



St. Michael the Archangel The Third Sunday of Lent

The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary
The Crowning with Thorns

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

SAINT MICHAEL STAFF DIRECTORY

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ST. MICHAEL

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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 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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 23, 2025

DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 22

4:00 p.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of our Parish

Sunday, March 23

8:30 a.m. Special Intention of John & Linda Kish (The Kish Family)

10:30 a.m. + Judith Giannetto

12:30 p.m. + Joseph Ailabouni (The Adams Family)

5:00 p.m. + Shane Fitzpatrick (The Adams Family)

Monday, March 24

6:30 a.m. + George Crawford (Fr. Michael Lumpe)

8:15 a.m. + Amelia Huerto D'Ascenzo (Josephine & Eric Yang)

Tuesday, March 25

6:30 a.m. Special Intention of Sr. Ave Maria, O.P. (SMS 2nd Grade Class)

8:15 a.m. + Deacon Klaus Fricke (Jim & Vickie Mains)

Wednesday, March 26

6:30 a.m. + Jean Paul & Dominique Dauny (The Caso Family)

8:15 a.m. For the School

6:00 p.m. + Lawrence Joseph Bridge (Sharon Leary)

Thursday, March 27

6:30 a.m. Special Intention of Catholics for Life

8:15 a.m. + Joseph Fiala, Sr. (The Fiala-Fristad Family)

Friday, March 28

6:30 a.m. Special Intention of Sheree Dyke (Nathan Dyke)

8:15 a.m. + Daniel Gregory Leary (The Leary Family)

Saturday, March 29

8:15 a.m. Special Intention of John Shepherd (Lauren Jazwiec)

4:00 p.m. + Thomas Fristad (James & Diane Vincent)

Sunday, March 30

8:30 a.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of our Parish

10:30 a.m. The Lawrence Sur Family (Anita Claricoates)

12:30 p.m. + Emmagene Bohlander (Lauren Jazwiec)

5:00 p.m. + John Bohlander (Lauren Jazwiec)

PARISH CALENDAR: MARCH



SUNDAY, March 23	Parish Life Fair after all 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) 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group (G)
Monday, March 24	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 7:00 a.m. Confessions (C) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (U) 7:00 p.m. Lenten Book Study (MH)
Tuesday, March 25	The Annunciation of the Lord Parish Office Closed Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 7:00 a.m. Confessions (C) 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. 40 Days of Adoration (C)
Wednesday, March 26	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 7:00 a.m. Confessions (C) 5:30 p.m. WFF Stations of the Cross (C) 6:00 p.m. Mass, followed by Holy Hour & Confessions (C)
Thursday, March 27	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 7:00 a.m. Confessions (C) 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts (U) 6:00 p.m. Young Adult Ministry: Suffering & Embracing the Cross (UMR) 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (C) 7:00 p.m. Lenten Speaker Series: How to Make a Holy Hour (MH)
Friday, March 28	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 7:00 a.m. Confessions (C) 9:30 a.m. Mom's Day Out (UMR) 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) 7:30 p.m. Opus Dei (UMR)
Saturday, March 29	6:45 a.m. Men's Faith & Fellowship (UMR) 7:00 a.m. Pietra (LMR) 9:30 a.m. Opus Dei (UMR, C) 2:30 p.m. Confessions (C) 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts Event (U)
SUNDAY, March 30	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) 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

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/TBF3Q2LjzbEbzfzmZ9>

Scan to complete today!

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP MARCH 16, 2025

Envelopes	\$ 44,409.93
Online Giving	\$ 13,418.00
Total:	\$ 57,827.93

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners of St. Michael,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

While it may seem odd to highlight a couple of great moments for celebration during the Holy Season of Lent, it is good to remember we have an inherent harmony within our faith, a real balance between Feasting and Fasting.

A great big THANK-YOU to everyone who helped organize our first St. Joseph's Table on March 19th. More than 200 people attended the Mass and the "Table" that followed. So many comments and compliments were shared about the wide range and great mix of parishioners who attended. Let's look ahead to what next year's St. Joseph's Table will bring!

This coming week, we have another great Solemnity, that of the Annunciation of the Lord on March 25th. Let's remember this Solemnity has great Marian overtones, while being focused on the Word taking flesh within the womb of Our Lady. The reality of the Divine Child dwelling within the womb of Our Lady from conception to birth sings a powerful Pro-Life message to the whole world.

The Solemnity of the Annunciation on March 25th is also St. Michael's host day as a Station Church for the 40 Days of Adoration. Every day in Lent, there is a Station Church for the faithful to make a pilgrimage to and pray, it's a practice of prayerful pilgrimage for Lent. The Lord will be exposed in the church on the main altar for Adoration as members of the faithful from across the diocese make their pilgrimage to St. Michael, since we are the Station Church for the day. Please come and visit the Lord!

Please remember to bring any and all old blessed palms you may have from previous years. They may be left in Marian Hall in the basket provided.

Also, with the changing weather and seasons, if you have an American flag that needs to be retired, as perhaps you have purchased a new one, please remember our Boy Scouts have a flag drop box in Marian Hall. The Boy Scouts will give a proper, respectful and honorable retirement to these flags. May we never forget the many men and women who died in defense of everything the flag represents. (The flag drop box is opposite the St. Therese statue.)

In Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Stash Dailey

AROUND THE PARISH

\$14

*Fish, fries, roll,
applesauce or slaw*

\$11

*Macaroni and cheese, fries,
roll, applesauce or slaw*

Chowder, dessert, and more!

**NOW WITH
WEEKLY
SPECIALS!**

\$11 *March 28:
Blueberry Pancakes*

Dine-in
or
Drive Thru



**Knights of
Columbus®**

**FISH
FRY**

FUNDRAISER



**EVERY FRIDAY
DURING LENT
5:00P-7:30P**



**Weekly Specials,
chowder, dessert & drinks
available with dine in only*



Do This in Remembrance of Me; Part 42: The Eucharistic Prayer

After the Prayer over the Offerings, we now come to the Eucharistic Prayer. According to the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, "Now the center and high point of the entire celebration begins, namely, the Eucharistic Prayer itself, that is, the prayer of thanksgiving and sanctification. The priest calls upon the people to lift up their hearts to the Lord in prayer and thanksgiving; he associates the people with himself in the Prayer that he addresses in the name of the entire community to God the Father through Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, the meaning of this Prayer is that the whole congregation of the faithful joins with Christ in confessing the great deeds of God and in the offering of Sacrifice. The Eucharistic Prayer requires that everybody listens to it with reverence and in silence" (GIRM, 78).

Here we go! For those longing for the true presence of Jesus, the time is drawing near! For those who yearn to pray well, we are invited to participate in the perfect prayer of Jesus—his perfect sacrifice and worship of the Father. Throughout the Eucharistic Prayer, we can find a great outline and model for our own prayer. By taking a closer look at the main components, we can hopefully enter more fruitfully into this wonderful prayer.

The Elements of the Eucharistic Prayer

As the General Instruction of the Roman Missal continues, "The main elements of which the Eucharistic Prayer consists may be distinguished from one another in this way:

- a) The *thanksgiving* (expressed especially in the Preface), in which the priest, in the name of the whole of the holy people, glorifies God the Father and gives thanks to him for the whole work of salvation or for some particular aspect of it, according to the varying day, festivity, or time of year.
- b) The *acclamation*, by which the whole congregation, joining with the heavenly powers, sings the Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy). This acclamation, which constitutes part of the Eucharistic Prayer itself, is pronounced by all the people with the priest.
- c) The *epiclesis*, in which, by means of particular invocations, the Church implores the power of the Holy Spirit that the gifts offered by human hands be consecrated, that is, become Christ's Body and Blood, and that the unblemished sacrificial Victim to be consumed in Communion may be for the salvation of those who will partake of it.
- d) The *institution narrative and Consecration*, by which, by means of the words and actions of Christ, that Sacrifice is effected which Christ himself instituted during the Last Supper, when he offered his Body and Blood under the species of bread and wine, gave them to the Apostles to eat and drink, and leaving with the latter the command to perpetuate this same mystery.
- e) The *anamnesis*, by which the Church, fulfilling the command that she received from Christ the Lord through the apostles, celebrates the memorial of Christ, recalling especially his blessed Passion, glorious Resurrection and Ascension into heaven.
- f) The *oblation*, by which, in this very memorial, the Church, in particular that gathered here and now, offers the unblemished sacrificial Victim in the Holy Spirit to the Father. The Church's intention, indeed, is that the faithful not only offer this unblemished sacrificial Victim but also learn to offer their very selves, and so day by day to be brought, through the mediation of Christ, into unity with God and with each other, so that God may at last be all in all.
- g) The *intercessions*, by which expression is given to the fact that the Eucharist is celebrated in communion with the whole Church, of both heaven and of earth, and that the oblation is made for her and for all her members, living and dead, who are called to participate in the redemption and salvation purchased by the Body and Blood of Christ.
- h) The concluding *Doxology*, by which the glorification of God is expressed and which is affirmed and concluded by the people's acclamation, Amen" (GIRM, 79; emphases added).

In the weeks ahead, we'll be taking a closer look at the Eucharistic Prayers and these individual parts. Is anyone wondering how much longer before Holy Communion? The wait will definitely be worthwhile!

For Reflection:

1. Next time you participate in Mass, see if you can identify the different elements of the Eucharistic Prayer. Even if you do not observe all eight elements described in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, take the opportunity to listen closely to the elements you do hear.
2. Consider bringing the structure of the elements of the Eucharistic Prayer into your own time of reflection or meditation. For example, take time to thank God, acclaim him, implore an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, recall the institution of the Eucharist and Christ's Paschal Mystery, offer yourself to the Father through Christ, pray for your own intentions, and give glory to God through a concluding "Glory be..."

Do This in Remembrance of Me; Part 43: The Preface

As we continue our journey through the Eucharistic Prayer, we turn to teaching from the Diocese of Peoria: "The Eucharistic prayer is the center and summit of the entire Mass. Eucharist means thanksgiving. The Eucharistic prayer is a celebration of thanksgiving and sanctification. The Mass offers the fitting praise and worship to God as it places before his throne the sacrifice of his Son on the Cross... The Eucharistic Prayer offers gratitude to God, as it is the prayer of his Son, Jesus. Acting in the person





of Christ, the priest, in the name of the community, offers this great prayer of adoration and praise to the Father through the power of the Holy Spirit" ("A Study of the Mass," p. 13). Very clearly at the forefront, we are giving thanks to God as we are gathered around the altar. A special part of the prayers at the altar that highlights thanksgiving is called the Preface.

A Prayer That Unifies through the Centuries

The Preface begins with a familiar dialogue:

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right and just.

As Edward Sri notes, "This dialogue is first reported in the Eucharistic prayer of St. Hippolytus (c. A.D. 215). Now, eighteen centuries later, we continue to say the same words, uniting us with the Christians of the early Church" (A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, p. 95). I enjoy sharing this stretch into history with people when I offer explanatory Masses. Just let it sink in for a moment: one of our oldest accounts of the Mass includes this dialogue. Think about all the Masses celebrated throughout history; think about that unity in prayer with all those who have gone before us! As a priest, I am always strengthened by the thought that some of those early priests who were saints and martyrs would have used these same words when offering the Mass. What an amazing reminder of the unity we share through the Mass!

The first part of this dialogue takes us back to the beginning of the Mass, when the assembly is greeted by the celebrant. As Edward Sri explains, the next part of the dialogue recalls Lamentations 3:41, "Let us lift up our hearts and hands to God in heaven." For us, Sri says, this is a "wake-up call" where the priest "is summoning us to give our fullest attention to what is about to unfold." Sri quotes St. Cyprian (+ A.D. 258), commenting on this part of the dialogue: "When we stand praying, beloved brethren, we ought to be watchful and earnest with our whole heart, intent on our prayers. Let all carnal and worldly thoughts pass away, nor let the soul at that time think on anything but the object of its prayer" (A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, p. 96-97). Very clearly, the second exchange in the dialogue helps us renew our attention to God as we enter the Eucharistic Prayer.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

For the last section of the dialogue, Sri reminds us that giving thanks to God "is a common biblical response to God's goodness and to his saving works in our lives" (A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, p. 98). As we will see more next time, the words that follow in the Preface will remind us of many different reasons to be thankful to God. Tying back to the Offertory, we can recall that we are thankful for the blessings we have in terms of our livelihood and resources. We can think of God's care for us and all he provides for us. As Sri says so well, "We also should be thankful for the miracle about to take place in our midst, as the bread and wine on the altar will be changed into the body and blood of Jesus. Our Lord and King will soon be with us in the Real Presence of the Eucharist. Our hearts should be filled with gratitude as our church becomes like a new holy of holies, housing the divine presence. What an awesome privilege it is for us to draw near! [...] There is so much to be thankful for at this moment in the Liturgy! We therefore acknowledge that gratitude is the only fitting response to the mysteries about to unfold before us. In answer to the priest's invitation to thank the Lord, we say, 'It is right and just'" (A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, p. 99). Amen!

For Reflection:

1. In your own time of prayer, whether in private or with others, consider using the Preface dialogue as a guide to beginning your meditation in three phases: 1) Take a moment to be aware of God's presence. 2) Consciously lift up your heart to the Lord. 3) Give him thanks. Let your prayer proceed from this starting point.
2. Father Luke, quoting Edward Sri, references Lamentations 3:41: "Let us lift up our hearts and hands to God in heaven." As the title of this book of the Bible suggests, this verse comes from a chapter about suffering. Consider reflecting on or even reading Lamentations 3 out loud as a way of praying for those who are suffering at this time.

Up Next: The Preface as Thanksgiving & Sanctus

SAINT MICHAEL SCHOOL IS HIRING

St. Michael School is seeking a full-time School Office Lead Administrative Assistant and a part-time Aftercare Assistant. Interested candidates for either position should submit a letter of interest, resume, and references to Sr. Mary Regina, Principal, at principal@stmichaelworthington.org.



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
The Month of March is dedicated to Saint Joseph*

“What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like.” +SAINT AUGUSTINE

Monday, March 24 ~ Third Week in the Season of Lent

Holy Gospel: Luke 4:24-30 Jesus said to the people in the synagogue at Nazareth: “Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place. Indeed, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah when the sky was closed for three and a half years and a severe famine spread over the entire land. It was to none of these that Elijah was sent, but only to a widow in Zarephath in the land of Sidon. Again, there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet; yet not one of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.” When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were all filled with fury. They rose up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had been built, to hurl him down headlong. But he passed through the midst of them and went away.

Meditation: When Jesus spoke in his hometown synagogue he startled his listeners with a seeming rebuke that no prophet or servant of God can receive honor among his own people. He then angered them when he complimented the gentiles who seemed to have shown more faith in God than the “chosen ones” of Israel. They regarded gentiles as “fuel for the fires of hell.” Jesus' praise for “outsiders” caused them offence because they were blind-sighted to God's mercy and plan of redemption for all nations. The word of warning and judgment spoken by Jesus was met with hostility by his own people. They forcibly threw him out of the city and would have done him harm had he not stopped them. The Lord offers us freedom and pardon and the grace to walk in his way of truth and righteousness. His discipline is for our good that we may share his holiness (Hebrews 12:10). “Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but whoever hates reproof is stupid” (Proverbs 12:1). Do you seek the Lord for instruction and help so you can grow in holiness and grace, and become a stronger disciple of Christ?

Prayer: May your unfailing compassion, O Lord, cleanse and protect your Church, and since without you she cannot stand secure, may she be always governed by your grace. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: What limits God's grace and power in our lives to undergo change and transformation of mind and heart? Indifference and lack of faith for sure! The prophets confronted God's people with their indifference and unbelief. God's grace and mercy is offered freely to those who seek it with sincerity, repentance, and faith. When Naaman, a non-Jew went to Jerusalem to seek a cure, the prophet Elisha instructed him to bathe in the river. In faith he obeyed and was healed. Jesus did not hesitate to confront his own people with their indifference and unbelief. Have you looked at where your faith life is? Are you indifferent? Are you lukewarm about your faith, and how you live out your faith? If so, it's time to set your faith on fire. But you need first to rid yourself of those things which hold you back – whatever they may be. Pray that you will rid yourself of these barriers. Then free from those things which hold you back may your faith life flourish and bear much fruit.

Tuesday, March 25 ~ Third Week in the Season of Lent Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26-38 The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.” But she was greatly troubled at what

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

Meditation: In this particular passage of sacred scripture we see the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy and the unfolding of God's plan of redemption in the events leading up to the Incarnation, the birth of the Messiah. The new era of salvation begins with the conception of Jesus in the womb of Mary. This child to be born is conceived by the action of the Holy Spirit upon Mary, who finds favor with God. As Eve was the mother of all humanity doomed to sin, now Mary becomes the mother of the new Adam who will father a new humanity by his grace (ref. Romans 5:12-21).

Prayer: O God, who willed that your Word should take on the reality of human flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary, grant, we pray, that we, who confess our Redeemer to be God and man, may merit to become partakers even in his divine nature. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: How does Mary respond to the word of God delivered by the angel Gabriel? She knows she is hearing something beyond human capability. It will surely take a miracle which surpasses all that God has done previously. Her question, "how shall this be, since I have no husband" is not prompted by doubt or skepticism, but by wonderment! She is a true hearer of the Word and she immediately responds with faith, trust, and without hesitation. Mary's prompt response of "yes" to the divine message is a model of faith for all believers. Mary believed God's promises even when they seemed impossible. She was full of grace because she trusted that what God said was true and would be fulfilled. She was willing and eager to do God's will, even if it seemed difficult or costly. Mary is the "mother of God" because God becomes incarnate when he takes on flesh in her womb. When we pray the Nicene Creed we state our confession of faith in this great mystery: "For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man." God gives us grace and he expects us to respond with the same willingness, obedience, and heartfelt trust as Mary did. When God commands he also gives the help, strength, and means to respond. We can either yield to his grace or resist and go our own way. Going our own way leads to nowhere; following Christ leads to eternal life.

Wednesday, March 26 ~ Third Week in the Season of Lent

Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:17-19 Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the Kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the Kingdom of heaven."

Meditation: Jesus taught reverence for God's law – reverence for God himself, for the Lord's Day, reverence or respect for parents, respect for life, for property, for another person's good name, respect for oneself and for one's neighbor lest wrong or hurtful desires master us. Folks, reverence and respect for God's commandments teach us the way of love – love of God and love of neighbor. What is impossible to men and women is possible to God and those who put their faith and trust in God. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit the Lord transforms us and makes us like himself. We are a new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17) because "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us" (Romans 5:5). God gives us the grace to love as he loves, to forgive as he forgives, to think as he thinks, and to act as he acts. The Lord loves justice and goodness and he hates every form of wickedness and sin. He wants to set us free from our unruly desires and sinful habits, so that we can choose to live each day in the peace, joy, and righteousness of his Holy Spirit (Romans 14: 17). To renounce sin is to turn away from what is harmful and destructive for our minds and hearts, and our very lives. As his followers we must love and respect his commandments and hate every form of sin. Do you love and revere the commands of the Lord?

Prayer: Grant, we pray, O Lord, that, schooled through Lenten observance and nourished by your word, through holy restraint we may be devoted to you with all our heart and be ever united in prayer. 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: How do you view the laws of God? Negatively? Positively? A pick-and-choose ("cafeteria Catholic") approach? Do you allow the human laws of any local, state or federal legislative body or the human decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court to supersede the divine laws of God and the divine teachings of Jesus Christ – especially when these laws or decisions are contrary to God or Jesus? Jesus' attitude towards the law of God can be summed up in the great prayer of Psalm 119: "Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day." For the people of Israel the "law" could refer to the Ten Commandments or to the five Books of Moses, called the Pentateuch, which explain the commandments and ordinances of God for his people. The "law" also referred to the whole teaching or way of life which God gave to his people. The Jews in Jesus' time also used it as a description of the oral or scribal law. Needless to say, the scribes added many more things to the law than God intended. That is why Jesus often condemned the scribal law. It placed burdens on people which God had not intended. Jesus, however, made it very clear that the essence of God's law – his commandments and his way of life – must be fulfilled. So, once again, how do you view God's law? How do you put God's law into action and practice in your daily life?

Thursday, March 27 ~ Third Week in the Season of Lent

Holy Gospel: Luke 11:14-23 Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute, and when the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke and the crowds were amazed. Some of them said, "By the power of Beelzebul, the prince of demons, he drives out demons." Others, to test him, asked him for a sign from heaven. But he knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste and house will fall against house. And if Satan is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that it is by Beelzebul that I drive out demons. If I, then, drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your own people drive them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the finger of God that I drive out demons, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man fully armed guards his palace, his possessions are safe. But when one stronger than he attacks and overcomes him, he takes away the armor on which he relied and distributes the spoils. Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters."

Meditation: Jesus' numerous exorcisms brought freedom to many who were troubled and oppressed by the work of evil spirits. Jesus himself encountered personal opposition and battled with Satan when he was put to the test in the wilderness just before his public ministry. He overcame the evil one through his obedience to the will of his Father. Some of the Jewish leaders reacted vehemently to Jesus' healings and exorcisms and they opposed him with malicious slander. How could he get the power and authority to release individuals from Satan's power? They assumed that he had to be in league with Satan. They attributed his power to Satan rather than to God. Jesus answers their charge with two arguments. There were many exorcists in Palestine in Jesus' time. So Jesus retorted by saying that they also incriminate their own kin who cast out demons. If they condemn Jesus they also condemn themselves. In his second argument he asserts that no kingdom divided against itself cannot survive for long? We have witnessed enough civil wars in our own time to prove the destructive force at work here for the annihilation of whole peoples and their land. If Satan lends his power against his own forces then he is finished. How can a strong person be defeated except by someone who is stronger? Jesus asserted his power and authority to cast out demons as a clear demonstration of the reign of God.

Prayer: We implore your majesty most humbly, O Lord, that, as the feast of our salvation draws ever closer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly towards the worthy celebration of the Paschal Mystery. 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: We live in a world of compromise. And yet, there are some aspects of our life that we just cannot afford to compromise on – especially our faith life, and the teachings of the one, holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. The teachings of the Church are based on the laws of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ. Jesus makes it clear that there are no neutral parties. We are either for Jesus or against him, for the kingdom of God or against it. Once we start going down the road of compromise, we turn against God and Jesus, because we begin to place our will above and before the will of God (sound familiar – Adam and Eve?). There are two kingdoms in opposition to one another – the kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness under the rule of Satan. If we disobey God's word – if we compromise God's word – then we open the door to the power of sin and Satan in our lives. If you want to live in freedom

from sin and Satan, then your house – your life and all you possess – must be occupied by Jesus where he is enthroned as Lord and Savior. Is the Lord Jesus the Master of your home, heart, mind, and will?

Friday, March 28 ~ Third Week in the Season of Lent

Holy Gospel: Mark 12:28-34 One of the scribes came to Jesus and asked him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus replied, "The first is this: Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." The scribe said to him, "Well said, teacher. You are right in saying, He is One and there is no other than he. And to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." And when Jesus saw that he answered with understanding, he said to him, "You are not far from the Kingdom of God." And no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Meditation: How do love and obedience to God's law go together? The Pharisees prided themselves in the knowledge of the law and their ritual requirements. They made it a life-time practice to study the 613 precepts of the Old Testament along with the numerous rabbinic commentaries. They tested Jesus to see if he correctly understood the law as they did. Jesus startled them with his profound simplicity and mastery of the law of God and its purpose. What does God require of us? Simply that we love as he loves! God is love and everything he does flows from his love for us. God loved us first and our love for him is a response to his exceeding grace and kindness towards us. The love of God comes first and the love of neighbor is firmly grounded in the love of God. The more we know of God's love and truth the more we love what he loves and reject what is hateful and contrary to his will. What, then, makes our love for God and his commands grow in us? Faith in God and hope in his promises strengthens us in the love of God. They are essential for a good relationship with God, for being united with him. The more we know of God the more we love him and the more we love him the greater we believe and hope in his promises. The Lord, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, gives us a new freedom to love as he loves. Do you allow anything to keep you from the love of God and the joy of serving others with a generous heart? Remember and reflect on what Saint Paul the Apostle said: "Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us" (Romans 5:5).

Prayer: Pour your grace into our hearts, we pray, O Lord, that we may be constantly drawn away from unruly desires and obey by your own gift the heavenly teaching you give us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: The following prayer by Saint Anselm is worth contemplating on this day: "We love you, O our God; and we desire to love you more and more. Grant to us that we may love you as much as we desire, and as much as we ought. O dearest friend, who has so loved and saved us, the thought of whom is so sweet and always growing sweeter, come with Christ and dwell in our hearts; that you keep a watch over our lips, our steps, our deeds, and we shall not need to be anxious either for our souls or our bodies. Give us love, sweetest of all gifts, which knows no enemy. Give us in our hearts pure love, born of your love to us, that we may love others as you love us. O most loving Father of Jesus Christ, from whom flows all love, let our hearts, frozen in sin, cold to you and cold to others, be warmed by this divine fire. So help and bless us in your Son."

Antiphons and scripture passages courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Daily meditations and contemplations adapted from *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.

frlumpe:2025

"Let us ask ourselves: Am I convinced that the Lord forgives my sins? Or do I act as if I can save myself? Do I long for salvation and call upon God's help to attain it? Do I concretely experience the hope that enables me to interpret the events of history and inspires in me a commitment to justice and fraternity, to care for our common home and in such a way that no one feels excluded? Sisters and brothers, thanks to God's love in Jesus Christ, we are sustained in the hope that does not disappoint (cf. Romans 5:5). Hope is the 'sure and steadfast anchor of the soul' (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1820). It moves the Church to pray for 'everyone to be saved' (1 Tim2:4) and to look forward to her being united with Christ, her bridegroom, in the glory of heaven."

~Pope Francis, excerpt of the Holy Father's 2025 Message for Lent



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.

Stations of the Cross at Saint Michael the Archangel




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

March 28:
Stations with
Meditations on the
Virtues
April 3:
Stations with
St. Francis of Assisi
April 10:
Stations with
Meditations on the
Virtues



**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!



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Join us for a fun and faith-filled week! Learn about the Sacraments and the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary while growing in your relationship with the Lord.

CHILDRENS PROGRAM

TEEN PROGRAM

- Monday-Friday
- 9am-2:30pm
- Grades 1-6
- Sunday-Thursday
- 6:45pm-9:00pm
- Grades 7-12



REGISTRATION OPEN NOW! SCAN THE QR CODE TO COMPLETE YOUR REGISTRATION TODAY!

Questions? Contact Jake Asuncion
jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.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!



**ATTENTION ALL
BAKERS!**

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

 Dominican Sisters of Mary
Mother of the Eucharist

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If you have any questions, please email Sr. Ave Maria at Columbus@sistersofmary.org.
Please RSVP by Friday, March 28


Scan the QR code to RSVP Today!

Learn more about the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist at sistersofmary.org

Respect Life Ministry

St. Michael Parish will be participating in the 40 Days for Life program this Lent. In Columbus, the program is sponsored by Greater Columbus Right to Life. This Spring, the vigil will be held at the Planned Parenthood Surgical Clinic (3255 E Main St). Sign up to cover an hour during St. Michael's adopted time.

**Friday, March 28
8:00am to 1:00pm**



40 DAYS FOR LIFE
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Faith by Fireside
Saturday, March 29 at 7pm

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Lenten Speaker Series
How to Make a Holy Hour



**Thursdays in Lent
7:00pm in Marian Hall
March 27 featuring speaker
Sr. Ave Maria, O.P.**

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.

 **GET INVOLVED
WITH AMERICAN
HERITAGE GIRLS!**

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. Questions? Email our AHG leader, Katelyn Adams, at ahg@saintmichael-cd.org.



**St. Vincent de Paul Society
February 2025 Updates:**



5 Number of households kept from eviction or utility cut off



500 Sandwiches made for JOIN



17 Neighbors served in Clothing Room



2 conferences Monetary assistance to other conferences



70 Neighbors served in the Food Pantry



43 Phone Calls Received to our Hotline

Ways to donate: Church envelopes; Online giving through St. Michael's website (<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving>); Kroger Community Rewards program: (St. Vincent de Paul - St. Michael Conf); Qualified Charitable Giving through your IRA account; Matching program through your employer (contact St. Vincent for EIN number); Food donations in boxes in Marian Hall; clothing donations through the donation shoot behind the school gym.

Thank you for your continued support & generosity!

AROUND THE DIOCESE

CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE ETHICS CONFERENCE

Healthcare professionals are invited to the third **Converging Roads** Healthcare Ethics Conference on **April 5, 2025 from 8:45 a.m.-7:00 p.m. at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, OH.** This one-day conference will explore the theme of **Virtue in Medicine** and offers continuing education for healthcare professionals rooted in the Hippocratic and Catholic ethical tradition. Registration: \$75.00-\$159.00, based on CME/CNE inclusion. This conference is presented by the St. John Paul II Foundation, the Diocese of Columbus, the Catholic Medical Association of Central Ohio, and Ohio Dominican University. For more info, please visit convergingroads.com/columbus or email ellen@forlifeandfamily.org.

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