

**WELCOME
VISITORS**
and
**THANK YOU
VOLUNTEERS!**



HOLY MASS SCHEDULE
SEE BULLETIN FOR HOLY DAYS

SATURDAY	4:00pm Vigil Mass
SUNDAY	8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm
DAILY	6:30am Monday-Friday
	8:15am Monday-Saturday

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

2:00pm on first and third Sundays. Pre-Baptism class is at 2:00pm on second Sunday. All by appointment. Sponsors need letter from their pastor.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

2:30-3:30pm every Saturday; Weekly Holy Hour with Confessions from 6:30-7:30pm every Wednesday. Anytime upon request. (Call for appointment.)

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

No date should be set prior to seeing a priest or deacon six months before desired date.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Please contact the Parish office at 614.885.7814.



THE ARCHANGEL
WORTHINGTON, OHIO

614.885.7814

SAINTMICHAEL-CD.ORG

5750 NORTH HIGH STREET
WORTHINGTON, OHIO 43085



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facebook.com/stmichaelworthington

SAINT MICHAEL STAFF DIRECTORY

WEBSITE: SAINTMICHAEL-CD.ORG

Parish Office: 614-885-7814

MINISTERS TO THE PARISH

Pastor:

Fr. Michael J. Lumpe

Parochial Vicar:

Fr. Wojciech Stachura, SAC

Priest in Residence/Diocesan Judicial Vicar:

Fr. Robert Kitsmiller

Permanent Deacons:

Dcn. John Crerand

Dcn. Bill Demidovich

Dcn. Klaus Fricke (Retired)

Pastoral Minister:

Sr. Riya Mary

srriya@saintmichael-cd.org

Youth Minister:

Jake Asuncion

jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org

PARISH OFFICE

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Safe Environment Coordinator:

Bethany Cook

bcook@saintmichael-cd.org

Choir Director/Organist:

Ron Barrett

rbarrett@saintmichael-cd.org

ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL

Website: stmichaelworthington.org

School Office: 614-885-3149

Principal:

Sr. Mary Regina, O.P.

principal@stmichaelworthington.org

Preschool Director:

Laura Wells

lwells@stmichaelworthington.org

SAINT MICHAEL INFORMATION CENTER



LOW-GLUTEN HOST

If you are in need of a low-gluten host, please scan this QR code for full details.



NEW MEMBERS

Registering in a parish is a declaration of your desire to be part of a Catholic community and a commitment to the life of the parish family. We are often asked to provide affidavits for parishioner standing. We can only do this if a person is a registered, active, and contributing member in our parish. You can register by scanning the QR code below or visiting our website at www.saintmichael-cd.org.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

To submit a bulletin request, the request must be made no later than 12:00 p.m., Monday. Send bulletin requests to rlund@saintmichael-cd.org with "BULLETIN REQUEST" in subject line with all details and contact person for questions. Early submission deadlines may be required surrounding holidays. All bulletin requests are subject to approval.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

St. Michael homebound ministry is available to bring the Eucharist to the homebound. If you or a loved one within St. Michael Parish boundaries would like someone to bring the Eucharist to you, please reach out to Sr. Riya Mary to coordinate. She can be reached by calling the Parish Office or by emailing srriya@stmichael-cd.org.



ONLINE GIVING

St. Michael offers online giving as a convenient tool for you to use. Scan the QR code to learn more or set up online contributions

Athletic Association Representative:

Liz Trolli

smaa@saintmichael-cd.org

Knights of Columbus Representative:

Seth Walker

grandknight@kofc11445.com

St. Vincent de Paul Society Representative:

Pete Schlom

svdp@saintmichael-cd.org

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SEPTEMBER 3, 2023 DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, September 3

- 8:30 a.m. Special Intention of the Miller Family
10:30 a.m. Tony Sylvester
(St. Michael Adoration Ministry)
12:30 p.m. Fiore Matteis

Monday, September 4

- 8:15 a.m. JoAn Cardamone (Jack & Paula Tucker)

Tuesday, September 5

- 6:30 a.m. Special Intention of Sr. Teresa Paul
(SMS Pre-K)
8:15 a.m. Holy Souls in Purgatory
(Central Ohio Purgatorial Confraternity)

Wednesday, September 6

- 6:30 a.m. Salvatore & Kathy Ruggeri
(The Petras Family)
8:15 a.m. For the School

Thursday, September 7

- 6:30 a.m. Rosa Caso (Luis & Francoise Caso)
8:15 a.m. In thanksgiving for our Festival Organizers,
Volunteers and Sponsors

Friday, September 8

- 6:30 a.m. Special Intention of James Vincent
(Diane Vincent)
8:15 a.m. Special Intention of Barb & Brian Weaver
(Mary Elizabeth)

Saturday, September 9

- 8:15 a.m. Dan Oparowski (The Maurer Family)
4:00 p.m. Special Intentions of Current &
Past Members of St. Vincent de Paul

Sunday, September 10

- 8:30 a.m. For the People
10:30 a.m. Raymond DiBattista (Dennis Jaketic)
12:30 p.m. Kyle Ann Kowaleski (Steve & Kristy Wagner)



SEPTEMBER 3, 2023 TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?"

— Matthew 16:26

St. Francis of Assisi said, *"Remember, you are what you are in the eyes of God, and nothing else."* We often forget this stewardship wisdom when we spend all of our time, talent and treasure to gain more of the world's riches. We need to set our priorities based on God's values and not the values of the material world.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: AUGUST 27, 2023

Envelopes.....	\$	8,784.63
Online Giving	\$	7,593.00
Total:.....	\$	16,377.63



± MARRIAGE BANNS ±
CONGRATULATIONS TO:

**ANDREW SMALL &
MARY CATHERINE VILLORDON**
SEPTEMBER 9, 2023
CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY
ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISH CALENDAR: SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY, September 3	5:00 p.m. Parish Festival	Thursday, September 7	Eucharistic Exposition (Adoration Chapel) 5:30 p.m. Cub Scouts (U) 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (C)
Monday, September 4	Labor Day – Parish Office Closed Parish Festival Cleanup 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (U)	Friday, September 8	Eucharistic Exposition (Adoration Chapel)
Tuesday, September 5	9:00 a.m. SVdP Sandwich Making (MH) 7:30 p.m. Cub Scout Planning Meeting (LMR)	Saturday, September 9	6:45 a.m. Men's Faith & Fellowship (UMR) 7:00 a.m. Pietra Class (LMR) 9:00 a.m. SVdP Meeting (UMR) 2:30 p.m. Confessions (C) 5:00 p.m. SVdP Reception (UMR)
Wednesday, September 6	6:30 p.m. Holy Hour & Confessions (C)	SUNDAY, September 10	2:00 p.m. Baptism Class (UMR) 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Ministry (MH)

(U) = Undercroft, (S) = School, (C) = Church, (G) = Gym, (PO) = Parish Office, (SG, SR, SM) = Saints Gabriel, Raphael and Michael, (MH) = Marian Hall, (SL) = School Library, (SC) = School Conference Room, (R) = Rectory, (PSR) = Parish School of Religion Office, (UMR) = Meeting Room on the first floor of the Parish Ministry Center, (LMR) = Meeting Room in the basement of the Parish Ministry Center, (YMR/SG) = Youth Ministry Room

FROM THE PASTOR

ON THIS TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Jesus – the great, Divine teacher that He is – sums up the contrast between God's wisdom and man's when He says, "For what would it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" So many in our day strive after money, after pleasure and comfort, after power and prestige. Imagine if you could for a second have ALL OF THIS and more. Would it be worth it, if, in the process, you would lose your eternal soul? This is the great "Faustian bargain" – the temptation of Satan. Just as Satan tried to tempt Jesus in the desert – when he took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and said, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me" – so Satan tries to do to each one of us. Jesus' response then is what He wants ours to be now, "Away with you, Satan, for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve Him alone'" (Matthew 4:8-10). That's the reason why Jesus called Peter "Satan" in today's Gospel because Peter was tempting Jesus to put His physical health and temporal well-being ahead of His soul and eternal well-being – just as Satan tried to do in the desert. It profits men and women nothing to gain everything the world can offer if they forfeit eternal life with Christ in the process. Let's get very practical about whether we judge by God's standards or by worldly human standards. One of the greatest examinations is found in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12a) – Jesus' roadmap for true joy, peace and happiness, which couldn't be in greater contrast with worldly lifestyles and standards. Two examples:

Jesus says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit," who put their treasure in God. The world says, "Blessed are those who worship money before God." What do you think? "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and here thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and there thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:19-21). So do we follow God's standards or man's?

Jesus says, "Blessed are the meek... the merciful ... and the peacemakers." The world says, "Blessed are the strong" – those who try to destroy any perceived opponent because of pettiness, hatred, jealousy and narcissistic tendencies, who play people off each other in an effort to divide and conquer, who "dig for dirt" on those whom they feel threatened by and then spread gossip and lies. "No truth can be found in their mouths, their heart is all mischief, their throat a wide-open grave, all honey their speech" (Psalm 5:10). Do we judge by God's standards or by "strong" human standards?

Folks, it should be obvious from the contrast between the Beatitudes and changing winds of worldly wisdom that to be a true disciple of Jesus, to judge by His standards, means that we need to be counter-cultural. To be a faithful Catholic, a faithful disciple of Christ, means that each of us will need to stand firm in our faith and in greater non-conformity with worldly desires and standards. Saint Paul once said: "Woe to me if I do not proclaim the Gospel!" (1 Corinthians 9:16). Folks, as children of God and disciples of Christ, let's say "yes" more to God, and "no" more to the ways of the world and to those who sow the seeds of sin and division. Instead, let's follow the sage advice of Saint Paul, who reminds us in today's second reading: "Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect" (Romans 12:1-2).

REMINDER ~ LABOR DAY MASS: Only one Mass is celebrated, and that will take place at 8:15 a.m.

REMINDER ~ TWO ADDITIONAL 8:15 a.m. WEEKDAY MASSES BEGIN this Wednesday and Thursday.

REMINDER ~ WEEKLY HOLY HOUR BEGINS THIS WEDNESDAY at 6:30 p.m., with Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Confessions, with Benediction at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome!

PLEASE WELCOME JAKE NEAL, OUR NEW RCIA DIRECTOR, who will be hosting inquiry sessions in the Upper Meeting Room after the 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses on September 10, for those who are interested in becoming members of the Catholic Church. RCIA classes will begin on Sunday, September 17, following the 10:30 a.m. Mass, and will take place on subsequent Sundays at the same time. Please contact Jake at jake.t.neal@gmail.com or call the Parish Office for more information.

ON THIS PARISH FESTIVAL WEEKEND...

- + **THANK YOU** Jesus, for the faith that You have given us and for our wonderful St. Michael Parish family!
- + **THANK YOU** Festival chairs (Seth and Kelly Walker – 5th year!) and all organizers and committee chairs!
- + **THANK YOU** Festival volunteers!
- + **THANK YOU** Festival sponsors, vendors, silent auction donors!
- + **THANK YOU** parishioners, visitors, neighbors and friends!
- + **THANK YOU** parish and school staff members!
- + **THANK YOU** Saint Vincent de Paul, Mission Warmth, Knights of Columbus, and all parish ministries!
- + **THANK YOU** police officers, sheriff deputies, firefighters/EMTs!

~Fr. Mike Lumpe, Pastor

The Blessed Virgin Mary

Looking to Mary to help quell our fears

by Fr. Edward Loney

Have you ever had an experience in prayer that you returned to repeatedly? Has God given you a phrase or consoling thought in prayer that remains with you to the present day? In an earlier essay I wrote about an experience of visiting a religious sister and her recommendation to visit the chapel on their grounds. I deliberated between heeding the religious sister's advice and pray a holy hour or to go to the movies. I chose the better part—spending time with the Lord, in which I had a profound prayer experience. In my prayer I believed Mary spoke to me interiorly, and the words she spoke have been a continued source of comfort and consolation.

As I returned to those words most recently, I wondered: "Did Mary ever have this experience?" That question led me to reflect on the Annunciation event, and whether the words of the angel Gabriel might have brought her consolation: "Do not be afraid, Mary." Throughout her life, Mary faced a lot of fearful events, and when she did, did she simply repeat those words of the angel in her mind and heart? "Do not be afraid, Mary."

When the child was presented in the temple, and Simeon prophesied that Jesus would be a sign of contradiction and a sword would pierce her heart, must have been a frightening experience, not knowing what was to come. Did she say in her heart, "Do not be afraid?"

When the Holy Family fled into Egypt because Herod wanted to kill Jesus, was she fearful? Or did she repeat those words, "Do not be afraid, the Lord is with you."

When Jesus remained in Jerusalem at the age of twelve and they believed him lost, did she repeat in her heart, "Do not be afraid" as she searched for the Christ child?

As she stood at the foot of the cross, did she repeat those words in her mind and heart: "Do not be afraid," God has a plan?

These are just a few of the fears we know of from the gospels. Certainly, Mary must have faced many other fears in her life, but as I sat with Mary in my mind's eye, I imagined her allowing those words of the angel to be the recurring mantra in her heart. I would like to believe she confronted that fear with the words spoken by that angelic being who announced she had no reason to be afraid. Mary was a fearless woman, and her example should help us confront fear, and remind us, that like her, we have nothing to fear.

Just like Mary, who possibly repeated those angelic words in her mind and heart at moments of fear, we can do the same. And because Mary is with God, and now our advocate and intercessor, it gives us even more reasons not to fear.

The fears of life can creep up at a moment's notice. And what are we to do? We can repeat those words of the angel reminding ourselves not to be afraid. We can also turn to Mary's intercession, that as she quelled fear in her own life, she can help to do the same for us. I'm reminded of the words of St. Bernard of Clairvaux who said:

When the storms to temptation burst upon thee, when thou seest thyself driven upon the rocks of tribulation, look at the star, call upon Mary. When buffeted by the billows of pride, or ambition, or hatred, or jealousy, look at the star, call upon Mary. Should anger, or avarice, or fleshly desire violently assail the frail vessel of thy soul, look at the star, call upon Mary. If troubled on account of the heinousness of thy sins, distressed at the filthy state of thy conscience, and terrified at the thought of the awful judgment to come, thou art beginning to sink into the bottomless gulf of sadness and to be swallowed in the abyss of despair, then think of Mary. In dangers, in doubts, in difficulties, think of Mary, call upon Mary.

What does this look like in our modern life today?

Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

“What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?” ~Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)

The month of September is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows.

"At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by "I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in." +Saint Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)

**Monday, September 4 ~ Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time
~ Labor Day ~**

Holy Gospel: Luke 4:16-30 Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the Sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.* Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." And all spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They also asked, "Is this not the son of Joseph?" He said to them, "Surely you will quote me this proverb, 'Physician, cure yourself,' and say, 'Do here in your native place the things that we heard were done in Capernaum.'" And he said, "Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place. Indeed, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah when the sky was closed for three and a half years and a severe famine spread over the entire land. It was to none of these that Elijah was sent, but only to a widow in Zarephath in the land of Sidon. Again, there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet; yet not one of them was cleansed, but only Naam'an the Syrian." When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were all filled with fury. They rose up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had been built, to hurl him down headlong. But he passed through the midst of them and went away.

Meditation: It was customary for Jesus to go weekly to the synagogue to worship and on occasion to read the scriptures and comment on them to the people. His hometown folks listened with great attention on this occasion because they had heard about the miracles he had performed in other towns. Jesus startled them with a seeming rebuke that no prophet or servant of God can receive honor among his own people. He then angered them when he complimented the gentiles who seemed to have shown more faith in God than the "chosen ones" of Israel. They regarded gentiles as "fuel for the fires of hell." Jesus' praise for "outsiders" caused them offence because they were blind-sighted to God's mercy and plan of redemption for all nations.

Prayer: O God, Creator of all things, who have commanded the human race to bear the burden of labor, grant that the work we are beginning may progress in this life and, by your favor, advance the spread of the Kingdom of Christ. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: The word "gospel" literally means "good news." Isaiah had prophesied that the Messiah would come in the power of the Holy Spirit to bring freedom to those oppressed by sin and evil (see Isaiah 61:1-2). Jesus came to set people free from the worst tyranny possible – the tyranny of slavery to sin and the fear of death, and the destruction of both body and soul. God's power alone can save us from emptiness and poverty of spirit, from confusion and error, and from the fear of death and hopelessness. The gospel of salvation is "good news" for us today. Do you know the joy and freedom of the gospel?

Tuesday, September 5 ~ Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time

Saint Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa), Religious

Holy Gospel: Luke 4:31-37 Jesus went down to Capernaum, a town of Galilee. He taught them on the Sabbath, and they were astonished at his teaching because he spoke with authority. In the synagogue there was a man with the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out in a loud voice, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Be quiet! Come out of him!" Then the demon threw the man down in front of them and came out of him without doing him any harm. They were all amazed and said to one another, "What is there about his word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out." And news of him spread everywhere in the surrounding region.

Meditation: When Jesus spoke he needed no authorities to back his statements. He was authority incarnate – the Word of God made flesh. When he spoke, God spoke. When he commanded even the demons obeyed. If demons, the fallen angels, believe in the power and authority of the Son of God, how much more should we believe in the power and authority of the gospel – the good news of Jesus Christ – with the full assent of our minds and hearts and entrust our lives to the Lord Jesus Christ? If we approach God's word submissively, with an eagerness to do everything the Lord desires, we are in a much better position to learn what God wants to teach us through his word.

Prayer: O God, who called Saint Teresa to respond to the love of your Son thirsting on the cross with outstanding charity to the poorest of the poor, grant us, we beseech you, by her intercession, to minister to Christ in his suffering brothers. Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer seeking the intercession of Saint Teresa of Calcutta: Jesus, you made Saint Teresa an inspiring example of firm faith and burning charity, an extraordinary witness to the way of spiritual childhood, and a great and esteemed teacher of the value and dignity of every human life. Grant that she may be venerated and imitated as one of the Church's canonized saints. Hear the requests of all those who seek her intercession, especially the petition I now implore... (*mention here the favor you wish to pray for*). May we follow her example in heeding Your cry of thirst from the Cross and joyfully loving You in the distressing disguise of the poorest of the poor, especially those most unloved and unwanted. We ask this in Your name and through the intercession of Mary, Your Mother and the Mother of us all. Amen.

Contemplation: When you read or hear the word of God how do you respond to it? Do you hear it with indifference, selective submission, or with the full assent of faith and obedience? When Jesus taught he spoke with authority. He spoke the word of God as no one had spoken it before. When the Rabbis taught they supported their statements with quotes from other authorities. The prophets spoke with delegated authority – "Thus says the Lord." If we approach God's word submissively, with an eagerness to do everything the Lord desires, we are in a much better position to learn what God wants to teach us through his word. Are you eager to be taught by the Lord and to conform your life according to his word?

Wednesday, September 6 ~ Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Luke 4:38-44 After Jesus left the synagogue, he entered the house of Simon. Simon's mother-in-law was afflicted with a severe fever, and they interceded with him about her. He stood over her, rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up immediately and waited on them. At sunset, all who had people sick with various diseases brought them to him. He laid his hands on each of them and cured them. And demons also came out from many, shouting, "You are the Son of God." But he rebuked them and did not allow them to speak because they knew that he was the Christ. At daybreak, Jesus left and went to a deserted place. The crowds went looking for him, and when they came to him, they tried to prevent him from leaving them. But he said to them, "To the other towns also I must proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God, because for this purpose I have been sent." And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Meditation: Who do you take your troubles to? Jesus' disciples freely brought their troubles to him because they found him ready and able to deal with any difficulty, affliction, or sickness which they encountered. When Simon Peter brought Jesus to his home for the Sabbath meal (right after Jesus preached in the synagogue in Capernaum), his mother-in-law was instantly healed because Jesus heard Simon's prayer. Jesus could not avoid drawing a crowd wherever he went. No one who asked Jesus for help was left disappointed. Jesus' numerous healings and exorcisms demonstrated the power and authority of his word, the "good news of the kingdom of God."

Prayer: God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Have you noticed that Jesus always puts human need ahead of everything else? His compassion showed the depths of God's love and concern for all who are truly needy. Jesus gave the people the word of God and he healed them physically as well as spiritually. We can never intrude upon God nor exhaust his generosity and kindness. He is ever ready to give to those who earnestly seek him out. Do you allow Jesus to be the Lord and Healer in your personal life, family, and community? Approach him with expectant faith. God's healing power restores us not only to health but to active service and care of others. There is no trouble he does not want to help us with and there is no bondage he can't set us free from. Do you take your troubles to him with expectant faith that he will help you?

Thursday, September 7 ~ Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Luke 5:1-11 While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that the boats were in danger of sinking. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.

Meditation: God chooses ordinary people, like you and me, as his ambassadors and he uses the ordinary circumstances of our daily lives and work situations to draw others into his kingdom. Jesus speaks the same message to us today: we will "catch people" for the kingdom of God if we allow the light of Jesus Christ to shine through us. God wants others to see the light of Christ in us in the way we live, speak, and witness the joy of the gospel. Saint Paul the Apostles says: "But thanks be to God, who in Christ Jesus always leads us in triumph, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing" (2 Cor. 2:15).

Prayer: God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: This incident tells us an important truth about how God works in and through each of us for his glory. God expects of us greater things than we can do by ourselves. When we cooperate in his works, we accomplish far beyond what we can do on our own. Saint Therese of Lisieux once wrote: "Jesus has so incomprehensible a love for us that he wills that we have a share with him in the salvation of souls. He wills to do nothing without us. The Creator of the universe awaits the prayer of a poor little soul to save other souls redeemed like it at the price of all his Blood." Do you live the gospel to those around you – neighbors, co-workers, relatives, students – to help them grow in the knowledge of his truths and love?

Friday, September 8 ~ Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:1-16,18-23 The Book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham became the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar. Perez became the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab. Amminadab became the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab. Boaz became the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth. Obed became the father of Jesse, Jesse the father of David the king.

David became the father of Solomon, whose mother had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon became the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asaph. Asaph became the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, Joram the father of Uzziah. Uzziah became the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah. Hezekiah became the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amos, Amos the father of Josiah. Josiah became the father of Jechoniah and his brothers at the time of the Babylonian exile.

After the Babylonian exile, Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, Zerubbabel the father of Abiud. Abiud became the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, Azor the father of Zadok. Zadok became the father of Achim, Achim the father of Eliud, Eliud the father of Eleazar. Eleazar became the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ.

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: *Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel*, which means "God is with us."

Meditation: Understandably many ask the question: "What is the significance of the genealogy in Matthew's gospel?" This genealogy is arranged in three sections portraying three great stages in the spiritual history of the people of the old covenant. The first stage begins with Abraham, the father of the chosen people, and ends with David, God's anointed King. The second stage takes us to the exile of God's people in Babylon. This is the period of Israel's shame and disaster due to her unfaithfulness. The third stage takes us to Jesus, God's anointed Messiah. Jesus the Messiah is the direct descent of Abraham and David, and the rightful heir to David's throne. God in his mercy fulfilled his promises to Abraham and to David that he would send a Savior and a King to rule over the house of Israel and to deliver them from their enemies. Jesus is the fulfillment of all God's promises. He is the hope not only for the people of the Old Covenant but for all nations as well. After all, Jesus is the Savior of the world.

Prayer: Impart to your servants, we pray, O Lord, the gift of heavenly grace, that the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin may bring deeper peace to those for whom the birth of her Son was the dawning of salvation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Matthew begins his gospel with the genealogy of Jesus from Abraham's lineage through the line of David, King of Israel. Matthew concludes his genealogy by stating that both Mary, Jesus' mother and Joseph, his foster father, came from the line of David. Mary was asked to assume in faith a burden of tremendous responsibility. That required faith and trust. Also, Mary was not yet married. Sexual relations outside of marriage (fornication) was a sinful act then, and remains so today. Mary was only espoused to Joseph, and such an engagement had to last for a whole year. She was asked to assume a great risk. She could have been rejected by Joseph, by her family, by all her own people. Mary knew that Joseph and her family would not understand without revelation from God. She nonetheless believed and trusted in God's promises. Joseph, a just and God-fearing man, believed the message given to him to take Mary as his wife and to accept the child in her womb as the promised Messiah. Like Mary, Joseph is a model of faith for us. He is a faithful witness and servant of God's unfolding plan of redemption. Are you willing to trust and obey the Lord as Mary and Joseph did?

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops;
prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011;
information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.

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When you learn from the doctor about a health problem, call upon Mary. Fear will be there, but we have nothing to fear because she intercedes for us. Like so many Catholics, call upon Mary, and if you are able, visit a Marian shrine and ask for the grace of healing. Many shrines I have visited have testimonials left behind like crutches or braces by those who attributed their miraculous healing to Mary. With Mary's prayers, we have nothing to fear.

When storms threaten where you live, yes there is a lot to fear, but allow Mary to quell that fear. Call upon her intercession under the title of Our Lady of Prompt Succor as so many have done in years past.

Is there fear in your marriage? Not sure whatever difficulty is faced can be overcome? Turn to Our Lady, Undoer of Knots, and ask her to untie the difficult knots of your married life so that joy and happiness may return. That's the origin behind the painting and should encourage anyone in a troubled marriage.

Feeling tempted to sin? Pick up the rosary, a weapon against evil, and ask Mary to slay the serpent in your life.

The most common fear in life is death. For a person approaching death themselves or for their family members or friends who are journeying with them, they can experience a lot of fears. Our faith in God and the promises of Jesus can quell this fear. Not only that, but so often in life, we have asked Mary to pray for us now and at the hour of our death. We have confidence that Mary will do as we asked, that when we or someone we love draws their last breath, Mary is present to them, praying for them in that moment. With Mary's prayers, at that hour, we have nothing to fear.

Fearful about evangelizing and sharing the faith? Look up the story of Mary's 1859 apparition in Champion, Wisconsin, when she appeared to Adele Brise. Mary instructed Adele to do four things:

- 1) pray for the conversion of sinners;
- 2) offer her Holy Communion for the conversion of sinners;
- 3) make a general confession;
- 4) gather the children and teach them what they should know for salvation.

Mary's departing words to Adele were, "go and fear nothing, I will help you." The Queen of Heaven, the fearless Mary of Nazareth, instructs Adele to have no fear, and to place confidence in her intercessory efficacy and mediation of grace. That same exhortation resounds to us, not only about our missionary efforts, but also in our daily life. Face your fears with Mary, and repeat in your mind and heart: do not be afraid. Not only did the angel tell Mary those words, but she repeated them to Adele, and now to us. Live your life, trust in God, and go, and fear nothing, for Mary will pray for you and obtain help from God.

This article is made available courtesy of the Catholic Exchange.

Prayer to Our Lady, Undoer of Knots

Holy Mary, full of the presence of God during your life you accepted with great humility the Holy Will of the Father and the legacy of your Son Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Evil never dared to entangle you with its confusion. Since then you have interceded for all of our difficulties. With all simplicity and patience you have given us example on how to untangle the knots in our complicated lives. By being our Mother forever, you arrange and make clear the path that unites us to Our Lord. Holy Mary, Mother of God and ours, with your maternal heart untie the knots that upset our lives. We ask you to receive in your hands (*mention your prayer request here*) and deliver us from the chains and confusions that have us restrained. Blessed Virgin Mary, through your grace, your intercession and by your example, deliver us from evil and untie the knots that keep us from uniting with God, so that once free of every confusion and error, we may find Him in all things, have Him in our hearts and serve Him always in our brothers and sisters. Mother of Good Counsel pray for us. Amen.



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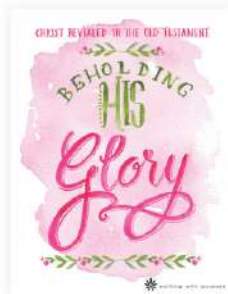
There is no better way to spend an hour of your week than in the presence of Our Lord. Help us grow our Adoration Chapel by signing up to make a commitment to adore. Our Adoration Chapel offers Eucharistic Exposition on both Thursdays and Fridays. Our current Exposition hours are from 7:00 a.m. Thursday morning through 6:00 a.m. Friday morning, resuming at 9:00 a.m. Friday morning until 9:00 p.m. Friday evening. Adoration is available at all other times with the Blessed Sacrament reposed in the tabernacle. **Please note that the chapel will be closed throughout the Festival. The chapel will be closed beginning August 31 and will reopen at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 5th.** Signing up is easy to do from your phone or computer. You can sign up at StMichael.WeAdoreHim.com.



RCIA

Are you interested in joining the Catholic Church? RCIA inquiry sessions will take place after the 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses on Sunday, September 10. Scan the QR code to register or for more information.

Women's Faith & Fellowship Fall Study



Walking with Purpose: Beholding His Glory shows us how all Scripture points us to our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. We'll learn to recognize and appreciate God's plan for our own lives, His awe-inspiring majesty, and His desire for personal intimacy with each one of us.

Registration is required, books will cost \$20 each. Daytime and Evening options are available beginning September 26, scan the QR code for a full list of dates & times, to register or for more details!



Register NOW to ensure your spot!

Women's Faith & Fellowship Sisterhood by Candlelight

Thursday, October 5th

7:00pm

"Looking at the fruits of the Sisterhood of Mary & Elizabeth and its place in our lives."

Speaker: Maria Elliott

To Host a Table or RSVP as an individual, please sign up using the QR code below. For more information about our candlelight evenings, please visit: www.saintmichael-cd.org/evangelization/womens-group/social/



MEN'S FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, September 9th, we begin "Worthy of the Call" with Mark Hatfield. This title comes from Ephesians 4. St. Paul begs us "to lead a life worth of the calling to which you have been called with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing with one another in love..." The Lord has given us a diversity of gifts to bring about unity in the church. Come and see the wonderful benefits of praying and learning together with your brothers in Christ. We meet at 6:45 a.m. in the Upper Meeting Room to pray the Rosary for our families, parish and for vocations, followed by the presentation and discussion. We wrap up by 8:00 a.m. so that you can attend Mass! All ages of men are welcome to join us. If you have any questions, please contact us at mensgroup@saintmichael-cd.org.

ADDITIONAL MASSES, CONFESSIONS & WEEKLY HOLY HOUR BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER

Beginning in September, St. Michael will add two additional weekday Masses at 8:15 a.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Wednesdays will serve as the school Mass each week, so seating will be limited to the sides and back of the church. Beginning on Wednesday, September 6, Father Lumpe and Father Kitsmiller will offer a weekly Holy Hour in the church with Confessions available every Wednesday from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

EMERGENCY DRILLS TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 5

St. Michael School Staff will be participating in Emergency Training as part of Professional Development training on Tuesday, September 5. Emergency Vehicles will be present throughout the day, there is no need to be alarmed if you see any emergency vehicles or smoke when stopping by the church. Thank you to our staff for their hard work and dedication to keeping our students safe!



PIETRA CLASSES

Join our Pietra Classes! Meeting each week on Saturday mornings at 7:00 a.m., Pietra is a whole-person fitness class that stretches and strengthens the body while refreshing the soul with prayer and meditation. Register at viribuswellness.com or by using the QR code. For more information, contact Maria Elliott at maria@viribuswellness.com.

SCHOOL

ATTENTION, PRE-K PARENTS!!!

We will be kicking off the Fall Pre-K soccer season on Saturday, September 9 at 10:00 a.m. Anyone with Pre-K students who wants to play, show up at St. Peter's Church fields and bring a ball if you have one! All are welcome, and we welcome other parents who want to help, too. Questions? Contact Sean Murray at sean.murray84@gmail.com or 614-551-1005.



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