



HOLY MASS SCHEDULE

SEE BULLETIN FOR HOLY DAYS

Saturday Vigil Sunday 4:00pm 8:30am

10:30am 12:30pm

Daily

Monday-Friday 6:30am Monday-Saturday 8:15am

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

Please contact the Parish office.

614.885.7814 SAINTMICHAEL-CD.ORG 5750 NORTH HIGH STREET WORTHINGTON, OHIO 43085



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.

"Prayer is the best weapon we have; it is the key to God's heart. You must speak to Jesus not only with your lips, but with your heart." +SAINT PADRE PIO

Monday, September 18 ~ Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Luke 7:1-10 When Jesus had finished all his words to the people, he entered Capernaum. A centurion there had a slave who was ill and about to die, and he was valuable to him. When he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and save the life of his slave. They approached Jesus and strongly urged him to come, saying, "He deserves to have you do this for him, for he loves our nation and he built the synagogue for us." And Jesus went with them, but when he was only a short distance from the house, the centurion sent friends to tell him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof. Therefore, I did not consider myself worthy to come to you; but say the word and let my servant be healed. For I too am a person subject to authority, with soldiers subject to me. And I say to one, *Go*, and he goes; and to another, *Come here*, and he comes; and to my slave, *Do this*, and he does it." When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him and, turning, said to the crowd following him, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." When the messengers returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

Meditation: A Roman official boldly sought Jesus with a daring request. What made him confident was that Jesus would receive his request and act favorably towards him. Like a true soldier, he knew the power of command. And he saw in Jesus both the power and the mercy of God to heal and restore life. In the Roman world the position of centurion was very important. He was an officer in charge of a hundred soldiers. In a certain sense, he was the backbone of the Roman army, the cement which held the army together. Polybius, an ancient writer, describes what a centurion should be: "They must not be so much venturesome seekers after danger as men who can command, steady in action, and reliable; they ought not to be over-anxious to rush into the fight, but when hard pressed, they must be ready to hold their ground, and die at their posts."

Prayer: Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart. 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: The centurion who approached Jesus was not only courageous, but faith-filled as well. He risked the ridicule of his cronies by seeking help from an itinerant preacher from Galilee, and well as mockery from the Jews. Nonetheless, he approached Jesus with confidence and humility. Augustine notes that the centurion regarded himself as unworthy to receive the Lord into his house: "Humility was the door through which the Lord entered to take full possession of one whom he already possessed." Jesus commends him for his faith and immediately grants him his request. Are you willing to suffer ridicule in the practice of your faith? When you need help, do you approach the Lord Jesus with expectant faith?

Tuesday, September 19 ~ Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time Saint Januarius, Bishop and Martyr

Holy Gospel: Luke 7:11-17 Jesus journeyed to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, he was moved with pity for her and said to her, "Do not weep." He stepped forward and touched the coffin; at this the bearers halted, and he said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God,

exclaiming, "A great prophet has arisen in our midst," and "God has visited his people." This report about him spread through the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.

Meditation: The scriptures make clear that God takes no pleasure in the death of anyone (see Ezekiel 33:11); he desires life, not death. Jesus not only had heart-felt compassion for the widow who lost her only son, he also had extraordinary supernatural power – the ability to restore life and to make whole again. Jesus, however, as an observant Jew incurred grave risk by approaching the bier, since the Jews understood that contact with a dead body made oneself ritually impure. His physical touch, however, not only restored life but brought freedom and wholeness to soul as well as body. This miracle took place near the spot where the prophet Elisha raised another mother's son back to life again (see 2 Kings 4:18-37). Jesus claimed as his own one whom death had seized as its prey. By his word of power he restored life for a lad marked for death. Jesus is Lord not only of the living but of the dead as well. Jesus triumphed over the grave and he promises that because he lives (and will never die again), we also shall have abundant life with and in him both now and forever (John 14:19). Do you trust in the Lord Jesus to give you abundant life and everlasting hope in the face of life's trials, misfortunes, and moments of despair?

Prayer: O God, who grant us to venerate the memory of the Martyr Saint Januarius, give us, we pray, the joy of his company in blessed happiness for all eternity. 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: How do you respond to the misfortunes of others? In a number of places the gospel records that Jesus was "moved to the depths of his heart" when he met with individuals and with groups of people. Our English word "compassion" doesn't fully convey the deeper meaning of the original Hebrew word which expresses heart-felt "sympathy" and personal identification with the suffering person's grief and physical condition. Why was Jesus so moved on this occasion when he met a widow and a crowded funeral procession on their way to the cemetery? Jesus not only grieved the untimely death of a young man, but he showed the depth of his concern for the woman who lost not only her husband, but here only child as well. When a member of the parish dies, how do you respond to the death of a member of the parish? What about the deceased's family members? Perhaps you may not know them well, but as a member of the parish community, should we not pray for the repose of the soul of the deceased, and extend heartfelt compassion and sympathy for the family? Of course we should. For this is an important aspect of community, of belonging to a parish, and what being a member of Christ body is all about.

Wednesday, September 20 ~ Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time Saint Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest and Martyr; Saint Paul Chong Ha-sang, Martyr, and Companions, Martyrs

Holy Gospel: Luke 7:31-35 Jesus said to the crowds: "To what shall I compare the people of this generation? What are they like? They are like children who sit in the marketplace and call to one another, 'We played the flute for you, but you did not dance. We sang a dirge, but you did not weep.' For John the Baptist came neither eating food nor drinking wine, and you said, 'He is possessed by a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking and you said, 'Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is vindicated by all her children."

Meditation: So, what do children's games have to do with the kingdom of God? The children in Jesus' parable react with disappoint because they cannot convince anyone to join in their musical medley. They complain that when they play their music at weddings, no one dances or sings; and when they play at funerals, it is the same dead response. This refrain echoes the words of Ecclesiastes 3:4 — there is a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance. Jesus' message of the kingdom of God is a proclamation of good news and of great joy for those who will listen; but it is also a warning for those who refuse. Why did the message of John the Baptist and the message of Jesus meet with resistance and deaf ears? It was out of jealously and spiritual blindness that the scribes and Pharisees attributed John the Baptist's austerities to the devil and they attributed Jesus' table fellowship as evidence for messianic pretense. They succeeded in frustrating God's plan for their lives because they had closed their hearts to the message of John the Baptist and now to Jesus.

Prayer: O God, who have been pleased to increase your adopted children in all the world, and who made the blood of the Martyrs Saint Andrew Kim Taegon and his companions a most fruitful seed of Christians, grant that we may be defended by their help and profit always from their example. 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 ever sat back and thought about those things that can make us spiritually dull and slow to hear God's voice? Like the generation of Jesus' time, our age is marked by indifference and contempt, especially in regards to the things of God's kingdom. Indifference dulls our ears to God's voice and to the good news of the gospel. Only the humble of heart can find joy in God's grace and favor. Do you listen to God's word with faith and obedience?

Thursday, September 21 ~ Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time Feast of Saint Matthew, Apostle

Holy Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13 As Jesus passed by, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat with Jesus and his disciples. The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" He heard this and said, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, I desire mercy, not sacrifice. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

Meditation: Look at how Jesus' simple two-word invitation of "follow me" changed Matthew's life forever. Matthew would never be the same person again after his encounter with Jesus. So why did Jesus choose a tax collector rather than a religious-minded person, such as a scribe or Pharisee trained in the law of God? Jesus wanted disciples who were willing to receive his word and be taught by him. Matthew was both willing and eager to jump at the opportunity to follow Jesus and his band of disciples. So what made Matthew so willing to exchange his wealthy business for the uncertain future of working with a missionary preacher – a preacher who bluntly told his followers that they would have to give up the comfort and security of their own homes, lands, and possessions to serve him? The Gospels do not tell us what must have passed through Matthew's mind when Jesus' called him. Matthew very likely had heard Jesus on some occasion speaking to the crowds about God's kingdom and the heavenly treasure that awaited those who chose to follow as Jesus' disciples. When Jesus called Matthew his response was immediate and positive. There was no hint of hesitation or uncertainty. He didn't tell Jesus that he needed some time to think it over. And he didn't go home to discuss it with his family or friends, or consult an advice column, blog or Facebook posting. He just left his office and began to join Jesus' company as one of his disciples.

Prayer: O God, who with untold mercy were pleased to choose as an Apostle Saint Matthew, the tax collector, grant that, sustained by his example and intercession, we may merit to hold firm in following you. 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: Jesus' defense for associating with outcasts and needy people was quite simple. He likened his ministry to that of a town physician who paid house visits to those who were sick, rather than those who were well. Jesus came to seek out those with the greatest need. Unfortunately, the orthodox of Jesus' day were so preoccupied with their own practice of religion that they neglected to help the very people who needed their care. Their religion was selfish because they didn't want to have anything to do with people not like themselves. Jesus stated his mission in unequivocal terms: I came not to call the righteous, but to call sinners. Just as a true physician seeks healing of the whole person — body, mind, and spirit, Jesus, likewise, offers wholeness of life to all who need God's mercy. Jesus not only heals, but he restores and transforms us and gives us new life in his Holy Spirit. Jesus' two-word invitation "follow me" is extended to each and every one of us. What is your RSVP to this great invitation – the greatest invitation you will ever receive! One that has true rewards in this life, and for all eternity!

Friday, September 22 ~ Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Luke 8:1-3 Jesus journeyed from one town and village to another, preaching and proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom of God. Accompanying him were the Twelve and some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, Susanna, and many others who provided for them out of their resources.

Meditation: Are you ready to serve the Lord and to support the work of the gospel with your personal resources? During his three years of public ministry Jesus traveled widely. The gospel records that a band of women accompanied Jesus and the twelve apostles. This was a diverse group of women; some came from rich and prominent families; some had been prostitutes, and others had been afflicted with mental and physical infirmities. We know that Mary Magdalene had lived a very troubled life before Jesus freed her from seven demons. She was privileged to be the first to see Jesus as the risen Lord. As the wife of King Herod's chief financial officer, Joanna was a wealthy lady of the court. It's unlikely that these two

would have ever met under other circumstances. What brought them together and united them in a bond of friendship, service, and loyalty to Jesus? Certainly Jesus and his message of the kingdom of God had transformed them. Unlike the apostles, who took great pride in being the chosen twelve, these women did not seek position or demand special privileges. Jesus had touched them so deeply that they were grateful to do anything for him, even menial service. They brought their gifts and resources to Jesus to use as he saw fit. Or are you more like the status-conscious apostles who were concerned for their position, or like the women who were content to serve Jesus quietly and generously with their personal resources? In our fallen state, our natural tendency is to want to be served and placed first and to avoid giving too much of ourselves to the service of others. And besides, who really prefers to take the lowly place of a servant who puts the needs of others before their own needs?

Prayer: Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you With all our heart. 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: Our privilege as children of God and disciples of Jesus is to serve as Jesus served with humility, selfless love, generosity, joy, and a willingness to do whatever God asks of us. God, in his turn, gives us every good gift and grace we need to carry out our task and mission. God in his infinite power needs no one, but in his wisdom and love, he chooses to entrust his work through each one of us. His Holy Spirit equips us with all that we need to love and serve others. No one is unimportant or unnecessary in God's economy. The least in his kingdom find a home and a mission at Jesus' side. Do you know the joy of serving Jesus in company with others who love and serve him willingly?

Saturday, September 23 ~ Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time Saint Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)

Holy Gospel: Luke 8:4-15 When a large crowd gathered, with people from one town after another journeying to Jesus, he spoke in a parable. "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path and was trampled, and the birds of the sky ate it up. Some seed fell on rocky ground, and when it grew, it withered for lack of moisture. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold." After saying this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear." Then his disciples asked him what the meaning of this parable might be. He answered, "Knowledge of the mysteries of the Kingdom of God has been granted to you; but to the rest, they are made known through parables so that they may look but not see, and hear but not understand. "This is the meaning of the parable. The seed is the word of God. Those on the path are the ones who have heard, but the Devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved. Those on rocky ground are the ones who, when they hear, receive the word with joy, but they have no root; they believe only for a time and fall away in time of temptation. As for the seed that fell among thorns, they are the ones who have heard, but as they go along, they are choked by the anxieties and riches and pleasures of life, and they fail to produce mature fruit. But as for the seed that fell on rich soil, they are the ones who, when they have heard the word, embrace it with a generous and good heart

Meditation: Jesus' parable of the sower is about those who hear his word. There are different ways of accepting God's word and they produce different kinds of fruit accordingly. There is the prejudiced hearer who has a shut mind. Such a person is unteachable and blind to the things of God. Then there is the shallow hearer who fails to think things out or think them through; such a person lacks spiritual depth. They may initially respond with an emotional fervor; but when it wears off their mind wanders to something else. Another type of hearer is the person who has many interests or cares, but who lacks the ability to hear or comprehend what is truly important. Such a person is forever too busy to pray or too preoccupied to study and meditate on God's word. Then there is the one whose mind is open. Such a person is at all times willing to listen and to learn. He or she is never too proud or too busy to learn.

Prayer: Almighty ever-living God, who, by a singular grace, gave the Priest Saint Pio of Pietrelcina a share in the Cross of your Son and, by means of his ministry, renewed the wonders of your mercy, grant that through his intercession we may be united constantly to the sufferings of Christ, and so brought happily to the glory of the resurrection. 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.

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.

SAINT MICHAEL STAFF DIRECTORY

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Parochial Vicar:

Fr. Wojciech Stachura, SAC

Priest in Residence/Diocesan Judicial Vicar:

Fr. Robert Kitsmiller

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Dcn. Bill Demidovich

Dcn. Klaus Fricke (Retired)

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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 minstry 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

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TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, September 17

8:30 a.m. + John & Sue Korte (Tom & Maureen Preston)

10:30 a.m. For the People

12:30 p.m. + Ann & John W. Rutter (Annmarie Gildersleeve)

Monday, September 18

6:30 a.m. + Rose Ademescu

8:15 a.m. + Susan DePasquale (Audrey & Uncle Joe)

Tuesday, September 19

6:30 a.m. + Maureen Ferega (James Ferega) 8:15 a.m. + James Mentel (Rick & Tiziana Sager)

Wednesday, September 20

6:30 a.m. + Ben Jeffcoat (Vicki McMillian)

8:15 a.m. For the School

Thursday, September 21

6:30 a.m. + Fred Miller

8:15 a.m. Living & Deceased members of

the Kraus Family

Friday, September 22

6:30 a.m. + Provida Masi (Laura Wells) 8:15 a.m. + Poor Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, September 23

8:15 a.m. + Cesidio Pizzuti (The Pizzuti Family)

4:00 p.m. + Don Munhall (Jody Munhall)

Sunday, September 24

8:30 a.m. + Dolores Goetz

10:30 a.m. + Maureen Ferega (Respect Life Ministry)

12:30 p.m. For the People



SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's." – Romans 14:8

This is the essence of stewardship – everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts that God has given us, especially our very own lives. Pray to God, daily, and ask Him how He is calling you to the live the life that He intended for you.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP:

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

Envelopes\$	10,850.00
Online Giving\$	
Total:\$	
SEPTEMBER 10, 2023	
Envelopes\$	10,650.75
Online Giving\$	
Total:\$	



BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS ON THE BAPTISM OF BRIDGET ELIZABETH RIZER



PARISH CALENDAR: SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY, September 17	11:30 a.m. RCIA (UMR) 11:30 a.m. PSR (LMR) 2:00 p.m. Baptism (C) 2:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Ministry (Gym) 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Ministry (MH)	Thursday, September 21	Eucharistic Exposition (Adoration Chapel) 5:30 p.m. Cub Scouts (U)
Monday, September 18	6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (U) 6:30 p.m. Festival Committee Meeting (MH)	Friday, September 22	Eucharistic Exposition (Adoration Chapel)
Tuesday, September 19	7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (C)	Saturday, September 23	6:45 a.m. Men's Faith & Fellowship (UMR) 7:00 a.m. Pietra Class (LMR) 2:30 p.m. Confessions (C)
Wednesday, September 20	6:30 p.m. Holy Hour & Confessions (C)	SUNDAY, September 24	11:30 a.m. RCIA (UMR) 11:30 a.m. PSR (LMR) 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-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, the Gospel delves into the wonderful yet often challenging world of forgiveness. Forgiving those who have hurt us can be challenging. The bigger the hurt the more difficult it is to forgive, and for many people, also the longer it takes to forgive. Peter, it seems from his question in the Gospel today, also found it difficult to forgive (Matthew 18:21). He asked Jesus, "Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?" It could give the impression that Peter was finding it difficult to forgive. Jesus said Peter is to forgive not seven times but seventy-seven times (Matthew 18:21). When Jesus says this, He is saying we are not to hold any grudges. Holding grudges, being angry and resentful, storing up anger in our hearts, is very unhealthy; such behavior can eat away at a person. Let's explore this. Somebody did us a great injustice in the past. Every time we meet that person or think of that person, we have feelings of revenge or resentment or anger. Forgiving seventy-seven times is thinking thoughts of forgiveness every time we meet that person or think of that person. Forgiving seventy-seven times is breaking the cycle of thinking revengefully and instead thinking forgivingly. Is there anything that can help us to forgive those who have hurt us? Forgiveness is a decision - make the decision today to forgive and in doing so rid yourself of that ball and chain that each of us places around our ankle when we either fail to forgive, or outright refuse to forgive. Contrary to what some might think, forgiveness does not mean blotting out painful memories - it does, however, mean not acting out of them. One thing I say to people who are having difficulty forgiving a hurt is to repeat to themselves, "I will not allow 'X' to control my life. I take control of my life back from 'X.' From now on I will control my life." Another thought that should help us to forgive is to remember that Jesus died to save the other person just as He died to save you. Try to visualize the person beneath Jesus on the cross. Can you see Jesus dying for that person? Think of the parable in the Gospel today (Matthew 18:21-35). The king forgave the servant who owed ten thousand talents (a huge sum of money by any standard). Then, in the parable, that servant was owed the very small sum of 100 denarii (one hundred days wages) but did not forgive. So, in our case, God has forgiven each of us 10,000 talents, and we are asked to forgive just 100 denarii when others offend us. Another help to forgive somebody is to be humble enough to admit that we cannot control another person in the sense of expecting an apology from the other. Giving up the need to control or dominate the person who hurt us, surrendering the need to expect them to ask forgiveness from us, frees us to forgive them. In the Mass, we celebrate Jesus dying on Calvary for us. Because of His death on Calvary, the debt of 10,000 talents we owed God has been forgiven, and so each of us now goes from here and forgives those who owe us 100 denarii. Folks, sometimes the familiar becomes all-too familiar to the point that we no longer see and appreciate what we should. For instance, look at the location of the Lord's altar in our parish Church - directly underneath the Cross of Christ where Christ laid down everything, emptying Himself out in mercy and love for us, opening His arms wide to embrace us and to teach us how to fill our arms and hearts. At the altar of this Mass today, Jesus opens His arms in mercy and seeks to fill us with His love, inviting us to embrace Him, His Body and Blood, in the Eucharist. Pray that just as Jesus Christ forgives each of us repeatedly, we will forgive one another in the same way. Please remember this: To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because Jesus has forgiven the inexcusable in each one of us!

OF NOTE...

OUR PARISH RCIA CLASSES BEGIN SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, FOLLOWING THE 10:30 A.M. MASS, so if you were not available to come to one of the inquiry sessions last Sunday, please stop by in the Upper Meeting Room immediately after the 10:30 a.m. Mass about joining our RCIA group, or contact Jake Neal at jake.a.neal@gmail.com.

SPEAKING OF FORGIVENESS: Our new Weekly Holy Hour with Confessions has been well-attended. Having 2-3 priests available to hear your Confessions during this time is advantageous for you and your families, while spending quality time praying before Jesus our Lord, Savior and Redeemer. Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by Confessions, with Benediction at 7:30 p.m.

WE'RE ADDING A LATE-SUNDAY AFTERNOON, 5:00 p.m. MASS AT SAINT MICHAEL'S: For some time there has been an increasing desire in parishes to attend Mass late on Sundays; this appears to be the case at Saint Michael's as well. So beginning Sunday, October 1, we will add a 5:00 p.m. Mass to our regular Sunday Mass times.

OUR PATRONAL FEAST DAY IS MOVED TO SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, which provides us with an opportunity to celebrate the *Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael* as a Solemnity and as a larger parish family. Given the celebration, our Knights of Columbus will serve a hot breakfast at the 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses; and donuts will be available at the 12:30 p.m. Mass.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 11445, who received the Star Council Award designation. Our Knights Council is a great group – I hope that the men of our parish consider joining our Knights so that they can enjoy all that the Knights offer to one another and in service to our parish and parish family.

DOERS OF THE WORD

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Learning to Forgive Through the Saints

by Fr. Joseph M. Esper

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. ~Matthew 6:14-15

It goes against our sinful human nature to renounce vengeance and to leave our malefactors unpunished, but this is what is expected of us. "Vengeance is mine; I will repay," says the Lord." (Rom. 12:19). This very difficult teaching was obeyed by the saints — although in some cases, not without much struggle — and we must also heed it.

The first Christian martyr, St. Stephen, gives us a powerful example of Christian forgiveness. The Acts of the Apostles tells how he was stoned to death for his fearless proclamation of the Gospel. His last words were "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." (Acts 7:60)

This was also the sentiment expressed by the virgin and martyr St. Maria Goretti, who was murdered in 1902 when she was only twelve. Maria was assaulted by a neighboring youth named Alessandro Serenelli; when she resisted his sexual advances, the enraged youth repeatedly stabbed her. Before dying in a hospital the following day, Maria expressed her forgiveness of Alessandro. (It was eight years before he accepted it; Alessandro was unrepentant in prison, until he had a dream of Maria gathering flowers and presenting them to him.)

St. John Vianney noted, "The saints have no hatred, no bitterness; they forgive everything, and think they deserve much more for their offenses against God." For example, St. Louis IX, who reigned as King of France for thirty-five years, was known for his mercy and impartial justice and even forgave members of the nobility who unsuccessfully rebelled against his rule.

The founder of the Society of Jesus, St. Ignatius of Loyola, once walked a hundred miles during the winter to nurse a man who had fallen ill — a man who, only a few weeks earlier, had stolen Ignatius's meager savings.

During the persecution of the Church by Queen Elizabeth I of England, the priest and martyr St. Edmund Campion was betrayed and arrested; while in prison, he was visited by the man who had betrayed him. Not only did Edmund forgive his betrayer; he also urged him to leave England, where he might be in danger himself, and gave him a letter of safe-conduct to a Catholic nobleman in Germany.

Our Lord's parable of the unforgiving servant (Matt. 18:23-35) reminds us that if we insist on strict justice in the cases of those who've sinned against us, we will also be held fully liable for our own far greater offenses against the infinite majesty of God. Because the saints were so honest in admitting their own sins, it became very easy and natural for them to forgive the offenses of others.

How can we learn to control our natural tendency to lash out against those who hurt us? After all, our sincere desire to practice Christian forgiveness can, under certain circumstances, easily be overwhelmed by strong feelings of rage or personal affront. The sixteenth-century priest St. Philip Neri suggested that we practice controlling our emotions: we pretend that we've just suffered terrible insults or misfortune and then imagine ourselves imitating Christ's example by bearing these burdens with patience and charity. This sort of rehearsing will eventually make it easier for us automatically to respond in a more loving way to real affronts.

Also, as St. Augustine notes, "There are many kinds of alms, the giving of which helps us to obtain pardon for our sins; but none is greater than that by which we forgive from our heart a sin that someone has committed against us."

In God's eyes the most dignified or noble response to an injury is to turn the other cheek.

One night two thieves stole the oxen that belonged to the hermit St. Philip of Zell, but in trying to escape, they got lost in the woods, and at sunrise, to their great dismay, they found themselves

back in front of Philip's hermitage. The saint emerged, knowing what had happened, and the confused and frightened thieves begged his forgiveness. Philip welcomed and reassured them, and let them go — but only after feeding them. As these examples show, true Christian forgiveness isn't meant to be only a religious concept, but a way of life.

Sometimes forgiving those who wrong us can set the stage for miracles of grace. As St. John of the Cross said, "Where there is no love, pour love in, and you will draw out love," and several examples verify the truth of this observation. For instance, the thirteenth-century priest St. Peregrine Laziosi was quite irreligious as a youth and actively involved himself in a political movement against the Church. The Pope sent St. Philip Benizi to mediate a dispute, but he was accosted by Peregrine, who struck him in the face. When St. Philip responded simply by obeying our Lord's teaching to turn the other cheek (Luke 6:29), the future St. Peregrine immediately repented of what he had done and converted to Catholicism.

The great bishop of Geneva, St. Francis de Sales, was intensely hated by a lawyer there, who shot at the saint; he missed Francis, but struck a priest who was standing with him. Accordingly, the would-be assassin was sentenced to death. Francis, however, pleaded on his behalf, and his death sentence was commuted. Even so, the lawyer showed no gratitude, but actually spat in Francis's face. The saint responded sadly, "I have been able to save you from human justice, but unless you change your dispositions, you will fall into the hands of Divine Justice, from which no power can save you." As St. Francis shows us, the fact that not everyone will accept our offer of forgiveness doesn't excuse us from the obligation of extending it.

Is it always easy to forgive others? Certainly not. Anger is a powerful emotion, and even saints can be tempted by a desire for revenge, but they simply try harder to use the help God provides to overcome these feelings. When his father and brothers were murdered, Bl. Peter of Pisa wanted to leave his monastery and avenge their deaths, but his sister Bl. Clare Gambacorta aided him in rising above this temptation. By fervent prayer and with the help of his sister's example, Peter arrived at the point where he could sincerely forgive the murderers.

An even more dramatic conversion and act of mercy involved St. John Gualbert. John's older brother Hugh was murdered by someone pretending to be a friend. John swore vengeance, and one day encountered his unarmed enemy in a narrow passage that allowed no room for escape. Drawing his sword, John advanced, but was surprised when the murderer fell to his knees and crossed his arms on his breast. This posture reminded John of how Christ forgave His enemies while on the Cross. Profoundly moved, John put away his sword, embraced his enemy, and left him in peace. (It's said that John then went to a church to pray, and the image of Christ on the crucifix there miraculously bowed its head in recognition of John's sincere repentance and his act of forgiving his enemy.)

John Gualbert, like every other saint before and after him, came to realize the absolutely essential need to forgive our enemies, for Christ will reign only in a heart that seeks to be at peace.

For Further Reflection

- "If you are suffering from a bad man's injustice, forgive him, lest there be two bad men."
 St. Augustine
- "Pardon one another so that later on you will not remember the injury. The recollection of an injury is itself wrong. It adds to our anger, nurtures our sin, and hates what is good. It is a rusty arrow and poison for the soul. It puts all virtue to flight." St. Francis of Paola
- "I cannot believe that a soul which has arrived so near to Mercy itself, where she knows what she is, and how many sins God has forgiven her, should not instantly and willingly forgive others, and be pacified and wish well to everyone who has injured her, because she remembers the kindness and favors our Lord has shown her, whereby she has seen proofs of exceeding great love, and she is glad to have an opportunity offered to show some gratitude to her Lord." St. Teresa of Avila

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The Role of Godparents

By Fr. William Saunders

Please explain the role of godparents in Catholic baptism. How strictly should the potential godparents adhere to traditional Catholic teaching? If a couple does not know sufficiently "qualified" godparents, is it acceptable for them to act as the godparents themselves?

The role of the godparent for baptism is rooted in the role of the sponsor in the catechumenate, which originated in the early Church. Recall that until the year 313, the Church was under the persecution of the Roman Empire and had to be cautious in conducting its affairs so as to prevent pagan infiltration and persecution. Also, until the Middle Ages, the Sacraments of Initiation — baptism, holy Eucharist, and confirmation — were administered at once. The role of the sponsor then was to attest to the integrity of the person, oftentimes an adult, seeking admission into the Church as well as to assist him during the catechumenate in preparing for these sacraments and in living a Christian life. For infants, these sponsors would also make the Profession of Faith in the child's name and accept the responsibility of instructing the child in the faith, especially if the parents failed in this duty. About the year 800 when infant baptism was truly the norm, these sponsors were called "patrinus," or "godfather." Traditionally, we identify the sponsor of a child for baptism as the godparent — godmother or godfather, but the technical term remains "sponsor."

According to the *Code of Canon Law*, "Insofar as possible, one to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who is to assist an adult in Christian initiation, or, together with the parents, to present an infant at the baptism, and who will help the baptized to lead a Christian life in harmony with baptism, and to fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it" (No. 872). This statement clearly reflects the historical roots of the role of sponsor.

To be a sponsor, a person must be chosen by the person to be baptized, or by the parents or guardians of a child, or, in their absence, by the pastor or minister of the sacrament. The sponsor must not only have the intention of being a sponsor but also meet proper qualifications. The sponsor must have completed his sixteenth year unless the Bishop has established another age for sponsorship, or the pastor or minister judges that a just cause warrants an exception to the rule. He must be a Catholic who has received the sacraments of holy Eucharist and confirmation, and "leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken." Moreover, the sponsor cannot be impeded by some canonical penalty. Ideally, this sponsor at baptism should also be the sponsor for confirmation. Note that the mother and father of the child cannot serve as sponsors. Also note that these are the same requirements for confirmation sponsors. (Cf. *Code of Canon Law*, No. 874.1).

Strictly speaking, a person only needs one sponsor for baptism — male or female, but may have two sponsors, one male and one female. Here the *Code of Canon Law* wants to eliminate the practice of having numerous sponsors, as has occurred in some cultures (No. 873). Also, in the case of an emergency, such as imminent death, no sponsor is needed.

Here we should pause to clarify who qualifies as a Catholic godparent. A Catholic who does not practice the faith by regularly attending Mass or who is in an invalid marriage disqualifies himself/herself from being a godparent. Moreover, if a person is Catholic but antagonistic to the faith, i.e. has the attitude "I am a Catholic but...," and would not be a good example and witness to the faith also disqualifies himself. If a person is not striving to fulfill his own obligations of Baptism and Confirmation, he will not fulfill the responsibilities of helping another to do so.

As a pastor, I am truly frustrated each time someone comes by the rectory office and wants me to sign a sponsor's certificate and attest that he or she is a practicing Catholic when I do not recognize them, they have not registered in the parish, and they do not attend Mass faithfully. In justice, I cannot meet such a request.

Parents need to find good practicing Catholics for godparents. Sadly, this task can be very difficult in today's world. The best place is to look for relatives, even grandparents, who have a blood relationship with the godchild and have kept the faith over the years. Good friends are also appropriate, but sometimes friendships wane, leaving the godchild without an active godparent. Godparents should be faithful individuals who are ready to accept the responsibility of being a part of a godchild's life for the rest of his life.

What if someone would like to have a faithful Protestant friend as a sponsor? Technically, only Catholics can be godparents or sponsors. A Christian of another denomination, whether Orthodox or Protestant, however, may be a "Christian witness" to the baptism along with the Catholic godparent. The reason for this distinction and restriction is that the godparent not only is taking responsibility for the religious education and spiritual formation of the baptized person, but also is representing the Church, the community of faith, into which the person is being baptized. A Christian who is not Catholic, although perhaps a very holy, Christian, cannot fully attest to the beliefs of the Catholic Church. Likewise, a Catholic can only be a Christian witness for someone who is baptized into another Christian denomination. (Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, Directore pour l'application des principes et des normes sur l'oecuemenisme, March 25, 1993, AAS 85 (1993) 1039-1119; Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms on Ecumenism (Washington: USCC, 1993); Origins 23 (1993) 129-160)).

In all, godparents serve a special role in the life of the baptized person. Therefore, each parent should choose a godparent not just because of a blood relationship or friendship; rather, a godparent should be a trustworthy witness of the faith who will help the godchild attain salvation.

Father William Saunders is pastor of Our Lady of Hope parish in Potomac Falls, Virginia. He is Dean of the Notre Dame Graduate School of Christendom College. The above article is a "Straight Answers" column he wrote for the Arlington Catholic Herald. Father Saunders is the author of <u>Straight Answers</u>, a book based on 100 of his columns, and <u>Straight Answers II</u>. This article is made available courtesy of the Arlington Catholic Herald.

Reflect on the Duties and Responsibilities of Parents and Godparents...

During Baptism the parents will be asked: "You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him/her in the practice of the (Catholic) faith. It will be your duty to bring him/her up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?"

During Baptism the Godparents will be asked: "Are you ready to help the parents of this child in their duty as Christian parents?"

Parents and Godparents will also be asked during the Baptism Ritual...

Dear parents and godparents: You have come here to present this child for baptism.

By water and the Holy Spirit he/she is to receive the gift of new life from God, who is love. On your part, you must make it your constant care to bring him/her up in the practice of the (Catholic) faith. See that the divine life which God gives him/her is kept safe from the poison of sin, to grow always stronger in his/her heart. If your faith makes you ready to accept this responsibility, renew now the vows of your own baptism. Reject sin; profess your faith in Christ Jesus. This is the faith of the Church. This is the faith in which this child is about to be baptized.

CELEBRANT: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth? PARENTS AND GODPARENTS: I do.

CELEBRANT: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

PARENTS AND GODPARENTS: I do.

CELEBRANT: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting? PARENTS AND GODPARENTS: I do.

CELEBRANT: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

AROUND THE PARISH

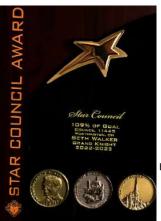
MAKE TIME FOR ADORATION

There is no better way to spend an hour of your week than in the presence of the Eucharist. Eucharistic Adoration is now available at St. Michael three days a week! Join us in the Church on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m. for our new weekly Holy Hour with Confessions. Our Adoration Chapel offers Eucharistic Exposition on both Thursdays and Fridays. Our current Exposition hours are from 9:00 a.m. Thursday morning-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. Signing up is easy to do from your phone or computer. You can sign up at StMichael.WeAdoreHim.com.









Congratulations to the Knights of Columbus for earning the Star Council Award!

The Star Council Award recognizes overall excellence in the areas of membership, promotion of fraternal insurance benefits, sponsorship of faith formation programs and service-oriented activities.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE **WORD**

Anyone interested in volunteering to lead or assist with Children's Liturgy of the Word during the 10:30 a.m. Masses are invited to join us for a short informational Zoom meeting on Wednesday, September 20 at 6:30 p.m. All volunteers are required to have PGC clearance before they can assist. Questions? Please contact Jennifer at childrenslitury@saintmichael-cd.org.

NEW CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD SCHEDULE

We are excited to begin a new year of Children's Liturgy of the Word! Beginning this weekend, we are happy to be able to offer the Children's Liturgy to all four-to-seven-year-old children who are present at the 10:30 a.m. Mass each Sunday. Children are invited to hear the Word of God in a manner especially prepared for children. We begin with prayer followed by readings and reflection. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the wonder of God's Word. No registration is required. If you have any questions, please email childrensliturgy@saintmichael-cd.org.



Are you interested in joining the Catholic Church? RCIA will begin on Sunday, September 17th after the 10:30 a.m. Mass in the Upper Meeting Room. Scan the QR code to register or for more information.

RADIO FUN THAT WILL LEAVE YOU SMILING

Fr. Mike will be on the radio on Thursday, September 21st, from 10:45-11:30 a.m.! Fr. Mike will be playing on a team with two other priests, in a basketball tournament to see which priest team will win the gold medal! For every donation made in his name prior to or during the AM820 radio event, Fr. Mike's team will receive additional shots. To donate, call 614-459-4820 or go to www.StGabrielRadio.com and be sure to write Fr. Lumpe's name in the "comments" section.

MEN'S FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, September 23rd, we continue "Worthy of the Call" with the dynamic Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers. We focus on the first commandment with his presentation called, "Staying Awake in the Woke Culture." Let us keep learning together to live faithfully for our families and our church. Join us in praying with your brothers in Christ this coming Saturday morning. We meet at 6:45 a.m. in the Upper Meeting Room to pray the joyful mysteries of the Rosary followed by the presentation and discussion. We finish by 8:00 p.m. so that you can attend Mass for the memorial of St. Pio of Pietrelcina, a great intercessor. Men of all ages may join us any week. Ask a friend to come with you. Any questions can be directed to mensgroup@saintmichael-cd.org.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY & CLOTHING ROOM

The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry is in need of chunky type soups and small jars of peanut butter. Donations can be placed in the boxes in Marian Hall. Thank you for your generosity! Our clothing room is no longer accepting summer clothing items. Please hold on to those donations until next spring! We are happy to take fall and winter items including coats.



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.

ST. MICHAEL NOVENA

JOIN US IN PRAYING THE ST. MICHAEL NOVENA LEADING UP TO THE FEAST OF THE ARCHANGELS ON SEPTEMBER 29

First Day - September 21: By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of Seraphim, may the Lord make us worthy to burn with the fire of perfect charity. Amen.

Our Father....Hail Mary (3x)...Prayer of St. Michael the Archangel

Second Day - September 22: By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of Cherubim, may the Lord grant us the grace to leave the ways of sin and run in the paths of Christian perfection. Amen.

Our Father....Hail Mary (3x)...Prayer of St. Michael the Archangel

Third Day - September 23: By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of Thrones, may the Lord infuse into our hearts a true and sincere spirit of humility. Amen.

Our Father....Hail Mary (3x)...Prayer of St. Michael the Archangel

Fourth Day - September 24: By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of Dominions, may the Lord give us the grace to govern our senses and overcome any unruly passions. Amen.

Our Father....Hail Mary (3x)...Prayer of St. Michael the Archangel

Fifth Day- September 25: By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of Powers, may the Lord protect our souls against the snares and temptations of the devil.

Amen.

Our Father....Hail Mary (3x)...Prayer of St. Michael the Archangel

Sixth Day - September 26: By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of Virtues, may the Lord preserve us from evil and falling into temptation. Amen.

Our Father....Hail Mary (3x)...Prayer of St. Michael the Archangel

Seventh Day - September 27: By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of Principalities, may God fill our souls with a true spirit of obedience. Amen. Our Father....Hail Mary (3x)...Prayer of St. Michael the Archangel

Eighth Day - September 28: By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of Archangels, may the Lord give us perserverance in faith and in all good works, that we may attain the glory of Heaven. Amen.

Our Father....Hail Mary (3x)...Prayer of St. Michael the Archangel

Ninth Day - September 29: By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of Angels, may the Lord grant us to be protected by them in this mortal life and conducted in the life to come to Heaven. Amen.

Our Father....Hail Mary (3x)...Prayer of St. Michael the Archangel

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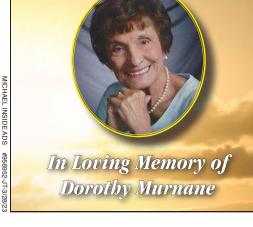


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