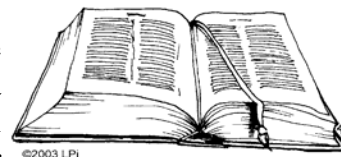


## ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Today's Readings:** Acts 2:1-11/1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13/John 20:19-23

**GOSPEL GLIMPSES      Go now and do**

A dove is often the first symbol we learn of the Holy Spirit. The gentle beating wings of God's love and power tapping at our heart. Then we learn fire, a burning power to share His message of love. We may call up Joel's words "I will pour out my spirit" and see the cool refreshing living water welling up in our hearts. Why do we need all these different pictures for one simple truth? Because the Spirit is as diverse as we are. God's Spirit must reach each heart individually and touch the sleeping potential to action. Can such divine inspiration come in just a one-size-fits-all? Some of us need a lulling voice, others respond only to a trumpet blare. The gentle touch to shepherd one, the stricter rod to guide others. Because God loves each of His children equally He has given us a Spirit that can be what we need, when we need it. Just as on the first Pentecost, the Spirit brought diverse tongues to carry God's message of love and salvation to every heart, today He speaks to us in our own private language whispering the same words: "God loves you. He has a purpose for you. Go now and do."



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**Next Sunday's Readings:** Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9/2 Corinthians 13:11-13/John 3:16-18

*Welcome to Fr. Fred Duschl who is our visiting celebrant while Fr. Tim is on vacation.*

**Celebration—Sacrament Anointing of the Sick at the 4:30pm Mass— May 17:** "The sacrament of anointing is the proper sacrament for those Christians whose health is seriously impaired by sickness or being elderly." "Through the sacrament of anointing, the Church supports the sick in their struggle against illness and continues Christ's messianic work of healing." "Because of its very nature as a *sign*, the sacrament of the anointing of the sick should be celebrated with members of the family and other representatives of the Christian community whenever possible. Then the sacrament is seen for what it is – a part of the prayer of the Church and an encounter with the Lord."

As a sign of our community's duty to pray and intercede for those who are sick and suffering in our midst, we will be celebrating the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick at the 4:30 pm weekend Mass on May 17, 2008. We are encouraging all the sick and elderly members of our community whose health is seriously impaired and who wish to avail themselves of this sacrament to attend this Mass along with their family members. Also, if you know of a friend or a relative who would like to attend this Mass, please consider inviting and accompanying them to church this weekend.

**SVDP Clothing Truck:** A truck will be in our parking lot next weekend May 16-18. Please put your old, clean and useable clothes in tied plastic bags and bring them to the parking lot. The truck will leave for Toledo after the 11:30 Mass on Sunday. Thank you!



**Happy Mother's Day!**

If we used today to be as loving to others as mothers are to their children, this might be the year that peace becomes a reality.

**St. Mary's Altar & Rosary Society** will meet on Tuesday, May 13, at 7:00 pm in the Parish Ministry Center for their monthly meeting. The program for the evening will be the May Crowning with Girl Scouts led by Heather Ellison and "A Tribute to Mary" presented by Francisco Lloveras and Kristen Kurvial. Also Janet Dandy will share a presentation explaining "Water for Life." Committee chairs are Joann Jones and Alberta Vogel with their committee of Dora Gonzales, Marian Roehrig, Connie Gerdeman, Dot Wahl, Anne Steyer, Rosie Fee, Margaret Simonis and Joanne Murphy.

**YES is filling up quickly!  
We need registrations ASAP.**

Today as we celebrate Pentecost, Jesus says to his disciples: "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

**Through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is able to bring the peace of God to the poor.**

**In Loving Memory:** Please keep in your prayers Gerald Weber and his family and friends. May they know the peace of God's love.

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

Thank you one and all for your prayers, support, encouragement, letters, cards, gifts and much, much more as I was ordained to the Transitional Diaconate on April 26, 2008. It truly is a great feeling – one of peace, comfort, and joy that I have found my calling. As such, there is no other feeling like it. I am truly happy! And I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for your prayers. Please never underestimate the power of prayer. By convoking the grace and help of God, anything is possible.

For the summer, I have been assigned to Transfiguration of the Lord Parish in Upper Sandusky with Fr. Kent Kaufman, a native of Ottoville. Both he and I are looking forward to the summer that will, in no doubt, be a catalyst for many great opportunities and experiences for me as I continue to grow in my vocation towards priesthood.

As I approach my summer assignment and very last academic year at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, I ask for your continual prayers and support for me in my journey. I also invite you to encourage and ask other good men and women to consider a life in the priesthood or religious life. It truly is a wonderful thing that I have found to be very life-giving.

After our Holy Father's, Pope Benedict XVI, visit to the United States a few weeks ago, which I was very blessed and fortunate to witness in person at Yonkers, NY, and after hearing his message of hope for the Church in America, I believe there are many more vocations to the priesthood and religious life among us. And for those considering such a vocation, I repeat the Holy Father's words, "Have courage!" Have courage and faith in the living Christ who will lead you, if you allow him, to where you are called to be in life.

Thank you all once again for your constant prayers and support, and may God bless you and your families.

Praying for you as you pray for me,

Deacon Jason



**SCHOOL NEWS**

Hope all of you moms have an enjoyable Mother's Day! I visited my mom in Michigan; she is doing well. So many of you remember when she was with me recuperating and still ask about her. She has fond memories of all of you and is grateful for your concerns about her well-being. So am I! Thank you all for your kindnesses!

This week will find us practicing for our Spring Concert and going on a couple of Field Trips.

On Wednesday after Mass, we will have an All-School Assembly. We will be entertained by a ventriloquist whose show promotes the importance of reading. Then we will all have lunch together at St. John Campus so we can get energized for the first ALL SCHOOL rehearsal of the Spring Concert. It will be a busy, fun day of learning as a whole school!

The kindergarten will be heading to the Ft. Wayne Zoo on Thursday, May 15. They are looking forward to this day.

On Friday, May 16, the fifth grade will be heading to Carey. They will visit and tour the shrine.

The first graders have a special bulletin board in their classroom. It shows a fenced-in-area with sheep inside. Each sheep has one of the student's name on it. There is a figure of Jesus; but he is lying down at the opening of the fence. This is to remind the first graders, and all who see it, that Jesus is the Good Shepherd, the Gatekeeper, who will lay down His life for us. (John 10:1-11)

Did you know that Corbin Edwards, Justin Howard, Tyler Shafer, Cordell Stover, Evan Guilford and Megan Meyer had no warnings or no detentions during the third quarter? And Gabe Arreguin, Evan Guilford, Justin Howard, Tyler Shafer, Cordell Stover and Beth Lloveras earned all A's for the third quarter? Congratulations fourth graders!

I mentioned our Spring Concert and I hope you have it on your calendar– Thursday, May 22, 6:00 at St. John's. The concert is entitled "Be The Difference." DCS has connected with Catholic Relief Services and will be raising awareness as we adopt a different project each year. This year we will partner with CRS Ghana in Africa– the "Food for Education" program. This program ensures that children will receive one hot meal at school each day. Without these available funds, children go hungry. In turn, schools lose enrollment, and potential students miss the opportunity for an education, a major factor in overcoming poverty. We will be asking for a free will donation at the concert. Thank you Mrs. Boyd for coordinating this with Deacon Paul White at the Diocesan Office.

Enjoy the May flowers!  
Miss Sandy

# PROGRESS REPORT

## Parish Unification Study

Last week we continued to introduce you to several of the nine (9) different sub-committees and their tasks. As was also reported, Phase 1 and 2 have been completed and the committees are now very hard at work on Phase 3, which is the gathering of information about both parishes in 9 different areas based on our parish vitality studies—1) history, 2) parish life ministry, 3) ecumenism, 4) Christian Formation, 5) evangelization, 6) liturgy and worship, 7) stewardship, 8) social concerns and justice, and 9) parish facilities. This week we will feature the last two (2) of the nine (9) sub-committees.

The **Christian Formation sub-committee** is assessing all areas of lifelong formation as it exists in both parishes. They will determine how greater cooperation would better provide opportunities to understand and celebrate the sacraments, for lifelong religious education and faith formation, for spiritual enrichment through prayer experiences and faith sharing communities, and to discern vocations. Paula DeCola is the chairperson. Members include:

Jennifer Boyd  
Lisa Hancock  
Laura Jackson  
Chris Long  
Diane Stover  
George Westrick  
Belinda Winkler  
Joyce Wittler  
Aaron Zimmerman  
Amanda Zimmerman

The **Facilities sub-committee** is assessing the best utilization of parish facilities in order to better serve present and future ministerial needs. Dave Diehl is the chairperson. Members include:

Otto Gerdeman  
Glenn Kuhn  
Dick Leach  
Mark Lehnert  
Kevin McDonald  
Terry Murnane  
Jeff Niese  
Jerry Overmier  
Mike Rath  
Connie Zimmerman

As Phase 3 continues, the sub-committees are looking at our strengths in nine (9) different areas and exploring the question “Is it feasible for St. John and St. Mary parishes to unify into one community to best serve the Defiance area?” Many folks from both parishes are giving their time and talent to pursue this question.

Phase 4 will be a recommendation for the future of our Catholic community in Defiance. Our intention is to utilize the same process used by the Defiance Catholic School Council Facilities Committee. After all the information is gathered, listening sessions will be held to share that information and listen to feedback.

Questions about the parish unification study may be directed to any of the Steering Committee members.

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.

**Parish Finances - Stewardship of Treasure**

Last Week You Gave.....	\$11,116.00
Need Weekly .....	\$10,885.00
Above Budget.....	\$231.00
Contributions to Date .....	\$497,111.23
\$10,885 x 45 Weeks .....	\$489,825.00
Year to Date <i>Above Budget</i> .....	\$7,286.23

**Rural Life Day** will take place Sunday, May 18, at Sorrowful Mother Shrine in Bellevue. The day will begin with the regularly scheduled 11:00 am Mass which coincides with the Shrine's annual Farmers' Day. Bishop Leonard Blair will preside. Century Farm Awards will be presented. After Mass there will be a procession to the Shrine of Sts. Isidore and Maria located on the grounds. There will be a short prayer at the Shrine of Isidore and Maria commemorating the 5th anniversary of the dedication of the shrine. Any who wish to stay for dinner may purchase a meal at the Shrine cafeteria. Those who plan on staying for dinner please contact the Rural Life Office at 419-334-1331 or email: [cpratt@toledodiocese.org](mailto:cpratt@toledodiocese.org).

**Prayer Vigil for Life:** On Thursday, June 5, the Diocese of Toledo is invited to come together to pray for Life, particularly Life in the Womb. It will begin with 6:00 pm Mass at Rosary Cathedral followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with the option of a rosary pilgrimage to the Center for Choice Abortion Clinic or remaining before the Blessed Sacrament to pray the rosary. The pilgrimage group will return to the Cathedral and join those who remained there and Benediction will be offered. Refreshments will follow in the school. No matter what the weather. Questions contact Mary at 419-878-0486 with Helpers of God's Precious Infants.

*Wedding Banns*

Banns II Rachel Ott & Craig Tuttle

**Daily Readings for This Week**  
**Readings for the Week of May 11, 2008**

Monday:	Jas 1:1-11/Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday:	Jas 1:12-18/Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday:	Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Jn 15:9-17
Thursday:	Jas 2:1-9/Mk 8:27-33
Friday:	Jas 2:14-24, 26/Mk 8:34-9:1
Saturday:	Jas 3:1-10/Mk 9:2-13

**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, May 12**

8:00 AM Communion Service

**Tuesday, May 13**

8:00 AM Communion Service

**Wednesday, May 14**

9:15 AM School Liturgy at St. John's

**Thursday, May 15**

8:00 AM Donald Scantlen Anniversary

**Friday, May 16**

8:00 AM Terry Ryan Anniversary

**Saturday, May 17**

4:30 PM Bill Small  
 John Kissner

**Sunday, May 18**

8:00 AM Adam & Ella Jurcevich  
 9:30 AM Gerald Hoshock  
 11:30 AM Joseph Klear

**Events For This Week**

**Monday, May 12**

Furniture Bank Meeting	6:00 pm PMC
Charismatic Prayer Group	7:00 pm PMC
SVDP	7:00 pm PMC

**Tuesday, May 13**

Combined Liturgy Mtg	5:00 pm School
Pastoral Council	7:00 pm PMC
Soc. Concerns & Just. Com	7:00pm Yellow House
Altar & Rosary Society	7:00 pm PMC
Lector Training	3:30 pm Church

**Wednesday, May 14**

Shep of Christ Prayer Group	6:00 pm Church
Youth Choir	6:00 pm Chapel
Youth Group	7:00 pm PMC
Choir Practice	7:30 pm Church

**Thursday, May 15**

Noodle Club Dinner	1:00 pm PMC
Cantor Rehearsal	5:00 pm Church

**Friday, May 16**

Spanish Prayer Group	7:00 pm Chapel
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**Saturday, May 17**

Mass of Anointing	4:30 pm Church
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**Sunday, May 18**

Celebrate the Word	9:30 am School
Eucharistic Min. Training	12:30 pm Church