

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dear Friends,

I recall reading of a wealthy lady who had hired a housekeeper who was an excellent worker. While extremely pleased with the industry her new employee showed, she was dismayed to observe that the housekeeper's husband had no ambition whatsoever. He certainly was an easy-going chap; always laughing and full of fun... but he had no interest in working. He would spend his days fishing or golfing or just relaxing; and to make matters worse, the housekeeper didn't seem to mind.

After about two weeks of observation, the lady of the house couldn't stand it any longer. Calling her housekeeper into her room, she said, "I'm very happy with your work so far, but there is one thing I cannot understand. How can you work so hard day in and day out, while that husband of yours does nothing but amuse himself? Don't get me wrong... I like the man. But does he ever contribute anything to your family?"

"Well, it's like this, ma'am," replied the housekeeper. "My husband is an awful lot of fun. And we've been married very happily for a long time. And he has never had a job. So I decided long ago that I would make the living and he would make the living worthwhile."

A while ago my parents celebrated their 46th wedding anniversary. When I look back on those years that they raised my brothers and me I know that there had to be a lot of give and take in their relationship; a lot of compromise and compassion. I'm sure there were a number of times when mom or dad had to assume responsibility for making their marriage worthwhile.

It seems to me that in the counseling I have done over the past number of years since my ordination, I have noticed a definite tendency among many preparing for marriage and a number who have already tied the knot to shy away from the working through a problem which they may have with each other. I have noticed that it is far easier today to simply declare when times get tough that the marriage is over and the couple part company. For some, divorce is tantamount to breaking up with a girlfriend or boyfriend.

I am certainly not an advocate of two people living their lives merely as man and woman and not as husband and wife, but I do believe that if a couple is to form a community of life and love (which, by the way, is how the church sees marriage), then it will be necessary sometimes to suffer through the pain that arises, and struggle for the truth which will make their relationship whole.

A few years ago I heard the statistic that 50% of the marriages which begin today last only between three and seven years. Does this mean that the nature of marriage is changing? Could it possibly mean that we as a society don't value the institution as much as we did years ago? Is it possible that some folks aren't used to experiencing the pain that can arise in committed relationships?

What is really obvious to me is that the entire matter is so complex. There are no easy answers to our questions. We can, though, rely upon Christ's grace for guidance amidst the confusion we might face.

Love,

Fr. Dave

Schedule of Liturgies

January 24 - February 1, 2004

SATURDAY, January 24, Vigil: 3rd Ordinary Sunday

4:30 PM Anthony Ruggiero, Sr., Family;
Francis Theis

6:30 PM Rosemary Yandura

SUNDAY, January 25, Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM St. Mary Parish Family

10:00 AM John Wilhelm; Franklyn Ambrose;
Adam Perna

11:30 AM Dominic & M. Arleen Gaietto;
Wilbur Taylor

MONDAY, January 26, Timothy and Titus, bishops

7:00 AM **Mass at St. Francis Convent**

8:30 AM Hubert & Dorothy Elchert

TUESDAY, January 27, Weekday, Angela Merici, virgin

6:30 AM Communion Service

8:30 AM Paul Elchert, Sr; Francis Theis

4:30 PM **Mass at St. Francis Convent**

WEDNESDAY, January 28, Thomas Aquinas, priest, doctor

7:00 AM **Mass at St. Francis Convent**

8:30 AM Raymond & Harriet Reinhart Family

THURSDAY, January 29, Weekday

6:30 AM Communion Service

8:30 AM Clyde H., Clyde F., Kevin T. Roszman;
Arthur Steinmetz; Tom Omlor

4:30 PM **Mass at St. Francis Convent**

FRIDAY, January 30, Weekday

7:00 AM **Mass at St. Francis Convent**

8:30 AM Neenan-Wolter Family

SATURDAY, January 31, Vigil: 4th Ordinary Sunday

4:30 PM Eugene Lucius; Paul & Maria Panuto

6:30 PM Michaelina Paulus

SUNDAY, February 1, Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Larry Baumgartner; Frank Longo

10:00 AM Philomena Longo; Franklyn Ambrose;
Art & Margaret Steinmetz;
Michaelina Paulus

11:30 AM St. Mary Parish Family

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS go out to the family and friends of *Paul J. Raitz, Sr. (86)*, who died recently. We pray that the bereaved may find comfort as the soul of their loved one enters the peace of eternal life.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY BAPTISED, *Ryan Joseph Porter, Alexis Lynn Miller, Devin Jerrold Falter, Trevor Joseph Byrne, and Tyler Paul Byrne*. We pray that the parish family will assist their parents as they guide them along the path of faith.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD, 10 a.m. Mass on the first three Sundays of the month.

ROSARY FOR WORLD PEACE: Saturday, 9 a.m.

*Liturgy
Corner*
by Thomas Fretz, Jr.

will be a small corner of the bulletin dedicated to providing tidbits of information about Catholic liturgy and worship. Information pertaining to our own church may also be included from time to time. Please be sure to check the bulletin each week for this informational resource!

BINGO WORKERS for today, January 25: Coordinator, Scott Swartz; Gate, Scott Swartz, Dick Gaietto; Instants, Art Gaietto, Dan Scherger, Pete Reinhart; Floor, Chris Casale, Harold Bickley, Jim Buchman, Jim Weaver

THANK YOU to all our parish community who have generously supported our new hymnal program! We were able to purchase all the hymnals and they will soon become an addition to our church.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: St. Mary, midnight Monday through midnight Tuesday; St. Joseph, midnight Tuesday through midnight Wednesday.

TIFFIN PRAYER GROUP: Meets every Thursday at 7:45 p.m., in private homes. Call Walter Beat at 419-447-1174 for any prayer requests or for the location of the gathering.

MINISTRY SCHEDULES: New ones will be published very soon. If your current information on the schedule is inaccurate, you wish to change Mass times, or be added/removed from the schedule, please contact Tom Fretz at 447-2087, ext. 30. Ministry schedules for next week will be available in the vestibule of the church or in the parish office.

CARMIE FABRIZIO SPAGHETTI DINNER will be Feb. 15, at Camden Falls. Serving will run noon-2 p.m., with proceeds to go to scholarship fund. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and available at Calvert and Westgate Barbers.

FIRST FRIDAY BREAKFAST: Fri., Feb. 6, 6:30 a.m., Calvert cafeteria, sponsored by Calvert Spiritual Boosters. Calvert graduate, Jason Perry, will present "Actions Speak Louder Than Words." For information contact Catherine Gase at 419-447-9074.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL SCHOOL TUITION RAFFLE: Tickets are still available, \$10 each. You can purchase a ticket at any three schools.

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, FINDLAY, will be offering an education series for the ongoing formation of adults. Next session will be Feb. 2, 7-9 p.m., Activity Center, "Introduction to Liturgy," reservations or questions 422-2646.

TIFFIN K OF C BINGO: Every Thurs. at K of C Hall, 49 E. Perry St. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Early birds at 6:30 p.m. Proceeds to benefit the Ritz Theatre.

"52" Club Winners

- 1. Deb Brickner
- 2. Debbie George
- 3. Lillian Streacker
- 4. Leo F. Smith
- 5. Bridget Willman

CENACLE CHARISMATIC RETREAT: Jan. 29 - Feb. 1, MCR Center, 550 Clark St., Toledo, OH, for a deeper understanding of the Lord. Contact Walter Beat for any questions at 419-447-1174.

FUNERAL LUNCH PROGRAM FOR JANUARY: Captains, Francis & Bea Breidenbach; Co-captain, Mary Ellen Kennedy.

DIOCESE OF TOLEDO MASS FOR SHUT INS: The diocese's televised liturgy, *Sunday Catholic Mass*, will be broadcast on WTOL-TV 11, Toledo, from 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. every Sunday morning.



MERCY'S HEALTH & WHOLENESS EVENT: Take charge of your health! Wed., Jan. 28, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Mercy Community Services Center. Health screenings will be available along with blood cholesterol levels & blood sugars. For more information call 419-448-3465 or 419-448-3156.

"AN OVERVIEW OF SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY" will be presented by Pam Kelbley, RN, Nurse Director at Tiffin Mercy, 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., Wed., Jan. 28, Mercy Community Service Center. Call 419-448-3124 to register.



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Thank You to our Sponsor of the Week

SCAT DRIVERS for Feb. 1: Joseph Buckley & Barb Kuhn .

MARRIAGE NEWS: The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter will be held Feb. 13-15 at Days Inn, Findlay. 10 openings still available, \$50 reservation fee. Call for reservations 419-968-2947.

SATURDAY NITE BINGO, Feb. 7, 5:45 p.m., St. Mary Rec Room, to benefit the Calvert after prom committee.

HOPEWELL-LOUDON BBQ CHICKEN DINNER: Fri., Feb. 6, 4 - 6 p.m., Hopewell-Loudon cafeteria, 1/2 BBQ chicken \$6, 1/4 BBQ chicken \$5. Tickets available in school office, Bascom Telephone Co. or from a sophomore student. Tickets must be prepaid by Feb. 2.

Sacrificial Giving — January 18, 2004		
<u>Description</u>	<u>Amt.</u>	<u>Env.</u>
Amt. Needed Each Sunday	\$ 13,000.00	
Sunday Offering	\$ 8,220.69	361
(Includes loose money/checks \$ 701.69)		
Difference	\$ 4,779.31	
Christmas	\$ 790.00	8
Initial Offering	\$ 5.00	1
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 11.00	3
Deposit	\$ 9,026.69	
High School Offering	\$ 6.85	9
Children's Offering	\$ 48.99	56
Tuition Assistance	\$ 2.00	1
Total Sunday	\$ 9,084.53	
CHRISTMAS TO DATE: \$46,771.93		

ST. MARY SCHOOL BOOSTER CLUB
Sunday Night BINGO
...in the Recreation Room of St. Mary School
Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Early birds at 6:30 p.m.
Two Specials Two Jackpots
Handicapped Accessible * Snacks Available