

**Today's Readings:** Genesis 12:1-4a/2 Timothy 1:8b-10/Matthew 17:1-9

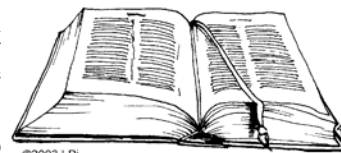
**GOSPEL GLIMPSES**

**Sharing His glory**

Ever give a child an earnestly begged for noise-making or animated gift, only to find them dissolving in tears of fear? A few reassuring hugs and things get back on track. It's a sad lesson to learn: Getting exactly what we want can be the scariest thing imaginable.

The disciples weren't any different. Time and again they begged the Savior to show them the Father. Let us see what the kingdom will really be like, they pleaded. So as a special treat, Peter, James and John were witnesses to the Transfiguration. They saw their Lord shining with glory and instead of rejoicing, they buried their faces in fear. And there the story would end, except for the mercy of our Savior. He came and comforted them, so they could "pick up their new toys" and face the mission, the ministry ahead. He does the same for us today. When the perfection of God seems so big, so scary, that we don't dare to approach Him, Jesus comes to us, human-sized and reassures us. He sheds a bit of His scary glory, so that we can someday come to share glory with Him.

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Exodus 17:3-7/Romans 5:1-2, 5-8/John 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42



**The office will be closed Monday, February 18 in honor of President's Day.**

**Second Sunday of Lent– Solidarity** A small influx of resources can make a big difference. Hamsatou Tangare in Mali, a country in West Africa, couldn't earn enough as a tailor to support her family. With a small loan from Catholic Relief Services, she expanded her business and could ultimately purchase school supplies for her children. CRS microfinance projects work with a group dynamic– Hamsatou meets regularly with thirty other women in her village to ensure accountability and help one another during emergencies. St. Paul tells us to "bear your hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God." Hamsatou and her neighbors are bearing it together. By praying and giving with Operation Rice Bowl, you too are shouldering their burden and expressing a profound message of solidarity. Initiatives like microfinancing will someday lighten the burden of African poverty.

**College 101...** a preparatory session for high school seniors. Everything you need to know to be prepared to go to college in the fall. How to get along with your roommate, how to manage a checkbook, how to keep connected with a local church. Come to the Chapel at the St. Mary Campus of the Defiance Catholic Schools on February 27th at 7:00 pm. Pizza, pop, and lots of information will be provided.



**SAVE THE DATE: Wednesday,**

**March 12th.** Generations is bringing in nationally known speaker **Leisa Anslinger.** Leisa is an expert on

lifelong catechesis and stewardship. She will break stewardship down into plain English for all to understand and talk about her experience of lifelong faith formation, a way of learning her parish, Immaculate Heart of Mary, has lived out and lead for the past eleven years. We will only be offering one session in March, so don't miss out on this opportunity to learn and live out our Catholic faith. **March 12, 6:30 pm–8:30 pm at St. Mary's.**

**Mark your calendars:** St. Mary Altar & Rosary Society annual Easter Craft and Bake Sale will be Saturday, March 15, 2008.

**Fasting and Abstinence:** Good Friday, April 6, is a day of abstinence from meat and also a day of fast. All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat. The law of abstinence binds all Catholics 14 years and older. The law of fasting binds all Catholics from their 18th birthday until their 59th birthday, The teaching of the Holy Father may be paraphrased: *The obligation to do penance is a serious one; the obligation to observe, as a whole or "substantially," the penitential days specified by the Church is also serious. No one should be scrupulous in this regard; failure to observe an individual day of penance is not considered serious. People should seek to do more rather than less. Fast and abstinence on the days prescribed should be considered a minimum response to the Lord's call to penance and conversion.*

**Noodle Club News:** Now is the time to start purchasing noodles for your Easter dinner. They are available for purchase in the Parish Ministry Center. Cost is \$3 per bag.

**Eucharistic Adoration– Devotions:** Our faith can move mountains when we realize God supplies our needs, and we totally put out trust in Him. We encourage you to come to Eucharistic Adoration and OLPH Devotions on Tuesday, February 19, at 4:00 pm at St. Mary Church. Await the harvest of good things God has planned for you.

In the Gospel, Jesus is transfigured and a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; Listen to him.” **Do we listen to Jesus when he asks us to take care of our brothers and sisters who are suffering? Your gift the St. Vincent de Paul Society will help the poor to celebrate the grace of God’s love this Easter.**

**A Family Perspective:** Today’s gospel tells us to LISTEN which is a challenge as cell phones, IPODS, TV, and radio constantly distract us. This Lent dedicate 10 minutes a day to sit quietly and allow God to speak to your heart. Caution: listening to God can change you and your family.

### Defiance Catholic School

#### Calendar Winners January 2008

Jean Lightle Jackman \$100, Kara & Ryan Miller, Karl & Lori Boecker, John Boesling, Sue Fairchild, Carolyn Schira, Ann Gump, Jo Lindeman, Kasia Drawsiewski, Pat Limbacher, Nancy Call, Karl & Lori Boecker, Stacy Bailey, Sharyn Wheeler, Roger Joppa, Brandon Shafer, Laurie & Len Sterle, Amy Daeger, Sherry Baldwin, Eric & April Aschemeier, Dan Light, Lynn & Mike Schaeffer, Kim Koesters, Amanda Zimmerman, Tami Ferland, Linda Ladd, Laurie Wilhelm, Carol Pahl, Jim & Jean Howard, Francis Westrick and Jennifer Layne.

#### Reverse Raffle, this Saturday, February 23rd:

You still have time to purchase your tickets! Doors open at 6:30 pm at the K of C Hall. Get out your favorite team jersey and come out to have some fun. Tickets are available at either school campus or the St. Mary Parish Ministry Center. Hope to see you there!



### SCHOOL NEWS

Happy Second Week of Lent! How are you and your family coming with your Lenten practices? Here’s a couple of ideas if you decide to turn off the TV once in a while this week.

- Start a Lenten journal
- Bake something to share with a neighbor or a shut-in
- Sort through your clothes and donate articles not being worn to Goodwill or another charity
- Attend Mass one day other than Saturday or Sunday
- Pray a decade of the rosary as a family

Last week on February 12, we marked 100 days in school. The kindergarten did some activities to celebrate the occasion. This week, February 18 is the mid point of the third quarter!

Our kindergarten students have had two educational visits from the Health Department. One topic was on proper care of teeth; the other was about germs.

Congratulations to Ivan Chagoyan, who placed ninth in the County Spelling Bee and Peter Elliot who placed twelfth!

Further congratulations to these fifth graders: Katie Hancock, first place; Valerie Klein, second place and Peter Elliot, third place. They won this recognition for their essays entitled “What is an American?” The contest was sponsored by the Elks.

On Friday, February 22, grades Pre K-2 will be going to the YMCA. Our students enjoy and benefit from these trips to the Y; but they also exercise at school. To date, they have walked 1,614 miles in the Highway to Heaven program!

Have you noticed our students using yo-yos? During Catholic Schools Week, we had a very fine motivational speaker, Dan Black. He reminded the students of three important lessons by using humor and some great yo-yo tricks. His lessons were spelled out by his “buddy” N.E.D.– Never give up, Encourage others and Do your best. He, himself, encouraged students to have a good attitude and use their God-given talents. It was a great assembly for Catholic Schools Week!

Our sixth graders are taking a Self Defense Class. Every month for an hour, Todd and Gary Shafer are teaching the students ways to keep themselves safe.

Have a good week!  
Miss Sandy

**EVANGELIZATION**  
**"Bridge Building"**



**Catholic Evangelization--** "Do not worry about anything, but in all, your prayers and petitions, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Philippians 4:6

**Pray:** Prayer is what drives evangelization. Prayer is something we can all do - any time, any place. We can pray for ourselves and for others. And certainly, almost everyone, even the most hardened unbeliever, appreciates prayers in time of need. May we, as members of St. Mary Parish, be known as a community of prayerful people. May your voice be recognized when you send prayers of petition to our Lord.

**Ways to pray:** Those who will read this certainly do not need to be told how to pray, yet, we can insert prayers of thanksgiving throughout our day when good things happen to us and for those we encounter throughout the day. How often do you say, "Thank God!", when you hear good news, when something at work comes together for you, when the sun shines bright on your special occasion, etc. This is prayer.

--Send a get well card to someone you know who is not feeling well or send a sympathy card to a family who has lost a loved one assuring them of your prayers. You do not need to know them well to do this.

--Devote a specific amount of time to your daily prayer. It is impossible to maintain a relationship with anyone without communication. Prayer is dialogue with God, not a monologue. Make sure you allow time for quiet reflection and listen with your heart to what the Lord tells you.

**A Quality of Evangelization:**

Catholic Evangelization, with prayer as its driving force, offers a firm anchor and clear direction in an uncertain world. A disciplined prayer life is a wonderful Faith Tradition.

**EN THEOS - Enthusiasm for the Faith**

**Why is the narrative of Jesus' Transfiguration proclaimed on the Second Sunday of Lent?**

Every Lectionary cycle narrates the temptations of Jesus on the first Sunday of Lent, while the second Sunday proclaims the Transfiguration narrative. Each liturgical year, these two Sundays form their cluster, focusing on the difficulties of the Lenten journey, along with the ultimate goal of that journey, namely transformation in and through the risen Christ. The two Sundays act as an overture to the entire Lent/Easter season, the great 90 days.

Biblical scholars understand the Transfiguration to be a post-resurrection event that was projected into Jesus' ministry to communicate hope to his followers. In the midst of the difficult path leading to passion and death, this narrative ultimately assured victory for Jesus and his followers.

Yet, the Transfiguration narrative itself is suffused with references to passion and death. The disciples are told not to say anything to anyone, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. The evangelist's message is clear. The disciples will not understand what just happened until they experience the risen Christ in their midst. Also, transfiguration comes about only through the path leading to the tomb, to suffering and death. There is no path to transfiguration other than the tomb.

While Jesus' followers are being offered hope of ultimate victory, they must understand that will cost dearly. Are they ready for the journey to Jerusalem?

This Lent, how ready are you for the inevitable journey to Jerusalem which is an integral part of following Jesus?

**Thank  
You!**

**We would like to say thank you to Arps Hardware** for advertising in our church bulletin which is at no cost to us. We ask that you patronize them and give them your support!

**Parish Finances - Stewardship of Treasure**

Last Week You Gave.....	\$10,894.00
Need Weekly .....	\$10,885.00
Above Budget.....	\$9.00
Contributions to Date .....	\$372,967.73
\$10,885 x 33 Weeks .....	\$359,205.00
Year to Date <i>Above Budget</i> .....	\$13,762.73

**Human Resources Director:** The Catholic Diocese of Toledo is seeking a Director of Human Resources to provide advice/counsel to the Diocese in effective Human Resource practices. The Director helps provide effective utilization of Diocesan personnel through the development, implementation and administration of sound policies and programs in the areas of recruitment, employee relations, compensation and benefits. Experience in Human Resource work including compensation, employee benefits, and training/counseling required. Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources Management, Business Administration or the equivalent is required. Practicing Catholic preferred.

Applicants must respond with resume and cover letter, including salary expectations by February 25th to: Human Resources, Catholic Diocese of Toledo, PO Box 985, Toledo, OH 43697. You may email resumes to [mschissler@toledodiocese.org](mailto:mschissler@toledodiocese.org). Fax resumes to 419-244-4791.

**Empty Bowls Dinner:** The Defiance College Student Social Work Organization is having their eighth annual Empty Bowls Dinner on Thursday, February 21, 4:30– 7:00 pm at St. John United Church of Christ. Tickets are \$10 adults and \$7 student/child for a meal of soup and bread. A hand-thrown bowl is yours to keep. All proceeds benefit the PATH Center.

**Daily Readings for This Week**

**Readings for the Week of February 17, 2008**

Monday:	Dn 9:4b-10/Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday:	Is 1:10, 16-20/Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday:	Jer 18:18-20/Mt 20:17-28
Thursday:	Jer 17:5-10/Lk 16:19-31
Friday:	1 Pt 5:1-4/Mt 16:13-19
Saturday:	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

**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, February 18**  
8:00 AM Communion Service
- Tuesday, February 19**  
8:00 AM Communion Service
- Wednesday, February 20**  
9:15 AM Richard Schweitzer
- Thursday, February 21**  
8:00 AM Dr. H.C. Brown
- Friday, February 22**  
8:00 AM Richard Trame
- Saturday, February 23**  
4:30 PM Joseph Delarber Family
- Sunday, February 24**  
8:00 AM Mary Cearul  
9:30 AM Herbert Carroll  
11:30 AM Connie Druhot Anniversary

**Events For This Week**

- Monday, February 18**  
Office Closed  
Charismatic Prayer Group 7:00 pm PMC  
SVDP 7:00 pm PMC
- Tuesday, February 19**  
OLPH Devotions 4:00 pm Church  
Facility Unification Mtg 6:30 pm PMC  
Bereavement Group 7:00 pm PMC
- Wednesday, February 20**  
Social Justice Mtg 5:00 pm PMC  
Shep of Christ Prayer Group 6:00 pm Church  
Youth Choir 6:00 pm Chapel  
Jr. High Session 7:00 pm School  
Youth Group 7:00 pm PMC  
Choir Practice 7:30 pm Church
- Thursday, February 21**  
Cantor Rehearsal 5:00 pm Church  
Retreat Team Mtg 7:00 pm PMC
- Friday, February 22**  
Stations of Cross 7:00 pm Church
- Saturday, February 23**  
Reverse Raffle 6:30 pm K of C
- Sunday, February 24**  
Celebrate the Word 9:30 am School  
RCIA 10:30 am PMC  
Confirmation Session 10:30 am PMC  
First Eucharist Session 12:45 pm School