



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



FIND US ON
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facebook.com/stmichaelworthington

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

jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org

Director of RCIA:

Jake Neal

jneal@sjhcc.org

PARISH OFFICE

Business Manager:

Kris Jesse

kjesse@saintmichael-cd.org

Office Manager:

Kathy Trafford

ktrafford@saintmichael-cd.org

Receptionist/Secretary:

Rhonda Marinelli

rmarinelli@saintmichael-cd.org

Marketing & Communications:

Rebecca Lund

rlund@saintmichael-cd.org

Campus Facility and Safety Director:

Steve Moore

smoore@saintmichael-cd.org

Safe Environment Coordinator:

Bethany Cook

bcook@saintmichael-cd.org

Choir Director/Organist:

Ron Barrett

rbarrett@saintmichael-cd.org

ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL

Website: stmichaelworthington.org

School Office: 614-885-3149

Principal:

Sr. Mary Regina, O.P.

principal@stmichaelworthington.org

Preschool Director:

Laura Wells

lwells@stmichaelworthington.org

SAINT MICHAEL INFORMATION CENTER



LOW-GLUTEN HOST

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



NEW MEMBERS

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

BULLETIN DEADLINE

To submit a bulletin request, the request must be made no later than 12:00 p.m., Monday. Send bulletin requests to rlund@saintmichael-cd.org with "BULLETIN REQUEST" in the subject line with all details and contact person for questions. Early submission deadlines may be required surrounding holidays. All bulletin requests are subject to approval.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

St. Michael's Homebound Ministry is available to bring the Eucharist to the homebound. If you or a loved one within St. Michael Parish boundaries would like someone to bring the Eucharist to you, please reach out to Sr. Riya Mary to coordinate. She can be reached by calling the Parish Office or by emailing srriya@stmichael-cd.org.



ONLINE GIVING

St. Michael offers online giving as a convenient tool for you to use. Scan the QR code to learn more or to set up online contributions.

Athletic Association Representative:

Liz Trolli

smaa@saintmichael-cd.org

Knights of Columbus Representative:

Seth Walker

grandknight@kofc11445.com

St. Vincent de Paul Society Representative:

Elaine Miracle

svdp@saintmichael-cd.org

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 21, 2024

DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, January 21

- 8:30 a.m. + Agnes Rose LaDuke (The LaDuke Family)
 10:30 a.m. + Cesidio Pizzuti (The Pizzuti Family)
 12:30 p.m. + Tom O'Leary (The O'Leary Family)
 5:00 p.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of Our Parish

Monday, January 22

- 6:30 a.m. + Richard Lumpe
 8:15 a.m. + Jean Paul Dauny & Dominique Dauny (Francoise Caso)

Tuesday, January 23

- 6:30 a.m. + Jean Bohlander (Lauren Jazwiec)
 8:15 a.m. Special Intention of Ted Ahlberg

Wednesday, January 24

- 6:30 a.m. Special Intention of Fr. Wojciech Stachura, SAC
 (The Elliott Family)
 8:15 a.m. For the School

Thursday, January 25

- 6:30 a.m. For our Family Members who have fallen away
 from the Catholic Faith
 8:15 a.m. Special Intention of Brigitte Bohnen-Hartley
 (Domenica Bean)

Friday, January 26

- 6:30 a.m. + Patricia Reynolds
 8:15 a.m. + Leopoldo Enrile (Benedicta Enrile)

Saturday, January 27

- 8:15 a.m. + Anthony Capp (Kevin & Lisa Barlage)
 4:00 p.m. Special Intention of Chuck & Maureen Meck
 for their 45th Wedding Anniversary

Sunday, January 28

- 8:30 a.m. + Bridget Williams
 10:30 a.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of our Parish
 12:30 p.m. + Patricia Brennan
 5:00 p.m. Special Intention of Marilyn Knoppe (Karen & Luke Griffith)



JANUARY 21, 2024

THIRD SUNDAY IN

ORDINARY TIME

"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." – Mark 1:17

Jesus' call to "follow me" is a call to all Christians! The call is in the here and now, in our present circumstances, not when we think we are "ready" or have everything in order. Good stewardship of our God-given gifts means that things aren't always going to go according to our schedule, but that God has a much better plan in store for each of us.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

JANUARY 14, 2024

Envelopes	\$ 16,351.21
Online Giving	\$ 8,377.00
Total:	\$ 24,728.21



BAPTISMS
CONGRATULATIONS ON
THE BAPTISM OF
PATRICK JAMES WOOLUM



PARISH CALENDAR: JANUARY

SUNDAY, January 21	11:30 a.m. RCIA (UMR) 11:30 a.m. PSR (LMR) 2:00 p.m. Baptism (C) 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group (MH)	Thursday, January 25	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 5:30 p.m. Cub Scout Meeting (U) 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (C)
Monday, January 22	6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (U)	Friday, January 26	Eucharistic Exposition (AC)
Tuesday, January 23	No Activities	Saturday, January 27	6:45 a.m. Men's Faith & Fellowship (UMR) 7:00 a.m. Pietra Fitness (LMR) 2:30 p.m. Confessions (C)
Wednesday, January 24	6:30 p.m. Holy Hour & Confessions (C)	SUNDAY, January 28	11:30 a.m. RCIA (UMR) 3:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group (G) 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 THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, we are reminded in our Scripture readings that our minds and our hearts control our thoughts, words, and actions. If our minds and our hearts are turned from God they can become filled with all kinds of rubbish that can lead us astray from following Jesus – the old adage “garbage in, garbage out” comes to mind. But nourishing our minds with Scripture teachings and Christian thoughts is the first step on the road to following Jesus. Today’s psalmist prays – as should we – *“Teach me Your ways, O Lord. Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me Your paths, guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior.”* In the Gospel today, we hear that Jesus began His preaching by calling on people to repent (Mark 1:15). Repentance, as we have all come to know, means a change of mind, turning our minds away from sin and the ways of the world and turning once again, or turning back, to God. Then Jesus called Simon, Andrew, James and John (Mark 1:16-20). They answered His call to follow Him. They had to change their minds about their present life circumstances and about the meaning of life before they could answer Jesus’ call. In our first reading on the legendary story of Jonah, Jonah asked the people of Nineveh to repent. They did repent. They changed their minds; they turned their minds from the garbage of the world and fixed their minds on God (Jonah 3:1-5). So to follow the Lord’s call to us, we have to think in a way that is often different from the culture around us. Remember what Jesus said to Peter once, *“Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path because the way you think is not God’s way but man’s”* (Matthew 16:23). But the Prophet Isaiah (in 55:7-9) also says: *“Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts... For my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is Yahweh who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.”* In his letter to the Philippians (2:5) Saint Paul wrote, *“In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.”* So we begin following Jesus in our minds – and also in our hearts. No wonder that Jesus says in Mark 12:30, *“You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.”* Why am I singling out following Jesus with our minds and our hearts? Because there are so many attempts to get at our minds and hearts with a constant barrage of un-Christian rubbish. Much of what we are exposed to on the internet, social media and television does not help us to have the same mind and heart as Jesus. Serious sin is often glamorized and presented as “the new normal” and is having an effect on ourselves, our families and on society. We could say the same about the media. Our minds and hearts are like sponges, they can soak up dirt just like a sponge – “garbage in, garbage out.” But we can wash a sponge and we can cleanse our minds and our hearts through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We can nourish our minds and our hearts through a life of prayer, nourishing ourselves with the sacraments, and eliminate from our lives those things which can pollute our minds and our hearts and separate us from God and His Son, Jesus Christ. On this Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, let us take stock of where we are on this life’s journey, ask “what is my relationship really like with Jesus, what am I doing to live my faith life and to grow in holiness and grace, how can I align my human heart to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.” We all have the capacity to transform our lives, folks, to be faith-filled, loving disciples of Jesus Christ – let’s start today, and let’s remember our shared mission to help one another to grow in holiness and grace!

ALL ARE INVITED TO THE RESPECT LIFE MASS – Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children – Monday, January 22, 10:30 a.m., Saint Joseph Cathedral; Bishop Fernandes will be the Mass celebrant. On this day of the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court Decision *Roe v. Wade*, our Diocese will join all dioceses of the United States in observing a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. For more information, please visit www.usccb.org/prolife or contact the Office of Social Concerns at 614-241-2540, or visit <https://columbuscatholic.org/social-concerns/upcoming-events>.

ALL ARE INVITED TO THE ROE REMEMBRANCE AT THE OHIO STATEHOUSE – The Greater Columbus Right to Life will sponsor this event on Monday, January 22, 12:00 Noon to 1:00 p.m., at the Ohio Statehouse following the 10:30 a.m. Respect Life Mass at Saint Joseph Cathedral. The program scheduled to be held on the west lawn of the Statehouse. For more information, please visit www.gctrl.org/roe.html.

WORTH REPEATING: *“America needs no words from me to see how your decision in Roe v. Wade has deformed a great nation. The so-called right to abortion has pitted mothers against their children and women against men. It has shown violence and discord at the heart of the most intimate human relationships. It has aggravated the derogation of the father’s role in an increasingly fatherless society. It has portrayed the greatest of gifts – a child – as a competitor, an intrusion, and an inconvenience. It has nominally accorded mothers unfettered dominion over the independent lives of their physically dependent sons and daughters. And in granting this unconscionable power, it has exposed many women to unjust and selfish demands from their husbands or other sexual partners. Human rights are not a privilege conferred by government. They are every human being’s entitlement by virtue of his humanity. The right to life does not depend, and must not be declared to be contingent, on the pleasure of anyone else, not even a parent or a sovereign.”*

+Saint Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Saint Francis de Sales ~ Feast Day: January 24 ***Patron Saint of the Diocese of Columbus***

Born in France in 1567, Francis was a patient man. He knew for thirteen years that he had a vocation to the priesthood before he mentioned it to his family. When his father said that he wanted Francis to be a soldier and sent him to Paris to study, Francis said nothing. Then when he went to Padua to get a doctorate in law, he still kept quiet, but he studied theology and practiced mental prayer while getting into swordfights and going to parties. Even when his bishop told him if he wanted to be a priest that he thought that he would have a miter waiting for him someday, Francis uttered not a word. Why did Francis wait so long? Throughout his life he waited for God's will to be clear. He never wanted to push his wishes on God, to the point where most of us would have been afraid that God would give up!

God finally made God's will clear to Francis while he was riding. Francis fell from his horse three times. Every time he fell the sword came out of the scabbard. Every time it came out the sword and scabbard came to rest on the ground in the shape of the cross. And then, Francis, without knowing about it, was appointed provost of his diocese, second in rank to the bishop.

Perhaps he was wise to wait, for he wasn't a natural pastor. His biggest concern on being ordained that he had to have his lovely curly gold hair cut off. And his preaching left the listeners thinking he was making fun of him. Others reported to the bishop that this noble-turned-priest was conceited and controlling.

Then Francis had a bad idea -- at least that's what everyone else thought. This was during the time of the Protestant reformation and just over the mountains from where Francis lived was Switzerland -- Calvinist territory. Francis decided that he should lead an expedition to convert the 60,000 Calvinists back to Catholicism. But by the time he left his expedition consisted of himself and his cousin. His father refused to give him any aid for this crazy plan and the diocese was too poor to support him.

For three years, he trudged through the countryside, had doors slammed in his face and rocks thrown at him. In the bitter winters, his feet froze so badly they bled as he tramped through the snow. He slept in haylofts if he could, but once he slept in a tree to avoid wolves. He tied himself to a branch to keep from falling out and was so frozen the next morning he had to be cut down. And after three years, his cousin had left him alone and he had not made one convert.

Francis' unusual patience kept him working. No one would listen to him, no one would even open their door. So Francis found a way to get under the door. He wrote out his sermons, copied them by hand, and slipped them under the doors. This is the first record we have of religious tracts being used to communicate with people.

The parents wouldn't come to him out of fear. So Francis went to the children. When the parents saw how kind he was as he played with the children, they began to talk to him.

By the time, Francis left to go home he is said to have converted 40,000 people back to Catholicism.

In 1602 he was made bishop of the diocese of Geneva, in Calvinist territory. He only set foot in the city of Geneva twice -- once when the Pope sent him to try to convert Calvin's successor, Beza, and another when he traveled through it.

It was in 1604 that Francis took one of the most important steps in his life, the step toward holiness and mystical union with God.

In Dijon that year Francis saw a widow listening closely to his sermon -- a woman he had seen already in a dream. Jane de Chantal was a person on her own, as Francis was, but it was only when they became friends that they began to become saints. Jane wanted him to take over her spiritual direction, but, not surprisingly, Francis wanted to wait. "I had to know fully what God himself wanted. I had to be sure



that everything in this should be done as though his hand had done it." Jane was on a path to mystical union with God and, in directing her, Francis was compelled to follow her and become a mystic himself.

Three years after working with Jane, he finally made up his mind to form a new religious order. But where would they get a convent for their contemplative Visitation nuns? A man came to Francis without knowing of his plans and told him he was thinking of donating a place for use by pious women. In his typical way of not pushing God, Francis said nothing. When the man brought it up again, Francis still kept quiet, telling Jane, "God will be with us if he approves." Finally the man offered Francis the convent.

Francis was overworked and often ill because of his constant load of preaching, visiting, and instruction -- even catechizing a deaf man so he could take first Communion. He believed the first duty of a bishop was spiritual direction and wrote to Jane, "So many have come to me that I might serve them, leaving me no time to think of myself. However, I assure you that I do feel deep-down- within-me, God be praised. For the truth is that this kind of work is infinitely profitable to me." For him active work did not weaken his spiritual inner peace but strengthened it. He directed most people through letters, which tested his remarkable patience. "I have more than fifty letters to answer. If I tried to hurry over it all, I would be lost. So I intend neither to hurry or to worry. This evening, I shall answer as many as I can. Tomorrow I shall do the same and so I shall go on until I have finished."

At that time, the way of holiness was only for monks and nuns -- not for ordinary people. Francis changed all that by giving spiritual direction to lay people living ordinary lives in the world. But he had proven with his own life that people could grow in holiness while involved in a very active occupation. Why couldn't others do the same? His most famous book, *INTRODUCTION TO THE DEVOUT LIFE*, was written for these ordinary people in 1608. Written originally as letters, it became an instant success all over Europe -- though some preachers tore it up because he tolerated dancing and jokes!

For Francis, the love of God was like romantic love. He said, "The thoughts of those moved by natural human love are almost completely fastened on the beloved, their hearts are filled with passion for it, and their mouths full of its praises. When it is gone they express their feelings in letters, and can't pass by a tree without carving the name of their beloved in its bark. Thus too those who love God can never stop thinking about him, longing for him, aspiring to him, and speaking about him. If they could, they would engrave the name of Jesus on the hearts of all humankind."

The key to love of God was prayer. "By turning your eyes on God in meditation, your whole soul will be filled with God. Begin all your prayers in the presence of God."

For busy people of the world, he advised "Retire at various times into the solitude of your own heart, even while outwardly engaged in discussions or transactions with others and talk to God."

The test of prayer was a person's actions: "To be an angel in prayer and a beast in one's relations with people is to go lame on both legs."

He believed the worst sin was to judge someone or to gossip about them. Even if we say we do it out of love we're still doing it to look better ourselves. But we should be as gentle and forgiving with ourselves as we should be with others.

As he became older and more ill he said, "I have to drive myself but the more I try the slower I go." He wanted to be a hermit but he was more in demand than ever. The Pope needed him, then a princess, then Louis XIII. "Now I really feel that I am only attached to the earth by one foot..." He died on December 28, 1622, after giving a nun his last word of advice: "Humility."

He is patron saint of journalists because of the tracts and books he wrote.

Information is made available courtesy of www.catholic.org.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER TO SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES

*O Saint Francis, who in your life did excel in all virtues, especially in your love of God and of your neighbor, I earnestly ask you to take me under your immediate protection, to obtain from God my perfect conversion, and that of all sinners. Teach me, O Saint Francis, to fix my eyes heavenward, that I may generously trample under foot every obstacle that presents itself in my way and attain that degree of glory which God our Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, in Their loving mercy and compassion hold out to me. Obtain also the favor for which I now pray: **(mention your request here)**. Assist me O Lord, I beseech You, through the merits of Saint Francis de Sales that, what my endeavors cannot obtain may be given to me by his intercession. O God, who for the salvation of souls, did will that Saint Francis de Sales should become all things to all men and women, mercifully grant that we, helped by the gentleness of his charity, guided by his teachings, and sharing in his merits, may obtain eternal happiness. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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.

"Faithfully attend to your obligations, but know that you have no greater obligation than that of your salvation and of the saving progress of your soul on the way to true devotion." +SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES

Monday, January 22 ~ Third Week in Ordinary Time
Day of Penance and Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14 At that time the disciples approached Jesus and said, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a child over, placed it in their midst, and said, "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me. "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father. What is your opinion? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hills and go in search of the stray? And if he finds it, amen, I say to you, he rejoices more over it than over the ninety-nine that did not stray. In just the same way, it is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost.

Meditation on this special day of prayer: Love is not merely a feeling, but is rather the desire for the best possible good for those whom we love. Through our natural intelligence and through Divine Revelation we become aware of the value of this most basic of all gifts which is life. Mere reason leads us to comprehend that it is better to be alive than never have had been in existence. The knowledge of the value of life that comes through revelation leads us to understand better this gift and to appreciate it: as a result, we worship and love more and more the Giver of this gift. This love is what moves us to protect the life of the unborn or any who might be unjustly treated. We are also led to protect women that might feel tempted or forced to commit abortion, as we know the devastating consequences that abortion will have in their lives. Last but not least we have to love, even if most of them seem to be utterly unlovable, the many perpetrators of abortion: medical personnel, and pro-abortion activists and politicians. We have to do everything that we can to convince them of their errors so that they repent and change their ways, both for their own benefit and for the benefit of society.

Prayer: God our Creator, we give thanks to you, who alone have the power to impart the breath of life as you form each of us in our mother's womb; grant, we pray, that we, whom you have made stewards of creation, may remain faithful to this sacred trust and constant in safeguarding the dignity of every human life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation on this special day of prayer: All human beings are created in the image and likeness of God. Using a traditional scholastic term, we can state that He is the exemplary cause of every human being, in other words, He is the model on which all human beings are created. He looked upon himself and wished that other beings would share in His own happiness. So if we reflect upon ourselves, we can begin to understand our participation in the greatness of our Creator. This participation on His greatness leads us to comprehend that He has brought us out of nothing with a purpose, because knowing His intelligence and His loving nature it is clear that all His actions are always guided by a magnificent purpose. The first intention for which He has created us is that we should enjoy for an eternity His loving company in Heaven. All human persons are called to this eternal and loving company, no one is excluded, save those who, through their own actions, exclude themselves. This manner of creation brings us to understand the unique essential dignity of every human being. A dignity that is not lost for any deprivation of the many external perfections that we might expect to find in a human person. A person might be born with a

disability, or may suffer disability through injury or disease, but these deprivations do not affect his basic dignity. A Christian also has the hope that one day when the doors of Paradise will be opened for those children, all their human imperfections will be healed and they will enjoy forever the beatific vision that we all long for.

Tuesday, January 23 ~ Third Week in Ordinary Time
Saint Vincent of Saragossa, Deacon and Martyr

Holy Gospel: Mark 3:31-35 The mother of Jesus and his brothers arrived at the house. Standing outside, they sent word to Jesus and called him. A crowd seated around him told him, "Your mother and your brothers and your sisters are outside asking for you." But he said to them in reply, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking around at those seated in the circle he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

Meditation: Jesus is God's love incarnate – God's love made visible in human flesh (1 John 4:9-10). That is why Jesus describes himself as the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep and the shepherd who seeks out the sheep who have strayed and lost their way. God is like the father who yearns for his prodigal son to return home and then throws a great party for his son when he has a change of heart and comes back (Luke 15:11-32). Jesus offered up his life on the cross for our sake, so that we could be forgiven and restored to unity and friendship with God. It is through Jesus that we become the adopted children of God – his own sons and daughters. That is why Jesus told his disciples that they would have many new friends and family relationships in his kingdom. Whoever does the will of God is a friend of God and a member of his family – his sons and daughters who have been ransomed by the precious blood of Christ.

Prayer: Almighty ever-living God, mercifully pour out your Spirit upon us, so that our hearts may possess the strong love by which the Martyr Saint Vincent triumphed over all bodily torments. 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: One of the early martyrs of the Church, Lucian of Antioch, once said: "a Christian's only relatives are the saints" – namely those who have been redeemed by the blood of Christ and adopted as sons and daughters of God. Those who have been baptized into Jesus Christ and who live as his disciples enter into a new family, a family of "saints" here on earth and in heaven. Jesus changes the order of relationships and shows that true kinship is not just a matter of flesh and blood. Our adoption as sons and daughters of God transforms all of our relationships and requires a new order of loyalty to God first and to his kingdom of righteousness and peace. Do you want to grow in love and friendship? Allow God's Holy Spirit to transform your heart, mind, and will to enable you to love freely and generously as he loves.

Wednesday, January 24 ~ Third Week in Ordinary Time
Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Patron Saint of the Diocese of Columbus

Holy Gospel: Mark 4:1-20 On another occasion, Jesus began to teach by the sea. A very large crowd gathered around him so that he got into a boat on the sea and sat down. And the whole crowd was beside the sea on land. And he taught them at length in parables, and in the course of his instruction he said to them, "Hear this! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep. And when the sun rose, it was scorched and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it and it produced no grain. And some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit. It came up and grew and yielded thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold." He added, "Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear." And when he was alone, those present along with the Twelve questioned him about the parables. He answered them, "The mystery of the Kingdom of God has been granted to you. But to those outside everything comes in parables, so that they may look and see but not perceive, and hear and listen but not understand, in order that they may not be converted and be forgiven." Jesus said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand any of the parables? The sower sows the word. These are the ones on the path where the word is sown. As soon as they hear, Satan comes at once and takes away the word sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground who, when they hear the word, receive it at once with joy. But they have no roots; they last only for a time. Then when tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. Those sown among thorns are another sort. They are the people who hear the word, but worldly

anxiety, the lure of riches, and the craving for other things intrude and choke the word, and it bears no fruit. But those sown on rich soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit thirty and sixty and a hundredfold."

Meditation: Jesus' parable of the sower is aimed at the hearers of his word. There are different ways of accepting God's word and they produce different kinds of fruit accordingly. There is the prejudiced hearer who has a shut mind. Such a person is unteachable and blind to what he or she doesn't want to hear. Then there is the shallow hearer. He or she fails to think things out or think them through; they lack depth. They may initially respond with an emotional reaction; but when it wears off their mind wanders to something else. Another type of hearer is the person who has many interests or cares, but who lacks the ability to hear or comprehend what is truly important. Such a person is too busy to pray or too preoccupied to study and meditate on God's word. Then there is the one whose mind is open. Such a person is at all times willing to listen and to learn. He or she is never too proud or too busy to learn. They listen in order to understand. God gives grace to those who hunger for his word that they may understand his will and have the strength to live according to it. Do you hunger for God's word?

Prayer: O God, who for the salvation of souls willed that the Bishop Saint Francis de Sales become all things to all, graciously grant that, following his example, we may always display the gentleness of your charity in the service of our neighbor. 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: This is the great commission which the risen Christ gives to the whole church. All believers have been given a share in this task – to be heralds of the good news and ambassadors for Jesus Christ, the only savior of the world. We have not been left alone in this task, for the risen Lord works in and through us by the power of his Holy Spirit. Today we witness a new Pentecost as the Lord pours out his Holy Spirit upon his people to renew and strengthen the body of Christ and to equip it for effective ministry and mission world-wide. Do you witness to others the joy of the gospel and the hope of the resurrection?

About Saint Francis de Sales: Francis was born on August 21, 1567, and ordained to the priesthood in 1593. From 1594 to 1598 he labored at the difficult and dangerous task of preaching to the Protestants of Chablais and effected the return of some 70,000 souls to the Catholic faith. In 1602 he became bishop of Genf. His zeal for souls is attested in 21,000 extant letters and 4,000 sermons which exemplify how he applied St. Paul's words: "I have become all things to all men." You may epitomize his character in two words: (1) kindness and (2) loveliness — virtues that were the secret of his success. His writings reflect his kindheartedness and sweet disposition. Most widely known is the saint's *Introduction to the Devout Life*, which, with the *Imitation of Christ*, is rightly considered the finest outline of Christian perfection. Francis' *Introduction* proves to the world that true piety makes persons amiable, lovable and happy. In recognition of the *Introduction* and his other writings Francis was declared a doctor of the Church.

Thursday, January 25 ~ Third Week in Ordinary Time **Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle**

Holy Gospel: Mark 16:15-18 Jesus appeared to the Eleven and said to them: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents with their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Meditation: Jesus' departure and ascension into heaven was both an end and a beginning for his disciples. While it was the end of Jesus' physical presence with his beloved disciples, it marked the beginning of Jesus' presence with them in a new way. Jesus promised that he would be with them always to the end of time. Now as the glorified and risen Lord and Savior, ascended to the right hand of the Father in heaven, Jesus promised to send them the Holy Spirit who would anoint them with power on the Feast of Pentecost, just as Jesus was anointed for his ministry at the River Jordan. When the Lord Jesus departed physically from the apostles, they were not left in sorrow or grief. Instead, they were filled with joy and with great anticipation for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus' last words to his apostles point to his saving mission and to their mission to be witnesses of his saving death and his glorious resurrection and to proclaim the good news of salvation to the entire world. Their task is to proclaim the good news of salvation, not only to the people of Israel, but to all the nations. God's love and gift of salvation is not just for a few, or for a nation, but it is for the whole world – for all who will accept it. The gospel is the power

of God, the power to forgive sins, to heal, to deliver from evil and oppression, and to restore life. Do you believe in the power of the gospel?

Prayer: O God, who taught the whole world through the preaching of the blessed Apostle Paul, draw us, we pray, nearer to you through the example of him whose conversion we celebrate today, and so make us witnesses to your truth in the world. 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: This is the great commission which the risen Christ gives to the whole church. All believers have been given a share in this task – to be heralds of the good news and ambassadors for Jesus Christ, the only savior of the world. We have not been left alone in this task, for the risen Lord works in and through us by the power of his Holy Spirit. Today we witness a new Pentecost as the Lord pours out his Holy Spirit upon his people to renew and strengthen the body of Christ and to equip it for effective ministry and mission world-wide. Do you witness to others the joy of the gospel and the hope of the resurrection?

About Saint Paul: St. Paul, originally named Saul, a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, was born at Tarsus, the capitol of Cilicia. He was a Roman citizen. He was brought up as a strict Jew, and later became a violent persecutor of the Christians. While on his way to Damascus to make new arrests of Christians, he was suddenly converted by a miraculous apparition of Our Lord. From a fierce persecutor he became the great Apostle of the Gentiles. He made three missionary journeys which brought him to the great centers of Asia Minor and southern Europe, and made many converts. Fourteen of his Epistles are found in the New Testament. He was beheaded in Rome in the year 66 A.D.; his body is kept in the Basilica of St. Paul near the Ostian Way.

Friday, January 26 ~ Third Week in Ordinary Time Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops

Holy Gospel: Mark 4:26-34 Jesus said to the crowds: "This is how it is with the Kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how. Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come." He said, "To what shall we compare the Kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it? It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade." With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it. Without parables he did not speak to them, but to his own disciples he explained everything in private.

Meditation: What can mustard seeds teach us about the kingdom of God? The tiny mustard seed literally grew to be a tree which attracted numerous birds because they loved the little black mustard seed it produced. God's kingdom works in a similar fashion. It starts from the smallest beginnings in the hearts of men and women who are receptive to God's word. And it works unseen and causes a transformation from within. Just as a seed has no power to change itself until it is planted in the ground, so we cannot change our lives to be like God until God gives us the power of his Holy Spirit.

Prayer: O God, who adorned Saints Timothy and Titus with apostolic virtues, grant through the intercession of them both, that, living justly and devoutly in this present age, we may merit to reach our heavenly homeland. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: The Lord of the Universe is always ready to transform us by the power of his Spirit. Are you ready to let God change you by his grace and power? The kingdom of God produces a transformation in those who receive the new life which Jesus Christ offers. When we yield to Jesus Christ, our lives are transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. Paul the Apostle says, "we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us" (2 Corinthians 4:7). Do you believe in the transforming power of the Holy Spirit?

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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20 Short Tips to Make This Your Best Year

by Fr. Ed Broom, OMV

As followers of Jesus Christ we should be like perpetual optimists. But better yet: always hope-filled and trusting in God's loving and providential care for each and every one of us. Jesus says that God knows how many hairs we have on our head and even when one hair falls and where it is. God watches over the lilies of the field and the birds of the air. Not even Solomon could boast of being arrayed in more brilliant splendor than those flowers of the field.

Therefore, upon launching into a New Year, or starting a new career, or a new vocation — in whatever way there may be a newness—let us strive to implement these various concrete proposals so that not only do we begin well, but we also end well. Many start in the long-distance marathon, but not all persevere to the end. We want to be among those who start, finish and win the well-merited prize. Here we go with the big twenty to pave our way to a successful finish!

1. Put God First in All Things

In all our undertakings, initiatives, and enterprises, let us always put God in the very center of all. Our God is a jealous lover and takes second place to no person, place, or thing! Jesus says that the first and greatest of all the commands is to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength; then to love our neighbor as ourselves. (Luke 10: 27)

2. Daily Remember the Why of Your Existence

A bird is created to fly high in the sky; a fish, to swim deep in the sea. The human person's purpose is union with God. Remember the words of Saint Ignatius in his famous Principle and Foundation: "Man is created to praise God, reverence God, serve God, and by means of this to save his soul."

3. Order the Disordered in Your Life

In all humility, ask yourself: "What is the greatest disorder in your life?" Then try with a determined determination and the help of God's grace to remedy the disorder. Saint Augustine expresses the fruit of a well ordered life in these words: "Peace is the tranquility of order." The Holy Spirit is a God of order!

4. Healing Grace

To overcome moral disorder that we call sin, we need God's healing grace and that is channeled most abundantly through the Sacrament of Confession. Approach this Sacrament of God's Mercy with unlimited trust. Jesus I trust in you!

5. Control Your Tongue

The Bible speaks very clearly, and the saints constantly remind us, that we cannot arrive at true holiness without striving to control our tongue.

6. Be Slow to Speak and Quick to Listen

This advice is taken from the Apostle Saint James. Please open up your Bible to the Letter of Saint James, Chapter 3 and slowly meditate upon its content. It is one of the best chapters on the notorious sins of the tongue.

7. Live Out the Golden Rule

We all want to be treated with kindness; we all want to receive compassion; we all want to receive attention; we all want to be loved. Let us do the same to others! This consoles immensely the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

8. Control Your Eyes

Now more than ever we must have a very strict and demanding custody of our senses, but most especially our eyes. The eyes are the mirror of the soul. Jesus reminds us in the Sermon on the Mount, in one of the Beatitudes: Blessed are the pure of heart; for they will see God. (Mt. 5:8)

9. Live in the Presence of God

The very heart of the simple yet profound spirituality of Brother Lawrence was to "Live in the Presence of God." If done, we will avoid many sins and have God as our constant companion. Saint Teresa of Avila states that one of the primary reasons for our sinning is that we become oblivious to and actually forget the presence of God.

10. Give Thanks to God at All Times

These words we read in the writings of the Apostle Saint Paul. Jesus was dismayed after healing the ten lepers when only one returned to give Him thanks. May we never be lacking in gratitude. On the contrary, let us cultivate an attitude of gratitude! God loves a grateful soul and is ready to pour graces upon him.

11. Three Social Condiments

Learn to express these short sentiments often: Please, thank you, and also, I am sorry. These are short but powerful expressions that render our social life much more courteous, kind, and amenable. All express humility of heart.

12. Be Humble

Be quick to admit to God and even to others when you make mistakes. Remember that only God is perfect, and all of us our sinners. The Bible teaches that the just man falls seven times a day. Jesus described His heart as being both meek and humble!

13. Don't Wait for Tomorrow

God's grace comes and goes! When the Holy Spirit is nudging us by His heavenly inspirations to carry out some initiative, do not delay and put it off until tomorrow. Life is short; eternity is forever and ever!

14. Fall Down? Get Right Up!

Nunc Coepi. Translated from the Latin this means, in plain English, when you fall, get up right away! One of the best tactics and strategies of the devil is to lead us into discouragement. God loves those who after they fall return to Him with unlimited confidence. Jesus said to Saint Faustina that the worst sinners can be the greatest saints if they simply trust in Jesus' Infinite Mercy!

15. Your Cross: What to Do

Recognize the cross or the crosses that God in His Divine Providence sends you. Then beg the Lord Jesus and Mary His Mother—and your Mother—to help you to patiently carry that cross. With Jesus at your side, you will be able to carry any cross. Why? Because Jesus carries almost all of the cross!

16. Tempted? Turn to Mary?

As soon as a temptation from the devil assaults you, lift up your mind and heart to Mary and pray fervently the Hail Mary. Mary will step on the ugly head of the serpent! All the devils in hell have a mortal fear of the mere Name of Mary!

17. Be a Good Samaritan on the Road of Life

Whenever you meet some person—family member, friend, colleague, or anyone—who is passing through a deep state of desolation, try to console that person with some consoling word, gesture, smile, or prayer! This indeed is pleasing to Jesus and Mary.

18. Do the Ordinary with Extraordinary Love

Holiness does not depend on moving mountains, raising the dead, or even healing the blind! Jesus carried out these wonderful miracles to prove His Divinity and to manifest His compassion for the sick and suffering. In our lives, God has given most of us small, daily, sometimes even monotonous tasks. We should pray for the grace to do the ordinary things with extraordinary love! God does not fix His attention on the greatness of the action, but on the love that moves the heart's intention!

19. Daily Mass and Holy Communion

In the Lord's prayer, The Our Father, we pray, Give us this day our daily bread. A Sacramental interpretation could easily be Daily Holy Communion. Look at your week and schedule. See if you can fit daily Mass and Communion into your schedule; if not every day, at least a few days a week in addition to Sunday.

20. Love Mary, Talk to Mary, Entrust Yourself to Mary

Finally, any initiative that we undertake we should place in the hands and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Saint Louis de Montfort calls Mary The Divine Treasurer. Placing ourselves in her hands, Mary will place us in the Sacred Heart of Jesus—our true refuge in time and for all eternity! Listen to the words of Saint Louis de Montfort: Living in Mary means to love Mary with all our heart. It means to love Mary so much that we are able to live as if we truly inhabited her Immaculate Heart.

This article is made available courtesy of the Catholic Exchange.

AROUND THE PARISH

MEN'S FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, January 27th, we continue "Worthy of the Call" with Deacon Harold who relates the life story of Venerable Augustus Tolton who went from slavery to priesthood. He had true freedom of body and mind to love God despite the discrimination he faced in the church. 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 any week. Ask a friend to join you. Any questions can be directed to mensgroup@saintmichael-cd.org.



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2023 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

2023 Contribution Statements will be available in Marian Hall January 20-21 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.

Women's Faith & Fellowship

Bible Study

Tuesday's at 7:30pm

January 30 - March 5

Women of the parish are invited to join us for our next study on the book *Consider the Lilies* by Elizabeth Foss. We will meet in the Upper Meeting Room each week for prayer and discussion as we journey through the book together. This is a great way to dive into scripture more deeply as we move closer towards a new Lenten season. The book can be purchased through Amazon. For planning purposes, please RSVP to womensgroup@saintmichael-cd.org.

We hope to see you there!



SCHOOLS



St. Michael School INFORMATION NIGHT



Save the Date!
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The information night will include an information session, Q & A, option to tour the school, and more! Questions? Contact sfreytag@stmichaelworthington.org



Thank You!



As we begin a new year, we want to thank every parishioner who donated in any way to St. Vincent de Paul's many activities in 2023.

January is National Poverty Awareness Month, and we remember that poverty is all around us, whether visible or invisible. We are truly blessed to have so many very generous parishioners. Below are some examples of how your generosity has helped our community:

- 658 people from 160 families received food through our pantry because of your donations.
- Our clothing room helped 197 people from 48 families because of your donations of clothing. In addition, we were able to provide coats, hats, and gloves to all the children in the Sponsor-a-Family program.
- With your monetary contributions, we were able to make 4,800 sandwiches to feed the homeless.
- 203 children in Worthington found gifts under their Christmas trees because you sponsored a family through our Sponsor-a Family program.
- Because you dropped a gift in the Giving Tree boxes, we were able to distribute 1,100 gifts among the St. Francis Center in McArthur and the St. Lawrence Haven.
- Your monetary donations enabled us to purchase toiletries and other needed items to support those in need at JOIN. We were also able to supply JOIN with 150 emergency bags of food to feed 300 people.
- 100 families in our community have stayed warm and safe because, with your monetary donations, we were able to assist them with their utility bills, rent, furniture assistance or other needs.

Again, thank you parishioners! Without you, we could not effectively help those in need. Please keep us in your prayers so we have the strength to continue our work in 2024.

Sincerely,

The St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Michael Church

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