

Third Sunday *in the season of* LENT

*“If today you
hear His voice,
harden not
your hearts.”*



Psalm 95:8

*“As Lent is the time for greater love,
listen to Jesus' thirst... 'Repent and believe' Jesus tells us.*

What are we to repent?

Our indifference, our hardness of heart.

What are we to believe?

*Jesus thirsts even now, in your heart and in the poor –
He knows your weakness. He wants only your love,
wants only the chance to love you.”*

+Saint Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)



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

facebook

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

PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

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

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.

ADORATION CHAPEL

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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 3, 2024

DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 2

4:00 p.m. Special Intention of Bill & MaryBeth McDonald

Sunday, March 3

8:30 a.m. + Patricia Reynolds

10:30 a.m. + Donata Tempesta (Armando & Liliana Tempesta)

12:30 p.m. + Kyle Ann Kowaleski (Kristy & Steve Wagner)

5:00 p.m. + For the Living & Deceased Members of our Parish

Monday, March 4

6:30 a.m. + Grace Salyer (St. Michael Adoration Ministry)

8:15 a.m. + Richard Lumpe

Tuesday, March 5

6:30 a.m. + Souls in Purgatory

(Central Ohio Purgatorial Confraternity)

8:15 a.m. + Mary Lee Hinger (Bill & Mary Beth Hinger)

Wednesday, March 6

6:30 a.m. Special Intention of Vince Barry (Diane Vincent)

8:15 a.m. For the School

6:00 p.m. + Mazie & Albinus Blaser

Thursday, March 7

6:30 a.m. + Hope Hinger (Bill & Mary Beth Hinger)

8:15 a.m. Francis & Mary Lumpe

Friday, March 8

6:30 a.m. + Patricia McGuire (St. Michael Adoration Ministry)

8:15 a.m. For an Increase in Vocations to the Priesthood

Saturday, March 9

8:15 a.m. + Anthony Petrarca (St. Michael Adoration Ministry)

4:00 p.m. + Jo Kell (Claudia & Cristopher Mueller)

Sunday, March 10

8:30 a.m. Special Intention of John & Deb Smith
on their 45th Wedding Anniversary

10:30 a.m. + Dominic & Dominica Canini
(Armando & Liliana Tempesta)

12:30 p.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of our Parish

5:00 p.m. Special Intention of the Moran Family
(The Jimenez Family)



MINISTRY FAIR

AFTER ALL MASSES

MARCH 2 & 3

MARIAN HALL

Join us after weekend Masses to learn more about what's happening at St. Michael! Representatives from various parish ministries will be present to share more about their ministries and opportunities for you to get involved at our parish.



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

FEBRUARY 18, 2024:

Envelopes \$ 10,753.75

Online Giving \$ 9,739.00

Total: \$ 20,492.75

Second Collection:

Seminarians:\$ 3,889.30

FEBRUARY 25, 2024:

Envelopes \$ 12,201.25

Online Giving \$ 8,409.00

Total:\$ 20,610.25

PARISH CALENDAR MARCH

SUNDAY, March 3	Ministry Fair after all Masses Friendship Sunday after all Masses 11:30 a.m. RCIA (UMR) 3:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group (MH) 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group (MH)	Thursday, March 7	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 5:30 p.m. Cub Scout Meeting (U) 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study (LMR) 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (C)
Monday, March 4	6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (U)	Friday, March 8	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 5:00 p.m. Fish Fry (U) 7:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross (C)
Tuesday, March 5	9:00 a.m. SVDP Sandwich Making (MH) 7:30 p.m. WFF Bible Study (UMR) 7:30 p.m. Cub Scout Planning Meeting (LMR)	Saturday, March 9	6:45 a.m. Men's Faith & Fellowship (UMR) 9:30 a.m. SVDP Meeting (UMR) 2:30 p.m. Confessions (C)
Wednesday, March 6	6:00 p.m. Mass, Holy Hour & Confessions (C) 7:30 p.m. SVDP Informational Meeting (UMR)	SUNDAY, March 10	11:30 a.m. RCIA (UMR) 2:00 p.m. Baptism Class (UMR)
(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 THE SEASON OF LENT, we are given in today's first reading, the Ten Commandments, so that we might examine our conscience to determine whether our lives reflect our living the Ten Commandments – an indicator as to how we treasure God's laws for right living. In this world where many adopt an "anything goes" attitude, we are reminded that the Ten Commandments are a concrete means by which we can determine if we have truly hated sin like God does or instead loved it, or flirted with it, or come to peace with it. Sometimes people with a wrong idea of God and His love and mercy think of the Ten Commandments as "ten suggestions" – simply as ten things that would be good for us to do, but strictly speaking, don't have to do, because we envision God as an indulgent grandfather who just "loves us too much" not to overlook our infidelities and take us back, even though we are not sorry for our sins, but simply will accept us as we are, every time. Or we can think that God really does not expect us to keep all Ten Commandments, but is satisfied as long as we keep, say, seven out of ten, or five out of ten, or even three out of ten. We can start to give in to the temptations that Satan constantly dangles in front of us and to deviate from not following the Ten Commandments and say, "So I don't come to Mass every Sunday; so I place sports and brunch above keeping holy the Sabbath; so I tell a few lies; so I use God's name and curse words every once in a while; so I'm coveting what someone else has; so I haven't responded to my parents in love; so I'm sleeping or living with someone to whom I'm not married; so I cheated on that test or on my taxes a little bit..." And on and on. Rather than lull ourselves into a false sense of security, let's be honest with ourselves, folks. The point of today's readings is that each of these types of sins does tremendous harm to our temple and to not focus on them is an indication of us possessing a lukewarm love of God and of a lack of hatred for the things that killed Jesus and can kill us spiritually as well. Yes, God loves us, Jesus loves us, but the question is: do we love God? Do we love Jesus? If we love God and Jesus, we will choose to follow the 10 commandments – not the way of the world. We will follow Divine law and Divine Truth, not the laws created by human beings or legal decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court that "make legal" so many things that are contrary to the laws of God and the timeless teachings of Jesus Christ. Jesus wants to drive those falsehoods and sins from our lives this Lent and beyond! We need to remember that God's laws are supreme to any human law, rule, mandate, policy, or executive action, and certainly to any human legal decision (God is the supreme law giver and supreme judge, after all). And if we find ourselves listening to the ways of Washington more than the ways of God, then this is the type of cleansing each of us deep down knows we need. And with Christ at our side, we can drive those sins from our temple. In his landmark encyclical **Veritatis Splendor** (the **Splendor of Truth**) Pope Saint John Paul II wrote extensively on what truth is and is not, what the Ten Commandments are, and how the Light of Truth – Jesus Christ – and His teachings should illuminate our minds and hearts so that we live in truth, our mind and conscience formed by the Truth of Christ since Christ is Truth personified. Indeed "conscience" is a key word in *Veritatis Splendor*, used 108 times. Pope Saint John Paul II knew that many people erroneously think their conscience is the final guide to what is truth and good – "my conscience says this is okay to do" even though the Ten Commandments and/or the teachings of Christ and His Catholic Church say otherwise. "The individual conscience is accorded the status of a supreme tribunal of moral judgment," he writes, "which hands down categorical and infallible decisions about good and evil" (VS, 32). He notes that some people set aside truth and replace it with "a criterion of sincerity, authenticity, and 'being at peace with oneself,'" which can lead to "a radically subjectivistic conception of moral judgment." Ironically, those claiming they have attained "truth" by appealing to their conscience actually deny the existence of a universal, objective truth. The problem worsens when they construct a morality based on whims divorced from universal truth. The conscience is given "the prerogative of independently determining the criteria of good and evil and then acting accordingly." This reflects "an individualist ethic, wherein each individual is faced with his own truth, different from the truth of others" (VS, 32). Ultimately, this leads to a denial of "the very idea of human nature." There are two ways of approaching reality: trying to create our own reality, which is destructive, or conforming ourselves to reality – to what really is. And, importantly, one's conscience can be wrong when it is malformed. "Conscience, as the judgment of an act, is not exempt from the possibility of error" (VS, 62). The conscience cannot create moral truth; rather, it makes an informed judgment about actions, based on what is true and morally right, because conscience "is a moral judgment about man and his actions, a judgment either of acquittal or of condemnation, according, as human acts are in conformity or not with the law of God written on the heart" (VS, 59). Folks, if we are truly honest with ourselves, we recognize our desire for something – or someone – beyond ourselves. The transitory things of this world, the fleeting "happiness" offered by the world never satisfies us. We long for what is right and good and true: "Only God can answer the question about what is good, because He is the Good itself. To ask about the good, in fact, ultimately means to turn towards God, the fullness of goodness" (VS, 9). Let's spend some time reacquainting ourselves with the simple and profound teachings of the Divine Law of God – especially in the Ten Commandments – and in the Divine Teachings of our only Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, know that the timeless and Divine Truths of God our Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, will lead us where we all yearn to go – eternity with them in Heaven!

STEP RIGHT UP, FOLKS and check out the many ways that each and every one of us can utilize our God-given gifts, abilities and talents in our parish at our **Ministry Fair** in Marian Hall after every Mass this weekend. When we volunteer and serve, we do so for the benefit of Christ and others by serving joyfully and in faith. Volunteers are an integral part of any parish family as they help run most ministries, and their work can result in a lively and thriving Catholic church. Volunteering is a great way to meet like-minded people and contribute to the well-being of our wonderful parish of Saint Michael's. **THANK YOU!**

– Fr. Mike

AROUND THE PARISH

Early Bulletin Deadlines

Please note the following early bulletin deadlines as we approach the Easter Season:

March 10 Bulletin submissions due March 4
March 17 Bulletin submissions due March 6
March 24 bulletin submissions due March 7
March 31 bulletin submissions due March 18
April 7 bulletin submissions due March 25

Easter Flowers

All Easter Flower envelopes and donations must be received by March 18 to be included in the Easter bulletin.

Parish Office Holiday Hours

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on March 29 & April 1 as we celebrate the Easter Triduum with our families.



ATTENTION ALL BAKERS!

The Knights of Columbus are accepting baked goods for the dessert table for the Fish Fry. Please drop off baked goods at the Church any time after 3:30 p.m. on Fridays through March 22. Thank you for your support and generosity!

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Young adults of the parish are invited to join our Bible Study on Thursday evenings in the Lower Meeting Room from 6:30-7:30 p.m. All are welcome, invite a friend to join you! Questions? Email Jake Asuncion at jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org.

*Women's Faith & Fellowship
Daughterhood by Candlelight
with Monica Richards*

Thursday, April 18th
7:00pm
Marian Hall

More details and RSVP
information coming soon.



Easter EGG HUNT

Children of the parish are invited to join us after the 12:30pm Mass on Easter Sunday for our Easter Egg hunt! Bring your baskets and be prepared to have a hopping good time!



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY

The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry at St. Michaels is in need of the following items: canned beef stew, manwich/sloppy joe, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, and toothpaste. Thank you for your continued generosity to those in need!



St. Vincent de Paul Society January 2024 Updates:



13

Number of households kept from eviction or utility cut off



400

Sandwiches made for JOIN



11

Neighbors served in Clothing Room



30

Food bags provided to JOIN



91

Neighbors served in the Food Pantry



5 conferences

Monetary assistance to other conferences

Ways to donate: Church envelopes; Online giving through St Michaels website (<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving>); Kroger Community Rewards program: (St Vincent de Paul - St. Michael Conf); Qualified Charitable Giving through your IRA account; Matching program through your employer (contact St Vincent for EIN number); Food donations in boxes in Marian Hall; clothing donations through the donation shoot behind the school gym. **Thank you for your continued support & generosity!**

LIVE WIRES

Join us on Tuesday, March 12th at 11:30 a.m. for a potluck lunch! Sandwiches and drinks will be provided, you provide a side dish or dessert to share! To ensure we have enough sandwiches for all, please RSVP to Barb Edwards at 614-888-6782, by Monday, March 11th. We hope to see you there!

Join us this week for
Stations of the Cross
Friday at 7:30pm



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LENTEN FISH FRY

Supporting St. Michael Parish

FRIDAYS DURING LENT

5:00pm - 7:30pm

DINE IN OR DRIVE THRU

FISH DINNER: \$13

MAC & CHEESE DINNER: \$10

ALL DINNERS INCLUDE:

FRIES, ROLL, CHOICE OF
APPLESAUCE OR COLESLAW



DON'T FORGET TO GET SOME CHOWDER
AND DESSERT WHEN YOU ARE DINING IN!



MEN'S FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, March 9th, we continue *Worthy of the Call* with Fr. John Burns with insights from St. Francis de Sales. The Choice for Heaven is something we must do daily by informing our intellect and strengthening our will. 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, and men of all ages. Invite a friend to join you! Any questions can be directed to mensgroup@saintmichael-cd.org.

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

**The
Adventurers**

Food Games Food

Sunday March 3
3:00 - 4:30 pm
Gym

ST. MICHAEL
ELEVARI
HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

THIS SUNDAY

6-8 PM | FREE FOOD | GAMES

UPPER MEETING ROOM
BRING A FRIEND



EXPERIENCE PIETRA ...

Join us for *Pietra*: an exercise class that strengthens body, mind, and spirit! Upcoming classes include *Pietra Kids*, *Lenten Pietra*, *Mother/Daughter*, and our regular *Women's Saturday morning* classes. Information and sign-up can be found at the QR code or by visiting www.viribuswellness.com/pietra.

Recently St. Michael Athletic Association's Spring Flower Fundraiser started! We rely on this and other fundraisers each year and are really grateful for your support! Please see the Foertmeyer and Sons' Spring Flower Catalog for information on what's available, pricing, and how to order your plants online!

1. Go to **Fundraiseit.org**
2. Click the green "Online Shopping" button
3. Find the "Quick Lookup" in green writing
4. Type in "1FA980" in "Enter code here"

Sale Ends **3/6/2024**

Plant Pick Up (@ St Michael Church) **5/1/2024**

It's Easy! Shop Online.

SCAN THE QR CODE



Scan the QR code
to generate your
link to order.

www.fundraiseit.org

MINISTRY FAIR

H E R E T O S E R V E

Top 10 Reasons to Serve in Your Parish

1. Volunteering in your parish gives lives greater purpose

There are a numerous important causes in the world and quality places to volunteer your time. But for me, I made the strategic decision to serve at my church because it was there where my efforts could result in someone's life being changed for eternity. It is in a local church where a person could be made brand new and become redeemed.

2. Volunteering in your parish will give you broader perspective

Serving others has allowed me to focus on larger issues and others rather than always on myself.

3. Volunteering in your parish can forge lifelong friendships

There is a unique relational bond which comes from "being in the foxhole" with someone and serving together. I have made literally hundreds of personal connections and lifelong friends because of volunteering at my church.

4. Volunteering in your parish can provide a healthier self-image

It may sound egotistical but there is a healthy sense of pride which comes from serving others and not being called to a lesser task. You just feel better about yourself knowing that what you are doing is serving others in one way or another, knowing that what you are doing makes a difference.

5. Volunteering in your parish helps others

Living an internally-focused life benefits no one. Serving others relieves suffering, benefits the under-resourced, meets the needs of the marginalized, provides hope, improves the quality of people's lives, and supports the multi-faceted mission of your parish.

6. Volunteering in your parish make you more generous

Generosity is time, talent and treasure. Church volunteers give sacrificially of their time and talent BEFORE giving sacrificially of their treasure. It is a sequential process. By being generous with my time and talent, financial generosity has been a natural outflow.

7. Volunteering in your parish can help learn how to make better decisions

When I used to teach Sunday School in college, I could have gone out every Saturday night with the guys. However, I learned early in the process the best decisions come when you give up what is good (Saturday night with the guys) for what is best (studying on Saturday nights to serve others on Sunday mornings).

8. Volunteering in your parish can make you a better thinker, planner, organizer

Being a quality volunteer requires sacrifice, study and preparation. Volunteering at my church has made me smarter in how best to serve my Lord and Savior, Jesus, and His people.

9. Volunteering in your parish can give you lasting influence

Volunteering lets us pass on a legacy of service to the next generation. It's good for our children to see us volunteering.

10. Volunteering in your parish will one day result in a greater reward

One day our Heavenly Father will say "Well done my good and faithful servant." At sporting events, those in the stands pay to watch the game. Those on the field get paid! The same is true for church volunteers. If you are not volunteering in your parish, it is time to get on the field and start getting paid with these incredible benefits!

DOERS OF THE WORD

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

The Ten Commandments: A Concise Summary

By Deacon Douglas McManaman

*The Ten Commandments in the Torah (Exodus 20)
are a formulation of the basic precepts (principles) of morality.*

Jews and Christians believe they were revealed by God to Moses, though to understand the content of those precepts does not require the supernatural virtue of faith as such, but are understandable through the natural light of human reason. Let's go over each one.

1. You shall have no other gods besides the Lord your God.

As you know by now, it is of the utmost importance to read Scripture in its historical context. Thus, let's keep in mind that the Jews spent years in Egypt, and when Moses came down from Mount Sinai, he found them engaged in revelry; they'd fallen into the worship of the Egyptian god, Apis, who is represented in the Egyptian pantheon as a bull (Ex 32, 1ff). Apis was the god of strength and fertility, that is, power and wealth.

To worship something is to make it the center around which your life revolves. There are many possible things around which a person might center his life. Although very few can be found who actually bow before idols of gold, few can be found who have not made the pursuit of power and wealth their chief purpose in life. No matter what form it may take, violating the first commandment, which is the sin of idolatry, is nothing other than the worship of the self; for the pursuit of power and money as one's principal end is, in the end, a pursuit of the self as center of one's life.

2. You shall not take the Lord's name in vain.

The primary way of violating this commandment is to "swear" an oath, using God's name: "... so help me God" — thus calling on God as a witness that you are telling the truth — and then lying. This is perjury. The commandment is also violated when using the name of God as a curse, typically in response to anger, or simply using God's name frivolously, without reverence. This is "swearing" in the true sense of the word. Using foul language that does not include the name of God (i.e., the "s" word) is not the same as swearing. The latter is certainly inconsiderate and a sign of a lack of self-control, but it is much less serious than swearing in the true sense of the word.

3. Keep holy the Sabbath day.

For Jews, the Sabbath begins on Friday evening and continues throughout the following Saturday. For Christians, because Christ rose from the dead on Sunday, the Sabbath begins on Saturday evening and continues throughout the following Sunday. For the Jews, the word 'sacred' means 'set apart.' The Sabbath is set apart from all other days as a day of worship and contemplation. This life is about preparing for eternal life, and eternal life is a life of eternal worship and contemplation of God as He is in Himself. This is represented in the 7 day work week, which is an ever recurring microcosm of human life to remind us where we are going. Each day of the week is a work day, but our labor is ordered towards 'rest', which is the Sabbath (*saba* is Hebrew for 'seven' and 'oath' by which we enter into covenant). Leisure is a holy activity, and the highest way to leisure is to contemplate, and the highest form of contemplation is to contemplate the highest being, which is God. The very word 'holiday' means holy day. Western culture has lost a sense of this notion of holiday as a holy day, which is why holidays are devoted less to worship than they are to



CONTINUED AFTER THE LECTIO DIVINA

'shopping.' Consumerism has become the new religion, and the malls and sporting events have become the new churches.

4. Honor your father and mother.

...so that you may live long in the land that the Lord is giving you: We have a debt to our parents, a debt that we cannot fully repay. But we are obligated in justice to repay that debt as much as we are able. We do that by honoring them. To honor, for the Jews, meant 'to glorify.' We are called to glorify our parents, who are glorified by our success, because our success reflects back on them. We need to be careful, however, of the way we define success; for it has come to mean a number of different things for different people. Good marks, a well-paying job, material prosperity are "success" relatively speaking, but one can achieve a great deal in this area and turn out to be a moral failure, and that dishonors our parents. Human success has more to do with human integrity, which is a moral achievement. A saint is an example of what it means to be a genuine success.

5. You shall not kill.

The human person is created in the image and likeness of God, that is, in the image of "knowledge and love", or "mind and heart." In other words, a human being is like God insofar as he is a person who has the power to think and choose freely. Everything else in creation, i.e., plants, animals, minerals, exists to serve his needs. The human person, on the other hand, was willed into existence by God for his own sake, not as an instrument of the state or an instrument to be used by others (i.e., slavery in all its many forms). We destroy instruments when they are no longer useful (we throw out old computers, televisions, pens, clocks, etc.). But the value of a human being cannot be calculated on the basis of his/her usefulness; to do so is to reduce him or her to a mere instrument to be used. As this utilitarian mentality spreads throughout a culture, we see a corresponding increase in the direct and indirect killing of others (i.e., abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, fraud, the murder of reputations, indifference to the sick, the suffering, the poor, etc.).

6. You shall not commit adultery.

The first and immediate community into which we are born is the family, which is the fundamental unit of society, often compared to the cell of the human body. The family begins in marriage, and marriage is holy. It is an institution, that is, an organization that exists for the public welfare. In other words, it is more than a private friendship. Moreover, it was established by God (see Gn 2, 24). Marriage is a complete and mutual self-giving of two, male and female; as such it is a joining of two into a one flesh, one body union. Because this self-giving is total, it is physical, until death, exclusive and undivided, and it is ordered to the generation of new life. The act of sexual union is an expression of this one flesh union; adultery is an act of infidelity to one's marital promises and reduces the sexual act to a lie (one is joining himself to someone who is not his spouse). The precept against adultery includes, within its scope, *all* sexual activity that is outside of marriage.

7. You shall not steal.

A right always corresponds to a duty, and so if you have a duty to raise your children, to protect, feed and educate them, etc., then you have a right to the means needed to achieve that end. This means you have a right to the property you need to carry out your obligation. But that property has to be purchased, and the first step to purchasing the property we need is to develop our skills in order to create wealth (i.e., goods and/or services). To purchase property, you must enter into a mutually agreed upon transaction with another or others, and so you produce something that someone else wants and is willing to pay for (money is simply an artificial means of exchange). So you have agreed, for example, to produce a table (since you possess those skills) for someone who has agreed to pay the cost of the materials and labor. Now, to steal is to take property that rightfully belongs to another; thus, if I steal from you, what I am doing in effect is changing the terms of your agreements with others. For example, you earned \$100 as a result of a mutually agreed upon transaction involving your skills (i.e., carpentry, accounting, or teaching skills, etc.), but I take that money when you are not looking. Essentially, what I have done is I have decided, without your permission or knowledge, that you are going to produce that table for him, but he is going to pay me for it. This is a violation of justice.

8. You shall not bear false witness.

A liar is a person who cannot be trusted. He is one who brings about a "split" within himself, that is, a division, a degree of disintegration. Lying is an immediate violation of "integrity" for there is a separation

between what is in the liar's word and what is in his mind. Although the truth is in his mind, it is not in his word.

But man has been created in the image and likeness of God, who is absolutely one with His Word, which is why everything comes into existence through the power of His Word: "God said: Let there be light, and there was light..." Hence, I ought to become increasingly one with my words, not divided from them; for the more our word becomes united and filled with the content of the truth that is in us, the more like God we become. The more our word is emptied of that content and is made to express not ourselves but some other falsehood (as happens when we lie), the more unlike God we become.

Lying involves a kind of meditation. Consider a poorly constructed lie: "I couldn't return your urgent call because I was out all weekend, hunting elephants." It is easy to see through such a lie — not much thought has gone into it. A more carefully crafted lie requires more thought and meditation.

Why meditation? The reason is that the mind thinks, but the spirit meditates, and when the liar thinks of the best way to craft his lie, his spirit is open to the best suggestions. But spirit opens upon spirit, not flesh. The spirit of the liar does not open upon God, who is Spirit and Truth, but upon the spirit whom Christ refers to as "the father of lies" (Jn 8, 44), whom Scripture refers to as the most crafty of all God's creatures (Gn 3, 1). The crafty liar engages in a kind of anti-prayer. And the "split" within the self that the liar brings about by lying is a fissure through which the influence of darkness seeps in even further.

As the liar continues to lie — for we are creatures of habit — he gradually loses himself, and at some point his loss is virtually irretrievable. Soon he will begin to delight in his lies, because through his successes he demonstrates to himself his apparent intellectual superiority over all who have been hoodwinked, every one of whom has become a means to the liar's own ends, puppets within the environment he schemes to construct for himself.

Lying is the very antithesis of prayer, and its effects are equally opposed to those of genuine prayer, such as integration, light, community, and salvation. The only remedy against lying is a commitment that absolutely excludes it, always, everywhere, and in every circumstance.

9 & 10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.

You shall not covet your neighbor's goods: To covet, as used here, is to have inordinate desire for something or someone. The one who covets is unsatisfied with what he has; or more to the point, with what he is. Everything is subject to the providence of God, and everything that happens is contained within the larger plan of divine providence. This is true even in light of the fact that human beings make free choices. Now all of us have a place within the plan of divine providence. We all have our place in this world, just as an artist assigns a specific place to a particular dab of paint of a particular color. Our place contributes to the splendor of the whole plan of providence fully realized.

The problem is we love ourselves too much, and so we must spend the rest of our lives working to decrease that inordinate love of self in order to give greater increase to the love of God and the entire plan of providence. Coveting is a sign that have work to do; it is an indication that we still desire to exceed our natural limitations, to be more than what we are. And that's the root of the problems in this world; we love ourselves too much and others not enough. This commandment calls us to learn to love others as 'another self', to delight in their blessings as if they were our own. The more progress we make along these lines, the happier we become, because the happiness of others eventually becomes our own.

A final thought. There is a reason why the first three commandments have to do with our relationship with God, while the last seven govern our relationship to our neighbors. The reason is that we simply cannot love our neighbor unless we love God first. A right relationship with our neighbor is simply the result of a right relationship with God. If I do not see my neighbor in relation to God, that is, as belonging to Him, it is not long before I begin to love him primarily for the sake of what he does for me. It is only when I see him from God's point of view that I can love him for his own sake, and not for my sake, because God has loved each person into existence for his own sake. Our love of neighbor will merely be an extension or an expression of our love for God. If an atheist truly and genuinely loves his neighbor for his own sake — something I am simply unable to judge with any certainty, one way or another — then I would have to say that such an "atheist" loves God without explicitly knowing it, just as whoever says, "I love God," but hates his brother, is a liar, "for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen" (1 Jn 4, 20).

This article is made available courtesy of the Catholic Education Resource Center.

2024 Easter Triduum Services

Thursday, March 28, 6:00pm:
Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday, March 29, 3:00pm:
Good Friday Liturgy

Saturday, March 30, 8:00pm:
Easter Vigil*

Sunday, March 31; 8:30am, 10:30am & 12:30pm**
Easter Sunday Masses

Holy Week Confessions

Monday, March 25, 5:00pm-7:00pm

Wednesday, March 27, 6:30pm-7:30pm

Friday, April 7, after the Good Friday Liturgy
until 6:00pm

*Join us after the Easter Vigil for a reception to welcome our newest members of the Church.

**Easter Egg Hunt immediately following the 12:30pm Mass.



SCHOOLS



APPLY TODAY!

There is still time to register for the 2024-2025 school year!

FAMILY DAY

Theme: Perseverance

Students learned about the virtue of perseverance and then demonstrated it by working together to complete perseverance challenges! In their family group, each student completed a craft which will serve as a reminder at home to persevere in prayer during Lent.

Well done, Warriors!



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

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Are you looking to get more involved in promoting, encouraging, and praying for vocations? Serra Clubs, a lay apostolate, have been in our Columbus Diocese for 70 years. We seek members to stand alongside our priests and seminarians to support vocations for the Diocese of Columbus. Serra Club of North Columbus meetings include the Rosary, lunch, and a speaker at 11:30 a.m. on the first Tuesday of every month at the Jessing Center at the Josephinum. Check out our website at SERRACOLUMBUS.ORG for more information and scheduled events.

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SPORTS TRIVIA CUP - APRIL 13, 2024 BENEFITTING DAMASCUS, HOME OF CATHOLIC YOUTH SUMMER CAMP

Damascus seeks to "awaken, empower, and equip a generation to live the adventure of their faith through world-class programs and an environment of encounter." We are excited to share with you a new high-profile, high-exposure event with tremendously high community impact. The Sports Trivia Cup will be the largest sports trivia event ever held in the state of Ohio and will be the largest of its kind anywhere in 2024. The Sports Trivia Cup is an all-day sports and adventure competition followed by the star-studded Sports Trivia Contest in the evening. On-site lodging is available. Our inaugural event will be quarterbacked by four Ohio Legends, Elvis Grbac, Bernie Kosar, Bobby Hoying and Trevor Harris. In addition to these great former QBs, we will have a Living Legend in each of the 10 rounds from a wide-range of sports and categories. For more information on how you can register, be a sponsor or volunteer, please contact Mary Kettinger at 740-480-1288, ext. 5 or visit our website for more information at www.sportstriviacup.com or www.damascus.net/stc (**The Sports Trivia Cup is an adult event.**)

"COME AND SEE" WEEKEND AT THE PONTIFICAL COLLEGE JOSEPHINUM

The Pontifical College Josephinum, in Columbus, Ohio, has scheduled a "Come and See" Live-in Weekend for March 7-10, 2024. The Weekend has been set aside to allow young men (high school juniors, seniors, and college-aged students) to visit the seminary for a few days. Live-In participants will experience seminary prayer life, classes, communal worship, and interaction with current seminarians, faculty and staff. Live-in Weekends include introductory presentations on discernment, student life, and the college seminary formation program.

The Weekend begins with arrival at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 7, and concludes with departure at noon on Sunday, March 10. All meals and recreation are included. There is no charge to participate. For more information, contact the Vocations Office at 614-221-5565, or email vocations@columbuscatholic.org or contact your parish priest.

LAGHI CHAIR LECTURE AT THE JOSEPHINUM

The Pontifical College Josephinum's 2024 Pio Cardinal Laghi Chair Lecture will feature a presentation by alumnus Father Thomas Petri, OP, STD, President of the Pontifical Faculty of the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C. He will present "Grace, Freedom, and Beauty: Saint Thomas Aquinas on the Blessed Mother" on Wednesday, March 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the Jessing Center. Free admission and parking; reservations not required. For more information, please call 614-985-2274. The Pio Cardinal Laghi Chair was inaugurated at the Josephinum in 1992 in honor of Pio Cardinal Laghi, then Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education. American cardinals and presidents of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops promoted the funding of this chair in recognition of Cardinal Laghi's dedicated service to the Catholic Church in the United States.

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