Jesus Christ Is Risen Today! Alleluia! Saint Michael the Archangel Parish 5750 North High Street + Worthington, Ohio 43085 (614) 885-7814 + WWW.Saintmichael-cd.org

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. Transitional Deacon: Dcn. Sam Severance 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 ineal@sichcc.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 Minstry 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.

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.

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD MARCH 31, 2024

DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 30

8:00 p.m. For Our Newly Initiated Members of the Catholic Church **Sunday, March 31**

- 8:30 a.m. + Souls in Purgatory
- 10:30 a.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of our Parish

12:30 p.m. + Deacon Craig Smith (Dcn. Klaus & Sharon Fricke)

Monday, April 1

6:30 a.m. + Helen Saboley

8:15 a.m. Special Intention of Gerald Ssewajje

Tuesday, April 2

6:30 a.m. Special Intention of the Catholic Church in Haiti (Joe Fiala) 8:15 a.m. +Frances Grispino

Wednesday, April 3

6:30 a.m. + Janet Baird (Susan Farrell)

8:15 a.m. For the School

6:00 p.m. +The Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, April 4

6:30 a.m. + Dr. Frank Dono

8:15 a.m. + Antonio Tempesta (Armando & Liliana Tempesta)

Friday, April 5

6:30 a.m. + Dorothy & Vince Griffith (Karen & Lou Griffith)

8:15 a.m. + David Rocchi (The Lund Family)

Saturday, April 6

8:15 a.m. +Paul Butler (Johanna White)

4:00 p.m. + Jo Kell (Meg & George Doyle)

Sunday, April 7

8:30 a.m. + Tony Petrarca (Live Wires)

- 10:30 a.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of our Parish
- 12:30 p.m. Living and Deceased Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm
- 5:00 p.m. Diocese of Columbus Seminarians

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Total:\$	16,457.85
Online Giving\$	7,832.00
Envelopes\$	8,625.85
MARCH 24, 2024:	

UPDATED DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY: 6:30AM, 8:15AM TUESDAY: 6:30AM, 8:15AM WEDNESDAY: 6:30AM, 8:15AM THURSDAY: 6:30AM, 8:15AM FRIDAY: 6:30AM, 8:15AM SATURDAY: 8:15AM

Join us on Wechesdoy evenings as we permittently add the 6 Copm Mass to our calendar followed by our weekly Holy Hour with confessions from 6:30-7:30pm.



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!

PARISH CALENDAR MARCH/APRIL			
SUNDAY, March 31	Easter Masses at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt following the 12:30 p.m. Mass	Thursday, April 4	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 5:30 p.m. Cub Scout Meeting (U) 6:00 p.m. Festival Planning Meeting (UMR) 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study (LMR) 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (C)
Monday, April 1	Parish Office Closed 5:00 p.m. Boy Scouts (LMR)	Friday, April 5	Eucharistic Exposition (AC)
Tuesday, April 2	9:00 a.m. SVDP Sandwich Making (MH) 7:30 p.m. Cub Scout Planning Meeting (LMR)	Saturday, April 6	6:45am Men's Faith & Fellowship (UMR) 7:00 a.m. Pietra (LMR) 8:00 a.m. PSR Confirmation Retreat (MH) 2:30 p.m. Confessions (C)
Wednesday, April 3	6:00 p.m. Mass, Holy Hour & Confessions (C)	SUNDAY, April 7	Friendship Sunday after all Masses 11:30 a.m. RCIA (UMR) 2:00 p.m. Baptism (C) 4:00 p.m. Pietra (LMR, field weather-permitting) 7:30 p.m. SMAA Meeting (UMR)
(U) = Undercroft/Cafet	eria. (S) = School. (C) = Church. (G) = Gym. (MH) = Maria	n Hall, (SL) = School	Library, (UMR) = Meeting room on the first floor of the Parish

(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 EASTER SUNDAY, at this Easter time, and indeed throughout the year, it is important for us to remember that when our Lord rose from the dead, a completely new order of creation came into being. When our Lord rose, death ceased to be the end of life. Our Lord was born, and yes, He died. But our Lord died in order to live, and this was something not just new, but something almost unbelievable for people to conceive. For this reason, when we read the accounts of Easter morning, we have some sense of the confusion of those involved on that day of Resurrection - that first Easter morning. For those who lived and worked alongside our Lord, their duty was to believe that He would rise from the dead. For each of us, who live thousands of years after our Lord returned to the Father, it is our duty to believe He rose from the dead. God the Father has given us the proof in the only way that He could, and in a way that respects our freedom - our freedom to love Him or not, our freedom to believe or not, our freedom to accept His Son and our Savior, or to eat the forbidden fruit of pride and try to come up with an answer on our own - an answer that will take from us the labor of life, and the fear of death. And that freedom is the freedom to believe – to believe what Jesus said, to believe what Jesus did, and to incorporate His teachings in our daily lives. It simply means to follow Him - Jesus, who leads us to eternal life. Jesus said, at the Last Supper, "This is my body, this is my blood." On the next day, He did die to make the sacrifice real. And though spilled and broken once on the Cross, they are now the Risen Body, the Risen Blood of Christ. And they are upon the altar to be worshipped and adored, and to be embraced with love by all who wish to say with Mary, "I have seen the Lord," and by all, who like the women, wish to fall and embrace Him and hear Him speak the words that dispel all the darkness and anxieties of human fear: "Do not be afraid." There is nothing that I or anyone in the Church could ever say or do to force anyone to believe. Our belief is founded in our faith. But each of us can receive what has been told to us, by those who saw Him in His Risen flesh - the Body and Blood of Christ. And from that gift, that grace, that love of God poured out for us and upon us, I can be given the strength to feel in my heart what is true, what is the only answer, what is the only choice worth making - the choice to believe that Christ truly lives! Today begins the Octave of Easter - we celebrate Easter Sunday for eight days and the Easter season for fifty days. It is Easter, not Christmas; Easter Sunday and the Easter Season are the highest, holiest, and most important days of the year. Without the Resurrection and the Paschal Mystery of Our Lord, there would be no Church and there would be no Christians. Jesus would have been a failed religious leader with some interesting insights, but he would still be in the tomb and we would still be in the darkness of sin and death without the Resurrection. As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI put it in the second part of his book on Jesus Christ, "The Christian faith stands or falls with the truth of the testimony that Christ is risen from the dead." It is precisely those people who deny the Resurrection and look to Jesus as some kind of guru who have completely lost the mystery and truth of the Christian message. The Resurrection is everything for the Christian; without it we would be nothing. "Only if Jesus is risen has anything really new occurred that changes the world and the situation of mankind. Then He becomes the criterion on which we can rely. For then God has truly revealed Himself." (Pope Benedict XVI, Jesus of Nazareth, Holy Week: From the Entrance into Jerusalem to the Resurrection, 242). During this Easter Season, let us meditate on this great mystery and truth of our treasured Catholic faith. Do we truly believe that Jesus Christ, who gave Himself in total love and obedience to the Father for us, rose from the dead? Christ asks us this question over and over again throughout our lives as we make choices and battle along the path to holiness. Do we testify that Jesus is Lord? Is He the Lord of our lives? The entire Easter Season is about us celebrating that Jesus Christ is risen and is the Lord of all!

My sincere thanks to all who did so much during Lent and Holy Week to prepare for the Risen Christ. Our increased attendance at Mass, the increase at our weekly Holy Hours, the number of penitents, those who prayed the Stations of the Cross; our increased almsgiving to help those in need, our Knights of Columbus and volunteers for the Friday Fish Frys; to name a few. Sincere thanks to those who not only heard the call, but responded by becoming fully-initiated members of the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil Mass. The journey of faith of these new members of our faith is only the beginning – we welcome them, embrace them, and support them as our brothers and sisters in the Catholic faith. Their journey would not have happened, also, had it not been for all involved in the RCIA program – especially the sponsors, volunteers and presenters, and Mr. Jake Neal, our OCIA Director. Heartfelt thanks to all involved in making the liturgies of Lent, Holy Week, the Triduum, and Easter so beautiful and smooth-running – especially Ron Barrett and members of our parish choir; our MCs, Lectors, Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and Ushers/ Hospitality, Easter Egg Hunt volunteers; all of the hard work done by our volunteers to clean, prepare and decorate our church for Holy Week and Easter. Incredible thanks to the Parish Staff who kept things running so smoothly and who kept everything "moving" during this time of multiple, special liturgies and many visitors to our parish. And, of course, thank you to all of the clergy at Saint Michael for their added hours during Lent, Holy Week and Easter, tending to the added spiritual and sacramental needs of our parishioners and visitors.

From all of us at Saint Michael, may you and your families have a Blessed and Happy Easter!

AROUND THE PARISH



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, APRIL 21 AFTER THE 8:30AM & 10:30AM MASSES IN THE CAFETERIA

Join us for our next community breakfast hosted by the Knights of Columbus! Come enjoy good food and fellowship. The menu will include pancakes (gluten free available), sausage, bacon & eggs! Breakfast is available at NO COST; donations will be accepted and all proceeds will go to support the Women's Care Center.

> Wamanto (F.) Cure Cantarta

Women's Faith & Fellowship Daughterhood by Candlelight with Monica Richards Thursday, April 18th 7:00pm Marian Hall



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.*



LIVE WIRES

Calling all Live Wires!

Our next Social Event will be on Tuesday, April 9th at 11:30am in Marian Hall. Bring your sack lunch and we will provide the drinks and dessert! Invite a friend to join you! We hope to see you there!

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.

The Apostolate of Holy Motherhood



Scan to SIGN UP NOW!

Women's Faith & Fellowship Morning Bible Study for Moms

Please join the Women's Faith and Fellowship group as we casually read and discuss "The Apostolate of Holy Motherhood". This small book is short readings of visions given to "Mariamante", a mother with 3 children at home, by Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary in the late 1900's. Saint Teresa of Calcutta said, "From reading portions of the book, I can see...such an authentic spirituality of what being a mother means in today's world." Books will be provided, rsvp necessary due to limited number of books available. The group will meet in the homes of 2

members of the women's group core team within 7 minutes of St. Michael's Church on Thursday mornings 9:15-11am from April 11th-May 16th, Coffee and tea provided, small children very welcome.

EXPERIENCE PIETRA ...



Join us for *Pietra*: an exercise class that strengthens body, mind, and spirit! Upcoming classes include *Pietra Kids*,

Mother/Daughter, and our regular Women's Saturday morning classes. Information and signup can be found at the QR code or by visiting www.viribuswellness.com/pietra.

SVDP FOOD PANTRY

The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry is in need of pasta, spaghetti sauce, and snack/energy bars of any variety. No glass jars, please. Items can be placed in the boxes in Marian Hall. Thanks so much for your generosity.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Are you planning for a scheduled medical procedure, or are you being admitted to a hospital or an outpatient 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.

SCHOOLS

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.

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.

EASTER SUNDAY SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL • 5750 N. HIGH STREET • WORTHINGTON, OHIO 43085 • (614) 885-7814

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES AN EASTER REFLECTION

Priest: Dear brothers and sisters, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with Him in newness of life. And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church. And so I ask you:

Priest: Do you renounce sin, so as to live in the freedom of the children of God? **People:** I do.

Lord, all I want to do is to live in the freedom that You offer me. I want to reject the unloving choices I have made, and the sinful failures in my life. I reject all injustice and violence, all that disrespects the dignity of human life, and all that is contrary to God's laws and Your teachings.

Priest: Do you renounce the lure of evil, so that sin may have no mastery over you? **People:** I do.

Lord, I admit that some evil has a hold on me: it all seems so attractive and has false rewards, and in some ways it has become a habitual way for me to be myself. Lord, I renew my commitment this day to turn from all that is evil and from letting any disordered attachment, any empty promises master me, and try to separate me from You. By this promise, I commit myself to greater courage in acting justly and refusing to let worldly entrapments cloud my conscience or dull my heart.

Priest: Do you renounce Satan, the author and prince of sin? **People:** I do.

Lord, as I renew my the promises that accompany my becoming one with You in the baptism of dying to sin and rising to life, I know that Satan tries to tempt me to sin with his lies and falsehoods. I now promise to You, and to my sisters and brothers who depend upon my fidelity, that I renew my commitment to reject Satan, and all his ways of subverting Your will, Your teachings, Your reign and the coming of Your kingdom.

Priest: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth? **People:** I do.

Lord, You made me and give me life every day. I believe in You, I turn to You, and I place my life, and the graces I need each day, in Your loving hands.

Priest: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father? **People:** I do.

Jesus, my Lord and Savior, my life is in your hands. I believe in You, I turn to You, I commit myself to growing closer to You, placing myself with You, in love for others.

Priest: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

People: I do.

Holy Spirit, Jesus promised not to leave us orphans. I so desire to be enkindled with the fire of Your love, that I might be renewed in courage. I believe in and renew my commitment to Your work among us. I want to contribute to the unity that You desire for us. I promise to be as merciful, for I have known Your mercy. And I pledge to live my life each day on this earth, full of faith in the resurrection that Jesus has gained for me.

Personal Prayer of Reflection: Lord, our God, this year's journey to the waters of baptism has renewed me. I have come to know more intimately the complexity of my weakness and the depths of Your love for me. By Your grace, I have come to experience the mystery of the gift of life You offer. Please help me to follow Your will, to remain free and faithful so that I might grow as a servant of Jesus' own mission. I pray this in the name of Jesus my Lord, my Savior, and my Redeemer. Amen.

EASTER SUNDAY SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL • 5750 N. HIGH STREET • WORTHINGTON, OHIO 43085 • (614) 885-7814

We are called to be God's Easter people!

By Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV, courtesy of the Catholic Exchange

We are not Easter people because we tend to see Easter as only a past event that we somehow remember and celebrate yearly. How easily we thus reduce Easter to a memorial of Christ's rising from the grave over two thousand years ago. We fail to realize that, because of our baptism, Easter is not just a past event to be remembered and celebrated but also an ever-present reality that moves us and impacts our lives today.

We become Easter people today by the faith of our Baptism, "We were buried with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." (Rom 6:4) Through baptism, we are united with the risen Christ and God is with us always. This is why our "newness of life" as Easter people must be a mirror reflection of the life of Christ from the moment of His baptism in the Jordan River.

St. Peter describes three aspects of the earthly life of Jesus Christ after His baptism.

Firstly, while living in a sinful world, Jesus did all the good that the Father willed for Him for the liberation and healing of all humanity. After the Father had anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and power, He "went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him." He did not succumb, get distracted, or become discouraged by the many forms of evil in the world.

By virtue of our own baptism, we too are to do good that God inspires in us always and everywhere, and not once in a while or when convenient and beneficial for us. We can no longer blame anyone or worldly influences for our inaction or sinful choices. As instruments of divine goodness, we are too are equipped to bring healing and hope to all by our words and actions.

But doing all the good inspired by God was not enough for Jesus. The second aspect is that Jesus freely endured suffering from others, "They put Him to death by hanging Him on a tree." He experienced the murderous hatred and ingratitude of those whom He loved and died for.

Because of our incorporation into Christ by baptism, we too will suffer evil from others in this world, "You will be hated by all because of my name." (Mt 10:22) We shall even face strong temptations in this life, "In this world, you will have tribulations." (Jn 16:33) The grace of baptism is not intended to dispense us from the pains that come from our relationships with others, "We always carry in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of may also be manifested in our bodies." (2Cor 4:9) By this baptismal grace, we can endure all these out of love for God.

Lastly, Jesus conquered evil by rising from the dead by the power of His Father, "This man God raised on the third day and granted that He be visible." (See Acts 10:37-43) Because the ultimate victory of Jesus was not an earthly victory, His Resurrection is a divine guarantee of our heavenly reward if we place all our trust in Him and remain His Easter people till our last breaths.

By the grace of baptism, we too know that God will surely reward us for the good that we do and the evil that we endure for Him.

The Resurrection proves that Jesus always fulfills His promise to us. The disciples did not believe in His promise that He would rise from the grave after three days, "For they did not yet understand the Scriptures that He had to rise from the dead." (Jn 20:9) His fidelity to His promises makes our own fidelity to Him possible. From now on, we have no valid reason to ever doubt His faithfulness to us.

We are the ones who need to renew our baptismal promises to Him because we are not always faithful to Him as His Easter people. How many of us have been faithful to our baptismal promises to renounce sin and Satan, believe in the Triune God, live fully in the communion of saints, and serve God in His Holy Catholic Church? This is why we renew our baptismal promises in the Easter Sunday Eucharist.

Let us also renew these baptismal promises at the many Easter moments that Jesus provides for us. Numerous Easter moments abound in our Catholic life – experiencing divine forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, receiving and offering this same forgiveness to others, encountering Christ in the Eucharist at Mass or at Eucharistic adoration, connecting with others in loving service, spending silent time with God in prayer, reading, meditating, and communing with Him through the sacred scriptures, etc. No matter what our pasts have been, we can make use of such moments to begin again to be the truly Easter people that God is always calling us to be.



"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 April is dedicated to the Holy Spirit.

"Born as a son, led forth as a lamb, sacrificed as a sheep, buried as a man, He rose from the dead as a God, for He is by nature God and Man. He is all things: He judges, and so He is Law; He teaches, and so He is Word; He saves, and so He is Grace; He begets and so He is Father; He is begotten, and so He is Son; He suffers, and so He is Sacrifice; He is buried, and so He is man; He rises again, and so He is God. This is Jesus Christ, to Whom belongs Glory for all ages." +SAINT MELITO OF SARDIS

Monday, April 1 ~ The Octave of Easter

Holy Gospel: Matthew 28:8-15 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce the news to his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them. They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me." While they were going, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had happened. The chief priests assembled with the elders and took counsel; then they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came by night and stole him while we were asleep.' And if this gets to the ears of the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." The soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has circulated among the Jews to the present day.

Meditation: Have you ever asked what the basis is of our faith in the resurrection? The scriptures tell us that "faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Faith is an entirely free gift that God makes to us. Our faith is a free assent to the whole truth which God reveals to us through his word. Faith is certain because it is based on the very word of God who cannot lie. Faith also seeks understanding. That is why God enlightens the "eyes of our hearts" that we may know what is the hope to which he has called us (Ephesians 1:18). Peter the Apostle says we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3). Through the gift of faith, the Lord reveals himself to those who believe in his word and he fills them with "new life in his Holy Spirit". Do you live in the joy and hope of the resurrection? And do you recognize the presence of the Risen Lord in his word, in the "breaking of the bread", and in his church, the body of Christ?

Prayer: O God, who give constant increase to your Church by new offspring, grant that your servants may hold fast in their lives to the Sacrament they have received in faith. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Are you always prepared to meet the Risen Lord? The disciples of Jesus were as unprepared for his resurrection as they were for his death. The empty tomb made them fearful and joyful at the same time. "Where did they put the body or did he really rise just as he predicted?" Even though Jesus had spoken to them before of his death and rising, they could not believe until they saw the empty tomb and met the risen Lord. Aren't we the same? We want to see with our own eyes before we believe! The guards brought their testimony to the chief priests and elders who met the news with denial. They were resolved to not believe that Jesus had risen and they bribed the guards in the hope of keeping others from believing.

Tuesday, April 2 ~ The Octave of Easter

Holy Gospel: John 20:11-18 Mary Magdalene stayed outside the tomb weeping. And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb and saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the Body of Jesus had been. And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid him." When she had said this, she

turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" She thought it was the gardener and said to him, "Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni," which means Teacher. Jesus said to her, "Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." Mary went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and then reported what he had told her.

Meditation: The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of our hope – the hope that we will see God face to face and share in his everlasting glory and joy. "Without having seen him you love him; though you do not now see him you believe in him and rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy. As the outcome of your faith you obtain the salvation of your souls" (1 Peter 1:8-9). And so, do you recognize the Lord's presence with you, in his word, in the "breaking of the bread", and in his church, the body of Christ?

Prayer: O God, who have bestowed on us paschal remedies, endow your people with heavenly gifts, so that, possessed of perfect freedom, they may rejoice in heaven over what gladdens them now on earth. 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: How easy it can be to miss the Lord when our focus is on ourselves! Mary did not at first recognize the Lord because her focus was on the empty tomb and on her own grief. It took only one word from the Master, when he called her by name, for Mary to recognize him. Mary's message to the disciples, I have seen the Lord, is the very essence of Christianity. It is not enough that a Christian know about the Lord, but that we know him personally. It is not enough to argue about him, but to meet him. In the resurrection we encounter the living Lord who loves us personally and shares his glory with us. The Lord gives us "eyes of faith" to see the truth of his resurrection and victory over sin and death (Ephesians 1:18).

Wednesday, April 3 ~ The Octave of Easter

Holy Gospel: Luke 24:13-35 That very day, the first day of the week, two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" And he replied to them, "What sort of things?" They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his Body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see." And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures. As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?" So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the Eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Meditation: St. Augustine provides a reflection on the dimness of their perception: "They were so disturbed when they saw him hanging on the cross that they forgot his teaching, did not look for his resurrection, and failed to keep his promises in mind" (Sermon 235.1). "Their eyes were obstructed, that they should not recognize him until the breaking of the bread. And thus, in accordance with the state of their minds, which was still ignorant of the truth (that the Christ would die and rise again", their eyes were

similarly hindered. It was not that the truth himself was misleading them, but rather that they were themselves unable to perceive the truth." (From The Harmony of the Gospels, 3.25.72) How often do we fail to recognize the Lord when he speaks to our hearts and opens his mind to us? The Risen Lord is ever ready to speak his word to us and to give us understanding of his ways. Do you listen attentively to the Word of God and allow his word to change and transform you?

Prayer: O God, who gladden us year by year with the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection, graciously grant that, by celebrating these present festivities, we may merit through them to reach eternal joys. 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: We often wonder how it would have been difficult for the disciples to recognize the risen Lord. To put it simply, Jesus' death scattered his disciples and shattered their hopes and dreams. They had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. They saw the cross as defeat and could not comprehend the empty tomb until the Lord appeared to them and gave them understanding. Jesus chided the disciples on the road to Emmaus for their slowness of heart to believe what the scriptures had said concerning the Messiah. They did not recognize the risen Jesus until he had broken bread with them. Do you recognize the Lord in his word and in the breaking of the bread?

Thursday, April 4 ~ The Octave of Easter

Holy Gospel: Luke 24:35-48 The disciples of Jesus recounted what had taken place along the way, and how they had come to recognize him in the breaking of bread. While they were still speaking about this, he stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. Then he said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have." And as he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed, he asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them. He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

Meditation: Isn't amazing how much we are like the apostles? We won't believe unless we can see with our own eyes. The gospels attest to the reality of the resurrection. Jesus goes to great lengths to assure his disciples that he is no mere ghost or illusion. He shows them the marks of his crucifixion and he explains how the scriptures foretold his death and rising. Jerome, an early church bible scholar, comments: "As he showed them real hands and a real side, he really ate with his disciples; really walked with Cleophas; conversed with men with a real tongue; really reclined at supper; with real hands took bread, blessed and broke it, and was offering it to them...Do not put the power of the Lord on the level with the tricks of magicians, so that he may appear to have been what he was not, and may be thought to have eaten without teeth, walked without feet, broken bread without hands, spoken without a tongue, and showed a side which had no ribs." (*From a letter to Pammachius against John of Jerusalem 34, 5th century*)

Prayer: O God, who have united the many nations in confessing your name, grant that those reborn in the font of Baptism may be one in the faith of their hearts and the homage of their deeds. 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: A central teaching of the gospel is the cross; but it does not stop there. Through the cross Jesus defeated our enemies – death and Satan and won pardon for our sins. His cross is the door to heaven and the key to paradise. The way to glory is through the cross. When the disciples saw the risen Lord they disbelieved for joy! How can death lead to life, the cross to victory? Jesus shows us the way and he gives us the power to overcome sin and despair, and everything else that would stand in the way of his love and truth. Just as the first disciples were commissioned to bring the good news of salvation to all the nations, so, we, too, are called to be witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus Christ to all who live on the face of the earth. Do you witness the joy of the gospel to those around you?

Friday, April 5 ~ The Octave of Easter

Holy Gospel: John 21:1-14 Jesus revealed himself again to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. He revealed himself in this way. Together were Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, Zebedee's sons, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We also will come with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. When it was already dawn, Jesus was standing on the shore; but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?" They answered him, "No." So he said to them, "Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something." So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish. So the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord." When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he tucked in his garment, for he was lightly clad, and jumped into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, for they were not far from shore, only about a hundred yards, dragging the net with the fish. When they climbed out on shore, they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you just caught." So Simon Peter went over and dragged the net ashore full of one hundred fifty-three large fish. Even though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come, have breakfast." And none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they realized it was the Lord. Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it to them, and in like manner the fish. This was now the third time Jesus was revealed to his disciples after being raised from the dead.

Meditation: Why didn't the apostles immediately recognize the Lord when he greeted them at the Sea of Tiberias? John gives us a clue. He states that Peter decided to return to his home district of Galilee, very likely so he could resume his fishing career. Peter was discouraged and didn't know what to do after the tragedy of Jesus' death! He went back to his previous career out of despair and uncertainty. The other apostles followed him back to Galilee. When was the last time Peter was commanded to let down his net after a futile night of fishing? It was at the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Galilee when the Lord dramatically approached Peter in his fishing boat after a futile night of fishing and commanded him to lower his nets (see Luke 5:4-11). After the miraculous catch, Jesus told Peter that he would be 'catching people" for the kingdom of God. Now Jesus repeats the same miracle. John, the beloved disciple, is the first to recognize the Lord. Peter impulsively leaps from the boat and runs to the Lord. Do you run to the Lord when you meet setbacks, disappointments, or trials? The Lord is ever ready to renew us in faith and to give us fresh hope in his promises.

Prayer: Almighty ever-living God, who gave us the Paschal Mystery in the covenant you established for reconciling the human race, so dispose our minds, we pray, that what we celebrate by professing the faith we may express in deeds. 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: Skeptics who disbelieve the resurrection say the disciples only saw a vision of Jesus. The gospels, however, give us a vivid picture of the reality of the resurrection. Jesus went out of his way to offer his disciples various proofs of his resurrection – that he is real and true flesh, not just a spirit or ghost. In his third appearance to the apostles, after Jesus performed the miraculous catch of fish, he prepared a breakfast and ate with them. Peter's prompt recognition of the Master and exclamation "It is the Lord!" stands in sharp contrast to his previous denial of his Master during the night of Jesus' arrest. The Lord Jesus reveals himself to each of us as we open our hearts to receive his word. Do you recognize the Lord's presence in your life? Do you receive his word with faith? Are you open to conforming your mind and heart to that of Jesus Christ, so that you can follow him with love as a true disciple?

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 Easter* by Rev. Carroll Stuhlmueller, 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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In Loving Memory of Madalyn Grace Abbinante, Donnie Sigler In Thanksgiving for our Priests: Frs. Lumpe, Kitsmiller, Wojciech and Fegan In Honor of Mary T. Abel In Loving Memory of James R. Cecil, James W. Cecil, and Deceased Alumni of Bishop Kearney High School In Loving Memory of Wilfred & Helen Kane, Arthur & Billie Antry In Honor of Louise Wohistein & in Loving Memory of Cindy Garbuglio In Loving Memory of Deceased Members of the Kotson & Acklin Families In Loving Memory of Deceased Members of the Barlage & Jettinghoff Families In Loving Memory of Deceased Members of the Kuvinka & Baseshore Families In Loving Memory of Deceased Members of the Baughman & Pellerito Families In Loving Memory of Charles Benjamin, Arthur Nagy In Loving Memory of Deceased Members of the Bracken & Shoen Families In Loving Memory of Deceased Members of the Brinkman, Donahue, Harrington & Sandal Families In Loving Memory of Caroline Cahall In Loving Memory of Deceased Members of our extended Families In Loving Memory of Elizabeth Anne Carney In Loving Memory of Lori Hartsough In Loving Memory of Deceased Members of the Garcia-Cid Family In Loving Memory of Solomon G. Chinn, Sr., Barbara Chinn, Kimiki Conners In Loving Memory of the Lawrence Sur Family In Loving Memory of Bill Zientek, Dan Collier, Alison Collier In Loving Memory of Deceased Members of the Crerand & Lavin Families In Loving Memory of Gene & Virginia Fate, Jayne Oslen In Loving Memory of Theodore Cruikshank, Sr. In Loving Memory of Chris Damo In Loving Memory of Deceased Members of the Deibel & Ferroni Families In Loving Memory of Cesidio Pizzuti, Pasquale Pizzuti, Lewis & Lucy DiRosario In Loving Memory of Dolores DiSabato In Honor of all first responders & medical Staff; in Loving Memory of Deceased Family & Friends of the Drenik Family In Honor of Members of the Dudley, Trybus, Sykes, Bytomski, Swieca & Yormick Families In Loving Memory of Leopoldo Enrile, Salud Ricafrente In Loving Memory of Deceased Members of the Ferkany & Hoerig Families In Loving Memory of Raquel Alicea In Loving Memory of Deceased Members of the Fricke & Mains Families In Loving Memory of Deceased Members of the Bogus & Gast Families In Loving Memory of Deceased Members of the Gissel & Taylor Families In Loving Memory of Deceased Members of the Gladysz & Wuerfel Families In Loving Memory of Deceased Members of the Loxterman & Gregory Families In Honor of the Grossman, Daum, Csaszar & Bakhshi Families; in Loving Memory of Paul Grossman In Loving Memory of Mr. Glen C. Hartman In Honor of Nicholas, Karina, Alex, Kevin; in Loving Memory of Deceased Members of the De Guzman, Harty & Gatmaitan Families In Loving Memory of Deceased Members of the Hock & DiDonato Family In Loving Memory of Charles Hoyt, Marilyn & Chet Allen In Loving Memory of Tom Kalinoski In Loving Memory of Theodore & Angela Schlesinger, Michael & Ann Kazor, Terry Schlesinger, Jon Kazor & Barbara Ann Flok

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- In Honor of all those fighting cancer, In Loving Memory of Deceased Members of the Boyd, Kmonk, Schaal & Mortimer Families
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In Honor of and Thanksgiving for (and with apologies to) anyone that I may have missed who make Saint Michael the wonderful Parish that it is!

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



CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY MOTHER'S DAY LAYETTES

Need the perfect Mother's Day gift idea? How about the gift of LOVE? Honor your mother or special loved one by sending a newborn home from the hospital swaddled in love. A card with your honoree's name will be included in a layette filled with essentials for baby, lovingly assembled by members of The Christ Child Society for a donation of \$50.00 to The Christ Child Society of Columbus Layette Fund. A beautiful Mother's Day card will be sent to your honoree announcing your gift. CCS Columbus provides almost 2,000 layettes per year to newborns who are in need of resources in the Central Ohio area. For more information or to donate online, go to www.christchildsociety.org. Donations must be received by April 19th. Contact Beth Kistler at 614-214-0124 or bkistler@msn.com with questions. Blessings and Happy Mother's Day from the Christ Child Society of Columbus.

CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON - FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2024 - SPEAKER: WILLIAM HEYER

Join us Friday, April 5 at St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus for a Luncheon featuring a talk by architect William Heyer about Sacred Architecture. The April Luncheon is sponsored by George Arnold. If you are interested in sponsoring a Luncheon, contact Pat Foley at foleyp513@gmail.com. Holy Mass (optional) begins at 11:45 a.m., followed by lunch at 12:10 p.m. and Mr. Heyer's presentation. No reservations are necessary. \$12.00 covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend! **Our next Luncheon is Friday, May 3, 2024, and will feature a presentation by Fr. Steven Beseau, President/Rector of the Josephinum, about the seminary.**



