

# HOLY ANGELS | ST. MARY'S | STS. PETER & PAUL

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## *The CATHOLIC PARISHES of SANDUSKY*

22 August 2018

Dear Friends in Christ,

Like many of you, I am saddened and scandalized by the recent news concerning the allegations of hundreds more cases of sexual abuse of minors by clergy of the Catholic Church, including a now former Cardinal, and the Church's response to those allegations over the years. The wounds of betrayal by those in whom so many placed their trust, no matter how long ago the sin took place, continue to inflict pain on victims and the wider community. It is a grave evil that longs for healing and relief.

Certainly, over the last 15 years, the Church has taken remarkable steps to help prevent the sexual abuse of minors and young people, and to assist those who have suffered such sinful atrocities. With the most recent reports, we must acknowledge that more remains to be done—acknowledging failures, seeking forgiveness, providing for those who have been hurt, undertaking penance in reparation for sins committed, and striving each day for greater holiness so that no one will ever be hurt in this way again.

So many times I've asked myself, what can I do to aid in healing; how can I help? The same response continues to resound in my mind: acknowledge the failure, seek forgiveness, offer to help others, do penance – all in an effort to strive for greater holiness. To that end, on Friday, September 7, Father Matt, Father Jeff and I have decided to undertake a day of penance in reparation for the grave sins committed by our brother priests. We do this with the hope that, through God's mercy and compassion, many might find healing, peace, and forgiveness. Certainly, we encourage those of good will to join us in this spiritual effort.

As a conclusion to the day of penance, I invite all the faithful of the Catholic Parishes of Sandusky to join the three of us for a Mass of Reparation, which will be celebrated at Saint Mary's Church on Friday, September 7, 2018 at 5:30 PM. I sincerely hope you will consider taking this time to unite with us as we commit ourselves, once again, to seeking both forgiveness and greater holiness.

Know that the priests who serve you here at Holy Angels, Saint Mary's and Saints Peter and Paul, as well as our parish and school staffs are committed to the protection of minors, young people, and the most vulnerable among us. If you know of anyone who has been hurt in this way, please make a report to the proper authorities.

With the assurance of my prayers for all of you, I am

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Monte J. Hoyles

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*The Catholic Parishes of Sandusky and the Diocese of Toledo remain committed to ensuring the protection of children and providing a safe environment for all young people. If you have any knowledge of abuse that has been committed by a cleric or by any personnel or volunteer of the Catholic Church, you are urged to report the abuse to your local police department, Child Protection Services, and to contact Mr. Frank DiLallo, diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at (419) 214-4880; or to write to Mr. DiLallo at 1933 Spielbusch Avenue; Toledo, Ohio 43604.*