



“Behold

a virgin will conceive and bear a son,
and she will call His name

Emmanuel”

Isaiah 7:14

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

5750 N HIGH STREET WORTHINGTON, OHIO 43085

614.885.7814 ~ SAINTMICHAEL-CD.ORG

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:

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Dcn. Bill Demidovich

Dcn. Klaus Fricke (Retired)

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Youth Minister: Jake Asuncion

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ST. MICHAEL PARISH SCHOOL

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School Office: 614-885-3149

Principal: Sr. Mary Regina, O.P.

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PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

Athletic Association Representative:

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Knights of Columbus Representative:

Mike LaMorte

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St. Vincent de Paul Society Representative:

Elaine Miracle

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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 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.

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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 8, 2024

DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 7

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)

Monday, December 9

6:30 a.m. + David Buoni
8:15 a.m. + Walter Downey
12:00 p.m. + Beverly Cremeans
(Dcn John & Mary Crerand)
5:30 p.m. + Fr. John Byrne
7:00 p.m. + Jack Horvath (The Smullen Family)

Tuesday, December 10

6:30 a.m. + Lee Williams (Jimenez Family)
8:15 a.m. + John & Frank Debitetto

Wednesday, December 11

6:30 a.m. + Pilar Requena & Julio Requena
(The Caso Family)
8:15 a.m. For the School
6:00 p.m. + Richard Lumpe (Fr. Michael Lumpe)

Thursday, December 12

6:30 a.m. + Joseph DeITedesco (The Jimenez Family)
8:15 a.m. + Juan Jimenez (Lily Ferguson)
7:00 p.m. + Paul Grossman (Pam Grossman)

Friday, December 13

6:30 a.m. Holy Souls in Purgatory
8:15 a.m. + Joan Brown (The Brown Family)

Saturday, December 14

6:30 a.m. + Deceased Members of the Dittoe Family
(Mike & Jane Leeuw)
8:15 a.m. + Louis Jettinghoff (Kevin & Lisa Barlage)
4:00 p.m. + Jody Munhall

Sunday, December 15

8:30 a.m. + Edwin de Chavez (Emelita Lucero)
10:30 a.m. + Marian Denlinger
(Dcn John & Mary Crerand)
12:30 p.m. + Bill Costello
5:00 p.m. For the Living & Deceased Members
of our Parish

PARISH CALENDAR – DECEMBER

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|--|---|
| SUNDAY, December 8 | 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) |
| Monday, December 9 | Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Parish Office Closed Masses at 6:30 a.m., 8:15 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. |
| Tuesday, December 10 | Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 11:30 a.m. Live Wires Christmas Luncheon (MH) 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (C) |
| Wednesday, December 11 | Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 6:00 p.m. Mass followed by Holy Hour & Confessions (C) 7:30 p.m. OCIA (UMR) |
| Thursday, December 12 | Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 5:30 p.m. Melchizedek Project (C) 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts (U) 6:00 p.m. Respect Life Ministry Meeting (UMR) |
| Friday, December 13 | Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 9:00 a.m. Mom's Day Out (UMR) 7:00 p.m. Opus Dei (C) |
| Saturday, December 14 | SVDP Giving Trees (MH) 6:45 a.m. Men's Faith & Fellowship (UMR) 8:00 a.m. Opus Dei Recollections (UMR) 8:00 a.m. Carmelite Secular Order Ceremony (LMR) 9:00 a.m. Baptism (C) 9:00 a.m. SVDP Sponsor a Family (MH) 2:30 p.m. Confessions (C) SVDP Giving Trees after Vigil Mass (MH) |
| SUNDAY, December 15 | 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. Baptism (C) 2:00 p.m. Christmas Decoration (Outdoors) 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/ (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

DECEMBER 1, 2024

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Envelopes..... | \$ | 13,159.50 |
| Online Giving | \$ | 14,067.00 |
| Total: | \$ | 27,226.50 |



BAPTISMS

**CONGRATULATIONS ON THE BAPTISMS OF
NOAH & ELIJAH MERTZ**



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners of St. Michael the Archangel,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

A few important notes to share with you:

-As the Immaculate Conception is celebrated on December 8th and this year the date is a Sunday, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is transferred to Monday the 9th and in the Diocese of Columbus it is celebrated as a Holy Day of Obligation. All Masses for the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated on the day of Monday the 9th. Extra Masses have been offered for the benefit of the faithful.

-Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has asked everyone in the Americas to pray with great fervor for the Church in Nicaragua. Very much like the United States of America, the Church in Nicaragua is very devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary and in fact like the USA, it is also dedicated to Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conception. The Immaculata is the Patroness of both the United States of America and Nicaragua.

Over the past several years the government in Nicaragua has engaged in an active persecution of the Church exiling a number of the bishops, imprisoning many bishops and priests, closing multiple Catholic parishes, Catholic schools, Catholic hospitals, and Catholic universities. Numerous religious apostolates meant to care for the poor, the homeless, the abandoned have all been forcibly closed. The government of Nicaragua has forcibly removed countless numbers of priests, brothers, and sisters from the country and even forced the Missionaries of Charity sisters to walk on foot as they were being forced to the border of the country at gunpoint by the military. The people of Nicaragua are experiencing an incredible scourge.

The Holy Father has asked that as we celebrate the Immaculate Conception of the Holy Virgin Mary, we beg Our Lady to intercede to Jesus for the sake of the faithful in Nicaragua.

-This week will bring us another opportunity to pray and give thanks to the Lord as we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on the 12th. Our Lady's apparition to St. Juan Diego began an incredible wave of conversions to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and a great flourishing of the Church in Mexico and then throughout the Americas. Given the details of Our Lady's appearance as the pregnant Virgin Queen, the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe has become the popular image of the Pro-Life movement within the Church.

Finally, I have to draw attention to the rather incredible number of the faithful who attend Holy Mass at St. Michael. The numbers of the faithful at the 6:30 and 8:15 a.m. Masses is very edifying. The vast numbers of the faithful who come for the Holy Mass in celebration of the Lord's Day is truly remarkable and, I dare to say, encouraging to all but most especially to your priests. Your faith and your commitment to pray the Mass is nothing short of a powerful witness to the presence of the Lord alive and at work in your lives. The sincerity of confessions that are made reveal a true thirst for mercy and a reliance upon the Lord for the grace He seeks to give.

We await the coming of the Lord, Come Lord Jesus!

Fr Stash Dailey



Do This in Remembrance of Me; Part 10: Penitential Absolution

Having spent a brief moment calling to mind our sins and acclaiming together God's mercy, the priest then says words that the Roman Missal calls "the absolution." Is this a "real" absolution, another version of the absolution we receive in the Sacrament of Reconciliation? The short answer is no, it is not the same. Let's look at it a bit more closely.

Not a Sacramental Confession

In the words of Charles Belmonte: "At the end of [the Penitential Act], the priest takes refuge with his brethren in the mercy of God: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life" (Understanding the Mass, p. 56). In the past, some people (including priests) were incorrectly told that this prayer was the equivalent of the absolution prayer the priest says in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This is certainly not the case! To make this clear, the General Instruction of the Roman Missal directly says that this prayer "lacks the efficacy of the Sacrament of Penance" (GIRM, no. 51). Elaborating, Belmonte comments, "The Penitential [Act] of the Mass is not a sacramental confession; therefore, it does not bring immediate remission of mortal sins. Forgiveness of mortal sins has to be obtained in the Sacrament of Penance. It is also important to remember that a person who has committed a mortal sin cannot go to Communion unless he goes to Confession beforehand" (Understanding the Mass, p. 57).

If we think about the actual words of the prayer, this explanation makes sense. The priest here simply asks the Lord to have mercy on us, forgive us, and bring us to heaven. This is clearly different from the words of sacramental absolution where the priest, in the person of Christ, says the words, "God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church, may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." In the Sacrament of Reconciliation (also known as the Sacrament of Penance or Confession), we openly confess our sins and speak them to the priest, whereas in the Mass we review them interiorly. In the Mass, we certainly are acknowledging that we have sins and that we need the Lord's mercy, but we are not directly bringing those sins to God for forgiveness as we do in Reconciliation.

Obtaining Pardon

Even though the words the priest says at Mass are not a sacramental absolution, that does not mean they are not important. As Belmonte says, "the Penitential [Act], if it is said with true contrition, helps to obtain pardon for present venial sins, as well as to stir up new sorrow for past sins that have already been forgiven. In this way, it helps us to purify ourselves and so to take better part in the Holy Mass" (Understanding the Mass, p. 57). As we have reviewed previously, the Sacrifice of the Mass is our participation in the one perfect sacrifice of Jesus offered on the Cross for the forgiveness of sins. It is a fitting place for us to recall what a wonderful Savior we have and how powerful the gift of his forgiveness truly is in our hearts. Hopefully, it also helps us resolve to seek out the sacramental grace of Reconciliation whenever we need it!

A Necessary Pause

I don't know about all of you, but sometimes I find that when my days are full, I am often going from one thing to the next without time for reflection. I find that brief moments of quiet in my day are needed so that I can thoroughly review what I have said and done. It is in those moments that I realize times when I have gotten off track and need a reset. Similarly, the Penitential Act of the Mass certainly can be an important opportunity to review how we have lived since our last time at Mass. It is also a great moment to realize that there might be sins that need sacramental forgiveness before we receive Communion.

As I continue to grow in my life as a priest, I am finding the Penitential Act to be one of my favorite parts of the Mass. It is such a great gift to recall where I need God's mercy and to acclaim his great mercy together with God's people. To add to our joy, next in the Mass we sing of God's glory!

For Reflection:

1. The Canticle of Zechariah (Luke 1:68-79) reflects Zechariah's confidence in God's loving mercy after his period of nine months of silence before the birth of John the Baptist. Take some time for silent reflection on God's mercy in your life. Conclude by praying this canticle, which is part of the Church's daily Morning Prayer.
2. Fr. Luke acknowledges the importance of brief moments of quiet in our day to reflect on our thoughts, words, and actions. Where can you build in or embrace a few moments of quiet in your daily schedule? The next time you wonder, "What's next?", allow yourself a few moments of quiet prayer before moving on to your next task.





Do This in Remembrance of Me; Part 11: Gloria

To review what we have covered so far regarding the Mass, we have recalled our baptism with the Holy Water, genuflected to honor Jesus in the tabernacle, quietly and prayerfully prepared for Mass, sung the opening hymn, made the Sign of the Cross, and humbly called to mind our sins and praised God's mercy in the Penitential Act. Now, it is time for another one of my favorite parts of the Mass: *The Gloria*.

A Song of Praise

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will." Many of us may recognize these words from St. Luke's Gospel as the song the angels sing in praise announcing the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem ([Luke 2:14](#)). Each year on Christmas Eve, I recall our family traditions from when I was young, including Christmas Eve Mass together as a family. One year, we went to bed very early so that we wouldn't be too tired for the Mass at midnight. In my memory, I still hear very clearly my grandparents singing in the choir and the bells ringing with joy as we sang together the news of Christ's birth. As we grew older and became altar servers, my brother and I would practice so that we could ring the bells steadily throughout the Gloria. It took a lot of endurance!

As the General Instruction of the Roman Missal indicates, "The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is a most ancient and venerable hymn by which the Church, gathered in the Holy Spirit, glorifies and entreats God the Father and the Lamb" (GIRM, no. 53). The Gloria is full of phrases and titles from the Bible. Edward Sri explains, "one could describe this prayer, which goes back to early Christianity, as a mosaic of biblical titles for God and common biblical expressions of praise." Sri goes on to list many Scripture references to these titles, such as "Lord Almighty" (Baruch 3:1; 2 Corinthians 6:18), "Lord God Almighty" (Revelation 4:8; 11:17; 15:3; 19:6), and "King of Glory" (see *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass*, p. 43).

Three Acts

From the context of the Gloria, we are clearly singing the first part to God the Father and then the second part to God the Son. According to Sri: "The next part of the Gloria, in a sense, tells a story—the story of Christ. Like a three-act play, the Gloria sums up the story of Christ's saving work moving from 1) his coming, to 2) his redeeming death, to 3) his triumphant resurrection and ascension into heaven" (p. 44). Once again, Sri highlights many references to the Scriptures, including the Divine Sonship of Christ (John 5:17-18; 10:30-38; 2 Corinthians 1:19; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 1:1-2); the Lamb of God (John 1:29, Revelation 5:6-14; 12:11; 17:14, among many others); and Christ's position at the right hand of the Father (Mark 16:19) (*A Biblical Walk Through the Mass*, pp. 45-46).

Sri continues, "Notice how the whole mission of Jesus is summed up in this section of the Gloria. We move from the Son's Incarnation, to his Paschal Mystery, to his enthronement in heaven. We move from praising Jesus as the 'Only Begotten Son' of the Father who became flesh and dwelt among us; to worshiping him as the 'Lamb of God' who by his sacrifice takes away the sin of the world; to praising him in his triumph over sin and death as he is 'seated at the right hand of the Father.' Indeed, the very climax of salvation history can be summed up in the Gloria" (*A Biblical Walk Through the Mass*, p. 46).

Fittingly, we probably most often think of the Gloria as a hymn of praise. The Mass is our participation in the one perfect Sacrifice of Christ—the act of perfect worship of the Father. That certainly does call forth praises! The Gloria can truly be a great model of prayer for us and hopefully strengthens our readiness for the many fruits that will continue to come in the Mass. As we sing the Gloria together, it is a great lead into what comes next: The Collect, which gathers our prayers and presents our focus for the celebration of each Mass.

For Reflection:

1. Pray again with Luke's account of the angels appearing to the shepherds announcing Christ's birth and proclaiming the first line of the Gloria ([Luke 2:9-14](#)). Next time you participate in Mass and sing the Gloria, consider yourself to be singing with the angels.
2. The Book of Daniel recounts three Jewish youths praising God from the midst of a fiery furnace King Nebuchadnezzar has ordered to punish them for their steadfast faith. Reflect on this lengthy canticle ([Daniel 3:51-90](#)) and how it relates to the Gloria. As the three youths invoke all creatures to "praise and exalt God above all forever," what lines would you add from your daily life experience?

Coming Up Next: Collect & Liturgy of the Word



AROUND THE PARISH



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

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.



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.





Join us for Christmas Decorating!



Outdoor Decorating
Sunday, December 15
2:00-4:00pm
with Chili Cookoff



Indoor Decorating
Sunday, December 22
2:00-4:00pm
with Christmas Cookie Contest

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

COMING SOON!

Confirmation Preparation Classes for students in Middle School. If you have a child in Grades 6-8 who is in need of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, classes will begin in winter 2025. Please keep an eye out over the next few weeks for registration details and more information.

Christmas Card Art Contest Congratulations to our Category Winners Ages 12-18 & 19+

12-18: Simon P.



19+: Laura W.



**THE SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL
INVITES YOU TO HELP OTHERS THIS
HOLIDAY SEASON!
GIVING TREES**

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!

**THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR CONTINUED
SUPPORT & GENEROSITY!**

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

“My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.” ~PRAYER OF FATHER THOMAS MERTON, OCSO

(SUPPORT MERTON’S ORDER + TRAPPIST MONKS, ABBEY OF GETHSEMANI + WWW.MONKS.ORG)

Monday, December 9 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Patronal Feast Day of the United States of America

Because this Solemnity falls on a Monday this year, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation.

However, all are encouraged to attend Mass on this day to give honor to Our Lady.

Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26-38 The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.” But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his Kingdom there will be no end.” But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?” And the angel said to her in reply, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God.” Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Meditation: Do you want to live a grace-filled life? The angel Gabriel salutes Mary as “full of grace.” To become the mother of the Savior, Mary was enriched by God with gifts to enable her to assume this awesome role. There is a venerable tradition among many Christians, dating back to the early church, for honoring Mary as the spotless virgin who bore the Son of God in her womb. A number of early Church fathers link Mary’s obedience to this singular grace of God. One of them Saint Irenaeus, wrote: “Being obedient she became the cause of salvation for herself and for the whole human race. The knot of Eve’s disobedience was united by Mary’s obedience: what the virgin Eve bound through her disbelief, Mary loosened by her faith.”

Prayer: O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin prepared a worthy dwelling for your Son, grant, we pray, that, as you preserved her from every stain by virtue of the Death of your Son, which you foresaw, so, through her intercession, we, too, may be cleansed and admitted to your presence. 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 Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they immediately experienced the consequence of their action – separation from the God who loved them. God in his mercy promised them a Redeemer who would pay the price for their sin and the sin of the world. We see the marvelous unfolding of God's plan of redemption in the events leading up to the Incarnation, the birth of the Messiah. Mary's prompt response of "yes" to the divine message is a model of faith for all believers. Mary believed God's promises even when they seemed impossible. She was full of grace because she trusted that what God said was true and would be fulfilled. She was willing and eager to do God's will, even if it seemed difficult or costly. God gives us grace and he expects us to respond with the same willingness, obedience, and heart-felt trust as Mary did. When God commands he also gives the grace, strength, and means to respond. We can either yield to his grace or resist and go our own way. Do you believe in God's promises and do you yield to his grace?

Tuesday, December 10 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent

Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:12-14 Jesus said to his disciples: "What is your opinion? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hills and go in search of the stray? And if he finds it, amen, I say to you, he rejoices more over it than over the ninety-nine that did not stray. In just the same way, it is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost."

Meditation: This parable gives us a glimpse of the heart of a true shepherd, and the joy of a community reunited with its lost members. Shepherds not only had to watch over their sheep by day and by night; they also had to protect them from wolves and lions that preyed upon them, and from dangerous terrain and storms. Shepherds often had large flocks, sometimes numbering in the hundreds or thousands. It was common to inspect and count the sheep at the end of the day. You can imagine the surprise and grief of the shepherd who discovers that one of his sheep is missing! Does he wait until the next day to go looking for it? Or does he ask a neighboring shepherd if he might have seen the stray sheep? No, he goes immediately in search of this lost sheep. Delay for even one night could mean disaster leading to death. Sheep by nature are very social creatures. An isolated sheep can quickly become bewildered, disoriented, and even neurotic. Easy prey for wolves and lions!

Prayer: O God, who have shown forth your salvation to all the ends of the earth, grant, we pray, that we may look forward in joy to the glorious Nativity of Christ. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: What was new in Jesus' teaching was the insistence that sinners must be sought out time and time again. How easy to forget and be distracted with other matters while the lost become prey for devouring wolves of the soul. The Apostle Peter reminds us that the "devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking some one to devour" (ref. 1 Peter 5:8). God does not rejoice in the loss of anyone, but desires that we be saved and restored to friendship with him. That is why the whole community of heaven rejoices when one sinner is found and restored to fellowship with God. God is on a rescue mission today to save us from the destructive forces of sin and evil. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, watches over every step we take. Do you listen to his voice and heed his wise counsel? Do you follow the path he has set for you - a path that leads to life rather than death? Getting back on the path begins with the Sacrament of Reconciliation – don't let anything hold you back from making a good confession!

Wednesday, December 11 ~ Second Week of Advent Saint Damasus I, Pope

Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus said to the crowds: "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: In this Season of Advent we celebrate the coming of the promised Messiah, our Lord and Savior, our Redeemer. Those who put their trust in God and in the coming of his kingdom receive the blessings of that kingdom – peace with God and strength for living his way of love and holiness (ref. Isaiah 40). Jesus fulfills all the Messianic hopes and promises of God's kingdom. That is why he taught his disciples to pray, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). His is not a political or military kingdom, but a spiritual one. The yoke of Christ's kingdom, his kingly rule and way of life, liberates us from the oppression of sin and death; Jesus lifts 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 burden of glory and yoke of freedom from the grip of sin. The yoke which Jesus invites us to embrace is

his way of grace and freedom from the power of sin. And, thus, in this Season of Advent, we seek the Sacrament of Reconciliation to begin anew the path and life of Christ's freedom, lifting the weight and burden of sin from ourselves, and prepare ourselves to celebrate his birth which set into motion our hope for eternal life with him.

Prayer: Grant, we pray, O Lord, that we may constantly exalt the merits of your Martyrs, whom Pope Saint Damasus so venerated and loved. 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 invites us to unite our lives with him, our wills with his will, our heart with his heart. Jesus says his "burden is light." Sometimes we all feel weighed down by life's challenges – we feel "burdened." And in those times when we feel weighed down, we should turn to Christ in prayer and take him up on his offer to come to him, and let him help carry the burdens that are weighing us down – problems at home, school, in the workplace; problems, perhaps, in dealing with the economy. No burden is too heavy when it's given in love and carried in love. When we yoke our lives with Jesus, he also carries our burdens with us and gives us his strength to follow in his way of love. Do you know the joy of resting in Jesus' presence and walking daily with him along the path he has for you? If not, today is a wonderful time to begin. Take Jesus up on his invitation: "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."

Thursday, December 12 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas

Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26-38 The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his Kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Meditation: How does Mary respond to the word of God delivered by the angel Gabriel? Does Mary say "Give me a few days to think about this – let me post this on a blog or on Facebook and get some feedback on what people think I should do – let me consult with my attorney and accountant to see what liabilities I may have – let me Tweet, text and e-mail my friends to see what they think I should do." Does Mary cash in on her situation and sell her story to the news media in order to gain attention and publicity, or seek the limelight by creating a blog or posting her story on YouTube? No! Mary knows she is hearing and experiencing something that is beyond mere human capability. Her question, "how shall this be, since I have no husband" is not prompted by doubt or skepticism, but by wonderment! She is a true hearer of the Word and she immediately responds with faith and trust in God. Mary's prompt response of "yes" to the divine message is a model of faith for all believers. Mary believed God's promises even when they seemed impossible. She was full of grace because she trusted that what God said was true and would be fulfilled. She was willing and eager to do God's will, even if it seemed difficult or costly. Mary is the "mother of God" because God becomes incarnate when he takes on flesh in her womb. When we pray the Nicene Creed we state our confession of faith in this great mystery: "For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man". God gives us grace and he expects us to respond with the same willingness, obedience, and heart-felt trust as Mary did. When God commands he also gives the help, strength, and means to respond. We can either yield to his grace or resist and go our own way. Do you believe in God's promises and yield to his grace?

Prayer: O God, Father of mercies, who placed your people under the singular protection of your Son's most holy Mother, grant that all who invoke the Blessed Virgin of Guadalupe, may seek with ever more

lively faith the progress of peoples in the ways of justice and of peace. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Do you know the favor of the Lord? God lavishes his grace upon all who believe in him. He shows his favor to the lowly, to those who are humble and receptive to his word. We see the unfolding of God's plan of redemption in the events leading up to the Incarnation, the birth of the Messiah. The new era of salvation begins with the conception of Jesus in the womb of Mary. This child to be born is conceived by the gracious action of the Holy Spirit upon Mary, who finds favor with God. As Eve was the mother of all humanity doomed to sin, now Mary becomes the mother of the new Adam who will father a new humanity by his grace (Romans 5:12-21). This child to be conceived in her womb is the fulfillment of all God's promises. He will be "great" and "Son of the Most High" and "King" (Luke 1:32-33), and his name shall be called "Jesus", which means "the Lord saves". "He will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). The promise of an everlasting kingdom to the house of David (Isaiah 9:6-7) is fulfilled in the King to be born in Mary's womb. Let us prepare ourselves in these weeks of Advent to come and adore him.

Friday, December 13 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19 Jesus said to the crowds: "To what shall I compare this generation? It is like children who sit in marketplaces and call to one another, 'We played the flute for you, but you did not dance, we sang a dirge but you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they said, 'He is possessed by a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they said, 'Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is vindicated by her works."

Meditation: The prophets remind us that God's kingdom is open to those who are teachable and receptive to the word of God. Jesus' parable challenges us to examine whether we are selective in hearing only what we want to hear. The children in Jesus' parable react with dismay because they cannot get anyone to join in their musical medley. They complain that if they play their music at weddings, no one will dance or sing; and if they play at funerals, it is the same. This refrain echoes the words of Ecclesiastes 3:4 - "there is a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance." Are you in tune with the message of the kingdom or reign of God? Jesus' message of the kingdom of God is good news and it produces true joy and spiritual freedom for those who will listen; but it is also a warning for those who refuse to listen.

Prayer: May the glorious intercession of the Virgin and Martyr Saint Lucy give us new heart, we pray, O Lord, so that we may celebrate her heavenly birthday in this present age and so behold things eternal. 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 can make us spiritually dull and slow to hear God's voice? Like the generation of Jesus' time, our age is marked by indifference and contempt, especially in regards to the things of heaven. Indifference dulls our ears to God's voice and to the good news of the gospel. Only the humble of heart can find joy and favor in God's grace. Have you come to experience the joy of the Advent season? Do you know the joy of the Gospel? Is your life in tune with Jesus' message of hope and salvation? 'Tis the season to get in tune with what Christ brings to each of us!

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





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*

**There is also a school event in the evening and parking may be full, additional parking is available in the gravel lot across the street.*

The Parish Office will be closed on the following dates:

December 9
December 24-27
December 31
January 1

Early Bulletin Deadlines:

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.

MENS' FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

Meeting Saturday, December 14th; 6:45 a.m. Rosary in Upper Meeting room, 7:05 a.m. "The Earliest Church." All are welcome to pray with us and grow in our faith. Contact mensgroup@saintmichael-cd.org with questions.

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.

What is Catechesis of the Good Shepherd?



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Middle School Youth Ministry

Sunday, Dec. 8
3-4:30 in the gym

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WINTER & SPRING 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 winter & spring 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.

January

Dates:

1/10
1/17
1/24
1/31

February

Dates:

2/7
2/21
2/28

March

Dates:

3/7
3/21
2/28

April

Dates:

4/4
4/11
4/25

May

Dates:

5/2
5/9
5/16

Mothers will sign up to volunteer for 4 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



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PROSPECTIVE PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

Tuesday, December 10, 6:30pm



Learn more about St. Michael Prekindergarten!
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session, Q&A, classroom tours, and more!

Questions? Contact
lwells@stmichaelworthington.org.

Support Catholic Education with your Tax Dollars

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

SERRA CLUB NOW MORE THAN EVER ~ NO PRIESTS = NO EUCHARIST!

God is still calling – its up to the whole church to amplify His call! Are you looking to get more involved in promoting, encouraging, and praying for vocations? Serra Club is a lay apostolate that has been in our diocese for over 40 years. We are looking for more members to stand alongside our priests and seminarians to support more vocations for the Diocese of Columbus. We meet at the Jessing Center at the Pontifical College Josephinum the first Tuesday of every month at 11:30 a.m. Rosary, Catered Lunch, Catholic speakers and more. Contact us at membershipnorth@serracolumbus.org for more information and schedule.

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