

The Feast of the Holy Family



“At the school of Nazareth every family learns to be a workshop of love, unity and openness to life. In our day a misunderstood sense of rights sometimes troubles the very nature of the family institution and of the conjugal bond. People who believe in the importance of the family based on marriage should join forces at all levels. The family is a human and divine reality that should be defended and promoted as a fundamental social good.”

*+Pope Saint John Paul II
Angelus, December 28, 2003*



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



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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

Priest in Holy Service:

Fr. Peter Fegan, O.P.

Permanent Deacons:

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Dcn. Bill Demidovich

Dcn. Klaus Fricke (Retired)

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SAINT MICHAEL INFORMATION CENTER



LOW-GLUTEN HOST

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



NEW MEMBERS

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

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH DECEMBER 31, 2023 DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday December 31

- 8:30 a.m. + Cesidio Pizzuti (The Pizzuti Family)
- 10:30 a.m. + Tom Kalinoski (The Kalinoski Family)
- 12:30 p.m. Special Intention of the Brown Family
- 5:00 p.m. + For the Living & Deceased Members of our Parish

Monday, January 1

- 6:30 a.m. For the Needs of our Parish Families in the New Year
- 8:15 a.m. For the Needs of our Parish Families in the New Year

Tuesday, January 2

- 6:30 a.m. + Rosemary Madden (Pat & Joe Kearns)
- 8:15 a.m. Special Intention of Jon & Barb Edwards

Wednesday, January 3

- 6:30 a.m. + Deacon John Barbour (Vicki Kiser)
- 8:15 a.m. For the School

Thursday, January 4

- 6:30 a.m. + Special Intention of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist (The Smullen Family)
- 8:15 a.m. + Rita Plummer Evanson (Mike & Maria Wolever)

Friday, January 5

- 6:30 a.m. + Richard Lumpe
- 8:15 a.m. + Linus Osterloh (The Butler Family)

Saturday, January 6

- 8:15 a.m. + Candance, Michael & Trevor Warnken (Carl & Sharon Merhar)
- 4:00 p.m. + Andrea D'Andrea (Elizabeth Larmon)

Sunday, January 7

- 8:30 a.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of our Parish
- 10:30 a.m. + Cesidio Pizzuti (The Pizzuti Family)
- 12:30 p.m. + Kyle Ann Kowaleski (Kristy & Steve Wagner)
- 5:00 p.m. + Peter Carcaise (SMS 3rd Grade Class)



DECEMBER 31, 2023 – FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

"...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive." – Colossians 3:13

Forgiving is one of the hardest things for people to do. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. Go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. Then, share the gift of forgiveness with someone – a family member, a friend or a co-worker. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.



± MARRIAGE BANNS ±

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

**BRIAN WEALS &
KATHERINE MEAD**
JANUARY 6, 2024

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY
ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH



BAPTISMS

CONGRATULATIONS ON
THE BAPTISMS OF

**SAMUEL JOHN WALLACE
& CAROLINE GRACE WALKER**



PARISH CALENDAR: JANUARY

SUNDAY, December 31	No Activities	Thursday, January 4	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 5:30 p.m. Cub Scout Meeting (U) 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (C)
Monday, January 1	Parish Office Closed Happy New Year!	Friday, January 5	Eucharistic Exposition (AC)
Tuesday, January 2	7:30 p.m. Cub Scout Planning Meeting (LMR)	Saturday, January 6	6:30 p.m. Men's Faith & Fellowship (UMR) 2:30 p.m. Confessions (C)
Wednesday, January 3	6:30 p.m. Holy Hour & Confessions (C)	SUNDAY, January 7	Friendship Sunday after all Masses 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

Dear Parishioners:

On this Feast of the Holy Family we celebrate and honor the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and we aspire to imitate them in one way or another by the way we make choices in our daily lives. Looking at the beginning of creation, God's first commandment to man and woman was to "be fruitful." All through Scripture, blessedness is described in terms of fruitfulness. In the psalm, we see that "Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in His ways." "Fear," of course, means "reverence for" and "obedience to" the Lord, which are the essence of blessedness. This is the foundation for all of us, in all walks of life, no matter who we are; this becomes quite necessary for parents in creating and maintaining their home and in raising their children. Joseph and Mary, though chosen for a special purpose by God, raised Jesus as any normal parents would raise their son. We forget, sometimes, that Joseph and Mary were human beings, just like you and I. Often we sell ourselves short, thinking "I can't be like Joseph, Mary or Jesus" when, in fact, we actually can, and are called to do so. If we look at the qualities and characteristics of Joseph and Mary, we see that we are capable of living these as well: Humble, Courageous, Faithful (to God and to one another), a Good Provider (in their specific roles as husband, wife, father, mother), Prudent, Obedient to the Will of God, Trusting in Divine Providence, Model of Workers, Example of Married Life and Chaste Love, Prayerful Life, Immediate Response to the Call of God, Life of Sacrifice, Life of Simplicity. So in the ordinary, daily life of Joseph and Mary they can become role models for any modern Christian family. Even though they led a typical family life, they also led a life surrounded by love, responsibility and caring for each other – something we are all called to do. In Jesus Christ, of course, we are called to live our lives in witness to Him in all respects, as He taught us to do. In our second reading today, Saint Paul directs the Christians to treat each other as fellow members of God's household. He exhorts them to live in the Church the way we ought first to live in our families: with "compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience." Life in God's family requires us to forgive others as He has forgiven us. Love is the "bond of perfection" that holds the community together. No matter the composition of that community. The family is the best place to begin learning these virtues, as parents are the first and primary educators of their children in the ways of learning, embracing and living our faith. Saint Paul has specific instructions for families to enable them to be a place where this kind of life can become a reality:

Brothers and sisters:

*Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience,
bearing with one another and forgiving one another,
if one has a grievance against another;*

as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.

And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.

*And let the peace of Christ control your hearts,
the peace into which you were also called in one body.*

And be thankful.

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another,
singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
with gratitude in your hearts to God.*

*And whatever you do, in word or in deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

As we begin a New Year, let us all take heed of Saint Paul's instructions in our homes with our own families, but also in our parish family of Saint Michael the Archangel. While we have only been here with you for just over six months, we priests have commented on several occasions that there is a wonderful spirit here in our parish family. As we move forward in this New Year, let us all strive to imitate the qualities and characteristics of each member of the Holy Family in our daily living, and use Saint Paul's reading today as a basis for living an authentic life of faith as "doers of the word, not hearers only" (James 1:22).

OF NOTE:

+ Major and continued thanks to everyone who gave of their time and talents in making the Christmas liturgies so beautiful. We are blessed in so many ways here at Saint Michael.

+ A reminder that January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, is not observed as a Holy Day this year as it falls on a Monday. As such, our regular Mass schedule is in effect: 6:30 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. Begin the New Year with Mass!

--Fr. Mike



Christmas Season

Saint Michael the Archangel Parish + 5750 North High Street + Worthington, Ohio 43085 + (614) 885-7814

How is Mary the Mother of God?

by Fr. William Saunders

On January 1 we celebrate the Solemnity of Holy Mary, Mother of God. Though not a Holy Day of Obligation in 2024, it is good to begin the New Year in prayer, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

To understand the title "Mother of God," we must first clearly understand Mary's role as mother of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As Catholics, we firmly believe in the incarnation of Our Lord: Mary conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Confer Lk 1:26-38 and Mt 1:18-25.) Through her, Jesus Christ — second person of the Holy Trinity, one-in-being (consubstantial) with the Father, and true God from true God — entered this world taking on human flesh and a human soul. Jesus is true God and true man. In His divine person are united both a divine nature and a human nature. Mary did not create the divine person of Jesus, who existed with the Father and Holy Spirit from all eternity: "In fact, the One whom she conceived as man by the Holy Spirit, who truly became her Son according to the flesh, was none other than the Father's eternal Son, the second person of the Holy Trinity. Hence the Church confesses that Mary is truly 'Mother of God' (*Theotokos*)" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 495). As St. John wrote, "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us, and we have seen His glory: The glory of an only Son coming from the Father filled with enduring love" (Jn 1:14).

For this reason, sometime in the early history of the Church, our Blessed Mother was given the title "Mother of God." St. John Chrysostom (d. 407), for example, composed in his Eucharistic Prayer for the Mass an anthem in honor of her: "It is truly just to proclaim you blessed, O Mother of God, who are most blessed, all pure and Mother of our God. We magnify you who are more honorable than the Cherubim and incomparably more glorious than the Seraphim. You who, without losing your virginity, gave birth to the Word of God. You who are truly the Mother of God."

However, objection to the title "Mother of God" arose in the fifth century due to confusion concerning the mystery of the incarnation. Nestorius, bishop of Constantinople (428-431), incited a major controversy. He stated that Mary gave birth to Jesus Christ, a regular human person, period. To this human person was united the person of the Word of God (the divine Jesus). This union of two persons — the human Christ and the divine Word — was "sublime and unique" but merely accidental. The divine person dwelt in the human person "as in a temple." Following his own reasoning, Nestorius asserted that the human Jesus died on the cross, not the divine Jesus. As such, Mary is not "Mother of God," but simply "Mother of Christ" — the human Jesus. Sound confusing? It is, but the result is the splitting of Christ into two persons and the denial of the incarnation.

St. Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria (d. 440) refuted Nestorius, asserting, "It was not that an ordinary man was born first of the Holy Virgin, on whom afterwards the Word descended; what we say is that, being united with the flesh from the womb, [the Word] has undergone birth in the flesh, making the birth in the flesh His own...." This statement affirms the belief asserted in the first paragraph — Mary is truly the mother of God.

On June 22, 431, the Council of Ephesus convened to settle this argument. The Council declared, "If anyone does not confess that the Emmanuel is truly God and therefore that the holy Virgin is the Mother of God (*Theotokos*) (since she begot according to the flesh the Word of God made flesh), anathema sit." Therefore, the Council officially recognized that Jesus is one divine person, with two natures — human and divine — united in a true union. Second, Ephesus affirmed that our Blessed

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 January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus.

"In dangers, in doubts, in difficulties, think of Mary, call upon Mary. Let not her name depart from your lips, never suffer it to leave your heart. And that you may obtain the assistance of her prayer, neglect not to walk in her footsteps. With her for guide, you shall never go astray; while invoking her, you shall never lose heart; so long as she is in your mind, you are safe from deception; while she holds your hand, you cannot fall; under her protection you have nothing to fear; if she walks before you, you shall not grow weary; if she shows you favor, you shall reach the goal." +SAINT BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX

Monday, January 1 ~ Solemnity of Holy Mary, Mother of God

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:16-21 The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them. When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Meditation: In fulfillment of this precept, Mary's newborn child is given the name *Jesus* on the eighth day according to the Jewish custom. Joseph and Mary gave the name *Jesus* because that is the name given by God's messenger before *Jesus* was conceived in Mary's womb. This name signifies *Jesus'* identity and his mission. The literal Hebrew means *the Lord saves*. Since God alone can forgive sins, it is God who, in *Jesus* his eternal Son made man, will save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). In the birth and naming of this child we see the wondrous design and plan of God in giving us a Savior who would bring us grace, mercy, and freedom from the power of sin and the fear of death. The name *Jesus* signifies that the very name of God is present in the person of his Son who became man for our salvation. Peter the Apostle exclaimed that there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved (Acts 2:12). In the name of *Jesus* demons flee, cripples walk, the blind see, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised. At the name of *Jesus* every knee shall bow; His name is exalted far above every other name. The name *Jesus* is at the heart of all Christian prayer. It is through *Jesus*, with *Jesus* and in *Jesus* that we pray to God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer: O God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary bestowed on the human race the grace of eternal salvation, grant, we pray, that we may experience the intercession of her, through whom we were found worthy to receive the author of life, 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: Mary was “full of grace” not only for being chosen to be God’s mother but in her total openness to be filled with that love of God. We too are constantly “graced” and we too can be full of grace not because we were baptized into the Catholic community, but by our own total, active identification with the way of *Jesus* by our opening up to the call of God as it unfolds in the unique circumstances of our own lives. We do this through total and unconditional service of those around us. It is a formidable challenge at times, but it also brings countless joys. To be a true Christian – a true disciple and follower of Christ is demanding but not insurmountable; it is not for the hypocrite or faint of heart. To be a true Christian is to first go beyond mere lip service calling *Jesus* “Lord, Lord” but not living according to Christ’s way – it is for those who truly believe in *Jesus Christ* as their Lord, Savior and Redeemer; those who see *Jesus Christ* as the Good Shepherd who allow them to be lovingly led by Christ; those who want to be “doers of the Word and not hearers only” (James 1:22). Prove to Christ, to the world, and to yourself that you are Christian.

Tuesday, January 2 ~ Season of Christmas

Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

Holy Gospel: John 1:19-28 This is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Meditation: John the Baptist bridges the Old and New Testaments. He is the last of the Old Testament Prophets who points the way to the Messiah. He is the first of the New Testament witnesses and martyrs. He is the herald who prepares the way for Jesus and who announces his mission to the people: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world! John saw from a distance what the Messiah came to accomplish – our redemption from slavery to sin and our adoption as sons and daughters of God, our heavenly Father.

Prayer: O God, who were pleased to give light to your Church by the example and teaching of the Bishops, Saints Basil and Gregory, grant, we pray, that in humility we may learn your truth and practice it faithfully in charity. 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: John was the greatest of the prophets, yet he lived as a humble and faithful servant of God. He pointed others to Jesus, Messiah and Savior of the world. The Catholic Church from the earliest of times has given John many titles which signify his mission: *Witness of the Lord, Trumpet of Heaven, Herald of Christ, Voice of the Word, Precursor of Truth, Friend of the Bridegroom, Crown of the Prophets, Forerunner of the Redeemer, Preparer of Salvation, Light of the Martyrs, and Servant of the Word*. By your life, by your faith, do you point others to Christ by your witness and example as John the Baptist did?

Wednesday, January 3 ~ Season of Christmas

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Holy Gospel: John 1:29-34 John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.' I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel." John testified further, saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from the sky and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."

Meditation: John calls Jesus the *Lamb of God* and thus signifies Jesus' mission as the One who redeems us from our sins. The blood of the Passover Lamb (Exodus 12) delivered the Israelites in Egypt from death. The blood of Jesus, the true Passover Lamb who offered his life up for us on the cross as an atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 Corinthians 5:7), delivers us from everlasting death and destruction. It is significant that John was the son of a priest, Zachariah, who participated in the daily sacrifice of a lamb in the temple for the sins of the people (Exodus 29). In Jesus he saw the true and only sacrifice which delivers us from sin.

Prayer: O God, who founded the salvation of the human race on the Incarnation of your Word, give your peoples the mercy they implore, so that all may know there is no other name to be invoked but the Name of your Only Begotten Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Saint Alphonsus Liguori once wrote: "God hath given Him a Name which is above all names. And He commands that this name should be adored by the Angels, by men, and by devils: That in the Name of Jesus every knee should bow of those that are in Heaven, on earth, and under the earth. If, then, all creatures are to adore this great name, still more ought we sinners to adore it, since it was in our behalf that this name of Jesus; which signifies Savior, was given to Him; and for this end also He came down from Heaven, namely, to save sinners: 'For us men and for our salvation He came down from

Heaven, and was made Man.' We ought to adore Him, and at the same time to thank God Who has given Him this name for our good; it is this name that consoles us, defends us, and makes us burn with love."

Thursday, January 4 ~ Season of Christmas

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

Holy Gospel: John 1:35-42 John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the *Messiah*," which is translated *Christ*. Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called *Cephas*," which is translated *Peter*.

Meditation: Jesus invites each of us to "come and see" for ourselves that his word is true, life-giving and everlasting. "Come and see" is God's invitation for fellowship and communion with the One who made us in love for love. Saint Augustine tells us something very important about God and how he relates to us: "If you hadn't been called by God, what could you have done to turn back? Didn't the very One who called you when you were opposed to Him make it possible for you to turn back?" It is God who initiates and who draws us to himself. Without his grace, mercy, and help we could not find him.

Prayer: O God, who crowned with the gift of true faith Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's burning zeal to find you, grant by her intercession and example that we may always seek you with diligent love and find you in daily service with sincere faith. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: When two of John's disciples began to seek out Jesus, Jesus took the initiative to invite them into his company. He did not wait for them to get his attention. Instead he met them halfway. He asked them one of the most fundamental questions of life: "What are you looking for?" In other words, what were they looking for in Jesus, and what were they aiming to get out of life? Jesus asks each of us this very same question: "What's the goal of your life? What are you aiming for and trying to get out of life?" So, what is your response? Think about it, pray about it, then take up Jesus' invitation.

Friday, January 5 ~ Season of Christmas

Saint John Neumann, Bishop

Holy Gospel: John 1:43-51 Jesus decided to go to Galilee, and he found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the town of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth." But Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Here is a true child of Israel. There is no duplicity in him." Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this." And he said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

Meditation: The fig tree was a symbol of God's blessing and peace. It provided shade from the midday sun and a cool place to retreat and pray. It is very likely that Nathaniel had meditated "under the fig tree" on the Messianic prophecies and prayed for their fulfillment in his time. Perhaps he dozed off for a midday nap and dreamed of God's kingdom like Jacob did when he saw a vision of the ladder which united earth with heaven (ref. Genesis 28:12-17). Nathaniel accepted Jesus as Messiah and Lord because Jesus spoke to the need of his innermost being – the desire to know God personally and to be united with him in his glory. Jesus' response to Nathaniel's new faith is the promise that he himself will be the "ladder which unites earth with heaven". God had opened a door for Jacob that brought him and his people into a new relationship with the living God. In Jacob's dream God revealed his angelic host and showed him the throne of heaven and promised Jacob that he and descendants would dwell with the living God.

Prayer: O God, who called the Bishop Saint John Neumann, renowned for his charity and pastoral service, to shepherd your people in America, grant by his intercession that, as we foster the Christian education of youth and are strengthened by the witness of brotherly love, we may constantly increase the family of

your 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: Nathaniel was very skeptical. He didn't like Nazareth (noted by his cynical quip) and didn't want to have anything to do with people who came from such a place. How could the Messiah come from a town at the crossroads with gentiles and people of other religions? Perhaps we are like Nathaniel at times. We reject others out of rivalry or prejudice, or we keep them at a distance because we find fault with something about them – the schools they went to, the street they live on or neighborhood they grew up in, the kind of car they drive, or on a more global scale their manner of speech, the way they dress, their customs, or whatever we dislike about them and "their kind." Rather than argue with his friend, Philip took the wiser strategy of inviting Nathaniel to "come and see" for himself who this Jesus claimed to be. Clever arguments rarely win people to the gospel, but a genuine encounter with the person of Jesus Christ can transform one's life forever. Remember the words of Saint Augustine: "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You."

Saturday, January 6 ~ Season of Christmas

Saint André Bessette, Religious

Holy Gospel: Luke 3:23-38 When Jesus began his ministry he was about thirty years of age. He was the son, as was thought, of Joseph, the son of Heli, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph, the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda, the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er, the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim, the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Sala, the son of Nahshon, the son of Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Arni, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalaleel, the son of Cainan, the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

Meditation: Luke states that Jesus was thirty years old when he began his public ministry. Why did Jesus spend thirty years in obscurity in the village of Nazareth when his purpose for coming to earth was to save us the world from destruction? This is significant for at least a couple of reasons. First, it shows that Jesus was responsible and faithful in the mundane duties of family life. Before he embraced public duties, he showed his fidelity and concern for domestic duties. Tradition has it that Joseph died when Jesus was young. Jesus assumed the responsibility for caring for his mother. Jesus taught his disciples the precept that "he who is faithful in little, will be faithful in much" by his personal example. If we want to be fit to carry on the Lord's mission today, we must learn faithfulness in great matters by first being faithful in little matters of home and workday life.

Prayer: Lord our God, friend of the lowly, who gave your servant, Saint André Bessette, a great devotion to Saint Joseph and a special commitment to the poor and afflicted, help us through his intercession to follow his example of prayer and love and so come to share with him in your glory. 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: Genealogies are very important. They give us our roots, and help us to understand our heritage – where and whom we come from. Matthew's genealogy (Matthew 1:1-17) traces Jesus' lineage back to Abraham, the father of the chosen people. Luke's genealogy in today's gospel traces Jesus' lineage all the way back to Adam, father of the human race. In doing so Luke stresses the real humanity of Jesus. Jesus came not just to save the chosen people but all humankind as well. Jesus is the fulfillment of all God's promises. He is the hope not only for the people of the Old Covenant but for all nations as well. He is the Savior of the world. In him we receive adoption as sons and daughters of the living God.

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

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Mother can rightfully be called the Mother of God: Mary is not Mother of God, the Father, or Mother of God, the Holy Spirit; rather, she is Mother of God, the Son — Jesus Christ, true God from all eternity who entered this world becoming also true man. The Council of Ephesus declared Nestorius a heretic, and the Emperor Theodosius ordered him deposed and exiled. (Interestingly, a small Nestorian Church still exists in Iraq, Iran and Syria.)

The incarnation is indeed a profound mystery. The Church uses very precise — albeit philosophical — language to prevent confusion and error. Since we have just celebrated Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, we must continue to ponder this great mystery of how our divine Savior entered this world, taking on our human flesh, to free us from sin. We must also ponder and emulate the great example of our Blessed Mother, who said, "I am the handmaid of the Lord; be it done unto me according to thy word."

Let us not forget that Mary is truly "mother": She is not just the physical means by which our Lord entered this world, but she is also in the fullest sense mother. As mother, she always wants to present her Son to others, and to lead others to her divine Son. In the Gospels, she presented Him to the shepherds, the Magi, the Priest Simeon and Anna, and to the wedding party at Cana. She desires to do the same for each of us. When Our Lord died on the cross, standing there were His mother, Mary, and St. John the Apostle; Jesus said to Mary, "Woman, there is your son," entrusting His widowed mother to the care of St. John; and to St. John, "There is your mother" (Jn 19:26-27). Traditionally, we have always held that here Jesus gave Mary as a mother to the Church as a whole and to each of us.

This belief is beautifully illustrated in the message of our Blessed Mother at Guadalupe, when she appeared to St. Juan Diego in 1531. On Dec. 9, she said, "Know for certain, least of my sons, that I am the perfect and perpetual Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus, the true God, through whom everything lives, the Lord of all things near and far, the Master of Heaven and earth. It is my earnest wish that a temple be built here to my honor. Here I will demonstrate, I will manifest, I will give all my love, my compassion, my help and my protection to the people. I am your merciful mother, the merciful mother of all of you who live united in this land, and of all mankind, of all those who love me, of those who cry to me, of those who seek me, and of those who have confidence in me. Here I will hear their weeping, their sorrow, and will remedy and alleviate all their multiple sufferings, necessities, and misfortunes."

Then on December 12, she said, "Hear and let it penetrate into your heart, my dear little son: let nothing discourage you, nothing depress you. Let nothing alter your heart or your countenance. Also, do not fear any illness or vexation, anxiety or pain. Am I not here who am your mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not your fountain of life? Are you not in the folds of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Is there anything else that you need?" These beautiful messages underscore the role of Mary as Mother of God and our mother.

In this season of joy, let us look to our Blessed Mother's example and rely on her prayers. May we turn to her always as our own Mother, pleading, "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen."

This article is made available courtesy of the Arlington Catholic Herald.

+ + +

Holy Mother of God,

Thank you for the yes of your life.

Thank you for saying yes to being the Mother of Jesus.

Thank you for saying yes to being our Mother, too.

Thank you!

Please teach us to be like you,

Humble, loving, never quitting, following Him.

Please, Mother, teach us to love God so much that we want only His Will.

Protect us, Holy Mary.

Protect your children.

Please Mother, bring our lives to the Heart of Jesus.

Be our advocate, our strength, our joy.

Amen.



Christmas Season

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Learning from the Holy Family

By Deacon Mike Bickerstaff

Each and every one of us, to some degree, is a product of the family in which we were raised. I was blessed to be raised in a home through which the love of God radiated and reached each family member. But like all families ours was not without its share of problems and challenges.

My parents came from very different religious backgrounds. My father was a Baptist and my mother Catholic. They fell in love and married in 1940 in the Deep South; at a time and place that harbored much suspicion and misunderstanding between these two faiths. My father, after looking into Catholicism, agreed to raise his children in the Catholic faith. This was no easy decision for him to take or for the family from which he came to understand.

The important thing I learned from this is that both of my parents realized that God expected them to welcome children as His precious gifts and to introduce them to Him and His infinite love within the setting of the family. They both believed and embraced the teaching that is the first and foremost theme of Catholic Social Doctrine – “that every human being is created in the image of God and Redeemed by Jesus Christ and therefore is invaluable and worthy of respect as a member of the human family.” [*Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions - Reflections of the US Catholic Bishops*]

It is from this that a second great theme derives; the absolute respect for human life from natural conception to natural death. Imagine the heartache and disappointment my parents experienced; the same heartache some of you have known, when time and again the children they conceived did not reach term and were lost to miscarriage. One daughter and one son were born. It is the merciful love of God that allows me to trust and hope that I will one day meet my other brothers and sisters.

These were not the only hardships and disappointments my parents and our family were to experience over the years. From the war years of the 1940's to the cold war that followed and the cultural revolution of the 1960's; there were plenty of challenges, both of the extreme variety and the ordinary of daily life. I was only sixteen when my father died, the war in Vietnam was soon to be raging and my mother had to shoulder great responsibilities.

The times your families live in and the challenges they experience may be different, but they are just as real. What is important is how each of us... how each of our families responds to them and whether we remain steadfast in the love and light of Christ and in doing so, whether we pass on the faith to our children.

Jesus Set Apart the Family to Be Holy

Each year, on the Sunday that falls within the Octave of Christmas, or on December 30th if Christmas falls on Sunday, the Church, in her liturgy, celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus.

It is important that we reflect on how our God entered into history as man. Everything He did was done for our benefit. The God-man revealed to us as Jesus could have arrived in any number of ways, but



He came as a vulnerable and humble baby, truly conceived in and born of the Virgin Mary, and raised in a home provided for by Joseph and Mary. Jesus came to make all things new to redeem mankind and His very first act was to renew the human family, to sanctify it, setting it apart to be holy.

The Holy Family of Jesus is the greatest example and model for all human families. The Holy Family, like our own, knew and experienced hardships and tensions. We hear of one such episode in the Gospel which is the basis for both the third of the Seven Sorrows of Mary and the fifth of the Joyful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary; the loss and finding of the child Jesus at the Temple.

What We Can Learn from the Holy Family

There is much we can learn about remaining faithful to God through the experiences of their family life. From the announcement that the Virgin Mary would bear the child Jesus, to the birth of Our Lord in a stable in Bethlehem when Mary was still young by today's standards, from their flight to Egypt to escape the butchery of Herod to the episode of the twelve year-old Jesus at the Temple, to the death of Joseph when both Mary and Jesus were still young, to the passion and death of Jesus which pierced the heart of Mary, and all the ordinary events of daily family life in Galilee, theirs is a family that knew hardship yet remained steadfast in God. It is for our families to imitate the model of the Holy Family if we are to know joy and peace in the midst of this life; if we are to attain holiness and salvation.

The Gospel tells us that after Joseph and Mary found Jesus in the temple, He returned with them to Nazareth and remained obedient to them growing in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. For thirty of His thirty-three years, Jesus lived a humble and obedient life within His family before embarking on His public ministry. In this way, He allowed Himself to be taught by His mother and foster-father, in their words and deeds, in acts both extraordinary and ordinary. They taught Him the traditional prayers and piety, passed on the cherished customs of His people, showed him the greatest example of love and affection within the family, gave to Him a skill and trade to help support the family. In His public ministry, Jesus taught with words and example taken from his early and hidden family life. In the lessons He taught, we discover the great love and courage St. Joseph must have exhibited for Jesus and His Blessed Mother; the tender love and care that must have been shared between mother and son.

The Family as the Domestic Church

Yes, Jesus sanctified and elevated the family, set apart for noble and holy purpose. Another major theme of Catholic Social Doctrine is the right of people to form associations and the primary association to which we are all called and have a right to belong is the family.

The Catholic Church refers to the family as the Domestic Church. It is within the family that our children are first introduced to the faith and where they first encounter the Risen Lord and come to believe. Echoing the words of Pope Paul VI and the example of the Holy Family, we mothers and fathers should ask ourselves: Do we teach our children to pray, do we pray with them, both in and outside the home? Do we show them the love of God by our own love and affection for one another? Do we teach them about the suffering of Jesus borne for them when they are sick and hurting? Like Hannah in First Samuel, do we dedicate our children to the Lord? Do we diligently prepare them for the sacraments and invoke the angels and saints, especially Mary and Joseph to assist them and us? And to our children: Do you humbly follow the example of Jesus who loves you so much by honoring and obeying your parents as He honored and obeyed His?

Let us pray to our God, asking the intercession of St. Joseph and Our Blessed Mother, that like these two greatest of God's saints, we will place Jesus at the center of our homes.

This article is made available courtesy of the Catholic Exchange web site.

A PRAYER FOR THE FAMILY

Jesus, our loving Savior and Redeemer, You came to enlighten the world with Your teaching and example. You willed to spend the greater part of Your life in humble obedience to Mary and Joseph in the poor home of Nazareth. In this way, You sanctified that family, which was to be an example for all Christian families. Graciously accept our family, which we dedicate and consecrate to You this day. Be pleased to protect, guard, and keep it in holy fear, in peace, and in the harmony of Christian charity. By conforming ourselves to the Divine model of Your Holy Family, may we attain eternal happiness. Amen.

AROUND THE PARISH

SPEND TIME IN ADORATION

As we look to the beginning of a new year, there is no better way to spend an hour of your week than in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Consider signing up for Adoration. Our Adoration Chapel offers Eucharistic Exposition on Thursdays and Fridays 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. Registration is easy to do from your phone, visit StMichael.WeAdoreHim.com to sign up. You can also visit the Church on Wednesdays for our weekly Holy Hour with Confessions from 6:30-7:30 p.m. each week.

MEN'S FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, January 6th, we begin again with "Worthy of the Call" from Paradisus Dei/TMIY. The first speaker this semester is Mike DiCosola, who presents on how we are called to bear fruit in the world by uniting ourselves to Christ. We meet in the Upper Meeting Room at 6:45 a.m. to pray the Rosary together, followed by video and discussion. We welcome any new members who choose to make our men's Rosary group their new year's resolution to build up their faith. Men of all ages may join us. Ask a friend to join us and see what we are about. Any questions can be directed to mensgroup@saintmichael-cd.org.



Break free from your Pharaohs.



Our culture today has no shortage of Pharaohs and idols that hold us back from true unity with God. Exodus 90 offers you a way out.

This men's Catholic program spends the 90 days leading up to Easter focused on prayer, asceticism, and fraternity. We are looking to bring together the men of St. Michael's Parish for this journey. **We start January 1... join now.**

Sign up using the QR code or at bit.ly/st-michael-exodus-90
Program details can be found at exodus90.com/exodus-90



Attention Live Wires!

Join us on Tuesday, January 9th from 11:30 - 1:30 for lunch at Villa Nova in Worthington.

We will need a firm headcount for reservations so please RSVP with John Provanzana at 614-397-3125 or jprovanz@outlook.com

**Come join the fun!
FANTASTICO!!**



SCHOOLS

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

St. Michael Preschool is now accepting application 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.

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 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.



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TRIVIA NIGHT

Save the date!

**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY, 10**

Join us for a night of fun to benefit the children of St. Michael School to support the gift of a Catholic education.

Doors open at 5:00pm

(Pre-order subs to support our K of C chapter, details to follow)

Register by following the link below or using the QR code

<http://one.bidpal.net/smsstrivianight24>



All proceeds go to support the St. Michael Tuition Assistance Endowment Fund

AROUND THE DIOCESE



ST. PADRE PIO RELIC AT THE COLUMBUS CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Just announced, the glove of St. Padre Pio will be displayed for veneration at the upcoming Columbus Catholic Women's Conference in February. Early registration for the conference extends through January 1, 2024. Scan the QR code to register for the conference.

JOIN NEEDS YOUR HELP!

JOIN (Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs) is often a "stop-gap" for our brothers and sisters who are doing their best to provide and succeed in life. We all come upon unexpected obstacles. For our neighbors who live paycheck to paycheck that can be something as simple as missing work due to illness or something bigger, like a car repair. Basic supplies like toilet paper, soap, shampoo, conditioner, multi-purpose cleaning solutions, dish soap and laundry soap are items that people request at JOIN daily. Kelsey is a mom that came to JOIN to get assistance with bus passes for a new job she had. When she learned that we also had cleaning supplies and personal care items, especially toilet paper, she was overwhelmed that she could get those items as well. Meeting these most basic needs, when you don't have them, is a relief that is not measurable to a parent. Try to imagine running out of something, with no hope of getting it yourself for another week or so. If you would like to organize a collection or even donate an item or two on your own, it would be a gift to the neighbors we serve at JOIN. Feel free to contact Lisa Keita at 614-241-2530 or keita@columbuscatholic.org to get further information or just discuss what all JOIN does provide.

UNDONE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Ladies, do you desire to live in greater freedom? Are you longing for an authentic encounter with your true feminine identity? Join us for the **Undone Women's Conference** where you will experience a weekend of truth, beauty and transformation, as the knots of Eve's disobedience are "undone" through Mary's model of radical receptivity. Bring yourself, your mother, your sister, your adult daughters and friends. This is a weekend you won't want to miss! **Undone: Freedom for the Feminine Heart** will be held at St. Francis de Sales in Newark on January 25, 26 and 27. This event is being offered in person OR virtually via livestream! Register online for either experience at www.jpilhealingcenter.org. Scholarships, student and missionary discounts available. Contact Heather Stasel at hstasel@stfrancisparish.net for more information.

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