

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe



HOLY MASS SCHEDULE

SEE BULLETIN FOR HOLY DAYS

Saturday Vigil	4:00pm
Sunday	8:30am
	10:30am
	12:30pm
	5:00pm

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**

*“How could I bear a crown of gold
when the Lord bears a crown of thorns?
And bears it for me!”*

+SAINT ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY



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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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Steve Moore

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Safe Environment Coordinator:

Bethany Cook

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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 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:

Liz Trolli

smaa@saintmichael-cd.org

Knights of Columbus Representative:

Seth Walker

grandknight@kofc11445.com

St. Vincent de Paul Society Representative:

Elaine Miracle

svdp@saintmichael-cd.org

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE – NOVEMBER 26, 2023 DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, November 26

- 8:30 a.m. + Heinrich & Hubertine Bohnen
(Brigitte Bohnen-Hartley)
10:30 a.m. + Cesidio Pizzuti (The Pizzuti Family)
12:30 p.m. Special Intention of Dominic DeCenzo
(The DeCenzo Family)
5:00 p.m. + Ronald E. Dill (Maureen & Mike Davis)

Monday, November 27

- 6:30 a.m. + Richard Masi (Laura Wells)
8:15 a.m. + Marianne Marinelli (Pat & Joe Kearns)

Tuesday, November 28

- 6:30 a.m. + James W. Cecil (Theresa & Rich Agnello)
8:15 a.m. Special Intention of John Smith (The Smith Family)

Wednesday, November 29

- 6:30 a.m. + Michael Warnken (Carl & Sharon Merhar)
8:15 a.m. For the School

Thursday, November 30

- 6:30 a.m. + Noah Budd
8:15 a.m. + Souls in Purgatory

Friday, December 1

- 6:30 a.m. + Gus Fristad (The Fiala-Fristad Family)
8:15 a.m. + Al Romano (Kristy & Steve Wagner)

Saturday, December 2

- 8:15 a.m. + Mary Lee Duffy (The Lund Family)
4:00 p.m. + Gene Krajnak (Donna Krajnak)

Sunday, December 3

- 8:30 a.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of our Parish
10:30 a.m. + John P. Crerans (Deacon John Crerand)
12:30 p.m. + Kyle Ann Kowaleski (Kristy & Steve Wagner)
5:00 p.m. + Curtis Westerman (Rita Westerman)



NOVEMBER 26, 2023 OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

"...whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers, you did for me."

– MATTHEW 25:40

Most of us are generous when it's convenient for us. We are generous when we have the time or the money. But real generosity is the opposite of that. It means giving of one's time, money, compassion, forgiveness or mercy when it's not convenient to us, when it's not on our schedule, but on the other person's timeline.



± **MARRIAGE BANNs** ±
CONGRATULATIONS TO:

**THOMAS WHITE &
KATHERINE PARDI**
DECEMBER 2, 2023 – CELEBRATING THE
SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY
ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISH CALENDAR: NOVEMBER

SUNDAY, November 26	SVdP Giving Trees in Marian Hall	Thursday, November 30	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 5:30 p.m. Cub Scout Meeting (U) 7:00 p.m. Women's Faith & Fellowship Advent by Candlelight (MH)
Monday, November 27	6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (U)	Friday, December 1	Eucharistic Exposition (AC)
Tuesday, November 28	7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (C) 7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting (LMR) 7:30 p.m. Women's Faith & Fellowship Bible Study (UMR)	Saturday, December 2	SVdP Giving Trees in Marian Hall 6:45 a.m. Men's Faith & Fellowship (UMR) 7:00 a.m. Pietra Class (LMR) 2:30 p.m. Confessions (C)
Wednesday, November 29	6:30 p.m. Holy Hour & Confessions (C)	SUNDAY, December 3	SVdP Giving Trees in Marian Hall Friendship Sunday after all Masses Boy Scout Wreath Distribution in Marian Hall 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 Group (MH)

(U) = Undercroft/Cafeteria, (S) = School, (C) = Church, (G) = Gym, (MH) = Marian Hall, (SL) = School Library, (UMR) = Meeting room on the first floor of the Parish Ministry Center, (LMR) = Meeting room in the basement of the Parish Ministry Center, (AC) = Adoration Chapel

FROM THE PASTOR

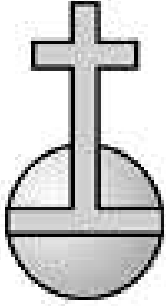
ON THIS SOLEMNITY OF JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE, the Church throughout the world proclaims the reality that Jesus Christ **is** King of the Universe – there is no higher person nor authority. So many civil governments and governing entities looked at Jesus Christ and His message as a “threat” to their human power, rather than Christ’s message being the road to redemption that leads all men and women to salvation. Our celebration of Jesus Christ as King today means that we truly place Jesus in our lives first, foremost, at all times, in all situations. On this last Sunday of this liturgical year before the Season of Advent begins next Sunday, we celebrate publicly that Jesus is first in our lives – above any elected or appointed government or judicial official, any political party, any popular contemporary figure, *any* human person – period. When we proclaim Jesus Christ as King, we hold Him highest above *any* human person. In this regard, we can say that today is really a celebration of the first of the Ten Commandments: “I am the Lord your God. You shall not have strange gods before me.” In Scripture, Jesus shows us one way to put Him first. He says, “Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” (John 18:37) So putting Jesus first means listening to His voice of truth, embracing His truth, and then living by His truth. In everything we think and do and say, let us listen to the voice of Jesus. We begin making Jesus King of our lives by first making Jesus King of our minds and then King of our actions. I say this because we live in an age and time where increasingly many people trample on Jesus Christ the King in order to advance their personal, social or political agenda, and in doing so, actually “de-throne” Christ as King and put themselves in a place of primacy above Him. Being glib and articulate, using key words and catchy phrases, often they are masters at bringing confusion to members of our society; they often lead people away from Christ. Sometimes this is done under the guise of being “progressive.” And when some form of “progressive” sentiment is proclaimed, it can appeal to many who embrace popular thought or culture of the day, versus adhering to the timeless truths of sacred Scripture as Christ’s disciples. People forget: “Anyone who is so ‘progressive’ as not to remain in the teaching of the Christ does not have God; whoever remains in the teaching has the Father and the Son.” (2 John 1:10) And so on the Solemnity of Christ the King, we have yet another opportunity given to us to reconnect with Christ, to return to Him as our King, to listen to Him as our King, to remain in His teachings, and to live His teachings as “doers of the word, not hearers only.” (James 1:22) As we see so many who lust for power and authority as some form of “king,” we should contrast them to Jesus, remembering that the only crown Jesus ever wore was a crown of thorns, the only throne He ever sat on was the cross, the only scepter He ever held in His hand was a reed put there by the soldiers who mocked Him, the only royal robes He ever wore were the robes put on Him during His Passion by the Roman soldiers who struck Him and spat at Him. This crucified Jesus is the fulfillment of the first reading today (Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17) in which God through Ezekiel promised to look after His people. The Old Testament monarchy was for the most part a failure; the kings did not really care about their people. Some of them were almost atheists. There were really only two outstandingly good kings, Hezekiah and Josiah. So in the first reading, God promised He would shepherd them, because their human shepherds, the kings, were not looking after them properly. Jesus is that shepherd. Because Jesus submitted to His Father’s will, He was raised from the dead and now sits at the right hand of the Father with all enemies, including death, under His feet, as Saint Paul says in today’s second reading. (1 Corinthians 15:20-26,28) That is why the Gospel today (Matthew 25:31-46) can portray Jesus as Judge on His throne. Which begs the question: What in our lives will Jesus judge? Jesus tells us He will judge us by our treatment of Him in our fellow humans. Six of the seven corporal works of mercy are listed in today’s Gospel. We add “burying the dead” to that list of corporal works of mercy. Just as Jesus received His place at the right hand of the Father in heaven by self-sacrifice, we will receive our place in the kingdom by:

**+ feeding the hungry + giving drink to the thirsty + making strangers welcome
+ clothing the naked + visiting the sick + visiting the imprisoned.**

On one level, this is a very challenging Gospel for the self-described “busy” person. But we need to ask: Are we that busy that we do not have time (or choose not to make time) to give these expressions of love, care and compassion to those who need these acts of love, those who need these acts of kindness? After all, they are children of God – like you and me; they are brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus – like you and me. Is it really that difficult to help care for the needs of others? Let’s all imitate Christ our Lord, Savior, Redeemer and King. His is a kingdom of love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness, not greed or power, or self-centeredness. Let’s let Christ reign in our hearts, embracing and living His law of love, and in doing so, build up His kingdom now by the way we choose to live our lives. Let’s all choose to live in witness to Him.

ADDITIONAL MASS DURING THE SEASON OF ADVENT: Please note that during the Season of Advent, beginning December 6, we will celebrate a 6:00 p.m. Mass each Wednesday evening in our parish, leading into our Weekly Holy Hour and Confessions, 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. We hope this additional Mass during Advent, along with the Weekly Holy Hour and Confessions, will help you and your family and friends in preparing to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. God bless!

~Fr. Mike Lumpe



An Act of Dedication to Jesus Christ the King

*Most sweet Jesus,
Redeemer of the human race,
look down upon us as we humbly prostrate before you.*

*We are yours, and yours we wish to be;
but to be more surely united with you,
behold each one of us freely consecrates himself today
to your Most Sacred Heart.*

*Many indeed have never known you;
many, too, despising your precepts, have rejected you.
Have mercy on them all, most merciful Jesus,
and draw them to your Sacred Heart.*

*Be King, O Lord,
not only of the faithful who have never forsaken you,
but also of the prodigal children who have abandoned you;
grant that they may quickly return to their Father's house,
lest they die of wretchedness and hunger.*

*Be King of those who are deceived by erroneous opinions,
or whom discord keeps aloof,
and call them back*

*to the harbor of truth and the unity of faith,
so that soon there may be
but one flock and one Shepherd.*

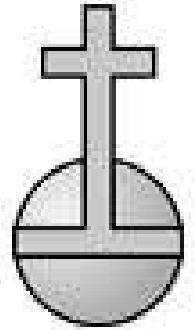
*Grant, O Lord, to your Church assurance
of freedom and immunity from harm;
give tranquility of order to all nations;
make the earth resound from pole to pole with one cry:
Praise to the divine Heart that wrought our salvation;
to it be glory and honor for ever. Amen.*

FOOD for THOUGHT

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

Jesus Christ: King of the Universe and of Human Hearts

by Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, O.F.M. Cap.



The solemnity of Christ the King was instituted only recently. It was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925 in response to the atheist and totalitarian political regimes that denied the rights of God and the Church. The climate in which the feast was born was, for example, that of the Mexican revolution, when many Christians went to their death crying out to their last breath, "Long live Christ the King!"

But if the feast is recent, its content and its central idea are not; they are quite ancient and we can say that they were born with Christianity. The phrase "Christ reigns" has its equivalent in the profession of faith: "Jesus is Lord," which occupies a central place in the preaching of the apostles.

Today is a day to recall and to examine the death of Christ, because it is at that moment that Christ begins to rule over the world. The cross is Christ's throne. "Above him there was an inscription that read, 'This is the King of the Jews.'" That which in the intention of his enemies was the justification of his condemnation, was, in the eyes of the heavenly Father, the proclamation of his universal sovereignty.

To see what this feast has to do with us, we need only recall to our minds a very simple distinction. There are two universes, two worlds or cosmoses: the "macrocosm," which is the whole universe external to us, and the "microcosm," or the little universe, which is each individual man. The liturgy itself, in the reform that followed Vatican II, felt the need to accent the human and spiritual aspect of the feast over the, so to speak, political aspect of the feast. The prayer of the feast no longer asks, as it once did, "that all the families of nations, now kept apart by the wound of sin, may be brought under the sweet yoke of [Christ's] rule" but that "every creature, freed from the slavery of sin, serve and praise [Christ] forever."

Let us consider again the inscription placed above Christ: "This is the King of the Jews." The onlookers challenged him to manifest his royalty openly and many, even among his friends, expected a spectacular demonstration of his kingship. But he chose only to show his kingship in his solicitude for one man, who was, in fact, a criminal: "'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied to him, 'Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.'"

From this point of view, the most important question to ask on the feast of Christ the King is not whether he reigns in the world but whether he reigns in each of us; it is not whether his kingship is recognized by states and governments, but whether it is recognized and lived personally in me.

Is Christ the King and Lord of my life? Who rules in me, who determines the goals and establishes priorities: Christ or someone else? According to St. Paul, there are two ways to live: either for ourselves or for the Lord (Romans 14:7-9). Living "for ourselves" means living like someone who takes himself to be the beginning and the end; it is a life closed in on itself, drawn only by its own satisfaction and glory, without any perspective of eternity. Living "for the Lord," on the contrary, means living for the Lord, that is, with a view to him, for his glory, for his kingdom.

What we have here is truly a new existence, in the face of which, death itself has lost its definitiveness. The greatest contradiction that man has always experienced -- that between life and death -- has been overcome. The contradiction is no longer between "living" and "dying" but between living "for ourselves" and living "for the Lord."

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, O.F.M., Cap., was appointed in 1980 by Pope John Paul II to serve as the "Preacher to the Papal Household" – a position in which capacity he still serves.

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 November is dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

"Whenever I go to the chapel, I put myself in the presence of our good Lord, and I say to Him, 'Lord, here I am. Tell me what You would have me do.' If He gives me some task, I am content and I thank Him. If He gives me nothing, I still thank Him since I do not deserve to receive anything more than that. And then, I tell God everything that is in my heart. I tell Him about my pains and my joys, and then I listen. If you listen, God will also speak to you, for with the good Lord, you have to both speak and listen. God always speaks to you when you approach Him plainly and simply."

+SAINT CATHERINE LABOURE

**Monday, November 27 ~ Thirty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time
Memorial, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal**

Holy Gospel: John 2:1-11 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons.

Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from, the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.



Meditation: John's Gospel takes its shape from a series of signs, revealing Jesus as the Messiah, Son of God, and Savior of the world. This miracle story is the first of these signs. The marriage feast at Cana heralds that Messianic age had begun. And, as a result of the miracle at Cana, "his disciples began to believe in him." Are you truly a disciple of Christ? If so, do you believe in him?

Prayer: Lord, in granting us the blessings of salvation, you chose the immaculate Virgin Mary to be associated with your Son in a unique way. Supported by her, may we always experience your attentive care, and devote ourselves in faith to the work of redemption. 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 to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal: O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you, and for all who do not have recourse to you, especially the enemies of the Church and those recommended to you. Amen.

Contemplation: When Mary says to the servers "Do whatever he tells you..." we, too, are taught by these words that if we desire anything from Christ, we will not obtain our wishes unless we depend on him and him alone, look to him, pray to him, and, in short, do whatever he tells us. This is part of his invitation throughout scripture when Jesus says "Follow me." He is the shepherd and we are his flock. Thus, as a disciple, do you really follow Christ? Do you do whatever Jesus teaches us in scripture, follow his teachings, and incorporate them in your daily life? Are you a "doer of the word" (James 1:22)? If not, why not?

About Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal: On this day in the year 1830 Our Lady appeared to St. Catherine Laboure, a Daughter of Charity in Paris, and told her that God had a mission for her. Standing upon a globe, the Virgin Mary held a golden ball which she seemed to offer to God, and on her fingers were rings with gems that emitted rays of light. She told St. Catherine, "These rays symbolize the graces I shed upon those who ask for them. The gems from which rays do not fall are the graces for which souls forget to ask." Afterward, the ball, symbolizing the world and each person, disappeared, and she held her hands outstretched in the manner of a loving mother, while rays of light continued to cascade upon the globe at her feet as she stood atop the serpent's head. Framing the image in an oval were the words, "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee." St. Catherine then saw an image of an "M" upon which was a cross. Underneath the "M" was Our Lord's heart crowned with thorns and Our Lady's heart pierced by a sword. Surrounding this image were 12 stars. The Blessed Virgin instructed St. Catherine to have a medal made of these images, and she promised many graces to all who wear it. It is important to note that, as with all sacramentals, the Miraculous Medal is not some "lucky charm." Keep in mind also that in expressing devotion to Mary, we do not worship her, as many Christians in other denominations believe, but rather honor her in her devotion to our Lord! As the popular saying goes "to Jesus through Mary." Remember also her last words in Scripture, which could almost be her motto, in which she told the attendants at the wedding feast of Cana "Do whatever he [Jesus] tells you" (John 2:5).

Send your prayer intentions on-line to the Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Paris:
www.chapellenotredamedelamedaillemiraculeuse.com/langues/english/prayer-intentions/

Tuesday, November 28 ~ Thirty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Luke 21:5-11 While some people were speaking about how the temple was adorned with costly stones and votive offerings, Jesus said, "All that you see here— the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down." Then they asked him, "Teacher, when will this happen? And what sign will there be when all these things are about to happen?" He answered, "See that you not be deceived, for many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he,' and 'The time has come.' Do not follow them! When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for such things must happen first, but it will not immediately be the end." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues from place to place; and awesome sights and mighty signs will come from the sky."

Meditation: Jesus' prophecy is a two-edged sword, because it points not only to God's judgment, but also to his saving action and mercy. Jesus foretells the destruction of Jerusalem and the dire consequences for all who would reject him and his saving message. While the destruction of Jerusalem's temple was determined (it was razed by the Romans in 70 A.D.), there remained for its inhabitants a narrow open door leading to deliverance. Jesus says: "I am the door; whoever enters by me will be saved" (John 10:9). Jesus willingly set his face toward Jerusalem, knowing that he would meet betrayal, rejection, and death on a cross. His death on the cross, however, brought about victory and salvation, not only for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, but for all – both Jew and gentile – who would accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Is your life securely submitted to the lordship of Jesus Christ?

Prayer: Stir up the will of your faithful, we pray, O Lord, that striving more eagerly to bring your divine work to fruitful completion, they may receive in greater measure the healing remedies your kindness bestows. 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: A former judge, Robert H. Bork, wrote a book a few decades ago entitled, *Slouching Towards Gomorrah*. His message sounds an alarm about the moral crisis and decay of culture which he sees in Western society. We often don't recognize the moral crisis and spiritual conflict of our age, until something "shakes us up" to the reality of our present condition. The reward for the righteous and the penalty for the unrighteous are not always experienced in this life; but they are sure to come in the day of judgment. There will be persecution, suffering, and difficulties in this age until the Lord comes again. God intends our anticipation of his final judgment to be a powerful deterrent to wrongdoing. God extends grace and mercy to all who will heed his call and his warning. Do you take advantage of God's grace and mercy to seek his kingdom and to pursue his will? Recall what we read in scripture: "Remain faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." (Revelation 2:10C)

Wednesday, November 29 ~ Thirty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Luke 21:12-19 Jesus said to the crowd: "They will seize and persecute you, they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons, and they will have you led before kings and governors because of my name. It will lead to your giving testimony. Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand, for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute. You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives."

Meditation: If the gospel message is good news, then why do so many oppose it with hostility and even violence? Jesus warns his followers that they will be confronted with persecution, wickedness, false teaching, and temptation. The real enemy of the Gospel is Satan who uses fear and hatred to provoke hostility in others towards those who follow Christ. And what is Jesus' response to this hostility and opposition? Love and truth. Only love can defeat prejudice, intolerance, and hatred. God's love purifies our hearts and minds of all that would divide and tear people apart. The truth is also essential for overcoming evil and tribulation in the world. Satan deceives and sin blinds the heart and mind. Only God's truth can free us from error and spiritual blindness. This Gospel is God's word of truth and salvation. That is why Jesus tells his disciples to proclaim the Gospel throughout the whole world, even in the midst of opposition and persecution.

Prayer: Stir up the will of your faithful, we pray, O Lord, that striving more eagerly to bring your divine work to fruitful completion, they may receive in greater measure the healing remedies your kindness bestows. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: The word *martyr* in Greek means *witness*. The Book of Revelation says that "Jesus was the faithful witness ...who freed us from our sins by his blood" (Rev. 1:5). Tertullian, a second century convert who saw the early Christians singing as they went out to die by the hands of their persecutors, said: "The blood of the martyrs is seed." Their blood is the seed of new Christians, the seed of the church. The third century bishop, Cyprian said: "When persecution comes, God's soldiers are put to the test, and heaven is open to martyrs. We have not enlisted in an army to think of peace and to decline battle, for we see that the Lord has taken first place in the conflict." True martyrs live and die as witnesses of the gospel. They overcome their enemies through persevering hope and courage, sacrificial love and forbearance, kindness and compassion. God may call some of us to be martyrs for our faith. But for most of us, our call is to be 'dry' martyrs who bear testimony to the joy and power of the gospel in the midst of daily challenges, contradictions, temptations and adversities which come our way as we follow the Lord. What most attracts others to the truth and power of the gospel? When they see Christians loving their enemies, being joyful in suffering, patient in adversity, pardoning injuries, and showing comfort and compassion to the hopeless and the helpless. Jesus tells us that we do not need to fear our adversaries. God will give us sufficient grace, strength, and wisdom to face any trial and to answer any challenge to our faith. Are you eager to bear witness to the joy and freedom of the Gospel? At all times? Before all peoples?

Thursday, November 30 ~ Thirty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time Saint Andrew, Apostle

Holy Gospel: Matthew 4:18-22 As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.

Meditation: Jesus speaks the same message to us today as he did when he walked this earth – we will "catch people" for the kingdom of God if we allow the light of Jesus Christ to shine in and through us. God wants others to see the light of Christ in us in the way we live, speak, and witness the joy of the truth contained in the gospel. Saint Paul the Apostles says, "But thanks be to God, who in Christ Jesus always leads us in triumph, and who through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing" (2 Corinthians 2:15). Do you show others around you the joy of the gospel and do you pray for your neighbors, co-workers, and relatives that they may come to know the Lord Jesus Christ and grow in the knowledge of his love?

Prayer: We humbly implore your majesty, O Lord, that, just as the blessed Apostle Andrew was for your Church a preacher and pastor, so he may be for us a constant intercessor before 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.

Contemplation: What is God calling you to do in your brief earthly life? As God calls you (as he calls each of us) how are you responding? Are you ready to respond? When Jesus began his ministry he went everywhere he could — the streets, towns, hills and lakeside of Galilee — to speak to people about the kingdom of God. He chose as his closest friends and coworkers those who were ready to follow as his disciples and he gave them an unusual mission — "to catch people for the kingdom of God". What kind of disciples did Jesus choose? Smelly fishermen! In the choice of the first apostles we see a characteristic feature of Jesus' work: he chose very ordinary people. They were non-professionals, had no wealth or position of power or fame in society. They were chosen from the common people who did ordinary things, had no special marks of education, and no social advantages. Jesus wanted ordinary people who could take an assignment and do it extraordinarily well. He chose these individuals, not for what they were, but for what they would be capable of becoming under his direction and power. When the Lord calls us to be his disciples, we must not think we have nothing to offer him in exchange. The Lord takes what ordinary people, like us, can offer and uses it for greatness in his kingdom.

Friday, December 1 ~ Thirty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Luke 21:29-33 Jesus told his disciples a parable. "Consider the fig tree and all the other trees. When their buds burst open, you see for yourselves and know that summer is now near; in the same way, when you see these things happening, know that the Kingdom of God is near. Amen, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

Meditation: Jesus used the image of a fig tree to teach his disciples an important lesson about reading the "signs of the times." The fig tree was a common and important source of food for the Jews. It bore fruit twice a year, in the autumn and in the early spring. The Talmud said that the first fruit came the day after Passover. The Jews believed that when the Messiah came he would usher in the kingdom of God at Passover time. The early signs of a changing season, such as springtime, are evident for all who can see and observe the changes. Just so are the signs of God's kingdom and his return in glory on the day of judgment. The "budding" of God's kingdom begins first in the hearts of those who are receptive to God's word. Those who trust in God's word will bear the fruits of his kingdom. And what are the fruits of that kingdom? "The kingdom of God ..is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Romans 14:17).

Prayer: Almighty ever-living God, who gave Saint Catherine of Alexandria to your people as a Virgin and an invincible Martyr, grant that through her intercession we may be strengthened in faith and constancy and spend ourselves without reserve for the unity of the Church. 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: Despite the periodic headlines of supermarket tabloids, we do not know the day or hour when the Lord will return again in glory. But the Lord does give us signs, not only to "wake us up" as a warning, but also to "rouse our spirits" to be ready and eager to see his kingdom come in all its power and glory. The "Day of the Lord" will strike terror in those who reject God and his kingdom of righteousness, but it will be a day of joy and rejoicing for those who long to see the Lord face-to-face. The Lord wants us to be filled with joyful anticipation for his coming again. He surely comes to us each day and speaks to our hearts like a lover who whispers in the ear of the beloved. As he promised, the Lord will surely come again in all his glory. Do you look for the signs pointing to the Lord's return and do you pray that he come quickly to establish peace and justice on the earth?

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.

frlump:2023



WISDOM of the SAINTS

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PARISH + 5750 N. HIGH STREET + WORTHINGTON, OHIO 43085

Be willing to simply love God

By Saint Francis de Sales

If I am not mistaken, when we say that we cannot find God and that He seems so far away, we mean only that we cannot feel His presence. I have before observed that many people do not distinguish between God and the feeling of God, between faith and the feeling of faith, which is a very great defect. It seems to them that when they do not feel God, they are not in His presence, which is a mistake.

A person who was about to suffer martyrdom for God and yet did not actually think of Him, but rather of his pain, although the feeling of faith may be wanting, yet does not fail to merit because of his first resolution, and makes an act of great love. There is a difference between being in the presence of God and having the feeling of His presence. God alone can give us the latter; as to my giving you the means of acquiring this sentiment, it is an impossibility.

Do you ask what you must do in order to keep yourself always with the deepest reverence before God as being most unworthy of this grace? There is nothing to do but just what you say: to remember that He is our God, and that we are His feeble creatures, all unworthy of this honor. St. Francis did this; he spent a whole night asking God: “Who art Thou, and who am I?”

In short, if you ask me “What can I do to acquire the love of God?” I answer, “By willing to love Him.” And instead of setting to work to try to find out how you can unite your soul to God, put the thing in practice by a continual application of your mind to Him, and I assure you that you will arrive much more quickly at your object by this means than by any other.

For the more we pour ourselves out, the less recollected we shall be, and the less capable of union with the divine Majesty, who wishes to have all we are without reserve. One actually finds souls who are so busy in thinking how they shall do a thing that they have no time to do it; and yet, in what concerns our perfection, which consists in the union of our soul with the divine Goodness, there is no question of knowing much, but of doing. It seems to me that those of whom we ask the road to Heaven are very right in answering us like those who tell us that, in order to reach such a place, we must just go on putting one foot before the other, and that by this means, we shall arrive where we desire. Keep walking, we say to these souls so desirous of their perfection, walking the way of your vocation with simplicity, more intent on doing than on desiring; that is the shortest road.

Do not seek a ready-made way of perfection

But here I perceive a little artifice that you must allow me to reveal to you, without your being offended. You want me to teach you a sort of ready-made way of perfection, one that you have only to put your head into it, or put it on like a dress, and thus be perfect, without taking any trouble. You want me, I say, to give you a ready-made perfection, for what I tell you must be done is not pleasing to nature; it is not what we want. Certainly, if that were in my power I should be the most perfect man in the world; for if I could give perfection to others without their having to do anything, I assure you that I should take it first of all for myself! You fancy that perfection is an art of which, if you can only discover the secret, you will instantly obtain possession, without any trouble. Certainly this is a great mistake, for, in aspiring to union with the Beloved, there is no other secret than to do what we aspire to — that is, to labor faithfully in the exercise of divine love.

I wish you, however, to observe that when I say we must do this, I am always referring to the superior part of our soul, for as regards all the feelings of repugnance in the inferior part, we must pay no more heed to them than passersby do to the dogs they hear barking in the distance. Those who at a banquet try every dish, eating a little of each, so disorder their stomachs that they cannot sleep, and pass the night with the usual consequences of indigestion. So it is with those souls who wish to try all methods and means that may lead them to perfection, for their spiritual stomach not having sufficient heat to digest and put into practice so many methods, a certain discomfort and indigestion succeeds, which deprives them of that peace and serenity of mind in the presence of our Lord that is “the one thing needful,” which Mary chose, and “which shall not be taken away from her.”

Saint Francis de Sales is the Patron Saint of the Diocese of Columbus. This article is an excerpt from Saint Francis de Sales’ THE ART OF LOVING GOD which is available from Sophia Institute Press – www.sophia institute.com.

SPIRITUAL THOUGHTS

Saint Michael the Archangel Parish + 5750 N. High Street + Worthington, Ohio 43085

It's the cause – not the effect

By Fr. John Caitor

Accepting God's will is the goal of a healthy spiritual life. Acceptance of God's permissive will is an advanced stage of personal holiness.

Holiness is not the reward of a lifetime of loving service. We give a lifetime of loving service because we are holy. Holiness is not what happens to us if we are kind and forgiving. We are kind and forgiving because we are holy. Acceptance of the difficulties of life is the key ingredient of true holiness.

Those who have attained an advanced degree of holiness have done so primarily because of their basic disposition to do God's will. This implies a willingness to accept all the bad things that God allows to happen in our life. Even though we do not fully understand it at the time, God can draw good from evil.

Let's face it, bad things happen to good people. There is an abundance of misery and injustice in the world. Acceptance doesn't mean that we should become doormats, or become absolute pacifists. It's normal to complain, and fight back at times.

If one is disposed to do God's will in all circumstances however, then one learns to accept what God allows to happen in our lives, even if we detest it. (Thy will be done, Thy Kingdom come). Your soul becomes ready for further growth when it reacts with faith not emotions. Paul said, "Be grateful in all circumstances." Nobody can really do that, but we can be disposed to try.

There will be doubt and confusion all the way along. Even the saints lived in emotional turmoil as they tried to lift up their spirits. We gain heaven one day at a time, even though we may never be clear about what's happening to us.

Fr. Thomas Merton, OSCO, the Trappist Monk who wrote *Seven Story Mountain*, was no stranger to controversy and suffering. He wrote a helpful book on solitude, in which he revealed his interior struggle. Here is an excerpt:

"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself. The fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe the desire to please you actually does in fact please you. And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do that, you will lead me by the right road. Though I may seem lost and in the shadow of death, I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone."

This humble prayer expresses what most of us feel at times in our life. We are always trying to rise above the confusion and doubt. Our goal is to attain cheerful acquiescence. It sounds impossible, but with God's grace all things are possible.

God wants to give us a share in His happiness. Trust His love and carry on in all circumstances. Never be discouraged. Pick yourself up, brush yourself off, and start all over again. In this way you can die in the peaceful knowledge that even though you were confused at times, you tried to do your best.

God smiles down upon you.

This article is made available courtesy of The Catholic Exchange.

AROUND THE PARISH

Women's Faith & Fellowship Advent Reflection Journal

Bring your Advent journey to life with our Advent Reflection Journal. Rejoice! An Advent Pilgrimage into the Heart of Scripture by Fr. Mark Toups is a wonderful way for you to prepare your heart for the birth of our Savior & King.

Books are \$10 each and are AVAILABLE NOW! You can reserve one for yourself or add a few more & share with some friends this Advent season.

Quantities are limited, to reserve yours now, use the link below or email us at womensgroup@saintmichael-cd.org



MAKE TIME FOR ADORATION

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 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.



JOIN ST. ANN'S ALTAR SOCIETY AND HELP KEEP OUR CHURCH CLEAN!

Members of the St. Ann's Altar Society at St. Michael the Archangel Church keep the church and Adoration Chapel clean throughout the year. Our goal is to clean the church on Fridays to have it ready for weekend Masses, and to clean the Adoration Chapel on Tuesdays before Eucharistic Exposition. No heavy-duty cleaning or lifting is required, just a desire to help keep our church looking beautiful! To sign up, scan the QR code or visit saintmichael-cd.org/community-life/parish-ministries/st-anns-altar-society/.

Women of the St. Michael Community and their family and friends are invited to:

Advent by Candlelight

Thursday, November 30 at 7:00pm
Featuring Fr. Michael Lumpe

Join us for a beautiful evening of faith and fellowship as we share a meal and listen to Father Mike share with us about the motherhood of Mary. To host a table, RSVP as an individual or for more information on our candlelight evenings, please use the QR code below.



THE SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL INVITES YOU TO HELP OTHERS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Our Giving Trees will be available in Marian Hall from November 25th through December 10th. We will be collecting toys & gifts for children of all ages to be distributed to the St. Francis Center and St. Lawrence Haven.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
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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



YOUTH GROUP MISSION TRIP TO CRANKS CREEK

Attention, all high schoolers! This winter, we will be doing a mission trip down to Cranks Creek Kentucky with St. Brendan's Youth Ministry, The Vine. We will leave the morning of December 21 and return December 23, late evening. The bulk of our mission trip will be serving the people of Harlan County. If you are interested and want to go, please email Jake Asuncion at jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org and a registration form will be sent via email. The cost of the trip is \$120.00, but if you need financial assistance, please reach out to Jake Asuncion. There will an inquiry meeting on December 11. Scan the QR code to donate to the Mission Trip; simply select "Cranks Creek Mission Fund" when making your donation. This will cover expenses for food and donations that will be bought for the people of Harlan County. Please consider donating!

MEN'S FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, December 2nd, The Presentation of the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary is our focus. Filmed in the Holy Land, this is a beautiful video with testimonies and insights from professed and laymen and laywomen about the benefits of contemplating the joyful mysteries. This series is perfect for improving your Advent! All are invited to join us in praying and learning to be more joyful evangelists. We meet at 6:45 a.m. in the Upper Meeting Room for the Rosary, followed by the presentation and a short discussion. Adults of all ages may join us any week. Ask your spouse or a friend to come with you. Any questions can be directed to mensgroup@saintmichael-cd.org.

SCHOOLS

ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL IS HIRING!

St. Michael School is hiring a Before Care Assistant for the 2023-2024 School Year to work the following shift: 6:45-7:45 a.m. Monday-Friday. Students arrive at 7:00 a.m., so the start time for the position could be discussed if the applicant wishes to attend the 6:30 a.m. Mass. **Requirements:**

- Current satisfactory BCI & FBI background checks
- Have attended or be willing to attend a **VIRTUS Protecting God's Children training**
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.

For more information or to apply, please contact Sr. Mary Regina at principal@stmichaelworthington.org

ST. MICHAEL PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

St. Michael Preschool is now accepting applications for the 2024-2025 school year. Please visit www.stmichaelworthington.org/admissions/prekindergarten/ for the application form and for more information. Completed applications can be emailed to Preschool Director, Laura Wells at lwells@stmichaelworthington.org. Please note that we only accept digital copies of the application form. We anticipate to have a waitlist, so be sure to get your applications in as soon as possible.



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It's true! As an Ohio taxpayer, when you make a donation to the Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund, you could receive a dollar-for-dollar credit* against your state income tax liability, while creating scholarship dollars for students to attend St. Michael School. Even with the recent expansion to Ohio's EdChoice Scholarship program, financial need still exists for many families. Your gift helps bridge the gap between state scholarships and the cost to educate a child, while reducing your Ohio tax burden. Use the QR code to donate today! **Ohio tax credit is up to \$750.00 per person, or \$1,500.00, if married filing jointly. Based on tax rates posted by the Ohio Department of Taxation, an individual with an annual income of \$40,000.00 has an average state tax liability of \$750.00. Consult a tax advisor for guidance on your specific situation. The Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund is a certified Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) in the state of Ohio.*



Key Dates for 2024-2025 New Student Enrollment

December 1, 2023:
February 1, 2024:

Online New Student applications for the 2024-2025 school year open
Prospective Parent Information Night

St. Michael School is now an Ed Choice scholarship provider. Learn more about St. Michael School and find application paperwork by visiting www.stmichaelworthington.org/admissions



AROUND THE DIOCESE



 **BUCKEYE CATHOLIC**

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CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2023 SPEAKER: BISHOP EARL FERNANDES



Join us Friday, December 1 at St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus for a luncheon featuring His Excellency Bishop Earl Fernandes, Bishop of the Columbus Diocese, who will present his annual address to the Luncheon Club. The December luncheon is sponsored by The Catholic Foundation. More information about the Catholic Foundation is available at <https://catholic-foundation.org/>. If you are interested in sponsoring a luncheon, please contact Pat Foley at foleyp513@gmail.com. Holy Mass (optional) begins at 11:45 a.m., followed by lunch at 12:10 p.m., and Bishop Fernandes' presentation. No reservations are necessary. \$12.00 covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend! **There is no luncheon in January, but plan on attending our luncheon on Friday, February 2, 2024, when Bishop Fernandes will return to present the Catholic Man of the Year Award.**

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