SAINT MICHAEL
THE ARCHANGEL

HOLY MASS SCHEDULE

SEE BULLETIN FOR HOLY DAYS

Saturday Vigil	4:00pm
Sunday	8:30am
	10:30am
	12:30pm
	5:00pm

Daily

Monday-Friday	6:30am
Monday-Saturday	8:15am
Wednesday	6:00pm

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

2:00pm on first and third Sundays. Pre-Baptism class is at 2:00pm on second Sunday. All by appointment. Sponsors need letter from their pastor.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

2:30-3:30pm every Saturday; Weekly Holy Hour with Confessions from 6:30-7:30pm every Wednesday. Anytime upon request. (Call for appointment.)

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

No date should be set prior to seeing a priest or deacon six months before desired date.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Please contact the Parish office.

614.885.7814
SAINTMICHAEL-CD.ORG
5750 NORTH HIGH STREET
WORTHINGTON, OHIO 43085

FIND US ON facebook
facebook.com/stmichaelworthington

SAINT MICHAEL STAFF DIRECTORY

Website: saintmichael-cd.org
Parish Office: 614-885-7814

MINISTERS TO THE PARISH

Pastor: Father Stash Dailey
Parochial Vicar: Fr. David Johnstone
Priest in Residence/Diocesan Judicial Vicar:
Fr. Robert Kitsmiller
Transitional Deacon: Dcn. Sam Severance
Permanent Deacons:
Dcn. John Crerand
Dcn. Bill Demidovich
Pastoral Minister: Sr. Riya Mary
srriya@saintmichael-cd.org
Youth Minister: Jake Asuncion
jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org
Director of RCIA: Jake Neal
jneal@sjchcc.org

PARISH OFFICE

Business Manager: Kris Jesse
kjesse@saintmichael-cd.org
Office Manager: Kathy Trafford
ktrafford@saintmichael-cd.org
Receptionist/Secretary: Rhonda Marinelli
rmarinelli@saintmichael-cd.org
Marketing & Communications:
Rebecca Lund
rlund@saintmichael-cd.org
Campus Facility and Safety Director:
Steve Moore
smoore@saintmichael-cd.org
Choir Director/Organist: Ron Barrett
rbarrett@saintmichael-cd.org

ST. MICHAEL PARISH SCHOOL

Website: stmichaelworthington.org
School Office: 614-885-3149

Principal: Sr. Mary Regina, O.P.
principal@stmichaelworthington.org
Preschool Director: Laura Wells
lwells@stmichaelworthington.org

PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

Athletic Association Representative:
Liz Trolli
smaa@saintmichael-cd.org
Knights of Columbus Representative:
Mike LaMorte
grandknight@kofc11445.com
St. Vincent de Paul Society Representative:
Elaine Miracle
svdp@saintmichael-cd.org

SAINT MICHAEL INFORMATION CENTER

ADORATION CHAPEL

There is no better way to spend an hour of your week than in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Consider signing up for Adoration. Our Adoration Chapel offers Eucharistic Exposition each Monday from 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. and from 9:00 a.m. Tuesdays until 9:00 p.m. Friday evenings. 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 Minstry is available to bring the Eucharist to the homebound. If you or a loved one within St. Michael Parish boundaries would like someone to bring the Eucharist to you, please reach out to Sr. Riya Mary to coordinate. She can be reached by calling the Parish Office or by emailing srriya@stmichael-cd.org.

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.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD – JANUARY 12, 2025

DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 11
4:00 p.m. + Ron Sobieski (The Sobieski Family)

Sunday, January 12
8:30 a.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of our Parish
10:30 a.m. + Edward Ferkany (Jeanne Ferkany)
12:30 p.m. + Anne C. Brown (The Brown Family)
5:00 p.m. Special Intention of the Murtha Family (Kathy Murtha)

Monday, January 13
6:30 a.m. Special Intention of Mercy Jose (Donia Jose)
8:15 a.m. + Barbara Schooley (Jack & Paula Tucker)

Tuesday, January 14
6:30 a.m. + Michael Loeffler (Diane Vincent)
8:15 a.m. + George Crawford (Fr. Michael Lumpe)

Wednesday, January 15
6:30 a.m. + Patricia Romano-Raciti (The DeCenzo Family)
8:15 a.m. For the School
6:00 p.m. + Thomas Fristad (Deacon John Crerand)

Thursday, January 16
6:30 a.m. + MaryAnn McCarrick (Deacon John Crerand)
8:15 a.m. + Judith Giannetto

Friday, January 17
6:30 a.m. + For All Souls in Purgatory
8:15 a.m. Special Intention of the Pajerski Family (The Lund Family)

Saturday, January 18
8:15 a.m. + Melvin & Mary Kathleen Barlage (Kevin & Lisa Barlage)
4:00 p.m. + James C. Fristad (James & Diane Vincent)

Sunday, January 19
8:30 a.m. Special Intention of the May Family (Jasmine May)
10:30 a.m. + Ruth & Floyd Hoerig (Jeanne Ferkany)
12:30 p.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of our Parish
5:00 p.m. Special Intention of Therese Malone (Fran Toussaint)

PARISH CALENDAR – JANUARY

SUNDAY, January 12	9:00 a.m. OCIA (UMR) 9:00 a.m. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (A) 2:00 p.m. Baptism Class (UMR) 3:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group (G) 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group (G)
Monday, January 13	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts (MH, UMR) 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)
Tuesday, January 14	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 11:30 a.m. Live Wires (MH) 7:00 p.m. Women's Faith & Fellowship (UMR)
Wednesday, January 15	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 6:00 p.m. Mass, followed by Holy Hour & Confessions (C)
Thursday, January 16	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts (U) 6:30 p.m. Knights of the Altar (LMR) 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (C)
Friday, January 17	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 9:30 a.m. Mom's Day Out (UMR) 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pinewood Derby (G)
Saturday, January 18	6:45 a.m. Men's Faith & Fellowship (UMR) 7:00 a.m. Pietra Fitness (LMR) 10:00 a.m. Cub Scout Pinewood Derby (G) 2:00 p.m. K of C Free Throw Competition (G) 2:30 p.m. Confessions (C) K of C Hoagies for Heaven Orders after Vigil Mass
SUNDAY, January 19	K of C Hoagies for Heaven Orders after all Masses 9:00 a.m. OCIA (UMR) 9:00 a.m. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (A) 2:00 p.m. Baptisms (C) 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

JANUARY 5, 2025

Envelopes	$ 18,929.67
Online Giving	$ 15,411.00
Total:	**$ 34,340.67**

DECEMBER 29, 2024

Envelopes	$ 9,868.54
Online Giving	$ 13,109.00
Total:	**$ 22,977.54**

CHRISTMAS

Envelopes	$ 15,191.50
Online Giving	$ 2,045.00
Total:	**$ 17,236.50**

DECEMBER 22, 2024

Envelopes	$ 14,552.55
Online Giving	$ 9,963.00
Total:	**$ 24,515.55**

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners of St. Michael the Archangel,

Merry Christmas!

This weekend, we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord and with this celebration, we bring to a close the Liturgical season of Christmastide. The celebration of the Baptism of the Lord is intimately tied in to the celebration of Epiphany, as it is one of the three "public manifestations" of the glory of the Lord and the spreading of the Kingdom (1 – Epiphany, 2 – Baptism of the Lord, 3 – The public Miracles of the Lord).

As the next few weeks come to pass, the decor of the church will become more and more simplified, allowing us to have a natural transition into Ordinary Time. Of special note, the Christmas scene – the Nativity/creche/manger – will remain up and available to visit until we celebrate the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd.

As we are now in the great Jubilee Year of 2025, we are presented with opportunities to renew our spiritual life and to truly begin anew. Essential to renewal and beginning anew is restoring the Lord Jesus to His rightful and central place within our lives. Making the Lord the center of our lives is important for each of us on an individual level as well as on the level of the parish. Making a good and thorough confession is the first step toward renewal. Acknowledging the Lord Jesus in the Holy Eucharist is the next step after a confession has been made.

On the parish level, having a variety of opportunities for confession and adoration is important. It is, in fact, life-giving and life-saving. Our parish hosts several opportunities for making a confession; Sundays before the three morning Masses, Wednesday evenings during the Holy Hour from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and then on Saturday afternoons from 2:30-4:00 p.m. This Jubilee Year is the perfect time to set a new habit by making a monthly Confession. This Jubilee Year is also a perfect time to make a commitment to a weekly hour of adoration of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist in our Parish's Adoration Chapel.

The life of our parish is most notably witnessed on Sundays during our parish family's gathering to pray the Holy Mass. Behind the glory of the Lord's Day, though there are many moving pieces and parts to the parish family and its life. These smaller gatherings allow for our parishioners to come to know one another and truly bond together as friends and even as a family. Smaller groups like our Knights of Columbus and St. Vincent de Paul Society bring the large parish family down to a more intimate level of community. In addition to the Knights of Columbus and the Vincentians, it is good to acknowledge the different Bible study groups as well as even the Youth Ministry groups in addition to the altar servers and Knights of the Altar. Looking to coming months, there are needs among our parishioners for community and service that could be addressed by reviving our once-thriving St. Ann's Altar Society, Holy Name Society and even the Confraternity of Christian Mothers. There are also possibilities to introduce the Confraternity of the Holy Rosary and the Confraternity of Angelic Warfare and even the Junior and Senior Sodality. The Holy Spirit will move people to gather and form smaller communities where there will be community and service revolving around Knowing Jesus, Loving Jesus, and Serving Jesus. It is humbling to see how the Lord works among His people. Therefore, there should be an openness and support from the parish to encourage such movements of the Holy Spirit for the benefit of the faithful. In this Jubilee Year, there is great reason for excitement as the Lord is very much alive and at work among His people. We simply need to be reconciled to Him and then focus on Him in the Holy Eucharist to know His will for us.

In Jesus, through Mary, with Joseph,

Fr. Stash Dailey

Do This in Remembrance of Me; Part 20: Gospel

For many of us, the Gospel is one of our favorite parts of the Mass. We get to hear the stories about Jesus and the Apostles, how Jesus worked miracles of healing, and the words that he taught. For many, it is easy to imagine the scenes in our minds as we listen to the words. As the General Instruction of the Roman Missal states, "The reading of the Gospel constitutes the high point of the Liturgy of the Word" (GIRM, no. 60). The Second Vatican Council teaches us that the Gospels have a special importance among all the books of the Bible because they are "the principal witness for the life and teaching" of Jesus (Dei Verbum, 18). According to Charles Belmonte, the proclamation of the Gospel "emphasizes the union between the Incarnate Word, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, symbolized by the altar and sacramentally present after the Consecration, and the word of God written in the Gospel" (Understanding the Mass, p. 91).

The Meaning of the Gospel

What does the word Gospel mean? The glossary of the Catechism defines Gospel as "[t]he 'good news' of God's mercy and love revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. [...] The Gospel is handed on in the apostolic tradition of the Church as the source of all-saving truth and moral discipline" (CCC, Glossary, "Gospel"). The four Gospels are named after their human writers: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The Second Vatican Council teaches, "The Church has always and everywhere maintained, and continues to maintain, the apostolic origin of the four Gospels. The apostles preached, as Christ had charged them to do, and then, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, they and others of the apostolic age handed on to us in writing the same message they had preached, the foundation of our faith: the fourfold Gospel, according to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John." (Dei Verbum, 18).

During the Mass, after we stand for the Gospel Acclamation, the priest or deacon begins with that familiar dialogue: "The Lord be with you!" and the people respond, "And with your spirit!" Then, the priest introduces the Gospel and the people respond, "Glory to you, O Lord!" These back-and-forth dialogues help us to prepare for what is about to happen: the Lord Jesus speaking to us. Another preparation for the words of Jesus is a simple gesture of a sign of the Cross. As the priest or deacon says, "A reading from the holy Gospel according to...," he will make a sign of the Cross on the Gospel book. At the same time, the people at Mass trace a small sign of the Cross on their foreheads, lips, and chests. I still remember, as a young boy, my dad teaching us to make this gesture and to say to ourselves: "May the words of the Gospel be in my mind, on my lips, and in my heart." Those words have stayed with me through the years and are still a sincere prayer that the Word of God would be at the forefront of my daily living. As the Diocese of Peoria teaches, these acts and prayers are all "signs of veneration for the Word of God proclaimed to us in the holy Gospel. Our standing, our singing the Alleluia, our gestures and our responses are all outward signs of our inward disposition of love for Christ and reverence for his Word" ("A Study of the Mass," p. 8).

Our Response to the Gospel

At the conclusion of the gospel passage for a particular Mass, the priest or deacon says, "The Gospel of the Lord!" Our response in faith is, "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!" Then, the priest or deacon kisses the page he just read from and says silently, "Through the words of the Gospel may our sins be wiped away." Charles Belmonte beautifully writes that "we can at least make ours the kiss the priest has placed on the sacred book. With it, we want to tell our Lord we are ready to give our lives for the truths contained in the Gospel... At the same time, we ask forgiveness for our faults" (Understanding the Mass, p. 95).

Of course, the Gospels are so wonderful that we should read and pray about them more often than just at Sunday Mass. The life of Jesus is so rich and beautiful and can really provide great strength for us every day. Maybe try reading just one chapter of the Gospels every day and see what happens!

For Reflection

1. Accept Father Luke's advice and begin reading one of the four Gospels, starting with a chapter each day. Savor this opportunity to journey closer into relationship with Jesus.
2. Look at how each Gospel author introduces his text. What do the opening verses of each Gospel reveal about the message therein?

Do This in Remembrance of Me; Part 21: The Four Gospels

Have you ever wondered why there are four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John? Why not just one? For nearly 2000 years, theologians, scholars, and saints have been wondering about this "problem." For some people, differences in the four Gospels

regarding details and the order of events can feel like a challenge. Even more, the Gospel according to St. John is very different from the other three. So, what is the deal?

First, the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke are all very similar. They are called the synoptic Gospels, coming from the word "synopsis," which means, "at one view." For the most part, these three Gospels are similar in content, although each contains a few events, miracles, and teachings which are not in the others. In addition, in each of these Gospels, some of the events are related in a different order. Secondly, the Gospel of John is very different in style; one doesn't need to read more than a few verses to realize it gives us a quite different account of the life of Jesus.

Why Are There Four Gospels?

One of the main reasons for there being four Gospels relates to how they developed. First, Jesus Christ, present on the earth, taught, preached, and worked miracles. After his Death, the Apostles orally proclaimed the Death and Resurrection of Jesus, faithfully recounting his life and words. This oral stage of preaching, as well as catechesis, hymns, and doxologies, became the background for the Gospel writers, called Evangelists. After several years of preaching and meditation, the Gospel writers took the oral sources and earliest body of instruction and wrote it all down in what we know today as the four Gospels.

When the Gospel writers wrote these accounts (under the guidance of the Holy Spirit), they had different audiences and different contexts in mind. This accounts for some of the differences we find in their Gospels. For example, scholars suggest that St. Matthew was writing for a Jewish audience who would know, for example, the Jewish background for rituals and other things Jesus did. Therefore, the Gospel of Matthew doesn't explain the meaning of these things because he is assuming that his readers would already know them. More importantly, because he was writing for a Jewish audience, it was important to St. Matthew that he show that Jesus was the true Messiah they had been waiting for. St. Luke, on the other hand, was a former Gentile who had converted, and he was writing for a Hellenistic (Greek) audience who would not have understood Jewish rituals and traditions. That is why we find in his Gospel more detailed explanations of ceremonial actions. The Gospel of Mark, the first Gospel to be written, presents a powerful narrative of Jesus' life and often includes more vivid detail than the others. St. John, writing a little later than the other three, emphasized specific events to inspire and confirm his readers' faith in Jesus, since he could assume that they would already be familiar with the story of Jesus and his miracles and teachings.

The True Purpose of the Gospels

So, we can see, in writing the Gospels, the writers were not simply recalling the deeds and words of Jesus; they were preaching Jesus, the true Messiah, so that people would really get to know him. The Gospels, in this sense, are kind of like homilies, which are a way to try and help people relate to Jesus and his message of salvation. They are a careful presentation of what Jesus said and did—both an instruction and an invitation to deeper faith.

That we have these four Gospels after 2000 years is really an argument for their Divine Inspiration. Had these documents simply been authored by men, the differences in words, events, and ordering would have been too much to overcome. People would have quickly dismissed Christianity as a religion that could not get its story straight! For us, we can see that God has allowed various accounts with differing details to stand together in the same book of books (the Bible) because they were accepted as inspired by God, even if somewhat different. The early Fathers of the Church let them stand as handed down because they respected the Tradition as received. They respected the received Gospels as sacred and realized that if they tried to "fix them" by rolling them into one narrative, we would be missing out on some special aspect of the life and ministry of Jesus as it was recounted by one or the other of the Gospel writers. They saw the wisdom of God that having four Gospels with four different presentations of Jesus would ensure that all people, no matter what their background or experiences, could listen to or read an account about Jesus Christ that they could understand, that would speak to their hearts, and that would draw them into a life of union with Jesus the Son of God, the true Savior of the world!

For Reflection

1. Set aside time to expose yourself to the distinctive characteristics of each Gospel. Start by reading just the first chapter of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. What do you notice? What does each Gospel have in common with the others? What distinct contribution(s) does each Gospel offer? Give thanks to God for our four Evangelists!
2. Spend time in prayer with Jn 20:30-31, where the author of the Gospel according to John explains why this text was written. Contemplate the "signs" of Jesus' presence in your own life. Ask for greater faith through knowledge of the Gospels.

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)*

Jubilee Year 2025: Pilgrims of Hope
Month of January: Dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Jesus

***"To say that God turns away from the sinful is like saying that the sun hides from the blind."* +SAINT ANTHONY THE GREAT, ABBOTT**

Monday, January 13 ~ First Week in Ordinary Time
Saint Hilary of Poitiers, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:14-20 After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the Gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel." As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Then they left their nets and followed him. He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him.

Meditation: The good news of Jesus Christ is quite simple: peace (restoration of relationship with God), hope (the hope of resurrection and heaven), truth (God's word is true and reliable), promise (he rewards those who seek him), immortality (God gives everlasting life), and the good news of salvation (liberty from sin and freedom to live as sons and daughters of God). In announcing the good news, Jesus made two simple demands: repent and believe. Repentance requires a life change, a change of mind, sorrow for sin and its consequences, a hatred of sin and a firm resolution to avoid it in the future. The Lord gives us grace to see sin for what is really is -- a rejection of his love and wisdom and a refusal to do what is good and in accord with his will. His grace brings pardon and help for turning away from everything that would keep us from his love. To believe is to take Jesus at his word and to recognize that God loved us so much that he sent his only begotten Son to free us from bondage to fear and sin. God made the supreme sacrifice of his Son on the cross; he invites us in love to surrender our lives to him.

Prayer: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we may rightly understand and truthfully profess the divinity of your Son, which the Bishop Saint Hilary taught with such constancy. 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 Jesus preached the truths of the gospel he called others to follow as his disciples and he gave them a mission – "to catch people for the kingdom of God." What kind of disciples did he choose? Regular, ordinary people, day-to-day people – in this particular case, fishermen. In the choice of the first apostles we see a characteristic feature of Jesus' work: he chose very ordinary people, non-professionals, who had no wealth or position. They were chosen from the common people who did ordinary things, had no special education, and no social advantages. Jesus wanted ordinary people who could take an assignment and do it extraordinarily well. He chose these individuals, not for what they were, but for what they would be capable of becoming under his direction and power. When the Lord calls us to serve, we must not think we have nothing to offer. The Lord takes what ordinary people, like us, can offer and uses it for greatness in his kingdom. Do you let God work through you and in you for his glory?

Tuesday, January 14 ~ First Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:21-28 Jesus came to Capernaum with his followers, and on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you

are–the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!" The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him. All were amazed and asked one another, "What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.

Meditation: Ask yourself a couple of very simple questions: Do you believe that God's word has power to change and transform your life? And are you eager to hear and believe the word of God? When Jesus taught he spoke with authority. He spoke the word of God as no one had spoken it before. When the Rabbis taught they supported their statements with quotes from other authorities. The prophets spoke with delegated authority – "Thus says the Lord." When Jesus spoke he needed no authorities to back his statements. He was authority incarnate – the Word of God made flesh. When he spoke, God spoke. When he commanded even the demons obeyed. Do you respond to God's commands as God wants you to?

Prayer: Attend to the pleas of your people with heavenly care, O Lord, we pray, that they may see what must be done and gain strength to do what they have seen. 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: Saint Augustine once remarked that the "devils confessed Christ, but lacking charity it availed nothing...They confessed a sort of faith, but without love. Hence they were devils." We must always remember that faith is mighty, but without love faith profits nothing (ref. 1 Corinthians 13). True faith works through love (ref. Galalatians 5:6) and abounds in hope (ref. Romans 15:13). That is why faith is both a free gift of God and the free assent of our will to the whole truth that God has revealed. To live, grow, and persevere in the faith to the end, we must nourish it with the word of God. The Lord gives us his Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds that we may grow in his truth and in the knowledge of his great love for each of us. If we approach God's word submissively, with an eagerness to do everything the Lord desires, we are in a much better position to learn what God wants to teach us through his word. Are you eager to be taught by the Lord and, once taught by Christ, to conform your minds and hearts and your very life according to the Word of the Lord?

Wednesday, January 15 ~ First Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:29-39 On leaving the synagogue Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them. When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him. Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you." He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

Meditation: We all have challenges, but how we deal with them is important. Who do you take your troubles to? A self-help book? An advice columnist? A TV talk show host? What about Christ? Jesus' disciples freely brought their troubles to him because they found him ready and able to deal with any difficulty, affliction, or sickness which they encountered. When Simon brought Jesus to his home, his mother-in-law was instantly healed because Jesus heard Simon's prayer. Saint Jerome reflects on this passage: "Can you imagine Jesus standing before your bed and you continue sleeping? It is absurd that you would remain in bed in his presence. Where is Jesus? He is already here offering himself to us. 'In the middle,' he says, 'among you he stands, whom you do not recognize' (ref. John 1:26) 'The kingdom of God is in your midst' (ref. Mark 1:15). Faith beholds Jesus among us. If we are unable to seize his hand, let us prostrate ourselves at his feet. If we are unable to reach his head, let us wash his feet with our tears. Our repentance is the perfume of the Savior. See how costly is the compassion of the Savior."

Prayer: Attend to the pleas of your people with heavenly care, O Lord, we pray, that they may see what must be done and gain strength to do what they have seen. 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 allow Jesus to be first in your life? Do you make the Lord and healer number one in your personal life, family, and community, especially in times of trial, challenge, fears and anxiety? Learn to approach Christ with expectant faith. God's healing power restores us not only to health but to active service and care of others. There is no trouble he does not want to help us with and there is no bondage he can't set us free from.

Thursday, January 16 ~ First Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:40-45 A leper came to him and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched the leper, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once. Then he said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them." The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.

Meditation: No one who sought Jesus out is refused his help. Even the untouchables and the outcasts of Jewish society found help in him. Unlike the people of Jesus' time who fled at the sight of a leper, Jesus touched the leper who approached him and he made him whole and clean. Why was this so remarkable? Lepers were outcasts of society. Their physical condition was terrible as they slowly lost their limbs and withered away. They were not only shunned but regarded as "already dead" even by their relatives.

Prayer: Attend to the pleas of your people with heavenly care, O Lord, we pray, that they may see what must be done and gain strength to do what they have seen. 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: Jewish law forbade anyone from touching or approaching a leper; ritual defilement occurred when contact was made. This leper did something quite remarkable. He approached Jesus confidently and humbly, expecting that Jesus could and would heal him. Normally a leper would be stoned or at least warded off if he tried to come near a rabbi. Jesus not only grants the man his request, but he demonstrates the personal love, compassion, and tenderness of God in his physical touch. The medical knowledge of his day would have regarded such contact as grave risk for incurring infection. Jesus met the man's misery with compassion and tender kindness. He communicated the love and mercy of God in a sign that spoke more eloquently than words. St. Francis of Assisi once said: "Preach the Gospel at all times – if necessary, use words." In other words, our Christ-directed actions speak louder than words in helping others at all times. Talk can be cheap. Do your actions speak louder than your words about how you live your life as a proclaimed disciple of Christ?

Friday, January 17 ~ First Week in Ordinary Time
Saint Anthony, Abbot

Holy Gospel: Mark 2:1-12 When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it became known that he was at home. Many gathered together so that there was no longer room for them, not even around the door, and he preached the word to them. They came bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. Unable to get near Jesus because of the crowd, they opened up the roof above him. After they had broken through, they let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to him, "Child, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there asking themselves, "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming. Who but God alone can forgive sins?" Jesus immediately knew in his mind what they were thinking to themselves, so he said, "Why are you thinking such things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth" –he said to the paralytic, "I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home." He rose, picked up his mat at once, and went away in the sight of everyone. They were all astounded and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this."

Meditation: Jesus' treatment of sinners upset the religious teachers of the day. When a cripple was brought to Jesus because of the faith of his friends, Jesus did the unthinkable. He first forgave the man his sins. The scribes regarded this as blasphemy because they understood that only God had authority to forgive sins and to unbind a man or woman from their burden of guilt. Jesus claimed an authority which only God could rightfully give. Jesus not only proved that his authority came from God, he showed the great power of God's redeeming love and mercy by healing the cripple of his physical ailment. This man had been crippled not only physically, but spiritually as well. Jesus freed him from his burden of guilt and restored his body as well.

Prayer: O God, who brought the Abbot Saint Anthony to serve you by a wondrous way of life in the desert, grant, through his intercession, that, denying ourselves, we may always love you above all things.

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: Have you ever experienced the great healing power associated with forgiveness? Remember what we pray for each time we pray the "Lord's Prayer" – "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Before we can fully experience God's love and mercy in forgiving us, we must first extend that same level of love and mercy to those who seek our forgiveness. If we don't we risk placing walls between us and the love and mercy of Christ. The Lord is every ready to bring us healing of body, mind and soul. Do you allow anything to keep you from experiencing the love and mercy and forgiveness of Jesus Christ?

The Month of January is Dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Jesus

Read and reflect on the rich text of this chestnut hymn:

"AT THE NAME OF JESUS, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW"

A Hymn by Caroline Noel, 1870 (Public Domain)

At the Name of Jesus, every knee shall bow,
Every tongue confess Him King of glory now;
'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call Him Lord,
Who from the beginning was the mighty Word.

Mighty and mysterious in the highest height,
God from everlasting, very light of light:
In the Father's bosom with the Spirit blest,
Love, in love eternal, rest, in perfect rest.

At His voice creation sprang at once to sight,
All the angel faces, all the hosts of light,
Thrones and dominations, stars upon their way,
All the heavenly orders, in their great array.

Humbled for a season, to receive a name
From the lips of sinners unto whom He came,
Faithfully He bore it, spotless to the last,
Brought it back victorious when from death He passed.

Bore it up triumphant with its human light,
Through all ranks of creatures, to the central height,
To the throne of Godhead, to the Father's breast;
Filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.

Name Him, brothers, name Him, with love strong as death
But with awe and wonder, and with bated breath!
He is God the Savior, He is Christ the Lord,
Ever to be worshipped, trusted and adored.

In your hearts enthrone Him; there let Him subdue
All that is not holy, all that is not true;
Crown Him as your Captain in temptation's hour;
Let His will enfold you in its light and power.

Brothers, this Lord Jesus shall return again,
With His Father's glory, with His angel train;
For all wreaths of empire meet upon His brow,
And our hearts confess Him King of glory now.

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.
frlumpe:2025

AROUND THE PARISH

ATTENTION, SENIORS OF THE PARISH!

The Live Wires will meet Tuesday, January 14th at 11:30 a.m. in Marian Hall. Bring your favorite sack lunch and a friend. As usual, desserts and beverages will be provided. Please join us!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD COLLECTION BINS

The Food Collection Bins for our St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry have been moved to the Coat Alcove in Marian Hall. When bringing your Food Pantry donations, please place them in the bins in their new location. Thank you for your continued generosity in helping us serve others as we begin a new year!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS YOUTH FREE THROW COMPETITION

All boys and girls ages 9-14 are invited to participate for the local level of competition for the 2025 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. The Competition will take place in the gym at St. Michael on Saturday, January 18th from 2:00-4:30 p.m. The contest will have both a boys and girls category and is open to all children ages 9-14. Winners will advance to the district competition, with an opportunity to advance all the way to the world finals in CT. Please join us for this fun event!

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION CLASSES

Confirmation Preparation Classes for students in Middle School will begin this winter. If you have a child who is in need of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, please register now using the QR code.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 11445

UPCOMING EVENTS:

1/13 — 7:30pm LMR — Council business meeting
1/15 — 6:30-7:30pm — Family Holy Hour

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CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH JOINING US ON JANUARY 25 AND 26

On January 25 and 26, we will welcome Fr. Frank Iacona. Fr. Iacona will speak at all the Masses on behalf of Cross Catholic Outreach, which was founded to forge a stronger and more supportive link among parishes in America and the priests and nuns serving the poor in the Caribbean, Africa, Southeast Asia, and Central and South America. Fr. Frank Iacona was born in Montelepre, Sicily. His family left for a better life in Canada, then to the U.S. He grew up in Detroit and began his professional career as a teacher, lawyer, and CPA. His career path led to the "good life," but he hungered for more, leading him to the city of Indianapolis working with the poor, seniors, and widows. Fr. Iacona was ordained in 2002 and is a priest in the Diocese of St. George's-in-Grenada. As an itinerant preacher, he raises funds for the poor and tries to awaken Christ in those in the pews. His guide and spiritual quest: Peace and joy, by affirming and giving thanks for the blessings in each of us. As it is said, "No God, no peace. Know God, know peace. To know God, look for the good in you and others." We are delighted to welcome Fr. Iacona to St. Michael and look forward to hearing from him and learning more about Cross Catholic Outreach.

SCHOOLS

AROUND THE DIOCESE

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

God is still calling – it's 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 more than 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. Check out our website at serracolumbus.org for more information and schedule.

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