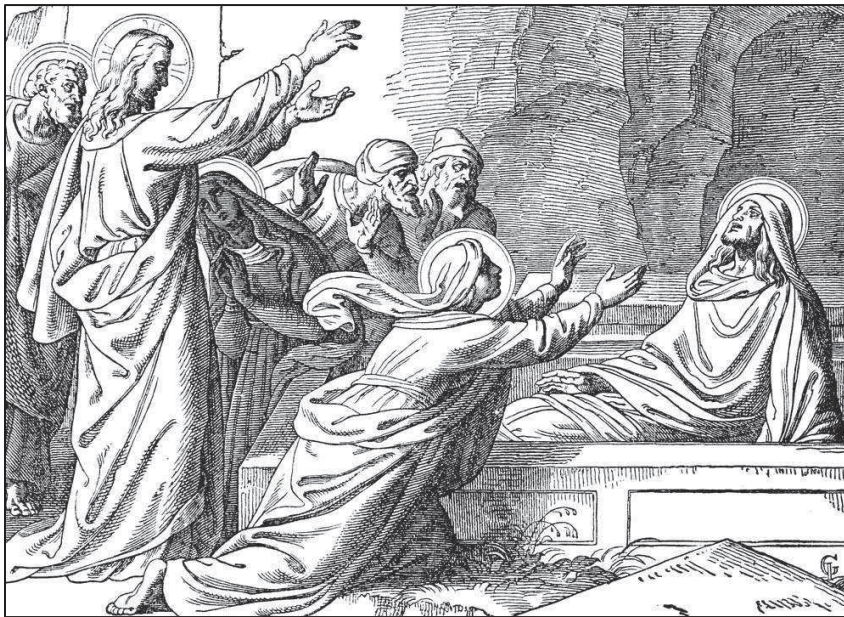


Fifth Sunday *in the season of* LENT



+ THE RAISING OF LAZARUS +

Bodily death is a sleep from which God can awaken us at any moment. This lordship over death does not impede Jesus from feeling sincere “compassion” for the sorrow of detachment. Seeing Martha and Mary and those who had come to console them weeping, Jesus “was deeply moved in spirit and troubled,” and lastly, “wept” (Jn 11:33,35). Christ’s heart is divine-human: in Him God and man meet perfectly, without separation and without confusion. He is the image, or rather, the incarnation of God who is love, mercy, paternal and maternal tenderness, of God who is Life. Therefore, He solemnly declared to Martha: “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.” And He adds, “Do you believe this?” (Jn 11: 25-26). It is a question that Jesus addresses to each one of us: a question that certainly rises above us, rises above our capacity to understand, and it asks us to entrust ourselves to him as he entrusted himself to the Father. Martha’s response is exemplary: “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world” (Jn 11: 27). Yes, O Lord! We also believe, notwithstanding our doubts and darkness; we believe in You because You have the words of eternal life. We want to believe in You, who give us a trustworthy hope: life beyond life, in your Kingdom of light and peace.

+Pope Benedict XVI



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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 17, 2024

DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 16

4:00 p.m. + Jeff Siferd (Dcn. Klaus & Sharon Fricke)

Sunday, March 17

8:30 a.m. + Deacon Craig Smith (Dcn. John Crerand)

10:30 a.m. + Heinrich Bohnen
(Brigitte Bohnen-Hartley)

12:30 p.m. + Warren, David & Michael Roberts
(Carolyn Roberts)

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

Monday, March 18

6:30 a.m. +Msgr. David Soroan

8:15 a.m. +Sharon Burr

Tuesday, March 19

6:30 a.m. +Joseph and Aggie MacKinnon

8:15 a.m. +Joseph Richard Lumpe

Wednesday, March 20

6:30 a.m. + William A. Hinger (Bill & MaryBeth Hinger)

8:15 a.m. For the School

6:00 p.m. +Fr. Tony Kelly, CSsR

Thursday, March 21

6:30 a.m. +Antonio Polletta

8:15 a.m. +Jon and Irene Altman

Friday, March 22

6:30 a.m. + Joe Maurer (The Maurer Family)

8:15 a.m. +Jack and Dorothy Gordon

Saturday, March 23

8:15 a.m. For the Needs of the Carmelite Sisters
for the Aged and Infirm

4:00 p.m. For the Living & Deceased Members
of our Parish

Sunday, March 24

8:30 a.m. + Stephen Debitetto

10:30 a.m. Special Intention of Dominica Bean

12:30 p.m. + Dominico & Dominica Canini
(Armando & Liliana Tempesta)

5:00 p.m. + Chavelo Arias (Dcn. Klaus & Sharon Fricke)

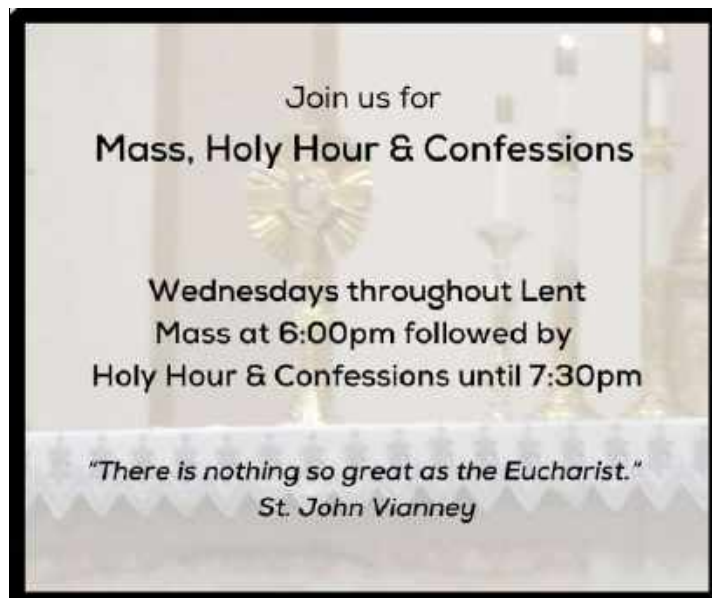
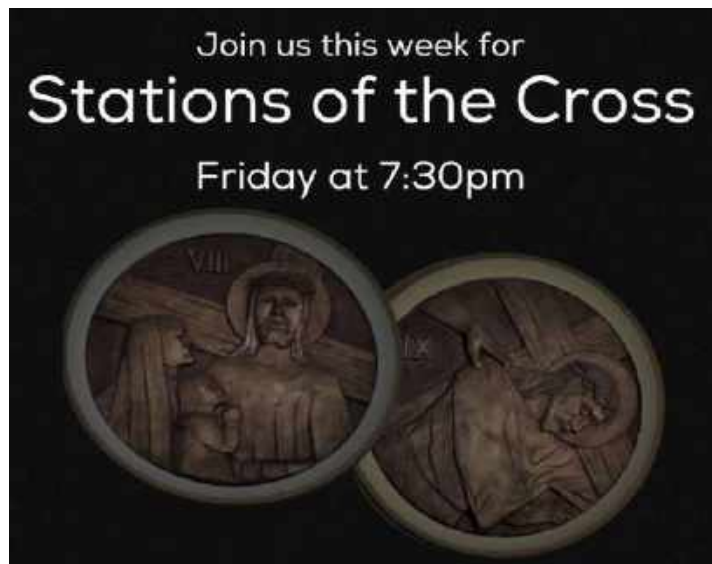
FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

MARCH 10, 2024:

Envelopes\$ 20,327.00

Online Giving\$ 9,942.00

Total:\$ 30,269.00



PARISH CALENDAR MARCH

SUNDAY, March 17	11:30 a.m. RCIA (UMR) 11:30 a.m. PSR (LMR)	Thursday, March 21	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 18	6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (U) 6:30 p.m. K of C 4th Degree Meeting (LMR) 7:30 p.m. K of C Meeting (LMR)	Friday, March 22	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 5:00 p.m. Fish Fry (U) 7:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross (C)
Tuesday, March 19	7:00 p.m. Lenten Pietra (LMR) 7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting (UMR) 7:00 p.m. Ladies in Waiting (MH)	Saturday, March 23	6:45am Men's Faith & Fellowship (UMR) 7:00 a.m. Pietra (LMR) 2:30 p.m. Confessions (C)
Wednesday, March 20	6:00 p.m. Mass, Holy Hour & Confessions (C) 7:30 p.m. WFF Bible Study (UMR)	SUNDAY, March 24	11:30 a.m. RCIA (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 FIFTH SUNDAY IN THE SEASON OF LENT, we are given Psalm 51, commonly referred to as the *Miserere* – the most famous of the seven Penitential Psalms, praying for the removal of the personal and social disorders that sin had brought about after King David had committed adultery with Bathsheba. The first part (Ps 51:3-10) asks deliverance from sin, not just a past act, but its emotional, physical, and social consequences. The second part (Ps 51:11-19) seeks something more profound than wiping the slate clean: nearness to God, living by the spirit of God, (Ps 51:12-13) like the relation between God and people described in Jer 31:33-34. Nearness to God brings joy and the authority to teach sinners. (Ps 51:15-16) Such proclamation is better than offering sacrifice. (Ps 51:17-19) The last two verses express the hope that God's goodwill toward those who are cleansed and contrite will prompt him to look favorably on the acts of worship offered in the Jerusalem Temple. (Ps 51:19, 20-21) Saint Augustine's brief commentary on Psalm 51 is worth reflecting: "To thee Nathan the prophet hath not been sent, David himself hath been sent to thee Hear him crying, and with him cry: hear him groaning, and with him groan; hear him weeping, and mingle tears; hear him amended, and with him rejoice. If from thee sin could not be excluded, be not hope of pardon excluded. There was sent to that man Nathan the prophet, observe the king's humility. He rejected not the words of him giving admonition, he said not, Darest thou speak to me, a king? An exiled king heard a prophet, let His humble people hear Christ." I would encourage you to read and to pray **Psalm 51** in its entirety:

1 For the leader. A psalm of David,

2 when Nathan the prophet came to him after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

I

3 Have mercy on me, God, in accord with your merciful love; in your abundant compassion blot out my transgressions.

4 Thoroughly wash away my guilt; and from my sin cleanse me.

5 For I know my transgressions; my sin is always before me.

6 Against you, you alone have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your eyes so that you are just in your word, and without reproach in your judgment.

7 Behold, I was born in guilt, in sin my mother conceived me.

8 Behold, you desire true sincerity; and secretly you teach me wisdom.

9 Cleanse me with hyssop, that I may be pure; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

10 You will let me hear gladness and joy; the bones you have crushed will rejoice.

II

11 Turn away your face from my sins; blot out all my iniquities.

12 A clean heart create in me, O God; renew within me a steadfast spirit.

13 Do not drive me from before your face, nor take from me your holy spirit.

14 Restore to me the gladness of your salvation; uphold me with a willing spirit.

15 I will teach the wicked your ways, that sinners may return to you.

16 Rescue me from violent bloodshed, God, my saving God, and my tongue will sing joyfully of your justice.

17 Lord, you will open my lips; and my mouth will proclaim your praise.

18 For you do not desire sacrifice or I would give it; a burnt offering you would not accept.

19 My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit; a contrite, humbled heart, O God, you will not scorn.

III

20 Treat Zion kindly according to your good will; build up the walls of Jerusalem.

21 Then you will desire the sacrifices of the just, burnt offering and whole offerings; then they will offer up young bulls on your altar.

Folks, as this Season of Lent marches along, reflect today on whether or not you are in a state of sin and, thus, not in a state of grace where we want to be, and where we need to be. Sinning in God's sight means that, ultimately, we can find no hiding places. Every instant of our lives is significant because, within it, we can "do evil" in God's sight. But sin does not have the final word unless we choose it to be so; this is where our awareness of our sins comes to the fore, and our desire to do something about it – that something is making a good Confession. The psalmist obviously has a new grip in wisdom given to him by his guilt and forgiveness; sometimes, the people best able to understand sinners are other sinners who have lived long enough in their sins to know that sin is no joke. Sacramental forgiveness of sin is a must. "A clean heart create in me, O God; renew within me a steadfast spirit." Make a good Confession, folks; your redemption *can* be at hand.

Fr. Mike

AROUND THE PARISH

Early Bulletin Deadlines

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

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, now through March 22. Thank you for your support and generosity!

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.



Women's Faith & Fellowship Daughterhood by Candlelight

with Monica Richards

Thursday, April 18th

7:00pm

Marian Hall



RSVP Now!

Join us for an evening of fellowship as we enjoy a meal and listen to Monica Richards share with us about our Daughterhood as beloved daughters of our King. Monica Richards is a full-time missionary with Damascus, wife & mother of five, and licensed Doctor of clinical Psychology. She has an amazing ability to drill fearlessly into deep issues, develop trust, & facilitate pathways toward healing and wholeness for each individual she encounters. *To host a table or RSVP as an individual, please use the QR code to join us for this amazing evening.*

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Are you planning for a scheduled medical procedure, or are you being admitted to a hospital or other out-patient facility for surgery or for medical treatment? If so, please see one of the priests before or after any of our parish Masses so that he can provide you with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick **BEFORE** you have your procedure, treatment or surgery. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the priest anoints the seriously ill, injured, or the elderly with the "Oil of the Infirm" which is a special oil, blessed by the Bishop, used for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Obviously, there are emergency situations, but anything that you can do in advance to receive the sacramental graces of the Anointing of the Sick – physical, spiritual and emotional healing – is helpful to you, your family, and to the priests.

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!



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!



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.

ADORATION CHAPEL SCHEDULE DURING HOLY WEEK

Please note that there will not be Eucharistic Exposition in our Adoration Chapel on Holy Thursday or Good Friday as typically scheduled. The Adoration Chapel will continue to be available for anyone who would like to visit for a quiet place to pray. We will resume our regular schedule on Thursday, April 4th. We wish you all a very blessed and safe Holy Week and Easter season.

SEASON OF LENT

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

We're more than halfway through Lent: How is it going?

By Doreen Truesdell

So, how's your Lenten conversion going?

Probably, like a lot of us, not as well as you had hoped. You might have started out with strong intentions, but you've flagged in recent weeks. The old zeal just isn't what it was back in the soul-searching days following Ash Wednesday. The clocks have changed, the weather has changed, and so have we.

But they don't call it the Gospel for nothing. The "Good News" now is that it's not too late to prepare our souls for the joy of Easter. With the sorrows and Passion of Holy Week coming soon, it's an ideal time to strengthen ourselves by rejuvenating our minds, our attitudes, and our prayers. Within Lent, there's time to start anew.

In fact Lent is all about renewal, and even though the climax of new life occurs at Easter there are signposts of renewal all along the Lenten road. There is the Feast of the Annunciation, when the angel of God promises new life, Emmanuel, in response to Mary's fiat; there is Jesus' revelation to Nicodemus that we must become born again in the Spirit in order to reach the Kingdom of God; and there is the great miracle of Lazarus being raised from the dead, a powerful symbol of Christ's authority and triumph over sin and death.

To begin again in Lent, it's important to realize how much Jesus loves us. Lent is not purely a test of our compliance, it's an opportunity to return His great love in ways we have not explored before. Christ wants us to succeed in loving Him and He goes to great lengths to show us the way to the cross and to resurrection. He's on our side in the battles we have with ourselves, not watching from a distance and clucking His tongue at us in disappointment. That's a trick of Satan, not the practice of Our Lord.

"Conversion is nothing more than a deeper discovery of what we already truly desire," writes Saint John Henry Newman, the English priest who converted from Anglicanism to Roman Catholicism and was a major figure in the Oxford Movement.

We already know what we desire, even if we haven't called it by name. We want to be loved. We want the fruits of receiving and giving love, such as peace and a satisfaction with life despite its manifold imperfections.

To draw closer to Christ in mutual love requires our conversion. We can't get there without it. If we want to make the most of these last weeks of Lent, we've got to give something that we'd really rather hold on to. It might be as big as forgiving someone who has done a great wrong to us; it might be as small as making frequent visits to the Blessed Sacrament in the middle of our busy routines.

If you need guidance in finding your path to a Lenten conversion, look close to home first. God Himself knows which path is right for each of us and, with love, He sends the means to effect our conversion, whether we like it or not.

"The best of all penance is that which God sends us," said Bernard William Cardinal Griffin, speaking in 1952. "Acts of self-denial which we freely choose are precious in the sight of God. But far more precious are those sufferings which we have not chosen and which come to us unasked...To accept God's will without complaint is the greatest contribution that any Christian can make to the cause of world peace."

It's funny, we never think about world peace when we're faced with suffering, during Lent or at any other time. That's partly because we're so wrapped up in ourselves, but it's also because we don't understand the mystery of the Body of Christ, and the supernatural relationship among each person on the planet. By drawing closer to Christ in love during Lent, we're assisting to draw the world closer together. Can you imagine what would happen if every Christian did God's will? The combined power would supersede all politics, all cultural wars, and all terrorism. The conversion of the world begins with you and with me. So the importance of our Lenten conversion becomes all the more significant.

To have strong finish this Lent, let's go back to the beginning of it. The entire structure of the season is based on Christ's 40 days in the desert and the three temptations of Satan. Jesus was hungry, tired, lonely and weak. He was in the final stretch and needed rejuvenation, just as we do now. Satan launched his offensive, but the depth of Jesus' love for His Father, and for us, sustained Our Lord.

Satan offers food to Jesus, knowing His great hunger. The bread symbolizes our own appetites, not only for food and drink, but for all material things including possessions, entertainment, leisure and a comfortable

lifestyle. Our appetites for such temptations are never sated. We're always planning our next activity, our next purchase, our next enjoyment.

Satan then urges Jesus to test God, His Father, by throwing Himself from the heights and trusting God to rescue Him. Here is the great temptation of pride, which leads us into reckless behaviors because we think we deserve more than what God has ordained for our lives. We demand God should agree with what we believe we deserve. The truth is that striving for what we want should always dovetail with striving for what God wants from us.

Finally, Satan promises all the kingdoms of the world to Christ if He will worship the fallen angel. This is the promise of self-divinity, that we can be like gods and rule our own lives and the lives of others. It is the temptation that propels men and women to believe that sin does not exist, that heaven and hell are myths and that true enlightenment comes from within the human mind. Every time we limit our obedience to God, we are practicing self-divinization.

Christ shatters all of Satan's illusions. By His faithfulness through temptation, we learn that it is God alone Who satisfies all of our appetites; that we must place our trust in His commandments and providence, and not in our own judgment; and that His love and omnipotence has established the one, true Kingdom where eternal life awaits us.

These are the temptations we are still battling today. These are the hurdles on our road to a Lenten conversion. Our hope is in Christ, Whose mercy led Him to establish God's Kingdom on earth at a great price. He has already won the battle for us, if we would follow His example and teaching. Christ has already overcome what we face right now.

"A man converted is a man who has changed his essential thinking and has aimed his faith in a different direction," said Antonin Gilbert Sertillanges, O.P., a Thomistic theologian and spiritual writer. "Every day, at every hour, we must be converted, that is turned about and turned back towards God from whom the current of life continually turns us away. Conversion means a willingness to see the truth...and conform (ourselves) to it."

Pray for me, and I will pray for you, as we continue to walk the road to Calvary and the path towards conversion in Christ that He promises will lead to eternal life.

Doreen M. Truesdell, a former newspaper journalist, is a freelance writer and editor. She and her husband, Stephen, live in upstate New York with their four children, aged 6 to 14. This article is made available courtesy of the Catholic Exchange.



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 March is dedicated to Saint Joseph.

"It is not hard to obey when we love the one whom we obey."

+SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

Monday, March 18 ~ Fifth Week in the Season of Lent
Optional Memorial: Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Holy Gospel: John 8:1-11 Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area, and all the people started coming to him, and he sat down and taught them. Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle. They said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman before him. Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She replied, "No one, sir." Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more."

Meditation: This incident conveys to us a great deal about Jesus' attitude toward the sinner. The scribes and Pharisees wanted to entrap Jesus with the religious and civil authorities. That is why they brought a woman caught in adultery before Jesus. Jesus turned the challenge towards his accusers. In effect he said: Go ahead and stone her! But let the man who is without sin be the first to cast a stone. The Lord leaves the matter to their own consciences. When the adulterous woman is left alone with Jesus, he both expresses mercy and he strongly exhorts her to not sin again. The scribes wished to condemn, Jesus wished to forgive and to restore the sinner to health. His challenge involved a choice – either go back to your former way of sin and death or to reach out to the new way of life and happiness with him. Jesus gave her pardon and a new start on life. God's grace enables us to confront our sin for what it is – unfaithfulness to God, and to turn back to God with a repentant heart and a thankful spirit for God's mercy and forgiveness. Make a good confession and experience the joy of repentance and a clean heart.

Prayer: O God, by whose wondrous grace we are enriched with every blessing, grant us so to pass from former ways to newness of life, that we may be made ready for the glory of the heavenly Kingdom. 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: In your heart of hearts, do you desire to be changed and transformed in Christlike holiness? God never withholds his grace from us. His steadfast love and mercy is new every day (ref. Lamentations 3:22-23). Through the gift and grace of the Holy Spirit we can be changed and made new in Christ. He can set us free from our unruly desires and passions. As St. Augustine prays: "God our Father, we find it difficult to come to you, because our knowledge of you is imperfect. In our ignorance we have imagined you to be our enemy; we have wrongly thought that you take pleasure in punishing our sins; and we have foolishly conceived you to be a tyrant over human life. But since Jesus came among us, he has shown that you are loving, that you are on our side against all that stunts life, and that our resentment against you was groundless. So we come to you, asking you to forgive our past ignorance, and wanting to know more and more of you and your forgiving love, through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Tuesday, March 19 ~ Fifth Week in the Season Lent

Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ. Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

Meditation: Joseph's faith was put to the test when he discovered that his espoused wife was pregnant. Joseph, a just and God-fearing man, did not wish to embarrass or punish Mary. To all appearances she had broken their solemn pledge to be faithful and chaste to one another. Joseph, no doubt took this troubling matter to God in prayer. He was not hasty to judge or to react with hurt and anger. God rewarded him not only with guidance and consolation, but with the divine assurance that he had indeed called Joseph to be the husband of Mary and to assume a mission that would require the utmost faith, confidence, and trust in Almighty God. Joseph believed in the divine message to take Mary as his wife and to accept the child in her womb as the promised Messiah. Joseph was a worthy successor to the great patriarchs – Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He followed the call of God through the mysterious circumstances that surrounded the coming of Jesus. God entrusted this silent, humble man with the unique privilege of raising his only Son as a growing child. Joseph is a faithful witness and servant of God's unfolding plan of redemption. Are you ready to believe in the promises of God, even when faced with perplexing circumstances and what seems like insurmountable problems? God the Father has not left us alone, but has given us his only begotten Son as our Savior. Where does your faith need to be strengthened? Ask the Lord to increase your faith and trust in his word.

Prayer: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that by Saint Joseph's intercession your Church may constantly watch over the unfolding of the mysteries of human salvation, whose beginnings you entrusted to his faithful care. 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.

An Ancient Prayer to Saint Joseph (this prayer dates to the year 50 A.D.): O St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interest and desires. O St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers. O St. Joseph, I never weary of contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him close in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, patron of departing souls, pray for me. Amen.

Contemplation: Ask yourself: Are you prepared to obey the Lord in everything? Everything?! Faith in God's word and obedience to his commands go hand in hand. Joseph, like Mary, is a model of faith and justice. Matthew tells us that Joseph was a "just man." St. John Chrysostom once wrote: "The concept of 'just' here signifies the man who possesses all the virtues. By 'justice' one at times understands only one virtue in particular, as in the phrase: the one who is not avaricious is just. But 'justice' also refers to virtue in general. And it is in this sense, above all, that scripture uses the word 'justice'. For example, it refers to: 'a just man and true' (cf. Job 1:1), or the two were just (cf. Luke 1:6). Joseph, then, being just, that is to say good and charitable..."

Wednesday, March 20 ~ Fifth Week in the Season of Lent

Holy Gospel: John 8:31-42 Jesus said to those Jews who believed in him, "If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How can you say, 'You will become free'?" Jesus answered them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. A slave does not remain in a household forever, but a son always remains. So if the Son frees you, then you will truly be free. I know that you are descendants of Abraham. But you are trying to kill me, because my word has no room among you. I tell you what I have seen in the Father's presence; then do what you have heard from the Father." They answered and said to him, "Our father is Abraham." Jesus

said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works of Abraham. But now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God; Abraham did not do this. You are doing the works of your father!" So they said to him, "We were not born of fornication. We have one Father, God." Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and am here; I did not come on my own, but he sent me."

Meditation: The world presents us with a false notion of truth and freedom – "truth is relative so I choose my own criteria for what is true" and freedom means "I can do whatever I please – regardless of what God or others might think." This confusion only gets compounded when civil laws make legal many things which are contrary to the laws of God, and the Gospel teachings of Jesus Christ and His Catholic Church – abortion, euthanasia, and same-sex marriage, to name a few. This is really a mask for slavery to one's passions and desires – to do what "me, myself and I" will versus humbly submitting ourselves to live our lives according to the will of God. Jesus offers his disciples true freedom – freedom from slavery to pride and arrogance – disbelief and ignorance – selfishness and greed – hatred and revenge – fear and anxiety – despair and depression – and a host of many other hurtful desires and addictions which cripple our lives.

Prayer: Enlighten, O God of compassion, the hearts of your children, sanctified by penance, and in your kindness grant those you stir to a sense of devotion a gracious hearing when they cry out to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: The good news is that Jesus Christ has truly set us free from sin and its destructive force in our lives. How is this possible? Through the gift and power of the Holy Spirit we can choose to renounce sin, we choose to live up to the challenges put forth to us by Christ in the Gospel, and in doing so we can yield to God's grace which enables us to walk each day and each moment in Christ's way of love and holiness. A disciple is a follower and a listener. If we want to be a true follower of Christ and live as his disciples, then we must listen to the words of Jesus, with a humble and teachable spirit, and put Jesus' words into action in our daily lives. As we listen with faith and obey with trust, Christ himself gives us grace – the enabling power of his Holy Spirit – to live, think, and act in the truth of his word. Do you believe in the transforming power of the Holy Spirit to change your life and to set you free to walk in Christ's way of love and holiness?

Thursday, March 22 ~ Fifth Week in the Season of Lent

Holy Gospel: John 8:51-59 Jesus said to the Jews: "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever keeps my word will never see death." So the Jews said to him, "Now we are sure that you are possessed. Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'Whoever keeps my word will never taste death.' Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? Or the prophets, who died? Who do you make yourself out to be?" Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is worth nothing; but it is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.' You do not know him, but I know him. And if I should say that I do not know him, I would be like you a liar. But I do know him and I keep his word. Abraham your father rejoiced to see my day; he saw it and was glad." So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old and you have seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, before Abraham came to be, I AM." So they picked up stones to throw at him; but Jesus hid and went out of the temple area.

Meditation: When the Jews asked Jesus "Who do you claim to be?" Jesus answered, "before Abraham was, I AM." Jesus claims to be timeless and there is only one in the universe who is timeless, namely God. Scripture tells us that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). Jesus was not just a man who came, lived, died, and then rose again. He is the immortal timeless One, who always was and always will be. In Jesus we see the eternal God in visible flesh. His death and rising make it possible for us to share in his eternal life. Do you live in the hope and joy of the resurrection?

Prayer: O God, who reward the merits of the just and offer pardon to sinners who do penance, have mercy, we pray, on those who call upon you, that the admission of our guilt may serve to obtain your pardon for our sins. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Do you thirst and hunger to know God fully – to know him personally, and to know the transforming power of his love and wisdom for your life? God made us to know him and he gives us the gift of faith and understanding to grow in our knowledge of him. Jesus challenged the people of Israel to accept his word as the revelation of God. His claims challenged the very foundation of their belief and understanding of God. Jesus made a series of claims which are the very foundation of his life and mission. What are these claims? First, Jesus claims unique knowledge of God as the only begotten Son of the

Father in heaven. Since he claims to be in direct personal communion with his Father in heaven, he knows everything about the Father. Jesus claims that the only way to full knowledge of the mind and heart of God is through himself. Jesus also claims unique obedience to God the Father. He thinks, lives and acts in the knowledge of his Father's word. To look at his life is to "see how God wishes me to live." In Jesus alone we see what God wants us to know and what he wants us to be.

Friday, March 23 ~ Fifth Week in the Season of Lent
Optional Memorial: Saint Turibius, Archbishop; First Saint of the New World

Holy Gospel: John 10:31-42 The Jews picked up rocks to stone Jesus. Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from my Father. For which of these are you trying to stone me?" The Jews answered him, "We are not stoning you for a good work but for blasphemy. You, a man, are making yourself God." Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, You are gods'?" If it calls them gods to whom the word of God came, and Scripture cannot be set aside, can you say that the one whom the Father has consecrated and sent into the world blasphemes because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? If I do not perform my Father's works, do not believe me; but if I perform them, even if you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may realize and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." Then they tried again to arrest him; but he escaped from their power. He went back across the Jordan to the place where John first baptized, and there he remained. Many came to him and said, "John performed no sign, but everything John said about this man was true." And many there began to believe in him.

Meditation: Why were the religious leaders so upset with Jesus that they wanted to kill him? They charged him with blasphemy because he claimed to be the Son of God. Jesus made two claims in his response: He was consecrated by the Father to a special task and he was sent into the world to carry out his Father's mission. Jesus challenged his opponents to accept his works if they could not accept his words. One can argue with words, but deeds are beyond argument. Jesus is the perfect teacher in that he does not base his claims on what he says but on what he does. The word of God is life and power to those who believe.

Prayer: O God, who gave increase to your Church through the apostolic labors and zeal for truth of the Bishop Saint Turibius, grant that the people consecrated to you may always receive new growth in faith and holiness. 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: Have you consecrated your life to God? Do you strive to grow in holiness and grace? The scriptural understanding of consecration is "to make holy for God" – to be given over as a free-will offering and sacrifice for God. Jesus made himself a sin-offering for us, to ransom us from condemnation and slavery to sin. He spoke of his Father consecrating him for this mission of salvation. Jesus shows us the way to walk the path of truth and holiness. And he anoints us with his power to live the gospel with joy and to be his witnesses in the world. Are you a doer of God's word, or a hearer only, failing to put into action that which is taught to us in the sacred scriptures so that we may live in the light of Christ? God wants others to see the light of Christ in us in the way we live, speak, and witness the joy and truths of the Gospel. **As we approach Holy Week – the holiest week of the year in the Christian world – let's make sure that we put the "holy" back in Holy Week; it's not just another week of the year.** Let us live this week illuminated with the light of Christ, so that his light shines through each of us. Let us set aside this one week of the year for added prayer, scripture reading and meditation, daily Mass, the Stations of the Cross. Let us remember most of all to thank Christ for his suffering the Passion and death on the cross, with the weight and pain of the cross being our own sinfulness.

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Daily meditations and contemplations adapted from the Irish Jesuits' *Sacred Space* web page and *Biblical Medications for Lent* by Rev. Carroll Stuhlmuehler, C.P.; 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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SAINT JOSEPH: *Feast Day + March 19*

The Power of the Saint Joseph Novena

by Michael J. Lichens

When you ask any good father what he wants for his birthday, you're likely to get a dismissive wave and perhaps a request for a beer and some time with his kids. Though I don't have any kids of my own, this is the regular pattern I constantly observe with my dad and plenty of other dads out there. It's not that they don't deserve a big celebration, but more that seeing their kids doing well is all they ever needed.

Saint Joseph, the foster father of Our Lord and a model for all fathers has a sort of "birthday" coming up on March 19th when we celebrate The Solemnity of Saint Joseph, also popularly known as Saint Joseph's Day. In Boston's North End and throughout many Italian-American communities it takes on the feeling of a big party with parades, processions, and other kinds of celebrations. These particular celebrations stem from giving thanks to St. Joseph's intercession for avoiding a famine in Sicily and they are a testament to his powerful intercession.

While Joseph does not say a lot in the Bible, he is rightly called the Patron of the Universal Church for his life, love and protection of both Mary and Our Lord. Pope Leo XIII, in observing how Joseph acted as a husband and father, reflected on this great saint:

The Blessed Patriarch looks upon the multitude of Christians who make up the Church as confided especially to his trust – this limitless family spread over the earth, over which, because he is the spouse of Mary and the Father of Jesus Christ he holds, as it were, a paternal authority. It is, then, natural and worthy that as the Blessed Joseph ministered to all the needs of the family at Nazareth and girt it about with his protection, he should now cover with the cloak of his heavenly patronage and defend the Church of Jesus Christ.

With his solemnity quickly approaching, it is customary to pray the Saint Joseph Novena. This powerful prayer ranks right up there with the Saint Jude novena in answering some seemingly unanswerable prayers. In my own life, I've seen it at work.

Saint Joseph and Me

This story, my own, is one of many stories of when God provided a small miracle through the intercession of St. Joseph. While it is my own story, you, my dear reader, share in it.

In 2013 I was having one of the roughest years of my life. The year started with a painful infection that put me out of work for several weeks and I had a cancer scare on top of that. That led to me being fired from one job and working a bunch of temporary roles until I found a permanent job with a small startup that also let me go a few months later due to dwindling sales. In August of 2013, I was out of money, quickly running out of food, and had to sell my guitar to pay bills and put gas in the car. My electricity was shut off and only by borrowing funds and begging did I get it turned back on.

There's no other way to say it: I was desperate and felt abandoned by God.

My final act, after too many rejections, was to pray a novena to Saint Joseph. I had prayed it before for minor things like doing well in school and getting into grad school. This time, I was praying for what felt like a miracle to me. I needed work, and I needed it fast.

The first day of the Novena I had two interviews and prayed it faithfully every morning as I continued to look for work. The very ninth day of the novena I got a call with a job offer with just enough compensation to start paying my rent again. As you will likely gather, that job was with Sophia Institute Press to oversee *Catholic Exchange*, and I can't tell you how much I've given thanks to God for hearing me and Saint Joseph and putting me in this position. I think of my time here as a work to bring glory to God and I especially thank Saint Joseph for having the heart of a father enough to not just get me another job but to allow me to be in a place where I get to make a difference in the Church and the World.

If you've been blessed by *Catholic Exchange* at all, you owe Saint Joseph the gratitude for putting me here and reminding me why I work the long hours.

Ways to Use This Novena

If you'd like to start the novena tomorrow, I encourage you to think of some great need for yourself or others. I can't guarantee that you will get the exact answer you want, but St. Joseph is there to listen like a patient father and to intercede for you to God, the greatest of Fathers.

If you don't have a pressing need, I have one idea. Tomorrow morning, when you start the novena, ask Saint Joseph to remember and intercede for the Middle Eastern Christians who are being martyred and

oppressed by ISIS and others. They, our brothers and sisters in Christ, are suffering in ways we can't imagine. Now, if you will join me, is the time to pray to Saint Joseph, that Patron of the Universal Church, to quickly bring relief and to fortify their resolve. Imagine if the many of you who read these words begin to pray this powerful novena for those who have so little to count on. We may not be able to go there ourselves, but we can give a few minutes in the morning to ask and pray for help.

Also, as Lent is a time to give alms, consider giving to a charity that is over in the Middle East helping our brothers and sisters. One such organization is the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, but there are several others.

Through the intercession of Saint Joseph, may we reflect his tender heart and go about to save lives and souls.

The Saint Joseph Novena

Pray this prayer every morning for nine consecutive days:

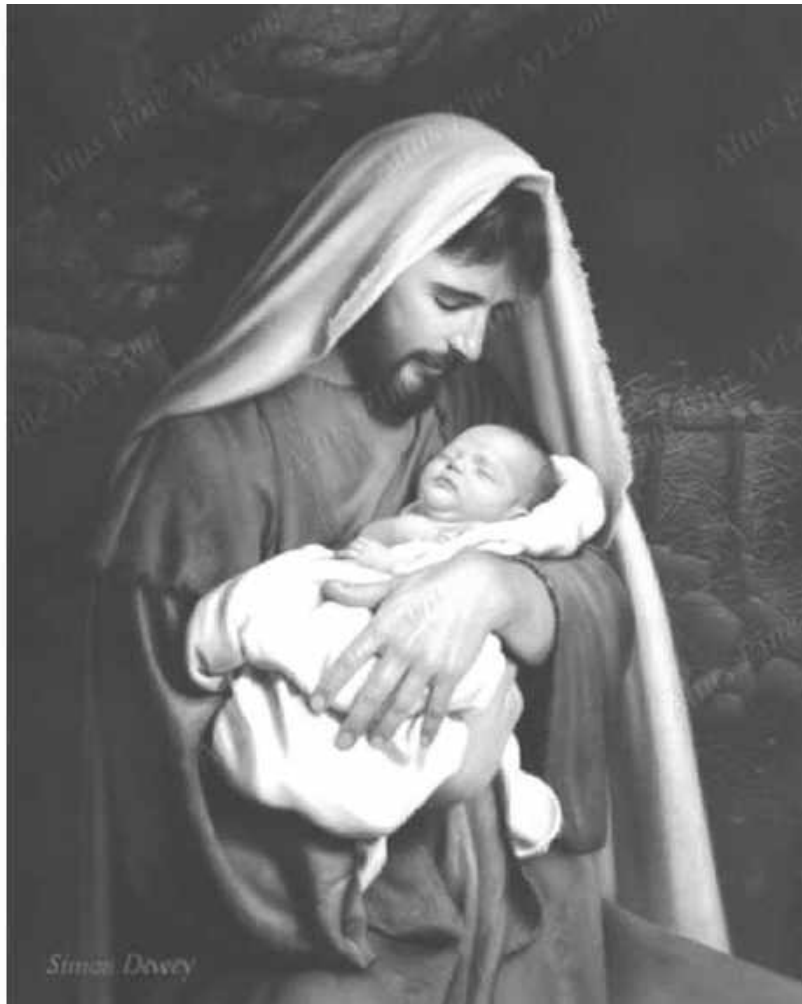
O Saint Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires.

O Saint Joseph, assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, Our Lord; so that having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers.

O Saint Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me, and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath.

O Saint Joseph, hear my prayers and obtain my petitions. O Saint Joseph, pray for me. (Mention your intention at this point of the prayer.) Amen.

This article is made available courtesy of the Catholic Exchange.





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 through the QR code or by visiting www.viribuswellness.com/pietra.

SCHOOLS

ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL IS HIRING!

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

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

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

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

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

BWHS SUMMER CAMPS

Registration is open for Bishop Watterson's summer art, theatre and sports camps. Woodshop camp information is coming soon. Sports being offered are baseball, boys basketball, girls basketball, cheerleading, field hockey, football, girls soccer, softball, track and field, boys volleyball and girls volleyball. Go to bishopwatterson.com for dates, registration and other details.



TUNE IN APRIL 1-5
St. Gabriel Catholic Radio AM 820

ST MICHAEL 5th GRADE STUDENTS PRAY
THE

Divine Mercy Chaplet

Listen in and pray with us!

St. Michael 5th grade students will be featured on St. Gabriel Catholic Radio praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00pm each day between April 1-5.

Apply Today!

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



Learn more about St. Michael School. Visit: stmichaelworthington.org - 614.885.3149

AROUND THE DIOCESE

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 a 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 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)



A GOOD and GROWING NEED



COLUMBUS CATHOLIC VOCATIONS

It costs **\$55,000** per year to educate and form a seminarian. The Diocese of Columbus has a **GOOD AND GROWING NEED** by virtue of **16 ADDITIONAL** young men interested in the priesthood. A contribution from you today will support this immediate need to fund future priests throughout our Diocese.



The Wonder of Eve

understand the power and strength created within the female body

The Wonder of Eve is a fresh and engaging presentation, helping young women understand how naturally amazing their bodies are and the impact their choices can have on their future health and fertility.

"Why didn't I know this years ago?"

We often hear this from our Natural Family Planning clients. Even as a young woman, they wish they had known this about their bodies!

The Wonder of Eve covers:

- the marvelous design and function of the female body and reproductive system/menstrual cycles
- a brief introduction to tracking cycles—a unique approach to women's healthcare, no matter the stage in life
- ways to take good care of yourself now, to benefit you in the future.

Saturday April 6 2024 at 11 AM
Mount Carmel St. Ann's Conference Room A

- Geared toward girls in grades 8-12.
- Presented by a Certified Nurse-midwife and a FertilityCare Practitioner
- 60 minute presentation including Q&A

 Watch the Trailer Video! bit.ly/WonderofEveTrailer

<https://www.mountcarmelhealth.com/wonder-of-eve>
For questions contact: freedomfertilitycare@gmail.com



HELPING CHRISTIANS IN THE HOLY LAND

Franciscan priests and brothers are the custodians of the Christian sites in the Holy Land and they are counting on our financial help to assist them in providing presence, care and service on that holy ground. These dedicated servants of God work tirelessly to preserve the sanctuaries and shrines from the life of Jesus and the prophets. Funds collected last year on Good Friday helped to preserve 74 Christian sites and supported over 100 men preparing to be priests or brothers. Your contribution to the Good Friday collection this year will help this most worthy cause. Can we count on you?

GOOD FRIDAY WAY OF THE CROSS WITH BISHOP EARL K. FERNANDES

Please join us in walking the Way of the Cross through downtown Columbus on Good Friday, March 29th, led by Bishop Fernandes. The procession will begin at 2:00 p.m., directly following the Good Friday service in the Cathedral, and will conclude at 4:00 p.m. The route begins on the Cathedral steps and has five stops throughout downtown, where people carry their crosses every day. Each stop will have moments of readings, music and poetry. The Way of the Cross is organized by the lay ecclesial movement, Communion and Liberation. For more information, please contact Alessandro at ando.scotti@gmail.com.

SPRING DIOCESAN VOCAL TRAINING PROGRAM WORKSHOP

We are excited to announce the Spring Diocesan Vocal Training Program Workshop! Even if you have previously attended a workshop, you are invited to join this "voice lesson" style workshop, where we will work on strengthening our vocal skills with vocal exercises, new repertoire and an opportunity to practice chant singing! The workshop will be held at St. Brendan the Navigator in Hilliard, Ohio from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 20. Please email Dawn Beckman at rtbddb@aol.com with your reservation. We hope to see you there!

PLENARY INDULGENCES

The Dominican Order is currently celebrating a Triple Jubilee in honor of St. Thomas Aquinas, remembering the 700th anniversary of his canonization (which was celebrated in July 2023), the 750th anniversary of his death (to be celebrated on March 7, 2024), and the 800th anniversary of his birth (which will be celebrated in 2025). In honor of these anniversaries, the Apostolic Penitentiary grants a plenary indulgence to those who make a pilgrimage to a holy place connected with the Dominican Order, and there devoutly take part in the jubilee ceremonies, or at least devote a suitable time to pious recollection, concluding with the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and invocations of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of Saint Thomas Aquinas. Any church, shrine, or chapel currently entrusted to the Dominican Order can meet the requirements for the pilgrimage. In the Diocese of Columbus, St. Patrick Church in Columbus, St. Joseph Church in Somerset, and Holy Trinity Church in Somerset are entrusted to the Dominican Friars. The plenary indulgence may be obtained until January 28, 2025 under the usual conditions of sacramental Confession 20 days before or after the indulgenced act, reception of holy communion, prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father, and complete detachment from sin, including venial sin. For more information, visit <https://www.op.org/rescript-of-the-apostolic-penitentiary-with-translation/>.

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