

# Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish, A Member of the St. Juan Diego Deanery

Dear Parishioners:

I hope that your Lenten journey is going well. Please don't give up of the saving power of Jesus Christ!

A few big events this week: St. Joseph Spaghetti Dinner, Reconciliation Service at MPH M and Lent Retreat at MPH M.

1. Spaghetti Dinner – From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sunday (3/15) at St. Joseph Church Hall.

2. Reconciliation Service – begins at 2 p.m., Sunday (3/15) at MPH M Church.

3. Lent Retreat - From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday (3/21) at MPH M.

All three are great possibilities to mature as a faith community during this important time of year. Also, don't forget about Stations of the Cross, every Friday – 5:30 pm at St. Joe and 7:00 pm at MPH M.

Have a sacred week!

– Fr. Jim

**ACA UPDATE:** As of Feb. 27, our parishioners have pledged \$8,250.00 to the 2015 Annual Catholic Appeal. Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge or gift. We are at 36% of our parish goal of \$23,000 with 72 pledges out of our 785 families. You can still make a gift to the ACA and have it count toward our parish goal. If you do not have the pledge form that was mailed to you, they are available at the parish office. You may also mail your gift to Annual Catholic Appeal, PO Box 917, Toledo, OH 43697; or use the convenient online giving option at [www.toledodiocese.org](http://www.toledodiocese.org).

## COME SAIL AWAY

You are invited to St. Mary's Spring Fling  
Friday, April 24

A Great Evening of Dinner, Live Auction, Silent Auctions, Dancing. Come enjoy the evening and support our school.

**OUR LENTEN DAY OF PRAYER** will be held on March 21<sup>st</sup>, in the Parish Center, lower level meeting room. Our presenter for the day will be Deacon Tom Dubois from Resurrection Parish in Lexington. Deacon Tom's message will be "**A Walk through Holy Week**". Reservations are needed for food and materials. To register, please call **419-347-2381** by March 18<sup>th</sup>.

**SENIOR CITIZEN PROM:** It's "The Luck of the Irish" afternoon on Sunday, March 22 in McFadden Hall. Anyone over the age of 60 & a guest (If your son or daughter is driving you, they are welcome to stay.) Schedule of events: Dancing 2:30-3:00, Entertainment 3:15-4:30, Dinner served 4:30, Evening ends 5:30-6:00. Menu includes: Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Salad, Roll & Dessert. For more information, please contact Sheila Hershiser, 419-935-1149, [cre@willard-oh.com](mailto:cre@willard-oh.com). To register call the parish office, 419-347-2381 or stop by sometime this week.

## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

### Monday, March 16

9:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Word & Communion  
10:00 a.m. Bible Study—Lower Level Meet. Room  
6:30 p.m. D of I—Lower Level Meet. Room

### Tuesday, March 17

8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph's (Plymouth)  
9:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Word & Communion  
6:00 p.m. Bible Study—Lower Level Meet. Room  
7:00 p.m. Altar & Rosary—Lower Level Meet. Room  
7:00 p.m. Pastoral Council—Conference Room

### Wednesday, March 18

9:00 a.m. Mass—Prayers for Eileen Huggins  
10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl—Lower Level Meet. Room  
3:30 p.m. Children's Choir—Music Room  
6:00 p.m. CCD grades 1-6  
6:00 p.m. 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade Cleaning Church Pews  
6:00 p.m. Youth Room Open  
6:30 p.m. RCIA—Lower Level Meet. Room  
7:00 p.m. CCD grades 7-8—Student Session  
7:00 p.m. DEEPER—Youth Room  
7:00 p.m. Adult Choir—Music Room

### Thursday, March 19

9:00 a.m. Mass—Prayers for Kenneth Yosick  
6:00 p.m. Holy Hour  
7:00 p.m. Disciples of Song—Music Room

### Friday, March 20

9:00 a.m. Mass—Prayers for Dave Riehl  
11:30 a.m. Children's Stations of the Cross—Church  
5:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross (Plymouth)  
7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

### Saturday, March 21

8:00 a.m. Lenten Day of Prayer—Lower Level Meet. Room  
5:00 p.m. Mass—Prayers for Teresa Kaylor, Theresa Bilka

### Sunday, March 22

8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph's (Plymouth)  
10:30 a.m. Mass—Prayers Hank & Mary Hohler & Family, William & Jenni Robertson, Sr., Kenneth & Eleanor Takos  
2:30 p.m. Senior Prom—McFadden Hall

## Daily Scripture Readings

Monday: Is.65:17-21; Ps.30:2,4-6,11-13b; Jn.4:43-54  
Tuesday: Ez.47:1-9,12; Ps.46:2-3,5-6,8-9; Jn.5:1-16  
Wednesday: Is.49:8-15; Ps.145:8-9,13-14,17-18; Jn.5:17-30  
Thursday: St. Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)  
2Sm.7:4-5a,12-14a,16; Ps.89:2-5,27,27;  
Rom.4:13,16-18,22; Mt.1:16,18-21,24a  
Friday: Wis.2:1a,12-22; Ps.34:17-21,23; Jn.7:1-2,10,25-30  
Saturday: Jer.11:18-20; Ps.7:2-3,9bc-12; Jn.7:40-53  
Sunday: Jer.31:31-34; Ps.51:3-4,12-15; Heb.5:7-9; Jn.12:20-33

**Saturday, Mar. 21, 5:00 p.m. Mass**

**Lector** K of C  
**Servers** K of C  
**E.Ministers** K of C  
**Ushers** K of C  
**Greeters** K of C  
**Music** K of C

**Sunday, Mar. 22, 10:30 a.m. Mass**

**Lector** Kathy Lowe  
**Servers** Sam Logan, Tanner Herring, Cody Lantz  
**E.Ministers** Teresa Fitch, Glenda Friebe, Julie Friebe, Bill Houseworth, Howard Souder, Casey Kerr, Ann Logan  
**Ushers** Clem Kanney, Lee Kaple, Jeff Murray, Scott Kurtzman  
**Greeters** Clem & Kathy Kanney, 2 Volunteers  
**Music** Children's Choir

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Brayden Gumbert, Carlee Endicott, Todd Kaple, Holly Fenner, JoAnn Spangler, Jean Yetzer, John Martinuzzi, Kevin Noel, Brittany McKinney, Heather Gies, Jared Bonecutter, Sharon Sifferlin.

**Spaghetti Dinner:** St. Joseph Catholic Church, Plymouth will be hosting a spaghetti dinner on Mar. 15. Serving spaghetti with meat sauce, breadsticks, salad and beverage from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Freewill offering. Carry out available! For more information call 419-687-4611. Sponsored by St. Joseph A & R Society.



**SLAM YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS**

Tonight, Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> we will be traveling to the Shelby First Church of God to hear a guest speaker Curt Schroeder. We will meet in the youth room at 5:30 p.m. The presentation is at 6 p.m. We will return to the youth room after the presentation where you can be picked up at 8:30 p.m.

The Youth Room will be open from 6:00-6:45 this Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>! Come spend some time in fellowship before Deeper and CCD start at 7 p.m.

DEEPER continues this week with the book of Luke! Come join us in the youth room from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> is the Senior Citizen's Prom! We need youth to help serve, set-up and tear down. We will be in the school gym from noon to 6:00 p.m. Come help when you can!

Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> after the 5:00 p.m. mass we will have our High School Spring Break Overnight Retreat featuring Disney's Big Hero 6. We will also have ping pong tournaments, eat lots of food and spend some time discussing some tough topics. It will be a great way to kick off Holy Week. The youth room will remain open until noon on Sunday.

**ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR GIRLS:**

"The Catholic Women's Club is offering a \$500.00 Scholarship to a high school senior girl who is planning to attend college. You do not have to be attending a catholic high school or plan to attend a catholic college to apply. See your Youth Director or Pastor for more information."

**CURT SCHROEDER TO SPEAK:** Shelby First Church of God presents Curt, a 2005 graduate of Shelby Senior HS and was a member of the Bluffton University baseball team that was involved in a tragic bus accident on March 2, 2007. Come hear Curt speak on Sunday, March 15 at 6:00 p.m. See more at glorifive.com.

**WEEKLY COLLECTIONS – MAR. 7 & 8, 2015**

**Sunday Collections:**

Offertory	\$	8,833.62
Children's	\$	3.32
Religious Education	\$	255.00
Youth Ministry	\$	40.00
Support Your School	\$	20.00
Initial	\$	5.00

**TOTAL SUNDAY AND HOLY DAY COLLECTIONS \$ 9,156.94 down \$1,124.56 from 2013/2014**

Total Sunday and Holy Day Collections to Date \$ 354,179.55 down \$11,141.42 from 2013/2014

**Diocesan Collections:**

Catholic Relief Services	\$	35.00
Black & Indian	\$	10.00
Propagation of Faith	\$	25.00

**Other Parish Collections:**

Capital Improvement	\$	75.00
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## Greetings from St. Mary's School

*A ministry of Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church*

### A Bumble Bee Story

*Based on a true Story by Lisa M. Rhodes*

This week, I was blessed to have the opportunity to attend a local event with a number of wonderful people. Some I knew, others I was meeting for the first time. Certainly the opportunity to meet people is always exciting. Several times, during introductions, I was introduced as "This is Lisa Rhodes, she is the principal at St. Mary's." As would normally happen in conversation, the question immediately following was, "Oh, how long have you been there?" (to which I replied this is my 4<sup>th</sup> year). Next question, "Now how did you end up there?" I found myself grinning and saying, "If I told you, you wouldn't believe me..." and "I could tell you my bumblebee story, but it's kind of a long story." But, with a few prompts for an abbreviated version, I agreed to share.

Now, I would like to share an abbreviated version of my faith walk that brought me here with you. *Did you know that the bees brought me here?* It's true, and it was about twenty years ago. However, it really stretches back to about 1986 when I graduated from high school one week and got married the next. My husband was the son of a Pentecostal preacher and I was the Catholic girl. We married in a Methodist church and soon had two beautiful girls. Years passed and I struggled with the idea that we weren't part of the Catholic Church.

About 20-years ago, I was going to school full-time, pursuing a degree in education and working in the salon as a hairdresser, when the wash of concern came over me and I really became overwhelmed with a need to return to the church. We lived in Crestline at the time and my husband offered that, if I would go speak with Father Gary, he would join the church. Needless to say, I was very surprised at his willingness to join the church, as wasn't something we had really discussed. Nonetheless, I was thrilled. I took the message from my husband and did a lot of talking about what I would do next, but I took no action. I felt so guilty for not being active in my faith. I was afraid to make the call and share how I had strayed away and ashamed that my girls weren't baptized.

Months went by, until one day I returned home from work and a message was on my answering machine. It was Father Gary! I thought, "Wow, it must have been Marge who told him I needed to speak with him." Marge was a close family friend. I had gone to school with her boys and I often did her hair at the salon. She is what I would consider being a devout Catholic and could have easily wanted to be a catalyst in our family's evangelization...but that was not the case.

As I continued to listen to the voice mail, I learned that Father Gary was actually trying to reach the local bee keeper as the rectory was full of bees! Well, I had no choice but to call Father Gary and let him know he dialed my number by mistake (it was one digit off). I did share, however, that as it turns out I shared that I did really need to speak with him. We scheduled an appointment

to discuss my concerns. When I arrived for the appointment, Father Gary noted that he never had to call the bee keeper...**the bees were gone**. I left the office with a loosely defined plan and in tears with what I considered to be a lack of urgency to correct what I had neglected, reconnecting with my faith.

Several months passed and my husband started working at the Tuby, so we were planning a move from Crestline to Shelby. My husband recommended that I contact St. Mary's and enroll the girls. I had no idea what St. Mary's was, he said, "It's the Catholic School in Shelby. We can enroll the girls and join the church there. Why don't you call and set up an appointment?" So I did! I spoke with Sister Barbara, who was very excited to help us and had a remarkable sense of urgency! She listened to my concerns and immediately scheduled an appointment to visit the school and ensured Father John was available to meet as well.

Within the first 15-minutes of our meeting, Father John had our schedule designed for the blessing of our wedding vows, the baptism of our children, and the enrollment into the RCIA process for my confirmation and my husband's next steps in becoming Catholic. Our oldest daughter was entering 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and our youngest was entering preschool. Sister Barbara was anxious to give us a tour of the school.

As we toured Most Pure Heart of Mary's beautiful school, we were taken back a bit when we entered my daughter's soon-to-be 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom. Why? Glad you asked! Do you recall a time when the Peace Garden was a wildlife sanctuary? I'll bet you remember the fountain, pond, butterflies, turtles and more? You may not recall thin pipeline that so delicately projected from a classroom window into the open air of the Peace Garden, or that the pipe led directly into a glass enclosed bee hive that thrived in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom! Needless to say, we were stopped in our tracks. The bees were living in what would be my daughter's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom. I can't help but believe that God used the bees to get us where we so desperately needed to be (pun intended!). Our experience at St. Mary's this particular year was truly life-changing. I renewed wedding vows with my amazing husband, who supported my needs spiritually and helped me get there. We baptized our children the same day, and entered fully into the church that Easter.

Fast-forwarding about 16-years, life had changed significantly again. I pursued a career at the phone company, where I completed a bachelor's degree and master's degree, but in Business rather than Education. In my 13-year career there in operations management, I had some wonderful, caring mentors who taught me a great deal about efficiencies, technology, and people. Most importantly, people are always first.

We traveled a bit in my career at the phone company, and were blessed to return to Ohio the very year I was offered an early retirement. I jumped at the opportunity, but not without much prayerful reflection and asking God what it was he needed from me. Within a few months, I was back at the phone company as a contractor, until my friend dropped a newspaper on my

kitchen table. She was sharing a position posted for a preschool/kindergarten teacher at Catholic school. I noted that I had always hoped to be in education and applied. After the interview, I was contacted and advised that I had done very well, but another candidate was selected. They noted, however, that there was an opening for principal at St. Mary's School in Shelby and they thought that would be a great fit. I have to say that, in my wildest dreams, I never imagined that I would ever be an elementary school principal let alone have the opportunity to give back to the parish community that had been so significant in my faith journey. I believe you have heard me mention before that I don't believe happenstance or luck. What I do believe is that God has a plan.

I gladly accepted the referral, the interview, and (of course, not without much prayerful reflection) the position. The rest is history. Yes, the bees really did bring me here! I feel blessed to be here and wanted to let you know how thankful I am for all that you have done for me and my family. I pray that my service here, giving back to our amazing parish community, is making a difference!

**We are truly blessed,**  
Lisa M. Rhodes, Principal

<b>EXCEL BEYOND THE BASICS SCHOOL FUND DRIVE Our Goal \$47,000.00</b>	
Collected Mar. 7 & 8, 2015	\$ 255.00
<b>Total Collected to Date</b>	<b>\$ 53,096.00</b>

**WANTED—ATHLETIC DIRECTOR:** Most Pure Heart of Mary is looking for a volunteer to be the parish Athletic Director. This volunteer position reports to the Father Jim and the Athletic Committee and is responsible for organizing all parish sports. Interested candidates can call the parish office at **419-347-2381**.

**ALTAR & ROSARY:** All ladies of the parish are invited to attend the Altar Rosary Society meeting on March 17 at 7 p.m. in the lower level of the Parish Center. A guest speaker from the Catholic Women's Club of the Juan Diego Deanery will be talking about the activities of this organization.

**DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA:** The Daughters of Isabella will meet on Monday, March 16, at 6:30 p.m. in the Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish Center lower level meeting room. The meeting will open with a potluck at 6:30 p.m. Members are asked to bring their own table service and a dish to share. The committee in charge consists of Regine Kreim, Louise Kleman, Jan Magers, Dolores Allwine, Mary Metzger, Luella Schiffer, and Margaret Karl.


<b>Sponsor of the Week</b>
<b>Ted &amp; Ali's Cafe</b>
<b>419-342-4921</b>

**SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS OF MARY IMMACULATE CELEBRATION:** The Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate are celebrating 150 years since their founding by Mother Alfred Moes. These Sisters have served, ministered and been present to this parish since 1932, 83 years. The highest school enrollment at St. Mary's under these Sisters was 407 in 1960 with grades 1-8 and in 3 buildings. Please remember in your prayers all the 102 Sisters who have served here and the 20 Sisters who are still living. Please also pray for those dedicated lay people who presently minister so devotedly and successfully to our school children. There will be a celebration at St. Peter's in Mansfield on April 19 with an 11:30 Mass. All are invited to join and meet the Sisters.

**LENT BY CANDLELIGHT RESCHEDULED:** Due to the snowy weather, Lent by Candlelight at the Sorrowful Mother Shrine, south of Bellevue, Ohio, has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 28, 2015, from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. in the Shrine cafeteria. Our reflection will include an excerpt from the "Diary of St. Faustina" and Jesus' Divine Mercy. There will also be an opportunity for fellowship and hors d'oeuvres, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. To register for this program, or for more information, call 419-483-3435 ext. 6. Cost is a freewill donation.

**MERCY AND HEALING AFTER ABORTION:** *"Learning how to forgive myself was the most difficult part. Believing that I was still lovable was nothing short of miraculous."* – Carole. Do you fear God could never forgive you after an abortion? You don't need to suffer in silence alone. Project Rachel offers help and hope through a monthly support group, retreats and counseling referrals. A "Come to the Waters of Healing" retreat will be offered on Saturday, April 25. For more information, please contact the local Project Rachel Helpline at 1-888-456-HOPE or [projectrachel@toledodiocese.org](mailto:projectrachel@toledodiocese.org).



<b>Easter Memorial Flowers</b>		
In Memory of:		
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Donated by:		
_____		
<b>\$11 per flower</b>		
<b>Make checks payable to: A&amp;R SOCIETY</b>		
Mail to: Sue Lowery 4461 Laser Rd. Shelby, OH 44875	<b>DEADLINE: March 26<sup>th</sup></b>	