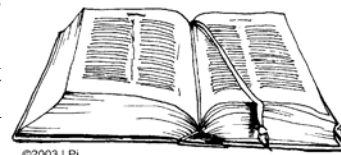


## ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Today's Readings:** Acts 2:14a, 36-41/1 Peter 2:20b-25/John 10:1-10

### GOSPEL GLIMPSES Listen for His voice

It's an odd image we read in today's scripture, a sheep coming when it's called. Today we expect that of pets, like dogs or perhaps cats, but never sheep. Yet in Jesus time, it was common practice. Many owners' sheep were kept together in a large group fold. When it was time to go to pasture, each shepherd would come for his sheep, using a unique melodic way to call his flock by name. Only the sheep who recognized the shepherd's voice would obey the command.



What a powerful description of a Christian's relationship to God. How intimately we are known to our Creator as He stands at the gate and calls. With what love He sings out our names, our hearts vibrating in harmony, echoing back His name and His love. What a beautiful truth encompassed in such simple words. "My sheep hear my voice; I know them and they follow me." May each of us find time this week to stay close, listening for our Shepherd's voice, that we may be led safely into pasture at His side.

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Acts 6:1-7/1 Peter 2:4-9/John 14:1-12



**Generations of Faith:** When Jesus taught us to pray, He included the petition, "forgive us our trespasses, **AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US.**"

Forgiveness is not a suggestion; it's the way we Catholics are supposed to live our lives! How's it going? Need a mercy and forgiveness boost? Join us Sunday, April 13th at 12:30 pm or Wednesday, April 16th at 6:30 pm over at St. John Parish.

Figure out which character in the "Prodigal Son" story you relate to best. Learn what our Mass has to teach us about Mercy and Forgiveness with Fr. Tim and Forgiveness is a CHOICE with Fr. Todd leading our teens.

John Betts, father of David Betts, one of the baseball players who lost his life in the Bluffton University bus accident, will share his story of love, loss and forgiveness. **Do the right thing.....**

**Eucharistic Adoration, Devotions:** Bring your thoughts and troubles before the presence of Our God in the Eucharistic Tabernacle on April 15 at 4:00 pm, this Tuesday at St. Mary Church. "The Heart of Jesus is overflowing for all those who suffer; those beset by troubles, difficulties and hardship; for the hungry; those who toil; the destitute, the sick and infirm. He is the Heart of a Father, the Heart of a Mother, the Heart of a Shepherd." by Ven. Leo John Dehon, founder priests of the Sacred Heart.

Between the OLPH Devotions, rosary and Eucharistic Adoration, surely with faith and hope you will find the assurance you are desiring.

Today, we celebrate "Good Shepherd Sunday" where we reflect on Jesus' care and love of us and hear his words, "I came so that they may have life and have it more abundantly." **This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will bring the love and care of Jesus to the poor. Thank you!**

Reminder: 11:30 am Mass on April 20th is the Confirmation Mass.



**A Family Perspective:** The shepherd in today's gospel called each sheep by name. Naming is a serious family function because our name is our life-long identity, connecting us to a family history and how we will be remembered forever.

**Volunteers for PATH Monday Evening Meal:** St. Mary's rotation for hosting the Monday evening meal for the PATH Center is Monday, April 28. Approximately 2 individuals are needed to prepare a meal in their home and deliver to the PATH Center and 2 individuals are needed to serve the meal. If you are able to help with either meal preparation or serving, please list your name and phone number on the sign-up sheet located at the entrance of the church closest to the school or call the parish office. The sign-up sheet will be accessible for the next two weeks- you will be contacted with details regarding food preparation or serving. Thanks for volunteering. Individuals attending the Monday meals are always very appreciative.

## DEFIANCE, OHIO

### **A LETTER FROM CISCO**

To the Members of the Body of Christ worshipping at St. Mary Parish in Defiance, Ohio  
My sisters and brothers in Christ:

May the Joy of the Resurrected Christ live always in your hearts!

This summer marks five years that I have been ministering here at St. Mary Parish as Director of Music and Worship. Throughout these past five years, I can honestly say that I've grown a great deal both spiritually and professionally. Looking back, I can truthfully attest that, in all my ministries and duties here, I've always sought to better know, love and serve both God and my fellow sisters and brothers. Also, throughout my adult life, I've always sought to find out what God's will is for me, my family and our parish, and made a conscious effort to follow His will every day. "And woe to me if I don't do it!"

Seeking the will of the Lord... that is what spiritual discernment is all about. It is also what vocational discernment is all about. No matter how old or young you are, or what your state or situation in life, we are called to always ask ourselves: "What is God's dream for my life and the life of my loved ones? How can I be a better disciple of Jesus Christ? Am I truly committed to living a holy and righteous life?"

Five years ago, Marisol and I heard God's call... that call eventually led us to Defiance, Ohio. We strongly believe that God is again calling us into a new chapter of our spiritual journey towards him. A year ago in March 2007, we started considering what could perhaps be called "a vocation within a vocation"; and considered joining the Brothers and Sisters of Charity at Little Portion Hermitage in Berryville, Arkansas. After much thought and prayer, a weekend visit last summer and a two-week long visit in January of this year, we are strongly compelled towards this most-radical way of Christian living. Thus, our plan currently is to be moving to Arkansas by the end of June.

The Brothers and Sisters of Charity is a Catholic monastic community founded by John Michael Talbot in 1980. Its motherhouse is a monastery (hermitage) located in the heart of the Ozark Mountains and it houses not only celibate brothers and celibate sisters, but also singles, couples and families with children. It is not a commune, rather it is a religious community in communion with the Catholic Church (with the Pope and the Bishop of the Diocese of Little Rock where it's located), with canonical status (as a Public Association of the Faithful), and that incorporates age-old Franciscan & Benedictine traditions. Every day the community lives a well balanced life of prayer, study, work and service. They are called to embrace gospel poverty and simplicity instead of materialism and consumerism... gospel chastity instead of sexual promiscuity... gospel obedience instead of rampant individualism... substantial silence, solitude, prayer and penance to make room for God's presence in their lives and the lives of others. For more information, visit their webpage at [www.LittlePortion.org](http://www.LittlePortion.org).

We are eternally grateful to Father Tim and all the people here at St. Mary's for allowing us to be a part of this wonderful, loving and welcoming community. We ask that you please keep us in your prayers as we continue in our discerning and transition process. Know that you are in our prayers and have been and will always be in our hearts forever.

May the peace of God which transcends all understanding always guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, our Lord!

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



We will start off our week with big smiles- Spring Pictures on Monday. On Wednesday, after Mass, we will have our monthly Buddy Activity. The older students pair up with the younger students for an activity. Everyone enjoys themselves!

Pre-K- 2 will be heading to the YMCA on Friday. This will be their last trip there this school year.

Congratulations to Mrs. Boyd and her students! As you may have read in the April 6th edition of the Crescent News, their art work was viewed by art education from around the nation.

Our students' work has been shown all year on Artsonia ([www.artsonia.com/defiance4](http://www.artsonia.com/defiance4)). This particular display focused on the city of New Orleans. It is entitled "New Orleans: Feast for the Eyes". Mrs. Boyd discussed aspects of New Orleans and then the students' creativity took over. Our work is among the 10,000 plus pieces shown; Defiance Catholic School was one of five schools in Ohio to participate! You can view this exhibit at [www.artsonia.com/naea](http://www.artsonia.com/naea). Nice work Mrs. Boyd and students!

May this mid-week of April find you appreciating God's beauty as seen in nature!

Miss Sandy

**Help the School:** Please remember to save your Box Tops, Chief receipts, and ink cartridges. Bring them to either school campus or either church office. Thank you for your help!

### Geranium Sale

\$3/plant

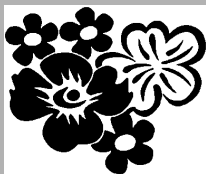
Saturday, May 3rd

8:00 am to 1:00 pm

In the parking lot at the corner of  
Arabella and Jefferson

Sponsored by The Defiance Catholic  
School Boosters

For more information please contact a DCS  
student, St. John Campus (419-782-2136)  
or St. Mary Campus (419-782-2751)



Dear Parishioners of St. Mary,

This June I will be celebrating my 40th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. As I look back over these 40 years I realize that many people at St. Mary have journeyed with me in a very significant way during my time of ordained priestly service. I was privileged to serve as associate pastor of St. Mary parish for three years, from 1972-1975. They were wonderful, enjoyable years for me. I would like to invite all of you to join with me in giving thanks to God at a Eucharistic celebration at St. Paul, Norwalk on Sunday afternoon, May 18th at 1:30 pm. I would love to see anyone who can make it. Norwalk is on the map. Please RSVP if you plan to attend.

Fr. Frank Kehres  
91 E Main Street  
Norwalk OH 44857  
419-668-6044 or 419-668-0411  
[Fr.frank@stpaulchurch.org](mailto:Fr.frank@stpaulchurch.org)

**COME TO THE CELEBRATION**  
Of Fr. Frank Kehres's 40th Anniversary  
Of Ordination to the Priesthood  
Sunday, May 18  
Bilingual Celebration of the Liturgy  
1:30 pm  
Reception and dinner in  
convocation center following Mass  
Meal at 3:30 pm

Please come and celebrate with  
Fr. Kehres on this happy occasion.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

RSVP by May 5 to the above.

Child care will be available from 1:30-3:30 pm in  
the Monroe Street Gym.

Childcare Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ # of Children \_\_\_\_\_

**Parish Finances - Stewardship of Treasure**

Last Week You Gave.....	\$10,772.00
Need Weekly .....	\$10,885.00
Below Budget.....	(\$113.00)
Contributions to Date .....	\$456,018.73
\$10,885 x 41 Weeks .....	\$446,285.00
Year to Date <i>Above</i> Budget .....	\$9,733.73

**6th Annual DASH-A-THON:** Saturday, April 19, 8:30 am to 12:00 noon at the Independence State Park. Participants may use wheelchairs, walk, run, roller blade, and ride bikes, etc... All proceeds will benefit the Defiance Area Society for the Handicapped. Dash into it and join the fun!

**Discernment Retreat with the Sisters of Notre Dame:** Single Catholic Women, ages 18-35, are invited to participate in a discernment retreat from Friday evening, April 18, to Saturday evening, April 19. This overnight retreat includes input on discernment, reflection on the charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame, time for quiet prayer and adoration, sharing with others and Sunday liturgy. RSVP by April 14 to Sister Mary Delores Gatliff, SND, 419-474-5485 or [dgatliff@toledosnd.org](mailto:dgatliff@toledosnd.org).

**Summer Service Opportunities:** Come volunteer for a week this summer; experience prayer and community with the Sisters of Notre Dame. Enlarge your vision of Jesus and his mission by assisting with migrant ministry in Leipsic, Ohio. For women ages 18-35: July 13-18 or July 20-25. For high school women: June 22-27 or July 6-11. RSVP by April 14 to Sister Mary Delores Gatliff, SND, [dgatliff@toledosnd.org](mailto:dgatliff@toledosnd.org) or 419-474-5485.

**The men of St. Michael's Ridge** are holding a men's CRHP retreat Saturday and Sunday, April 19 & 20. They would like to invite all the men of St. Mary Parish. Any questions call Jeff Weber at 419-758-3272.

**Daily Readings for This Week**

Readings for the Week of April 13, 2008

Monday:	Acts 11:1-18/Jn 10:11-18
Tuesday:	Acts 11:19-26/Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday:	Acts 12:24-13:5a/Jn 12:44-50
Thursday:	Acts 13:13-25/Jn 13:16-20
Friday:	Acts 13:26-33/Jn 14:1-6
Saturday:	Acts 13:44-52/Jn 14:7-14

**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, April 14**

8:00 AM Communion Service

**Tuesday, April 15**

8:00 AM Marilyn Klenk

**Wednesday, April 16**

9:15 AM School Liturgy at St. John

**Thursday, April 17**

8:00 AM Miguel Sanchez

**Friday, April 18**

8:00 AM Communion Service

**Saturday, April 19**

4:30 PM Raymond McDonald, Jr.  
Marjory Schatz

**Sunday, April 20**

8:00 AM Herbert Carroll  
9:30 AM Lydia Kunesh  
11:30 AM Joseph Klear

**Events For This Week**

**Monday, April 14**

Furniture Bank Mtg	6:00 pm PMC
Charismatic Prayer Grp	7:00 pm PMC
SVDP	7:00 pm PMC

**Tuesday, April 15**

OLPH Devotions	4:00 pm Church
Bereavement Group	7:00 pm PMC

**Wednesday, April 16**

Social Justice Mtg	5:00 pm PMC
Shep of Christ Prayer Group	6:00 pm Church
Youth Choir	6:00 pm Chapel
Generations of Faith	6:30 pm St. John's
Youth Group GOF	7:00 pm St. John's
Choir Practice	7:30 pm Church

**Thursday, April 17**

Cantor Rehearsal	5:00 pm Church
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**Friday, April 18**

Spanish Prayer Group	7:00 pm Chapel
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**Saturday, April 19**

Youth Planning Mtg	9:00 am PMC
Lector Training	10:00 am Chapel, Church

**Sunday, April 20**

Celebrate the Word	9:30 am School
RCIA	10:30 am PMC
Confirmation Mass	11:30 am Church
Baptisms	3:00 pm Church