



## 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
Wednesday	6:00pm

### 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/stmichaelworthinton

# SAINT MICHAEL STAFF DIRECTORY

Website: [saintmichael-cd.org](http://saintmichael-cd.org)

Parish Office: 614-885-7814

## MINISTERS TO THE PARISH

Pastor: Fr. Michael J. Lumpe

Parochial Vicar: Fr. David Johnstone

Priest in Residence/Diocesan Judicial Vicar:

Fr. Robert Kitsmiller

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](mailto:srriya@saintmichael-cd.org)

Youth Minister: Jake Asuncion

[jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org)

Director of RCIA: Jake Neal

[jneal@sjhcc.org](mailto:jneal@sjhcc.org)

## PARISH OFFICE

Business Manager: Kris Jesse

[kjesse@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:kjesse@saintmichael-cd.org)

Office Manager: Kathy Trafford

[ktrafford@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:ktrafford@saintmichael-cd.org)

Receptionist/Secretary: Rhonda Marinelli

[rmarinelli@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:rmarinelli@saintmichael-cd.org)

Marketing & Communications: Rebecca Lund

[rlund@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:rlund@saintmichael-cd.org)

Campus Facility and Safety Director:

Steve Moore

[smoore@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:smoore@saintmichael-cd.org)

Safe Environment Coordinator: Bethany Cook

[bcook@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:bcook@saintmichael-cd.org)

Choir Director/Organist: Ron Barrett

[rbarrett@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:rbarrett@saintmichael-cd.org)

## ST. MICHAEL PARISH SCHOOL

Website: [stmichaelworthington.org](http://stmichaelworthington.org)

School Office: 614-885-3149

Principal: Sr. Mary Regina, O.P.

[principal@stmichaelworthington.org](mailto:principal@stmichaelworthington.org)

Preschool Director: Laura Wells

[lwells@stmichaelworthington.org](mailto:lwells@stmichaelworthington.org)

## PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

Athletic Association Representative: Liz Trolli

[smaa@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:smaa@saintmichael-cd.org)

Knights of Columbus Representative:

Mike LaMorte

[grandknight@kofc11445.com](mailto:grandknight@kofc11445.com)

St. Vincent de Paul Society Representative:

Elaine Miracle

[svdps@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:svdps@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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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.

# FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JULY 14, 2024

## DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, July 13

4:00 p.m. + Teresamae Faricy (Kathleen Faricy-Eide)

### Sunday, July 14

8:30 a.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of our Parish

10:30 a.m. + Patricia Scott

12:30 p.m. +Fr. Ronald Schmelzer

5:00 p.m. +Jerry Freewalt

### Monday, July 15

6:30 a.m. + Sharon Renzetti (Roger Renzetti)

8:15 a.m. + Gary Stephen Lyle (Lisa Lyle Henry)

### Tuesday, July 16

6:30 a.m. + Kyle A. Kowaleski (Kristy & Steve Wagner)

8:15 a.m. + Joseph D. Regan (Rich & Theresa Agnello)

### Wednesday, July 17

6:30 a.m. + Pasquale Pizutti (The Pizutti Family)

8:15 a.m. + Margaret Fiala (The Fiala-Fristad Family)

6:00 p.m. Special Intention of Roger Tuentle (The Cook Family)

### Thursday, July 18

6:30 a.m. +Jack Auer

8:15 a.m. + Pam Hollister

### Friday, July 19

6:30 a.m. + Jimmy Corrova

8:15 a.m. + Lenny Iannarino

### Saturday, July 20

8:15 a.m. + Betty Maurer (The Maurer Family)

4:00 p.m. + Claudia Pena (Juliana O'Leary)

### Sunday, July 21

8:30 a.m. + Daniel Phillip Rako II (The Rako Family)

10:30 a.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of our Parish

12:30 p.m. Special Intention of the Murtha Family

5:00 p.m. + Mary Jo Gallione (The Family of Mary Jo Gallione)

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

### JULY 7, 2024:

Envelopes .....\$ 10,051.00

Online Giving .....\$ 13,386.00

**Total: .....\$ 23,437.00**

## 2014 MARIAN HALL/PARISH OFFICE CONSTRUCTION LOAN

Previous Balance as of

May 31, 2024: .....\$ 215,537.71

Principal Payment: .....\$ 3,727.05

Interest Payment: .....\$ 767.68

Add'l Payment to Principal: .....\$ 6,727.05

**Balance as of June 30, 2024: .....\$ 208,129.52**

## 2023 PAYROLL LOAN

Original Balance: .....\$ 210,000.00

Previous Balance as of

May 31, 2024: .....\$ 207,000.00

Principal Payment: .....\$ 1,000.00

Interest Payment:..... N/A (0%)

Add'l Payment to Principal: .....\$ 0.00

**Balance as of June 30, 2024: .....\$ 206,000.00**

## EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Consider helping Boy Scout Isaac Dryfuse with his Eagle Scout Service Project to **Renovate the St. Michael Preschool Garden & Play Area**. Isaac will be working to build plant beds, install a rain barrel, sandbox covers, rubber flooring and add a musical play area. This project will cost approximately \$2,200.00 to complete, and any donations are welcome! To donate, please drop off cash or checks in an envelope labeled "Eagle Scout Project" to the Parish Office or in the Sunday offertory. Thank you for your support!

## PARISH CALENDAR JULY

<b>SUNDAY, July 14</b>	SVDP Truck from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (Parking Lot) Welcome Father Johnstone after all Masses 2:00 p.m. Baptism Class (UMR) 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group (UMR)	<b>Thursday, July 18</b>	Eucharistic Exposition (AC)
<b>Monday, July 15</b>	6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (U)	<b>Friday, July 19</b>	Eucharistic Exposition (AC)
<b>Tuesday, July 16</b>	No Activities	<b>Saturday, July 20</b>	40 Hours of Adoration (C) 7:00 a.m. Pietra (Field) 2:30 p.m. Confessions (C)
<b>Wednesday, July 17</b>	6:00 p.m. Mass followed by Holy Hour & Confessions (C)	<b>SUNDAY, July 21</b>	40 Hours of Adoration (C) 3:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group (Outside)

(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 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**, it would be prudent, I believe, to reflect on today's second reading from Sacred Scripture – Saint Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 1:3-14. Safe it to say that most of us do not think often enough of how precious and special each one of us is in the eyes of God. Our reading from Saint Paul reminds us, folks, that we were chosen in Christ before the world was made. Just think about it, you and I and every man, woman and child were chosen by God! We were marked out for God as His sons and daughters. And it was when we were baptized that we became sons and daughters of God. Since we are chosen by God, it is only natural to want to live lives that reflect the love of God for each of us, that God chose us. During every Mass, we offer Jesus, once again, to the Father to pay that price on behalf of us. Since we have been saved through the blood of Jesus think of how precious and valuable each of us is. You are worth the precious blood of Jesus. That is how much each of us cost because Jesus shed His blood for you, for me, and for every man, woman and child. Each of us are worth the precious blood of Jesus because Jesus shed His blood for us. Sometimes we hear people say "It's my body and I can do with it what I want." Our bodies have been purchased for God by the precious blood of Jesus. When we know our worth and value, we cannot say "It's my body and I can do with it what I want." Instead we recognize that we have been chosen by God and that we are worth the price of Jesus' blood and that our vocation is to be holy and faultless – something to strive for day in and day out, no matter the challenge or temptation or the latest societal bandwagon that passes by where we might be tempted to hop on board. Today's second reading also notes that we were stamped with the seal of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13). God put a stamp, a mark, on us and said, "Now you belong to me. This stamp of the Holy Spirit that I put on you at your Baptism is to show that you belong to Me." That stamp of the Holy Spirit on us since Baptism is to remind us that, as sons and daughters of God, we are heirs of God and so we will inherit from God our Father. What will we inherit? Eternal life with Christ. Isn't this our ultimate goal in life? Isn't this our long game? If it's not, it should be!

**TOGETHER, LET US WELCOME SUNDER ERY** from the Diocese of Cuddapah, India, who is making a Mission Appeal to our Parish at all of the Masses next weekend. Fr. Sunder has been serving in the Diocese of Columbus since August, 2023, as Parochial Vicar of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Pickerington. Ninety percent (90 percent!) of the Catholics served in the Diocese of Cuddapah live below the poverty line. Fr. Sunder seeks our financial support and prayers for his Diocese, so please be generous in our second collection to support the mission and good works of the Diocese of Cuddapah. Make checks payable to Saint Michael's: in the memo section write "Mission Appeal." **Thank you!**

**PLEASE WELCOME FR. DAVID JOHNSTONE TO OUR PARISH!** Fr. Johnstone serves as our new Parochial Vicar (Associate Pastor), and we are very pleased to have him at Saint Michael's, and thank Bishop Fernandes for assigning him here. Fr. David will also be serving as part-time Chaplain at Saint Francis DeSales High School. His thoughts are below...

**THE MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL** is celebrated this coming Tuesday, July 16. One of the most popular of all Catholic devotions is the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel; wearing of the Scapular fosters a true devotion to Mary that is based on her supernatural mission in the redemption of mankind. If you have not already done so, we will enroll you in the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel immediately after each Mass this weekend (we have 400 scapulars). A priest enrolls people in the Brown Scapular only once; the Scapular can then be replaced afterwards by other scapulars. Please read the article in this bulletin about the Brown Scapular.

– Fr. Mike

## FROM THE PAROCHIAL VICAR

Hello everyone! I am grateful that I have been assigned as your new parochial vicar! I am one of the five newly ordained priests of our Diocese, and I am so excited to be with you all. Just a few quick things about me: I grew up in Marysville, went to Ohio Wesleyan University where I studied history, taught English in China for five years, and was engaged to be married at one point in my life. I try to be an open book, so feel free to ask me about anything because God has done amazing things in and through me. The Lord is already doing something beautiful here at St. Michael the Archangel Church, and I am excited to join you on that journey. I hope to learn from you, hearing how the Holy Spirit has worked in your lives and listening to Him for how He might continue to do so. Michael means "Who is like God?" The name is not a statement, but a question. I hope that we can work together to grow in the humility that Michael represents. Although he fights Satan, he does so with the perspective that God is utterly worthy of everything. So, we ask the Holy Spirit to make us more like Jesus Christ so that we might be able to follow the will of God the Father for our lives. And we pray to St. Michael asking him to help us to bring hope to our parish community. I look forward to working with the all of the priests and parish staff, the principal, teachers and staff, all of the ministers and volunteers, and meeting you and getting to know your families. Praise be Jesus Christ, now and forever!

– Fr. David

# Sign Up Now!

## 40 Hours of Adoration

9:00am Saturday, July 20 – 6:00am Monday, July 22

All those who are unable to attend the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis are invited to unite our prayers with them as we pray for an increased awareness of the true presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

**SIGN UP NOW &  
HELP ENSURE  
EVERY HOUR IS  
FULL!**



### EXPERIENCE PIETRA ...

A whole-person fitness class that stretches and strengthens the body while refreshing the soul with prayer and meditation. In one hour, you will feel calmer, stronger, and renewed! Join our **Pietra classes!** Saturdays this summer from 7:00-8:00 a.m. at St. Michael Church. Contact Maria Elliott at [maria@viribuswellness.com](mailto:maria@viribuswellness.com) for more information or by using the QR code.

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY BACK TO SCHOOL COLLECTION

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is collecting new clear or mesh backpacks for the St. Francis Center in Vinton County. These are the only options the schools allow, but they are difficult to find in their area. Please leave donations in the box in Marian Hall no later than August 4. Thank you for helping us to give these children a great start to the new school year!



**JOIN US AS WE THANK  
FATHER LUMPE FOR HIS  
SERVICE AND WELCOME  
FATHER DAILEY TO  
ST MICHAEL!**



**JULY  
27 & 28**

**RECEPTIONS FOLLOWING  
ALL MASSES**

**AUGUST  
10 & 11**



# REGISTER FOR FALL SPORTS!

## Sports Available:

- Golf (Boys & Girls 6-8th grade, registration closes July 15)
- Volleyball (Boys & Girls 4-8th grade, registration closes July 15)
- Cheerleading (Girls 4-8th grade, registration closes July 15)
- Football (Boys 4-8th grade, registration closes July 15)
- Cross Country (Boys & Girls 4-8th grade, registration closes July 15)
- K-3 Soccer (Boys & Girls K-3rd grade, registration closes August 25)



**DON'T DELAY!  
SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER! NOW!**

As of June 26, we have raised 80% of our goal. Please prayerfully consider how you are called to help this year. You can donate online using the QR code or by using the envelopes which are available in Marian Hall.



**MAKE YOUR GIFT NOW!**



**The Appeal**  
Supporting Catholic Ministries

**2024**

**GOAL: \$500,000**

We have raised a total of **\$401,820.33**



A critical or skeptical person might say, “Well, that sounds fine in theory, but what proof is there that it actually works that way in practice?” Actually, there are many stories that have been recorded and approved by the Church as worthy of belief that verify the truth of this promise. I will tell you about a few of these cases.

Back in the 1950’s in Ashtabula, Ohio (not far from my parish in Akron), a Catholic wearing the Brown Scapular was run over by a train and was cut in two. Yet somehow this man did not die right away, and a priest who was summoned came and heard his confession. The man then died. Apparently this happened because the man, who was wearing the Brown Scapular, needed to be absolved that he might save his soul according to Our Lady’s promise.

There is also a story of a young lady who made it a practice to wear the Brown Scapular, but began living a life of sin. Eventually she despaired of God’s mercy, and decided to kill herself. She threw herself into a river, hoping to drown. God in His Providence, however, because she was still wearing the Brown Scapular, arranged for a fisherman to see her. The man came quickly and tried to help her, but in her despair she refused his help. In the struggle she tore off the scapular and, throwing it away from herself, she then drowned.

In France, a fallen-away Catholic, an officer in the armed forces, had lived a sinful life and lay dying in a hospital. When he became unconscious, one of the attendants placed a Brown Scapular on him. When he regained consciousness and found the scapular around his neck, he cried out, “Why have you put fire on me? It’s burning me! Take it away! Take it away!” At that point he tore it off and soon died. These last two stories from the book *Purgatory* by Fr. Shouppe show us that if someone wearing the Brown Scapular at the hour of death is not repentant of mortal sin and not willing to cooperate with grace to be truly sorry for mortal sin, God, through the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, will make sure that somehow the scapular is removed before that person dies.

Many Catholics, even among those who wear the Brown Scapular, are not aware of the second part of the Blessed Virgin Mary’s promise, namely that the scapular will be “a safeguard in danger.” Apparently the dangers referred to are not only those of a spiritual nature, but temporal or physical as well. Again, let us look at a few examples that illustrate this.

In the 1950’s in Germany a fire broke out in a residential neighborhood. One house after another caught on fire, to the point that within five hours 22 homes had burned to the ground. Only one remained untouched. Why? Because when the fire was approaching a member of that household took a Brown Scapular and fastened it to the front door of the house. The fire literally went around this house. People were amazed to see this one house standing untouched while 22 others around it were reduced to smoking rubble.

In 1845 an English ship crossing the Atlantic Ocean was on the point of being sunk by a hurricane. A young Irishman on board, upon seeing the danger the ship was in, took off his Brown Scapular and threw it into the huge waves. Immediately the wind ceased and the waves became calm. Another wave washed the Brown Scapular back onto the deck. A Protestant minister and his wife who were present asked the young man what it was that he threw into the ocean. This was the beginning of their conversion to the Catholic Faith.

There is another account of a priest who was offering Mass when a maniac with a gun came into the church and shot at him. The priest continued offering Mass, and everyone assumed the man had missed. After Mass, when the priest took off his vestments, he found the bullet embedded in his Brown Scapular. Finally, in the area of spiritual dangers, a holy Frenchman named Francis Ypes — in fact he is called Venerable by the Church — one day dropped his scapular. The devil appeared to him howling, saying “Take it off! Take off the habit which snatches so many souls from us!” The devil then admitted that there were three things he feared: the Holy Name of Jesus, the Holy Name of Mary, and the Brown Scapular.

I hope that this information and these examples will motivate you to wear the Brown Scapular if you do not already do so. And if you do wear it, I hope that it will motivate you to wear it with greater trust and confidence and dependence upon the Blessed Virgin Mary, your spiritual Mother. If you faithfully wear the Brown Scapular throughout life and at the hour of death, you will understand more clearly why we address the Blessed Virgin in the *Salve Regina* with these words: “Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy! Hail our life, our sweetness, and our hope! Turn then thine eyes of mercy towards us, and after this our exile show unto us the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.”

*This article is made available courtesy of the Religious Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen (CMRI).*

**MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL ~ JULY 16**

# Lectio Divina

## DAILY SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

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*The month of July is dedicated to the Most Precious Blood of Jesus.*

**"As 'pride is the beginning of all sin' (Sirach 10:13), so humility is the foundation of all virtue. Learn to be really humble and not, as the hypocrite, humble merely in appearance." +SAINT BONAVENTURE**

**Monday, July 15 ~ Fifteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time  
Saint Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 10:34-11:1** Jesus said to his Apostles: "Do not think that I have come to bring peace upon the earth. I have come to bring not peace but the sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's enemies will be those of his household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever receives a righteous man because he is righteous will receive a righteous man's reward. And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because he is a disciple— amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward." When Jesus finished giving these commands to his Twelve disciples, he went away from that place to teach and to preach in their towns.

**Meditation:** Why does Jesus describe his mission and the coming of God's kingdom in terms of conflict, division, and war? Jesus came in peace to reconcile a broken and sinful humanity with an all-merciful and loving God. Jesus also came to wage war, to overthrow the powers and principalities arrayed against God and his kingdom. What are these powers? Jesus describes Satan as the ruler of this world whom he will cast out (John 12:31). The battle Jesus had in mind was not an earthly conflict between nations, but a spiritual warfare between the forces of Satan and the armies of heaven. The scriptures make clear that there are ultimately only two powers or kingdoms – God's kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness. John contrasts these two kingdoms in the starkest of terms: We know that we are of God, and the whole world is in the power of the evil one (1 John 5:19).

**Prayer:** Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, just as we celebrate the heavenly birthday of the Bishop Saint Bonaventure, we may benefit from his great learning and constantly imitate the ardor of his charity. 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.

**Prayer of Saint Bonaventure to Obtain the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit:** "We, therefore, pray to the most kind Father through you, his only-begotten Son, who for us became man, was crucified and glorified, that he send us out of his treasures the Spirit of sevenfold grace who rested upon you in all fullness: the Spirit, I say, of WISDOM, that we may taste the life-giving flavors of the fruit of the tree of life, which you truly are; the gift also of UNDERSTANDING, by which the intentions of our mind are illumined; the gift of COUNSEL, by which we may follow in your footsteps on the right paths; the gift of FORTITUDE, by which we may be able to weaken the violence of our enemies' attacks; the gift of KNOWLEDGE, by which we may be filled with the brilliant light of your sacred teaching to distinguish good and evil; the gift of PIETY, by which we may acquire a merciful heart; the gift of FEAR, by which we may draw away from all evil and be set at peace by submitting in awe to your eternal majesty. For you have wished that we ask for these things in that sacred prayer which you have taught us; and now we ask to obtain them, through your cross, for the praise of your most holy name. to you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, thanksgiving, beauty and power, forever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** When Jesus spoke about division he likely had in mind the prophecy of Micah: a man's enemies are the men of his own household (Micah 7:6). The love of God compels us to choose who will be

first in our lives. To place any relationship or anything else above God is a form of idolatry. Jesus challenges his disciples to examine who they love first and foremost. A true disciple loves God above all else and is willing to forsake all for Jesus Christ. Jesus insists that his disciples give him the loyalty which is only due to God, a loyalty which is higher than spouse or kin. It is possible that family and friends can become our enemies, if the thought of them keeps us from doing what we know God wants us to do. True love for God compels us to express charity towards our neighbor who is created in the image and likeness of God. Jesus declared that any kindness shown and any help given to the people of Christ will not lose its reward. Jesus never refused to give to anyone in need who asked for his help. As his disciples we are called to be kind and generous as he is. Jesus sets before his disciples the one goal in life that is worth any sacrifice and that goal is the will of God which leads to everlasting life, peace, and joy with God.

## **Tuesday, July 16 ~ Fifteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time Our Lady of Mount Carmel**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:20-24** Jesus began to reproach the towns where most of his mighty deeds had been done, since they had not repented. "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty deeds done in your midst had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would long ago have repented in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. And as for you, Capernaum: Will you be exalted to heaven? You will go down to the nether world. For if the mighty deeds done in your midst had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom on the day of judgment than for you."

**Meditation:** If Jesus were to walk down the streets of any community – your neighborhood, perhaps – what would he say? Would he issue a warning like the one he gave to Chorazin and Bethsaida? And how would you respond? Wherever Jesus went he did mighty works to show the people how much God had for them. Chorazin and Bethsaida had been blessed with the visitation of God. They heard the good news and experienced the wonderful works which Jesus did for them. Why was Jesus upset with these communities? The word woe can mean misfortune, calamity, distress, sorrow, sadness, misery, grief, or wretchedness. It is as much an expression of sorrowful pity and grief as it is of dismay over the calamity and destruction which comes as a result of human folly, sin, and ignorance.

**Prayer:** May the venerable intercession of the glorious Virgin Mary come to our aid, we pray, O Lord, so that, fortified by her protection, we may reach the mountain which is Christ. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** Repentance demands constant change – a change of heart, a change of mind, and always a call to change the way we live our life. God's word is life-giving and it saves us from destruction – the destruction of heart, mind, and soul as well as body. Jesus' anger is directed toward sin and everything which hinders us from doing the will of God. In love he calls us to walk in his way of truth and freedom, grace and loving-kindness, justice and holiness. Do you receive his word with faith and obedience, or with doubt and indifference?

**About the Memorial to Our Lady of Mount Carmel:** Sacred Scripture celebrated the beauty of Carmel where the prophet Elijah defended the purity of Israel's faith in the living God. In the twelfth century, hermits withdrew to that mountain and later founded the Carmelite order devoted to the contemplative life under the patronage of Mary, the holy Mother of God. Devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel is worldwide, and most Catholics are familiar with the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, also known as the Brown Scapular, and the Sabbatine Privilege. Mary appeared to St. Simon Stock on July 16, 1251, and gave him the scapular with the following words, which are preserved in a fourteenth century narrative: "This will be for you and for all Carmelites the privilege, that he who dies in this will not suffer eternal fire." The feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel was instituted for the Carmelites in 1332, and extended to the whole Church in 1726. For additional information about the benefits and promises associated with the Brown Scapular, visit: <https://www.sistersofcarmel.com/brown-scapular-information.php> .

## **Wednesday, July 17 ~ Fifteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:25-27** At that time Jesus exclaimed: "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him."

**Meditation:** In today's gospel Jesus thanks the Father in heaven for revealing to his disciples the wisdom and knowledge of God. His prayer also contains a warning that pride can keep us from the love and knowledge of God. What makes us ignorant and blind to the things of God? Certainly intellectual pride, coldness of heart, and stubbornness of will shut out God and his kingdom. Pride is the root of all vice and the strongest influence propelling us to sin. It first vanquishes the heart, making it cold and indifferent towards God. It also closes the mind to God's truth and wisdom for our lives. What is pride? It is the inordinate love of oneself at the expense of others and the exaggerated estimation of one's own learning and importance. Jesus contrasts intellectual pride with child-like simplicity and humility. The simple of heart are "childlike" (not childish) in the sense that they see purely without pretense and acknowledge their dependence and trust in the one who is greater, wiser, and more trustworthy. They seek one thing – the "summum bonum" or "greatest good" who is God himself. Simplicity of heart is wedded with humility, the queen of virtues, because humility inclines the heart towards grace and truth. Just as pride is the root of every sin and evil, so humility is the only soil in which the grace of God can take root. It alone takes the right attitude before God and allows him as God to do all. God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble (ref. Book of Proverbs 3:34, James 4:6).

**Prayer:** O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who for the faith they profess are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honor. 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:** Jesus makes a claim which no one would have dared to make – he is the perfect revelation of God. One of the greatest truths of the Christian faith is that we can know the living God. Our knowledge of God is not simply limited to knowing something about God, but we can know God personally. The essence of Christianity, and what makes it distinct from Judaism and other religions, is the knowledge of God as our Father. Jesus makes it possible for each of us to personally know God as our Father. To see Jesus is to see what God is like. In Jesus we see the perfect love of God – a God who cares intensely and who yearns over men and women, loving them to the point of laying down his life for them upon the Cross. Jesus is the revelation of God – a God who loves us completely and unconditionally.

### **Thursday, July 18 ~ Fifteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time Saint Camillus de Lellis; Founder, Order of Saint Camillus**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:28-30** Jesus said: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

**Meditation:** What does the yoke of Jesus refer to in the gospel? The Jews used the image of a yoke to express submission to God. They spoke of the yoke of the law, the yoke of the commandments, the yoke of the kingdom, the yoke of God. Jesus says his yoke is "easy." The Greek word for "easy" can also mean "well-fitting". Yokes were tailor-made to fit the oxen well. We are commanded to put on the "sweet yoke of Jesus" and to live the "heavenly way of life and happiness". Jesus also says his "burden is light". There's a story of a man who once met a boy carrying a smaller crippled lad on his back. "That's a heavy load you are carrying there," exclaimed the man. "He ain't heavy; he's my brother!" responded the boy. Think about it...no burden is ever too heavy when it is given in love and carried out in love.

**Prayer:** O God, who adorned the Priest Saint Camillus with a singular grace of charity towards the sick, pour out upon us, by his merits, a spirit of love for you, so that, serving you in our neighbor, we may, at the hour of our death, pass safely over 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:** Jesus offers us a new kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy. In his kingdom sins are not only forgiven but removed, and eternal life is poured out for all its citizens. This is not a political kingdom, but a spiritual one. The yoke of Christ's kingdom, his kingly rule and way of life, liberates us from the burden of guilt and from the oppression of sinful habits and hurtful desires. Only Jesus can lift the burden of sin and the weight of hopelessness from us. Jesus used the analogy of a yoke to explain how we can exchange the burden of sin and despair for a weight of glory and victory with him. The yoke which Jesus invites us to embrace is his way of love, grace, and freedom from the power of sin.

**About Saint Camillus de Lellis:** Saint Camillus' mother was nearly sixty years old when he was born (1550). As a youth he gave himself to the sinful pleasures of this world. His conversion dates from the feast of the Purification, 1575. Two attempts to enter the Capuchin Order were frustrated by an incurable sore on his leg. In Rome, Saint Camillus was received in a hospital for incurables; before long he was put

in charge because of his ability and zeal for virtue. He brought to the sick every imaginable kind of spiritual and bodily aid. At the age of thirty-two he began studying for Holy Orders and was not ashamed of being numbered with children. After ordination to the holy priesthood he founded a congregation of Regular Clerics, the "Ministers to the Sick." With invincible patience Camillus persevered day and night in the service of the sick, performing the meanest of duties. His love shone forth most brightly when the city of Rome was stricken by epidemic and famine, and when the plague raged at Nola. Having suffered five different maladies, which he called God's mercy, he died in Rome at the age of sixty-five. On his lips was the prayer for the dying: "May the face of Christ Jesus shine gloriously upon you." Leo XIII declared him the heavenly patron of hospitals and added his name in the litany for the dying.

**About the Order of Saint Camillus:** The Order of Saint Camillus – "The Camillans" – is a devout group of Roman Catholic men dedicated to caring for the sick, both in the United States and abroad, who follow in the footsteps of their Founder, Saint Camillus de Lellis. Over 400 years ago, Saint Camillus encouraged his followers to love the sick as deeply and unconditionally as a mother loves her sick child – it is still their mantra today. Visit their web page: <https://www.camillians.org/>.

### Friday, July 19 ~ Fifteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 12:1-8** Jesus was going through a field of grain on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick the heads of grain and eat them. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "See, your disciples are doing what is unlawful to do on the Sabbath." He said to the them, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry, how he went into the house of God and ate the bread of offering, which neither he nor his companions but only the priests could lawfully eat? Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests serving in the temple violate the Sabbath and are innocent? I say to you, something greater than the temple is here. If you knew what this meant, I desire mercy, not sacrifice, you would not have condemned these innocent men. For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

**Meditation:** What does the commandment "keep holy the Sabbath" mean for us? Or better yet, what is the primary intention behind this command? The religious leaders confronted Jesus on this issue. The "Sabbath rest" was meant to be a time to remember and celebrate God's goodness and the goodness of his work, both in creation and redemption. It was a day set apart for the praise of God, his work of creation, and his saving actions on our behalf. It was intended to bring everyday work to a halt and to provide needed rest and refreshment. Jesus' disciples are scolded by the scribes and Pharisees, not for plucking and eating corn from the fields, but for doing so on the Sabbath. In defending his disciples, Jesus argues from the scriptures that human need has precedence over ritual custom. In their hunger, David and his men ate of the holy bread offered in the Temple. Jesus also quoted of the Sabbath work involved in worship in the Temple. This kind of work was usually double the work of worship on weekdays. Jesus then quotes from the prophet Hosea (6:6): I desire mercy, and not sacrifice. While the claims of ritual sacrifice are important to God, mercy and kindness in response to human need are even more important.

**Prayer:** O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who for the faith they profess are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honor. 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 message of today's gospel can be complimented by contemplating on this prayer by Saint Francis of Assisi: "Lord, make us to walk in your way: Where there is love and wisdom, there is neither fear nor ignorance; where there is patience and humility, there is neither anger nor annoyance; where there is poverty and joy, there is neither greed nor avarice; where there is peace and contemplation, there is neither care nor restlessness; where there is the fear of God to guard the dwelling, there no enemy can enter; where there is mercy and prudence, there is neither excess nor harshness; this we know through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops;  
prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011;

information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.

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## The Role of Godparents

By Fr. William Saunders

*Please explain the role of Godparents in Catholic baptism. How strictly should the potential Godparents adhere to traditional Catholic teaching? If a couple does not know sufficiently "qualified" Godparents, is it acceptable for them to act as the Godparents themselves?*

The role of the Godparent for baptism is rooted in the role of the sponsor in the catechumenate, which originated in the early Church. Recall that until the year 313, the Church was under the persecution of the Roman Empire and had to be cautious in conducting its affairs so as to prevent pagan infiltration and persecution. Also, until the Middle Ages, the Sacraments of Initiation — baptism, holy Eucharist, and confirmation — were administered at once. The role of the sponsor, then, was to attest to the integrity of the person, oftentimes an adult, seeking admission into the Church as well as to assist him/her during the catechumenate in preparing for these sacraments and in living a Christian life. For infants, these sponsors would also make the Profession of Faith in the child's name and accept the responsibility of instructing the child in the faith, especially if the parents failed in this duty. About the year 800 when infant baptism was truly the norm, these sponsors were called "patrinus," or "godfather." Traditionally, we identify the sponsor of a child for baptism as the Godparent — Godmother or Godfather, but the technical term remains "sponsor."

According to the *Code of Canon Law*, "Insofar as possible, one to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who is to assist an adult in Christian initiation, or, together with the parents, to present an infant at the baptism, and who will help the baptized to lead a Christian life in harmony with baptism, and to fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it" (No. 872). This statement clearly reflects the historical roots of the role of sponsor.

To be a sponsor, a person must be chosen by the person to be baptized, or by the parents or guardians of a child, or, in their absence, by the pastor or minister of the sacrament. The sponsor must not only have the intention of being a sponsor but also meet proper qualifications. The sponsor must have completed his sixteenth year unless the Bishop has established another age for sponsorship, or the pastor or minister judges that a just cause warrants an exception to the rule. He must be a Catholic who has received the sacraments of holy Eucharist and confirmation, and "leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken." Moreover, the sponsor cannot be impeded by some canonical penalty. Ideally, this sponsor at baptism should also be the sponsor for confirmation. Note that the mother and father of the child cannot serve as sponsors. Also note that these are the same requirements for confirmation sponsors. (Cf. *Code of Canon Law*, No. 874.1).

Strictly speaking, a person only needs one sponsor for baptism — male or female, but may have two sponsors, one male and one female. Here the *Code of Canon Law* wants to eliminate the practice of having numerous sponsors, as has occurred in some cultures (No. 873). Also, in the case of an emergency, such as imminent death, no sponsor is needed.

**Here we should pause to clarify who qualifies as a Catholic Godparent. A Catholic who, by choice, chooses not to practice the faith by not regularly attending Mass or who is in an invalid marriage disqualifies himself/herself from being a Godparent. Moreover, if a person is Catholic but antagonistic to the faith, i.e. has the attitude "I am a Catholic but...", and would not be a good example and witness to the Catholic faith, also disqualifies himself/herself. If a person is not striving to fulfill his/her own obligations of Baptism and Confirmation, he/she will not fulfill the responsibilities of helping another to do so as a Godparent.**

As a pastor, I am truly frustrated each time someone comes by the rectory office and wants me to sign a sponsor's certificate and attest that he or she is a practicing Catholic when I do not recognize them, they have not registered in the parish, and they do not attend Mass faithfully. In justice, I cannot meet such a request.

Parents need to find good practicing Catholics for Godparents. Sadly, this task can be very difficult in today's world. The best place is to look for relatives, even grandparents, who have a blood relationship with the Godchild and have kept the faith over the years. Good friends are also appropriate, but sometimes friendships

wane, leaving the Godchild without an active Godparent. Godparents should be faithful individuals who are ready to accept the responsibility of being a part of a Godchild's life for the rest of his life.

What if someone would like to have a faithful Protestant friend as a sponsor? Technically, only Catholics can be Godparents or sponsors. A Christian of another denomination, whether Orthodox or Protestant, however, may be a "Christian witness" to the baptism along with the Catholic Godparent. The reason for this distinction and restriction is that the Godparent not only is taking responsibility for the religious education and spiritual formation of the baptized person, but also is representing the Church, the community of faith, into which the person is being baptized. A Christian who is not Catholic, although perhaps a very holy, Christian, cannot fully attest to the beliefs of the Catholic Church. Likewise, a Catholic can only be a Christian witness for someone who is baptized into another Christian denomination. (*Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, Directoire pour l'application des principes et des normes sur l'oecumenisme*, March 25, 1993, AAS 85 (1993) 1039-1119; Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms on Ecumenism (Washington: USCC, 1993); Origins 23 (1993) 129-160)).

**In all, Godparents serve a special role in the life of the baptized person. Therefore, each parent should choose a Godparent not just because of a blood relationship or friendship; rather, a Godparent should be a trustworthy witness of the Catholic faith who will help the Godchild attain salvation through the faith.**

*Father William Saunders is pastor of Our Lady of Hope parish in Potomac Falls, Virginia. He is Dean of the Notre Dame Graduate School of Christendom College. The above article is a "Straight Answers" column he wrote for the Arlington Catholic Herald. Father Saunders is the author of [Straight Answers](#), a book based on 100 of his columns, and [Straight Answers II](#). This article is made available courtesy of the Arlington Catholic Herald.*

### **Reflect on the Duties and Responsibilities of Parents and Godparents...**

**During Baptism the parents will be asked:** "You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him/her in the practice of the (Catholic) faith. It will be your duty to bring him/her up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?"

**During Baptism the Godparents will be asked:** "Are you ready to help the parents of this child in their duty as Christian parents?"

### **Parents and Godparents will also be asked during the Baptism Ritual...**

Dear parents and godparents: You have come here to present this child for baptism.

By water and the Holy Spirit he/she is to receive the gift of new life from God, who is love. On your part, you must make it your constant care to bring him/her up in the practice of the (Catholic) faith. See that the divine life which God gives him/her is kept safe from the poison of sin, to grow always stronger in his/her heart. If your faith makes you ready to accept this responsibility, renew now the vows of your own baptism. Reject sin; profess your faith in Christ Jesus. This is the faith of the Church. This is the faith in which this child is about to be baptized.

CELEBRANT: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

PARENTS AND GODPARENTS: I do.

CELEBRANT: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

PARENTS AND GODPARENTS: I do.

CELEBRANT: 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?

PARENTS AND GODPARENTS: I do.

CELEBRANT: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

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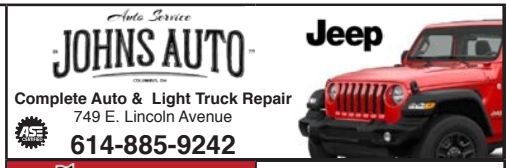


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