



St. Michael the Archangel The First Sunday of Lent

The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary
The Agony in the Garden

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:
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ST. MICHAEL

PARISH SCHOOL

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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 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 srriya@stmichael-cd.org.



ONLINE GIVING

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 9, 2025

DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 8

4:00 p.m. Special Intention of Leo & Uyen Zupan IV & Family (Leo Zupan)

Sunday, March 9

8:30 a.m. + Betty & Howard Kyte (Randy & Sue Kyte)
 10:30 a.m. + Phyllis Utz (Anita Claricoates)
 12:30 p.m. + Kenneth Morris (The Cap Family)
 5:00 p.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of our Parish

Monday, March 10

6:30 a.m. Special Intention of Mr. & Mrs. John Smith
 8:15 a.m. Special Intention of Cathy Levins (Church Ladies Breakfast Club)

Tuesday, March 11

6:30 a.m. + Margaret & James Reid (Pat & Joe Kearns)
 8:15 a.m. + Deacon Klaus Fricke (The DeCenzo Family)

Wednesday, March 12

6:30 a.m. Special Intention of Joan & George Scott (The DeCenzo Family)
 8:15 a.m. + Sylvia & Robert Brannen (Fr. Michael Lumpe)
 6:00 p.m. Special Intention of Dorothy DeCenzo (The DeCenzo Family)

Thursday, March 13

6:30 a.m. + Patricia Schlom
 8:15 a.m. + Michael Plunkett (Janet Plunkett)

Friday, March 14

6:30 a.m. Special Intention of Bill & Lori Given (The DeCenzo Family)
 8:15 a.m. Special Intention of the Bruggeman Family

Saturday, March 15

8:15 a.m. + Forgotten Poor Souls in Purgatory (Earl Crosby)
 4:00 p.m. + Gus Fristad (The Fiala-Fristad Family)

Sunday, March 16

8:30 a.m. + Paul Butler (Betsy Butler)
 10:30 a.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of our Parish
 12:30 p.m. + Bruce Crosby (Earl Crosby)
 5:00 p.m. + Tony Sylvester (Clare Adams)

PARISH CALENDAR: MARCH

SUNDAY, March 9	Girl Scout Cookie Sales after morning Masses Confessions before morning Masses 9:00 a.m. OCIA (UMR) 9:30 a.m. PSR (LMR) 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group (G)
Monday, March 10	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 7:00 a.m. Confessions (C) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (U) 6:30 p.m. K of C 4th Degree Meeting (LMR) 7:00 p.m. Lenten Book Study (UMR) 7:30 p.m. K of C Meeting (LMR)
Tuesday, March 11	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 7:00 a.m. Confessions (C) 11:30 a.m. Live Wires (MH) 7:30 p.m. WFF Bible Study (UMR)
Wednesday, March 12	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 7:00 a.m. Confessions (C) 5:30 p.m. Women's Stations of the Cross (C) 6:00 p.m. Mass followed by Holy Hour & Confessions (C) 7:30 p.m. OCIA (UMR)
Thursday, March 13	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 7:00 a.m. Confessions (C) 5:30 p.m. Melchizedek Project (C) 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts (U) 6:00 p.m. Respect Life Ministry Meeting (UMR) 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Ministry (LMR) 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (C) 7:00 p.m. Lenten Speaker Series: How to Make a Holy Hour (MH)
Friday, March 14	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 7:00 a.m. Confessions (C) 12:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross (C) 12:00 p.m. Confessions (C) 5:00 p.m. Fish Fry (MH,U) 7:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross (C)
Saturday, March 15	6:45 a.m. Men's Faith & Fellowship (UMR) 7:00 a.m. Pietra (LMR) 2:30 p.m. Confessions (C)
SUNDAY, March 16	Girl Scout Cookie Sales after morning Masses Confessions before 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. Baptism Class (UMR) 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group (G)

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

MARCH 2, 2025

Envelopes	\$ 12,497.88
Online Giving	\$ 14,799.00
Total:	\$ 27,296.88

MEN'S FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

Men's Faith and Fellowship meeting Saturday, March 15th:

6:45 a.m. Rosary in Upper Meeting Room
 7:05 a.m. "The Paradise of God"

All are welcome to pray with us and make this your Lenten devotion. Contact mensgroup@saintmichael-cd.org with questions.

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

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This past week, our parish church welcomed many souls, truly countless numbers of souls, seeking entrance into the holy season of Lent. I was incredibly edified by the turnout of so very many people for the Holy Mass on Ash Wednesday. While there is something planted very deep into our hearts that reminds us that we need Ash Wednesday, the holy faith that brought so many to Church was remarkable.

Our parish church hosted five Masses for Ash Wednesday! That is incredible! So many parishes are scaling back their Masses and Confessions and we offered five! And each of them had a very significant crowd of the faithful. I offer a word of sincere gratitude to my two brother priests for helping to make these Masses available. Both of my brothers are assigned other duties and they generously assisted in making sure St. Michael was a busy church in the way of the sacraments.

Confessions are being heard every day of the week. Given our entrance in Lent, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered every day.

Monday-Friday: after the 6:30 a.m. Mass till 8:00 a.m.

Wednesdays: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Fridays: 12:00 noon-1:00 p.m.

Saturdays: 2:30-4:00 p.m.

Sundays: Preceding each of the three morning Masses.

Please make use of the month of March to cultivate a devotion to Good St. Joseph! His Solemnity is coming up on March 19th and it's a HUGE DAY! Prepare for the Solemnity by praying the Novena to Him for the nine days leading up to the Solemnity.

Remember that in the Book of Genesis, it is written "Go to Joseph, and do all that he shall say to you." (Gen 41:55) If this is written of the Old Testament Joseph, how much more so is it true and important of the New Testament Joseph (our St. Joseph!) who was the foster father of Jesus.

Novena Prayer

O Glorious St. Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, to thee do we raise our hearts and hands to implore thy powerful intercession in obtaining from the benign Heart of Jesus all the helps and graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death, and the special favor we now implore (state your intention).

O Guardian of the Word Incarnate, we have confidence that thy prayers on our behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. Amen.

(Then say the following seven times in honor of the seven Sorrows and Joys of St. Joseph.)

V. O Glorious St. Joseph! Through thy love for Jesus Christ and for glory of His name,

R. Hear our prayers and obtain our petitions.

V. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,

R. Assist us!

In Jesus, through Mary, with Joseph,

Fr. Stash Dailey



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!



40 DAYS OF ADORATION
TUESDAY, MARCH 25
9:00AM - 9:00PM

The Diocese of Columbus will be hosting its annual 40 Days of Adoration at different churches throughout the Diocese this Lenten season. St. Michael will host adorers this year on March 25th, the **Feast of the Annunciation**. Exposition will take place in the Church from 9:00am until 9:00pm. All registered adorers are asked to spend their hour in the Church during this time, and all are welcomed and encouraged to come and adore Our Lord throughout the day.



You and your family are invited to
ST. JOSEPH'S TABLE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19
MASS AT 5:30PM
FOLLOWED BY DINNER & FELLOWSHIP
RSVP TODAY!

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.

Stations of the Cross at Saint Michael the Archangel

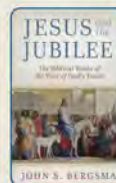


Fridays in Lent
12:00pm and 7:30pm

March 14: Stations with Meditations on the Virtues
March 21: Stations with St. Alphonsus Ligouri



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!





Do This in Remembrance of Me; Part 38: Incense

As we continue through the Offertory of the Mass, we now come to the point where incense can be used. Some of us may like the incense, and others may not. Do you know what incense is made of and why we use it?

What is incense, and where does it come from?

According to the Catholic Source Book, "Frankincense... is the main ingredient in the incense used in today's liturgies. A resin produced by a family of desert trees that grow in southern Arabia, it is derived from a sap that dries, forming crystalline lumps of an amber/gold color. For Christians, it has a rich prayer and purification symbolism. From the earliest Christian days, it has been associated with Christ, beginning with the Magi's gift ([Matthew 2:10-11](#)). Even before that, the Jews regarded its rich spicy scent as a pure offering, pleasing to God" (p. 307). Charles Belmonte adds, "Incense is a resinous substance which, when placed upon glowing charcoal, gives off a balsamic odor as it burns. It had a place in Israelite worship; in fact, the psalmist compares our prayers to the smoke of incense, rising up to heaven. In the Book of Revelation, it is seen as a symbol of the prayers of the saints" (Understanding the Mass, p. 50).

Where is incense mentioned in the Bible?

Besides the Book of Revelation, incense is mentioned in the Book of [Numbers 7:14](#) as part of an offering for the dedication of the altar. [Deuteronomy 33:10](#) makes reference to "the smoke of sacrifice." [Exodus 30:34-38](#) describes blending aromatic substances with pure frankincense in equal parts, even describing how it should be ground into fine dust. In [Revelation 5:8](#), St. John tells us the elders had "gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the holy ones." In another reference, [Revelation 8:3-4](#) describes an angel with a gold censer: "He was given a great quantity of incense to offer, along with the prayers of all the holy ones... The smoke of the incense along with the prayers of the holy ones went up before God..."

Hopefully, it is clear from these passages that there is a connection between incense and prayer and sacrifice. When incense is used in the Mass, there are times when it is clearly used to reverence people and things, which is especially clear when incense is used during the Offertory of the Mass. Referring to this part of the Mass, The General Instruction of the Roman Missal says, after the bread and wine are placed on the altar, "the Priest may incense the gifts placed on the altar and then incense the cross and the altar itself, so as to signify the Church's offering and prayer rising like incense in the sight of God. Next, the Priest, because of his sacred ministry, and the people, by reason of their baptismal dignity, may be incensed by the Deacon or by another minister" (GIRM, 75). As the Diocese of Peoria teaches, "this particular incense shows a connectedness between the altar of sacrifice, those offering the sacrifice, and those uniting themselves to the sacrifice. Before being incensed we bow not only as a sign of reverence but as a sign of affirmation that, like the incense, we offer our lives to God and pray they be lifted up and transformed" (A Study of the Mass, p. 12).

Why is incense used at Mass?

One older priest once said to me that he loves using incense to honor holy people and holy things. As he sees the smoke rising, he is mindful that we are gathered together as God's people in the Mass, joining Jesus in offering the perfect sacrifice to the Father. In the Mass, our prayers are joined together, and the incense gives us a visual reminder of those prayers being offered to God. He also mentioned he places one, two, or three spoons of incense (from the little container called an incense boat) onto the burning charcoal in the censer (sometimes called a thurible). For him, one spoonful calls to mind the Oneness of God; two spoonfuls point to the two natures of Christ (human and divine); and three indicate the three persons of the Trinity. For that priest, this is a simple way to recall core truths about God as we pray together in the Mass.

To summarize for us, Fr. Oury notes that incensing "is a mark of honor paid to the offerings that are going to become the Body and Blood of Christ. The honor extends to all the people participating in the celebration and to their offerings, which represent their life and work. Incensing is also a kind of petition, a deeply meaningful one. Through it we pray that the Church's offering and the Church's prayer may mount to heaven, to the presence of God above, like a veritable cloud of incense" (The Mass, p. 87).

For Reflection:

1. Read and pray with one or all of the Old Testament uses of incense Father Luke cites ([Numbers 7:14](#), [Deuteronomy 33:10](#), and [Exodus 30:34-38](#)). As you reflect on what you read, allow the historical uses of incense to enrich your understanding of the role of incense in the holy sacrifice of the Mass.
2. Reflect on the role of incense in [Revelation 5:8](#) and [8:3-4](#). As you pray, privately or liturgically, imagine your prayers rising to God like incense.

Do This in Remembrance of Me; Part 39: Incense—A Vision of Heaven

More on incense? This time, we allow incense to lead us deeper into the mysteries we celebrate. We mentioned last time a couple of passages in the Book of Revelation referring to incense ([Rev. 5:8](#) and [8:3-4](#)). If you recall, in [Revelation 5:8](#), St. John tells us the elders had "gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the holy ones." In the other passage, [Revelation 8:3-4](#),





St. John describes an angel with a gold censer: "He was given a great quantity of incense to offer, along with the prayers of all the holy ones... The smoke of the incense along with the prayers of the holy ones went up before God..." Whenever I pray with these passages, they paint such a vivid picture of the worship of God in heaven. They remind me of one of my favorite truths about the Mass: united with the one sacrifice of Jesus, we are participating in the heavenly banquet.

Unity in Communion

When we speak of our core truths about the Eucharist, we begin with Jesus becoming truly present in his Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. We also rightly say the Mass makes present the one perfect sacrifice of Christ and makes it possible for us to participate in that sacrifice. As if that were not enough, we also receive the great privilege of being able to unite with Jesus in a special way through worthy reception of Holy Communion (more to come on Communion as we get to that part of the Mass). And if we are united with Jesus in Communion, we are also united with all those in Communion with him, from all times and places. That is, we experience the taste of that perfect unity of the kingdom of heaven!

For me, the details St. John describes in Revelation provide a familiar description of the Mass, with the incense and people worshipping and responding, "Amen" (Rev. 5:14). Several saints have described similar visions of heaven, especially through the Mass. St. John Chrysostom said that angels join around the altar at Mass and sing God's praises. He says when Christians participate in the Eucharist, they are in heaven, though not completely and perfectly. Blessed Angela of Foligno and St. Bridget of Sweden are others who experienced visions similar to what St. John Chrysostom describes. These saints help us realize that when we are joined in the Mass, we are joined together in a unified hymn of praise with a huge crowd! I am often energized by the realization that there are many souls joining in the sacrifice of praise, including those who have gone before us in faith.

A Foretaste of Heaven

Regarding the faithful departed, my sister died of cancer in 2011. Rebekah truly was a saintly woman who was loved greatly by her family, students, and all who knew her. Since she died, I think of her often, including what she would say or do and how she would react to a situation. As the years go by, there are times when she seems further away and is harder to remember.

However, in the Mass, I always feel as if that gap is closed. Very often when I think of my sister in the Mass, she feels so close by. In the Mass, it is not hard at all to hear her singing or see her smile. Knowing what we know about unity with Christ and the graces of the Mass, this shouldn't surprise us at all!

As you might have gathered, one of my favorite gifts of the Mass is the true taste of the fullness of joy and unity of the kingdom. Our Catechism teaches, "Participation in the Holy Sacrifice identifies us with [Christ's] Heart, sustains our strength along the pilgrimage of this life, makes us long for eternal life, and unites us even now to the Church in heaven, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints" (CCC 1419). In Eucharistic Prayer I, we pray that we "who through this participation at the altar receive the most holy Body and Blood of your Son, may be filled with every grace and heavenly blessing." You may have noticed that we have jumped ahead in the Mass after having placed bread and wine on the altar. Well noted: next time, we will resume walking through the parts of the Mass. In the meantime, may the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints intercede for us, that all our receptions of Holy Communion might unite us more perfectly to Christ and one another and prepare us fruitfully for eternal life to come in heaven!

For Reflection:

1. Based on Father Luke's description of his relationship to his sister, Rebekah, during the Mass, consider your relationship to the faithful departed. Next time you participate in Mass, renew your faith in our union with all the members of the Church, living and deceased.
2. Take a closer look at the summary of the Church's teaching on the Eucharist in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, nos. 1406-1419, and see how this teaching informs your participation in Mass.

Did You Know?

High above the sanctuary there is the Vigil Candle which while burning signifies the Presence of the Living God dwelling in the church in the tabernacle in the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Holy Eucharist.

As long as the Lord is reserved in the tabernacle the Vigil Candle **MUST BE KEPT BURNING.**

The Vigil Flame or candle is a visible sign of the vigilance we all must have while in the presence of the Lord and it is a visible reminder that the Lord is in the Church. His presence evokes an act of love from us upon entering into the church and definitely before taking a seat in a pew.

There are only a few limited hours a year when the Lord is not present in Church, from Midnight between Holy Thursday and Good Friday through till the offering the Vigil of Easter Sunday. Outside of these few hours during the Sacred Triduum the Lord is always present in the tabernacle in our parish church.



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 March: Dedicated to Saint Joseph

“If in Christ we have been tempted, in him we overcome the devil. Do you think only of Christ’s temptations and fail to think of his victory? See yourself as tempted in him, and see yourself as victorious in him. He could have kept the devil from himself; but if he were not tempted he could not teach you how to triumph over temptation.”

+SAINT AUGUSTINE

Monday, March 10 ~ First Week in the Season of Lent

Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46 Jesus said to his disciples: “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’ And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’ Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.’ Then they will answer and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?’ He will answer them, ‘Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.’ And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

Meditation: Jesus’ parable about goats and sheep must have both amused and surprised his audience. Goats and sheep shared the same grazing ground during the day, but had to be separated at night. Goats were less docile and more restless than sheep. They came to symbolize evil and the expression “scapegoat” has become a common expression for someone bearing blame for others. (See Leviticus 26:20-22 for a description of the ritual expulsion of a sin-bearing goat on the Day of Atonement.) Separation is an inevitable consequence of sin and judgment. Remember, the Day of Judgment – which we all will face – will reveal who showed true love, compassion, mercy and forgiveness to their neighbor.

Prayer: Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects. 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: This parable is similar to the parable about Lazarus and the rich man. The rich man, who let Lazarus die on his doorstep, was doomed to crave for drops of cold water he had not thought of giving to the poor man. When Saint Martin of Tours, a young Roman soldier and seeker of the Christian faith, met an unclothed man begging for alms in the freezing cold, he stopped and cut his coat in two and gave half to the stranger. That night he dreamt he saw the heavenly court with Jesus robed in a torn cloak. One of the angels present asked, “Master, why do you wear that battered cloak?” Jesus replied, “My servant Martin gave it to me.” Saint Martin’s disciple and biographer, Sulpicius Severus, states that as a

consequence of this vision Martin "flew to be baptized." God is gracious and merciful; his love compels us to treat others with mercy and kindness. When we do something for one of Christ's little ones, we do it for Christ himself. Do you treat your neighbor with mercy and love as Christ has treated you?

Tuesday, March 11 ~ First Week in the Season of Lent

Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:7-15 Jesus said to his disciples: "In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask him. "This is how you are to pray: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. "If you forgive men their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions."

Meditation: We can approach God confidently because he is waiting with arms wide open to receive us as his prodigal sons and daughters. That is why Jesus gave his disciples the perfect prayer that dares to call God, "Our Father." This prayer teaches us how to ask God for the things we really need, the things that matter not only for the present but for eternity as well. We can approach God our Father with confidence and boldness because Christ has opened the way to heaven for us through his death and resurrection. When we ask God for help, he fortunately does not give us what we deserve. Instead, he responds with grace and mercy. He is kind and forgiving towards us and he expects us to treat our neighbor the same.

Prayer: Look upon your family, Lord, that, through the chastening effects of bodily discipline, our minds may be radiant in your presence with the strength of our yearning for 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 is much we can learn from the saints. Consider what Saint John Cassian wrote about the Lord's Prayer and the necessity of forgiving others from the heart: "The mercy of God is beyond description. While he is offering us a model prayer he is teaching us a way of life whereby we can be pleasing in his sight. But that is not all. In this same prayer he gives us an easy method for attracting an indulgent and merciful judgment on our lives. He gives us the possibility of ourselves mitigating the sentence hanging over us and of compelling him to pardon us. What else could he do in the face of our generosity when we ask him to forgive us as we have forgiven our neighbor? If we are faithful in this prayer, each of us will ask forgiveness for our own failings after we have forgiven the sins of those who have sinned against us, not only those who have sinned against our Master. There is, in fact, in some of us a very bad habit. We treat our sins against God, however appalling, with gentle indulgence: but when by contrast it is a matter of sins against us ourselves, albeit very tiny ones, we exact reparation with ruthless severity. Anyone who has not forgiven from the bottom of the heart the brother or sister who has done him wrong will only obtain from this prayer his own condemnation, rather than any mercy." Thus we need to honestly ask ourselves: do I treat others as the Lord has instructed me – with compassion, mercy, steadfast love, and kindness? If I am not imitating Christ in this manner, what am I doing?

Wednesday, March 12 ~ First Week in the Season of Lent

Holy Gospel: Luke 11:29-32 While still more people gathered in the crowd, Jesus said to them, "This generation is an evil generation; it seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it, except the sign of Jonah. Just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so will the Son of Man be to this generation. At the judgment the queen of the south will rise with the men of this generation and she will condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and there is something greater than Solomon here. At the judgment the men of Nineveh will arise with this generation and condemn it, because at the preaching of Jonah they repented, and there is something greater than Jonah here."

Meditation: The Lord Jesus came to set us free from slavery to sin and hurtful desires. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit he pours his love into our hearts that we may understand his will for our lives and walk in his way of holiness. God searches our hearts, not to condemn us, but to show us where we need his saving grace and help. He calls us to seek him with true repentance, humility, and the honesty to see our sins for what they really are – a rejection of his love and will for our lives. God will transform us if we listen to his word and allow his Holy Spirit to work in our lives. Ask the Lord to renew your mind and to increase your thirst for his wisdom. James says that the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without uncertainty or insincerity (James 3:17). A double-minded person cannot receive this kind of wisdom. The single of mind desire one thing alone –

God's pleasure. God wants us to delight in him and to know the freedom of his truth and love. Do you thirst for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14)?

Prayer: Look kindly, Lord, we pray, on the devotion of your people, that those who by their self-denial are restrained in body may by the fruit of good works be renewed in mind. 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 pay careful attention to warning signs? Do you pay attention to these signs at all? Many fatalities could be avoided if people paid attention to such signs. When the religious leaders demanded a sign from Jesus, he gave them a serious warning to avert spiritual disaster. It was characteristic of the Jews that they demanded "signs" from God's messengers to authenticate their claims. When the religious leaders pressed Jesus to give proof for his claims he says in so many words that he is God's sign and that they need no further evidence from heaven than his own person. The Ninevites recognized God's warning when Jonah spoke to them, and they repented. And the Queen of Sheba recognized God's wisdom in Solomon. Jonah was God's sign and his message was the message of a merciful God for the people of Nineveh. Unfortunately the religious leaders were not content to accept the signs right before their eyes. They had rejected the message of John the Baptist and now they reject Jesus as God's Anointed One (Messiah) and they fail to heed his message. Simeon had prophesied at Jesus' birth that he was "destined for the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that inner thoughts of many will be revealed" (Luke 2:34- 35). Jesus confirmed his message with many miracles in preparation for the greatest sign of all – his resurrection on the third day.

Thursday, March 13 ~ First Week in the Season of Lent

Holy Gospel: Matthew 7:7-12 Jesus said to his disciples: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Which one of you would hand his son a stone when he asked for a loaf of bread, or a snake when he asked for a fish? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him. "Do to others whatever you would have them do to you. This is the law and the prophets."

Meditation: There is great power in fervent prayer from the heart, as Saint John Chrysostom once noted: "Prayer is an all-efficient panoply [i.e. 'a full suit of armor' or 'splendid array'], a treasure undiminished, a mine never exhausted, a sky unobstructed by clouds, a haven unruffled by storm. It is the root, the fountain, and the mother of a thousand blessings. It exceeds a monarch's power. ..I speak not of the prayer which is cold and feeble and devoid of zeal. I speak of that which proceeds from a mind outstretched, the child of a contrite spirit, the offspring of a soul converted – this is the prayer which mounts to heaven. ..The power of prayer has subdued the strength of fire, bridled the rage of lions, silenced anarchy, extinguished wars, appeased the elements, expelled demons, burst the chains of death, enlarged the gates of heaven, relieved diseases, averted frauds, rescued cities from destruction, stayed the sun in its course, and arrested the progress of the thunderbolt. In sum prayer has power to destroy whatever is at enmity with the good."

Prayer: Bestow on us, we pray, O Lord, a spirit of always pondering on what is right and of hastening to carry it out, and since without you we cannot exist, may we be enabled to live according to your will. 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: Jesus' parable of the father feeding his son makes a startling claim: How much more will the heavenly Father give to those who ask! Our heavenly Father graciously gives beyond our expectations. Jesus taught his disciples to pray with confidence because the Heavenly Father in his goodness always answers prayers. That is why we can boldly pray: Give us this day our daily bread. Prayer flows from the love of God; and the personal love we show to our neighbor is fueled by the love that God has poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (ref. Romans 5:5). Jesus concludes his discourse on prayer with the reminder that we must treat our neighbor in the same way we wish to be treated by God and by others. We must not just avoid doing harm to our neighbor, we must actively seek his or her welfare. In doing so, we fulfill the law and the prophets, namely what God requires of us — loving God with above all things and loving our neighbor as ourselves. The Holy Spirit is every ready to transform our lives in Jesus' way of love. Do you thirst for holiness and for the fire of God's love?

Friday, March 14 ~ First Week in the Season of Lent

Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:20-26 Jesus said to his disciples: "I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter into the Kingdom of heaven. "You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment. But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment, and whoever says to his brother, *Raqa*, will be answerable to the Sanhedrin, and whoever says, 'You fool,' will be liable to fiery Gehenna. Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Settle with your opponent quickly while on the way to court. Otherwise your opponent will hand you over to the judge, and the judge will hand you over to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Amen, I say to you, you will not be released until you have paid the last penny."

Meditation: Do you allow sin or anger to master your life? Maybe at first glance you say "no, of course not." But take a deep look, an honest look at yourself, at your life, at how you live. The first human to hate his brother was Cain. God warned Cain: 'Why are you angry? ...Sin in couching at the door; it's desire is for you, but you must master it (Genesis 4:6-7). Sin doesn't just happen; it first grows as a seed in one's heart. Unless it is mastered, by God's grace, it grows like a weed and chokes the fruitful vine. Jesus addressed the issue of keeping the commandments with his disciples. The scribes and Pharisees equated righteousness with satisfying the demands of the law. Jesus showed them how short they had come. Jesus points to the heart as the seat of desire and choice. Unless forbidden and evil desires are eradicated, the heart will be corrupted. Jesus points to forbidden anger with one's brother. This is a selfish anger that broods and is long-lived, that nurses a grudge and keeps wrath warm, and that refuses to die. Anger in the heart as well as anger in speech or action are equally forbidden. What is the antidote to anger and rage? Mercy, kindness, and forbearance spring from a heart full of love and forgiveness. God has forgiven us and he calls us to extend mercy and forgiveness towards those who cause us harm and grief. In the cross of Jesus we see the supreme example of love and the power for overcoming evil. Only God's love and grace can set our hearts and minds free from the tyranny of wounded pride and spiteful revenge. Do you harbor any anger towards another person? And are you quick to be reconciled when a rupture has been caused in your relationships? Ask God to set you free and to fill your heart and mind with his love and truth.

Prayer: Grant that your faithful, O Lord, we pray, may be so conformed to the paschal observances, that the bodily discipline now solemnly begun may bear fruit in the souls of all. 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 Eusebius, a Father of the Church, offered the following prayer as instruction for his fellow Christians: "May I be no man's enemy, and may I be the friend of that which is eternal and abides. May I never quarrel with those nearest me: and if I do, may I be reconciled quickly. May I love, seek, and attain only that which is good. May I wish for all men's happiness and envy none. May I never rejoice in the ill-fortune of one who has wronged me. When I have done or said what is wrong, may I never wait for the rebuke of others, but always rebuke myself until I make amends. May I win no victory that harms either me or my opponent. May I reconcile friends who are angry with one another. May I never fail a friend who is in danger. When visiting those in grief may I be able by gentle and healing words to soften their pain. May I respect myself. May I always keep tame that which rages within me. May I accustom myself to be gentle, and never be angry with people because of circumstances. May I never discuss who is wicked and what wicked things he has done, but know good men and follow in their footsteps." Do you seek to live peaceably and charitably with all? If not, pray that you will! Lent is about reconciliation, not only with God and Jesus, but with anyone whom we have harmed through our actions. Reconciliation is the first step toward conversion of mind and heart. Step-by-step, we turn away from sin and selfishness, and turn back to Christ. Begin these steps now, during Lent.

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Daily meditations and contemplations adapted from the Irish Jesuits' *Sacred Space* web page and *Biblical Medications for Lent* by Rev. Carroll Stuhlmueller, C.P.; prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011; information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.


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AROUND THE PARISH

PSR Survey for the 2025-2026 School Year

St. Michael's is excited to bring back PSR programming for children of our parish for the next school year! As we prepare to welcome your children, we need your assistance to aid us in our preparations. We kindly ask all those who would be interested in registering for or helping with children's faith formation to please complete our PSR survey by scanning the QR code below, or by visiting <https://forms.gle/TBF3Q2LjzbEbzfmZ9>



Scan to complete today!



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ST. MICHAEL SENIORS, OUR ANNUAL POTLUCK WILL BE TUESDAY, MARCH 11TH IN MARIAN HALL. PLEASE ARRIVE BY 11:15 FOR SET-UP. RSVP'S ARE NEEDED FOR FOOD PREPARATIONS. TO RSVP, CALL BARB EDWARDS; 614-888-6782 SEE YOU THEN - BRING A FRIEND!



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How to Make a Holy Hour

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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.





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CALLING ALL BAKERS!

The Knights of Columbus are accepting baked goods for the dessert table for the Fish Frys. Please drop off baked goods to the Church starting at 3:30 p.m. on Fridays. Thank you for your support and generosity!



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.

Would you not keep watch with Me for One Hour?



Lenten Adoration Appeal

This Lenten season, as we are called to enter deeper into our faith with prayer, fasting and almsgiving, consider taking an hour of Adoration during Eucharistic Exposition each week on behalf of your parish. Support our Adoration Chapel and allow us to expand Exposition this Lenten season to include weekends. Please prayerfully consider adding an hour to your week throughout Lent.



Register with our Adoration Chapel and sign up for an hour using the QR code now!

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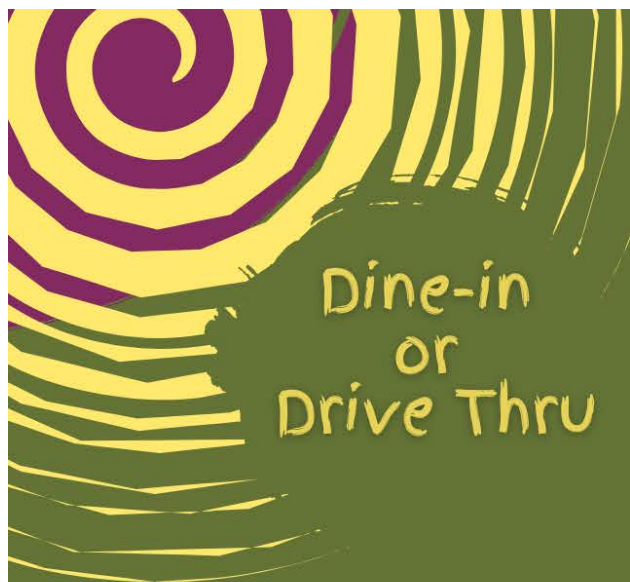


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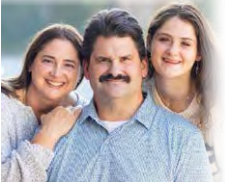


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