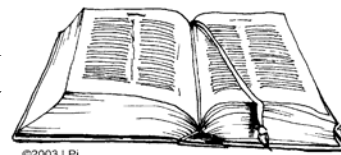


## ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

**GOSPEL GLIMPSES:** Keeping tabs

Few parables are as well known as the prodigal son. We see ourselves in that humbled son who trudges back home to be joyously welcomed. What a glorious reunion it would be. And how indignant we are with the elder brother, when he complains about the welcome feast. What a petty, selfish, *human* reaction.



The elder son isn't evil, he just has a bad case of "keeping tabs." Ever since his younger brother left, the elder has had more responsibilities, more work, more pressure. By now he's got a list of resentments as long as his arm. Every time he felt overwhelmed, he conjured up an image of his younger brother, enjoying a free-wheeling independent life. It wasn't fair. And now when the little brat shows up, empty-handed he gets a party? It's a feeling we're all familiar with, if we're honest. But today's gospel reminds us the party is for our Father who found His lost child, not to reward the weaknesses of our brother. As we face the prodigals in our own lives may we remember to celebrate their return with joy, not jealousy.

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

Sunday, September 16 at the festival

**11:30-4:00 Buffet Style Dinners**

Featuring: Swiss steak or chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, noodles, salad, dinner roll and drink. Prices are \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. Carryout is available.

IT'S HERE! Festival Time has arrived! The tent is up; the food stands are in place; the beverages are cold, and we're ready for YOU!! We've got something for everyone – duck races, games for the kids and the adults, music, dancing, and lots of food. There are crafts and homemade goodies at the Altar Rosary Bazaar both days. Be sure to bring the family Sunday for our chicken or Swiss steak dinner with mashed potatoes and all the trimmings, topped off with homemade pie for dessert. After your meal, stay and relax with us; play a little Bingo or try your luck at the horse races. There are lots of games for the kids, too. The American food stand will be open all afternoon on the parking lot and don't forget to turn in your raffle tickets. This annual Raffle is a big fund raiser for St. Mary's and a great opportunity for some lucky person to win the top prize of \$1,500. All tickets should be turned in in time for the 3:00 pm drawing that will give away \$3,000 in cash prizes plus one prize that gets the winner a pie-a-month from Bud's Restaurant for a year. So bring the family, visit with us, and have a great time at the Festival!

**Congratulations to our sixth \$25 winner—Jeanne Coffman.** Jeanne's name was drawn as our weekly winner for selling raffle tickets. Thank you to all who sold raffle tickets! If you have not turned them in, please return them by 3:00 pm on Sunday.

### Help Us To Help Others

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will have an annual donation collection next weekend, September 22 & 23 for the relief of the needy. What is being done: shelter for the homeless, employment for the handicapped, clothing and food for the needy, counsel for the imprisoned and the paroled, visitations to the sick and infirm, furniture, rent and utilities for the poor, and medicine for the ill. Please help by giving!



"Just do the next right thing." That is just one of the great messages Matthew Kelly will share with us on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 18th and 19th at the K of C Hall as we kickoff our 4th season of Generations of Faith.

"Morality— Making Right Choices" is this year's theme and Matthew's message is the perfect start with "Becoming Your Best Self"....We do that by "doing the next right thing."

This weekend and next you will find GOF envelopes in the pews with registration forms, a brochure and an event schedule. Pick one up, fill it out and drop it in the collection basket, the Generations of Faith table at the festival or drop it off at the Parish Ministry Center.

**Do the next right thing— Be at our kickoff with Matthew Kelly.**

**This Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 18th and 19th, when Matthew Kelly is here**, we will be welcoming guests and friends from other parishes in the area. We are asking your help in making sure we have enough refreshments those evenings. Even if you have not signed up to bring cookies, feel free to bring a dozen or more to the K of C either Tuesday or Wednesday night when you come.

**Prayer for Students**

Dear Lord,  
Although you made Thomas Aquinas, the patron saint of students, among the greatest and wisest of teachers, even he needed to begin his journey toward you as a student himself.  
When we are tempted to neglect our education, be it at school, work, or in life, give us the grace to persevere in your lessons to us.  
When tempted to believe we 'know it all' about anything, gently guide us toward the virtue of humility. And when tempted to teach others before we are ready, lead us away from the vice of arrogance. Make us more like you every day, and help us always to accept your will and instructions. Amen.

**Defiance Catholic School  
Calendar Winners August 2007**

David Arreguin \$100, Joel & Ami Batt, Brandon Shafer, Ken Iler, Jack Kummerer, Betty Mertz, Joe & Karen Tubbs, Lynne & Michael Shaeffer, Dan Light, Scott McKibben, Rose Richard, Dan & Erin Batt, Joyce Jackson, Carolyn Schira, Barb Ostrum, Dan Light, D.J. Schaffer, Jeff Feregin, Ethel Oskey, John Wilson, Scott Hece, Bob Froelich, Joe Niese, Chris & Jeff Weaner, Cody Jack, Greta Iler, Dan Light, Kirk Jones, Annette Niese, Ron & Tina Hiler and Joe R. Arreguin.

**A Retreat for Veterans of the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan** starting Friday, November 30 at 6:30 and ending Sunday, December 2 at 1:00 pm will be held at the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein. This retreat is designed to help veterans heal from the trauma of combat. If you have struggled in your return to home and community, this program will help you recognize and experience God's power to heal and renew. This retreat is free of charge thanks to a generous grant from the Sisters and Fathers of the Precious Blood. Registrations can be made by email at [spiritualcenterms@bright.net](mailto:spiritualcenterms@bright.net), by calling 419-925-7625, or by filling out a form that are located in the back of church.

**Defiance Catholic School News:** Happy mid-September! Did you work at being the best YOU could be this week? I tried and felt I was especially successful at several meetings I attended. I will keep at it and I hope you will too! And, if you want some inspiration on this, be sure to attend Matthew Kelly's presentation on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week.

This past week, I witnessed several DCS students being the BEST they could be-  
... our sixth grade leaders who were anointed at the September 5th liturgy and pledged their service to the school, our parishes and the community  
... our students in grades K-2 who were very respectful of others attending a funeral at St. John's  
... our six Pre-school students who are using their best manners in the lunchroom.  
I also observed our DCS teachers being the best they could be-  
... Mrs. Rohn encouraging her students to be attentive listeners  
... Mrs. DeCola helping students be responsible for their actions  
... Mrs. Moore enabling students to enhance their computer skills  
And our parents who-  
... prayed with our students at the opening liturgy  
... assisted our younger students when they walked to Mass  
... volunteered to be car drivers, office helpers, cafeteria workers  
... attend planning meetings, be members of School Council

As we all work together to be the BEST, we will experience DCS getting better and stronger!

Congratulations to our 2007-08 School Council officers! President: Jeff Lightle

Vice President: Ken Daeger

Secretary: Jennifer Layne

Happy September Birthday to: Kaden Salinas, kindergarten; Jovanna Lopez, Kibby Trejo, first grade; Connor Stanfield, second grade; Santiago Ramirez, Thomas Michel, Nick Schlosser, third grade; Corbin Edwards, fourth grade; David Michel, John Seibert, Laura Castillo, Kyle Lacey, fifth grade; Austin Mahan, sixth grade; Sandi Klein, Hope Thompson, Larry Davis, Kathy Griewe, Terri Willitzer, Kris Campbell, staff.

Have a good week! I look forward to seeing you at Matthew Kelly's presentation.

Miss Sandy

Mozambique..... I once read "Joy is like a bouquet of balloons from Jesus meant to hearten us". I wish I knew who wrote it. That joy can be found in the children of Massaca and in my heart as I reflect on our limited time together. Massaca is a village of refugees with countless young children. They are so young and vulnerable like children everywhere. As we were making a roof or mixing concrete, some looked at us curiously from a distance; others would play under our feet like we were not there. Habitat's goal is not only to build homes but to interact and participate.

At the start of a new building site, I noticed two preschool children, watching me very closely. Personally I was looking for opportunities to interact and participate so it seemed like a wonderful opportunity to utilize my free minutes. What resulted is a gift from the Lord where I received so much more than I gave. It started as a simple picture that I took and shared with my newest little friends. From that moment on there seemed to be no global borders. We had a language to overcome but it seemed like a minor issue. Within minutes I was entrusted with a small infant that could not have been three months old. He was dressed in rags and his diaper was a wash cloth. I taught the youngest to the oldest how to use my camera & see the results of their effort. As they called others over to see their new art, more learned, giggled and laughed. They took me into their homes that we were replacing and showed me how they utilized what we would consider trash to make toys as well as household items. They taught me about sharing and joy for the simple things in life. I relearned a game I played as a child, and they tried to teach me one of their songs and a dance with enthusiasm. My lack of ability did not hinder our fun. It was a song about Jesus being with them in their daily actions and his light shining upon them.

Fr Tom referred to me as a human trampoline because I had so many children trying to climb into my arms and we bounced from one activity to the next. Someone else said it was like the Pied Piper. At one point I felt apologetic because I suddenly was doing what I considered play but others shared they considered it was harder work than they were doing. To me it was love and just being me.

One young woman that was learning English shared her story of being smuggled out of the country as a child when the Portuguese were present because they were torturing and killing the children. Her graphic description was more than anyone should have to endure. Her sharing was not about "oh poor me" but simply about the fact that these things happened in recent years. Her joy was in singing about the Lord, and I still hear her sweet voice as she would make up songs if necessary to praise him. I taught her English and unknowingly they all taught me about a bouquet of balloons, laughter, life and our relationship to the Lord and the world around us.

Yours in Christ, Sue Hoeffel

**Eucharistic Adoration, Devotions:** During the middle of the afternoon, come to refresh your spirit and body at 4:00 pm on September 18 at St. Mary Church. Come and experience the presence and peace of the Lord. If we are to be instruments of peace, we ourselves must be at peace. There will be devotions to OLPH and recitation of the Rosary, bringing us into vivid images of the high points in the Lord's life and ministry, as well as that of His Blessed Mother.

**St. Mary's Altar & Rosary Society** has a booth at our Parish Festival. Donations of new craft items, baked goods, fresh produce and plants can be brought to the big tent 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!

**Celebrate 90th Anniversary of our Lady of Fatima's appearance.** October 13th marks not only the 90th anniversary of the prophesied great miracle of the sun, witnessed by over 70,000 people, it also marks the conclusion of a series of visits the Mother of our Lord, under the title of "The Lady of the Rosary", made beginning on May 13th. She was sent to Earth, by our Lord, to bring to the world "Heaven's Peace Plan".

At Fatima on May 13, 1982, a year after a failed assassination attempt on his life, our late Holy Father John Paul II called the "massage of Fatima... more relevant than it was 65 years ago. It is more urgent." In his book, *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, he wrote "The victory, if it comes, it would be through Mary. Christ would conquer through Mary."

Our 1st Saturday Community of St. John's invites you and your families to join us Oct. 13th from 9-11 am to learn the historical and devotional dimensions of this message of Peace so you can apply it to your life and the lives of your families.

We will begin with Mass, followed by Adoration, reflections on the messages of our Lady of Fatima, the recitation of the life of Christ in the mysteries of the rosary and Benediction. Reconciliation will not be offered on this day, but will be at the 1st Saturday Mass October 6th. Please plan to attend. For more info call Frank Commisso 782-9110 or Mike Westrick 784-9125.

*Wedding Banns*

Banns III Becky VanBrackel & Daniel Follett

**Parish Finances - Stewardship of Treasure**

Last Week You Gave..... \$10,822.50  
 Need Weekly ..... \$10,885.00  
 Below Budget.....(\$62.50)  
 Contributions to Date ..... \$112,366.00  
 \$10,885 x 11 Weeks ..... \$119,735.00  
 Year to Date *Below Budget* .....(\$7,369.00)



**Monday, September 17**

8:00 AM Communion Service

**Tuesday, September 18**

8:00 AM Francis & Leonie Westrick  
 Wedding Anniversary

**Wednesday, September 19**

9:15 AM Josephine English

**Thursday, September 20**

8:00 AM Bob & Jean Jackman  
 Wedding Anniversary

**Friday, September 21**

8:00 AM Herbert Mack Anniversary

**Saturday, September 22**

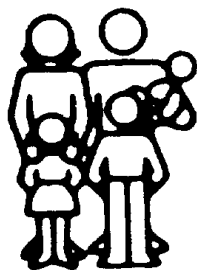
4:30 PM Paul Minch

**Sunday, September 23**

8:00 AM Theresa Snyder  
 9:30 AM Dr. H.C. Brown  
 11:30 AM Gerald Nussbaum

**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.

**Married Couples:** Do the pressures of everyday life, jobs, children and social activities keep you from spending quality time with your spouse? Get away from the pressures and have the best quality time of your life! Attend the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend at Maria Stein Retreat Center, Maria Stein, Ohio on September 21-23. Call John and Marge Greve at 419-692-1106 or email [grevehse@earthlink.net](mailto:grevehse@earthlink.net) for further information.



**A Family Perspective:** Launching is the process by which an adult child leaves home to become independent. Some children succeed on the first try. Others, like the son in today's gospel, must launch several times. Notice how the Father welcomed his adult son and did not make him feel like a failure.

**Daily Readings for This Week**

Readings for the Week of September 16, 2007

Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 7:1-10  
 Tuesday: 1 Tm 3:1-13/Lk 7:11-17  
 Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16/Lk 7:31-35  
 Thursday: 1 Tm 4:12-16/Lk 7:36-50  
 Friday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Mt 9:9-13  
 Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16/Lk 8:4-15

**Events For This Week**

**Monday, September 17**

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

**Tuesday, September 18**

CL of C 1:30 pm PMC  
 Food Pantry Mtg 3:30 pm PMC  
 OLPH Devotions 4:00 pm Church  
 Matthew Kelly Presentation 7:00 pm K of C

**Wednesday, September 19**

Social Justice Meeting 5:00 pm PMC  
 Shep of Christ Prayer Group 6:00 pm Church  
 Youth Choir 6:00 pm Chapel  
 High School Youth Group 7:00 pm K of C  
 Matthew Kelly Presentation 7:00 pm K of C

**Thursday, September 20**

Cantor Rehearsal 5:00 pm Church

**Friday, September 21**

Golf Outing 11:00 am Kettenring  
 Spanish Prayer Group 7:00 pm Chapel

**Saturday, September 22**

SVDP Collection After all Masses  
 Nuptials: VanBrackel/Follett 2:00 pm Church

**Sunday, September 23**

SVDP Collection After all Masses  
 Financial Peace Univ. 9:15 am PMC  
 Celebrate the Word 9:30 am School  
 First Reconciliation Session 12:30 pm School