

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Today's Readings: Acts 1:1-11/Ephesians 1:17-23/Matthew 28:16-20

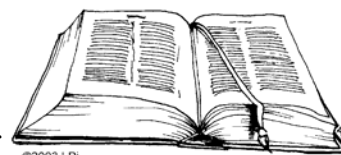
GOSPEL GLIMPSES

Clear instructions

Bad instructions are unavoidable. From frustrating Christmas toys to the terror of setting up your first PC, it seems the manuals are written by native Venusians and then translated on Pluto. The whole time you're working, you have the sneaking suspicion that your bookcase is going to resemble a bicycle seat or vice versa.

Thank God in our Christian life, we don't have the same problem. Even as He was ascending to heaven, Jesus made sure our instructions were crystal clear: Go out to every nation, baptize them, tell them the gospel. The manual on how to build God's kingdom is so clear, Jesus didn't even need a diagram. So why instead of cheerfully getting to work, are we still hanging around the planning board, looking for details to debate? Every Christian has been given a great task and clear directions on how to accomplish it. Let's take a moment to pray that God will stop us from creating confusion and hiding behind false details, and set our hands to building His kingdom. His instructions are simple and clear. Are you following them today?

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



Welcome!

Deacon Jason Kahle

Last Saturday, April 26th, Jason was ordained to the diaconate. Jason along with his classmates from Mount St. Mary Seminary took another important step on their journey toward the priesthood. Jason's presence with us back in the summer of 2005 continues to be a source of joy for many of us here at St. Mary.

Please join us for a reception in the Fellowship Hall after the 9:30 am and 11:30 am Mass, hosted by the Defiance Serra Club and Shepherds of Christ Prayer Group.

Annual Catholic Appeal: The Annual Catholic Appeal is the annual fundraising campaign which supports many of the educational, spiritual, and service ministries of the Diocese of Toledo. Every Catholic family or individual is asked for their financial and prayerful support. Envelopes are available in the pews. You can place your donation in the collection basket, drop it off at the parish office, or mail it to Toledo. Thank you!

Mark your calendar for Friday, June 27th! Plan on celebrating our Lady of Perpetual Help Feast Day combined with Fr. Tim's 25th year of being ordained a priest. It begins with 6:00 pm Mass and a meal to follow under a tent in our parking lot.

In Loving Memory: Please keep in your prayers Margaret Hohenberger, Garrison Ankney, Helen Simmons and their family and friends. May they know the peace of God's love.

The Annual Mother/Daughter Banquet will be Saturday, May 10th after the 4:30 Mass. Tickets will be available this weekend. The price for adults is \$7 and \$4.50 for students K-6. Men are needed to help serve the dinner in the School Hall. To volunteer or if you have any questions call Darryl Mathewson at 782-9595 or 784-4224 .

SVDP Clothing Truck: One way you can help the Saint Vincent de Paul Society during the month of May is to donate your old clothes to the third annual clothing drive here at St. Mary Church. A truck will be in our parking lot on the weekend of May 16, 17, and 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. The clothes are then sold through the store or donated to someone in need. The profit of the sales is in turn given in other ways to help the poor of our diocese.

Y.E.S. (Youth Elect Service) Incoming freshman to outgoing seniors are invited to participate in this service-oriented retreat. June 19th to 21st beginning at 6:00 pm and ending with Mass at St. John's and dinner. Join us for an amazing experience. Contact Pam Barnett at 782-4608 for information or questions.

If you are thinking of cleaning out your barn, garage, or basement or maybe downsizing and you have a surplus of tools or building supplies, the YES team can use them. We can use yard tools, painting supplies, nails, screws, hand tools, cords, tool boxes, building materials, tarps, bed sheets, good ladders, etc... For pick up please call 782-6455 and leave a message. Thank you!

Congratulations Tony Recker! Now you may be asking yourself, “Who the heck is Tony Recker?”...Well, Tony Recker is one of Jason Kahle’s classmates who is being ordained this weekend. Should you know him? Probably not, though he hails from Napoleon, and his dad, now deceased, was a deacon who served there at St. Augustine. Still, most of you probably don’t know him yet...but you will. Tony has been assigned to our parish for the summer. The ministry of the deacon is centered on The Word, The Table, and Charity and Justice. So, as a deacon, he’ll be assisting at Mass, preaching, presiding at some of the communion services, helping out with monthly devotions and benediction, visiting the hospitals and the homebound and also involving himself with the food pantry, furniture bank, St. Vincent de Paul and Jail Ministries as often as he is able. I think monthly washing, waxing, and vacuuming the pastor’s car would also be a good ministry for him...but somehow I’m betting that won’t get worked into his schedule. Tony will come to us around the 19th of May and will be with us through mid-August. We’ll all have time to welcome and get to know him.

A Tridentine Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Herman Scherger at 7:00 pm on Friday, May 2nd at Domus Angelorum Retreat Center located at 21706 SR 114, Cloverdale. All are welcome.

A retreat “The Four Final Things” has been scheduled on Saturday, May 10th at Domus Angelorum Retreat Center located at 21706 SR 114, Cloverdale. Gathering at 8:00 am, Mass at 8:30 am, 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. Call the confidential help line at 419-260-5811.

A Family Perspective: Parents should read today’s gospel as: “Make disciples of your children, baptizing and teaching them all I have taught you. Don’t worry, I am with you always.” Parents are appointed by Jesus to represent Him to their family.



SCHOOL NEWS

Greetings to you on this first full week of May!

We begin the week with assessments of our kindergarten students. We do our assessing now to see what they have accomplished, and learn their strengths and weaknesses. This will be helpful to Mrs. Good, their first grade teacher.

Our fifth and sixth graders will be off to Camp Mohican. They will leave early Monday and return Wednesday. Camp Mohican offers outdoor educational learning that goes along with our curriculum.

On Tuesday, our fourth graders will be heading to Sauder’s Village in Archbold. The purpose of this trip is the study of pioneer life in Ohio. Sauder’s Village is a “living scrapbook” from the past.

Staff from the Defiance Public Library will be at both campuses on Wednesday. They will talk to the students about the library’s summer reading program.

Also on Wednesday, grade 4 will have a presentation on litter, recycling, etc...This is compliments of the Defiance Environmental Services Agency.

On Friday, our third graders will head to Auglaize Village to learn about the past. The fourth graders will head to the University of Findlay to visit the Mazza Museum. This is an unique opportunity to observe art in children’s literature. It is a one-of-a-kind museum with over 3,000 original works of art. While the students are there, they will participate in an art activity.

Speaking of art– the art work of Grades K-4 will be on display for the premier of Prince Caspian at the Regal Cinemas, Northtowne Mall.

Thanks to all who participated and contributed to Jump Rope for Heart. We brought in a little over \$1,400!

During the third quarter, Kira Armstrong achieved 33.1 A.R. points, Justin Howard 37.7 points, Beth Lloveras 82.4 points. To date Kira has earned 105.5 points and Beth 369.2 points! Congratulations!

The sixth graders finished their study of rocks and the rock cycle. They tested properties of rocks and did some rock identification activities. They also wrote song lyrics which stated facts about rocks and the rock cycle. These “songs” were performed and videotaped.

Enjoy the flowers of May!

Miss Sandy



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 two (2) more of the sub-committees.

The **Parish Life Ministry sub-committee** is identifying ways in which we can engage both new and existing members more fully in all areas of parish life. They will also identify areas that would be enhanced by more cooperation. Jeff Hahn is the chairperson. Members include:

Ann Blunt
Mike Boff
Sandy Diehl
Chris Gentit
Janice Harrison
Richard Harrison
Rose Pessefall
Kristi Pry
Shellie Roehrig
Rick Small

The **Evangelization sub-committee** is assessing what is being done at both parishes through one unified Catholic Center through Christ. (Evangelization is to proclaim the Good News and to be a more visible sign of God's presence in the world. At the heart of evangelization is an inner change, which affects all life's values. External works flow from the inner attitudes. The tasks of evangelization are sharing the Good News with those who have never heard it, the spiritual renewal of the baptized, and the promotion of unity among Christians. The baptized are called to evangelize as well as to be evangelized by actively proclaiming the gospel and living it faithfully and fully.) John Drown is the chairperson. Members include:

Jason Bernal
Mark Homier
Sharon Krutsch
Mark Lehnert
Mariah Orsalek
Alyce Reinhart
Raul Sanchez
Jane Sewell
Francis Westrick

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.....	\$9,347.00
Need Weekly	\$10,885.00
Below Budget.....	(\$1,538.00)
Contributions to Date	\$485,995.23
\$10,885 x 44 Weeks	\$478,940.00
Year to Date <i>Above</i> Budget	\$7,055.23

Webinar: Catechesis with Children/Youth with Disabilities, Part II: Applying the Vision This webinar will explore practical strategies for catechesis who teach children with intellectual, developmental and sensory disabilities. May 6, 1:00-2:00 pm. Call 419-244-6711 or click on stmarydefiance.org for more information.

The last “Theology on Tap” presentation will be Thursday, May 8, at The Red Pig, State Route 65, Ottawa. Registration begins at 6:00 pm. Presentation is at 6:30. Fr. Tim Knepper will be speaking on “How to be on Fire Spiritually Without Burning Out.”

55 Plus Club will meet on Tuesday, May 27 at St. Michael’s Ridge. 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 Jean Zimmerman, Pauline Lenhart, Pat Fronk and Mary Batt.

Winds of Change, Spirit of Inclusion– National Apostolate for Inclusion Ministry Conference September 4-6 at Sawmill Creek Resort & Conference Center, Huron, Ohio. Click on stmarydefiance.org or call 800-884-9580 for more information.

Daily Readings for This Week	
Readings for the Week of May 4, 2008	
Monday:	Acts 19:1-8/Jn 16:29-33
Tuesday:	Acts 20:17-27/Jn 17:1-11a
Wednesday:	Acts 20:28-38/Jn 17:11b-19
Thursday:	Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Jn 17:20-26
Friday:	Acts 25:13b-21/Jn 21:15-19
Saturday:	Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Jn 21:20-25

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 5**
8:00 AM Communion Service
- Tuesday, May 6**
8:00 AM Communion Service
- Wednesday, May 7**
8:00 AM Communion Service
- Thursday, May 8**
8:00 AM Communion Service
- Friday, May 9**
8:00 AM Communion Service
- Saturday, May 10**
4:30 PM Hazel Cummins
Jean Hall
- Sunday, May 11**
8:00 AM Betsy Dietrick
9:30 AM Lydia Kunesh
11:30 AM Dr. H.C. Brown

Events For This Week

- Monday, May 5**
Charismatic Prayer Group 7:00 pm PMC
SVDP 7:00 pm PMC
- Wednesday, May 7**
Shep of Christ Prayer Grp 6:00 pm Church
Youth Choir 6:00 pm Chapel
Jr. High Session 7:00 pm PMC
Youth Group Bible Study 7:00 pm PMC
Folk Group 7:30 pm Church
- Thursday, May 8**
Cantor Rehearsal 5:00 pm Church
LMC 7:00 pm PMC
- Friday, May 9**
Spanish Bible Study 7:00 pm PMC
- Saturday, May 10**
Post Office Food Drive
Mother Daughter Banquet 5:30 pm PMC
- Sunday, May 11**
Celebrate the Word 9:30 am School
RCIA 10:30 am PMC

Wedding Banns

Banns I Rachel Ott & Craig Tuttle