

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 8, 2024

St. Mary Catholic Church

Diocese of Toledo/Staffed by Redemptorists

160 N. Spring St., Bluffton, OH 45817 (419-358-8631)



MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday at 9:00 a.m.
Thursday at 12:00 Noon
Saturday at 4:00 p.m.
Sunday at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

First Friday - 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Wednesday 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

September 8, 2024

Dear Friends - *a Reflection on Death and the Resurrection*

What comes after death? Our response to this question about death often reflects both how we view life and how we view eternity.

As a young boy I was first confronted with death when my grandfather died. I remember what it was like to see my father shed tears for the first time, the day his father died. My dad was a New York City policeman and my grandfather a lieutenant with the NYPD. Growing up, I often looked at old photos of my grandfather in his uniform, so big and strong. When he died, he was frail and could hardly walk. I remember wondering if there was a correct way to act or what kind of feelings I should have at this time.

Somewhere along the path of life I was taught the foolishness of Wisdom 3:23:

*"They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
and their passing away was thought an affliction,
and their going forth from us, utter destruction."*

I had picked up the comfortless belief that death was meaningless, and that my demeanor should reflect the sadness of grief.

Years later, God would call me, not to law enforcement, but to the priesthood to preach the Good News - the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Like most priests, I have been confronted with death and dying almost every day of my priesthood. But God has a funny way of turning things around. When I was younger, or before 'taking my faith seriously,' death and funerals were always bleak and fearful moments. Now they are opportunities to speak about God's love and all that awaits those who "find favor with Him."

When my mother was dying, I experienced a '**graced moment**' - a comforting assurance deep in my heart that I believe came from God. This moment came as I was standing with family members at my mother's bedside. I held her hand as she struggled to breathe. Old photos of my mom began to flash before my eyes; mom in her First

CONFESSIONS

Saturday, 3:00 - 3:45 p.m.
Wednesday, 9:30 - 10:20 a.m.
First Friday, 11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

OMPH Devotions

Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.

WELCOME to St. Mary



MISSION STATEMENT

St. Mary Parish is a Christ-centered home for growing in holiness, living a sacramental life, and following Jesus by serving one another and the community.

INFANT BAPTISM

Preparation class 3rd Sunday every other month - 9:00 a.m. - Call office

MARRIAGE

6 month notice for marriage prep.
Please call office for appointment.

SACRAMENT of the SICK

Please call office for appointment.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

Please visit parish website.

BLUFFTON UNIV. STUDENTS

Welcome!

REDEMPTORIST CORNER

Missionaries of Hope in the Footsteps of the Redeemer

DAILY & WEEKLY REFLECTIONS FROM THE REDEMPTORISTS

- Daily Audio Podcasts in either Spanish or English on the readings of the day may be found at redemptorists.net or on Facebook at: facebook.com/RedemptoristsBaltimore
- Weekly Video reflections on the upcoming Sunday readings (Cycle A) may be found on Facebook: facebook.com/RedemptoristsBaltimore or You Tube: youtube.com/BaltRedemptorists.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A REDEMPTORIST?

If you think you may have a Vocation to be Redemptorist Priest or Brother, please contact Fr. John or Fr. Denis Sweeney, C.Ss.R. or Fr. Peter Linh, C.Ss.R., our Redemptorist Vocation Directors.

THE REDEMPTORISTS



VOCATION OFFICE
3112 Seventh St., NE
Washington, DC, 20017

Fr. Denis J. Sweeney, C.Ss.R.
443-336-1685
dsweeneycssr@gmail.com

Fr. Peter Linh Ba Quoc Nguyen, C.Ss.R.
267-252-2977
quoclinhcssr@gmail.com

Saint of the Week Blessed Maria Celeste Crostarosa September 11th

Blessed Maria Celeste Crostarosa was born in Naples, Italy, on October 31, 1696. Giulia, Celeste's baptismal name, was an intelligent, vivacious child, the tenth of twelve children. She was taught as a child to pray and love God with all her heart. At the age of six, she began to experience unusual intimacy with Jesus. She longed to serve Him all the days of her life, which led her to the religious life as a Carmelite after persuading her mother to allow her to enter that monastery. After that monastery was dissolved, at the age of 27 she entered a monastery in Scala. While a novice, the Lord appeared to her during Holy Communion and dictated to her a New Rule for the Sisters that their lives would be a "Viva Memoria," a Living Memory of the work of salvation accomplished in the Paschal Mystery out of love for all humankind. This was met with incredulity by the community and she was called a troublemaker filled with illusions. Nevertheless, Sr. M. Celeste made her profession in 1730, and the approval for the New Rule was given in 1731 after a young priest and canon lawyer, Alphonsus Liguori, declared Celeste's visions authentic and the Rule inspired by the Lord. Later that year, she had another revelation in which she heard the words, "Go and preach to every creature that the Kingdom of God has come upon you." After sharing this with Fr. Alphonsus, he was encouraged to begin the Congregation of the Redemptorists and in 1732, the Congregation was founded. Three years later, Celeste was expelled from the monastery, but after long, prayerful reflection, she could not follow imposed



Communion dress and veil, mom in her wedding gown, full of joy and happiness.

In my mom's bedroom there was a crucifix hanging on the wall above her head. As she struggled to breathe, I glanced at the crucifix. Jesus struggled to breathe as he hung upon the cross, and he suffered unimaginably for us. Jesus died for us, and three days later, he rose from the dead and brought us New Life - Everlasting Life.

As I looked down at my mom, gasping, tired and longing to be reunited with her loving husband, I thought - **that's what it's all about!** Our God loves us so much, - he took on our suffering and pain by going to the cross and dying for us and rising from the dead so that we could live forever! My mom's suffering and death deepened my faith - a **'graced moment.'**

My mom breathed her last breath, and a smile came to my face. I was filled with joy that my mom would be with my dad again and with all the angels and saints but most importantly with God who created her and to be with Him forever in heaven.

My friends, let us remember we are all called to be saints, we are all called to holiness. We look forward to be reunited with our dear loved ones who have passed, if we remain faithful to him who loved us first.

*"What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard,
and what has not entered the human heart,
what God has prepared for those who love Him,"*

God bless,
Father John

FORMED

Access thousands of movies, religious programs including the popular series of the best Catholic movies, children programs, and engaging audio and books – instantly. Here you can watch some great entertainment that supports a Catholic lifestyle. There are Bible stories, stories of saints, documentaries, and sacramental preparation materials. What's even better, you can watch it anywhere from any device! Go to formed.org and sign up for **FREE**, and enjoy all the beautiful, spiritual material.



**Wednesdays
9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

***Eucharistic Adoration
Divine Mercy Prayers
Confessions
Benediction***

(continued from Column 1)

dictates contrary to the inspirations revealed to her by her Savior. After helping reform a Dominican monastery, Celeste began her own monastery in 1738 in Foggia, putting into practice the New Rule of the Order of Redemptoristine Nuns. There, St. Alphonsus assigned the young Redemptorist Brother Gerard Majella to serving as the orders spiritual director. Thanks to the support of these two men, the monasteries grew even past Celeste's death. On September 14, 1755, Mother Celeste died on the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross at the age of 58. She enjoyed supernatural gifts during her life. The humiliations she bore only strengthened her conviction to follow more faithfully and generously in God's plan of love. To this day, Bl. Maria Celeste Crostarosa shines brightly as a foundress, a woman of prayer, a witness to liberty of conscience and mystic. She was declared a blessed on June 18, 2016, in Foggia, Italy.

Pastor: Rev. John Murray, C.Ss.R. - pastor@stmarybluffton.onmicrosoft.com
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Michael Marcum - deacon@stmarybluffton.onmicrosoft.com
Director of Religious Education: Amanda Stechschulte - DRE@stmarybluffton.onmicrosoft.com
Coordinator of Pre-School: Katie Hohenbrink - preschool@stmarybluffton.onmicrosoft.com
High School/College Coordinator: Jennifer Lovett - Highschool@stmarybluffton.onmicrosoft.com
Bookkeeper: Carol Schroeder - bookkeeper@stmarybluffton.onmicrosoft.com
Administrative Assistant: Marilyn Hinegardner - adminasst@stmarybluffton.onmicrosoft.com
Sick & Homebound Ministers: Basil Meyer @ 419-358-0631 and Deb Buck @ 419-348-7266
Head of Finance Committee: Jim Yarger - finance@stmarybluffton.onmicrosoft.com
Parish Council President: parishcouncil@stmarybluffton.onmicrosoft.com



MINISTRY SCHEDULE

September 14 & 15, 2024

Money Counters: Sue Knerr & Gabe Denecker

Saturday, September 14, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Ushers: Mike & Val Klima
 Reader: Ashley Davis
 E/M: Marlena Ballinger, Edna Conkling,
 Hank Schroeder
 Servers: Davis'

Sunday, September 15, 2024 at 8:00 a.m.

Ushers: Mike Schulte & Gavin Schulte
 Reader: Deb Hohenbrink
 E/M: Amy Myers, Matt Meyer, Jerry Wehri
 Servers: Ethan Hoffman & Kaufmans

Sunday, September 15, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

Ushers: Greg Denecker & Gabe Denecker
 Reader: Amy Tabler
 E/M: Lisa Welch, Logan Welch,
 Michelle Risner
 Servers: Hohenbrinks & Ethan Smith

SUNDAY COLLECTION

09/01/24

Envelopes	\$2,797.00
Loose	\$ 413.00
Children	\$ 40.25
On-line 08/26-08/31	\$ 535.00
TOTALS:	\$3,785.25



Sunday Envelopes & On-line - 69 = 44%

Thank you for your generosity!!

Pro Populo Mass

Sunday, September 8th at 8:00 a.m.

Fr. John will be offering a Pro Populo (for the people) Mass on September 8th at 8:00 a.m. for the intentions of all the parishioners of St. Mary parish. Pro Populo Masses will be offered every weekend per Canon Law 534.1 which stipulates the Pastor must say one Pro Populo Mass for the benefit of his parishioners every weekend and every Holy Day of Obligation. The intent of this Mass is to fulfill the Pastor's obligation of praying for those under his spiritual care.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Saturday, September 7 - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

3:00 p.m. Confessions
 4:00 p.m. Mass in Thanksgiving



Sunday, September 8 - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Pro Populo Mass for intention of parishioners
 9:15 a.m. Religious Education Kick-off Sunday
 10:30 a.m. Mass for intention of James Alt and Kathy Sehlhorst †
 11:30 a.m. Youth Group

Monday, September 9 - Feast of St. Peter Claver

No Mass

Tuesday, September 10

9:00 a.m. Mass

Wednesday, September 11

9:00 a.m. Mass
 9:30 - 3:00 OLPH, Adoration, Divine Mercy Prayers
 Benediction

Thursday, September 12 - Feast of Most Holy Name of Mary

12:00 noon Mass

Friday, September 13 - Feast of St. John Chrysostom

9:00 a.m. Mass

Saturday, September 14 - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Basinger/Meyers Wedding
 3:00 p.m. Confessions
 4:00 p.m. Mass for intention of Nancy †
 Blessing of Catechists

Sunday, September 15 - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Pro Populo Mass for intention of parishioners
 Blessing of Catechists
 9:15 a.m. Religious Education
 9:30 a.m. Baptism Class
 10:30 a.m. Mass
 Blessing of Catechists
 11:30 a.m. Youth Group Kick-off

Readings for September 15, 2024

1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4c-9a

2nd Reading: James 2:14-18

Gospel: Mark 8:27-35



A Journey In Faith

The OCIA is an adult faith formation process of conversion leading to reception into full communion with the Catholic Church. The OCIA may serve your needs if you:

- Are a non-baptized adult
- Baptized in another Christian Church and are interested in knowing more about the Catholic Church, with or without the intention of becoming a member.
- A baptized Catholic who never received Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation

OCIA will be starting on September 29th with class being held at 9:00 a.m. in the Library. We encourage anyone who thinks they may be interested to call Hank Schroeder at 567-525-4863 or the office at 419-358-8631.

Save the date

September 8th - Grandparents Day

September 15th - First classes for Religious Education

September 14th & 15th - Blessing of Catechists

September 15th - Youth Group Kick-off

September 28th - Ushers & Sacristans Retreat/Workshop

9:00 - 12:00 p.m.



PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Send forth Your Spirit, Lord, into the hearts of your faithful people, that we may be conscious of our vocation to holiness and service to others. Grant that many of us may dedicate ourselves to You through the priesthood, religious life, and lay ministries.

We pray for the needs of our parish and diocese. Grant that we may always have sufficient good and holy priests and deacons, dedicated sisters and brothers, and committed lay ministers to serve our communities.

We pray too for the Redemptorists, that generous men may join them to become zealous missionaries, preaching the Gospel in word and action to the most abandoned, especially the poor.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.



Ministry Retreats/Workshops

On the **Saturday, September 28th**, we will be having a **mandatory** retreat/training session for all Ushers & Sacristans. The sessions from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. will include the following: **instruction, prayer, Q & A, coffee and donuts**. It is very important that all of our liturgical ministers attend one of these mornings of prayer, training, and reflection, so we may properly minister to the people of God at St. Mary parish. If you signed up for one of the liturgical ministries at the recent Ministry Fair, the Retreat/Workshop is mandatory for you as well.



**MENNONITE HOME
COMMUNITIES OF OHIO
MAPLE CREST**
September 28, 2024
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

- Tractor Show @ Maplecree
- Other activities
- Service Group will be selling treats on the porch
- Maple Crest will be selling food

We are looking for volunteers to make some desserts - brownies, pies, cookies. A sign-up sheet is located in the Narthex for this. Thank you for your generosity.



**CHILDREN'S LITURGY
AT SUNDAY MASS**

Beginning on October 6th, we will be offering the Liturgy of the Word for Children at our 10:30 a.m Mass. There will be a calendar in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Stechschulte at dre@stmarybluffton.onmicrosoft.com.



**Thank you for your
donations, generosity, &
support of our youth
programs for this school
year.**

Religious Education ~ Amanda Stechschulte

Youth Group ~ Jenny Lovett

Preschool ~ Katie Hohenbrink

**"It is more blessed to give than
to receive."** Acts 20:35

Catechesis Corner

Let's see the answer to the question from last week, "*Which saints are called to fight evil spirits?*" Catholics traditionally ask the intercession of St. Michael the Archangel in the struggle with evil and the devil. Before the liturgical renewal and the new rite for celebrating the Eucharist, priest and congregation prayed together the following prayer after every low Mass:

Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in the days of battle; be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God thrust down to hell Satan and all wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

We can also ask the prayers of St. John the Baptist Vianney, the Cure of Ars, who was assaulted by the devil many times over a period of thirty years.

Catholic Questions, Wise Answers, by Michael J. Daley

Question: "Why do we know so little about the life of Mary?" What do YOU think? Look for the answer in next week's bulletin.

**To ALL GRANDMAS
and GRANDPAS
Blessed Grandparents' Day
To all of you.
Have a Good Day today
and all the days through.**



CHALLENGED CHAMPIONS

- Classes held Monday-Friday
- Morning/ Afternoon/ Evening volunteer opportunities
- NO horse experience required!
- Must be at least 14 years old to participate.

If you're interested in volunteering please contact our volunteer coordinator Olivia: (419)235-0626

Address: 11913 Road 6, Ottawa, OH

www.challengedchampions.com



Town & Country Flowers, Inc.

"Flowers for all occasions"

YOUR HOMETOWN FLORIST
124 N. Main St. | Bluffton, Ohio 45817
419-358-4040

Proudly serving you at three locations
Bluffton - Lima - Ottawa



JONATHAN K. DAVIS DDS

total dental care

1901 S. Main St. 419-423-4011
Findlay, OH 45840 www.findlay.dentist

LEIBER GARAGE

AUTO AND TRANSMISSION REPAIR
BLUFFTON, OHIO

130 VANCE ST. PHONE: 358-7006

Chiles-Laman

FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES

"A family dedicated to service."

239 S. Main Street, Bluffton
419-358-2051 • www.chiles-lamanfh.com
Jon Kinn

Jim Yarger's Body Shop, INC.



HOMETOWN PHARMACY

112 E Main St, Pandora • 419-384-3303



Brandon Blackford, CFP®, CIMA®, CLU®
Financial Advisor

107 South Main Street
P.O. Box 208
Bluffton, OH 45817
Bus. 419-358-2622 Fax 888-775-7697
brandon.blackford@edwardjones.com
www.edwardjones.com/brandon-blackford

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



ELLERBROCK
SPINE AND SOFT TISSUE

Matthew Ellerbrock, DC
Chiropractic Physician

419-358-2222
120 N. Main St., Ste. A www.ellerbrockspine.com
Bluffton, OH 45817 mattellerbrock@gmail.com

STEINER & GRANGER

Auto - Home - Business - Farm

Jason A. Granger

141 N. Main St.
Bluffton, OH 45817

419-358-0689 Office
419-358-8507 Fax

jgranger@sagepointadviser.com
www.steinerandgranger.com



BLUFFTON PAVING, INC

(419) 358-6941



422 N. Main St. Bluffton, OH 45817 419.358.0556

Mandy Kinn, Owner,
Stylist, Sugar Practitioner and Independent Educator



Smith's Realty Professionals Inc.

"Your Full Service Real Estate Company"

147 N. Main St.
Bluffton, OH 45817
Office (419) 358-1177
Cell (419) 230-7158
www.smiths-realty.com

Email: blufftonsold@gmail.com

Larry S. Smith
Broker



Fortman Insurance

- Medicare Products
- Medical
- Life
- Vehicles
- Home
- Farm
- Commercial

Ottawa
419.523.4500
Bluffton
419.358.4600



FortmanIns.com



**Your Property
Our Priority**

LISA WENGER, REALTOR

122 N. Main St., Bluffton, OH 45817
Cell: 419-231-1823
Office: 419-358-Home
lwenger@thewavz.com



The Dough Hook

Meat Market • Deli • Bakery

117 N. Main Street
Bluffton OH 45817
419-369-4264
www.doughhook.com

Tues. - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Sat. 8 a.m. - Noon



Edward Jones

Member SIPC

**Financial strategies.
One-on-one advice.**



Ryan P DeMarco, ABFP®, CRPC™
Financial Advisor

Po Box 125
Bluffton, OH 45817
567-226-4506

MKT-58940-A AECSPAD

> edwardjones.com

*Like a good neighbor,
State Farm is there.®*

ED REICHENBACH
Agent

341 S. Main Street
Bluffton, OH 45817
Off.: (419) 358-7781



STATE FARM INSURANCE COMPANIES
HOME OFFICES: BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

SCOTT L. BASINGER
ATTORNEY AT LAW

(419) 358-5606
(419) 358-9637 fax
sbasinger@hotmail.com

138 N. Main Street
Bluffton, Ohio 45817

SAMUEL W. DILLER CO., LPA