

Today's Readings: Zecharian 9:9-10/Romans 8:9, 11-13/Matthew 11:25-30

GOSPEL GLIMPSSES Who wants to be an ox?

Some animal comparisons are easier to bear than others. The Bible says we're sheep, ok we're sheep, fluffy trusting little followers. Jesus calls us children, well we can bear being sweet innocent, tender hearts. But when Jesus calls us to accept his yoke, our mind conjures up a lumbering ox, trudging along and our heels dig in. Who wants to be called an ox?

You do. Oxen are loyal, working with infinite patience, uncomplaining, trusting their master for food and shelter. Oxen don't quibble over the choice of yoke-mates, or the field they're given to tread. They simply accept the yoke and walk where the Master leads. What better example could we follow as Christians, than these humble, yielding, hard workers? So stop those struggles to reach the winner's circle at the Derby or the Best in Show slot at Westminster. Slide over a stall in the stable and try out an oxen lifestyle. You may find yourself closer to the manger than ever before.

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 55:10-11/Romans 8:18-23/Matthew 13:1-23 or 13:1-9



Progress Report-Parish Unification Study

The History, Parish Life Ministry, Ecumenism, Christian Formation, Evangelization, Liturgy and Worship, Stewardship, Social Concerns and Justice and Parish Facilities Committees have been meeting for the past year and studying "if it is feasible for St. John and St. Mary parishes to unify into one community to best serve the Defiance area." By the end of June, all of the committees will have finished the study of their area and finalized their recommendations to the Steering Committee. On July 23, 2008 the Steering Committee will meet to hear from the chairpersons regarding their findings. After that meeting, a draft process for presentation to the entire Defiance Catholic community will be completed and taken back to the Steering Committee.

Aware that God speaks the language of Love and that God's desire is always for our good, we ask ourselves, what is God asking of us? We ask that all parishioners pray for this effort for wisdom, right judgment and guidance of the Holy Spirit

Serra Family Fun Day: Mark your calendars for July 20th. Defiance Serra Club is sponsoring a Family Fun Day at the Defiance YMCA from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. All area Catholic Church families are invited. Enjoy swimming, basketball, and games. There is no admission fee. Any children not accompanied by a parent must have a signed permission slip as well as an emergency health care form completed, signed and brought with them. These forms can be obtained in the Parish Ministry Center. Any questions call Dave Diehl @ 419-782-0995.

Peter's Pence 2008 Collection

Thank you for your generous contributions to the 2008 Collection for the Works of the Holy Father. Your participation is an act of love and solidarity and we are most grateful. May God bless you.

Thank you to all the bakers who made Cisco's reception so wonderful! We really appreciate your thoughtfulness and enjoyed every morsel!



A Family Perspective: Like Jesus, we received a mission in today's gospel, the difficult and exhausting mission of raising a family. Like Jesus we are not alone in our mission. Today Jesus tells us "Come to me and I will give you rest."

Golf Outing: Habitat for Humanity of Defiance County at Kettering Country Club presented by Nelson & Bob's Auto Care Center. Friday, July 18 at 1:00 pm. \$75 per golfer includes: 18 hole, cart, unlimited use of driving range (noon to 1:00 pm), BBQ chicken dinner, prizes, and more fun! Call Habitat for Humanity, Jamie Blank 419-782-2172 or jblank@defnet.com.

Have you been invited to any summer weddings? We have the perfect gift for the happy couple— Kevin Anderson's book "The 7 Spiritual Practices of Marriage, Your Guide to Creating a Deep & Lasting Love." The book is available at the Parish Ministry Center for \$16.95. Come pick up a copy today.

55 Plus Club will meet on Tuesday, July 22 at St. John's. Rosary will begin at 10:50 am, Mass at 11:00 am, catered dinner at 12:00 noon, meeting at 1:00 pm followed by cards and bingo. Please call for dinner reservations: Rosemary Ricica 784-0311 or Gertrude Deitrick 784-4658. Committee members are Angela Kissner, Maureen Kennerk, Lois Behm and Rena Coressel.

Cycles of Faith: There is a popular television show in which contestants compete to lose the most weight. Each week, their progress is broadcast for the entire world to see, and interspersed throughout the show various contestants will relate how their lives will be so much better if only they can lose their extra pounds. Such pride; one wonders how successful a game show might be if it followed contestants' paths to spiritual healthiness!

Today's Gospel reading from Matthew is both a prayer and a request. Jesus gives thanks to his Father in heaven for revealing his word and truth to the "childlike," whose hearts are not burdened by pride. He then asks for us to put aside once and for all times the burdens of sin which we carry, and take him up as our yoke, because with him we are freed from guilt and shameful desires.

How do you pray? Do you ask for God's favors because you feel you need them or deserve them, or do you acknowledge a humble and contrite self, and welcome God's will? The Catechism reminds us that Jesus Christ taught that "he who humbles himself will be exalted," therefore humility is the foundation of prayer (CCC 2559). In your prayers today, acknowledge the uselessness of pride, and that you are helpless without God's love and Christ's guidance.

Infinite Grace: Discover what it's like to really live! July 18 & 19 in Cleveland, Ohio. Quicken Loans Arena, Friday 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm and Saturday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Relax and learn why you can stop trying so hard. Come and see what it can mean to rest in God's unending, Infinite Grace! Experience Infinite Grace along with thousands of other women at America's largest woman's conference. Visit womenoffaith.com or call 888-49-FAITH.

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, July 7

8:00 AM Communion Service

Tuesday, July 8

8:00 AM Joe & Hilda Bakle

Wednesday, July 9

8:00 AM Mary Wannemacher

Thursday, July 10

8:00 AM Paul & Frances Bruns

Friday, July 11

8:00 AM Becky (Lloyd) Emerling

Saturday, July 12

4:30 PM Paul Cape Family Members

Sunday, July 13

8:00 AM Terry & Jeremy Ryan

9:30 AM John Kissner

11:30 AM Glenn Coressel

Events For This Week

Monday, July 7

SVDP 7:00 pm PMC

Charismatic Prayer Group 7:00 pm PMC

Wednesday, July 9

Shep of Christ Prayer Grp 6:00 pm Church

Thursday, July 10

Cantor Rehearsal 5:00 pm Church

Friday, July 11

Spanish Bible Study 7:00 pm PMC

Daily Readings for This Week

Readings for the Week of July 6, 2008

Monday: Hos 2:16, 17b-18, 21-22/Mt 9:18-26
 Tuesday: Hos 8:4-7, 11-13/Mt 9:32-38
 Wednesday: Hos 10:1-3, 7-8, 12/Mt 10:1-7
 Thursday: Hos 11:1-4, 8c-9/Mt 10:7-15
 Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Mt 10:16-23
 Saturday: Is 6:1-8/Mt 10:24-33