

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Today's Readings: Acts 12:1-11/2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18/Matthew 16:13-19

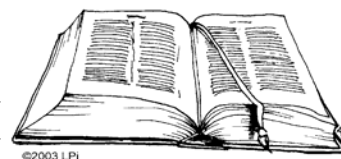
GOSPEL GLIMPSES Who, me?

We all have heard Jesus' call to Peter, "Feed my sheep." And subconsciously each of us breathes a sigh of relief that the call was not for us. Jesus obviously meant just Peter, not the other disciples, right?

A comfortable but inaccurate idea. Each of us is called to be a shepherd in some way. A parent is a shepherd to their child, a teacher to a student, a priest to a parishioner. Friends can shepherd each other through trying times. As Christians we are called to love even our enemies, to be Jesus to this world. So instead of "passing the crook", let's prayerfully shoulder the responsibility of the lambs God sets in our path each day. As Peter watched Jesus to learn how a shepherd cares for His flock, we can learn from the shepherds in our life. We read of Jesus in the Word, of the saints of history or those still here on earth. These signposts point us in the right direction, so that we can grow into the shepherds God needs whatever the size or content of our flock.

Jesus called Peter to feed His sheep three times. How many times has He called you?

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



Peter's Pence Collection:

Today our parish participates in the 2008 Peter's Pence Collection for the Works of the Holy Father. The worldwide Peter's Pence began as a "pence" (collection of pennies) in ninth-century England,

when King Alfred the Great collected monies from English landowners as financial support for the Pope. Pope Pius IX formally instituted the modern Peter's Pence Collection in the 1860's. Special appeals have since been held in many countries on the Sunday closest to June 29, the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul. The tradition of an annual collection continues today for the charitable works of the Holy Father.

How you can help:

Pray— Please pray for the Holy Father, asking for God's blessing on his mission of justice and peace for all, and for a generous response by the faithful to the Peter's Pence Collection.

Give— Prayerfully consider increasing your offering to your parish collection to help build a better world for those most in need. Perhaps you could give one hour's or one day's wage. Please visit the website at www.usccb.org/ppc for more information.

School Summer Hours: School hours for the month of June are 9:00 am-12:00 noon. Please call either campus if an appointment is necessary and different hours are needed.

Please note: The office will be closed on Friday for the July 4th holiday.

Our Community

In the Bible, God blessed Jacob with twelve sons. Yet, like most brothers, they fought and squabbled, even selling Joseph, one of their own, into slavery. Though God worked good from this evil, the twelve tribes of Israel still fought one another, vying for land, wealth and territory until they were united as God's holy nation, under the banner of David, Israel's greatest king.

Today, many parishes must unite and share land, resources, and responsibilities.

When tempted to argue about what is "ours," may we always remember that it all belongs to God and we are here to fulfill his will, not our wants.

Just as the tribes united under David the king, so may we unite under the King of Kings as we await the fulfillment of his kingdom on Earth.

Sierra 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.

Thank you from Paul & RoseAnn Kunesh:

Paul and I want to express our deepest appreciation to St. Mary's community for helping us through the YES program. God has always blessed our family throughout the years. Now and always it is a great blessing to gain new friends, along with all of our present friends. Thank you for the work you did for us and for all the food you brought to us and everyone. Paul and I pray that each and every one have a blessed day with good health to each of you. Paul & RoseAnn Kunesh

Youth Volunteers Needed: The Volunteer Connection is looking to get more young people (between 5th and 12th grade) involved in volunteering. Their volunteer program is called "Go from Wii to We" and will last throughout the summer. Their goal is to get between 30-50 kids involved and reach a possible goal of 50 hours of volunteer work. Awards will be given for reaching so many hours of service. (t-shirts, ice cream & pizza coupons, and Buffalo Wild Wings coupons) To sign up contact or visit the Volunteer Connection, 613 W. Third St., 419-782-3212, nwohvolunteer_youth@hotmail. Flyers are in the back of church.

Notre Dame Summer Retreat August 1-3: This weekend event is an enriching experience for people of all ages, especially families, who want to come and enjoy the beauty of the Campus and the spiritual renewal that the program offers. Along with the staff of Holy Cross Family Ministries, the featured speaker for this year's retreat is Clarence Gilyard, known by many as deputy James Trivette of the TV program *Walker, Texas Ranger*.

Along with the talks and presentations in Washington Hall, the retreat also includes the celebration of the Eucharist in the Grotto with Bishop John D'Arcy, a candle-light procession, opportunities for reconciliation and much more.

Retreatants will be housed in the air-conditioned residence halls of the University. Meals are in the University dining halls. Adults \$125, Youth (6-17) \$90, Children under 6 are free. For information and registration contact:

Holy Cross Family Ministries
Mission Dept.
518 Washington St.
North Easton MA 02356-1200
800-299-7729/ 508-238-4095 ext. 2012
Email: bmahoney@hcfm.org

First Saturday Devotion: Are you like Thomas, who doubted Jesus' resurrection because you have fallen into the sin of pride? Admit your sins and strengths, repent of intellectual and spiritual pride.

Come this Saturday, July 5, to St. John's 8:00 am Mass. Let Mary, His mother intercede for you and bring you closer to her loving Son, Jesus.

Then you, like Thomas can say "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28) There will be confession, video rosary and teaching.

Lay Ministry Formation Program: Are you interested in learning more about your faith, in reflecting on your life and what your faith is calling you to be and do, in forming yourself to the image of Christ? If we want to evangelize, we must know our faith. The Lay Ministry Formation Program will assist you in your growth and education.

The Diocese of Toledo is accepting applications NOW for the 8 month weekend program that begins in September.

The application deadline is August 1. Please visit the diocesan website to find out more about the program and obtain an application form: www.toledodiocese.org (click on Evangelization, scroll to Lay Ministry Formation and click on that link) or contact:

The Lay Ministry Office
Phone 419-244-6711
Email: cmurar@toledodiocese.org

Completion and submission of an application does not ensure acceptance into the program. The site for Year I will be Mercy College in Toledo and possibly St. Francis Spirituality Center in Tiffin. The minimum number of participants for a site is 10.

In today's gospel hear Jesus tell us: "Whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple—amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward. **This week, know that you will be bringing hope to the poor by your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.**



A Family Perspective: In today's gospel Jesus renamed Simon. With the new name came Jesus' expectations of Peter. Naming is a serious and thoughtful family responsibility. When parents name a child, certain hopes, expectations and family connections are wrapped in the naming. What's in your name?



SCHOOL NEWS

Happy July! Now that summer has officially arrived and we have completed the 2007-08 school year, this will be my last school column until August.

Happy July birthday to: Keaton Linebrink, George Saad, and Rayne Kuntzler, pre K; Sarah Schroeder and Jocelyn Ramirez, kindergarten; Brandon Shafer, grade 1; Cameron Layne, Kasey Williams, Mark Thomas and Abel Esparza, grade 3; Beth Lloveras, grade 4; Zach Morris, grade 5; Brenna Rohn, grade 6 and Mrs. Dawn Rohn, teacher.

This past year the fourth graders did a unit on vocations, "Gifts to be Shared." Here are a few of their responses to this directive: Name some priests, sisters, brothers, deacons and the special gifts that they have shared with others. Evan Guilford wrote: "Fr. Ed, Fr. Todd, Sister Barbara and Deacon John. Fr. Ed married by mom and dad. Fr. Todd listened to my confessions. Deacon John trained me to be an altar boy. Sister Barbara taught me at Generations of Faith." Tyler Shafer said, "Fr. Tim, Fr. Todd, Deacons Jeff, John and George- all give time for the church." Cordell Stover answered, "Deacon John Weber- He shares his talent with others to teach kids about serving."

How do you share your gifts with others in promoting vocations? What priests, sisters, brothers, deacons have shared gifts with you? Have you thanked them?

And another comment from one of the sixth graders. Ivan Chagoyan wrote about one of the most important reasons we love the school. It was the fact that every day we grew closer to God. He talked about how his Catholic Spirit grew more and more each year. He became a better leader, a better role model and a much better follower of Jesus. Ivan wrote that he was just a much better person.

Reminder: The school office (both campuses) is closed in July. The office will open August 1 with summer hours, 9:00-12:00 and with regular hours when school starts August 27. If you are unable to meet those hours, please call for an appointment.

And please continue to save your Chief receipts, General Mills box tops, used ink or laser cartridges, used cell phones and Pure Life Product labels. You can drop them off in August. Thanks!

Enjoy your summer!

Miss Sandy

EN THEOS - Enthusiasm for the Faith

Why are the Feast of Peter and Paul on June 29 and the Feast of the First Holy Martyrs on June 30 celebrated together?

Both feasts highlight the sacrifices that people are willing to make in order to be faithful to their values and beliefs. Peter, Paul and the first martyrs all died during the first persecution of Christians under the Emperor Nero, between the years 64 and 68.

The Roman historian Tacitus tells of a great fire that broke out in Rome in July of 64. It lasted ten days, during which almost two-thirds of the city was ruined. Many suspected Nero started the fire. To remove any suspicion, Nero blamed the Christians. Persecutions ensued and many Christians were killed during the entertainments near the Vatican Hill stadium. Peter, Paul and many of the early Christians died during this persecution.

Since Paul was a Roman citizen, he could not be killed like the others. Rather, he was taken to the Ostian Way and beheaded. Legend tells that Peter and Paul met on their way to their respective places of death, a moment beautifully captured in many icons. They embrace, both anxious concerning their fates, yet at peace knowing that they have "fought the good fight, have won the race, and that a crown of victory awaits them." (cf. 2 Timothy 4:7) Major churches now tower over the traditional sites of their martyrdom.

How do you maintain fidelity and faith when bombarded with situations in today's world that challenge your beliefs?



Parish Finances - Stewardship of Treasure

Last Week You Gave.....	\$9,637.00
Need Weekly	\$10,885.00
Below Budget.....	(\$1,248.00)
Contributions to Date	\$569,021.23
\$10,885 x 52 Weeks	\$566,020.00
Year to Date <i>Above</i> Budget	\$3,001.23

Tridentine Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Herman Scherger at 7:00 pm on Friday, July 4, at Domus Angelorum Retreat Center located at 21706 SR 114, Cloverdale. All are welcome.

A retreat **“From Virtues to Gifts”** will be presented on Saturday, July 12, at Domus Angelorum Retreat Center located at 21706 SR 114, Cloverdale. Gathering at 8:00 am, Mass at 8:30, bring your own lunch, closing at 3:00 pm. The cost is \$10 per person. Welcome at the door or register by calling 419-488-3563.

Project Rachel: Confidential help is available to anyone who is suffering from the grief of abortion. There are people with whom you can talk in confidence about your experience. Project Rachel offers lay counselors and trained clergy ready to help you find peace and healing. If you feel ready to talk with someone, we invite you to call the confidential help line at 419-260-5811.

Life Line Screening: 10 minutes could save your life or reduce your risk of stroke. For members of the church who are interested, St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, at 400 Wayne St. Defiance, will be hosting Life Line Screening on Monday, August 18. Life Line Screening will be performing ultrasound tests for stroke, (AAA) abdominal aortic aneurysm, (PAD) peripheral arterial disease, atrial fibrillation and osteoporosis. They will also be offering blood testing on that day. You must call 1-800-324-1851 to pre-register or for more information.

We would like to say thank you to The State Bank and Trust Company for advertising in our church bulletin which is at no cost to us. We ask that you patronize them and give them your support!

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, June 30

8:00 AM Communion Service

Tuesday, July 1

8:00 AM Mendie, Cindy & Christopher Elberson

Wednesday, July 2

8:00 AM Helen Naylor

Thursday, July 3

8:00 AM Irene Steffel

Friday, July 4

8:00 AM Communion Service

Saturday, July 5

4:30 PM Annabelle Hasselschwert

Sunday, July 6

8:00 AM John Newton

9:30 AM Gerhard Pietrykowski

11:30 AM Margarete Hohenberger

Events For This Week

Monday, June 30

Combined Liturgy Meeting 5:15 pm Chapel

Charismatic Prayer Group 7:00 pm PMC

SVDP 7:00 pm PMC

Wednesday, July 2

Shep of Christ Prayer Group 6:00 pm Church

Thursday, July 3

Cantor Rehearsal 5:00 pm Church

Friday, July 4

Office Closed

**Daily Readings for This Week
Readings for the Week of June 29, 2008**

Monday:	Am 2:6-10, 13-16/Mt 8:18-22
Tuesday:	Am 3:1-8; 4:11-12/Mt 8:23-27
Wednesday:	Am 5:14-15, 21-24/Mt 8:28-34
Thursday:	Eph 2:19-22/Jn 20:24-29
Friday:	Am 8:4-6, 9-12/Mt 9:9-13
Saturday:	Am 9:11-15/Mt 9:14-17