



St. Mary's Catholic Church

160 North Spring Street • Bluffton, OH 45817

LORD'S DAY MASS SCHEDULE: Saturday at 4:00 p.m.
Sunday at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday at 9:00 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - *Closed*
Tuesday - Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

PARISH OFFICE: 419-358-8631

PARISH FAX: 419-358-0647

PARISH STAFF:

Pastor: Fr. Luyen Dau, C.Ss.R. ldau2006@gmail.com

Deacon – Rev. Mr. Michael Marcum mmarcum1@yahoo.com

Coordinator of Religious Formation – Kelly Honse khski7@aol.com

High School Team – Jason and Jennifer Swartzlander SwartzlanderJ@bluffton.edu

Jim and Amy Tabler jimamytabler423@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant – Rachel Rader rawelch47@yahoo.com

Preschool – Katie Hohenbrink, Amanda Stechschulte katiehohenbrink@hotmail.com

VISION STATEMENT

St. Mary's Parish is a home for our living a sacramental life, for following Jesus in our service and daily life, and in supporting one another on the journey.

INFANT BAPTISMS: Please call the parish office.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: One half hour before Mass on Saturday and Sunday or by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Six months notice and marriage preparation classes required. Please call the Pastor for arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Please inform us of your needs.

SICK OR HOMEBOUND: Please notify the Parish Office, Basil Meyer at 358-0631, or Deb Buck at 419-348-7266.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP: New parishioners, welcome to the Parish. Please register as soon as possible at the office. If moving, please notify us.

BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS: Welcome to St. Mary's! Fr. Dau is your Campus Minister.

St. Mary's Catholic Church

The Baptism of the Lord

January 9, 2022

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

In most religions, there is always a belief in some form of Karma, the effects of what we do in life, good or evil. If we do evil, we will be punished. If we do good, we will be rewarded. In other words, we reap what we sow.

What about Christianity? What is unique about Christianity?

Some people say that incarnation or the resurrection perhaps are the core of the Christian faith, but it's not quite, because other religions also believe in some form of incarnation of gods, and even resurrection such as Hinduism, Zen Buddhism, Islam, Bahá'í...therefore, faith in the incarnation or the resurrection is not peculiar to the Christian Faith.

What makes Christianity different from other religions is that we believe in the doctrine of grace. In other words, salvation is purely the grace of God; not the work of man. Grace is given to us irrespective of what we have done in life. We cannot earn merits before God, but we are called to receive His love, mercy, and salvation graciously. This grace is given to us through Jesus Christ. Through Christ, we are given the grace of salvation freely and without reservation.



This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord; this feast ends the Christmas season. The gospel we hear today describes Jesus being baptized by John in the Jordan River.

Jesus is no longer a child. He is an adult, beginning His public ministry. We know that John the Baptist preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. So, why Jesus would be baptized by John? Jesus had no sins to be forgiven. As the son of the Father, Jesus was without sin. And yet, in today's gospel we see Jesus standing in line with sinners, waiting for John's baptism. Jesus is there because He wants to make it clear that He does not intend to save us from a distance. He chooses to be a part of us, to mingle and identify with sinners. Beginning at His birth and continuing out throughout His entire life, Jesus was like us in all things but sin.

This is good news for us, because it means that whatever we experience in life, good or bad, is something that Jesus also experiences as one of us. For example, if we love to celebrate with family and friends, then in the gospel, it shows us that Jesus celebrates with His family at the wedding feast of Cana. If we grieve the loss of the people we love, then Jesus also grieved the loss of His friend Lazarus. We fear the future and our coming death, Jesus feared His death as He struggled in the garden of Gethsemane. We are disappointed when family and friends let us down, Jesus was disappointed when His disciples did not understand Him and when they abandoned Him and fled during His passion.

Jesus knows everything that happens to us, all that we experience. Even though He is without sin, He stands with us in our human condition.

Weekend Masses

Sat Jan 8	4:00 p.m.	Robert Blake
Sun Jan 9	8:00 a.m.	Jan Schulte
Sun Jan 9	10:00 a.m.	For our parish
Sat Jan 15	4:00 p.m.	For our parish
Sun Jan 16	8:00 a.m.	In thanksgiving
Sun Jan 16	10:00 a.m.	Ruth Ebbeskotte

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$1,440.00	Loose \$1,024.00
Children	\$0.00	Total \$2,464.00

29 envelopes returned = 18%

Christmas Collection to Date: \$7,440.00



*Thank you for your generosity!
Thank you also to those who give
electronically!!*

Assignments for January 15 & 16, 2022

4:00 p.m.

Cantor: Courtney McLaughlin
Ushers: John Parinello and Bob Minto
Lector: Jim Kinn
E.M: Jennifer Tschuor
Server: KJ Hohenbrink

8:00 a.m.

Cantor: Courtney McLaughlin
Ushers: Volunteer
Lector: Caitlyn Couch
E.M: Deacon Michael Marcum
Server: Shylee and Ronald Kaufman

10:00 a.m.

Cantor: Courtney McLaughlin
Ushers: Greg and Gabe Denecker
Lector: Chris Denecker
E.M.: Deacon Michael Marcum
Servers: Conner Gerten

Readings for January 16, 2022

2nd Ordinary Sunday

1st Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Gospel Reading: John 2:1 – 11

The Baptism of the Lord

Your brother priest,
Fr. Luyen Dau, CSsR

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