



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

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.

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.

St. Mary's Catholic Church

3rd Sunday of Lent

My brothers and sisters in Christ,
We are entering into the third week of the season of Lent. The Church continues to invite us to conversion and self-renewal. Yet this exhortation to conversion might not yet have been taken too seriously. This is because some of us feel that we are "not that bad" and so do not really need conversion. Today's scripture readings caution us against such extreme attitudes of self-confidence since it could be an obstacle to conversion and growth. We must respond to the call for conversion before it is too late.

Let us begin with those who consider themselves to be "not bad people" or good Christians. For such group of people, the invitation to conversion is not readily accepted as they are complacent and self-righteous. The problem is that we can be so confident of God's love and mercy that we take Him for granted. One of the greatest tragedies in life is that because of over-confidence, many of us do not truly appreciate the gifts or the blessings that we have. Yes, many of us abuse the privileges and opportunities we have in life.

This was what happened to the Israel and Christians at Corinth who thought that they were chosen and received many blessings from God and yet did not need to repent. Like them, we might have been baptized into Christ and partaken of His body and blood, but we have taken the grace of God and our faith too lightly. We think that once we have been baptized, our passport is secured. We fail to realize that baptism is only the beginning of our journey to death to self in Christ. If we think that we are safe simply because we have been baptized and receive the Eucharist every Sunday then we are wrong. Without living our baptismal vows sincerely and living out the full significance of the paschal mystery when we receive the Eucharist, we cannot claim to have a share in the life of Christ.

Our over-confidence could cause us to perish like the Israelites and the Christians at Corinth. St Paul warns us, "(a person) is standing secure should take care not to fall..." The parable of the fig tree serves as a reminder for us. Although God is patient with us and merciful, a time must come for judgment. If we do not bear fruit, we will be cut down. Sure, He will give us time, but we cannot take His compassion for granted and make a mockery of it. He gives us one more year, but a time will come when we have to be accountable for our decisions. And then it would be too late.

That is why we must always be attentive to the signs of God inviting us to constant conversion and self-renewal. Regardless of whether we are sinners or good Christians, we must not miss out on the grace for conversion and a renewal of our faith during this season of Lent. This is why lent is a call for Repentance.

March 20, 2022

Weekend Masses

Sat Mar 19	4:00 p.m.	Richard, Lillian + Ellen Von Lehmden
Sun Mar 20	8:00 a.m.	L+D of Santomieri + Fischer Families
Sun Mar 20	10:00 a.m.	Ruth Ebbeskotte, Bill Schroeder
Sat Mar 26	4:00 p.m.	Sheila Patterson
Sun Mar 27	8:00 a.m.	For our parish
Sun Mar 27	10:00 a.m.	Lawrence Hoffman, Jim Alt + Kathy Sehlhorst

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$3,180.00	Loose \$165.00
Children	\$52.00	Total \$3,397.00
56 envelopes returned = 35%		



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

Assignments for March 26 & 27, 2022

Money Counters: Tonya Meyer, Janet Begg

4:00 p.m.

Cantor: Katie Hohenbrink
Ushers: Jeanne and Jerry Wehri
Lector: Jenny Roby
E.M.: Edna Conkling
Server: Volunteer

8:00 a.m.

Cantor: Kevin Vance
Ushers: Volunteer
Lector: Deb Hohenbrink
E.M.: Volunteer
Server: Volunteer

10:00 a.m.

Cantor: Kevin Vance
Ushers: Mike and Rhonda Maag
Lector: Kristin Rodabaugh
E.M.: Michelle Risner
Servers: Izzy and Ally Stechschulte

Readings for March 27, 2022 4th Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Joshua 5:9, 10 – 12
2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17 – 21
Gospel Reading: Luke 15:1 – 3, 11 – 32

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What Does Repentance mean? We often associate repentance, with sin. Especially as Catholics, we associate repentance also with the Sacrament of Reconciliation. However, repentance is a broader movement in the person that also includes sin and forgiveness. Repentance, in its complete sense is a change of direction. The first reading today is a great example of repentance (Ex 3:1-15). Moses had fled Egypt out of fear for his life and settled in Midian. This great Egyptian administrator was content to take care of his father-in-law's sheep. However, God was not finished with him yet. Moses' burning bush experience sent him back to Egypt. Moses had to make a 180° turn and retrace his steps to Egypt where he would accomplish God's will and lead and entire people to freedom. Now, this is repentance. Repentance is allowing God to transform us. Repentance is allowing God to mold us into whatever God wants to mold us into. Repentance is allowing God to send us wherever God wants to send us. Repentance is giving up control. Repentance is putting our absolute trust in the love and the compassion of God. This Lent, this is the kind of repentance Jesus is calling us to.

May we undergo this period of intensified prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in atonement for our sins in this Lent, draw us closer to God, and to prepare ourselves for the day we meet the Lord in glory. The sacrifices we make in Lent also help us to prepare for the joy of the upcoming Easter celebration.

Your brother priest,
Fr. Luyen Dau, CSsR

Lenten Daily Mass Schedule

Tuesdays – 9 a.m.

Wednesdays – 7 p.m.

Thursdays = 12 noon

Fridays - 9 a.m.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross

Weekday Confession

WEEKLY SERVICES

Holy Hour + Lenten Reflection

Fridays – 6 – 7 p.m.

We continue to pray for our St. Mary RCIA Candidate –
Deb Niswander

Lenten Reflection Please join us each Friday from 6 – 7 p.m. for a Holy Hour and Lenten Reflection. Our next guest speaker, on March 25, will be Br. Dan Hall, C.Ss.R. We hope you can make it!



Stations of the Cross The high school youth group will host Stations of the Cross with contemporary music and narration this Wednesday, March 23, at 6:30pm. We hope you can join us for this special time.

Server Retreat Due to conflicts, the Server Retreat date has once again changed to Sunday, April 24th after the 10 a.m. Mass. All servers should attend. We can't wait to see you there!

ACA Progress Thank you for pledging to help meet our **parish goal of \$14,451, as of March 11** our parishioners has raised \$8,465.

Envelopes are available in the pews for Easter memorial flowers. You are welcome to return them to the office or put them in the collection basket. Thank you for your generosity!



The Serra Club of Lima Area, which exists to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life, will have their next meeting on Thursday, March 24 at LCC. Guests are welcome! Mass will begin at 5:45PM in the LCC Chapel, followed by dinner and a program. The program for this meeting will be Fr. Andrew Wellmann speaking on “A young priest’s perspective in leading his parish.” Fr. Wellmann, who was ordained in 2018, is a son of Delphos St. John Parish and currently serves as pastor at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Bryan, Ohio. If interested in attending, please contact Kathy McGraw @ 419-303-0339 for reservation.

P.R.E.P

K-5: Class will meet on March 23 at 6:30 p.m.

6th, 7th and 8th Grades: Class will meet today from 11 - 1

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March 20, 2022

Ukraine Relief Fund Along with your continued prayers, if you would like to support financially, you can send a check made payable to: Redemptorist Fathers and mail it to the Ukraine Relief Fund at 3112 7th Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017. Please write *Ukraine Relief Fund* on the memo line. You can also go [online](#) and give to the Emergency Relief Fund with 100% of all donations forwarded to the Redemptorist Missions in Ukraine. Thank you for your support.

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The consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

The consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by Pope Francis will take place This Friday March 25th, March.



Bishop Daniel E. Thomas invites everyone to join him on Friday, March 25, 2022, with the Consecration beginning at Noon (12 pm), followed by the praying of the Stations of the Cross at Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral (2535 Collingwood Blvd, Toledo). Sorrows in the evening during the Lenten reflection with Brother Dan Hall, C.Ss.R

March 20, 2022

Relief Fund at 3112 7th Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017. Please write Ukraine Relief Fund on the memo line. You can also go online and give to the Emergency Relief Fund with 100% of all donations forwarded to the Redemptorist Missions in Ukraine. Thank you for your support!

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Easter memorial flowers



If you would like to remember or honor your love ones this Easter, please consider make a donation to our Easter flower fund. The envelopes of the donation available in the pews or on the table in the Narthex. Please write legibly and use the exact spelling of the name that you wish to see in the bulletin. You are welcome to return them to the office or put them in the collection basket. Thank you for your generosity!