



*Let Every Heart*

*Prepare Him Room*

**SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL  
5750 N HIGH ST WORTHINGTON, OHIO 43085  
614.885.7814 ~ SAINTMICHAEL-CD.ORG**

# SAINT MICHAEL STAFF DIRECTORY

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

Youth Minister: Jake Asuncion

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

Director of RCIA: Jake Neal

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

## PARISH OFFICE

Business Manager: Kris Jesse

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

Office Manager: Kathy Trafford

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Receptionist/Secretary: Rhonda Marinelli

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Marketing & Communications:

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Campus Facility and Safety Director:

Steve Moore

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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

[svdp@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto: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 each Tuesday from 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. and from 5:00 a.m. Wednesdays until 9:00 p.m. on 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 or use the QR code.



## 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](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.

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 1, 2024

## DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, November 30

4:00 p.m. Special Intention of the Immaculata House of the Little Servant Sisters (Kathy McKinniss)

### Sunday, December 1

8:30 a.m. + Jody Munhall (The Cobb, Lund, Mauro, Schmitt & Wilson Families)

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

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

5:00 p.m. + Don & Jody Munhall (The Camerlengo Family)

### Monday, December 2

6:30 a.m. Special Intention of Michael Cano

8:15 a.m. Special Intentions of Corinne Welch

### Tuesday, December 3

6:30 a.m. + Holy Souls in Purgatory (Central Ohio Purgatorial Society)

8:15 a.m. Special Intention of Sylvester Andre Ellerbrock (Sue Farrell)

### Wednesday, December 4

6:30 a.m. + Jeanette Bickle (Mary & Don Stuller)

8:15 a.m. For the School

6:00 p.m. + Bill Costello

### Thursday, December 5

6:30 a.m. Special Intention of Margaret Horvath (The Smullen Family)

8:15 a.m. + Noah Budd

### Friday, December 6

6:30 a.m. Special Intention of Stan Bradham (Rosemary & Mark Pomeroy)

8:15 a.m. + Rev. Vincent McKiernan, C.S.P. (Joe & Mary Fiala-Fristad)

### Saturday, December 7

6:30 a.m. +Richard Balsler (Pat Kearns)

8:15 a.m. + Eva Himfy Family

4:00 p.m. Special Intention of Avery & Tanner Hays (The McNamara Family)

### Sunday, December 8

8:30 a.m. Special Intention of Sr. Mary Regina, O.P.

10:30 a.m. + Theresa & Grace Deibel (Steve & Mary Deibel)

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

5:00 p.m. Special Intention of Ron Stanko (Karen & Lou Griffith)

## PARISH CALENDAR – DECEMBER

<b>SUNDAY, December 1</b>	Friendship Sunday after all Masses SVDP Giving Trees after all Masses (MH) 9:00 a.m. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (A) 9:00 a.m. OCIA (UMR) 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group (G)
<b>Monday, December 2</b>	5:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop Meeting (UMR) 6:00 p.m. High School Adoration (AC) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (U) 6:30 p.m. K of C 4th Degree Meeting (LMR) 7:30 p.m. K of C Council Meeting (LMR)
<b>Tuesday, December 3</b>	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 9:00 a.m. SVDP Sandwich Making (MH) 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (C)
<b>Wednesday, December 4</b>	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 6:00 p.m. Mass followed by Holy Hour & Confessions (C) 7:30 p.m. OCIA (UMR)
<b>Thursday, December 5</b>	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts (U) 6:30 p.m. Knights of the Altar (LMR) 7:00 p.m. WFF Advent by Candlelight (MH)
<b>Friday, December 6</b>	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 9:00 a.m. Mom's Day Out (UMR)
<b>Saturday, December 7</b>	SVDP Giving Trees (MH) 6:45 a.m. Men's Faith & Fellowship (UMR) 7:00 a.m. Pietra (LMR) 2:30 p.m. Confessions (C) SVDP Giving Trees after Vigil Mass (MH)
<b>SUNDAY, December 8</b>	SVDP Giving Trees (MH) Boy Scout Wreath Distribution (MH) 9:00 a.m. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (A) 9:00 a.m. OCIA (UMR) 2:00 p.m. Seasons of Hope (UMR) 2:00 p.m. Baptism (C) 3:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group (G) 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group (G)

To view Parish Masses & Ministry Activities in advance, please view our Parish Calendar online by visiting:

[www.saintmichael-cd.org/about-us/calendar/](http://www.saintmichael-cd.org/about-us/calendar/)

(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, (A) = Atrium

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

### NOVEMBER 24, 2024:

Envelopes ..... \$ 12,678.05

Online Giving ..... \$ 8,706.00

**Total: ..... \$ 21,384.05**

# FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners of St. Michael the Archangel,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Entering into the Season of Advent provides a natural opportunity to reset our spiritual life and begin anew as the Church calls us to be prepared, to be alert, to be filled with joy as we await the coming of the Lord.

Our day-to-day life can so easily, at times, feel rather stagnant; it is of great importance that we not let this happen to our spiritual life or interior life. The Season of Advent then becomes an opportunity for true conversion or "turning away from and turning towards," so that the interior life is rich and peace filled.

I invite you to consider participating in something new for the Season of Advent so that you can try something new on for the interior life. It could be as simple as 1) attending a daily Mass once or twice a week, 2) signing up for a Holy Hour in the parish's Adoration Chapel during the period of Exposition (Monday 9:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m., Tuesday 5:00 a.m.-Friday 9:00 p.m.), 3) consider joining St. Vincent de Paul, 4) Praying the Rosary on a day when you haven't as of yet, 5) setting a goal of reading one of the Gospels during the Season of Advent.

On the three Saturdays in Advent at 6:30 a.m., there will be the candlelight Rorate Mass offered in the church.

A special word of acknowledgement to the children of the parish, who made their First Confession last Saturday. It was a blessing to have six priests available for Confessions and to have the Lord Jesus exposed on the altar for Adoration while Confessions were offered. Several of the priests who visited remarked on the sincerity of the children's Confessions and their preparation for the sacrament as being stellar! A special thank-you to Mrs. Jane Pillivant and Sr. Ave Maria, OP for their time spent preparing the children for the sacrament.

Come Lord Jesus!

Fr Stash Dailey

## ADVENT "RORATE MASS" AT ST. MICHAEL

During the Holy Season of Advent, there is a special Marian Votive Mass that can be offered. The collects (prayers) of the Mass are offered in a spirit of solidarity with the Blessed Virgin Mary who is expecting the birth of the Christ Child.

The primary orientation of the Season of Advent, is an interior preparation for the Second Coming of the Messiah. It is only towards the end of the Season that the readings guide the disciple to look upon the upcoming annual celebration of the Nativity of the Lord with a heart prepared to welcome the Infant King at His First Coming.

Given the priority of the Season of Advent the opportunity to pray the Votive Mass of the Annunciation is a poignant opportunity to unite oneself to Our Lady. Our Lady, she who is awaiting the Birth of the Messiah invites us to pray with calmed hearts while we, as members of the Mystical Body of Christ, prepare for the return of the Savior.

It is called the "Golden Mass" for several reasons;

-It is particularly beautiful in the detail of the prayers,

-It is offered only by candlelight, before sunrise, so there is literally a golden hue about the sanctuary in the midst of the darkness,

-The timing of the Mass coincides with the Rising of the Sun, so that as Consecration takes place, the first rays of light dawn and by the time the faithful receive the Lord and depart the Church, the created order is in the grasp of daylight.

This Advent, we will have the Rorate Mass offered on the three Saturdays of Advent here at St. Michael. Please check the bulletin for proper times of the Masses offered in Advent.



## Do This in Remembrance of Me; Part 8: Penitential Act

After the priest's greeting and people's response at the beginning of the Mass, we next share in the Penitential Act. If you think that sounds like penance, don't worry—it's a good thing! During the entrance rite, we recall that we are in the presence of God. If we are truly sincere in realizing that God (who is all-holy) is in our midst, then we recognize the need for purification. We recognize that when we encounter God, we must draw near with a pure heart. So, we take a brief moment of silence to call to mind our sins and failings, and we ask the Lord to forgive and heal us. After our time of silence, the priest (or deacon) leads the community in praying one of three possible prayers (conveniently known as options A, B, and C—more on them next time).

### History of the Penitential Act

Like nearly every part of the Holy Sacrifice, we find descriptions of the Penitential Act in early descriptions of the Mass. One of these, the *Didachē* (pronounced: did-uh-kay), meaning Teaching of the Apostles, gives instructions for Christians celebrating the Eucharist: "Assemble on the Lord's Day, and break bread and offer the Eucharist; but first make confession of your faults, so that your sacrifice may be a pure one" (A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, p. 32). As Father Guy Oury notes, "For a long time in the past this rite concerned only the celebrant and his ministers. Before going up to the altar they remained in silent prayer, lying face to the floor, as is still done in the liturgy of Good Friday" (The Mass, p. 49). So that everyone present could be more actively involved in this important part of the Mass, our current options came into use. Besides, except for some of our little ones, it would be really hard for everyone to lie down on the floor inside the pews!

### How to Participate

This honest look inside ourselves during the Penitential Act helps us to be aware of our sin and, most importantly, our need for God to help us overcome sin. In a very practical way, this brief reflection recalls the places in our lives where we know we need Christ more. If you haven't yet thought of an intention to join together with the priest's offering of the Mass, this might be a great time to ask specifically for help in overcoming a particular sin or perhaps further healing from the effects of previous sins. We believe that the Mass is our most powerful prayer together because Jesus himself is truly present and we are joining together with Him in the perfect worship of God the Father. In the Mass we take part in the one perfect sacrifice of the Cross where Christ offered Himself so that our sins could be forgiven. Realizing Jesus will be present on the altar or thinking about how the Mass is a sharing in the Cross, this moment can actually be one of great hope. What a great gift!

During this part of the Mass, as you recall your sins, you might feel unworthy of what we are about to celebrate. Although it may be uncomfortable to think about where we need healing and growth, it is actually a good sign of grace at work in our hearts. We are made out of love for love. We are made for life and communion with God and each other. Of course, sin disrupts and breaks that communion: sin moves us away from where we belong. The reason we feel frustrated or embarrassed or sad when we think of our sins is that we know deep inside that sin is contrary to the life to which God calls us. Hopefully, that discomfort will spur us to seek out the forgiveness of Christ through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

### Sometimes We Use Water Instead

For a little bonus info: Have you ever noticed during this time that the priest might walk around with Holy Water instead? As the General Instruction of the Roman Missal says, "From time to time on Sundays, especially in Easter Time, instead of the customary Penitential Act, the blessing and sprinkling of water may take place as a reminder of Baptism" (GIRM, no. 51). As people from my parishes could tell you, this is often one of my favorite parts of the Mass! Using an aspergillum (typically a small reservoir with a sponge inside on the end of a handle, sometimes referred to as a sprinkler) or perhaps even an evergreen branch, the priest will dip it into the water and then sprinkle the water over the people. As when we talked about using the Holy Water upon entering the church, this water recalls our baptism and the joy of being freed by Christ from sin. No wonder the priest is often so generous with the Holy Water at this part of the Mass!

### For Reflection:

1. Slowly pray [Psalm 51](#) as a way of preparing for the Penitential Act. (Notice that verse 9 refers to being cleansed by "hyssop," a branch serving the function of the aspergillum.) Which words or phrases speak to you as you seek forgiveness and healing? Keep these words in mind next time you participate in Mass.
2. ....continued next page





2. Read the first portion of Luke's account of the Risen Lord's appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus ([Luke 24:13-24](#)). Observe how Jesus invites the disciples to share what they are discussing and how freely they express what is on their minds and hearts. Place yourself in this scene. What do you want to express to the Lord as he invites you to "[p]our out your hearts to God" (Ps. 62:9)? Approach the Penitential Act with this same freedom to place your total self before the Lord.

## Do This in Remembrance of Me; Part 9: Forms of Penitential Act

As we mentioned earlier, the Penitential Act has three different forms. Why are there three? For starters, each of these three prayers have been present in liturgical celebrations since the early days of the Church. Although they are similar in that they each acknowledge the truth about God (he is merciful) and us (we need mercy), they each do so in a different way.

**Form A, the Confiteor**, is hopefully a familiar prayer beginning with the words: "I confess to Almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters..." This prayer helps us to express sorrow for faults we have committed in word and in action. We humbly acknowledge that we have done wrong and also that we have sometimes failed to do good. Then, recognizing that we all need help, we ask the intercession of our Blessed Mother, all the other saints, and our brothers and sisters around us. In many ways, this is a great prayer for reminding us that we are all in the Christian life together.

Within the text of the Roman Missal, we are instructed to strike the breast during the words "through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault" (corresponding to the three "mea culpa" phrases of the Latin version). Throughout the Bible, striking the breast is a gesture of humility and sorrow for sins. Why three times? As Edward Sri indicates, the threefold repetition of fault "more fully expresses sorrow over our sins. [...] This line in the liturgy helps us recognize that sinning against God is no light matter. We must take responsibility for whatever wrong we have done, or the good that we should have done but failed to do." Sri observes, "The Confiteor also challenges us to consider seriously four areas in which we may have fallen into sin: 'In my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and what I have failed to do.' These four points serve as an excellent examination of conscience" (*A Biblical Walk Through the Mass*, p. 33, 35).

Form A can be replaced by either Forms B or C, both of which take their inspiration from the Book of Psalms (Psalm 51, for example). Form B is less frequently practiced and thus not as well-known. The presider prays, "Have mercy on us, O Lord," and the people respond, "For we have sinned against you." The presider continues, "Show us, O Lord, your mercy," and the people again respond, "And grant us your salvation." This form, the ending of which recalls [Psalm 85:8](#), acknowledges that we have sinned and asks for the Lord's love and mercy.

For Form C, the Missal provides eight suggestions for use in the United States. Each of these involves the repetition of the words: "Lord have mercy... Christ have mercy... Lord have mercy." Each verse of this form begins with a statement of acknowledgement about Jesus, called a trope, usually about his mission (e.g., "you came to call sinners") or his person (e.g., "you are Mighty God and Prince of Peace"). These short verses help remind us who Jesus is and what he does for us. Why does the Church offer so many different sets of these prayers? Because Jesus is so wonderful! Even these 24 statements can't express everything about our loving Savior. Imagine how many different verses would be possible if we wanted to include every aspect of our Savior's love for us!

As the General Instruction of the Roman Missal says, "After the Penitential Act, the Kyrie, eleison (Lord, have mercy), is always begun, unless it has already been part of the Penitential Act" (GIRM, no. 52). Regarding the Kyrie, Edward Sri notes, "This three-fold plea for God's mercy fittingly flows after the three-fold admission of one's sin in the previous prayer, the Confiteor." Sri goes on to say, "While the Kyrie is primarily an expression of repentance, it also can be seen as a petition, a prayer representing the cry of God's people for assistance in their lives" (*A Biblical Walk Through the Mass*, p. 36, 39).

All this talk about the Lord's mercy makes me feel very loved and hopeful for the graces to come in the rest of the Mass!

### For Reflection:

1. Pray Psalm 85, noting the plea: "grant us your salvation" (v. 8). Seek and find encouragement in the promises the Lord speaks to his people in this psalm.
2. Practice lectio divina with Luke 18:9-14. Imagine yourself as the Pharisee taking stock of his good qualities. In what do you boast or take pride? Imagine yourself as the penitent tax collector, who strikes his breast and asks for mercy. Where do you need the Lord's mercy in your life at this time?

## Coming Up Next: Penitential Absolution & The Gloria



## AROUND THE PARISH



# LIVE WIRES CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



## ATTENTION ALL SENIORS!

Please join us for our favorite Holiday Tradition  
**Tuesday, December 10**  
**11:30am - 1:00pm**

If interested, please **RSVP NO LATER THAN**  
**December 9th** so we can get an accurate  
count for food and beverage purposes.  
If you plan to come, you must call the  
Parish Office directly at **614-885-7814**.



## *Cranks Creek Mission Trip*

Where: Cranks Creek KY

When: Dec. 20-22

Who: All High Schoolers

Cost: \$100

Registration and Questions email  
[jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org)

We are also looking for money and toy donations as well. If you decide to give money please scan the QR code and select "Cranks Creek" in the fund selection.



Women of the St. Michael Community and their family and friends are invited to:

# Advent by Candlelight

Thursday, December 5 at 7:00pm  
featuring Father Daniel Bowen, O. de M.

Advent offers us a special opportunity to understand more fully that Jesus still dwells with us in his glorified state, and that a special bond exists between Jesus' incarnation and his continued presence with us in the Eucharist. This season encourages us to focus on this bond and to better appreciate Jesus' Eucharistic presence.

To host a table, RSVP as an individual or for more information on our candlelight evenings, please scan the QR code.



## MENS' FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP MEETING

Saturday, December 7th; 6:45 a.m. Rosary in Upper Meeting Room, 7:05 a.m. "The Triumph of the Immaculate Heart." All are welcome to pray with us and grow in our faith. Contact [mensgroup@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:mensgroup@saintmichael-cd.org) with questions.



## 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 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.



## Advent Corner

*"At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God's own love and concern."*

~ St. Teresa of Calcutta

### Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Masses:

Monday, December 9: 6:30am, 8:15am (all-school Mass),  
12:00pm, 5:30pm, 7:00pm

### Our Lady of Guadalupe Masses:

Thursday, December 12: 6:30am, 8:15am, 7:00pm\*

\*parking available in the gravel lot across the street.

The Parish Office will be closed on the following dates:

November 28 & 29  
December 9  
December 24-27  
December 31  
January 1

Christmas Flower Envelopes are due on December 1

### Early Bulletin Deadlines:

December 1 ~ November 20  
December 8 ~ December 1  
December 15 ~ December 8  
December 22 ~ December 15  
December 29 ~ December 17  
January 5 ~ December 19

## Advent Rorate Mass

Consider attending the Saturday Morning Rorate Mass offered at 6:30am.

This Mass is a Votive Mass of the Blessed Virgin and is offered by candlelight alone and is offered before sunrise, reminding the faithful that Christ is born into the darkness of time and space and brings forth the light which sets us free from the darkness of sin and death.

This Mass will be offered on the three Saturdays of Advent.

# Lectio Divina

## SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

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“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)

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*The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

**“It is impossible to find a saint who did not take the ‘two P’s’ seriously: prayer and penance.” +SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER**

### **Monday, December 2 ~ First Week in the Season of Advent**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 8:5-11** When Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion approached him and appealed to him, saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, suffering dreadfully.” He said to him, “I will come and cure him.” The centurion said in reply, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed. For I too am a man subject to authority, with soldiers subject to me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come here,’ and he comes; and to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. I say to you, many will come from the east and the west, and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the banquet in the Kingdom of heaven.”

**Meditation:** Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord! We want to begin this first Monday of our Advent journey by rallying ourselves to turn to the Lord with great hope. In the midst of many discouraging challenges in our lives – the economy, violence, political in-fighting, problems in our own lives – we desire to spend this day in anticipation of the graces our God desires to give us. They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; “One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again.” (Isaiah,2) Let us remember the words in scripture which we state during each Mass before we receive the Eucharist: “Lord, I am not worthy to receive you; but say only the word and my soul will be healed.”

**Prayer:** Keep us alert, we pray, O Lord our God, as we await the advent of Christ your Son, so that, when he comes and knocks, he may find us watchful in prayer and exultant in his praise. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** The prophet Isaiah foretold a time of restoration for the holy city Jerusalem and for its remnants (ref. Isaiah 4:2-6) and also a time of universal peace when all nations would come to Jerusalem to “the mountain of the Lord and to the house of the God of Jacob” and “beat their swords into plowshares” (Isaiah 2:2-4). Jesus fulfills this prophecy first by restoring both Jew and Gentile to fellowship with God through the victory he won for us on the cross. When he comes again he will fully establish his universal rule of peace and righteousness and unite all things in himself (ref. Ephesians 1:10). His promise extends to all generations who believe in him that we, too, might feast at the heavenly banquet table with the patriarchs of the Old Covenant who believed but did not see the promised Messiah. And so we need to ask ourselves: Do you believe in God's promises and do you seek his kingdom first in your life? The season of Advent reminds us that the Lord wants us to actively seek him and the coming of his kingdom in our lives. The Lord will surely reward those who seek his will for their lives. We can approach the Lord Jesus with expectant faith, like the centurion did in today's gospel reading, knowing that he will show us his mercy, love, compassion, along with guidance and help in our time of need.

### **Tuesday, December 3 ~ First Week in the Season of Advent** **Saint Francis Xavier, Priest**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 10:21-24** Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, “I give you praise, 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 who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except

the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him." Turning to the disciples in private he said, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I say to you, many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it."

**Meditation:** What does Jesus' prayer in today's gospel tell us about God and about ourselves? First, it tells us that God is both Father and Lord of earth as well as heaven. He is both Creator and Author of all that he has made, the first origin of everything and transcendent authority, and at the same time, goodness and loving care for all his children. All fatherhood and motherhood are derived from him (ref. Ephesians 3:14-15). Jesus' prayer also contains a warning that pride can keep us from the love and knowledge of God. Pride closes the mind to God's truth and wisdom for our lives. Jesus contrasts pride with child-like simplicity and humility. The simple of heart are like "babes" in the sense that they see purely without pretense and acknowledge their dependence and trust in God who is the source of all wisdom and strength. They seek one thing – the "summum bonum" or "greatest good" which 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" (Prov. 3:34, James 4:6). The grace of Christ-like humility inclines us towards God and disposes us to receive God's wisdom, grace, and help. Nothing can give us greater joy than the knowledge that we are God's beloved and that our names are written in heaven (ref. Luke 10:20).

**Prayer:** O God, who through the preaching of Saint Francis Xavier won many peoples to yourself, grant that the hearts of the faithful may burn with the same zeal for the faith and that Holy Church may everywhere rejoice in an abundance of offspring. 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. Our knowledge of God is not simply limited to knowing something about God, but we can know God personally. 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. Do you pray to your Father in heaven with joy and confidence in his love and care for you?

### **Wednesday, December 4 ~ First Week in the Season of Advent Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 15:29-37** At that time: Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, went up on the mountain, and sat down there. Great crowds came to him, having with them the lame, the blind, the deformed, the mute, and many others. They placed them at his feet, and he cured them. The crowds were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the deformed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind able to see, and they glorified the God of Israel. Jesus summoned his disciples and said, "My heart is moved with pity for the crowd, for they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, for fear they may collapse on the way." The disciples said to him, "Where could we ever get enough bread in this deserted place to satisfy such a crowd?" Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?" "Seven," they replied, "and a few fish." He ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, gave thanks, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied. They picked up the fragments left over—seven baskets full.

**Meditation:** When the disciples were confronted by Jesus with the task of feeding four thousand people many miles away from any source of food, they exclaimed: Where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them? The Israelites were confronted with the same dilemma when they fled Egypt and found themselves in a barren wilderness. Like the miraculous provision of manna in the wilderness, Jesus, himself provides bread in abundance for the hungry crowd who came out into the desert to seek him. The gospel records that all were satisfied and they took up what was leftover. In the multiplication of the loaves and fishes we see a sign and a symbol of what God always does. God knows our needs and he cares. When God gives, he gives in abundance. The gospel account records that the leftovers from the miraculous meal was more than seven times the amount they began with. Seven is a symbol of completion and wholeness. When God gives, he gives until we are satisfied. When God works for his people he gives abundantly – more than we could deserve and more than we need. He nourishes us with his life-giving word and with the bread of heaven. In the kingdom of heaven God will feast us at his

banquet table. Are you satisfied with God's provision for you? And do you long with expectant hope for the coming of his kingdom in all its fullness?

**Prayer:** Grant, we pray, O Lord, that we may be helped by the prayers of the Priest Saint John Damascene, so that the true faith, which he excelled in teaching, may always be our light and our strength. 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:** If we open our eyes to look around us, one cannot help but have our hearts touched at what we see – so many people in need. When we see people in need, do we react as Jesus did – do we share in Jesus' thoughts: "My heart is moved with pity." Though we do not have the capacities of Jesus to perform miracles as He did, we do, in fact, have the capacity to perform "miracles" of a sort by sharing what we have with those in need – especially those who are without such basics as adequate food, clothing and shelter. Those who do not have transportation to get to the grocery store, the drug store, to a place to shop for various needs – especially the elderly. There are so many things we can do to carry on the mission of Jesus Christ by helping those in need. Ask yourself: when you see people in need, is your heart moved with pity? Moved with pity to help them in one way or another? To share what you have been blessed with? In this season of preparation and of giving may your heart be open to help others; in doing so, you are conforming your heart with that of Christ.

### **Thursday, December 5 ~ First Week in the Season of Advent**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 7:21, 24-27** Jesus said to his disciples: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. "Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock. And everyone who listens to these words of mine but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. And it collapsed and was completely ruined."

**Meditation:** What can satisfy the deepest hunger and longing of the human heart? Isaiah prophesied that God would provide a heavenly banquet for all peoples and would destroy death once and for all (Isaiah 2:6-8). God sent his only son into the world to fulfill that promise. The miracles performed by Jesus are both a sign of God's kingdom and a demonstration of God's power. They also show the magnitude of God's love and mercy. When the disciples were confronted by Jesus with the task of feeding four thousand people many miles away from any source of food, they exclaimed: Where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them? The Israelites were confronted with the same dilemma when they fled Egypt and found themselves in a barren wilderness. Like the miraculous provision of manna in the wilderness, Jesus, himself provides bread in abundance for the hungry crowd who came out into the desert to seek him. The gospel records that all were satisfied and they took up what was leftover.

**Prayer:** Stir up your power, O Lord, and come to our help with mighty strength, that what our sins impede the grace of your mercy may hasten. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** In the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes we see a sign and a symbol of what God always does. God knows our needs and he truly cares about us. When God gives, he gives in abundance. The gospel account records that the leftovers from the miraculous meal was more than seven times the amount they began with. Seven is a symbol of completion and wholeness. When God gives, he gives until we are satisfied. When God works for his people he gives abundantly – more than we could deserve and more than we need. He nourishes us with his life-giving word and with the bread of heaven. In the kingdom of heaven God will feast us at his banquet table. Are you satisfied with God's provision for you? In this Season of Advent, do you long with expectant hope for the coming of his kingdom in all its fullness?

### **Friday, December 6 ~ First Week in the Season of Advent Saint Nicholas, Bishop**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 9:27-31** As Jesus passed by, two blind men followed him, crying out, "Son of David, have pity on us!" When he entered the house, the blind men approached him and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I can do this?" "Yes, Lord," they said to him. Then he touched their eyes and said, "Let it be done for you according to your faith." And their eyes were opened. Jesus warned

them sternly, "See that no one knows about this." But they went out and spread word of him through all that land.

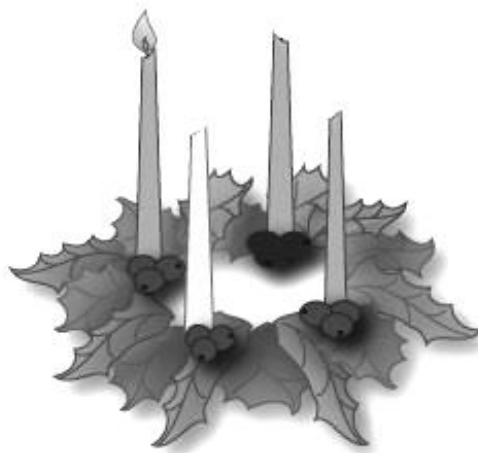
**Meditation:** The kind of foundation that each of us builds our lives upon will determine whether we can survive the storms that are sure to come. Builders usually lay their foundations when the weather and soil conditions are at their best. It takes foresight to know how a foundation will stand up against adverse conditions. Building a house on a flood plain, such as a dry river-bed, is a sure bet for disaster! Jesus prefaced his story with a warning: We may fool humans with our speech, but God cannot be deceived. He sees the heart as it truly is – with its motives, intentions, desires, and choices (ref. Psalm 139:2). There is only one way in which a person's sincerity can be proved, and that is by one's practice. Fine words can never replace good deeds. Our character is revealed in the choices we make, especially when we are tested. Do you cheat on an exam or on your income taxes, especially when it will cost you? Do you lie, or cover-up, when disclosing the truth will cause you injury or embarrassment? A true person is honest and reliable before God, one's neighbor and oneself. His or her word can be counted on. If you heed God's word and live according to it then you need not fear when storms assail you. God will be your rock and your refuge. Is your life built upon the sure "rock" of Jesus Christ and do you listen to his word as if your life depended on it?

**Prayer:** We humbly implore your mercy, Lord: protect us in all dangers through the prayers of the Bishop Saint Nicholas, that the way of salvation may lie open before us. 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:** What is the best security against disaster and destruction? In the ancient world a strong city, an impregnable fortress, and a secure house were built on solid rock because they could withstand the forces of nature and foe alike. Isaiah speaks of God as an "everlasting rock" (ref. Is. 26:4). He is the rock of refuge and deliverance (ref. Psalm 18:2) and the rock in whom there is no wrong (ref. Psalm 92:15). Scripture warns that destruction will surely come to those who place their security in something other than God and his kingdom. Jesus' parables invite us to stake our lives on the coming of his kingdom or face the consequences of being unprepared when the day of testing and destruction will surely come. In this Advent season, we are reminded to place all of our trust in Jesus Christ, the promised Savior, the Son of God who was sent to this world for our redemption.

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 Catholic Culture;  
some meditations inspired by *Biblical Meditations for Advent and Christmas* by Carroll Stuhlmueller, CP.

frlumpe:2024



### **A Prayer for Advent**

*Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send Your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear Your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things look forward to Your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of Your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of Your presence. We are Your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To You we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" ~Father Henri Nouwen*

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You can purchase any gift for a child of any age & put it in our Giving Tree boxes. These gifts are given out at the St. Francis Center and the SVDP Downtown Center. The Giving Trees will go up Thanksgiving weekend. We need all of our gifts no later than Dec. 8! We will also be collecting gifts through Dec. 15 for the youth group's trip to Cranks Creek so please be generous!

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12/2 — 7:30-9pm — Council business meeting (LMR)  
 12/13 — 6-10pm — Council Christmas party

**JOIN THE KNIGHTS**

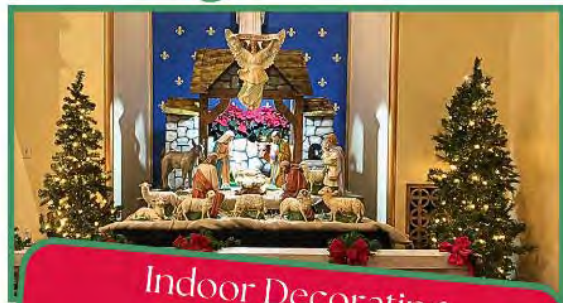
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**Indoor Decorating  
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Prizes for the winners of the Chili Cookoff & Christmas Cookie Contest!



# APPLY NOW!

## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

St. Michael Parish is excited to offer Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for 3 to 6 year olds. Beginning this Advent season and continuing throughout the school year on Sunday mornings before the 10:30am Mass, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Montessori style religion program that inspires a love of God in our children and helps them to grow a deep and meaningful relationship with Jesus. Space is limited, submit your application now and we will contact you once all applications have been received.

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3-6



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# **PROSPECTIVE PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT**

**Tuesday, December 10, 6:30pm**



Learn more about St. Michael Prekindergarten!  
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Questions? Contact  
[lwells@stmichaelworthington.org](mailto:lwells@stmichaelworthington.org).

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*Did you know that you can support Catholic education in our community without spending an extra dime?*

By making a gift to the Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund, you can receive a dollar-for-dollar credit against your Ohio income tax liability, up to \$750 for individuals or \$1,500 for married couples filing jointly.

This isn't a typical tax break. Every dollar you donate (up to the limit) comes back to you at tax time!

## WHY GIVE?

The Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund helps make Catholic education accessible to all families, giving children the opportunity to encounter Jesus. St. Michael School makes Christ the center of all we do, forming disciples who learn to recognize God's love at work in their lives and go forth and share that love in the world. By supporting St. Michael School, you advance this vital mission.

## HOW TO GIVE?

To claim a credit on your 2024 Ohio Income Tax Return, make your gift any time before Tax Day (April 15, 2025). **You can direct your donation to St. Michael School.** Donations made before December 31, 2024 will benefit students sooner. Note that you can only claim a credit to the extent that you owe Ohio taxes.

## LEARN MORE OR DONATE NOW:



The Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund is a certified "scholarship granting organization" (SGO) in Ohio, prioritizing low-income students.



# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## MAJOR RELICS OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

The major first-class relics of St. Thomas Aquinas will be available for public veneration at St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43215, on December 7-8, 2024. This is the first time that St. Thomas' major relics will tour the United States, through an arrangement between the Dominican Province of Toulouse, France and the Dominican Province of St. Joseph (Eastern U.S.A.). The relic tour is in commemoration of the Triple Jubilee of St. Thomas Aquinas: the 700th anniversary of his canonization in 2023, the 750th anniversary of his death in 2024, and the 800th anniversary of his birth in 2025.



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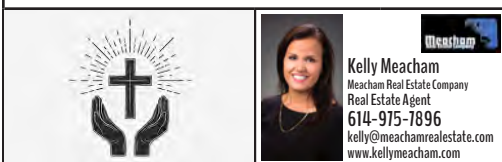
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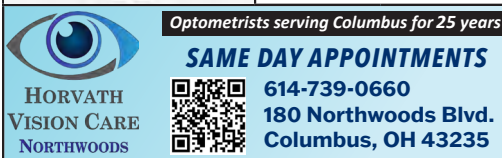
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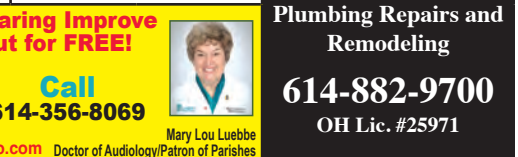
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