



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
sriya@saintmichael-cd.org

Youth Minister: Jake Asuncion
jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org

Director of RCIA: Jake Neal
jneal@sjhcc.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.-11:00 p.m. and from 5:00 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 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 sriya@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.

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – FEBRUARY 23, 2025

DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 22

4:00 p.m. + James & Anne O’Leary
(The O’Leary Family)

Sunday, February 23

8:30 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of
the Lippert Family
(Joseph & Lisa Lippert)

10:30 a.m. + Margaret Sur (Anita Claricoates)

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

5:00 p.m. + Bruce Crosby
(Earl Crosby)

Monday, February 24

6:30 a.m. Special Intention of Shawn Malone
(Fran Toussaint)

8:15 a.m. + Maria Ilashchuk (Andrew Lukasiak)

Tuesday, February 25

6:30 a.m. Special Intention of Therese Malone
(Fran Toussaint)

8:15 a.m. + Norb & Trey Trenor (Randy & Sue Kyte)

Wednesday, February 26

6:30 a.m. Special Intention of Mary Stuller

8:15 a.m. For the School

6:00 p.m. + Tom Alexander
(The Maher Family)

Thursday, February 27

6:30 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of the
Fairchild/Skaggs Family

8:15 a.m. Special Intention of Sr. Maria Kolbe, O.P.
(The Lund Family)

Friday, February 28

6:30 a.m. + Bonnie J. Henry (Brian & Lisa Henry)

8:15 a.m. For the Protection of the Unborn
(Dawn Allen)

Saturday, March 1

8:15 a.m. Special Intention of Karen Petersen
(The Maher Family)

4:00 p.m. + Joan O’Leary (The O’Leary Family)

Sunday, March 2

8:30 a.m. + Lisa Colosimo
(Therese Buoni & WHS Classmates)

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

12:30 p.m. + Dominic Raco, Sr.

5:00 p.m. + Vincent J. Sharron, Jr.
(Tony Pfeifer)

PARISH CALENDAR: FEBRUARY

SUNDAY, February 23	Girl Scout Cookie Sales after morning Masses 9:00 a.m. OCIA (UMR) 9:00 a.m. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (A) 9:30 a.m. PSR (LMR) 3:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group (G) 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group (G)
Monday, February 24	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 6:00 p.m. High School Adoration (AC) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (U)
Tuesday, February 25	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting (UMR)
Wednesday, February 26	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 6:00 p.m. Mass, followed by Holy Hour & Confessions (C) 7:30 p.m. OCIA (UMR)
Thursday, February 27	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts (U) 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Ministry (UMR) 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (C)
Friday, February 28	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 9:30 a.m. Mom’s Day Out (UMR)
Saturday, March 1	6:45 a.m. Men’s Faith & Fellowship (UMR) 9:00 a.m. Boy Scout Lion Day (U) 2:30 p.m. Confessions (C) 5:00 p.m. Girl Scout Cookie Sales (MH) 5:30 p.m. Couples by Candlelight (MH)
SUNDAY, March 2	Friendship Sunday after morning Masses Girl Scout Cookie Sales after morning Masses 9:00 a.m. OCIA (UMR) 9:00 a.m. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (A) 9:30 a.m. PSR (LMR) 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 FEBRUARY 16, 2025

Envelopes.....	\$	9,075.00
Online Giving	\$	12,340.00
Total	\$	21,415.00

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners of St. Michael,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Blessed are the Poor!

Have you noticed that the poor will always share from what little they have, while the rich will never have enough to be generous?

"Blessed are the Poor" ...These words are meant to enflame our hearts with a beautiful and powerful love for Jesus. We must acknowledge how much we need Jesus, and thus, be the poor who are dependent upon the Lord for EVERYTHING, for ANYTHING, even if, but only for, SOMETHING.

While our parish family has been focused on living by the biblical principle of being debt-free, and rightfully so, we must also be generous with what we have.

Our parish family has been very focused on being prudent stewards of the tithes that our parishioners have contributed through your weekly/monthly offering. We also have been trying, and trying hard, to be focused on Jesus and His call to share (share responsibly!) with those in need.

In a previous assignment, there was a woman I once ministered to who had no resources for much-needed dental work. The parish assisted her, and they never considered the gift again. A year later, I received a note from that woman with a donation to cover the parish's gift to her. She had written upon the card "May we have the humility and generosity of spirit to give and not remember and the humility and gratitude to receive and never forget." The parish has not only received with gratitude, but also must strive to give with detachment from praise.

Your parish of St. Michael has assisted Cross Catholic Ministries, it has assisted a rural parish in our own diocese with its pressing need to evangelize its neighbors, and it has provided for the needs of two separate congregations of sisters who minister to the poor. As parishioners, we tithe toward the parish; it is good to know that the parish itself tithes toward other communities where there is true need.

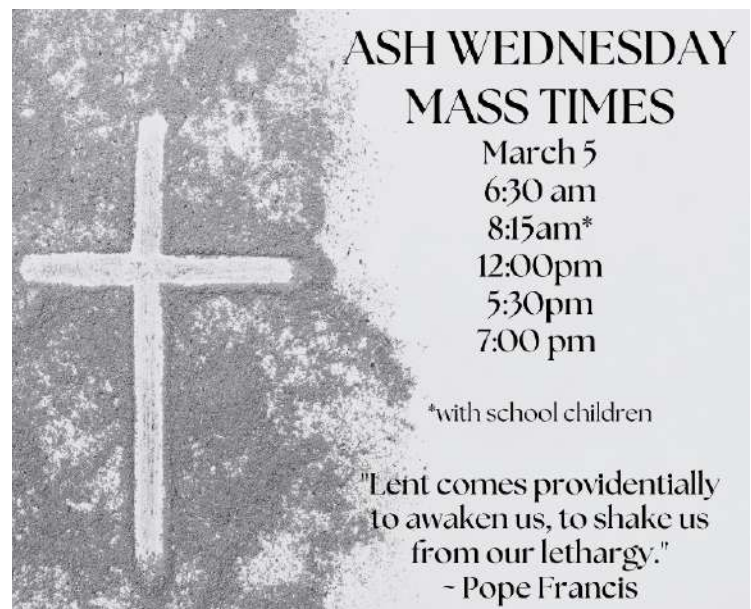
May the Lord, who is the giver of all good gifts, bless us as we strive to share those blessings with others.

In Jesus and Mary,
Fr. Stash Dailey



Join us for the
PARISH LIFE FAIR

After all Masses March 22 & 23
Join us to learn more about what's happening at St. Michael!
Representatives from various parish ministries will be present to share more about their ministries and opportunities for you to get involved at our parish.



ASH WEDNESDAY
MASS TIMES

March 5
6:30 am
8:15am*
12:00pm
5:30pm
7:00 pm

*with school children

"Lent comes providentially to awaken us, to shake us from our lethargy."
- Pope Francis



Do This in Remembrance of Me; Part 34: Collection and Procession

It's time to pass the basket for the Offertory. For many people, the word offertory might make us think simply of the money offerings we place in the collection basket. While that certainly is part of the typical Sunday offertory, this is also an important spiritual moment for uniting ourselves to the offering on the altar.

The Collection in the Early Church

The practical details of this part of the Mass have looked different at various points in history. In earlier times, the gifts would typically be things that people brought from their homes. People would bring all sorts of food, along with bread and wine, and gifts for the poor (money or otherwise). These gifts would all be brought up and then sorted. The bread and wine were used for the Mass, some food and money were given to the priest to provide for him, and the remainder of the food and money were divided up and given to the poor. So, one can see that even in the earliest times, this part of the Mass was about offering and giving. In our modern day, to simplify the offertory, the ushers collect money. This money still symbolizes our gift: what we give to God for the Mass (bread, wine, candles, etc., are purchased for the Mass), what we give to provide for the needs of the priest and the upkeep of the church, and what we give to provide for the needs of the poor and those less fortunate. As the ushers prepare to collect the offerings, we can take a look at our lives, all that we have, all that the Lord has provided for us. We can show our gratitude and thank the Lord by offering a portion of what we have back to him for the good of the Church and others.

Along with the collection, the bread and wine (and water in some places) are brought forward, just as in the days of the early Church. Around the year 150 A.D., St. Justin Martyr describes this part of the Mass by saying simply: "bread, water, and wine are brought" (Understanding the Mass, p. 109). The gifts are brought forward by members of the faithful. Whether it is the ushers, family members who requested the Mass intention, or other parishioners, whoever brings the gifts forward represents the whole congregation, bringing forth our offerings to God.

An Offering of Spiritual Gifts

As we think about our practical or material gifts during this part of the Mass, we should not overlook the opportunity to also offer spiritual gifts. Mother Teresa of Calcutta was known for asking priests to leave room on the paten for her intentions. One priest also recalled her saying that she would place her heart on the paten so that it would be near Jesus in the Mass. If we think about this part of the Mass, offering the gifts we have in thanksgiving to God and in union with Jesus, it is true that one of the best offerings we can make is ourselves! Along these lines, Charles Belmonte teaches, "Together with Christ, we offer everything that we are and all that we possess, all that we have done or try to do. We offer our memory, intelligence, and will; our family, profession, hobbies, success, sufferings, failures, and worries; and our aspirations, [joys and hopes], and spiritual communions. Likewise, we offer our small and big mortifications: all those acts of love we performed yesterday and as many as we plan to perform today" (Understanding the Mass, p. 110).

If you haven't thought about the offertory in this way before, I encourage you to think about including your personal spiritual offering along with whatever you drop in the basket. It certainly is a great way to join to the prayers the priest offers at the altar spiritually and a great way to deepen our unity with the perfect offering of Jesus!

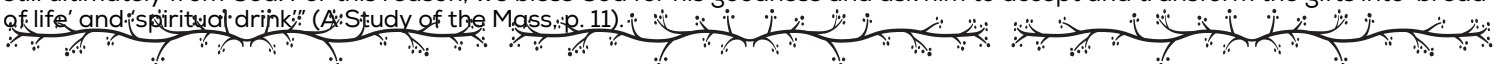
For Reflection:

1. Respond to Father Luke's invitation by considering what spiritual offering(s) you will offer at the next Mass in which you participate.
2. At least once a year, take time to reflect on the portion of your material or financial wealth you give during the Offertory. Compare this offering to various expenses in your life. Ask Jesus to help you identify what you can generously give. In addition to your financial offering, consider how Jesus may be inviting you to give of yourself to parish life in other ways.
3. Have you ever been privileged to represent the congregation by bringing forward the gifts during the offertory procession? Thank God for that experience. If not, pray about the opportunity to do so and inquire at your parish about how you can participate in the offertory procession.

Do This in Remembrance of Me; Part 35: Offertory Water and Wine

As we continue through the Offertory, this time we take a closer look at some of the prayers at the altar as the bread and wine are placed there. After the bread and wine are brought forward, they are placed on the altar by the priest (or a deacon if there is one present). Then the priest, speaking either silently or aloud, says the prayers over the bread and wine. These are the prayers that begin, "Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life."

You may also recognize the prayer as the priest holds the chalice: "Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink." As the Diocese of Peoria reminds us, "If there is no music playing, [the priest] may do this out loud. In this case, we would respond to these prayers by saying, 'Blessed be God forever!' These prayers are ancient and have profound meaning. We place before him in our procession 'our' gifts, yet in these formulas we immediately admit that while they are 'work of human hands' they are still ultimately from God. For this reason, we bless God for his goodness and ask him to accept and transform the gifts into 'bread of life' and 'spiritual drink.'" (A Study of the Mass, p. 11).





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The Mystery of the Water and Wine

As the priest is preparing the wine, the Diocese of Peoria continues, "notice that he places a small amount of water into the chalice with the wine. As he does this he says: 'By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity.' The Church maintains this very ancient custom of mixing water and wine as it uniquely symbolizes what we pray for. At the Mass, we offer our lives in union with Christ. In all our weakness, in all our smallness, we pray to be inseparably united to the divine. The small drops of water symbolize us. As the water becomes inseparably united to the wine, we pray we may become inseparably united to Jesus Christ" ("A Study of the Mass," p. 11-12).

Along these lines, Charles Belmonte teaches, "It was ancient custom to take the wine mixed with water, which the chalice of Jesus in the Last Supper contained. The Church retained this gesture to symbolize the sanctification of the Christian which is accomplished through his union with Jesus Christ. The water becomes the symbol of ourselves: our lives, with our weaknesses. Have you stopped to think what happens to the drops of water mixed with the wine? They are absorbed by it and then become inseparable from it. So does Jesus absorb us. The drops of water are of negligible worth; they are not even enough to quench anyone's thirst. Yet they will end up being divine blood! And all that because they let themselves be mixed with the wine and be dissolved in it, thus manifesting self-denial, personal renunciation. At this moment, we grow in our desire to offer ourselves in total self-surrender, as the few drops of water in the chalice have reminded us. So, we will be able to become one with Jesus Christ after the Consecration" (Understanding the Mass, p. 114).

An Opportunity for Personal Prayer

What a meaningful moment in this part of the Mass! A transition time in the Mass that could be easily missed, these brief prayers sometimes said silently provide a great invitation for prayer:

Jesus, help my heart to unite more perfectly with yours. I feel at times so far from you, but you give of yourself so that I have this opportunity to be more closely united with you. Help me to be attentive in this moment and bring my heart joy from knowing you will soon be truly present on the altar, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, in the Eucharist!

For Reflection:

1. Make Father Luke's prayer above your own as you participate more fully in the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
2. Next time you participate in Mass, pay close attention to the preparation of the chalice and the mixing of water and wine. Make an act of faith, trusting that Jesus can and will receive all you offer him and transform your weakness into strength by his divine power.





KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

COUNCIL 11445

JOIN THE KNIGHTS



kofc.org/join

UPCOMING EVENTS:

2/28 — Faith By Fireside

3/8-9 — Special Olympics Winter Games (indoor) — Volunteers Needed

Feb 28 — 7-9pm: Faith by Fireside

ALL MEN OF THE PARISH ARE INVITED

Come sit around a fire with fellow Catholic gentlemen and discuss issues of faith. There's no formal program, just prayer and fellowship.

Seating is limited, please RSVP





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 February: Dedicated to the Holy Family

“Love Mary!... She is loveable, faithful, constant. She will never let herself be outdone in love but will ever remain supreme. If you are in danger, she will hasten to free you. If you are troubled, she will console you. If you are sick, she will bring you relief. If you are in need, she will help you. She does not look to see what kind of person you have been. She simply comes to a heart that wants to love her. She comes quickly and opens her merciful heart to you, embraces you and consoles and serves you. She will even be at hand, to accompany you on the trip to eternity.” +SAINT GREGORY OF NAREK

Monday, February 24 ~ Seventh Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 9:14-29 As Jesus came down from the mountain with Peter, James, John and approached the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and scribes arguing with them. Immediately on seeing him, the whole crowd was utterly amazed. They ran up to him and greeted him. He asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" Someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I have brought to you my son possessed by a mute spirit. Wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive it out, but they were unable to do so." He said to them in reply, "O faithless generation, how long will I be with you? How long will I endure you? Bring him to me." They brought the boy to him. And when he saw him, the spirit immediately threw the boy into convulsions. As he fell to the ground, he began to roll around and foam at the mouth. Then he questioned his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" He replied, "Since childhood. It has often thrown him into fire and into water to kill him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." Jesus said to him, "'If you can!' Everything is possible to one who has faith." Then the boy's father cried out, "I do believe, help my unbelief!" Jesus, on seeing a crowd rapidly gathering, rebuked the unclean spirit and said to it, "Mute and deaf spirit, I command you: come out of him and never enter him again!" Shouting and throwing the boy into convulsions, it came out. He became like a corpse, which caused many to say, "He is dead!" But Jesus took him by the hand, raised him, and he stood up. When he entered the house, his disciples asked him in private, "Why could we not drive the spirit out?" He said to them, "This kind can only come out through prayer."

Meditation: The mighty works and signs which Jesus did demonstrate that the kingdom of God is present in him. These signs attest that the Father has sent him as the promised Messiah. They invite belief in Jesus as the Son of God and Savior of the world. The coming of God's kingdom means defeat of Satan's kingdom. Jesus' exorcisms anticipate his great victory over "the ruler of this world" (ref. John 12:31). While Satan may act in the world out of hatred for God and his kingdom in Christ Jesus, and may cause grave injuries of a spiritual nature, and indirectly even of a physical nature, his power is nonetheless limited and permitted by divine providence (ref. Romans 8:28). Jesus offers freedom from bondage to sin and Satan. There is no affliction that he cannot deliver us from.

Prayer: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, always pondering spiritual things, we may carry out in both word and deed that which is pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: There have been times when each of us have caused disappointment to others. In this gospel incident the disciples of Jesus brought disappointment to a pleading father because they failed to heal his epileptic son. Jesus' response seemed stern; but it was really tempered with love and compassion. We see at once both Jesus' dismay with the disciples' lack of faith and his concern to meet the need of this troubled boy and his anguished father. Jesus recognized the weakness of the father's faith

and at the same time challenged him to pray boldly with expectant faith: "All things are possible to him who believes!" Saint Augustine of Hippo reminds us that prayer and faith go together: "Where faith fails, prayer perishes. For who prays for that in which he does not believe? ... So then in order that we may pray, let us believe, and let us pray that this same faith by which we pray may not falter." The Lord gives us his Holy Spirit that we may have the confidence and boldness we need to ask our heavenly Father for his help and grace. Do you trust in God's love and care for you and pray with expectant faith?

Tuesday, February 25 ~ Seventh Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 9:30-37 Jesus and his disciples left from there and began a journey through Galilee, but he did not wish anyone to know about it. He was teaching his disciples and telling them, "The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise." But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to question him. They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house, he began to ask them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they remained silent. For they had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest. Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." Taking a child, he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me."

Meditation: How ashamed the disciples must have been when Jesus overheard them arguing about who among them was the greatest! But aren't we like the disciples? We compare ourselves with others and desire their praise. The appetite for glory and greatness seems to be inbred in us. Who doesn't cherish the ambition to be "somebody" whom others admire rather than a "nobody"? Even the psalms speak about the glory God has destined for us. You have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor (ref. Psalm 8:5). Jesus made a dramatic gesture by embracing a child to show his disciples who really is the greatest in the kingdom of God. What can a little child possibly teach us about greatness? Children in the ancient world had no rights, position, or privileges of their own. They were socially at the "bottom of the rung" and at the service of their parents, much like the household staff and domestic servants. What is the significance of Jesus' gesture? Jesus elevated a little child in the presence of his disciples by placing the child in a privileged position of honor. It is customary, even today, to seat the guest of honor at the right side of the host. Who is the greatest in God's kingdom? The one who is humble and lowly of heart – who instead of asserting their rights willingly empty themselves of pride and self-seeking glory by taking the lowly position of a servant or child.

Prayer: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, always pondering spiritual things, we may carry out in both word and deed that which is pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: One might wonder why Jesus told his disciples to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of Herod? To the Jewish person leaven was a sign of evil. It was a piece of dough left-over from a previous baking. In due course it fermented and this fermented dough became leaven. Fermentation was associated with decomposing rot. Jesus warned his disciples to avoid the evil influence of the Pharisees and of Herod who sought their own counsels rather than the will of God. As the apostles continued to worry about their lack of bread, Jesus reminded them of his miraculous provision of bread in the feeding of the four thousand. He then upbraided them for their lack of trust in God. "Do you still not understand?" It's easy to get preoccupied with the problems and needs of the present moment and to forget the most important reality of all – God's abiding presence with us and his abundant provision for our lives as well. Thus when you pray, do you pray with joyful confidence, "Father, give us this day our daily bread?"

Wednesday, February 26 ~ Seventh Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 9:38-40 John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us." Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us."

Meditation: Are we not like the disciples when we get upset at the good deeds of others who seem to shine more than us? Paul says that "love is not jealous... but rejoices in the right" (1 Corinthians 13:4,6). Envy and jealousy, its counterpart, are sinful because they lead us to sorrow over what should make us rejoice – namely, our neighbor's good. The reason we may grieve over our another's good is that somehow we see that good as lessening our own value or excellence. Envy forms when we believe that

the other person's advantage or possession diminishes or brings disgrace on us. Envy is contrary to love. Both the object of love and the object of envy is our neighbor's good, but by contrary movements, since love rejoices in our neighbor's good, while envy grieves over it. How can we overcome envy? With the love that God has put into our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5). The Holy Spirit purifies our love and frees us from our disordered passions, such as envy, jealousy, greed, and bitterness. The love that God places in our hearts seeks the highest good of our neighbor.

Prayer: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, always pondering spiritual things, we may carry out in both word and deed that which is pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: God created us in love for love. The charity we show to our neighbor also expresses the gratitude we have for the abundant goodness and kindness of God towards us. Jesus declared that any kindness shown and any help given to the people of Christ will not lose its reward. Jesus never refused to give to anyone in need who asked for his help. As his disciples we are called to be kind and generous as he is. Are you grateful for God's mercy and kindness towards you and are you ready to show that same kindness and generosity towards your neighbor?

Thursday, February 27 ~ Seventh Week in Ordinary Time **Optional Memorial: Saint Gregory of Narek, Abbot & Doctor of the Church**

Holy Gospel: Mark 9:41-50 Jesus said to his disciples: "Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward. "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were put around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna, into the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life crippled than with two feet to be thrown into Gehenna. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. Better for you to enter into the Kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into Gehenna, where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched. Everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good, but if salt becomes insipid, with what will you restore its flavor? Keep salt in yourselves and you will have peace with one another."

Meditation: Jesus set before his disciples the one supreme goal in life that is worth any sacrifice, and that goal is God himself and his will for our lives which leads to everlasting peace and happiness. Just as a doctor might remove a limb or some part of the body in order to preserve the life of the whole body, so we must be ready to part with anything that causes us to sin and which leads to spiritual death. Jesus warns his disciples of the terrible responsibility that they must set no stumbling block in the way of another, that is, not give offense or bad example that might lead another to sin. The Greek word for temptation (*scandalon*) is exactly the same as the English word *scandal*. The original meaning of scandal is a trap or a stumbling block which causes one to trip and fall. The Jews held that it was an unforgivable sin to teach another to sin. If we teach another to sin, he in turn may teach still another, until a train of sin is set in motion with no foreseeable end. The young in faith are especially vulnerable to the bad example of those who should be passing on the faith.

Prayer: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, always pondering spiritual things, we may carry out in both word and deed that which is pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer ~ Saint Gregory of Narek: Almighty and eternal God, who gave your holy Church blessed Gregory as Doctor, grant that what he taught when moved by the divine Spirit may always stay firm in our hearts; and, as by your gift we embrace him as our patron, may we also have him as our defender to entreat your mercy. 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.

Contemplation: It is sad when people follow human opinion and human feelings that lead them to sin, versus following the truths of sacred scripture. We need to examine not only our own sinful habits, but also how we have shared our sinfulness with family members, friends, neighbors – whomever we have enjoined to get on the secular bandwagon that leads people away from Christ, and instead turn toward Christ and follow him. The first step is always one of humility – recognizing who we are in relation to Jesus Christ, and allowing him to shepherd and guide us with his timeless teachings. Remember what St. Augustine said: "If you believe what you like in the Gospel, and reject what you don't like, it is not the Gospel you believe, but yourself." The next step would be to confess your sins, so that you can once again be in God's graces. As part of the Act of Contrition, we say "I firmly intend, with the help of your grace, to

sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin." So, the next step means turning away from all things that lead you to sin – internet pages and blogs, advocacy groups of all types who have a popular agenda that is contrary to the laws of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ, perhaps even a friend. You might want to pray this short prayer at times – again from Saint Augustine: "Oh, God, to know you is life. To serve You is freedom. To praise you is the soul's joy and delight. Guard me with the power of Your grace here and in all places. Now and at all times, forever. Amen."

Friday, February 28 ~ Seventh Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 10:1-12 Jesus came into the district of Judea and across the Jordan. Again crowds gathered around him and, as was his custom, he again taught them. The Pharisees approached him and asked, "Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?" They were testing him. He said to them in reply, "What did Moses command you?" They replied, "Moses permitted a husband to write a bill of divorce and dismiss her." But Jesus told them, "Because of the hardness of your hearts he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate." In the house the disciples again questioned Jesus about this. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

Meditation: Jesus deals with the issue of divorce by taking his hearers back to the beginning of creation and to God's plan for the human race. In Genesis 2:23-24 we see God's intention and ideal that two people who marry should become so indissolubly one that they are one flesh. That ideal is found in the unbreakable union of Adam and Eve. They were created for each other and for no one else. They are the pattern and symbol for all who were to come. Jesus explains that Moses permitted divorce as a concession in view of a lost ideal. Jesus sets the high ideal of the married state before those who are willing to accept his commands. Jesus, likewise sets the high ideal for those who freely renounce marriage for the sake of the kingdom of heaven (see Matthew 19:12). Both marriage and celibacy are calls from God to live a consecrated life, that is to live as married couples or as singles who belong not to themselves but to God. We must recognize that our lives are not our own – they belong to God.

Prayer: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, always pondering spiritual things, we may carry out in both word and deed that which is pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Tertullian, an early second century Christian writer, wrote the following to his wife, which is worth contemplating on today: "Where are we to find language adequately to express the happiness of that marriage which the church cements, the oblation confirms, the benediction signs and seals, the angels celebrate, and the Father holds as approved? For all around the earth young people do not rightly and lawfully wed without their parents' consent. What kind of yoke is that of two believers who share one hope, one desire, one discipline, one service? They enjoy kinship in spirit and in flesh. They are mutual servants with no discrepancy of interests. Truly they are 'two in one flesh.' Where the flesh is one, the spirit is one as well. Together they pray, together they bow down, together perform their fasts, mutually teaching, mutually entreating, mutually upholding. In the church of God they hold an equal place. They stand equal at the banquet of God, equally in crises, equally facing persecutions, and equally in refreshments. Neither hides anything from the other. Neither neglects the other. Neither is troublesome to the other."

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.

rflumpe:2025

+ THE SEASON OF LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5 +

"Do you wish your prayer to fly toward God? Make for it two wings: fasting and almsgiving."

—Saint Augustine of Hippo

"The less we have, the more we give. Seems absurd, but it's the logic of love."

—Saint Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)

"It is to those who have the most need of us that we ought to show our love more especially."

—Saint Francis de Sales

AROUND THE PARISH

Confession Corner

St Michael Church
Saturday, 2:30-4pm
Sunday, 8am, 9:45am, 11:45am
Wednesday, 6:30-7:30pm

St Patrick Church, Dominican Friars
Monday-Friday 12:15 (following the 11:45am daily Mass)
till last confession is heard

Holy Family Church, Mercedarian Friars
Monday-Friday 11:30-12 noon (preceding the daily 12:15
Mass)

St Christopher Church, Pallotine Fathers
Monday-Friday, 3pm-4pm (preceding the daily 4pm Mass)

St. Thomas More Newman Center
Monday, 4:30-5:30pm
Tuesday - Friday, 8:15am till all are heard & 4:30-5:30pm



ATTENTION, PARENTS OF DAUGHTERS!

Our parish is in the beginning stages of bringing **American Heritage Girls** to St. Michael. American Heritage Girls is a Christ-centered character and leadership development program for school-age girls. AHG is dedicated to the mission of building women of integrity through service to God, family, community and country. In order to get started with this amazing program, we need your help! If you have a daughter (or daughters!) who would be interested in joining AHG at St. Michael, please scan the QR code to complete the survey to help us as we plan. If you would like to learn more about the American Heritage Girls program, we invite you to visit americanheritagegirls.org.

CONGRATULATIONS, EVAN MESSINA AND PATRICK MONOHAN!

The Columbus Serra Club has awarded St. Michael students, Evan Messina and Patrick Monahan, \$1,000.00 tuition assistance grant for a Catholic high school. Evan and Patrick merited the award by submitting two of the ten best essays in the Serra Club's Second Annual Priestly Vocation Essay Competition. For the competition, an eighth-grade boy writes an essay of five hundred words or less on whether or not he thinks God might be calling him to be a priest. Bishop Fernandes will present the award and a medal to Evan and Patrick on May 4 during the Serra Club's Altar Server Award ceremony at St. Pius X Church. Information on helping the Serra Club promote vocations is available by emailing Club President Mary Girard at marygirard44@gmail.com.

MEN'S FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

Meeting Saturday, March 1st:

6:45 a.m. Rosary in Upper Meeting Room

7:05 a.m. "Spiritual Headship"

All are welcome to pray with us and grow in our faith. Contact mensgroup@saintmichael-cd.org with questions.



You and your family are invited to JOIN US AT ST. JOSEPH'S TABLE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19
MASS AT 5:30PM
FOLLOWED BY DINNER & FELLOWSHIP

Entree will be provided by the parish with the request to assist with additional meal donations and goodwill offerings to support our parish ministries. To help us plan, RSVP's are requested.

Scan the QR code for more information or to RSVP today.



Please note: this will replace the weekly 6:00pm Mass followed by Holy Hour & Confessions in the Church. Adoration will still be available in our Adoration Chapel that evening.

Follow St. Michael YA Flocknote on the website!

St. Michael Young Adults Upcoming Events

February, March, April

UMR - Upper Meeting Room, LMR - Lower Meeting Room



17

February, Monday

Galentines (Young Adult women) @ 6 pm in the Upper Meeting Room

27

February, Thursday

Talk: What is Lent about and overcoming Temptation @ 6:30, UMR

13

March, Thursday

Talk: Mercy and Forgiveness @ 6:30, LMR
Fr. Dailey is giving the talk

27

March, Thursday

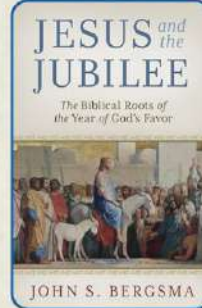
Talk: Suffering, embracing the cross, why it is necessary @ 6:30, UMR
Dc. Sam Severance is giving the talk

10

April, Thursday

Talk: Resurrection @ 6:30, LMR

Lenten Book Study Register Now!



Join us this Lenten season for a book study with Father Johnstone. Together we will journey through the book *Jesus and the Jubilee: The Biblical Roots of the Year of God's Favor* by John S. Bergsma. Meetings will be on Monday evenings throughout Lent at 7:00pm in the Upper Meeting Room. Books will cost \$15 each. A wonderful way to enrich your faith this Lenten season, this is a study you won't want to miss! Scan the QR code to register now!



Mary's Way of the Cross

Wednesdays
5:30pm
March 12
March 26
April 2
April 9

All women of the parish are invited to gather to pray Stations of the Cross during Lent. Experience the Stations of the Cross through Mary's eyes using *Mary's Way of the Cross* by Father Richard Furey. We will meet in the Church and pray the Stations together at 5:30pm on Wednesday evenings prior to the 6:00pm Mass on the dates provided above. All women are encouraged to join us as we journey through Lent together. We hope to see you there!



REGISTER FOR SPRING SPORTS!

Registration for Spring sports is open now! Registration closes on March 2, don't delay in ensuring your child is registered to play!



Spring Sports Available:

- Softball (Girls 4-8th grade)
- Baseball (Boys 4-8th grade)
- Track (Boys & Girls 4-8th grade)
- K-3 Soccer (Boys & Girls K-3rd grade)
- New Sports Offerings this Spring: Coach pitch for baseball and softball is a new offering by the diocese this year for our 2nd and 3rd graders.



Register Here!

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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 membershipnorth@serracolumbus.org for more information and schedule.

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6:00-8:30 PM

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