



St. Michael the Archangel The Fifth Sunday of Lent

The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary
The Crucifixion of Our Lord

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

SAINT MICHAEL STAFF DIRECTORY

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MINISTERS TO THE PARISH

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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 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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – APRIL 6, 2025

DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 5

4:00 p.m. + Dave Rocchi (The Lund Family)

Sunday, April 6

8:30 a.m. + Deacon Klaus Fricke (John Paul Munhall)

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

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

5:00 p.m. Special Intention of Fr. Chris Kuhn (Lauren Jazwiec)

Monday, April 7

6:30 a.m. + Helen Gersi (Steve & Barbara Tucker)

8:15 a.m. Special Intention of Gabriel Vance, Jr.

Tuesday, April 8

6:30 a.m. Special Intention of Sawyer McAllister

8:15 a.m. Special Intention of the Valley Family (Jennifer Valley)

Wednesday, April 9

6:30 a.m. + Michael Putnam (5th Grade Families)

8:15 a.m. For the School

6:00 p.m. + Jean Paul & Dominique Dauny (The Caso Family)

Thursday, April 10

6:30 a.m. + Joyce Meiners (Dianne Hoover)

8:15 a.m. Deacon Klaus Fricke (Barb McMullen)

Friday, April 11

6:30 a.m. + Josefa, Enriqueta, Manuela & Pilar Caso Posada (The Caso Family)

8:15 a.m. Special Intention of Josephine & Eric Yang

Saturday, April 12

8:15 a.m. + Hubertine Bohnen (Brigitte Bohnen-Hartley)

4:00 p.m. + Phyllis Banes

Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday

8:30 a.m. + Antonio & Donata Tempesta (Armando & Liliana Tempesta)

10:30 a.m. + Albert & Lois Claricoates (Anita Claricoates)

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

5:00 p.m. Special Intention of Fr. David Peck (Lauren Jazwiec)

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP MARCH 30, 2025

Envelopes	\$	15,097.56
Online Giving	\$	11,031.00
Total	\$	26,128.56



BAPTISM
CONGRATULATIONS ON
THE BAPTISMS OF
VIVIENNE CELINE DENNIS
AND **SCARLETT JANE LUNDY**



PARISH CALENDAR: APRIL

SUNDAY, April 6	Confessions before morning Masses Friendship Sunday after all morning Masses 9:00 a.m. OCIA (UMR) 9:00 a.m. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (A) 9:30 a.m. PSR (LMR) 3:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group (G) 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group (G)
Monday, April 7	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 7:00 a.m. Confessions (C) 5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts (UMR) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (U) 7:00 p.m. Lenten Book Study (MH)
Tuesday, April 8	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 7:00 a.m. Confessions (C) 11:30 a.m. Live Wires (MH) 5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts (UMR) 7:30 p.m. WFF Bible Study (UMR)
Wednesday, April 9	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) 7:30 p.m. OCIA (UMR)
Thursday, April 10	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, April 11	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)
Saturday, April 12	6:45 a.m. Men's Faith & Fellowship (UMR) 7:00 a.m. Pietra (LMR) 9:30 a.m. SVDP Monthly Meeting (UMR) 2:30 p.m. Confessions (C) 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts Event (U)
SUNDAY, April 13	PALM SUNDAY Confessions before morning Masses 9:00 a.m. OCIA (UMR) 9:00 a.m. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (A) 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

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners of St. Michael the Archangel,
Praised be Jesus Christ!

This Sunday, we hear the words of Jesus proclaimed in the Mass, His words for which we stand while the Gospel is proclaimed, liberate a woman caught in adultery and also lead to a certain undeniable examination of conscience within those who were eager to stone her and have her silenced. The drama of the Gospel leads us to acknowledge that Jesus goes where it is uncomfortable to announce a message that is needed and yet challenging to hear.

In the midst of our own sins, the Lord tends to go straight to that place and point in time and speak to our soul, calling us out of the sin and into grace, out of the darkness and into the light.

This Sunday is designated as "Safe Haven Sunday," and it has been designated as such because of the Gospel message. This Safe Haven Sunday, we are each called to pray and fast against the terrific spread and horrific consequences of the pandemic of pornography presently afflicting our culture and destroying homes, marriages, and even souls. The insidious nature of pornography and its deep roots into so many souls and homes has led to the Church acknowledging that the Lord is taking His Grace and His light straight into the sin and darkness enveloping so many. For those who have an addiction to this darkness and for those who are not addicted, but are well aware of the gravity of the matter, we are each called to hear the words of Jesus and then not only respond, but to fight, and fight with great might.

The power of Confession is undeniable when confronting this evil and darkness. To return to Confession and then have a game plan is essential; there must be a commitment made to seeking help, not only from the Church through the Sacraments and Sacramentals, but also, at times, even from professional counselors. There must be vigilance against the whispers and images that can so easily lead us to think it is okay to engage in inhuman behavior, "just this once." We must be disciplined in our appetites, and thus, made strong enough to turn to the person of Jesus and hear His message of liberation. For those who are aware of our weaknesses as men and women, we must be filled with compassion for those who are still caught in the midst of the darkness, and to then pray and fast for the liberation of those who are still enslaved to this struggle for freedom.

By the Grace of the Living God, we can each fight the good fight, and fight with might, so that we can turn toward Jesus who has come to us in the midst of the present moment and called out to us so as to save us.

In Jesus and Mary,
Fr. Stash Dailey

AROUND THE 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.

Early Bulletin Deadlines

Please note the following early bulletin deadlines as we approach the Easter Season. Submissions are due at noon on the deadlines listed. Please note that the deadlines for the April 13 have already passed.

April 20 Bulletin submissions due April 7

April 27 Bulletin submissions due April 14

Easter Flowers - DUE NOW

All Easter Flower envelopes and donations must be received by **April 7** to be included in the Easter bulletin. **Please note that this is earlier than the date listed on the envelopes.**

Parish Office Holiday Hours

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed April 17-21.

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!



Do This in Remembrance of Me; Part 46: Eucharistic Prayer Options

Having just joined the angels in singing the Holy, Holy, Holy, we next kneel down in adoration for the rest of the Eucharistic Prayer. Why do we kneel here? We kneel to prepare ourselves for the Lord Jesus to be really, truly, and substantially present on the altar. As Fr. Stefano Manelli relates, St. Louis IX, King of France, who was known to be regularly at Mass and would kneel on the floor, once said, "At Mass God offers Himself as a sacrifice, and when God sacrifices Himself, kings should kneel on the floor" (Jesus Our Eucharistic Love, p. 24). No doubt, adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is really an extension of the adoration we have for Jesus on the altar after the Consecration and in the elevations of the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Mass.

The Commonalities and Differences between Eucharistic Prayers

For the Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass, you may have noticed that there are several options the priest can choose. Although each Eucharistic Prayer is unique and has particular emphases, each has the same main elements, including the epiclesis, institution narrative and Consecration, anamnesis, oblation, intercessions, and concluding doxology. We will cover each element in detail as we move forward.

Looking through our current Roman Missal, we find ten Eucharistic Prayers from which the priest can choose. The first four (The Roman Canon: Eucharistic Prayer I, along with Eucharistic Prayers II, III, and IV) are probably the most familiar, as they are often included in worship aids and other prayer books. The Missal also includes two Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation and four Prayers for Masses for Various Needs. These options have the following titles: "The Church on the Path of Unity"; "God Guides His Church along the Way of Salvation"; "Jesus, the Way to the Father"; and "Jesus, Who Went About Doing Good." These last four prayers come with suggestions for when they might be appropriate to use; for example, the prayer "Jesus, the Way to the Father" would be a good fit for a Mass "For the Evangelization of Peoples" or "For Persecuted Christians." There are also three Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with children (found in a separate book and prescribed only for Masses in which the majority of the participants are children).

Eucharistic Prayers I–IV

Sometimes people ask if I have a favorite Eucharistic Prayer. My honest answer is that each one is special in its own way. I really do like each of them! Eucharistic Prayer I includes many names of saints, which reminds me that we are supported by the witness and prayers of those who have gone before us (more on these saints in the near future). It also has several unique prayers for special days like Christmas and Easter. Eucharistic Prayer I is also called the Roman Canon, indicating its origin and centuries-long use in the Latin Rite of the Roman Catholic Church. Eucharistic Prayer II has some of the oldest known prayers in the Mass, which go back to the 200s A.D. I am always strengthened by the thought that those early saints and martyrs were praying almost word-for-word the same words we use today; that is unity throughout time and place! Eucharistic Prayer III notes the Holy Spirit in particular and has a place for inserting the name of the saint of the day or patron saints. Eucharistic Prayer IV is really a tour of salvation history and reminds me of the Gospel of St. John with phrases like, "And you so loved the world, Father most holy, that in the fullness of time you sent your Only Begotten Son to be our Savior."

Phrases from Other Eucharistic Prayers

Among the other Eucharistic Prayers, here are a few phrases that I really love to pray: "Help us to work together for the coming of your Kingdom, until the hour when we stand before you, Saints among the Saints in the halls of heaven" (Reconciliation I). "May he make your Church a sign of unity and an instrument of your peace among all people" (Reconciliation II). "Lord renew your Church (which is in N.) by the light of the Gospel" (Various Needs I). "And so, having called us to your table, Lord, confirm us in unity..." (Various Needs II). "You are indeed Holy and to be glorified, O God, who love the human race and who always walk with us on the journey of life" (Various Needs III). "Open our eyes to the needs of our brothers and sisters; inspire in us words and actions to comfort those who labor and are burdened" (Various Needs IV).

After taking a closer look, we see there really is a rich variety in the different prayers we can use at the altar in the Mass. Whichever of these Eucharistic Prayers is prayed, be assured that the same holy sacrifice of Christ takes place, glory and honor is given to God, and the very Body and Blood of Jesus becomes present on the altar in front of us!

For Reflection:

1. Take time to pray, slowly, with each of Father Luke's favorite phrases from different options of the Eucharistic Prayer. Make note of the insights or inspirations you receive in prayer.
2. Next time you participate in Mass, engage the celebrant afterward by asking about which Eucharistic Prayer he chose. As you get to know the Eucharist Prayer options better, see if you can identify which prayer you hear.

Do This in Remembrance of Me; Part 47: The Background of the Eucharistic Prayers

What is the background for the Eucharistic Prayers? We begin with what Jesus himself said and did. Fr. Guy Oury writes, "According to St. Paul and Saint Luke, Jesus 'gave thanks' ([1 Cor. 11:24](#); [Lk 22:17](#)). According to Saint Matthew and Saint Mark, he 'said [a] blessing' ([Mt. 26:26](#); [Mk 14:22](#)). The two expressions are equivalent. They designate a blessing prayer of thanksgiving that was customary among the Jews. The ritual of the Passover meal, which may have been the setting for the





institution and first celebration of the Eucharist, included such a prayer” (The Mass, p. 92–93). If we look through the Gospels, we will see Jesus often giving thanks. This reminds us of the word Eucharist, which means thanksgiving!

The Jewish Roots of Eucharistic Prayers

As Edward Sri observes, “Scholars have noted that the Eucharistic prayer has roots in the Jewish table prayers recited at every meal. Near the start of the meal, the father of the family or the one presiding over the community would take bread and speak a blessing (barakah) which praised God, saying: ‘Blessed are you, Lord, our God, king of the universe, who has brought forth bread from heaven.’ The bread was then broken and given to the participants, and the people began eating... When the meal neared its conclusion, the presider prayed a second and longer barakah over a cup of wine. This blessing had three parts: 1) praise of God for his creation; 2) thanksgiving for his redemptive work in the past (for example, the giving of the covenant, the land, the law); and 3) supplication for the future, that God’s saving works would continue in their lives and be brought to their climax in the sending of the Messiah who would restore the Davidic kingdom” (A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, p. 93). Doesn’t that structure and content sound familiar? Sri goes on to say that this pattern was found in early Eucharistic prayers and is still present today. We also see this pattern in the writings of St. Justin and St. Hippolytus.

The Promises to the Jews Fulfilled in Jesus

It makes sense that Jesus prayed in the pattern of the Jewish people of his day. What was different, and what changes these prayers for us, is when Jesus said, “This is My Body. This is My Blood.” As Fr. Oury continues, “In his blessing prayers, and especially the one he spoke on the eve of the Passion for the institution of the Eucharist, Jesus went beyond the blessing prayers of his contemporaries. He referred to more than the benefits of creation or the blessings of the history of salvation in the Old Testament. He showed the promises fulfilled in himself... At the Last Supper Jesus left his disciples a memorial of his covenant. He left them certain actions to be perpetuated: breaking and distribution of bread, presentation of the cup, together with the words of institution” (The Mass, p. 94).

Knowing more about the Jewish background can be a great help to us in understanding customs and references we find in the Scriptures as well as seeing how many prayers of the Mass took shape. Above all, this background can help us understand even more clearly the longing for the Messiah and the amazing gift that Jesus is as he is truly present with us! As we continue our journey through the parts of the Mass, the notes of thanksgiving and praise will continue to be present, as well as ongoing reminders of how Jesus is truly present with us and why the Mass is such a unique and perfect prayer of praise to the Father. Challenge for the week: See how many times you notice “thanks” present in the Mass!

For Reflection:

1. Take up Fr. Luke’s challenge to count the number of times you hear references to “thanks” or “thanksgiving” during Mass.
2. Do you have Jewish friends or acquaintances? If the relationships allow, ask about your friends if and how they practice meal prayers.

Up Next: The Epiclesis & Consecration

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 April is dedicated to the Holy Spirit.*

“Jesus went to Jerusalem to announce the Good News to the people of that city. And Jesus knew that he was going to put a choice before them: Will you be my disciple, or will you be my executioner? There is no middle ground here. Jesus went to Jerusalem to put people in a situation where they had to say ‘yes’ or ‘no.’ That is the great drama of Jesus’ passion: He had to wait upon how people were going to respond.” ~FR. HENRI J. M. NOUWEN

**Monday, April 7 ~ Fifth Week in the Season of Lent
Optional Memorial: Saint John Baptist de la Salle**

Holy Gospel: John 8:12-20 Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” So the Pharisees said to him, “You testify on your own behalf, so your testimony cannot be verified.” Jesus answered and said to them, “Even if I do testify on my own behalf, my testimony can be verified, because I know where I came from and where I am going. But you do not know where I come from or where I am going. You judge by appearances, but I do not judge anyone. And even if I should judge, my judgment is valid, because I am not alone, but it is I and the Father who sent me. Even in your law it is written that the testimony of two men can be verified. I testify on my behalf and so does the Father who sent me.” So they said to him, “Where is your father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.” He spoke these words while teaching in the treasury in the temple area. But no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

Meditation: The word “light” as used throughout sacred scripture is associated with God. “The Lord is my light” (Psalm 27:1). “The Lord will be your everlasting light” (Isaiah 60:19). “When I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me” (Micah 7:8). Jesus chastises the scribes and Pharisees for making bad judgments based on wrong assumptions and evil intentions. Jesus bases his judgment not on human knowledge and perception but on God’s knowledge and revelation. Jesus is both just and merciful as none other can be. His light both exposes the darkness of sin inside each of us, which is hidden from others, and heals our sinful infirmities as well. The light of Christ also produces abundant life and fruit in us. Just as natural life depends on light (few plants and animals can survive without sunlight), so the light of heaven produces spiritual life in those who receive it. The light which Jesus gives enables us to walk freely and confidently without stumbling in the darkness of sin and disbelief. His light warms our heart to the truth of God’s love and it opens our vision to the reality of God’s kingdom. Do you walk confidently in the light of God’s truth and love?

Prayer: O God, by whose wondrous grace we are enriched with every blessing, grant us so to pass from former ways to newness of life, that we may be made ready for the glory of the heavenly Kingdom. 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: Folks, in your heart of hearts, do you desire to be changed and transformed in Christlike holiness? God never withholds his grace from us. His steadfast love and mercy is new every day (ref. Lamentations 3:22-23). Through the gift and grace of the Holy Spirit we can be changed and made new in Christ. He can set us free from our unruly desires and passions. As St. Augustine prays: “God our Father, we find it difficult to come to you, because our knowledge of you is imperfect. In our ignorance we have imagined you to be our enemy; we have wrongly thought that you take pleasure in punishing our sins; and we have foolishly conceived you to be a tyrant over human life. But since Jesus came among us, he has shown that you are loving, that you are on our side against all that stunts life, and that our

resentment against you was groundless. So we come to you, asking you to forgive our past ignorance, and wanting to know more and more of you and your forgiving love, through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Tuesday, April 8 ~ Fifth Week in the Season of Lent

Holy Gospel: John 8:21-30 Jesus said to the Pharisees: "I am going away and you will look for me, but you will die in your sin. Where I am going you cannot come." So the Jews said, "He is not going to kill himself, is he, because he said, 'Where I am going you cannot come'?" He said to them, "You belong to what is below, I belong to what is above. You belong to this world, but I do not belong to this world. That is why I told you that you will die in your sins. For if you do not believe that I AM, you will die in your sins." So they said to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "What I told you from the beginning. I have much to say about you in condemnation. But the one who sent me is true, and what I heard from him I tell the world." They did not realize that he was speaking to them of the Father. So Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I AM, and that I do nothing on my own, but I say only what the Father taught me. The one who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, because I always do what is pleasing to him." Because he spoke this way, many came to believe in him.

Meditation: To sin literally means to "miss the mark" or "to be off target." The essence of sin is that we, through our choice, separate ourselves from the love of God and from our true purpose in life – to know the source of all truth and beauty which is God himself and to be united with God in everlasting joy. When Adam and Eve first sinned, they hid themselves from God (Genesis 3:8-10). That is what sin does; it separates us from the One who is all loving, all-wise, and all-just. Jesus went on to explain that if people could not recognize him in his word, they would have the opportunity to recognize him when he is "lifted upon the cross of Calvary. Jesus pointed to the atoning sacrifice of his life on the cross as the true source of healing and victory over the sin of the world. The sacrifice of Christ's life on the cross for our sins is the ultimate proof of God's love for us. God so loved the world that he gave us his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). To fail to recognize Jesus and where he came from is to remain in spiritual darkness; to believe Jesus and his words is to walk in the joy and light of God's truth. There are certain opportunities in life that come and do not return. Each of us is given the opportunity to know and to accept Jesus Christ, as our Lord and Savior. But that opportunity can be rejected and lost. Life here is limited and short, but how we live it has everlasting consequences. Do you take advantage of the present time to make room for God so that your life will count for eternity?

Prayer: Grant us, we pray, O Lord, perseverance in obeying your will, that in our days the people dedicated to your service may grow in both merit and number. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Do you know the healing power of the cross of Christ? When the people of Israel were afflicted with serpents in the wilderness because of their sin, God instructed Moses: "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live" (ref. Numbers 21:8). The bronze serpent points to the cross of Christ which defeats sin and death and obtains everlasting life for those who believe. The result of Jesus "being lifted up on the cross" and his rising and exaltation to the Father's right hand in heaven, is our "new birth in the Spirit" and adoption as sons and daughters of God. God not only redeems us, but he fills us with his own divine life and power that we might share in his glory. Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit that we may have power to be his witnesses and to spread and defend the gospel by word and action, and to never be ashamed of Christ's Cross. Are you ready to live your life as a witness the truth and joy of the Gospel to those around you?

Wednesday, April 9 ~ Fifth Week in the Season of Lent

Holy Gospel: John 8:31-42 Jesus said to those Jews who believed in him, "If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How can you say, 'You will become free'?" Jesus answered them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. A slave does not remain in a household forever, but a son always remains. So if the Son frees you, then you will truly be free. I know that you are descendants of Abraham. But you are trying to kill me, because my word has no room among you. I tell you what I have seen in the Father's presence; then do what you have heard from the Father." They answered and said to him, "Our father is Abraham." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works of Abraham. But now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God; Abraham did not do this. You are doing the works of your father!" So they said to him, "We were not born of fornication. We have one Father, God." Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and am here; I did not come on my own, but he sent me."

Meditation: The world presents us with a false notion of truth and freedom – "truth is relative so I choose my own criteria for what is true" and freedom means "I can do whatever I please – regardless of what God or others might think." This confusion only gets compounded when civil laws make legal many things which are contrary to the laws of God, and the Gospel teachings of Jesus Christ and His Catholic Church – abortion, euthanasia, same-sex marriage, to name a few. This is really a mask for slavery to one's passions and desires – to do what "me, myself and I" will, versus humbly living our lives according to the will of God as children of God. Jesus offers his disciples true freedom – freedom from slavery to pride and arrogance, disbelief and ignorance, selfishness and greed, hatred and revenge, fear and anxiety, despair and depression, and a host of many other hurtful desires and addictions which cripple our lives. Think about it. As we humble ourselves to follow the way and the truth and the life of Christ, we yield ourselves to him so that we can accomplish God's will in our own lives. And so we should ask ourselves – am I allowing Christ to be my shepherd and guide? Am I allowing Christ's word to penetrate my mind and heart? Am I a "doer of the word" and not a hearer only (James 1:22)? Am I cooperating with Christ in all things? Am I disciplining myself as a child of God? Folks, each of us have been given freedom to walk in the life Christ. The spiritual truth that leads to freedom is the truth that we belong not to the world but to God, whose beloved children we are. Let's exercise that freedom accordingly in all aspects of our lives.

Prayer: Enlighten, O God of compassion, the hearts of your children, sanctified by penance, and in your kindness grant those you stir to a sense of devotion a gracious hearing when they cry out to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: The good news is that Jesus Christ has truly set us free from sin and its destructive force in our lives. How is this possible? Through the gift and power of the Holy Spirit we can choose to renounce sin, we choose to live up to the challenges put forth to us by Christ in the Gospel, and in doing so we can yield to God's grace which enables us to walk each day and each moment in Christ's way of love and holiness. A disciple is a listener, a follower and a doer. If we want to be a true follower of Christ and live as his disciples, then we must listen to the words of Jesus with a humble and teachable spirit, and put Jesus' words into action in our daily lives. As we listen with faith and obey with trust, Christ himself gives us grace – the enabling power of his Holy Spirit – to live, think, and act in the truth of his word. Do you believe in the transforming power of the Holy Spirit to change your life and to set you free to walk in Christ's way of love and holiness?

Thursday, April 10 ~ Fifth Week in the Season of Lent

Holy Gospel: John 8:51-59 Jesus said to the Jews: "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever keeps my word will never see death." So the Jews said to him, "Now we are sure that you are possessed. Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'Whoever keeps my word will never taste death.' Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? Or the prophets, who died? Who do you make yourself out to be?" Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is worth nothing; but it is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.' You do not know him, but I know him. And if I should say that I do not know him, I would be like you a liar. But I do know him and I keep his word. Abraham your father rejoiced to see my day; he saw it and was glad." So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old and you have seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, before Abraham came to be, I AM." So they picked up stones to throw at him; but Jesus hid and went out of the temple area.

Meditation: When the Jews asked Jesus "Who do you claim to be?" Jesus answered, "before Abraham was, I AM." Jesus claims to be timeless and there is only one in the universe who is timeless, namely God. Scripture tells us that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). Jesus was not just a man who came, lived, died, and then rose again. He is the immortal timeless One, who always was and always will be. In Jesus we see the eternal God in visible flesh. His death and rising make it possible for us to share in his eternal life. Do you live in the hope and joy of the resurrection?

Prayer: Be near, O Lord, to those who plead before you, and look kindly on those who place their hope in your mercy, that, cleansed from the stain of their sins, they may persevere in holy living and be made full heirs of your promise. 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 thirst and hunger to know God fully – to know him personally, and to know the transforming power of his love and wisdom for your life? God made us to know him and he gives us the gift of faith and understanding to grow in our knowledge of him. Jesus challenged the people of Israel to accept his word as the revelation of God. His claims challenged the very foundation of their belief and understanding of God. Jesus made a series of claims which are the very foundation of his life and mission.

What are these claims? First, Jesus claims unique knowledge of God as the only begotten Son of the Father in heaven. Since he claims to be in direct personal communion with his Father in heaven, he knows everything about the Father. Jesus claims that the only way to full knowledge of the mind and heart of God is through himself. Jesus also claims unique obedience to God the Father. He thinks, lives and acts in the knowledge of his Father's word. To look at his life is to "see how God wishes me to live." In Jesus alone we see what God wants us to know and what he wants us to be.

Friday, April 11 ~ Fifth Week in the Season of Lent
Optional Memorial: Saint Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr

Holy Gospel: John 10:31-42 The Jews picked up rocks to stone Jesus. Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from my Father. For which of these are you trying to stone me?" The Jews answered him, "We are not stoning you for a good work but for blasphemy. You, a man, are making yourself God." Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, you are gods'"? If it calls them gods to whom the word of God came, and Scripture cannot be set aside, can you say that the one whom the Father has consecrated and sent into the world blasphemes because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? If I do not perform my Father's works, do not believe me; but if I perform them, even if you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may realize and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." Then they tried again to arrest him; but he escaped from their power. He went back across the Jordan to the place where John first baptized, and there he remained. Many came to him and said, "John performed no sign, but everything John said about this man was true." And many there began to believe in him.

Meditation: Why were the religious leaders so upset with Jesus that they wanted to kill him? They charged him with blasphemy because he claimed to be the Son of God. Jesus made two claims in his response: He was consecrated by the Father to a special task and he was sent into the world to carry out his Father's mission. Jesus challenged his opponents to accept his works if they could not accept his words. One can argue with words, but deeds are beyond argument. Jesus is the perfect teacher in that he does not base his claims on what he says but on what he does. The word of God is life and power to those who believe.

Prayer: Pardon the offenses of your peoples, we pray, O Lord, and in your goodness set us free from the bonds of the sins we have committed in our weakness. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Is your life consecrated to God? The scriptural understanding of consecration is to make "holy for God" – to be given over as a free-will offering and sacrifice for God. Jesus made himself a sin-offering for us, to ransom us from condemnation and slavery to sin. He spoke of his Father consecrating him for this mission of salvation. Jesus shows us the way to walk the path of truth and holiness. And he anoints us with his power to live the gospel with joy and to be his witnesses in the world. Are you a doer of God's word, or a hearer only, failing to put into action that which is taught to us in the sacred scriptures so that we may live in the light of Christ? God wants others to see the light of Christ in us in the way we live, speak, and witness the joy of the Gospel. Folks, as we approach Holy Week – the holiest week of the year in all in the Christian world – let's make sure collectively and individually that we put the "holy" in Holy Week. Let us set aside this one week of the year for added prayer, scripture reading and meditation, daily Mass, the Stations of the Cross. Let us remember most of all to thank Jesus Christ for his suffering the Passion and death on the cross, with the weight and pain of the cross being our own sinfulness.

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.

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and we praise You,
for by Your Holy Cross
You have redeemed the world.”

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Use the QR code to place your order between March 26 & April 9. Flowers will be delivered to St. Michael and available for pickup on April 30.

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

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

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

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!

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

Every year on Good Friday, a collection is taken up in Catholic Churches to support the work of the Franciscans working in the Holy Land. Christians there rely heavily on the help that comes to them from this worldwide collection. The Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America is part of a worldwide network of **Commissariats of the Holy Land** which function as bridges between the Holy Land and Christians all over the world. The Franciscan Monastery in Washington, D.C., coordinates this vital support for the work of the Franciscans who work in the Holy Land. The Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land have the unique responsibility to care for the Holy Places as well for the "Living Stones," the Christians living there. It is vital that we support Christians living in the Holy Land, in order to maintain a Christian presence in the very land made holy by the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus.

2025 EASTER TRIDUUM SERVICES

Holy Thursday, April 17, 7:00pm:
Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, April 18, 3:00pm:
Passion and Veneration of the Cross

Good Friday, April 18, 12:00pm & 7:00pm:
Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday, April 19, 8:15am:
Lauds

Holy Saturday, April 19, 9:00pm:
Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection

Sunday, April 20; 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm & 5:00pm
Easter Sunday Masses

HOLY WEEK CONFESSIONS

Monday, April 14, 5:00pm - 8:00pm

Wednesday, April 16, 6:30pm - 7:30pm



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UPCOMING EVENTS:

4/16 — 7:30PM — Family holy hour

4/21 — 6:30PM LMR — New Knight Exemplification

4/21 — 7:30PM LMR — Business Meeting

4/27 — Corporate Communion after 10:30 Mass

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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!

Stations of the Cross at Saint Michael the Archangel



Friday, April 11:
12:00pm
and
7:30pm
Stations with
Meditations on
the Virtues

Friday, April 18:
12:00pm
and
7:00pm*
Stations with
St. Alphonsus
Ligouri

*Please note evening Stations of the Cross on Good Friday will be at 7:00pm rather than 7:30pm.



*Jesus,
I trust in you*



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY AT SAINT MICHAEL

Confessions and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church will be offered from 1:30pm to 4:00pm. Singing of the Divine Mercy Chaplet will take place at 3:00pm. Please join us and partake in the extraordinary graces received through Christ's love and mercy.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON – FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2025 – SPEAKER DEACON STEVE PETRILL

Join us Friday, May 2 at St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus for a luncheon featuring a talk by Deacon Steve Petrill, Director of the Diocesan Office of the Diaconate, entitled, "Called to Serve: The Role of Deacons in the Church." The May luncheon is sponsored by Dave Kilanowski. If you are interested in sponsoring a luncheon, contact Dave Kilanowski at dkilano@aol.com. Holy Mass (optional) begins at 11:45 a.m., followed by lunch at 12:10 p.m. and Deacon Petrill's presentation. No reservations are necessary. \$12.00 covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend! **Our next luncheon is Friday June 6, 2025, and will feature a talk by Cody Egner, "Explore the Sacred: Why Pilgrimage."**

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CARRY THE CROSS 2025

Join the men, fathers and sons of Wilderness Outreach for Carry the Cross, a prayerful, adventurous, and rugged conclusion to your Lenten fast. Carry the Cross will be held on Holy Saturday, April 19, and includes 12 miles of hiking, prayer, brotherhood, and carrying a 10' x 7', 65-lb. cross. It is for men and boys only. Carry the Cross will take place in Tar Hollow State Forest and will begin on Lipscomb Road at the Tar Hollow Bridle Trailhead, one mile west of State Route 327. Early show-up is suggested, starting at 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer and the Hike will begin at 8:00 a.m. The event will conclude by 3:00 p.m. Each man should bring 2 liters of water, food and snacks, rain gear and hiking boots or shoes. To register and get more information, go to wildernessoutreach.net, email john@wildernessoutreach.net, or call or text 614-679-6761.

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