



# *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](mailto:ldau2006@gmail.com)  
Deacon – Rev. Mr. Michael Marcum [mmarcum1@yahoo.com](mailto:mmarcum1@yahoo.com)  
Coordinator of Religious Formation – Kelly Honse [khski7@aol.com](mailto:khski7@aol.com)  
High School Team – Jason and Jennifer Swartzlander [SwartzlanderJ@bluffton.edu](mailto:SwartzlanderJ@bluffton.edu)  
Jim and Amy Tabler [jimamytabler423@gmail.com](mailto:jimamytabler423@gmail.com)  
Administrative Assistant – Rachel Rader [rawelch47@yahoo.com](mailto:rawelch47@yahoo.com)  
Preschool – Katie Hohenbrink, Amanda Stechschulte [katiehohenbrink@hotmail.com](mailto: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

5th Sunday of Lent

April 3, 2022

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The news of the police officer, Dominic Francis, of the Bluffton police department who died in the line of duty while attempting to stop the suspect of a stolen car from injuring others was a tragedy for us here in Bluffton. It is such a sad day for us especially for his family. Our community here at St. Mary Church has offered prayers and Masses for him, his family, and his fellow officers during this time of loss and sadness. We honor and salute his dedication and service to protect our communities.

Reading and hearing about good things that Mr. Dominic Francis has done in his life as a police officer makes me think about the greatest gift that God has given each us – the gift of time. God has given all of us time to work for our salvation and to bear good fruits on earth. Unfortunately, many of us do not yet appreciate the value of time and we don't understand how limited our time on earth is.

Keeping this in mind, let us look at this Sunday's readings: In the gospel, we hear how Jesus spent his time. He spent his nights in prayers and at daybreak he was in the temple, reaching out to others, fulfilling His mission on earth.

In contrast, the scribes and Pharisees spent their nights conspiring against Jesus. They used all their time trying to set a trap for Jesus. They were preoccupied with looking for whom to condemn. They were busy looking for how and where to find a woman whom they could accuse of adultery. They eventually caught one through a "set-up" and they brought her to Jesus. They put Jesus to the test. If Jesus let them throw stones at the woman, his reputation as one who spoke very eloquently of God's mercy would have been severely damaged. On the other hand, if Jesus told them to let her go, his credibility as a Rabbi would be at stake. Jesus' opponents must have felt very secure about their trap.

However, Jesus outsmarts them by turning the focus on them and their sins. "Let the one among you without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Then Jesus wrote on the ground. Some have suggested that he wrote the sins of the accusers. "They went away, one by one, beginning with the elders." Jesus turns the tables on the accusers, and they become the accused. They came to Jesus only aware of the woman's sins; they go away aware of their own sins. As in last week's Gospel, Jesus seeks to get the Pharisees to become aware of their own sin and their need for repentance.

Finally, Jesus is left with the woman. Commenting on this story, St. Augustine says, "Only two are left: misery and mercy." Jesus communicates to the shame-filled woman God's mercy and unconditional love. She experiences the "new thing" (God's mercy and love) which Isaiah spoke about in the first reading. Jesus

## Weekend Masses

Sat Apr 2	4:00 p.m.	Grace Cramer
Sun Apr 3	8:00 a.m.	For our parish
Sun Apr 3	10:00 a.m.	Oscar Velasquez
Sat Apr 9	4:00 p.m.	Jan Spencer
Sun Apr 10	8:00 a.m.	Carl & Bertha Greulich
Sun Apr 10	10:00 a.m.	Ruth Ebbeskotte

## SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$3,090.00	Loose	\$828.00
Children	\$23.00	Total	\$3,941.00

55 envelopes returned = 35%



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

## Assignments for April 9 & 10, 2022

**Money Counters:** Jim Yarger & Courtney Gerten

### 4:00 p.m.

**Ushers:** Dave & Shirley Siefker  
**Lector:** Amy Tabler  
**E.M.:** Diana Bucher  
**Server:** KJ Hohenbrink

### 8:00 a.m.

**Ushers:** Volunteer  
**Lector:** June Miller  
**E.M.:** John Schulte  
**Server:** Will Schulte

### 10:00 a.m.

**Ushers:** Dave & Mary Hoffer  
**Lector:** Anna Schroeder  
**E.M.:** Tricia Herrmann  
**Servers:** Lovett Boys

## **Readings for April 10, 2022**

### **6th Sunday of Lent**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel Reading: Luke 22:14 – 23:56



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**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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

**The Serra Club of Lima Area**, which exists to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life, will have their next meeting on Thursday, April 7 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 Msgr. William Kubacki, Vicar General and Moderator of Curia for the Diocese of Toledo. If interested in attending, please contact Kathy McGraw @ 419-303-0339 for reservation.

Attention High School and College Graduates – We are preparing for our Graduation Mass and Reception on Sunday, May 15, and would like to include your information for the bulletin insert. Please email a picture and completed questionnaire to [swartz116@outlook.com](mailto:swartz116@outlook.com) by Saturday, April 30th. Questionnaires can be found in the Narthex or at <https://stmarysbluffton.org/youth>. If you would like to volunteer for a liturgical role during the Graduation Mass, please let us know that as well.