



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/stmichaelworthington

SAINT MICHAEL STAFF DIRECTORY

Website: saintmichael-cd.org

Parish Office: 614-885-7814

MINISTERS TO THE PARISH

Pastor: Father Stash Dailey

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

Youth Minister: Jake Asuncion

jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org

Director of RCIA: Jake Neal

jneal@sjchcc.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

Choir Director/Organist: Ron Barrett

rbarrett@saintmichael-cd.org

ST. MICHAEL PARISH 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:

Mike LaMorte

grandknight@kofc11445.com

St. Vincent de Paul Society Representative:

Elaine Miracle

svdp@saintmichael-cd.org

SAINT MICHAEL INFORMATION CENTER



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 or use the QR code. You can also visit the Church on Wednesdays for our weekly Holy Hour with Confessions from 6:30-7:30 p.m. each week.



MASS INTENTIONS

Mass Intentions are currently available to schedule for 2024 & 2025. If you would like to remember a loved one in this way, please scan the QR code to order and pay online or visit the Parish Office. One should never forget the infinite graces that flow from the Sacrifice of the Mass which benefit one's soul, both for the living and the deceased.



LOW-GLUTEN HOST

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



NEW MEMBERS

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

BULLETIN DEADLINE

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

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

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



ONLINE GIVING

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

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 8, 2024
DAILY MASS INTENTIONS**

Saturday, September 7

4:00 p.m. + Deceased Members of the Fricke & Mains Families
(Dcn Klaus & Sharon Fricke)

Sunday, September 8

8:30 a.m. 60th Anniversary of Harold & Phyllis Chadwick
10:30 a.m. + Joseph & Josephine Ciastko (The Zaremba Family)
12:30 p.m. + Bill Costello
5:00 p.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of our Parish

Monday, September 9

6:30 a.m. +Dan Oparowski (The Maurer Family)
8:15 a.m. Special Intention of James Vincent (Diane Vincent)

Tuesday, September 10

6:30 a.m. + Daniel Phillip Rako I (The Rako Family)
8:15 a.m. + Josephine Munhall (Alice Heller)

Wednesday, September 11

6:30 a.m. + Raymond DiBattista (Dennis Jaketic)
8:15 a.m. For the School
6:00 p.m. + Clare & Madelyn Chaffee (The Cobb Family)

Thursday, September 12

6:30 a.m. Special Intention of Meghan Fry
8:15 a.m. + Edwin Lund (The Cobb Family)

Friday, September 13

6:30 a.m. + Norma Griffith (Karen & Lou Griffith)
8:15 a.m. + Jody Munhall (The Smullen Family)

Saturday, September 14

8:15 a.m. + Laura Ryan (The Cobb Family)
4:00 p.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of our Parish

Sunday, September 15

8:30 a.m. + Jody Munhall (The Elliott Family)
10:30 a.m. Special Intention of Fr. Michael Lumpe
12:30 p.m. Special Intention of Cynthia Walden
5:00 p.m. + Ben Kaminsky (Fr. Stash Dailey)

**FINANCIAL
STEWARDSHIP**

SEPTEMBER 1, 2024:

Envelopes \$ 14,137.00
Online Giving \$ 11,724.00
Total: \$ 25,861.00



± MARRIAGE BANNS ±
CONGRATULATIONS TO
**TRENT ROTHERT &
SARAH KREMER**
SEPTEMBER 21, 2024
CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT
OF MATRIMONY
ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH



CONGRATULATIONS TO
**PATRICK ANSTINE
& LORIN SAGONA**
SEPTEMBER 28, 2024
CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT
OF MATRIMONY
ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISH CALENDAR SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY, September 8	2:00 p.m. Baptism Class (UMR)	Thursday, September 12	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts (U) 6:00 p.m. Respect Life Ministry Meeting (UMR) 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (C)
Monday, September 9	6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (U)	Friday, September 13	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 9:00 a.m. Mom's Day Out (UMR)
Tuesday, September 10	11:30 a.m. Live Wires (MH) 6:30 p.m. K of C 4th Degree Meeting (LMR) 7:30 p.m. K of C Meeting (LMR)	Saturday, September 14	7:00 a.m. Pietra (Field) 9:30 a.m. SVDP Meeting (UMR) 2:30 p.m. Confessions (C)
Wednesday, September 11	6:00 p.m. Mass followed by Holy Hour & Confessions (C)	SUNDAY, September 15	2:00 p.m. Baptisms (C) 3:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group (G) 5:00 p.m. Boy Scout Court of Honor Banquet (U) 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group (G) 7:00 p.m. SMAA Meeting (UMR)

(U) = Undercroft/Cafeteria, (S) = School, (C) = Church, (G) = Gym, (MH) = Marian Hall, (SL) = School Library, (UMR) = Meeting room on the first floor of the Parish Ministry Center, (LMR) = Meeting room in the basement of the Parish Ministry Center, (AC) = Adoration Chapel

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners of St. Michael,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

A few things:

~A huge THANK-YOU to EVERYONE who helped bring about the parish's Festival last weekend. On a personal level, it was truly great to see so many people who have been a part of our parish's family over the years make a point to come back and visit the Festival. It was a kind of HOMECOMING for so many.

So many individuals and families made a point to give of their personal time to pull off the Festival and make it a success, and for your sacrifice I am truly most grateful.

~I mentioned a couple of weekends ago that there are several changes that are coming. One of those changes is already underway; the addition of more times for the Sacrament of Confession. As of the First Sunday of September, the priests of the parish will be hearing Confessions on the Lord's Day before the Sunday morning Masses.

There is no way to adequately describe the power of any sacrament and yet when it comes to a Sacrament of Healing, like Confession, I think it suffices to write that there is deeply planted within each of us an orientation toward being healthy and even being Holy. A Sacrament of Healing communicates Grace, so that we may indeed be restored to HEALTH and a desire for HOLINESS. The Sacrament of Confession heals, cleanses, and restores us to a right relationship with the Lord. There are psychological benefits to the Sacrament of Confession, and they are most worthy of consideration, but the point of increasing the opportunities to participate in this Sacrament is to help and assist the faithful in living a right and well-ordered relationship with the Living God.

Each of us needs to participate in the Sacrament of Confession and to do so regularly! I know it is intimidating to make a confession and the longer we are away from the sacrament, the harder it is to return to the practice of making a Confession. Among priests, one will often hear the term "BIG FISH," which refers to someone having returned after many years of being away. There isn't a priest alive who isn't going to rejoice and be grateful that someone who has been away from the sacrament for many years has come back into living a life of grace. I am not saying nor suggesting beginning your confession by saying, "FATHER, I AM A BIG FISH!" but know that the priest will be so excited to welcome you back into a state of grace. If a priest rejoices at someone coming back to the sacraments, think of how the Lord Jesus rejoices upon a person coming back to be cleansed and restored. All of heaven rejoices with the Lord Jesus over the return of a sinner.

The two hardest things to speak about and state in confession are 1) the length of time that has passed since your last confession and 2) the mortal sins we have committed and must confess. DO NOT BE AFRAID! The priest is there to help you return to Jesus!

WE NEED JESUS in order to maintain interior peace and be able to have a sense of direction in our lives. Making a good confession allows us to not only see Jesus, but to also receive the graces He communicates to us through other sacraments, like Holy Communion.

~On the topic of seeing Jesus, we each need to spend time with Jesus, so as to see Him and also get to know Him. Our knowledge of Jesus fosters within us a profound love for the Lord. As a priest, I must work to make available direct access to Jesus. Our Adoration chapel is an incredible opportunity to see Jesus and spend time with Him.

Adding more hours of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in our Adoration Chapel is another change that must happen immediately. Each of us as disciples of Jesus needs a place to go and thus come away from the world, so as to spend time with the Divine Master. We need a place where we can go and see Jesus and thus learn from Him about Him and His Church. A Holy Hour is a perfect way to accomplish this... Consider signing up for an hour of Adoration! We will be adding hours of Exposition so that from WEDNESDAY, 7:00 a.m. TO FRIDAY, 9:00 p.m., the Lord Jesus is Exposed and Honored in our Parish's Adoration Chapel.

Know of my prayers for each of you as we continue to journey toward the Lord.

In Jesus, through Mary, with Joseph,

Fr Stash Dailey

AROUND THE PARISH



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** for more information or by using the QR code.

KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR

This is a fraternity of young men in grades 8 to 12. These young men are dedicated to living an authentic Catholic life as a man, fully engaging in discipleship, and living out the pursuit of holiness.

Our primary privilege is serving the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and other major liturgies. No experience is needed as training is a part of the formation!

We will meet at least twice a month on Thursdays.

Contact Jake Asuncion if interested or more information
jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org

SHE SHALL BE CALLED WOMAN

Women's Faith & Fellowship Fall Bible Study

Women of our parish- We are excited to offer a Fall Group to enrich our spiritual lives! She Shall Be Called Woman is a transformative journey designed to meet the deepest longings of the feminine heart. This program is a sanctuary for women seeking to be truly seen, known, and loved, as they grow in their relationship with the Lord. Through vibrant conversations, authentic speakers, and enriching prayer experiences, we equip you with the tools to embark on a profound spiritual journey. Join us for food, fellowship, and faith on Tuesday evenings starting September 24th through November 19th. We will gather at 7:30pm to pray a rosary, the program will begin at 8pm and end by 9pm. All women are welcome! Learn more at www.SheShallBeCalledWoman.com. Email Mary.Fristad@gmail.com for more details.

St. Michael Athletic Association Presents

Euchre Tournament & Chili Night



Saturday, November 16, 2024

St. Michael Church Cafeteria (undercroft)

Doors Open: 6:00 PM Begins: 7:00 PM

\$100 to high scorer, \$50 to most loners

50/50 Drawing | Door Prizes & More

Pre-register cost per player: \$25 | Cost per player at Door: \$30

Register now at www.smaa-events.com



Ticket Cost includes: tournament, chili, and beverage wristband

MUST BE 21 OR OLDER TO PLAY



All proceeds to benefit St. Michael Athletics!

Questions? Contact

Kelly Damschroder | kellyhaller1@gmail.com

Scott Preston | preston@tripletransport.com

Mom's Day Out!



Mothers are invited to join our Mother's Day Out Community on Friday's 9:30-11:30am. Over the course of the fall the group of mothers will take turns, staying and caring for the group of children playing in the Upper Meeting Room or dropping off their child(ren) and enjoying some free time. Two mothers will stay each day and there is a cap at 14 children to maintain a less than 1:7 ratio of mother:children. Dates will coincide with St. Michael School Days in session and according to room availability. **Fall dates are September 6, 13, 20, October 4, 11, 25, November 15, December 6, 13, 20.** Mothers will sign up to volunteer for 3 dates to stay with the children and are always welcome to stay extra days if they would like to. All volunteers need to be PGC cleared prior to volunteering. Please contact Emily Mauro for questions or to sign up. emilyfmauro@yahoo.com 614-403-5942



LIVE WIRES

Are you looking for a way to meet other seniors? Consider joining the parish senior group, *The Live Wires*. *The Live Wires* meet on the second Tuesday of every month from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in Marian Hall. Our next Live Wires lunch is Tuesday, September 10th at 11:30 a.m. in Marian Hall. You bring your brown bag lunch, and we will provide drinks and desserts for all. Invite a friend to join you – all are welcome!



HEY!

FOOD FOR YOUTH GROUP ELEVARI AND THE ADVENTURERS

We need people to donate giftcards or provide food!
If you're interested,
please contact
Jake Asuncion,
jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org

ST. MICHAEL HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

ELEVARI KICKOFF

SEPTEMBER 15
**KICK-OFF AT 6:00 PM IN THE
GYM
AFTER THE 5 PM MASS**

FOOD CONTACT JAKE ASUNCION FOR MORE INFORMATION
JASUNCION@SAINTMICHAEL-CD.ORG **GAMES**

ST. MICHAEL MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

KICKOFF: THE ADVENTURERS

Contact Jake Asuncion
for more information
jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024
**KICK-OFF IN THE
GYM AT 3:00 PM**

MEN'S FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

Men's Faith and Fellowship will begin meeting on Saturday morning, September 21st, for the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary and the newest program from Paradisus Dei, "Apostles of the New Springtime." Everyone is welcome. If you have any questions, contact mensgroup@saintmichael-cd.org.



JOIN CORE TEAM AT ST. MICHAEL THE ADVENTURERS



MISSION

St. Michael's Middle School youth ministry, *The Adventurers*, serves middle school students (6th-8th) who are looking for community, to help foster their relationship with Jesus Christ, and to dive deeper in the faith.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Looking for high schoolers, young adults, or parents who have a passion for evangelization among our youth! These individuals are also able to bring the love of God and joy to others. Some responsibilities are to help foster community, build intentional Christ-centered relationships with the high schooler, are hospitable and energetic, and comfortable giving talks and lead small group. Must have completed Protecting God's Children (contact for more info)



WHEN DO WE MEET?

September - May
Every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month
3- 4:30 pm

CONTACT INFO

Jake Asuncion
jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org



Help with Youth Ministry!

Looking for a way to help? You do not need to have a student to help our Youth Ministry program! Scan the QR codes to help provide food for both our Middle School and High School Youth Ministry!



High School
Food Sponsors

Middle School
Snacks



Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

“What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?” ~Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)

The month of September is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows.

“To do the will of God, man must despise his own; the more he dies to himself, the more he will live to God.” +SAINT PETER CLAVER

Monday, September 9 ~ Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time
Saint Peter Claver, Priest

Holy Gospel: Luke 6:6-11 On a certain Sabbath Jesus went into the synagogue and taught, and there was a man there whose right hand was withered. The scribes and the Pharisees watched him closely to see if he would cure on the Sabbath so that they might discover a reason to accuse him. But he realized their intentions and said to the man with the withered hand, “Come up and stand before us.” And he rose and stood there. Then Jesus said to them, “I ask you, is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath rather than to do evil, to save life rather than to destroy it?” Looking around at them all, he then said to him, “Stretch out your hand.” He did so and his hand was restored. But they became enraged and discussed together what they might do to Jesus.

Meditation: What is God's intention for the commandment “Keep holy the Sabbath” (ref. Exodus 20:8; Deut. 5:12)? The scribes and Pharisees wanted to catch Jesus in the act of breaking the Sabbath ritual so they might accuse him of breaking God's law. Jesus knew their thoughts. The scribes and Pharisees were filled with fury and contempt for Jesus because they put their own thoughts of right and wrong above God. They were caught up in their own legalism because they did not understand or see the purpose of God. Jesus shows their fallacy by pointing to God's intention for the Sabbath: to do good and to save human life rather than do evil or destroy human life.

Prayer: O God, who made Saint Peter Claver a slave of slaves and strengthened him with wonder charity and patience as he came to their help, grant, through his intercession, that, seeking the things of Jesus Christ, we may love our neighbor in deeds and in truth. 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 Sabbath for Catholics (and all Christians for that matter) is celebrated on Sunday as the “Lord's Day” to commemorate God's work of redemption in Jesus Christ and the new work of creation accomplished through Christ's death and resurrection (ref. 2 Corinthians 5:17). God's action is a model for us. If God “rested and was refreshed” on the seventh day, we, too, ought to “rest” and let others, especially the poor, “be refreshed” (ref. Exodus 31:17; 23:12). Taking “our Sabbath rest” is a way of expressing honor to God for all that he has done for us. Such “rest” however does not exempt us from our love for our neighbor. If we truly love the Lord above all else, then the love of God will overflow to love of neighbor as well. Saint Augustine once said: “The charity of truth seeks holy leisure; the necessity of charity accepts just work.” How can we make Sunday a day holy to the Lord? First, by refraining from unnecessary work and from activities that hinder the worship we owe to God. We can also perform works of mercy, such as humble service of the sick, the infirmed, and the elderly. And we ought to seek appropriate relaxation of mind and body as well. The joy of the Lord's Day is a great gift to refresh and strengthen us in our love of God and of neighbor (ref. Nehemiah 8:10). Let's think about how we can make every Sunday – the Lord's Day – a day of rest, and rest in the arms of the Lord.

About Saint Peter Claver: Peter was born of a distinguished family in Catalonia, Spain in 1581. He joined the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), and after his novitiate in Taragona was sent to the college of Montesione in Majorca. There he met Brother Alphonse Rodriguez (also a saint), the humble porter of the convent. Alphonse set Peter's soul on fire to save the souls of the African slaves — thousands being lost because there was no one to minister to them. His superiors finally sent Peter to New Granada in April of 1610. He was never to return to his native Spain. By 1615 Peter finished his studies and was ordained a priest in Cartagena. When he made his final vows, he added a personal one: Peter, slave of the slaves for

ever. Here in this busy seaport city, in a hot, humid, tropical climate, Father Claver spent most of his priestly life. Cartagena was the principal slave market for the New World. Thousands of blacks were brought there, herded into warehouses and auctioned to the highest bidder. Captured in Africa, these slaves were chained in groups of six and crammed into the lower holds of ships designed to hold 100-200, but holding 600-800 humans. Their treatment was so inhumane that 1/3 of the slaves died in the sea journey. It was to these people that Peter would minister. He would meet each slave ship as it arrived. Peter would go to the warehouses and bring them food, water, medicine and clothing, for, as he said "We must speak to them with our hands, before we try to speak to them with our lips." But most of all, he brought them God. While nursing them back to health, he would teach them of Christ, explain to them that they were loved by God more than they were abused by man, and that evil outraged God. He offered their only consolation: hope in the promises of God. Nearly three hundred thousand of them received baptism at his hands. After twenty-seven years of devotion to the black slaves, St. Peter Claver died at Cartagena on September 8, 1654. Pope Leo XIII canonized him on January 15, 1888, proclaiming him special patron and protector of the negroes. St. Alphonsus Rodriguez, porter of the college, who inspired Peter to become a missionary for the slaves was canonized at the same time.

Tuesday, September 10 ~ Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Luke 6:12-19 Jesus departed to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God. When day came, he called his disciples to himself, and from them he chose Twelve, whom he also named Apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called a Zealot, and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor. And he came down with them and stood on a stretch of level ground. A great crowd of his disciples and a large number of the people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and even those who were tormented by unclean spirits were cured. Everyone in the crowd sought to touch him because power came forth from him and healed them all.

Meditation: When Jesus embarked on his mission he chose twelve men to be his friends and apostles. In the choice of the twelve, we see a characteristic feature of God's work: Jesus chose very ordinary people. They were non-professionals, who had no wealth or position. They were chosen from the common people who did ordinary things, had no special education, and no social advantages. Jesus wanted ordinary people who could take an assignment and do it extraordinarily well. He chose these men, not for what they were, but for what they would be capable of becoming under his direction and power. When the Lord calls us to serve, we must not shrug back because we think that we have little or nothing to offer. The Lord takes what ordinary people, like us, can offer and uses it for greatness in his kingdom. Is there anything holding you back from giving yourself unreservedly to God?

Prayer: O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. 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: Wherever Jesus went the people came to him because they had heard all the things he did. They were hungry for God and desired healing from their afflictions. In faith they pressed upon Jesus to touch him. As they did so power came from Jesus and they were healed. Even demons trembled in the presence of Jesus and left at his rebuke. Jesus offers freedom from the power of sin and oppression to all who seek him with expectant faith. When you hear God's word and consider all that Jesus did, how do you respond? With doubt or with expectant faith? With skepticism or with confident trust? Pray to Jesus; while in prayer, ask him to increase your faith in his saving power and grace.

Wednesday, September 11 ~ Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time

~ Anniversary of 9/11 + Remember, Honor and Pray ~

Holy Gospel: Luke 6:20-26 Raising his eyes toward his disciples Jesus said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for the Kingdom of God is yours. Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who are now weeping, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice and leap for joy on that day! Behold, your reward will be great in heaven. For their ancestors treated the prophets in the same way. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. But woe to you who are filled now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will grieve and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for their ancestors treated the false prophets in this way."

Meditation: How can one possibly find happiness in poverty, hunger, mourning, and persecution? If we want to be filled with the joy and happiness of heaven, then we must empty ourselves of all that would shut God out of our hearts. Poverty of spirit finds ample room and joy in possessing God alone as the greatest treasure possible. Hunger of the spirit seeks nourishment and strength in God's word and Spirit. Sorrow and mourning over wasted life and sin leads to joyful freedom from the burden of guilt and oppression. God reveals to the humble of heart the true source of abundant life and happiness. Jesus promises his disciples that the joys of heaven will more than compensate for the troubles and hardships they can expect in this world. Thomas Aquinas said: "No person can live without joy. That is why someone deprived of spiritual joy goes after carnal pleasures." Do you know the joy and happiness of hungering and thirsting for God alone?

Prayer: O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. 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: When you encounter misfortune, grief, or tragic loss, do you respond with fear or with faith? With passive resignation or with patient hope and trust in God? We know from experience that no one can escape all of the inevitable trials of life — pain, suffering, sickness, and death. When Jesus began to teach his disciples he gave them a "way of happiness" that transcends every difficulty and trouble that can weigh us down with grief and despair. Jesus began his sermon on the mount by addressing the issue of where true happiness can be found. The word beatitude literally means happiness or blessedness. Jesus' way of happiness, however, demands a transformation from within — a conversion of heart and mind which can only come about through the gift and working of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer of Pope Saint John Paul II ~ Anniversary of 9/11: Since the inhumane terrorist attacks that occurred in different parts of the United States of America, we again recommend to the eternal mercy of the God of our Fathers the numerous innocent victims. We ask for consolation and comfort for their family and relatives, burdened by pain; we invoke strength and courage for the many who continue their work in the places struck by this terrible disaster; we implore for tenacity and perseverance by all men of goodwill continuing on the paths of justice and peace. May the Lord remove from the heart of man every trace of resentment, of hostility and of hate, and open him to reconciliation, to solidarity, and to peace. Let us pray, so that the "culture of love" may be established all over the world . . . O God, Almighty and Merciful Father, he who sows discord cannot understand You; he who loves violence cannot welcome You: watch over us in our painful human condition tried by the brutal acts of terrorism and death. Comfort your children and open our hearts to hope, that our time may again know days of serenity and peace, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday September 12 ~ Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Holy Gospel: Luke 1:39-47 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

Meditation: How can each of us grow in faith and persevere in hope in the face of life's obstacles and trials, just as Mary did? The Gospel of Luke reveals the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in Mary's life. When Elizabeth and Mary greeted one another, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and with a joyful anticipation of the fulfillment of God's promise to give a Savior. John the Baptist, even before the birth of the Messiah, pointed to his coming and leapt for joy in the womb of his mother as the Holy Spirit revealed to him the presence of the King to be born. The Holy Spirit is God's gift to us to enable us to know and experience the indwelling presence of God and the power of his kingdom. The Holy Spirit is the way in which God reigns within each of us. Mary accepted her mission with uncompromising faith and obedience. She acted with unwavering trust and faith because she believed that God would fulfill the word he had spoken. Her great hymn of praise echoes the song of Hannah (see 1 Samuel 2:1-10) and proclaims the favor of the Lord: God exalts the lowly and he fills the hungry. The Holy Spirit is ever ready to renew your faith and hope in God's promises and to make you strong in love for God and your neighbor. Knowing this, do you live in the joy and confidence of God's indwelling presence with you through his Holy Spirit?

Prayer: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, for all who celebrate the glorious Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary, she may obtain your merciful favor. 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: Mary received both a crown of joy and a cross of sorrow. Her joy was not diminished by her sorrow because it was fueled by her faith, hope, and trust in God and his promises. Jesus promised his disciples that “no one will take your joy from you” (John 16:22). The Lord gives us a supernatural joy which enables us to bear any sorrow or pain and which neither life nor death can take away. Do you know the joy of a life given over to God in faith and trust?

About the Holy Name of Mary: The Hebrew name of Mary, Miryām, (in Latin *Domina*) means “lady” or “sovereign;” this Mary is in virtue of her Son's sovereign authority as Lord of the World. We call Mary “our Lady” as we call Jesus “our Lord,” and when we pronounce her name we implore her aid and place ourselves under her protection. On this day dedicated to the Holy Name of Mary let us repeat that wonderful prayer of Saint Bernard, responding to Pope Benedict XVI's invitation to “invite everyone to become a trusting child before Mary, even as the Son of God did. Saint Bernard says, and we say with him: ‘Look to the star of the sea, call upon Mary ... in danger, in distress, in doubt, think of Mary, call upon Mary. May her name never be far from your lips, or far from your heart ... If you follow her, you will not stray; if you pray to her, you will not despair; if you turn your thoughts to her, you will not err. If she holds you, you will not fall; if she protects you, you need not fear; if she is your guide, you will not tire; if she is gracious to you, you will surely reach your destination’” (Pope Benedict XVI, September 9, 2007).

Friday, September 13 ~ Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Holy Gospel: Luke 6:39-42 Jesus told his disciples a parable: “Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher. Why do you notice the splinter in your brother’s eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own? How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me remove that splinter in your eye,’ when you do not even notice the wooden beam in your own eye? You hypocrite! Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter in your brother’s eye.”

Meditation: Have you wondered why is judgmentalism and a critical mind and spirit so rampant today, even among persons of faith? Part of it is due to the number of “talking heads” on television programs who “spin” their views into their “reporting” on issues and news events – journalists have made note of this disturbing trend which influences how we, then, conduct ourselves. Of course, blogs and people who feel compelled to vent and post their negative comments and viewpoints on their Facebook pages don’t help. As difficult as it may be at times, we must strive to “think the best of other people” if we, ourselves, wish to grow in love. The Lord knows our faults and he sees all – even the imperfections and sins of the heart which we cannot recognize in ourselves. Ask the Lord to flood your heart with his loving-kindness and mercy that you may only have room for charity and forbearance towards your neighbor.

Prayer: O God, strength of those who hope in you, who willed that the Bishop Saint John Chrysostom should be illustrious by his wonderful eloquence and his experience of suffering, grant us, we pray, that, instructed by his teachings, we may be strengthened through the example of his invincible patience. 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 true disciple of Christ is one who listens to the voice of their Master and who submits to the skillful help of the Divine Physician for treating and removing the cancer of sin in our lives. If we are to be guides and teachers for others, then we need clear vision, both spiritual and moral vision, and a map that shows us the right destination for our life's journey. If our ultimate destination is heaven, then there is only one way to get there and that way is through the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the cross of Christ sin is pardoned and the sinner is made whole, darkness and corruption give way to light and truth, death is defeated and new life restored. The cross of Christ frees us from condemnation and guilt and shows us the way of perfect love.

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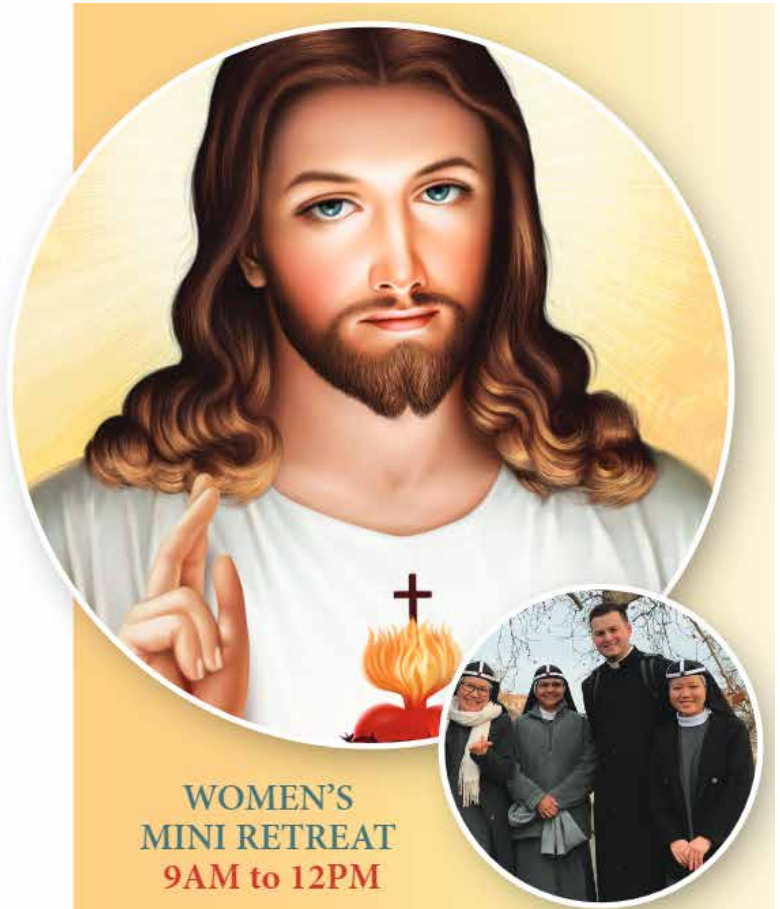
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