

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Today's Readings: Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13/1 Corinthians 1:26-31/Matthew 5:1-12a

GOSPEL GLIMPSES

A plateful of blessings



There's something about a carnival or fair that brings out the child in everyone. How we love to toss rings for trinkets, ride the creakiest contraptions, and eat waaaaayyy too much food. We're seduced by that gleaming row of tummy bulging goodies, as if food fairy made all of our wishes come true in one place.

And we want life to be like that: a row of stands where we can pick and choose what fills our plates. We'll have the french fries of fun, the cotton candy of contentment, the popcorn of pleasure. Skip the cabbage of crises and the lima beans of loneliness, please. But just as our parents taught us that eating the "yucky stuff" would help us grow up strong, God dishes out exactly what our Christian spirit needs. He's promised blessings in return for the peas of persecution, the spinach of suffering. So if you haven't learned to eat your spiritual "vegetables" yet, don't worry it's never too late. Pick up a fork and get in line. There's still a plateful of blessing to go around.

Next Sunday's Readings: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Romans 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Matthew 4:1-11

Bring In Your Palms: Please remember, if you have not already, bring in your old palms by this Monday, February 4th. All palms collected will be burned in a special ceremony on Tuesday, February 5th starting at 9:15am. All parishioners are encouraged to attend this ceremony.

Ash Wednesday – Lent begins February 6
Wednesday Mass Times
9:15 AM - 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Inter-denominational Service – 12 noon
Defiance College Chapel, Schauffler Hall

Operation Rice Bowl: In just a few days, your Lenten journey begins. Catholic Relief Services invites you to make this journey in solidarity with your global family, and Operation Rice Bowl makes this easy and enriching. It is a journey of prayer, fasting, learning and giving, all with an international flavor. To be Catholic means to be linked not just to our local communities, but also to our global community. Last year, the \$8 million offered by participants in Operation Rice Bowl made a huge difference to people all around the world. Your participation in Operation Rice Bowl during this Lenten season will challenge you to expand your own horizons. You will be provoked to alleviate suffering and combat injustice. Together, we can induce tremendous change.: "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied."

Noodle Club will be this Thursday, February 7th at 1:00 pm in the school. Please join in the fun!



"Honor your father and your mother." That's the Fourth Commandment and the focus of our February Generations of Faith. In one short sentence, this commandment tells us how utterly important family life is, for each of us individuals and for the whole community.

We learn a great deal from our families and in the homes in which we grow up. Our families show us what it means to have faith, they teach us right from wrong, how to be in relationships with others, what it means to honor and obey your parents, how to express gratitude, what and how to help one another out.

If you want to learn more about what makes a healthy family and hear advice from folks who have raised their families, make sure to mark your calendars for **February 10th at 12:30 or the 13th at 6:30 pm**. Both sessions are at St. John's.

YES is coming June 19th to 21st and space on the project will be in demand. Watch the bulletin for more information and sign up early!

JBU– Girl Power: All high school girls are invited to join us at the Yokefellow house for this amazing overnight retreat to be held Saturday, April 12 to Sunday, April 13. Mass is included. Last year we had a overwhelming response and space will be limited. Please call Pam Barnett at 419-782-4608 or email pnbrn@hotmail.com to register. You won't be disappointed. Come and spend time with friends, learn about how to challenge the culture with your friends and in your relationships, hang out, and Just Be U!

TV 5 Series– Be Not Afraid: Want to learn about God’s mercy and see how we can unlock the power of God’s mercy in our lives of our families? Don’t miss this 9 weeks series on TV 5 ‘Our Mission is Mercy.’ This new series starts February 3rd at 2:00 pm. These Be Not Afraid Family Hours are inspired by the late Mother Teresa to unite families and foster family prayer and values. Each hour includes a meditation rosary, a brief catechism session and footage of John Paul II and Mother Teresa, and inspiring music by contemporary Catholic artists.

Retreat for Separated and Divorced: Separated or divorced men and women are invited to attend a retreat offered at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Carey, Ohio the weekend of February 15-17. The presenter is Fr. Tom Radloff, SJ. Fr. Radloff is currently at St. John’s Jesuit High School in Toledo. He has been giving retreats in the States and Europe since 1963, and is a certified Michigan State Marriage and Family Therapist. The theme of this weekend retreat will be: *Can I Live With My Loss? Part II: Is It Possible to Forgive?* The cost is \$120 which covers room, linens, meals and retreat materials. To register contact Brother Randy Kin at 419-396-7970 or retreats@olcshrine.com.

Dear Congregation of St. Mary’s Church,
 Thank you for providing a special Christmas for our family. While the flood was devastating, we have been overwhelmed by the support, love, labor, gifts, and prayers from everyone. We are grateful that so many people have come together to help.
 Our house sustained four feet of water and our garage was nearly under. Fortunately, we are able to repair our house. Only two families in our neighborhood are back in their homes and a majority of them never will be. Although we will miss neighbors who have decided to move, we look forward to being reunited with those returning. If everything goes well, we may be able to move back in June!
 Our son was willing to accept that he wouldn’t have many gifts to open this year, but thanks to you he did! He was delighted with all the Pokeman toys, comics, gift cards and games. Mike and I appreciate all the gift cards that we can use towards the house. We explained to Clay that your church “adopted us.” We thank you in our prayers each day. God bless you! -An Ottawa Family

Thanks to the generosity of many people, the Catholic Food Pantry located at St. Mary Church was able to care for 3,397 families of 12,005 people in 2007. The included history of people served shows how our client numbers have grown. We do need more volunteers from other churches for the 3:00 to 5:00 pm hours on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. It takes about 6 people to operate the pantry on a busy day. We are also grateful for the ministry done by St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Furniture Bank. We hope all churches will consider all 3 charities as they make their donations. Truly, our supporters are very generous people-may God bless them in their goodness.

George Newton for the Food Pantry

Catholic Food Pantry Report for 2007 and prior

<u>Year</u>	<u>Families</u>	<u>People</u>
1989	1,207	4,192
1990	1,279	4,450
1991	--	--
1992	--	--
1993	1,836	6,160
1994	1,457	4,689
1995	1,252	4,135
1996	1,519	5,410
1997	1,777	6,469
1998	1,846	6,601
1999	1,825	6,389
2000	1,621	5,096
2001	1,931	6,230
2002	1,911	6,078
2003	2,179	7,136
2004	2,257	7,772
2005	2,650	9,297
2006	3,235	11,421
2007	3,397	12,005

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Servant Leadership: Threshold to a Life Transformed will be offered at St. Francis Spirituality Center in Tiffin beginning February 12. Open yourself to a deeper awareness that can transform your life, empower your work, and help you build a more just world. The course is designed by the Servant Leadership Center, Toledo, www.servantleadership.org. To learn more, call Josie Setzler at 419-332-2318.

EVANGELIZATION "Bridge Building"



Catholic Evangelization—“Parents, raise your children with Christian discipline and instruction.” (Ephesians 6:4) “The role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute.” “Children should be taught to know and worship God and to love their neighbor, in accordance with the faith which they have received in earliest infancy in the sacrament of Baptism.” Vatican Council II, *Gravissimum educationis*, 28 Oct. 1965, n.3

Begin at Home

Someone once said: “Charity begins at home.” So does evangelization. Husbands and wives should help each other to take their faith seriously and grow in it. Parents are the first to help their children open their minds and hearts to Jesus by teaching them how to pray and giving them their first religion lessons. How important it is for the family to practice their faith, especially by participating in the Sunday Eucharist.

Ways we, as the domestic church in our homes, can be evangelizers to one another:

Witness your faith with your own family by gently stating, I believe.....

Tactfully change the direction of the conversation at home or school when things take an uncharitable or gossipy turn.

Pray together as a family with each person sharing the lead.

Participate in *Generations of Faith* as a family so your children will see that you also are growing in your faith. Enjoy coming together with the families of St. John as we grow together in our Catholic Faith and witness our unity to the larger local community.

A Quality of Catholic Evangelization

Catholic Evangelization is rooted in life. We are called to live as disciples at home, at work, and in the many cultural settings we find ourselves today.



School News

Happy February! Have you thought about some family practices you might want to do this Lent– Wednesday is Ash Wednesday!?!

Thanks to each and everyone of you for your support and prayers during Catholic Schools Week.

Our second graders made vegetable soup on January 25. It was a class effort and turned out to be very tasty!

This Monday, February 4, Peter Elliott and Ivan Chagoyan compete in the County Spelling Bee. Good Luck!

Congratulations to Mark Obri who has accumulated 219 A.R. points in just two quarters. That is way above and beyond the required points. Mark is a fifth grader. Great job!

Can you believe this? Our Pre K students have been going to the Media Center. They are learning by using Smartboards.

On Saturday, February 9, the sixth graders will be involved in a fundraiser, by selling pop at the Defiance County Senior Center Auction. The auction will be held at the K of C from 8:30 to 3:30. The money they receive will be used to help defray the costs of their Chicago trip.

Did you know that Defiance Catholic School has a \$100 Club? There are 30 members who support catholic education– one is even from South Carolina! Would you like to know how you can become a member? Call Miss Sandy for details.

Defiance Catholic School basketball games at home this week: Monday and Tuesday at K of C– girls 5:00, boys (4-5) 6:00, and boys (5-6) 7:00. Monday we play Napoleon. Tuesday– Edgerton. Good Luck!

Enjoy your first week of February!

Miss Sandy

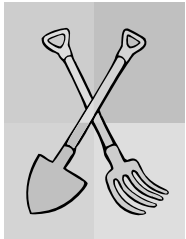
Reverse Raffle: The Defiance Catholic School Reverse Raffle will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Saturday, February 23rd– doors open at 6:30 pm. There will be a sports theme, so wear your favorite team’s jersey. Sheriff Dave Westrick will be our MC. Cost is \$40 per ticket which includes raffle ticket, heavy hors d’ouves, and pop and beer. You may get your tickets at either school campus or by mail. Please make checks payable to DCS Boosters and mail to DCS Boosters- St. John Campus, 800 Fifth Street, Defiance OH 43512. Thank you for supporting the Defiance Catholic School!

Parish Finances - Stewardship of Treasure

Last Week You Gave.....	\$10,714.00
Need Weekly	\$10,885.00
Below Budget.....	(\$171.00)
Contributions to Date	\$349,554.09
\$10,885 x 31 Weeks	\$337,435.00
Year to Date <i>Above</i> Budget	\$12,119.09

The 2008 Lourdes College Ecumenical Lecture
Reflections on an Ecumenical Journey
Fostering Spiritual Ecumenism
 Sunday, February 10 at 3:00 pm
 Franciscan Center of Lourdes College, Sylvania

Recently a group of Catholics and Lutherans from Northwest Ohio took a journey to explore history and their common Christian heritage and to pray for Christian unity. They traveled to Germany, associated with the life of Martin Luther and then to Rome to explore Catholic and shared Christian heritage. The purpose of the pilgrimage was to come to understand and to know one another better. They discovered that although they have different religious beliefs, they are united in their Christian commitment to the Lord. Join in as they reflect on the ways they have been affected by the experience of their journey together.



Come and Join us for the 13th Annual Neighborhood "Clean Up Your Park Day"

Saturday, March 15th, 9:30 to 11:30 am. Just show up at a park nearest you: Bronson, Kingsbury, Latty's Grove, Riverside, Diehl, Pontiac Parks and the Fort Grounds. Bring

along rakes, shovels, brooms, gloves and boots for helping clean up, and don't forget to bring a friend. Please call Christy at 784-2745 or Jody at 782-6195 for any questions.

Daily Readings for This Week

Readings for the Week of February 3, 2008

Monday:	2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday:	2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3/Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday:	Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20-6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday:	Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25
Friday:	Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15
Saturday:	Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32

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 4**
8:00 AM Communion Service
- Tuesday, February 5**
8:00 AM Respect for all Life
- Wednesday, February 6**
9:15 AM Virginia Burger Anniversary
5:00 PM Gerald Hoshock
7:00 PM Helen Carroll
- Thursday, February 7**
8:00 AM Lucille Mekus
- Friday, February 8**
8:00 AM Paul Krumel
- Saturday, February 9**
4:30 PM Thomas Batt
Kenneth & Edith Ehlinger
- Sunday, February 10**
8:00 AM Angelo Zambone
9:30 AM Mary Wannemacher
11:30 AM Gerald DeVeaux

Events For This Week

- Monday, February 4**
Charismatic Prayer Group 7:00 pm PMC
SVDP 7:00 pm PMC
- Tuesday, February 5**
Palm Burning 9:15 am Parking Lot
HUG Bereavement Support Gr. 7:00 pm PMC
- Wednesday, February 6**
Service at Defiance College 12:00 pm DC
Shep of Christ Prayer Group 6:00 pm Church
Youth Choir 6:00 pm Chapel
- Thursday, February 7**
Noodle Club 1:00 pm School
Cantor Rehearsal 5:00 pm Church
School Council 7:00 pm Chapel
- Friday, February 8**
Mass for Deceased Clergy 5:00 pm Cathedral
Stations of the Cross 7:00 pm Church
Spanish Bible Study 7:00 pm Chapel
- Sunday, February 10**
Rite of Election 9:30 am Church
Celebrate the Word 9:30 am School
RCIA 10:30 am School
Generations of Faith 12:30 pm St. John's