



SOLEMNITY of the ARCHANGELS

GABRIEL | MICHAEL | RAPHAEL

Sunday + October 1, 2023

Saint Michael the Archangel Parish

5750 NORTH HIGH STREET + WORTHINGTON, OHIO 43085

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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 above or by 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 the 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's 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 to set up online contributions

Athletic Association Representative:

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St. Vincent de Paul Society Representative:

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TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME OCTOBER 1, 2023

DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

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)

Monday October 2

- 6:30 a.m. + Cathy Miller
8:15 a.m. + Michael Feeney (Kathleen & Larry Ceccarelli)

Tuesday October 3

- 6:30 a.m. + Holy Souls in Purgatory (Central Ohio Confraterniy)
8:15 a.m. Special Intention of Tyler Stuckenschneider

Wednesday October 4

- 6:30 a.m. Special Intention of Ellie Reash
8:15 a.m. For the School

Thursday October 5

- 6:30 a.m. Special Intention of Kevin Vincent (Diane Vincent)
8:15 a.m. + James R. Cecil (Rich & Theresa Agnello)

Friday October 6

- 6:30 a.m. Special Intention of the Hickson Family
(Chad & Chrissy Wilson)
8:15 a.m. + Mr. Gaitley (Chad & Chrissy Wilson)

Saturday October 7

- 8:15 a.m. + Helen Meers (The Butler Family)
4:00 p.m. + Fiore Matteis

Sunday October 8

- 8:30 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of our Parish
10:30 a.m. + Sally Ann Smith (The Stover Family)
12:30 p.m. + Lawrence, David & Michael Roberts (Carolyn Roberts)
5:00 p.m. + Dolores Mahaney (The Marinelli Family)



OCTOBER 1, 2023 TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Do nothing out of selfishness; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves..." – Philippians 2:3

Pride and ego are hard things to control. We see how others act or dress and think we are superior to them. We idolize our own self-image. But if we truly believe everything is a gift from God, we recognize all the people that God has put in our lives as gifts! We are grateful for how they enrich our lives. Pray every day for the people in your life: your family, your friends and those who make you angry.



BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS ON THE BAPTISM OF QUINN ANN ISLER



± MARRIAGE BANNS ± CONGRATULATIONS TO:



JOHN WHITE & ANN CAHALAN
OCTOBER 7, 2023 – CELEBRATING THE
SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY
ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISH CALENDAR: OCTOBER

SUNDAY, October 1	K of C Community Breakfast after 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Masses (U) Friendship Sunday after 12:30 p.m. Mass (MH) 11:30 a.m. RCIA (UMR) 11:30 a.m. PSR (LMR) 2:00 p.m. Baptism (C) 3:00 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)	Thursday October 5	Eucharistic Exposition (Adoration Chapel) 5:30 p.m. Cub Scouts (U) 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (C) 7:00 p.m. WFF Candlelight Evening (MH)
Monday, October 2	6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (U)	Friday October 6	Eucharistic Exposition (Adoration Chapel)
Tuesday, October 3	9:00 a.m. SVdP Sandwich Making (MH) 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Ministry (Field) 7:30 p.m. WFF Bible Study (UMR) 7:30 p.m. Cub Scout Planning Meeting (LMR)	Saturday October 7	6:45 a.m. Men's Faith & Fellowship (UMR) 7:00 a.m. Pietra Class (LMR) 2:30 p.m. Confessions (C)
Wednesday, October 4	2:00 p.m. & 2:45 p.m. Pet Blessings (Parking Lot) 6:30 p.m. Holy Hour & Confessions (C)	SUNDAY, October 8	11:30 a.m. RCIA (UMR) 11:30 a.m. PSR (LMR) 2:00 p.m. Seasons of Hope (UMR) 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Ministry (MH)

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

FROM THE PASTOR

ON THIS PATRONAL SOLEMNITY OF SAINTS MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS, we recognize the importance of all three Archangels and the role they play in our salvation. Pope Saint John Paul II, in his series *Catechesis on the Angels*, once wrote (*General Audience, August 6, 1986*):

“It is appropriate to note that the Church honors the figures of three angels with a liturgical cult; these are called by name in Sacred Scripture.

The first is *Michael the Archangel* (cf. Dan. 10:13-20; Rev. 12:7; Jude 9). His name is a synthesis that expresses the essential attitude of the good spirits. ‘Mica-EL’ in fact, means: ‘Who is like God?’ In this name, therefore, we find expressed the salvific choice thanks to which the angels ‘see the face of the Father’ who is in Heaven.

The second is *Gabriel*: a figure bound especially to the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God (cf. Lk 1:19-26). His name means: ‘my power is God’ or ‘power of God,’ as if to say that the culmination of creation, the Incarnation, is the supreme sign of the omnipotent Father.

Finally, the third archangel is called *Raphael*. ‘Rafa-EL’ means: ‘God heals.’ He is made known to us by the story of Tobias in the Old Testament (cf. Tob. 12:15-20), etc.), which is so significant for what it says about entrusting to the angels the little children of God, who are always in need of custody, care, and protection.

If we reflect well, we see that each one of these figures, Mica-EL, Gabri-EL, and Rafa-EL reflects in a particular way the truth contained in the question posed by the author of the Letter to the Hebrews: ‘Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to possess salvation?’ (Heb. 1-14).”

Folks, we are the ones “who are to possess salvation” – salvation through the Son of God, Jesus Christ, with the aid of the angels and archangels in specific ways, according to God’s loving plan. God created us, and out of the great love that He has for us, God has given us every possible person, being, sacrament, sacred texts and grace to attain salvation. Saint Michael the Archangel, our patron, should be revered by each of us each day in protecting us from the forces of evil which are ever-present in well-disguised trappings that lure people to turn away from God and to sin. As we pray fervently the prayer of Saint Michael the Archangel after the end of every Mass, it would be good for all of us to take this prayer into our homes, schools and workplaces and pray individually or together as a family:

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

How incredibly blessed we are to have God as our Father, the Blessed Virgin Mary as our Mother, our Lord, Savior and Redeemer Jesus Christ as our Brother, and all of the angels and saints to guide us on our earthly journey. And what a joy it is for us to have Saint Michael the Archangel as the patron saint of our parish family. Let us pray that all of us will be guided by the timeless truths of Jesus Christ as we journey each day, following Him as our Good Shepherd, and turning to our patron saint, Saint Michael the Archangel, to reinforce whatever spiritual armor we need to defend us from error and sin. I would encourage you to take advantage of the clear and inspiring writings of Pope Saint John Paul II by reading his *Catechesis on the Angels* at <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/catechesis-on-the-angels-7960>.

HEARTFELT THANKS to everyone who made our patronal feast a celebratory one with the various foods and meals provided after all of the Masses this weekend... God bless you!

OCTOBER 4 ~ FEAST OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI: Without a doubt, if you were to ask any person of faith to name five saints, Saint Francis of Assisi likely would be included. What an inspiring saint, whose extensive writings on various aspects of the faith often are overlooked. Some quotes that you may not have heard:

- + “I have been all things unholy. If God can work through me, He can work through anyone.”
- + “If you have men who will exclude any of God’s creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with their fellow men.”
- + “Above all the grace and the gifts that Christ gives to his beloved is that of overcoming self.”
- + “It is you who have crucified Him and crucify Him still, when you delight in your vices and sins. ”
- + “Where there is charity and wisdom there is neither fear nor ignorance. Where there is patience and humility there is neither anger nor worry.”
- + “Keep a clear eye toward life’s end. Do not forget your purpose and destiny as God’s creature. What you are in his sight is what you are and nothing more. Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take nothing that you have received... but only what you have given; a full heart enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice, and courage.”

The traditional Blessing of Animals will take place on October 4 in the parking lot, “drive-through” fashion in two shifts: 2:00 p.m. for parishioners not picking up school children, and 2:40 p.m. for those picking up school children. Get in line, roll down your window, and I will bless your critter(s)!

~ Fr. Mike Lumpe



all about ANGELS



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

Saint Michael: Guardian of the Church

By Fr. William Saunders

I have noticed that several parishes now recite the prayer to St. Michael the Archangel. I remember when this was part of the old Mass. Could you explain where this devotion comes from and whether we should pray the prayer to St. Michael at Mass.

St. Michael the Archangel, whose name means, "one who is like God," led the army of angels who cast Satan and the rebellious angels into hell; at the end of time, he will wield the sword of justice to separate the righteous from the evil (cf. Rv 12:7ff).

The early Church Fathers recognized the importance of the angels and archangels, particularly St. Michael. Theodoret of Cyr (393-466) in his Interpretation of Daniel wrote, "We are taught that each one of us is entrusted to the care of an individual angel to guard and protect us, and to deliver us from the snares of evil demons. Archangels are entrusted with the tasks of guarding nations, as the Blessed Moses taught, and with those remarks the Blessed Daniel is in accord; for he himself speaks of 'the chief of the Kingdom of the Persians,' and a little later of 'the chief of the Greeks,' while he calls Michael the 'chief of Israel.'" The Church Fathers would also posit that St. Michael stood guard at the gate of paradise after Adam and Eve had been banished, and he was the angel through whom God published the Ten Commandments, who blocked the passage of Balaam (Nm 22:20ff), and who destroyed the army of Sennacherib (2 Chr 32:21).

St. Basil and other Greek Fathers ranked St. Michael as the Prince of all the Angels. With the rise of scholasticism and the exposition of the "nine choirs of angels," some said St. Michael was the prince of the Seraphim, the first of the choirs. (St. Thomas Aquinas, however, assigned St. Michael as the prince of the last choir, the angels.)

St. Michael the Archangel has been invoked for protection on various occasions. In 590, a great plague struck Rome. Pope St. Gregory the Great led a procession through the streets as an act of penance, seeking the forgiveness of and atoning for sin. At the tomb of Hadrian (now Castle Sant'Angelo near St. Peter's Basilica), St. Michael appeared and sheathed his sword, indicating the end of the plague. The Holy Father later built a chapel at the top of the tomb and to this day a large statue of St. Michael rests there.

Therefore, in our Catholic tradition, St. Michael has four duties:

- (1) To continue to wage battle against Satan and the other fallen angels;
- (2) to save the souls of the faithful from the power of Satan especially at the hour of death;
- (3) to protect the People of God, both the Jews of the Old Covenant and the Christians of the New Covenant; and
- (4) finally, to lead the souls of the departed from this life and present them to our Lord for the particular judgment, and at the end of time, for the final judgment.

For these reasons, Christian iconography depicts St. Michael as a knight-warrior, wearing battle armor, and wielding a sword or spear, while standing triumphantly on a serpent or other representation of Satan. Sometimes he is depicted holding the scales of justice or the Book of Life, both symbols of the last judgment.

As Catholics, we have remembered through our liturgical rites the important role of St. Michael in defending us against Satan and the powers of evil. An ancient offertory chant in the Mass for the Dead attested to these duties: "Lord, Jesus Christ, King of Glory, deliver the souls of all the faithful departed

from the pains of Hell and from the deep pit; deliver them from the mouth of the lion that Hell may not swallow them up and that they may not fall into darkness, but may the standard-bearer Michael conduct them into the holy light, which thou didst promise of old to Abraham and his seed. We offer to thee, Lord, sacrifices and prayers; do thou receive them in behalf of those souls whom we commemorate this day. Grant them, Lord, to pass from death to that life which thou didst promise of old to Abraham and to his seed."

In the Tridentine Mass since the 1200s, St. Michael was invoked in the Confiteor, along with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John the Baptizer and Saints Peter and Paul; the invocation of these saints inspired the faithful to remember the call to holiness and the sinlessness of the Church Triumphant in Heaven.

For the greater part of this century, the faithful recited the prayer to St. Michael at the end of the Mass. Pope Leo XIII (d. 1903) had a prophetic vision of the coming century of sorrow and war. After celebrating Mass, the Holy Father was conferring with his cardinals. Suddenly, he fell to the floor. The cardinals immediately called for a doctor. No pulse was detected, and the Holy Father was feared dead. Just as suddenly, Pope Leo awoke and said, "What a horrible picture I was permitted to see!" In this



vision, God gave Satan the choice of one century in which to do his worst work against the Church. The devil chose the twentieth century. So moved was the Holy Father from this vision that he composed the prayer to St. Michael the Archangel: **"St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle! Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into Hell Satan and all the other evil spirits who roam about the world seeking the ruin of souls."** Pope Leo ordered this prayer said at the conclusion of Mass in 1886. (When Pope Paul VI issued the Novus Ordo of the Mass in 1968, the prayer to St. Michael and the reading of the "last gospel" at the end of the Mass were suppressed.)

Finally, St. Michael figures prominently in the Rite of Exorcism, particularly in the case of diabolical infestation of places. Here the priest prays: "Most glorious Prince of the Heavenly Army, Holy Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle against the princes and powers and rulers of darkness in this world, against the spiritual iniquities of those former angels. Come to the help of man whom God made in his own image and whom he bought from the tyranny of Satan at a great price. The Church venerates you as her custodian and patron. The Lord confided to your care all the souls of those redeemed, so that you would lead them to happiness in Heaven. Pray to the God of peace that he crush Satan under our feet; so that Satan no longer be able to hold men captive and

thus injure the Church. Offer our prayers to the Most High God, so that His mercies be given us soon. Make captive that Animal, that Ancient serpent, which is enemy and Evil Spirit, and reduce it to everlasting nothingness, so that it no longer seduce the nations."

In the spring of 1994, our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, urged the faithful to offer the prayer to St. Michael the Archangel. He also made the strong suggestion that the recitation of the prayer be instituted at Mass once again. (Note that the Holy Father did not mandate the recitation of the prayer at Mass.) Clearly, the Holy Father was responding to the grave evils we see present in our world — the sins of abortion, euthanasia, terrorism, genocide, and the like.

Satan and the other fallen angels are doing their best to lead souls to Hell. We need the help of St. Michael. For this reason, many parishes have erected a shrine in St. Michael's honor, or offer the prayer at the end of Mass or after the petitions.

Father William Saunders is pastor of Our Lady of Hope parish in Potomac Falls, Virginia.

This article is a "Straight Answers" column he wrote for the Arlington Catholic Herald.

Father Saunders is the author of "Straight Answers," a book based on 100 of his columns, and "Straight Answers II." This article is made available courtesy of The Arlington Catholic Herald.

OUR *Catholic* SAINTS

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The Burning Passion of Saint Francis of Assisi

Feast Day ~ October 4

by Brian Kranick

On his deathbed, Lenin reportedly uttered, "To save our Russia, what we needed . . . was ten Francises of Assisi." Lenin was right: St. Francis of Assisi is one of the greatest saints in the history of the Church. Almost single-handedly, he helped revive the medieval Church in the 13th century with the foundation of his mendicant Order of Friars Minor, the Franciscans. He had many preternatural gifts as a mystic, healer, and leader, as well as a special symbiosis with nature. It is not surprising that Dante dedicated a canto in *Paradiso* to St. Francis, calling him a "prince" who "was all Seraphic in his ardour." More than these great many gifts, however, St. Francis' success was rooted in his desire, to live a life in imitation of Jesus Christ, particularly the crucified Christ. Many people today erroneously think of St. Francis as a sandal-wearing, milquetoast peacenik whose greatest legacy was in gracing birdbaths everywhere. Rather, St. Francis lived a life of radical conformity and divine union to the sacrificial life of Christ. In retracing the life of St. Francis, we can see how his divine union with Christ grew and developed through successive stages of personal martyrdom.

As with many young people, especially those coming from a wealthy family, Francis in his youth was given to follow the vanities of life. Tradition holds that he loved wine, food, and feasts, and lived a life of indulgence. The lyric poems of troubadours and wandering minstrels also held sway over his imagination. Perhaps they sparked his daydreams of becoming a gallant knight, fighting chivalrously in a far off crusade. In fact, it was not long before the high-minded youth was caught up in a skirmish in 1202 against the nearby rival city of Perugia. In the battle the young Francis was wounded and taken captive. He was held in prison for a year, during which time he developed a long and protracted illness. Eventually, after his release and his continuing maladies, his thoughts began to turn away from knightly adventures and worldly desires. He then began to spend long hours in intense prayer, religious exercises, and in the contemplation of God. This was his first conversion.

It was in this period that Francis had a miraculous encounter with a leper. He had discerned in prayer that God wished him to deny himself and conquer his self-will. To this end, his conscience was tugging at him about his strong aversion and disgust of lepers. One day, tradition has it that while he was riding through the countryside, he came upon a leper. Recalling his resolution, he approached the afflicted person, gave him some alms, and kissed his diseased hand. Upon remounting his horse, he turned to look back at the person, but no one was there. From this point on, Francis began to visit and minister to lepers in hospitals and other undesirable places, washing their sores, kissing them, and eating with them. With this, he began his process of detachment from himself.

While praying intently in a chapel at San Damiano in 1205, and kneeling devoutly before a large Byzantine crucifix, Francis heard the voice of Jesus. He saw the lips on the image of Jesus move and heard the voice of Jesus say to him, "Francis, go, repair My house, which as you can see, is falling completely to ruin." Three times Jesus spoke this to him. Francis was overwhelmed by the miraculous vision, and sought at once to repair, literally, the chapel at San Damiano. Initially he sold some of his father's possessions to pay for the repairs at the chapel. Later, under direction from the Bishop, he understood that it was wrong for him to have taken his father's wealth. At last, to the astonishment of the Bishop, his father, and many witnesses, Francis stripped his fine garments off piece by piece, and renounced all his possessions, save a hair shirt he had on. With this nakedness, embraced a life of poverty.

For several years Francis lived in a small cottage, in an intense life of prayer and severe bodily discipline. He also begged for money to continue repairs to the chapel and other churches. After repairing San Damiano, he moved on to repair San Pietro della Spina, and then, the Portiuncula, or Little Portion, dedicated to Our Lady of the Angels. St. Bonaventure later recounted that Francis' restoration of these three churches symbolized the three orders he would later establish: the Order of Friars Minor, the Poor Clares for women, and the Third Order of St. Francis for the laity. During mass at the Portiuncula, he heard the gospel reading, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics." (Lk. 9:3) This made a profound impact upon Francis as if Jesus Himself had commissioned

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 October is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary.

"Most high, glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me true faith, certain hope, and perfect charity, sense and knowledge, Lord, so that I may carry out Your holy and true command." +A PRAYER OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

**Monday, October 2 ~ Twenty-Sixth Week in Ordinary Time
Feast of the Guardian Angels**

Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:1-5,10 The disciples approached Jesus and said, "Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven?" He called a child over, placed it in their midst, and said, "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the Kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me. "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father."

Meditation: Jesus warned his disciples to "not despise the little ones." God dwells with the lowly and regards them with compassion. His angels watch over them as guardians. God has not left us alone in our struggle "to refuse evil and to choose good" (ref. Isaiah 7:15). The angels are God's "ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation" (ref. Hebrews 1:14).

Prayer: O God, who in your unfathomable providence are pleased to send your holy Angels to guard us, hear our supplication as we cry to you, that we may always be defended by their protection and rejoice eternally in their company. 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: Saint Basil the Great once said, "Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life." Angels ministered to Jesus after his temptation in the wilderness and during his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. The angels will be present at Christ's return, which they will announce, to serve at his judgment (ref. Matt. 25:31). The angels tell us that this universe is not just materialistic. The fallen angels, led by Satan, seek our destruction. If they cannot induce us to disown our faith and allegiance to Christ, they attempt to divert us from doing the will of God by distracting us with good things that weigh us down and make us indifferent towards the things of God. God gives us the help of his angelic hosts and he gives us spiritual weapons, the shield of faith and the breastplate of righteousness (ref. Ephesians 6:1-11), to resist the devil and his lies. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we, too, join with angelic choirs in singing the praises of God. Do you pause several times a day to give thanks to the Lord for his daily guidance and protection?

About this Feast: Angels are servants and messengers from God. "Angel" in Greek means "messenger." In unseen ways the angels help us on our earthly pilgrimage by assisting us in work and study, helping us in temptation and protecting us from physical danger. The idea that each soul has assigned to it a personal guardian angel has been long accepted by the Church and is a truth of our faith. From the Gospel of today's liturgy we read: "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father" (Matthew 18:10). The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states that "the existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls 'angels' is a truth of faith (328)." From our birth until our death, man is surrounded by the protection and intercession of angels, particularly our guardian angel: "Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life (336)." The Church thanks God for our helpers, the angels, particularly on this feast day and September 29 which is the feast of Saint Michael, Saint Gabriel, and Saint Raphael, archangels. Today's feast appeared in Spain during the sixteenth century. It was extended to the universal Church and made obligatory in 1670.

Tuesday, October 3 ~ Twenty-Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Luke 9:51-56 When the days for Jesus to be taken up were fulfilled, he resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem, and he sent messengers ahead of him. On the way they entered a Samaritan village to prepare for his reception there, but they would not welcome him because the destination of his journey was Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?" Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they journeyed to another village.

Meditation: Are you surprised to see two of Jesus' disciples praying for the destruction of a Samaritan village? The Jews and Samaritans had been divided for centuries. Jewish pilgrims who passed through Samaritan territory were often assaulted. Jesus did the unthinkable for a Jew. He not only decided to travel through Samaritan territory at personal risk, but he also asked for hospitality in one of their villages! Jesus' offer of friendship was rebuffed. Is there any wonder that the disciples were indignant and felt justified in wanting to see retribution done to this village? Wouldn't you respond the same way? Jesus, however, rebukes his disciples for their lack of toleration. Jesus had "set his face toward Jerusalem" to die on a cross that all might be reconciled with God and be united as one people in Christ.

Prayer: O God, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of 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: Tolerance is a much needed virtue today – not "tolerance" when we enable bad or sinful behaviors by turning a blind eye or a deaf ear or by saying "if it feels good, do it" thus being tolerant for the wrong thing or for the wrong motive. Right and wrong, defined by God, still exists. Instead being "tolerant" by exhibiting Christian love which seeks the highest good of both one's neighbor and one's enemy. Take for example Abraham Lincoln, who as president was criticized for his courtesy and tolerance towards his enemies during the American Civil War. President Lincoln's response? He said: "Do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?" Which begs the question: How do you treat those who cross you and cause you trouble? Do you seek their good rather than their harm? Today be introspective and honestly assess yourself to see what biases and prejudices you might possess on even the smallest level to rid yourself of these so that these do not manifest themselves in ways of jealousy, envy, hatred, bigotry, racism, and other forms of sin.

Wednesday, October 4 ~ Twenty-Sixth Week in Ordinary Time **Saint Francis of Assisi, Religious**

Holy Gospel: Luke 9:57-62 As Jesus and his disciples were proceeding on their journey, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus answered him, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head." And to another he said, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, let me go first and bury my father." But he answered him, "Let the dead bury their dead. But you, go and proclaim the Kingdom of God." And another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say farewell to my family at home." Jesus answered him, "No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the Kingdom of God."

Meditation: Are you ready to follow the Lord wherever he may lead you? With the call the Lord gives the grace to respond and the strength to follow all the way to the end. Why does Jesus issue a challenge with the call? Jesus was utterly honest in telling people what it would cost to follow him. When a would-be disciple approached Jesus and said he was ready to follow, Jesus told him it would require sacrifice — the sacrifice of certain creaturely comforts. Jesus appealed to this man's heart and told him to detach himself from whatever might hold him back. Spiritual detachment is a necessary step for following the Lord. It frees us to give ourselves without reserve to the Lord and his service. While many of us may not need to give up the comfort of our own home and bed to follow Jesus, we, nonetheless, must be willing to part with anything that might stand in the way of doing God's will. Another would-be disciple said he would follow as soon as he had buried his father. What he meant by this expression was that he felt the need to return to his home to take care of his father through old age until he died. The third had no obligation to return home, but simply wanted to go back and say good-bye. Jesus surprised these would-be disciples with the stark truth that nothing should hinder us from following the Lord. Was Jesus being harsh and rude to his would-be followers? Not really. We are free to decide whether we will take the path which Jesus offers. But if we choose to go, then the Lord wants us to count the cost and choose for it freely.

Prayer: O God, by whose gift Saint Francis was conformed to Christ in poverty and humility, grant that, by walking in Francis' footsteps, we may follow your Son, and, through joyful charity, come to be united with

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: You may be asking: "What does the story of a plowman have to do with the journey?" A plowman who looked back while plowing caused his furrow – the "trough" or groove in the earth that he was plowing – to be crooked. He had to look straight ahead in order to keep the plow from going off course. Likewise, if we look back on what we have freely left behind to follow the Lord, our path will likely diverge and we'll miss what God has for us. The gospel does not record the response from these three would-be disciples. We are only left with the question which Jesus intends for us as well. Are you ready to take the path Jesus offers? His grace is sufficient and his love is strong. There is nothing greater we can do with our lives than to place them at the service of the Lord and Master of the universe. We cannot outgive God in generosity. Jesus promises that those who are willing to part with what is most dear to them for his sake "will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life" (Matthew 19:29). Is there anything holding you back from pursuing the Lord and his will for you life?

About Saint Francis of Assisi: Francis Bernardone was born in 1181 at Assisi, Umbria, Italy. The son of a wealthy cloth merchant, he lived a lavish and irresponsible life. At the age of twenty, he went to war against Perugia, but was captured and imprisoned. During his imprisonment he experienced a vision from Christ and changed his life completely. He left all his possessions and embraced complete poverty, taking the Gospel as his rule of life. He wore ragged old clothes, begged for food and preached peace. He began to attract followers, and in 1209 with the papal blessing he founded the Friars Minor (Franciscans). Then in 1212 with St. Clare of Assisi he founded the foundation of the Order of "Poor Ladies," now known as the "Poor Clares." He also founded the "Third Order of Penance" (the Third Order) which included lay people. He was the first person (recorded) to receive the stigmata (the five wounds of Christ) in 1224. He died on October 4, 1226 at Portiuncula, Italy. He was canonized by Gregory IX less than two years later.

Thursday, October 5 ~ Twenty-Sixth Week in Ordinary Time Saint Faustina Kowalska, Virgin

Holy Gospel: Luke 10:1-12 Jesus appointed seventy-two other disciples whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest. Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way. Into whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this household.' If a peaceful person lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is offered to you, for the laborer deserves his payment. Do not move about from one house to another. Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it and say to them, 'The Kingdom of God is at hand for you.' Whatever town you enter and they do not receive you, go out into the streets and say, 'The dust of your town that clings to our feet, even that we shake off against you.' Yet know this: the Kingdom of God is at hand. I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom on that day than for that town."

Meditation: In Jesus' time seventy was held to be the number of nations throughout the world. Jesus commissioned the seventy to a two-fold task: to speak in his name and to act with his power. Jesus gave them instructions for how they were to carry out their ministry. They must go and serve as people without guile, full of charity and peace, and simplicity. They must give their full attention to the proclamation of God's kingdom and not be diverted by other lesser things. They must travel light -- only take what was essential and leave behind whatever would distract them — in order to concentrate on the task of speaking the word of the God. They must do their work, not for what they can get out of it, but for what they can give freely to others, without expecting reward or payment. "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.

Prayer: O God, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of 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

Contemplation: What kind of harvest do you think the Lord expects today? When Jesus commissioned seventy of his disciples to go on mission, he gave them a vision of a great harvest for the kingdom of God. Jesus frequently used the image of a harvest to convey the coming of God's reign on earth. The harvest is the fruition of labor and growth — beginning with the sowing of seeds, then growth, and finally fruit for the harvest. In like manner, the word of God is sown in the hearts of receptive men and women who hear his

word and who accept it with trust and obedience. The harvest Jesus had in mind was not only the people of Israel, but all the peoples (or nations) of the world. John the Evangelist tells us that "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

About Saint Faustina Kowalska: Our Lord taught Saint Faustina Kowalska a prayer for mercy that she was to pray unceasingly: ***The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy***. He told her that, if she prayed in this way, her prayers would have great power for the conversion of sinners, for peace for the dying, and even for controlling nature (*Diary*, 687, 811, 1731, 1791). We, too, can pray this chaplet, using ordinary rosary beads of five decades. We begin with the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Apostles Creed. Then on the large beads we pray: Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world. On the small beads we pray: For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world. And at the end, we pray three times: Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world. (*Diary*, 476). As we seek God's love and mercy, let us also mirror Christ's love for others in our own lives.

Friday, October 6 ~ Twenty-Sixth Week in Ordinary Time Saint Bruno, Priest; Blessed Rose Marie Durocher, Virgin

Holy Gospel: Luke 10:13-16 Jesus said to them, "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty deeds done in your midst had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would long ago have repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. And as for you, Capernaum, 'Will you be exalted to heaven? You will go down to the netherworld.' Whoever listens to you listens to me. Whoever rejects you rejects me. And whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

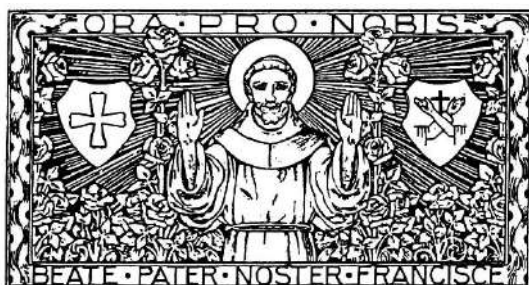
Meditation: The word woe is also translated as alas. It is as much as an expression of sorrowful pity as it is of anger. Why does Jesus lament and issue a stern warning? The people who heard the gospel here very likely responded with indifference. Jesus upbraids them for doing nothing! Repentance demands change — a change of heart and way of life. God's word is life-giving and it saves us from destruction — the destruction of soul as well as body. Jesus' anger is directed toward sin and everything which hinders us from doing the will of God and receiving his blessing. In love he calls us to walk in his way of truth and freedom, grace and mercy, justice and holiness. Do you receive his word with faith and submission or with doubt and indifference?

Prayer ~ Saint Bruno: O God, who called Saint Bruno to serve you in solitude, grant, through his intercession, that amid the changes of this world we may constantly look to you alone. 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 ~ Blessed Marie Rose Durocher: Lord, who enkindled in the heart of Blessed Marie Rose Durocher the flame of ardent charity and a great desire to cooperate in the mission of the Church as a teacher, grant us that same active love, so that, in responding to the needs of the world today, we may lead our brothers and sisters to the blessedness of 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: If Jesus were to visit your neighborhood community and walk the streets of our town today, what would he say? Would he issue a warning like the one he gave to Chorazin and Bethsaida? And how would you respond? Wherever Jesus went he did mighty works to show the people how much God had done for them. Chorazin and Bethsaida had been blessed with the visitation of God. They heard the good news and experienced the wonderful works which Jesus did for them.

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, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.



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him. He set off with only a common peasant's tunic tied by a cord, to preach the good news of penance and salvation to all he met.

Francis, the "poor man of Assisi," continued to live the life of renouncement and poverty. With Francis' tremendous charisma and preaching, he soon began to develop a large group of followers. They too were converted to a life of radical poverty of Christ, of begging and serving the poor and preaching the Gospel. Their life of self-martyrdom consisted of mortifications, penances, and prayer. In 1209, after Pope Innocent III had a remarkably vivid dream of Francis holding up the papal Lateran Basilica, he gave approval to the first Rule of the Order. Once his Order was established, the friars lived by the rules of poverty, chastity and obedience to the Roman Catholic Church.

Francis also sought to evangelize others and save souls, which manifested itself in his missionary work. In 1219, Francis travelled with the crusaders to Egypt, but not as a knight in battle as he had imagined in his youth, but now as a missionary for Christ. Pope Honorius III had enacted the Fifth Crusade to retake the Holy Land and Jerusalem. Since his initial conversion, Francis had been living a life of spiritual martyrdom and physical mortifications. Now, with the crusaders surrounding the Egyptian city of Damietta on the edge of Cairo, Francis was prepared to offer up his life as a true martyr for Christ. After warning the crusaders that they would lose the battle and suffer horrible losses, they attacked anyway. Once the Muslim forces won the battle, with some 5,000 crusaders killed and another 1,000 taken prisoner, a truce was called. It was at this time with the battle barely simmered down that Francis and one of his companions were permitted to enter the camp of the Saracens and approach the Sultan al-Malik al-Kamil.

Francis boldly entered enemy territory, prepared to die, armed only with his zeal to save souls. He was immediately beaten and chained by the Saracens, and brought before the Sultan. There, he informed the Sultan that he came as a messenger of God to reveal the truth of Christianity and save the Sultan's soul. Despite the Imams' urging to cut off Francis' head, the Sultan was moved by Francis' concern for the Sultan's eternal salvation. One of Francis' companions described the Sultan, "that cruel beast," who in response to Francis, "became sweetness itself." By God's grace, Francis was allowed to stay for weeks in the court of the Sultan, discussing theology and evangelizing him. The Sultan refused to convert to Christianity, at least publicly and be killed by his followers, so Francis eventually returned to the crusader encampment, undoubtedly to their amazement. According to oral tradition, the Sultan converted on his deathbed and embraced the faith of St. Francis. Francis' companion, Brother Illuminato, said that after hearing Francis preach, the Sultan "always had the Christian faith imprinted in his heart." As a lasting legacy of Francis' encounter, the Franciscans were later made custodians of the Christian holy sites in the Holy Land and Middle East, a position they still hold today.

In 1224, St. Francis climbed a remote mountain La Verna for a forty-day fast and spiritual retreat for the feast of St. Michael. On the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, September 14th, while contemplating the passion and death of Christ, St. Francis had a vision of a six-winged Seraphim fixed on a cross and flying towards him. As it came closer, he recognized that it was Jesus with his hands and feet nailed to the cross. St. Francis understood the vision to mean that he himself would be transformed by his seraphic love of God into a perfect image of the crucified Christ. Waking from the vision, St. Francis found he had received Christ's wounds into his very own body, holes in his hands and feet, and a wound in his side. He had received the sacred stigmata as a testament to the oneness of spirit he had with Christ, recalling the words of St. Paul, perhaps the Church's first stigmatist, "For I bear on my body the marks of Jesus." (Gal. 6:17)

St. Francis embraced his sufferings out of love for God and his neighbor. St. Bonaventure quotes him as saying, "Nothing would make me more happy than to have you afflict me with pain and not spare me. Doing your will is consolation enough, and more than enough, for me." It was at this point that the saint composed his "Canticle of Brother Sun," including the line "May thou be praised, my Lord, for those who forgive for the sake of They love and endure infirmity and tribulation." With his dying breaths, St. Francis implored his followers to hold fast to the Gospel and the faith of the Church. With that, he entered into his eternal reward on October 3, 1226.

St. Francis believed in a life of sacrifice, poverty, and humility. It was St. Francis' seraphic love and humility that led him to create the first creche, or manger scene, in its beautiful simplicity and reverence on one Christmas night for Midnight Mass. He lived his whole life out of this great love for the Lord, in imitation of the life of Christ. He also believed that vicarious and redemptive suffering, when offered to God, can be meritorious for the salvation of souls. His concern for the salvation of all souls was central to his life. As members of the Mystical Body of Christ, we are all called to complete what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ and share in His redemptive work, for as Jesus said, "where I am, there shall My servant be also." (Jn. 12:26) Let us be there now, with St. Francis, our brother, as we honor him on his feast day.

This article is made available courtesy of the Catholic Exchange.

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.

MEN'S FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, October 7th, we continue "Worthy of the Call" with inspiring lay evangelist, Jason Angelette from Louisiana. This Saturday is the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary AND the first Saturday of the month. It is a fabulous day to join as Catholic men to pray the Rosary together at our parish. Join us in learning with your brothers in Christ to be better fathers and evangelists. We meet at 6:45 a.m. in the Upper Meeting Room for the Rosary and then have the presentation and a short discussion. We finish by 8:00 a.m. so that you can attend First Saturday Mass, as Our Lady requested. 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.



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



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. on the field right here at St. Michael! Take some time 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.

REMINDER: RSVP FOR DEANERY PILGRIMAGE

Our pilgrimage to the National Basilica and Shrine to Our Lady of Consolation is approaching quickly on October 14th! **RSVPs are due THIS Thursday, October 5th**, to allow us to plan accordingly. Please see the flyers in Marian Hall for full details or by visiting the Get Involved page on the parish website. We hope to see many of you there!

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.



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/



ATTENTION, ALL LIVE WIRES!

Our next get-together will be held on Tuesday, October 10th at 11:30 a.m. in Marian Hall. All current and future Live Wires are welcome. Live Wires of ALL ages are invited – no need to be a Senior. Bring your favorite brown bag lunch and leave the desserts and drinks to us! Plan to enjoy some games and conversation! Hope to see you there!

MEN'S IGNATIAN SILENT RETREAT

Men, mark your calendars for this year's Silent Retreat at the Jesuit Spiritual Center in Milford, Ohio. This year's retreat, hosted by St. Peter, St. Michael, St. Timothy, and Immaculate Conception parishes, will be held Friday, October 27th to Sunday, October 29th. The theme is "Come and See" with Fr. Michael Graham, SJ, as retreat master. Please go to www.jesuitspiritualcenter.com/retreats for more information and to register. Space is limited, so register early. For additional information, please contact Bill Hinger at bill.hinger@gmail.com or at 614-593-1073.

St. Michael
Middle School Youth
Ministry
(6th-8th grade)

The Adventurers

Food Games Food

Sunday Oct. 1
3:00 - 4:30 pm
*NOTE THE TIME CHANGE

Outside

ST. MICHAEL
ELEVARI
HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

EVERY SUNDAY

6-8 PM | FREE FOOD | GAMES

ST. MICHAEL'S KICKBALL FIELD
*BRING A FRIEND!

TOPIC: PRAYER

SCHOOL



SAINT MICHAEL
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

**TOM KALINOSKI
MEMORIAL**

GOLF OUTING

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YORK GOLF CLUB

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COLUMBUS, OH 43235
WWW.YORKGC.COM

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE ST. MICHAEL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION TO PROVIDE UNIFORMS, EQUIPMENT, FACILITIES, & SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OUR YOUNG SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

11:00 AM REGISTRATION
12:00 PM GOLF EVENT
5 - 7 PM DINNER & FELLOWSHIP

\$125 INDIVIDUAL GOLFER & DINNER
\$500 FOURSOME FOR GOLF & DINNER
\$20 DINNER/DRINKS ONLY
\$250 HOLE SPONSORSHIP

PLEASE REGISTER AT
SMAA-EVENTS.COM



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@cdeeducation.org.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

12TH ANNUAL SACRED HEART CONGRESS

Please attend the 12th Annual Sacred Heart Congress at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Westerville, OH on **Saturday, November 4th, 2023**. This **mini-retreat** will include the Rosary at 8:00 a.m., Mass with Bishop Fernandes, Speakers, Fellowship, Testimonies, and Confession will be offered. The Congress will end with Adoration and Benediction. Please register at www.WelcomeHisHeart.com. This year we are offering programming for school-aged children. *Also a streaming-live option, if you cannot attend in person.

AN EVENING WITH THE SISTERS FOR LIFE:

Join us on Friday, October 13th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul in Westerville for this free event, sponsored by Greater Columbus Right to Life. The Sisters for Life are a religious community that is committed to the protection of human life and the promotion of new life in Christ. A reception will follow in the Klinger Center. This is not a fundraising or campaign event, but there will be an opportunity to donate and pick up campaign materials for those who are interested. For more information, visit gctrl.org/into-life.

CATHOLIC SUPPORT FOR WOMEN

Our state is facing a change to the constitution that threatens pregnant women and preborn children. Just as Jesus defended vulnerable women, the Catholic Church in Ohio stands in radical solidarity with pregnant women and those affected by abortion through various ministries:

- **Walking with Moms in Need** – Offers material resources such as clothing, food, and baby supplies, and personal accompaniment to pregnant women
- **Catholic Charities** – Sponsors educational programs for expecting mothers and fathers and accompanies families into parenting; Supports families with programs related to housing, food insecurity, and other needs
- **Project Rachel** – Provides confidential post-abortive healing to women and men affected by abortion
- The Catholic Church in Ohio also advocates for the needs of mothers, children, and families. The Catholic voice in public policy has helped build a culture of life in Ohio by eliminating sales tax on baby products, investing money in housing for pregnant women, extending a cash assistance program through all months of pregnancy, and creating a new doula program to address infant and maternal mortality rates. As Catholics, we must support women and children in need by **Voting NO on Issue 1**. *The Catholic Conference of Ohio is the official voice of the Catholic Church in Ohio on public policy, advocating for the dignity of life at all stages, immigrants, Ohioans in need, and Catholic education.* www.ohiocathconf.org.



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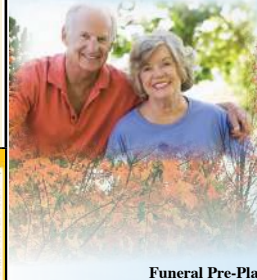
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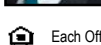
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