. The kids have met friends whose families have similar strong values, they are able to talk and learn more about their faith. Kaylee likes going because she can talk about God. James loved kindergarten last year and is looking forward to a great year in 1st. It is such a gift to be able to give the kids a strong Catholic foundation.

Mike, Ann, Kaylee, James, Marissa and Nathan Blunt

Parish Finances - Stewardship of Treasure

Last Week You Gave.....	\$11,163.00
Need Weekly	\$10,885.00
Above Budget.....	\$278.00
Contributions to Date	\$101,543.50
\$11,154 x 10 Weeks	\$111,540.00
Year to Date <i>Below</i> Budget	\$9,996.50



Monday, September 10

8:00 AM Communion Service

Tuesday, September 11

8:00 AM Kentha Thomas

Wednesday, September 12

9:15 AM School liturgy at St. John's
(No Mass at St. Mary's)

Thursday, September 13

8:00 AM Lambert Burkhardt

Friday, September 14

8:00 AM Helen Carroll

Saturday, September 15

4:30 PM James Decker

Sunday, September 16

8:00 AM Bill Small

9:30 AM Catherine Bond

11:30 AM Mary Wannemacher

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 !

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.

Events For This Week

Monday, September 10

Furniture Bank Mtg	6:00 pm PMC
Charismatic Prayer Group	7:00 pm PMC
Festival Meeting	7:00 pm PMC
SVDP	7:00 pm PMC

Tuesday, September 11

Pastoral Council Mtg	7:00 pm PMC
Altar & Rosary Society	7:00 pm PMC

Wednesday, September 12

Shep of Christ Prayer Group	6:00 pm Church
Youth Choir	6:00 pm Chapel
High School Youth Group	6:30 pm Putt-Putt
Confirmation Orientation	7:00 pm School
Folk Group	7:30 pm Church

Thursday, September 13

Noodle Club	1:00 pm School
Cantor Rehearsal	5:00 pm Church
LMC	7:00 pm PMC

Friday, September 14

Spanish Bible Study	7:00 pm PMC
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Saturday, September 15

Parish Festival	5:30 pm
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GOF Sign-up Weekend

Sunday, September 16

Celebrate the Word	9:30 am School
Parish Festival	12:30 pm

Daily Readings for This Week

Readings for the Week of September 9, 2007

Monday:	Col 1:24-2:3/Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday:	Col 2:6-15/Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday:	Col 3:1-11/Lk 6:20-26
Thursday:	Col 3:12-17/Lk 6:27-38
Friday:	Nm 21:4b-9/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17
Saturday:	1 Tm 1:15-17/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35