



HOLY MASS SCHEDULE

SEE BULLETIN FOR HOLY DAYS

Saturday Vigil	4:00pm
Sunday	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.

614.885.7814

SAINTMICHAEL-CD.ORG

5750 NORTH HIGH STREET
WORTHINGTON, OHIO 43085



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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

Director of RCIA:

Jake Neal

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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-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, September 25

6:30 a.m. + Justa, Maria & Ramon Rodriguez (Luis & Francoise Caso)
8:15 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of the Eckstein Family

Tuesday, September 26

6:30 a.m. + Jerry & Rosemary Mogan (Sue Mogan)
8:15 a.m. + Deceased Members of St. Vincent de Paul Ministry

Wednesday, September 27

6:30 a.m. + Marilyn Powers (The Powers Family)
8:15 a.m. For the School

Thursday, September 28

6:30 a.m. + Ben Jeffcoat (The Gentile Family)
8:15 a.m. Special Intention of the A.E. Kraus Family

Friday, September 29

6:30 a.m. + Nanette Spence (William Hinger)
8:15 a.m. Special Intention of Sue Farrell

Saturday, September 30

8:15 a.m. + Luis Vincente Caso, Manuel & Arsenio Caso
(Luis & Francoise Caso)
4:00 p.m. For the People

Sunday, October 1

8:30 a.m. Special Intention of the 8:15 a.m. Rosary Group
10:30 a.m. + Sharon Padilla (Friends of the Dowdy Family)
12:30 p.m. + Jerry Walsh (Tom & Maureen Preston)
5:00 p.m. + Don Knight (Mike & Maria Wolever)



SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 STEWARDSHIP AWARENESS SUNDAY IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last." – Matthew 20:16

You've heard the saying "it's not where you start, but how you finish." This certainly applies to this Bible passage. We have a responsibility not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. We are called to generously share our gifts with others, not hoard them for our own use. Our sincere gratitude and cheerful generosity will help us live "God-centered" lives and not "self-centered" lives.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

Envelopes\$ 11,506.10
Online Giving\$ 10,921.00
Total:\$ 22,427.10

PARISH CALENDAR: SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

SUNDAY, September 24	11:30 a.m. RCIA (UMR) 11:30 a.m. PSR (LMR) 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Ministry (MH)	Thursday, September 28	Eucharistic Exposition (Adoration Chapel) 5:30 p.m. Cub Scouts (U) 7:00 p.m. 50th Anniversary of Ordination Mass for Msgr. Cody (C, MH)
Monday, September 25	6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (U)	Friday, September 29	Eucharistic Exposition (Adoration Chapel)
Tuesday, September 26	9:00 a.m. St. Monica Group (UMR) 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (C) 7:30 p.m. WFF Bible Study (UMR)	Saturday, September 30	6:45 a.m. Men's Faith & Fellowship (UMR) 7:00 a.m. Pietra Class (LMR) 2:30 p.m. Confessions (C) 5:00 p.m. Reception for Solemnity of St. Michael (MH)
Wednesday, September 27	6:30 p.m. Holy Hour & Confessions (C)	SUNDAY, October 1	K of C Community Breakfast after 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Masses (U) 11:30 a.m. RCIA (UMR) 11:30 a.m. PSR (LMR) Friendship Sunday after 12:30 p.m. Mass (MH) 2:00 p.m. Baptism (C) 2:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Ministry (Gym) 6:00 p.m. Cookout for Solemnity of St. Michael (MH) 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-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, today's Gospel illustrates that it is not always easy to understand God's ways. In any case, it would be silly to be jealous of others because we only see the outside and we never know what crosses others might be carrying. The landowner in the parable in the Gospel understood human nature very well when he said, "Are you envious because I am generous?" (Matthew 20:15). Those who worked hard in the heat all day were jealous of those who worked for only one hour and yet got the same pay. But instead of being envious and jealous of those who have been dealt a better hand than us, there is a better attitude, to be grateful for the hand that each of us have been dealt without constantly comparing ourselves to the Joneses. If you are jealous of someone, stop for a moment and think of what life might be like for you right now if you were living in one of the areas hit by recent disasters – wildfires, earthquakes, hurricanes, all upending and affecting the lives and livelihoods of so many people who need our prayers and our help. If you feel that life has been unfair to you, the Bible has much to teach us to heal our attitudes. In many places, the Bible teaches us that we are to give thanks to God at all times in all circumstances. In Ephesians 5:20, we read, "Always and everywhere, give thanks to God who is our Father." In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, we read, "Be happy at all times; pray constantly and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus." In Colossians 3:17, we read, "Whatever you say or do, let it be in the name of the Lord Jesus, in thanksgiving to God, the Father, through Him." So even when others prosper or have more success or better chances, what can we do? We can give thanks to God for the blessings He has given to them and the blessings He has given to us. Another way of looking at this is that if God has blessed others greatly, He also expects much of them. Remember the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30); the one with five talents made five more, the one with two talents made two more. To the one who has been given much, much is expected. No matter what good fortune comes to others, it really doesn't matter, because as followers of Jesus, our aim is to use everything for the kingdom of God. In Matthew 6:33, we read, "Seek the kingdom of God first and all these other things will be given you as well." There is another way I would like to look at this; God has a perfect plan for each one of us. If others have more than you, it does not mean that God loves you less. How often we forget that God loves each one of us especially. In the parable, the landowner – who represents God – said, "My friend, I am not cheating you" (Matthew 20:13). God is our friend and is not cheating us. Think of parents and children. Parents have a different relationship with each child in their family, but equally love and cherish each child as a gift from God. God deals differently with each of us because God loves each of us in the way that God knows best for us and His kingdom, and so the attitude that each of us should have is to trust in God. "He said to one of them in reply, 'My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? [Or] am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?' Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last" (Matthew 20:13-16). On another issue, remember that God has not utterly forsaken the "first." He has left us a way and given us instruction on how to avoid the "curse" of our wealth and good fortune. Simply put, that we should use our status as "first" to bless others, and that our many gifts should be placed at the service of the human family. A few texts come to mind: "[Jesus said], 'I tell you, make friends for yourselves with deceitful wealth, so that when it fails, they [likely the poor whom we befriended] will welcome you into eternal dwellings'" (Luke 16:9). Also, "Tell the rich in the present age not to be proud and not to rely on so uncertain a thing as wealth but rather on God, who richly provides us with all things for our enjoyment. Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, ready to share, thus accumulating as treasure a good foundation for the future, so as to win the life that is true life" (1 Timothy 6:17-19). And so it is that the Lord tells us who are "cursed" to be first to store up our true treasure in heaven (Matthew 6:19). Of course, we do not store up our treasure in heaven by putting it in a balloon and letting it go toward the sky. Rather, we store it up by generously sharing with the poor and to those in need. Perhaps by simple gift, or by providing jobs and economic opportunity for others. Perhaps by sharing our gifts of knowledge, or time or other talents. In so doing, perhaps our curse of being among the first will be overcome and the challenge will be met. I have included in this bulletin an article on Saint Vincent de Paul, whose Feast we celebrate this coming week (Wednesday, September 27) and how you can help those in need by supporting our parish **Saint Vincent de Paul Chapter** both financially and as a volunteer.

CONGRATULATIONS to Msgr. John Cody, a son of Saint Michael Parish, who will celebrate his 50th Anniversary of Ordination at a special Mass this coming Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. Serving Jesus Christ, His Church and His people for 50 years is quite an accomplishment, and we pray for Monsignor and thank him.

A reminder that the Feast of the Archangels has been moved to Sunday, October 1, so that we can greater celebrate our Patronal Feast as a Solemnity and as a parish family. Also, beginning October 1, we will begin celebrating a regular **5:00 p.m. Mass on Sundays**.

~Fr. Mike Lumpe

DOERS OF THE WORD

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PARISH • 5750 N. HIGH STREET • WORTHINGTON, OHIO 43085 • (614) 885-7814

Saint Vincent de Paul: an Ordinary Saint

Feast Day ~ September 27

by Sean Fitzpatrick

Though a man of inexorable good deeds, St. Vincent de Paul was not a man of inexorable good humor. Though a man of inexhaustible kindness, he was not a man of inexhaustible patience. He was quick-tempered. He was cantankerous. But he was kind. Though he is a saint, St. Vincent was also a man—and saints that were more human than angelic are sometimes the best ones to emulate. St. Vincent de Paul is such a saint—a saint who was clearly a man who also happened to be a saint rather than a saint who also happened to be a man: a man who clearly relied on the grace of God in order to collect the lowly in his strong and rough embrace.

St. Vincent de Paul was short and squat with a square jaw and a square beard. Brown eyes glistened beneath black brows on either side of a peculiarly bulbous nose. In art, on the other hand, he is usually characterized with a meek gentility, smiling benevolently as he bears sick babes in from the wintry cold. This tender iconography of his tradition stands in contrast to the gruffer topography of his face, but together they convey an accurate idea of the man and the saint. St. Vincent was a man of coarse, country kindness who found, and then founded, a home with, and for, the very people he, as a young man, never imagined he would call his brethren.

Vincent was born to peasant farmers in 1581 in the French village of Pouy, near a stream called the Paul. As he grew up, Vincent longed to escape from the life of poverty and hard labor herding sheep and pigs; and, to this end, was determined to become a priest. He imagined that, as a priest, he would wear fine clothes, eat fine food and be well provided for all the days of his life. Vincent was a bright boy and showed strong propensities in reading and writing. So his good father sold his cattle and sent this son off to seminary. Vincent was overjoyed and, though he did look forward to the securities of being a village priest, he had a firm resolution to be a good and holy priest in return for the life he longed to lead.

The boy studied hard until he was both a young man and a young priest of God. At 24 years of age, Father Vincent took ship to Marseilles to sell land he had inherited from a wealthy patron, and, on the return voyage, his life changed forever. Barbary pirates overtook the vessel bearing him to Castres, swarmed overboard in a rush of screaming terror, and took over the boat, enslaving all on board, and turning its prow toward Tunisia. Rattling chains round his neck wrecked Vincent's dreams of a life of relative comfort. He was auctioned in a slave market in Tunis to the highest bidder.

Vincent's first owner was a fisherman, but finding his property prone to seasickness, sold him to a doctor, under whom Vincent learned much in the arts of alchemy and medicine. Upon the doctor's death, Vincent was passed on to a farmer—a former Franciscan priest-turned-Muslim named Guillaume Gautier. Witnessing the fervor of Vincent in the Faith, Gautier's heart re-converted and he arranged for an escape for himself and his friend to Christian country. They stole away in a boat across the Mediterranean for France.

Vincent had been a slave for only two years, but even those two altered the course of the rest of his years. He had tasted the privations, fears, sufferings, and strains of slavery and felt his soul stirring in a newfound realization and determination—he had experienced extreme poverty in strange lands and, having done so, he would never abandon the poor in their extremities in his homeland. He arrived in Paris and met a priest named Pierre de Berulle, who, recognizing a mysterious quality in Father Vincent de Paul, assigned him as chaplain to the wealthy de Gondi family. Vincent took up this assignment with a will, looking particularly to the peasants employed by the de Gondi's on their vast and various estates and houses. It was not long before Vincent realized that his apostolate was too great for a single priest, and thus, with the blessing and support of Madame de Gondi, he formed a company of priests that would live in private community while serving the spiritual needs of this extended community. He called them the Congregation of the Missions, and they took up the work of

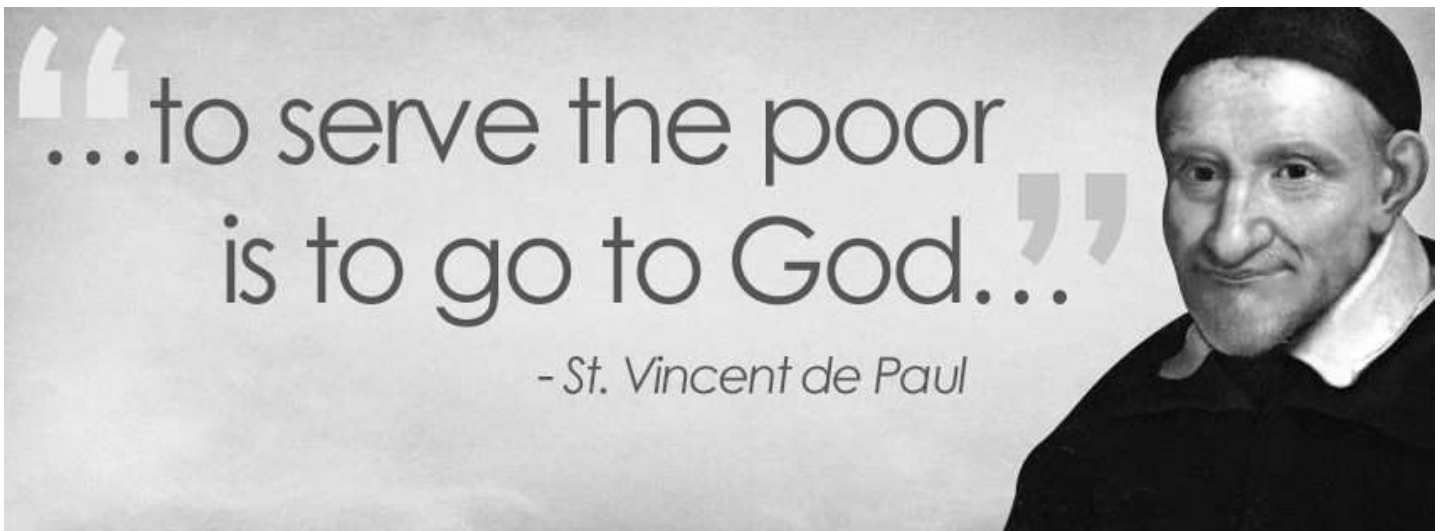
providing for the people of their parish, and also sought out the poor, the sick, and the destitute to offer relief and peace.

The company grew to the point that they soon had to establish headquarters of their own, which they did at an old estate called St. Lazarus, a mission previously employed in the care of lepers. This location served Vincent de Paul for the next thirty years, where he directed his brothers and sisters, the Sisters of Charity. Besides attending to the poor and sick, Father Vincent held retreats for clergymen, and devised systems to improve the lives of the poor, laboring particularly among imprisoned galley slaves. By the generous support of aristocratic Parisian women, Vincent was able to train his Sisters as nurses and teachers to better serve the needy of the city and outlying villages. They, like the Vincentian Brothers, lived an un-cloistered life among the people, dedicated to God's poor and sick. The Sisters of Charity grew in their membership as rapidly and robustly as the brotherhood, and before long toiled joyfully in hospitals, prisons, and orphanages across Europe, Africa, and eventually America.

St. Vincent de Paul came to Paris as a former slave prepared to be a slave for the poor, as he rode on horseback through the city reaching out to any abandoned child, filthy beggar, or jaded criminal he came across who languished in need of sympathy, mercy, and charity. When Father Vincent grew too old to ride, he walked. When he could not walk, he wrote letters of instruction and comfort. All the while, despite his strength or state, he prayed. The relief he brought to the destitute, the clerical reform and revival he initiated for priests, the vocations he facilitated for so many holy men and women, make Vincent de Paul stand out as one who accomplished much, but not for any miraculous reason. He was simply a hard-working man of God who persisted with a peasant's stubborn will to succeed. He passed to his final reward on September 27th, 1660, in Paris.

St. Vincent de Paul was an ordinary saint. He was not a visionary. He was not a prophet. He was not a wonder-worker. He had no powers save those that every ordinary man has at his disposal—and he used these and these alone to change the lives of those he met. As for himself, he changed his own into a life that reflected the sturdy and hidden life of Christ the laborer, poor by His own choice. The secret that inflamed St. Vincent's simple and stalwart heart was that people should look after one another—that people should love their neighbors as themselves—and that each person should shoulder the responsibility and the labor of this philosophy willingly and determinedly. Though poverty and hardship were things that tried his patience, human as he was, it became the foundation of his existence, his home, his heart, his heaven.

This article is made available courtesy of the Catholic Exchange.



**JOIN AND SUPPORT OUR SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PARISH
SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

Our parish Saint Vincent de Paul Chapter is very active in helping those in need. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact:

Maureen Preston at mepreston@columbus.rr.com

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.

“We cannot better assure our eternal happiness than by living and dying in the service of the poor, in the arms of Providence, and with genuine renouncement of ourselves in order to follow Jesus Christ.” +SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Monday, September 25 ~ Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Luke 8:16-18 Jesus said to the crowd: “No one who lights a lamp conceals it with a vessel or sets it under a bed; rather, he places it on a lampstand so that those who enter may see the light. For there is nothing hidden that will not become visible, and nothing secret that will not be known and come to light. Take care, then, how you hear. To anyone who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he seems to have will be taken away.”

Meditation: What does the image of light and a lamp tell us about God's kingdom? Lamps in the ancient world served a vital function, much like they do today. They enable people to see and work in the dark and to avoid stumbling. The Jews also understood “light” as an expression of the inner beauty, truth, and goodness of God. In his light we see light (Psalm 36:9). His word is a lamp that guides our steps (Psalm 119:105). God's grace not only illumines the darkness in our lives, but it also fills us with spiritual light, joy, and peace. Jesus used the image of a lamp to describe how his disciples are to live in the light of his truth and love. Just as natural light illumines the darkness and enables one to see visually, so the light of Christ shines in the hearts of believers and enables us to see the heavenly reality of God's kingdom. In fact, our mission is to be light-bearers of Christ so that others may see the truth of the gospel and be freed from the blindness of sin and deception.

Prayer: O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbor, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. 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 remarks that nothing can remain hidden or secret. We can try to hide things from others, from ourselves, and from God. How tempting to shut our eyes from the consequences of our sinful ways and bad habits, even when we know what those consequences are. And how tempting to hide them from others and even from God. But, nonetheless, everything is known to God who sees all. There is great freedom and joy for those who live in God's light and who seek his truth. Those who listen to God and heed his voice will receive more from him — abundance of wisdom, guidance, peace, and blessing. Do you know the joy and freedom of living in God's light?

Tuesday, September 26 ~ Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time **Saints Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs**

Holy Gospel: Luke 8:19-21 The mother of Jesus and his brothers came to him but were unable to join him because of the crowd. He was told, “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside and they wish to see you.” He said to them in reply, “My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it.”

Meditation: Have you given any thought to the real meaning of what it means to be Christian? While being a Christian involves doctrine, precepts, and commandments, it is first and foremost a relationship – a relationship with Christ built on trust, affection, commitment, loyalty, faithfulness, kindness, thoughtfulness, compassion, mercy, helpfulness, encouragement, support, strength, protection, and so many other qualities that bind people together in mutual love and unity. God offers us the greatest of relationships – union of heart, mind, and spirit with himself, the very author and source of love (ref. 1

John 4:8,16). God's love never fails, never forgets, never compromises, never lies, never lets us down nor disappoints us. His love is consistent, unwavering, unconditional, and unstoppable. Nothing can deter him from ever leaving us, ignoring us, or treating us unkindly. God wants all of our relationships to be rooted in his love. Jesus is God's love incarnate — God's love made visible in human flesh (ref. 1 John 4:9-10). That is why Jesus describes himself as the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep and the shepherd who seeks out the sheep who have strayed and lost their way. God is like the father who yearns for his prodigal son to return home and then throws a great party for his son when he has a change of heart and comes back (ref. Luke 15:11-32). Jesus offered up his life on the cross for our sake, so that we could be forgiven and restored to unity and friendship with God. It is through Jesus that we become the adopted children of God — his own sons and daughters. That is why Jesus told his disciples that they would have many new friends and family relationships in his kingdom. Whoever does the will of God — “those who hear the word of God and act on it” — is a friend of God and a member of his family — his sons and daughters who have been ransomed by the precious blood of Christ.

Prayer: May you be magnified, O Lord, by the revered memory of your Saints Cosmas and Damian, for with providence beyond words you have conferred on them everlasting glory, and on us, your unfailing help. 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: Ask yourself a very fundamental question: Who do you love and cherish the most? God did not intend for us to be alone, but to be with others. He gives us many opportunities for developing relationships with family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Why does Jesus seem to ignore his own relatives when they pressed to see him? His love and respect for his mother and his relatives is unquestionable. Jesus never lost an opportunity to teach his disciples a spiritual lesson and truth about the kingdom of God. On this occasion when many gathered to hear Jesus he pointed to another higher reality of relationships, namely our relationship with God and with those who belong to God.

Wednesday, September 27 ~ Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time **Saint Vincent de Paul, Priest**

Holy Gospel: Luke 9:1-6 Jesus summoned the Twelve and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them to proclaim the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick. He said to them, “Take nothing for the journey, neither walking stick, nor sack, nor food, nor money, and let no one take a second tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there and leave from there. And as for those who do not welcome you, when you leave that town, shake the dust from your feet in testimony against them.” Then they set out and went from village to village proclaiming the good news and curing diseases everywhere.

Meditation: Why does Jesus tell the apostles to “travel light” with little or no provision? “Poverty of spirit” frees us from greed and preoccupation with possessions and makes ample room for God's provision. The Lord wants his disciples to be dependent on him and not on themselves. He wills to work through and in each of us for his glory. Are you ready to handle the power and authority which God wishes you to exercise on his behalf? The Lord entrusts us with his gifts and talents. Are you eager to place yourself at his service, to do whatever he bids you, and to witness his truth and saving power to whomever he sends you?

Prayer: O God, who for the relief of the poor and the formation of the clergy endowed the Priest Saint Vincent de Paul with apostolic virtues, grant, we pray, that, afire with that same spirit, we may love what he loved and put into practice what he taught. 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: When people use the phrase “you can’t teach an old dog new tricks” as a crutch to say that they do not have the ability or the capacity to change their lives, they are shortchanging themselves, the power of God, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the transformative words and teachings of Jesus Christ. God's word has power to change and transform our lives. Do you recognize the power and authority which God has entrusted to you as his son or daughter? Jesus gave his apostles both power and authority to speak and to act in his name — to cast out evil spirits, to heal, and to speak the word of God. When Jesus spoke of power and authority he did something unheard of. He wedded power and authority with love and humility. The “world” and the “flesh” seek power for selfish gain. Jesus teaches us to use it for the good of our neighbor.

About Saint Vincent de Paul: Saint Vincent de Paul was a great apostle of charity, and brought a great revival of the priesthood in the 17th century. He was born near Dax in the Landes (France) in 1581. As a young priest he was captured by Moorish pirates who carried him to Africa. He was sold into slavery, but freed in 1607 when he converted his owner. Having returned to France, he became successively a parish priest and chaplain to the galley-slaves. He founded a religious Congregation under the title of Priests of the Mission or Lazarists (now known as Vincentians), and he bound them by a special way to undertake the apostolic work of charity; he sent them to preach missions, especially to the ignorant peasants of that time, and to establish seminaries. In order to help poor girls, invalids, and the insane, sick and unemployed, he and St. Louise de Marillac founded the Congregation of the Daughters of Charity, now better known as the Sisters of St. Vincent. St. Vincent worked tirelessly to help those in need: the impoverished, the sick, the enslaved, the abandoned, the ignored. He died in 1660 at St. Lazarus's house, Paris. His motto: "God sees you."

Thursday September 28 ~ Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time **St. Wenceslaus, Martyr; St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs**

Holy Gospel: Luke 9:7-9 Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was greatly perplexed because some were saying, "John has been raised from the dead"; others were saying, "Elijah has appeared"; still others, "One of the ancient prophets has arisen." But Herod said, "John I beheaded. Who then is this about whom I hear such things?" And he kept trying to see him.

Meditation: As you watch the news, read a book, or interact with people, whom do you most admire? People with power, influence, fame or wealth? Scripture warns us of such danger (ref. Proverbs 23:1-2). King Herod had respected and feared John the Baptist as a great prophet and servant of God. John, however did not fear to rebuke Herod for his adulterous affair with his brother's wife. Herod, however, was more of a people pleaser than a God pleaser. Herod not only imprisoned John to silence him, but he also beheaded him simply to please his family and friends. Now when reports of Jesus' miracles and teaching reach Herod's court, Herod becomes very troubled in conscience. He thinks that John the Baptist has risen from the dead! Herod sought to meet Jesus more out of curiosity and fear than out of a sincere desire to know God's wisdom and truth.

Prayer ~ Saint Wenceslaus: O God, who taught the Martyr Saint Wenceslaus to place the heavenly Kingdom before an earthly one, grant through his prayers that, denying ourselves, we may hold fast to 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.

Prayer ~ Saint Lawrence Ruiz and Companions: Grant us, we pray, Lord God, the same perseverance shown by your Martyrs Saint Lawrence Ruiz and his companions in serving you and their neighbor, since those persecuted for the sake of righteousness are blessed in your Kingdom. 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: So who is the most influential in your life? And who do you most want to be like? We naturally look up to other people we want to imitate. If we truly want to be like God and to live as his sons and daughters, then it greatly helps us to have models and examples of holy people – Christ-like persons who follow in his footsteps – who show us how to live in the power of God's love and holiness. God's grace frees us from the tyranny of fear and the pressure to please others rather than to please God. Do you allow God's grace to fill you with faith and courage to choose what is good and pleasing to him and to reject whatever would keep you from embracing his love and will for your daily life?

Friday, September 29 ~ Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time **Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels**

Holy Gospel: John 1:47-51 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Here is a true child of Israel. There is no duplicity in him." Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this." And he said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

Meditation: What does Jesus mean when he says "you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man"? One of the most remarkable revelations recorded in the

bible is the dream of Jacob (Genesis 28:12-17). God had opened a door for Jacob that brought him and his people into a new relationship with the living God. In Jacob's dream God revealed his angelic host and showed him the throne of heaven and promised Jacob that he and descendants would dwell with the living God. Who are the angels and why do they intervene between heaven and earth? The scriptures tell us the angels are God's servants and messengers. "They are the mighty ones who do his word, hearkening to the voice of his word" (Psalm 103:20). The angels belong to Christ and were created for and through him (Colossians 1:16). The Letter to the Hebrews speaks of the role of the angels in God's plan of salvation: "Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation?" (Hebrews 1:14) The angels are not only messengers but protectors and guardians as well. "For he will give his angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways" (Psalm 91:11). We are not alone in our struggle against sin and evil in the world. The armies of heaven fight for us and with us in the spiritual battle for our hearts, minds, and wills.

Prayer: O God, who dispose in marvelous order ministries both angelic and human, graciously grant that our life on earth may be defended by those who watch over us as they minister perpetually to you in heaven. 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' response to Nathaniel's new faith is the promise that Jesus himself will be the "ladder which unites earth with heaven." Jesus proclaims that he is the fulfillment of the promise made to the Patriarch Jacob and his descendants. Jesus is the true ladder or stairway to heaven. In Jesus' incarnation, the divine Son of God taking on human flesh for our sake, we see the union of heaven and earth – God making his dwelling with us and bringing us into the heavenly reality of his kingdom. Jesus' death on the cross where he defeated sin and won new life for us through his resurrection opens the way for each of us to come into a new relationship with God as his sons and daughters. The Lord Jesus opens the way for each of us to "ascend to heaven" and to bring "heaven to earth" in the daily circumstances of our lives. God's kingdom is present in those who seek him and who do his will. Through the gift of faith God opens a door for each one of us to the heavenly reality of his kingdom. Do you see and believe the heavenly reality with the "eyes of faith?"

About this Feast and the Archangels: The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches us that, "[T]he existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls "angels" is a truth of faith. The witness of Scripture is as clear as the unanimity of Tradition." Angels are pure, created spirits. The name "angel" means "servant" or "messenger of God." Angels are celestial or heavenly beings, on a higher order than human beings. Angels have no bodies and do not depend on matter for their existence or activity. They are distinct from saints, which humans can become. Angels have intellect and will, and are immortal. They are a vast multitude, but each is an individual person. Archangels are one of the nine choirs of angels listed in the Bible. In ascending order, the choirs or classes are 1) Angels, 2) Archangels, 3) Principalities, 4) Powers, 5) Virtues, 6) Dominations, 7) Thrones, 8) Cherubim, and 9) Seraphim. The name of the **Archangel Michael** means, in Hebrew, *who is like unto God?* and he is also known as "the prince of the heavenly host." He is usually pictured as a strong warrior, dressed in armor and wearing sandals. His name appears in Scripture four times, twice in the Book of Daniel, and once each in the Epistle of St. Jude and the Book of Revelation. From Revelation we learn of the battle in heaven, with St. Michael and his angels combating Lucifer and the other fallen angels (or devils). We invoke St. Michael to help us in our fight against Satan; to rescue souls from Satan, especially at the hour of death; to be the champion of the Jews in the Old Testament and now Christians; and to bring souls to judgment. **Archangel Gabriel's** name means *God is my strength*. Biblically he appears three times as a messenger. He had been sent to Daniel to explain a vision concerning the Messiah. He appeared to Zachary when he was offering incense in the Temple, to foretell the birth of his son, St. John the Baptist. St. Gabriel is most known as the angel chosen by God to be the messenger of the Annunciation, to announce to mankind the mystery of the Incarnation. The angel's salutation to our Lady, so simple and yet so full of meaning, Hail Mary, full of grace, has become the constant and familiar prayer of all Christian people. Our knowledge of the **Archangel Raphael** comes to us from the book of Tobit. His mission as wonderful healer and fellow traveler with the youthful Tobias has caused him to be invoked for journeys and at critical moments in life. Tradition also holds that Raphael is the angel that stirred the waters at the healing sheep pool in Bethesda. His name means *God has healed*.

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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Nine Benefits of Going to Confession Frequently

By Fr. Wade L. J. Menezes, CPM

During my priestly ministry, I have discerned several reasons why people hesitate to approach the Sacrament of Confession. Here are the most common:

- **Fear:** Though the vast majority of priests are kind and understanding confessors, many potential penitents fear being judged or scolded.
- **Pride:** Confessing sins means confronting that we've genuinely done wrong and need God's help to heal. Our personal pride rebels against this.
- **Shame:** Though a well-ordered guilt should impel us to the Sacrament of Confession, shame can keep us away because of the realization that we have to admit our sins to another—and speaking our sins out loud feels unbearable.
- **Ignorance:** This is twofold. First, we can be ignorant of the reality of sin in our lives and its devastating consequences if it goes unchecked. Second, we can be ignorant of the necessity of sacramental Confession for the forgiveness of mortal sins.
- **Unavailability:** Too often there simply aren't enough times offered for Confession at local parishes, or there is no option for anonymity, which is the right of every penitent according to the Church's discipline of this sacrament.

A different kind of objection to the sacrament is the claim that we can and should go “straight to God” with our sins to have them forgiven. Well, you can do that for venial sins, but mortal sins require the Sacrament of Confession. Furthermore, did we go “straight to God” for our Baptism? Did we go “straight to God” for our Confirmation? Matrimony? The Anointing of the Sick or the other sacraments?

The truth—that Catholics usually understand in other contexts—is that the Church, Her ministers, and sacraments mediate God's grace, and this is as God designed it. Consider the Old Testament, which is shot through with mediation in the form of the prophets, who bring God's saving message to the people. And in the New Testament, God sends the chief Mediator, the God-Man, Jesus Christ, as Savior of the world.

On how to approach Confession faithfully and confidently, St. Faustina tells us: “*As regards Holy confession ... before I approach the confessional, I shall first enter the open and most merciful Heart of the Savior. When I leave the confessional, I shall rouse in my soul great gratitude to the Most Holy Trinity for this wonderful and inconceivable miracle of mercy that is wrought in my soul. And the more miserable my soul is, the more I feel the ocean of God's mercy engulfing me and giving me strength and great power*” (Diary, 225).

Indeed, we should not be afraid to return again and again to the Tribunal of Mercy. Some of the following is a review from our first chapter, but it's worth repeating given that the Sacrament of Confession is closely related to growth in self-knowledge and a strong spiritual life.

Recall that the grace of the sacrament can protect us from sin by strengthening our resolve and reforming our habits. So, although we are required by Church law to go to Confession at least once a year if we are conscious of mortal sin, we still benefit from the time-honored tradition of going monthly (say, on First Friday in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, or on First Saturday in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary). A faithful, monthly penitent most likely never, or at least infrequently, has mortal sin to confess, because the fervent practice of monthly Confession keeps him from committing mortal sin. And remember that Pope Pius XII recommended the practice of frequent Confession, even if only venial sins are in question: “*By it, genuine self-knowledge is increased, Christian humility grows, bad habits are corrected, spiritual neglect and tepidity are resisted, the conscience is purified, the will strengthened, a salutary self-control is attained, and grace is increased in virtue of the Sacrament itself*” (Mystici Corporis Christi, no. 88).

Here we see nine benefits of the sacrament, whether it be just venial sins or mortal sins, or a combination, that are confessed. Let's look briefly at each of these benefits:

- **Self-knowledge is increased.** Many saints make clear in their writing and teaching that self-knowledge is needed to grow in holiness. This means knowing and admitting your virtues so you can advance them in your life, and knowing and admitting your vices so you can uproot them out of your life.
- **Christian humility grows.** Humility is the “moral virtue that keeps a person from reaching beyond himself. It is the virtue that restrains the unruly desire for personal greatness and leads people to an orderly love of themselves based on a true appreciation of their position with respect to God and their neighbors,” (Fr. John Hardon, *Modern Catholic Dictionary*). Not only does the practice of frequent Confession help us to grow in humility, but the very act of making a good examination of conscience (required before even stepping into the confessional) is humbling—and it helps us to grow in self-knowledge.
- **Bad habits are corrected.** Little by little, through frequent Confession and honesty with one’s confessor, who will offer advice accordingly, bad habits can be overcome. Frequent, worthy reception of the Sacrament of Confession means frequent graces received from that sacrament for those bad habits.
- **Spiritual neglect is resisted.** Let’s say you are struggling to establish the practice of praying the daily Rosary or daily Chaplet of Divine Mercy, or even just making a Morning Offering upon rising each day. Your failures to practice these devotions would be examples of “spiritual neglects” that cause your spiritual life to suffer. Frequent Confession can help you get back on track, especially if your confessor assigns them to you as a penance and so you begin to carry them out more faithfully on your own.
- **Spiritual tepidity is resisted.** Let’s say you do, indeed, carry out such spiritual practices—but only infrequently. In other words, you carry them out in a tepid or lukewarm manner. The graces from frequent Confession can help ignite a renewed spiritual fervor that will help make your daily spiritual life grow stronger and more committed every day.
- **Conscience is purified.** Confession of one’s sins brings with it a purification and, importantly, peace of conscience. This is tied to the healing aspect of Confession. Indeed, Confession is one of two “healing” sacraments, along with the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.
- **The will is strengthened.** Whereas our intellect is what helps us “to know,” our will is what helps us “to choose” (based on properly ordered love). Through the practice of frequent Confession, our wills become strengthened to help us more frequently choose good over evil, virtue over vice, and the beneficial over the malicious.
- **A salutary self-control is achieved.** Only you can control you. Frequent Confession makes us simply want to “do better” in all aspects of daily living. It’s the grace of the sacrament that propels us to control our lives better by practicing an ordinate love toward persons, places, and things and not an inordinate, or disordered, love toward them.
- **Grace is increased in virtue of the sacrament itself.** Every sacrament, when it is received worthily, increases sanctifying grace in the soul. For Eucharist and Confession—the only two sacraments that can be received both repetitiously and frequently—this is especially true. In fact, the Sacrament of Confession can even help to perfect the grace of our Baptism. This is because Baptism, while wiping away the Original Sin we inherit from our first parents, also wipes away any personal sin (also called “actual sin”) we might have (i.e., any venial or mortal sin). Confession always helps rid us of personal sin.

We should add, though, that going to Confession out of scrupulosity is not helpful to the penitent, nor is it the intention of the sacrament. Scrupulosity is seeing sin where there is no sin at all but rather, say, a simple fault; or, seeing mortal sin when, in reality, it is a venial sin. Indeed, scruples can stunt one’s growth in the spiritual life. Don’t be your own savior; let Jesus Christ be your Savior.

This article is made available courtesy of the Catholic Exchange and is adapted from a chapter in Fr. Menezes’s book, "Overcoming the Evil Within: The Reality of Sin and the Transforming Power of God’s Grace and Mercy" which is available from Sophia Institute Press ~ www.sophia institute.com.

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 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. Signing up is easy to do from your phone or computer. You can sign up at StMichael.WeAdoreHim.com.

SCHEDULE YOUR MASS INTENTIONS

The tradition of Masses offered for the intentions of living or deceased loved ones originated in the early Church and continues to be an important Catholic practice. No greater gift can be offered for our loved ones, both living and deceased. The gift of a Mass Intention is a wonderful way to offer prayers to those you love. Mass Intentions are available for an offering of \$10.00 each. If you would like to remember a loved one in this way, please visit the Parish Office to schedule or call for more details.

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.

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.

CHRISTMAS CARD ART CONTEST

Each year, one way we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ and the fullness of the Christmas season is by sending Christmas cards to our parishioners and friends. This year, we are asking for your help! Children and adults of the parish are invited to submit artwork for the parish to use on our Christmas card this year. There will be category champions awarded, along with the grand champion. Submissions are due October 25th. Please see the flyers in Marian Hall or on the parish website for more information.



Join us after each Mass next weekend for special celebrations!

The Solemnity of St. Michael September 30 & October 1

4:00pm Saturday Vigil Mass
Cake & Refreshments

8:30am & 10:30am Sunday Masses
Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the
Knights of Columbus

12:30pm Sunday Mass
Coffee & Donuts sponsored by the
Respect Life Ministry

5:00pm Sunday Mass
Cookout

ST. MONICA GROUP

Do you struggle with having an adult child away from the faith? The St. Monica Group offers prayer and mutual support for mothers who are carrying this cross. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month to pray together and offer each other encouragement. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 26th at 9:00 a.m. (after 8:15 a.m. Mass and Rosary) in the Upper Meeting Room. We join each month to share with one another and pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet together. If interested in participating, please contact respectlife@saintmichael-cd.org.



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.

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/





YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY BEGINNING AT ST. MICHAEL

Young adults, 18-39, are invited to join us for our first Young Adult Ministry gathering! Join us on Tuesday, October 3rd from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Porch Growler in Worthington for an evening to meet and hang out with other young adults of the parish. First drink is on us! Questions? Contact Jake Asuncion at jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org.



MEN'S FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, September 30th, we continue "Worthy of the Call" with former Navy Seal Sam Blair. He now gives an inspiring presentation on how we are "Called to Serve" our Savior and His church. Let us keep learning together to better serve our families and our church. 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 a.m. so that you can attend Mass or the Josephinum 4-miler. 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.



SCHOOL

ST. MICHAEL PRE-KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

St. Michael Pre-Kindergarten is accepting registration for full-time and part-time classes for the 2023-2024 School Year. Our Pre-Kindergarten program uses a balance between hands-on instruction and centers for Kindergarten readiness. We also offer Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, which is Montessori-based, hands-on Catholic education, and we use *Disciple of Christ, Education in Virtue* (<https://educationinvirtue.com/>).

For more information, please go to <https://www.stmichaelworthington.org/admissions/preKindergarten/> or contact Laura Wells at 614-885-3149, option 8 or lwells@cdeducation.org.



VIRTUE
of the Week

Obedience

Sept 24-Sept 29

DEFINITION OF OBEDIENCE

Assenting to rightful authority without hesitation or resistance

PRAYER FOR OBEDIENCE:

Dear Jesus, You are God, and yet You were obedient to Mary and Joseph. Help me to do all that my parents and teachers ask of me—promptly, joyfully, and completely.



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SAVE THE DATE FOR MOMMIES MATTER ANNUAL FALL FUNDRAISER!

Join us for the 5th Annual Mommies Matter Fall Fundraiser! This night will be filled with entertainment and fun and include food, beverage, a silent auction, and live entertainment from Two-Time World Magic Award-Winning Escape Artist Michael Griffin! Michael has been featured on popular TV shows such as America's Got Talent and Masters of Illusion and is widely regarded as one of the greatest escape artists of all time! The event will take place on Thursday, October 5th at 5:30 p.m. at Bridgewater Banquet & Conference Center in Powell. Get ready to enjoy an evening of fun with live music, magic, moving testimonies from Mommies in our program, and the opportunity to participate in our online Silent Auction. **Purchase tickets today at www.tiny.cc/fallfundraiser23.** Mommies Matter is a charitable organization that provides group and one-on-one mentoring support, as well as housing, educational, employment and financial assistance to brave, single, pregnant moms. Together, our Mommies find the encouragement and support they need to thrive as they realize they are not alone.



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