

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord



*"Give me, therefore, I pray Thee,
this gold, this incense, and this myrrh.
Give me the gold of Thy holy love;
give me the spirit of holy prayer,
give me the desire and strength to mortify myself
in everything that displeases Thee.
I am resolved to obey Thee and to love Thee;
but Thou knowest my weakness,
oh, give me the grace to be faithful to Thee!"*
+Saint Alphonsus Liguori



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:

Dcn. John Crerand

Dcn. Bill Demidovich

Dcn. Klaus Fricke (Retired)

Pastoral Minister:

Sr. Riya Mary

srriya@saintmichael-cd.org

Youth Minister:

Jake Asuncion

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Director of RCIA:

Jake Neal

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ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL

Website: stmichaelworthington.org

School Office: 614-885-3149

Principal:

Sr. Mary Regina, O.P.

principal@stmichaelworthington.org

Preschool Director:

Laura Wells

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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

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 7, 2024

DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

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)

Monday, January 8

6:30 a.m. Special Intention of Glenn Jazwiec
 (Lauren Jazwiec)
 8:15 a.m. + John M. Debitetto

Tuesday, January 9

6:30 a.m. Special Intention of the Kearns Family
 8:15 a.m. + Fr. Ronald Schmelzer

Wednesday, January 10

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

Thursday, January 11

6:30 a.m. + Deacon John Barbour (Vicki Kiser)
 8:15 a.m. + Francesca Tarta (The Pizzuti Family)

Friday, January 12

6:30 a.m. Special Intention of Kay Ferguson (Joe Fiala)
 8:15 a.m. + Jack Horvath (The Smullen Family)

Saturday, January 13

8:15 a.m. + Marianne Heinmiller Vargo
 (Suzanne Heinmiller Butler)
 4:00 p.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of our Parish

Sunday, January 14

8:30 a.m. + Dr. Bob Blute (Teri & Stan Bradham)
 10:30 a.m. Special Intention of Rev. Chris Kuhn
 (Lauren Jazwiec)
 12:30 p.m. + Mary Beth Dixon (The Camerlengo Family)
 5:00 p.m. + In Loving Memory of Samuel Joseph Pillivant
 (The Pillivant Family)



Stewardship

Time - Talent - Treasure - Faith

JANUARY 7, 2024

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

"They fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

– Matthew 2:11

Notice the order of events in the Magi's visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

DECEMBER 17, 2023:

Envelopes:\$ 19,837.76
 Online Giving: .\$. 12,464.00
Total:\$32,301.76

CHRISTMAS MASSES:

Envelopes:\$ 17,318.97
 Online Giving: .\$. 6,095.00
Total:\$23,413.97

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT MASSES:

Envelopes:\$ 13,613.00
 Online Giving: .\$. 5,384.00
Total:\$18,997.00

DECEMBER 31, 2023:

Envelopes:\$ 14,474.00
 Online Giving: \$ 16,085.00
Total:\$30,559.00



± MARRIAGE BANNS ±

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

**BRIAN WEALS &
 KATHERINE MEAD**

JANUARY 6, 2024

**CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY
 ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH**



PARISH CALENDAR: JANUARY

SUNDAY, January 7	Friendship Sunday after all Masses 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group (MH)	Thursday, January 11	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 5:30 p.m. Cub Scout Meeting (U) 6:00 p.m. Respect Life Ministry Meeting (UMR) 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (C)
Monday, January 8	6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (U) 6:30 p.m. K of C 4th Degree Meeting (LMR) 7:30 p.m. K of C Meeting (LMR)	Friday, January 12	Eucharistic Exposition (AC)
Tuesday, January 9	9:00 a.m. SVdP Sandwich Making (MH) 11:30 a.m. Live Wires (off-site) 7:30 p.m. Cub Scout Planning Meeting (UMR)	Saturday, January 13	6:30 p.m. Men's Faith & Fellowship (UMR) 9:30 a.m. SVdP Meeting (UMR) 2:30 p.m. Confessions (C)
Wednesday, January 10	6:00 p.m. Melchizedek Project (UMR) 6:30 p.m. Holy Hour & Confessions (C)	SUNDAY, January 14	11:30 a.m. RCIA (UMR) 1:30 p.m. Christmas Decoration Tear Down (MH, C) 2:00 p.m. Baptism Class (UMR) 3:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group (Gym) 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 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, it would be fitting to back up to the beginning of this past week, to January 1st, when we celebrated the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, when we heard from the first reading of that day a very old priestly blessing contained in the Old Testament Book of Numbers, 6:24-26:

"The Lord bless you and keep you!

The Lord let His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!

The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!"

This most-ancient blessing was entrusted by God, through Moses, to Aaron and his sons – the priests of Israel. It was entrusted to them as they led the people on the journey of the Exodus through the Sinai desert. Later, this blessing would be used in the temple liturgy in Jerusalem. The Church proudly carries on the tradition of this blessing, not only today, but often throughout the year since it is one of the options we priests can use for the Solemn Blessing at the end of Mass. It is a prayer for God's protection and for grace and peace – three "gifts," if you will, that we "seek" to receive that sum up our aspirations as His faithful people. We first ask the Lord to let His face shine upon us, meaning we see God's face in the face of the Child Jesus laying in the manger – a face of mercy and love. By asking God to shine His face upon us, means that we are asking Him to bless us with His mercy and love. We then ask the Lord to be gracious to us, and in so doing, ask Him to bestow upon us His saving grace, His divine life. And finally, we ask Him to look upon us with kindness and to give us His peace – His peace, which is so needed in our world and in each of our lives, and which we pray for in earnest in this New Year of 2024. Juxtapose the meaning behind the three "gifts" from this ancient blessing, to the three gifts of the Magi and what they sought – rather *Who* they sought – on this Solemnity of the Epiphany. In the Wise Men, the Magi, we see before us the paradigm of the search for God, the finding of God, the loving worship of the God found, and the transformation that occurs when one truly embraces the Lord. And so, today, we see another aspect of the "human side" of what this Solemnity means for each of us. We should remember that they were wise not just because they were their age's astronomical equivalents of Galileo – they were wise because they were searching for God as the word incarnate, the word made flesh, whom they desired to pay homage. Their hunger for Him was so strong, they could detect His coming presence in the appearance of a bright star. This should not strike us as being odd. The ancients knew that God had created the heavens and – well before the invention of compasses and GPS systems – filled it with stars to give us direction and guidance. Whenever anything new happened in the sky, like the appearance of a comet or a meteor shower or a new or brightly burning star, they thought that it contained a message from their Creator. But it wasn't enough for them merely to know that the universal King was being born – they wanted to be with Him, they wanted to worship Him, and they were willing to go through enormous sacrifices to do so. So the Magi began the preparation for a journey to search for Him. The Gospel does not tell us precisely where they came from or how long their journey took. All we know is that they came from the East, which meant that they came from or through the desert. Theirs was by no means an easy journey or a short one. Based on Herod's killing of all children under two when they failed to return to him, it's likely that their journey took about 18 months. They sacrificed their time. They sacrificed much of their fortune, giving up the work they were doing, assuming the costs of the journey, and preparing for the newborn King the best, most lavish gifts they could give. When they finally arrived, they gave Jesus more than gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh – the Magi gave of themselves, falling down before Jesus and giving Him homage. And it was worth it! Saint Matthew tells us they were "overjoyed." For them, the infant Jesus Christ was the "pearl of great price," the "treasure buried in a field" worth selling all they had to obtain (Mt 13:44-46). He made the whole journey, all their sacrifices and all their preparations were well worth it. When they finally left – and they were probably in no rush to do so – they were changed forever. Saint Matthew uses the expression, "they went home by another route," which the early saints interpreted as leaving different than they had come. They came in search of a universal King and they found Him – not just any earthly king, but their Creator, their Lord, their God, the one foretold by the prophets – and that changed everything. On this great day, we not only recall who the Wise Men were and what they did, we also look to them as examples, preserved for us in the Gospels, so that we, in imitating them, might become the Wise Men and women of our own day, in our own homes, in all aspects of our lives. To accomplish this, perhaps it would be appropriate to "adjust" the words of the psalmist this Sunday – *Lord, every nation on earth will adore you* – and bring it to a more personal level: *Lord, every person on earth, including me, will adore you*. Now that's a New Year's resolution worth living for! Folks, in the infancy of this New Year, I invoke upon you and all your family members and loved ones the ancient priestly blessing: (May) *"The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!"* Amen.

~Fr. Mike Lumpe

OF NOTE: The Season of Christmas comes to an end after we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord on Monday, January 8; we then return to the Season of Ordinary Time until the beginning of the Season of Lent, Ash Wednesday, on February 14.



Christmas Season

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

About That Star

by Fr. Roger Landry

In order to grasp the importance of the star, we need to understand two things about the ancient world. The first is the importance of stars. The ancients, particularly in the deserts of the Middle East and on the seas, did not have compasses like we do, or highway signs telling us “60 miles to Boston.” They were highly dependent on the fixed stars in the sky as references for their direction. They firmly believed that God had made them this way for that reason. Whenever anything happened in the sky that was new — like the appearance of a comet or meteor shower, or a planet or star shining more brightly — the ancients thought that it had to bear some message from God, the creator of the heavens and the earth. So they studied the heavens, because in studying the heavens they were seeking the message of God.

The second thing about the ancient world that we have to be aware of is that there were prophecies outside of Israel, from women called *sybils*, that heralded the future birth of a King in Israel who would be King of all. One of these *sybilline* prophecies predicted that the birth of the King would be preceded by a sign in the heavens. This was the context in which the Wise Men would have been looking into the heavens. When they saw the star at its rising, they not only interpreted it as God trying to communicate something to them in general, but that God was specifically heralding the birth of the newborn King in the East, who would be a universal King.

Led by the star, and their faith in its meaning, the Wise Men went on a journey toward the Holy Land. We don’t know how long their pilgrimage took, but the Gospel gives us indications that it wasn’t short. After Herod asked them the exact time of the appearance of the star, and then a short time later they did not return to him, he killed every boy in Bethlehem under two. So the time of their preparation and journey probably took 18-24 months. Yet they went. Whether they walked or had the help of animals, we don’t know. But they went on a journey of more than a year because they knew God was speaking to them through the star.

That they went to Jerusalem shouldn’t be a surprise. The distance between Bethlehem and Jerusalem is only six miles; as they were following the star, it’s very likely that they would have thought that the star was coming to rest on the important capital of the Jews rather than over a small village close by. Moreover, they probably thought that the newborn King of the Jews would be the son of the present king of the Jews,



and so it's logical that they would want to meet Herod. They received an audience and told Herod the story about why they had come so far to adore a child to whom God in the heavens was testifying by means of this star. Herod called all his experts around him and asked where this universal king was to be born. From the book of the prophet Micah, they told him that He was to be born in Bethlehem of Judea. Then something happened that we really shouldn't miss: only the Wise Men left. None of the experts around Herod, who knew the Scriptures inside out, were curious enough to make the short journey, even though the Wise Men, who had already journeyed more than a thousand miles, left with zeal. Herod feigned an interest in seeing the child, but he was only trying to deceive the Magi so that he could kill Him; the experts seemed to have no fire to discover whether it might be true that the Messiah was only a short distance away.

What does this mean for us? Sometimes it's those who travel great distances who are hungriest to continue the journey of faith. In Catholicism today, we're buoyed by the incredible fire of so many converts from Protestantism, including so many Protestant ministers, several hundred of whom have come into the Church in the past decade. Even in the midst of several difficult years for the Church, they're still coming. And many of them who do enter want to give their whole lives to God in service to His Church. In many ways, they're the modern Wise Men.

On the other hand, many who have been Catholics for their whole lives can often act like Herod's experts, pointing out the truths of the Bible or of the faith, but not really living the faith with a searching hunger for God. Chaplains at Catholic colleges and universities often note that some who know their faith very well can begin to think they "know it all," that they've somehow "graduated" from the need to practice it, and stop practicing it altogether. Sometimes even priests, who have received a great education in the faith, can lose their piety — and their people obviously suffer.

But for this analogy to hold, we have to ask where the star pointing out Christ's presence is still burning. Obviously God is not calling us to walk for 18-24 months to Palestine, but He does call us to follow the indicators of His Son's presence. The star continues to burn in several places, of which I'll mention three.

The first is in the red flame of the tabernacle lamp. The burning star of Bethlehem pointed and attracted to the presence of the Son of God. The burning tabernacle lamp points to the presence of that same Jesus. The question we need to ask ourselves this great feast day is how zealously we follow that star. The Wise Men traveled for months at great sacrifice to go and adore the Lord. How much are we willing to do to go to Mass or to go to adore Him in the Blessed Sacrament?

The second place the star continues to burn is in the light of the confessional, which heralds the presence of Christ acting through the ministry of one of His chosen priests in the sacrament of God's mercy. Christ is truly present there, doing what He came from heaven to be born and die for: the forgiveness of sins. We sing the reality of Christ's forgiveness in so many of our beautiful Christmas hymns:

*Hark! the herald angels sing: "Glory to the newborn king."
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.
O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.*

But, again, we have to ask ourselves how well we're following that star.

A third place the star burns — or at least is supposed to burn — is in each of us. On the day of our baptisms, our godfathers lit our baptismal candles from the Easter candle, which is the symbol of Christ, the Light of the World. We were instructed by the priest who baptized us in Christ's name to "keep that light burning brightly." We're called to reflect Christ's light so that others in seeing this light might go to Christ, its source. We are supposed to be stars — drawing others toward the presence of Christ within us through grace, drawing others to follow our footsteps to the Eucharist, to the confessional, to the faith. But the question is: Are we still burning with the light and the warmth of that rising star?

Father Roger J. Landry was ordained a Catholic priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts by Bishop Sean O'Malley, OFM Cap. in 1999. After receiving a biology degree from Harvard College, Fr. Landry studied for the priesthood in Maryland, Toronto, and in Rome. After his priestly ordination, Father Landry returned to Rome to complete graduate work in Moral Theology and Bioethics at the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family in Rome. A popular speaker on the thought of Pope John Paul II and on apologetics, he was appointed Chaplain at Columbia University in New York in 2022 by Cardinal Timothy Dolan.

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.

“The role of faith may be compared to that of the root which fixes the tree to the ground, and by its imperceptible but unceasing work maintains its strength. All the growth of the tree, its whole development, depends on this secret nourishment. Cut the roots and the tree, however splendid and full of life it may be, will perish miserably.”

+BLESSED COLUMBA MARMION, O.S.B.

Monday, January 8 ~ Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:7-11 This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

Meditation: The great Benedictine Abbot and spiritual writer, Blessed Dom Columba Marmion, in *Christ in His Mysteries*, wrote in reflecting upon today’s Feast: “And Jesus being baptized, forthwith came out of the water; and lo, the heavens were opened to Him and He saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him. And behold a voice from heaven saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased.’ Jesus stoops so low as to mingle with the multitude of sinners, and forthwith the heavens are opened to magnify Him — He acknowledges Himself worthy of the strokes of divine justice, and behold, the Father declares that He takes all His delight in Him. It is at this moment that the mission of Jesus, as One sent by God, is declared authentic. The Father’s testimony accredits, so to speak, His Son before the world, and hence this testimony relates to one of the characters of Christ’s work as regards ourselves. The mission of Jesus has a double aspect: it bears at the same time the character of redemption and of sanctification. It is to redeem souls, and, this done, to infuse life into them. That is the whole work of the Savior.”

Prayer: Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to 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: Without question, the greatest obstacle to following Christ has been, and continues to be, people’s own preconception and self-will. As Blessed Columba Marmion wrote in *Christ, the Life of the Soul*, such persons “make holiness consist in such or such a conception formed by their own intelligence; attached to those purely human ideas they have formed, they go astray; if they make great strides, it is outside the true way marked out by God; they are victims of those illusions against which St. Paul warned the first Christians. In so grave a matter, in so vital a question, we must look at and weigh things as God looks and weighs them. God judges all things in the light, and His judgment is the test of all truth. ‘We must not judge according to our own liking,’ says St. Francis de Sales, ‘but according to God’s will.’ Divine Wisdom is infinitely above human wisdom; God’s thoughts contain possibilities of fruitfulness such as no created thought possesses. That is why God’s plan is so wise that it cannot fail to reach its end because of any intrinsic insufficiency, but only through our own fault. If we leave the Divine idea full freedom to operate in us, if we adapt ourselves to it with Love and fidelity, it becomes extremely fruitful and may lead us to the most sublime sanctity.” As a new year gets underway, let’s contemplate the meaning of our own Baptism into the mystical body of Christ, and ponder the words of Blessed Columba Marmion on lovingly following Christ, embracing His wisdom, and in doing so enjoy the fruits of a life rooted in Christ.

Tuesday, January 9 ~ First Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:21-28 Jesus came to Capernaum with his followers, and on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!" The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him. All were amazed and asked one another, "What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.

Meditation: Ask yourself a couple of very simple questions: Do you believe that God's word has power to change and transform your life? And are you eager to hear and believe the word of God? When Jesus taught he spoke with authority. He spoke the word of God as no one had spoken it before. When the Rabbis taught they supported their statements with quotes from other authorities. The prophets spoke with delegated authority – "Thus says the Lord." When Jesus spoke he needed no authorities to back his statements. He was authority incarnate – the Word of God made flesh. When he spoke, God spoke. When he commanded even the demons obeyed. Do you respond to God's commands as God wants you to?

Prayer: Almighty ever-living God, who were pleased to shine forth with new light through the coming of your Only Begotten Son, grant, we pray, that, just as he was pleased to share our bodily form through the childbearing of the Virgin Mary, so we, too, may one day merit to become companions in his kingdom of grace. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Saint Augustine once remarked that the "devils confessed Christ, but lacking charity it availed nothing...They confessed a sort of faith, but without love. Hence they were devils." We must always remember that faith is mighty, but without love faith profits nothing (ref. 1 Corinthians 13). True faith works through love (ref. Galatians 5:6) and abounds in hope (ref. Romans 15:13). That is why faith is both a free gift of God and the free assent of our will to the whole truth that God has revealed. To live, grow, and persevere in the faith to the end, we must nourish it with the word of God. The Lord gives us his Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds that we may grow in his truth and in the knowledge of his great love for each of us. If we approach God's word submissively, with an eagerness to do everything the Lord desires, we are in a much better position to learn what God wants to teach us through his word. Are you eager to be taught by the Lord and, once taught by Christ, to conform your life according to the Word of the Lord?

Wednesday, January 10 ~ First Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:29-39 On leaving the synagogue Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them. When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him. Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you." He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

Meditation: We all have challenges, but how we deal with them is important. Who do you take your troubles to? A self-help book? An advice web page, blog? A TV talk show host? What about Christ? Jesus' disciples freely brought their troubles to him because they found him ready and able to deal with any difficulty, affliction, or sickness which they encountered. When Simon brought Jesus to his home, his mother-in-law was instantly healed because Jesus heard Simon's prayer. Saint Jerome reflects on this passage: "Can you imagine Jesus standing before your bed and you continue sleeping? It is absurd that you would remain in bed in his presence. Where is Jesus? He is already here offering himself to us. 'In the middle,' he says, 'among you he stands, whom you do not recognize' (ref. John 1:26) 'The kingdom of God is in your midst' (ref. Mark 1:15). Faith beholds Jesus among us. If we are unable to seize his hand, let us prostrate ourselves at his feet. If we are unable to reach his head, let us wash his feet with our tears. Our repentance is the perfume of the Savior. See how costly is the compassion of the Savior."

Prayer: Attend to the pleas of your people with heavenly care, O Lord, we pray, that they may see what must be done and gain strength to do what they have seen. 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: Do you allow Jesus to be first in your life? Do you make the Lord and healer number one in your personal life, family, and community, especially in times of trial, challenge, fears and anxiety? Learn to approach Christ with expectant faith. God's healing power restores us not only to health but to active service and care of others. There is no trouble he does not want to help us with and there is no bondage he can't set us free from.

Thursday, January 11 ~ First Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:40-45 A leper came to him and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched the leper, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once. Then he said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them." The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.

Meditation: No one who sought Jesus out is refused his help. Even the untouchables and the outcasts of Jewish society found help in him. Unlike the people of Jesus' time who fled at the sight of a leper, Jesus touched the leper who approached him and he made him whole and clean. Why was this so remarkable? Lepers were outcasts of society. Their physical condition was terrible as they slowly lost their limbs and withered away. They were not only shunned but regarded as "already dead" even by their relatives.

Prayer: Attend to the pleas of your people with heavenly care, O Lord, we pray, that they may see what must be done and gain strength to do what they have seen. 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: Jewish law forbade anyone from touching or approaching a leper; ritual defilement occurred when contact was made. This leper did something quite remarkable. He approached Jesus confidently and humbly, expecting that Jesus could and would heal him. Normally a leper would be stoned or at least warded off if he tried to come near a rabbi. Jesus not only grants the man his request, but he demonstrates the personal love, compassion, and tenderness of God in his physical touch. The medical knowledge of his day would have regarded such contact as grave risk for incurring infection. Jesus met the man's misery with compassion and tender kindness. He communicated the love and mercy of God in a sign that spoke more eloquently than words. St. Francis of Assisi once said: "Preach the Gospel at all times – if necessary, use words." In other words, our Christ-directed actions speak louder than words in helping others at all times. Talk can be cheap. Do your actions speak louder than your words about how you live your life as a proclaimed disciple of Christ?

Friday, January 12 ~ First Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 2:1-12 When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it became known that he was at home. Many gathered together so that there was no longer room for them, not even around the door, and he preached the word to them. They came bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. Unable to get near Jesus because of the crowd, they opened up the roof above him. After they had broken through, they let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to him, "Child, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there asking themselves, "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming. Who but God alone can forgive sins?" Jesus immediately knew in his mind what they were thinking to themselves, so he said, "Why are you thinking such things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth" –he said to the paralytic, "I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home." He rose, picked up his mat at once, and went away in the sight of everyone. They were all astounded and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this."

Meditation: Jesus' treatment of sinners upset the religious teachers of the day. When a person with a severe physical handicap was brought to Jesus because of the faith of his friends, Jesus did the unthinkable. He first forgave the man his sins. The scribes regarded this as blasphemy because they understood that only God had authority to forgive sins and to unbind a man or woman from their burden

of guilt. Jesus claimed an authority which only God could rightfully give. Jesus not only proved that his authority came from God, he showed the great power of God's redeeming love and mercy by healing the cripple of his physical ailment. This man had been crippled not only physically, but spiritually as well. Jesus freed him from his burden of guilt and restored his body as well.

Prayer: Almighty ever-living God, who through your Only Begotten Son have made us a new creation for yourself, grant, we pray, that by your grace we may be found in the likeness of him in whom our nature is united to you. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Have you ever experienced the great healing power associated with forgiveness? Remember what we pray for each time we pray the "Lord's Prayer" – "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Before we can fully experience God's love and mercy in forgiving us, we must first extend that same level of love and mercy to those who seek our forgiveness. If we don't we risk placing walls between us and the love and mercy of Christ. The Lord is every ready to bring us healing of body, mind and soul. Do you allow anything to keep you from experiencing the love and mercy and forgiveness of Jesus Christ?

Saturday, January 13 ~ First Week in Ordinary Time **Saint Hilary of Poitiers, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**

Holy Gospel: Mark 2:13-17 Jesus went out along the sea. All the crowd came to him and he taught them. As he passed by, he saw Levi, son of Alphaeus, sitting at the customs post. Jesus said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed Jesus. While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners sat with Jesus and his disciples; for there were many who followed him. Some scribes who were Pharisees saw that Jesus was eating with sinners and tax collectors and said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus heard this and said to them, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

Meditation: Many people were drawn to Jesus, including the unwanted and the unlovable, such as the lame, the blind, and the lepers, as well as the homeless such as widows and orphans. But public sinners, like the town prostitutes and corrupt tax collectors, were also drawn to Jesus. In calling Matthew to be one of his disciples, Jesus picked one of the unlikeliest of men – a tax collector who by profession was despised by the people. Why did the religious leaders find fault with Jesus for making friends with sinners and tax collectors like Matthew? The orthodox Jews had a habit of dividing everyone into two groups: those who rigidly kept the law and its minute regulations and those who did not. They latter were treated like second class citizens. The orthodox scrupulously avoided their company, refused to do business with them, refused to give or receive anything from them, refused to intermarry, and avoided any form of entertainment with them, including table fellowship. Jesus' association with the latter, especially with tax collectors and sinners, shocked the sensibilities of these orthodox Jews.

Prayer: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we may rightly understand and truthfully profess the divinity of your Son, which the Bishop Saint Hilary taught with such constancy. 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 the Pharisees challenged his unorthodox behavior in eating with public sinners, Jesus' defense was quite simple. A doctor doesn't need to visit healthy people; instead he goes to those who are sick. Jesus likewise sought out those in the greatest need. A true physician seeks healing of the whole person – body, mind, and spirit. Jesus came as the divine physician and good shepherd to care for his people and to restore them to wholeness of life. The orthodox were so preoccupied with their own practice of religion that they neglected to help the very people who needed care. Their religion was selfish because they didn't want to have anything to do with people not like themselves. Jesus stated his mission in unequivocal terms: "I came not to call the righteous, but to call sinners. Ironically the orthodox were as needy as those they despised. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (ref. Romans 3:23). The Lord fills us with his grace and mercy. And he wants us, in turn, to seek the good of our neighbors, including the unlikeable and the trouble-maker by showing them the same kindness and mercy which we have received. Do you thank the Lord for the great kindness and mercy he has shown to you?

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.

frlumpe:2024

ABOUT THIS FEAST

Jesus Sanctifies the Water

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord ~ January 8

By Marcellino D'Ambrosio, Ph.D.

At first glance, the scene makes little sense. John's strident call to repentance provokes an overwhelming response. People of all shapes and sizes flock to him in the wilderness. They are baptized in the Jordan as a sign of repentance and cleansing.

Suddenly, out of the crowd steps John's cousin, Jesus. Wait a minute. What's Jesus, the sinless one, doing in a crowd of repenting sinners? What's he doing coming forward to be baptized by John, who is by his own admission, is inferior to his cousin?

Jesus does not enter the water to be sanctified. No, the Holy One enters the water to sanctify. He empowers the water to become no longer just an outward sign, but a vehicle of the Holy Spirit bringing inner cleansing, rebirth, and transformation. Here Jesus institutes the sacrament of Christian baptism, something essentially different and greater than the baptism of John, which foreshadowed it.

Immediately after coming out of the water, the Spirit descends upon him in the form of a dove. Now another sacrament is instituted by Christ, the sacrament of confirmation or, as the Eastern churches call it, *chrismation*.

Notice that as the Spirit descends upon Jesus, the Father announces from heaven that this is His beloved Son. Here we have a majestic revelation of the Most Holy Trinity, one God in three persons. Then notice that Peter, speaking of this event in Acts 10:37, calls it Jesus' "anointing."

In the Old Testament, people were anointed with a special type of perfumed olive oil called "chrism" which was stored in a bull's horn, a symbol of strength. The first people to be so anointed in the Old Testament were priests, authorized to offer sacrifice on behalf of the people. Then came prophets, anointed to proclaim God's challenging and energizing word. Finally kings were anointed by God to save their people from their enemies. Actually, the reigning king of Judah was called the anointed one, "messiah" in Hebrew or, in Greek, "Christ."

So this feast is Jesus' "name day." Of course he is the Word made flesh, full of the Spirit, and savior of Israel from the moment of his conception. But on this day, the Spirit anoints his human nature in a new way, empowering and equipping him for battle, for his mission to smash the oppressive powers of sin, Satan, and death, and to lead his people into freedom. He is anointed or "christened" not just as Savior-King, but as perfect prophet who speaks God's final word, and perfect priest who offers the perfect sacrifice taking away all sin.

Some wonder why we need the sacrament of confirmation. To some it appears to be an afterthought, as anticlimactic. After all, we receive the Spirit in baptism and receive Christ bodily in the Eucharist. So what else do we get when we are confirmed?

Simple. We receive our mission and the power to carry it out. For being a "Christian" is not about just "getting saved." It's about sharing in Christ's anointing to transform the world. The mission is an essential part of the package, not an option. That's why we are called "Christians" or anointed ones. It is not just priests and religious who are supposed to make it happen. Every single one of us is called and anointed. And that's why confirmation is one of the essential sacraments of initiation. Without it, one is not fully incorporated into the Church, which is a missionary community.

The question for those of us who have received this power-packed sacrament is this – what are we doing with it?



Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio is a noted theologian, author and speaker. His writings have been published in the international journal COMMUNIO, ABINGDON'S DICTIONARY OF BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION, THE TABLET, CATHOLIC DIGEST, OUR SUNDAY VISITOR, and Catholic News Service's syndicated column "Faith Alive." This article is made available courtesy of The Integrated Catholic Life.

THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS: THE EPIPHANY

+Saint Francis de Sales: “Let us come close to the crib. If you love riches, you will find the gold that the kings brought; if you are looking for the smoke of honors, you will find that in the incense; and if you take delight in the delicacies of the senses, you will find the delicate perfume of myrrh that pervades the stable. Be rich in love for this adorable Savior, respectful in the familiarity with which you relate to Him, and delight in the joy of experiencing in your soul so many inspirations and affections because you belong exclusively to Him.”

+Saint Alphonsus Liguori: “Give me, therefore, I pray Thee, this gold, this incense, and this myrrh. Give me the gold of Thy holy love; give me the spirit of holy prayer, give me the desire and strength to mortify myself in everything that displeases Thee. I am resolved to obey Thee and to love Thee; but Thou knowest my weakness, oh, give me the grace to be faithful to Thee!”

+Saint John Chrysostom: “For by gold the power of a king is signified, by frankincense the honor of God, by myrrh the burial of the body; and accordingly they offer Him gold as King, frankincense as God, myrrh as Man.”

+Saint Peter Chrysologus: “Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, man in God, God in man, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body. As they look, they believe and do not question, as their symbolic gifts bear witness: incense for God, gold for a king, myrrh for one who is to die.”

+Saint Bernard of Clairvaux: “What are you doing, O Magi? Do you adore a little Babe, in a wretched hovel, wrapped in miserable rags? Can this Child be truly God? ... Are you become foolish, O Wise Men ... Yes, these Wise Men have become fools that they may be wise.”

+Saint Augustine of Hippo: “Though many kings of the Jews had been born and died, none of them did the Magi seek to adore. And so they who came from a distant foreign land to a kingdom that was entirely strange to them...But they had learnt that such a King was born that by adoring Him they might be sure of obtaining from Him the salvation which is of God.”

+Saint John of the Cross: “Oh Jesus, my Love, may my heart be consumed in loving Thee. Make me humble and holy, giving me childlike simplicity, transform me into Thy holy Love. O Jesus, Life of my life, Joy of my soul, God of my heart, accept my heart as an altar, on which I will sacrifice to Thee, the gold of ardent charity, the incense of continual, humble and fervent prayer and the myrrh of constant sacrifices!”

+Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein): “...we wanted to open ourselves and sought a star to show us the right way. And it arose for us in the grace of vocation. We followed it and found the divine infant. He stretched out his hands for our gifts. He wanted the pure gold of a heart detached from all earthly goods; the myrrh of renunciation of all the happiness of this world in exchange for participation in the life and suffering of Jesus; the frankincense of a will that surrenders itself and strains upward to lose itself in the divine will. In return for these gifts, the divine Child gave us himself.”

+Pope Saint John Paul II: “When they reached Bethlehem, the Magi adored the divine Child and offered him symbolic gifts, becoming forerunners of the peoples and nations which down the centuries never cease to seek and meet Christ.”

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 13th, we continue "Worthy of the Call" with lay evangelist Michael Gormley. His talk is "The Winepress of the Gospel." How can our suffering be fruitful and transformative? The suffering of an early morning may be fruitful with our group prayer. We meet in the Upper Meeting Room at 6:45 a.m. to pray the Rosary followed by the presentation and discussion. We welcome any new members who make our men's Rosary group their New Year's resolution. Men of all ages may join us. Ask a friend to join you. Any questions can be directed to mensgroup@saintmichael-cd.org.

2023 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

2023 Contribution Statements will be available in Marian Hall January 19-20 and January 27-28. All remaining statements will be mailed on January 29, 2024. If you have any questions or issues with your Contribution Statement, please contact the Parish Office at 614-885-7814.



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!
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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 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.

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

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.

EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL SPEAKER AT OUR LADY OF PEACE

On Thursday, January 25 at 6:00 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Parish at 20 E. Dominion Blvd. will host speaker Dr. Alan Mostrom. Dr. Mostrom's talk is the next in a series of speakers being offered in conjunction with the National Eucharistic Revival. The title of Dr. Mostrom's talk is: *The Presence of God in the Soul, and the Presence of Christ in the Eucharist*. Dr. Mostrom was raised in Tacoma, Washington in the Pentecostal tradition. He has received a BA degree in philosophy from Nyack College in New York, a Master of Arts degree in New Testament from Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky, and a PhD in Theological Studies from the University of Dayton. His dissertation was on Yves Congar and his theology of the laity. In 2009, Alan and his wife Sarah converted to Catholicism. Dr. Mostrom currently teaches at the seminary in Cincinnati – the Athenaeum of Ohio. He teaches classes on Christian Anthropology, Christology, Ecclesiology, Fundamental Dogma, as well as Evangelization. For more information about Dr. Mostrom's talk or the OLP Eucharistic Revival speaker series, please contact Anthony Rosselli at arosselli@olp-parish.org.



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. Scan the QR code to register for the conference.

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY CELEBRATION AT HOLY ROSARY-ST. JOHN

Holy Rosary-St. John is hosting its annual Martin Luther King Day celebration on Monday, January 15, 2024 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Holy Rosary-St. John Church, 660 South Ohio Avenue, Columbus. Dr. Andre Brown will be the speaker. Vernon Hairston will be directing the Gospel choir. Go to hrschurch.org/mlkday for more information.

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