



*Jesus,
I trust in you*

Divine Mercy
Sunday

“Whoever
approaches the
Fount of Life (Holy
Communion) on
this day will be
granted complete
forgiveness of sins
and punishment.”
(Diary 300)

St. Michael the Archangel
5750 N High Street
Worthington, Ohio 43085
614.885.7814
SAINTMICHAEL-CD.ORG

SAINT MICHAEL STAFF DIRECTORY

Website: saintmichael-cd.org

Parish Office: 614-885-7814

MINISTERS TO THE PARISH

Pastor: Father Stash Dailey

Parochial Vicar: Fr. David Johnstone

Priest in Residence/Diocesan Judicial Vicar:
Fr. Robert Kitsmiller

Transitional Deacon: Dcn. Sam Severance

Permanent Deacons:

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Dcn. Bill Demidovich

Pastoral Minister: Sr. Riya Mary

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ST. MICHAEL

PARISH SCHOOL

Website: stmichaelworthington.org

School Office: 614-885-3149

Principal: Sr. Mary Regina, O.P.

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PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

Athletic Association Representative:

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Knights of Columbus Representative:

Mike LaMorte

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St. Vincent de Paul Society Representative:

Elaine Miracle

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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.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY – APRIL 27, 2025

DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 26

4:00 p.m. + Vincent J. Sharron, Jr. (Tony Pfeifer)

Sunday, April 27 – Divine Mercy Sunday

8:30 a.m. + Leo Thomas Zupan II (Leo Zupan)

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

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

5:00 p.m. + Leopoldo Enrile

Monday, April 28

6:30 a.m. + Kathleen O'Connor Kraus (Betsy Butler)

8:15 a.m. + Thomas Lavin (Sharon Fricke)

Tuesday, April 29

6:30 a.m. + Nghiem Tran (Dcn. John Crerand)

8:15 a.m. Special Intention of Jackie Poston

Wednesday, April 30

6:30 a.m. + Betty Lavin (Dcn. John & Mary Crerand)

8:15 a.m. For the School

6:00 p.m. + Special Intention of the Carmelite Sisters
of the Aged & Infirm (Fr. Mike Lumpe)

Thursday, May 1

6:30 a.m. Special Intention of Sister Mary Regina, O.P.

8:15 a.m. + Kyle Ann Kowaleski (Kristy & Steve Wagner)

Friday, May 2

6:30 a.m. + Maria Stull (The Adamo Family)

8:15 a.m. Special Intention of JoAnn Lund
(The Lund Family)

Saturday, May 3

8:15 a.m. Special Intention of Kathleen Klosterman

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

Sunday, May 4

8:30 a.m. Special Intention of the Miller Family

10:30 a.m. + Tina Fann (The Elliott Family)

12:30 p.m. + Robert & Joan Brown (The Brown Family)

5:00 p.m. + Deacon Klaus Fricke (John Paul Munhall)

PARISH CALENDAR: APRIL/MAY

SUNDAY, April 27	Divine Mercy Sunday 9:00 a.m. OCIA (UMR) 9:00 a.m. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (A) 1:30 p.m. Divine Mercy Eucharistic Exposition & Confessions (C) 2:00 p.m. Baptisms (C) 3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet (C) 3:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group (G) 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group (G)
Monday, April 28	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (U)
Tuesday, April 29	Eucharistic Exposition (AC)
Wednesday, April 30	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 6:00 p.m. Mass, followed by Holy Hour & Confessions (C) 7:30 p.m. OCIA (UMR)
Thursday, May 1	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts (U) 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (C)
Friday, May 2	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 9:30 a.m. Mom's Day Out (UMR)
Saturday, May 3	7:00 a.m. Pietra (LMR) 2:30 p.m. Confessions (C) Preschool Bake Sale after 4:00 p.m. Mass
SUNDAY, May 4	Friendship Sunday after Morning Masses Preschool Bake Sale after Masses 9:00 a.m. OCIA (UMR) 9:00 a.m. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (A) 2:00 p.m. Baptisms (C) 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group (G)

To view Parish Masses & Ministry Activities in advance, please view our Parish Calendar online by visiting: www.saintmichael-cd.org/about-us/calendar/.
(U) = Undercroft/Cafeteria, (S) = School, (C) = Church, (G) = Gym, (MH) = Marian Hall, (SL) = School Library, (UMR) = Meeting room on the first floor of the Parish Ministry Center, (LMR) = Meeting room in the basement of the Parish Ministry Center, (AC) = Adoration Chapel, (A) = Atrium



BAPTISM

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE BAPTISM OF
SOPHIA MINH ANH ZUPAN



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

APRIL 6, 2025

Envelopes	\$ 13,312.52
Online Giving	\$ 15,664.56
Total	\$ 28,977.08

APRIL 13, 2025

Envelopes	\$ 14,422.55
Online Giving	\$ 12,631.00
Total	\$ 27,053.55

EASTER: APRIL 20, 2025

Envelopes	\$ 16,767.00
Online Giving	\$ 14,222.56
Total	\$ 30,989.56

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

Total	\$ 1,222.00
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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
COUNCIL 11445

www.kofc11445.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

5/12 — 7:30PM LMR — Business Meeting

5/18 — Corporate Communion after 10:30 Mass

JOIN THE
KNIGHTS

kofc.org/join



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
He is Risen!

In the midst of the glory of the Lord Risen from the dead calling us to follow Him, He has seen fit to claim the Holy Father for Eternity. It has been a strange week, to say the least, as our prayers call us to rejoice, while our hearts and minds ponder the reality of the passing of Pope Francis.

Surely, the Lord's Victory over sin and darkness gives us the only reason why we can rejoice in the aftermath of death. Reflecting the light of the Lord Jesus, we rejoice, and we rejoice for many reasons!

Our dear young people who have been preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation will be with the Bishop at the Cathedral of St. Joseph on Saturday evening to receive this powerful sacrament.

Bishop Fernandes will join us here at St. Michael the Archangel to offer the Holy Mass at 10:30 a.m. The Bishop will be with us to celebrate the Sacred Mysteries of our Holy Faith in celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday.

While the Bishop is here, he will also install me as your pastor. May the Lord Jesus, our true and perfect Good Shepherd, bless all who depend upon Him for everything.

As it is Divine Mercy Sunday, your parish priests will offer the Sacrament of Confession in the church from 1:30-4:00 p.m. The Lord Jesus will be exposed on the altar for Adoration in the church.

The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed at 3:00 p.m.; please consider coming to not only experience the Lord's Mercy, but also to intercede for the salvation of the whole world.

Together, I pray we will run with haste to the Lord Jesus!

Fr. Stash Dailey

AROUND THE PARISH

*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. In celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday, we are pleased to welcome Bishop Fernandes to offer the 10:30am Mass. Bishop Fernandes will also be installing Father Dailey as Pastor at this Mass.

HAIL HOLY QUEEN!

THREE DAYS
WITH OUR LADY
AT ST MICHAEL,
WORTHINGTON

LED BY
FR ROYSTON PRICE CSSR

12TH - 14TH
MAY

**MONDAY 12TH:
OUR LIFE**

**TUESDAY 13TH:
OUR SWEETNESS**

**WEDNESDAY 14TH:
OUR HOPE**

12 Noon Rosary and
Sermon

Confessions from 6pm

7pm Service each night,
lasting an hour.

**CELEBRATE
OUR LADY'S
MONTH WELL**





Join the Confraternity of Christian Mothers at St. Michael the Archangel

A society of women dedicated to the sanctification of their families under the special patronage of Our Lady of Sorrows. Mothers rule the world. Mothers play a vital role in upholding Christ's presence in the world through their high mission to the family. They nurture souls, teach their children, serve and strengthen their families, model Christian self-sacrifice, and witness to the unfathomable parental love God bears for each of His children.

WHY JOIN THE CONFRATERNITY?

There are many advantages for the woman who joins the Confraternity. First, a Christian Mother is under the powerful protection and intercession of Mary, our Mother of Sorrows, the chief patroness of the organization, as well as other special patrons of Christian Mothers: St. Joseph, St. John the Baptist, St. John the Apostle, St. Joachim and St. Anne, St. Augustine, St. Anthony, St. Aloysius, St. Elizabeth, St. Monica, and St. Rose of Lima. Local Confraternities also adopt their own particular patrons and invoke them lovingly. In return for all these benefits, a Christian Mother takes on the obligation to recite a daily prayer for the children, to offer a monthly Mass for the members, and to attend meetings as she is able. The monthly meeting consists of Mass, a brief business meeting, and a talk on an appropriate topic. Often the topic of discussion centers around the character formation of children – one of the main purposes of the Confraternity. One of the special advantages is the actual presence of Our Divine Lord with His graces: "Where two or more are gathered together in My Name, there am I in the midst of them." There are many indulgences attached to membership of this Confraternity. A plenary indulgence is given on the day of enrollment and its anniversaries, another at the hour of death (if they pronounce the holy name of Jesus), on the principal feast of the Confraternity, and on the other feasts named in the Confraternity's manual. There are also many partial indulgences given to members. A particular grace available in abundance to members is this: every single time a mother (being in the state of grace and with good intention) instructs her children, rewards, or punishes them in the interest of Christian training and says a prayer or performs a good work receives a remission of temporal punishment incurred by sin! How many times do mothers guide, instruct, and help their children in one day? Through the Confraternity, the works of mercy inherent in motherhood are further sanctified, elevated, and made fruitful.



Scan the QR code to learn more about the Christian Mothers at St. Michael and these upcoming events:

Saturday, May 10, 8:15am
Morning of Reflection

Tuesday, June 17, 6:30pm
First Meeting

Tuesday, June 24, 6:30pm
Reception Ceremony

THE CHRISTIAN MOTHER'S DAILY PRAYER FOR THE CHILDREN

O Mary, Immaculate Virgin and Sorrowful Mother, commend our beloved children to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Who refuses nothing to His Mother.

Holy Guardian Angels, pray for them.

St. Joseph, powerful patron, pray for them.

St. John, much-beloved precursor of our Lord, pray for them.

St. John, adopted son of the Sorrowful Mother, pray for them.

St. Joachim and St. Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, pray for them.

St. Augustine, pray for them.

St. Anthony, pray for them.

St. Aloysius, pray for them.

St. Elizabeth, pray for them.

St. Monica, pray for them.

St. Rose of Lima, pray for them.

All you holy fathers and mothers, pray for them and for us.

All you holy children, pray for them and for us.

Amen



WHAT IS THE CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN MOTHERS?

The confraternity was founded in Lille, France, in 1850, designed to help wives and mothers combat the forces undermining family life. Under the special patronage of the Mother of Sorrows, the members are encouraged in the important task of training and sanctifying the young souls entrusted to their care.

WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE CONFRATERNITY?

The mission of the Confraternity is primarily to unite mothers in prayer and also to instruct, educate, and inspire mothers in performing their duties and in practicing virtue. By Catholic instruction at regular meetings, the Confraternity strives to encourage and impress on them the importance of motherhood and to inflame them with ardent zeal. Its aim is to show them the way of attaining their own sanctification and that of their families and to induce them to bring up their children as true Christians, ensuring their temporal and especially their eternal welfare.



St. Gerard Majella

A Blessing will be offered after the 10:30am Mass on each second Sunday of the month for all expectant mothers and those desiring to conceive a child.

REST IN PEACE HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS



BORN
DECEMBER 17, 1936

ORDAINED TO THE HOLY PRIESTHOOD
DECEMBER 13, 1969

ELECTED TO THE PAPACY
MARCH 13, 2013

DIED
APRIL 21, 2025



"We will never be disillusioned or lose our way if we are guided by God."

Pope Francis, who died April 21 at the age of 88, gave new energy to millions of Catholics as he transformed the image of the papacy into a pastoral ministry based on personal encounters and strong convictions about poverty, mission and dialogue. U.S. Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, chamberlain of the Holy Roman Church, announced that Pope Francis had died at 7:35 a.m. "His whole life was dedicated to the service of the Lord and His Church," Cardinal Farrell said in a video announcement broadcast from the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae, where Pope Francis lived.

Promoting peace, solidarity and respect for the Earth, the pope insisted people needed to recognize each other as brothers and sisters and issued an encyclical about that, "Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship." He signed the text at the tomb of St. Francis of Assisi on the saint's feast day, October 4, 2020.

Pope Francis spent much of the first nine years of his pontificate pursuing two ambitious projects: revitalizing the Church's efforts at evangelization – constantly urging outreach rather than a preoccupation with internal church affairs – and reforming the central administration of the Vatican, emphasizing its role of assisting bishops around the world rather than dictating policy to them.

On March 19, 2022, the ninth anniversary of the inauguration of his papacy, he finally promulgated "Praedicate Evangelium" ("Preach the Gospel"), his complete restructuring of the Roma Curia, highlighting its mission to serve the Church's evangelization efforts at all levels.

"Go out" was Pope Francis' constant plea to every Catholic, from curial cardinals to the people in the pews. More than once, he told people that while the Bible presents Jesus as knocking at the door of people's hearts to get in, today Jesus is knocking at the doors of parish churches trying to get out and among the people.

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
The Month of May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary

"[Let] the greatest sinners place their trust in My mercy. They have the right before others to trust in the abyss of My mercy. My daughter, write about My mercy towards tormented souls. Souls that make an appeal to My mercy delight Me. To such souls I grant even more graces than they ask. I cannot punish even the greatest sinner if he makes an appeal to My compassion, but on the contrary, I justify him in My unfathomable and inscrutable mercy. Write: before I come as a just Judge, I first open wide the door of My mercy. He who refuses to pass through the door of My mercy must pass through the door of My justice." ~JESUS SPEAKING TO SAINT FAUSTINA KOWALSKA

Monday, April 28 ~ Second Week in the Season of Easter

Optional Memorials of St. Peter Chanel, Priest & Martyr; St. Louis Mary de Montfort, Priest

Holy Gospel: John 3:1-8 There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. He came to Jesus at night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you are doing unless God is with him." Jesus answered and said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless one is born from above, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man once grown old be born again? Surely he cannot reenter his mother's womb and be born again, can he?" Jesus answered, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless one is born of water and Spirit he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. What is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I told you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Meditation: Notice how hungry Nicodemus was for God's word – so hungry that he became the closest disciple of Jesus. He sought Jesus out, though surreptitiously in the dead of the night. Why? Nicodemus was a "leader of the Jews" and "a teacher of Israel" (ref. John 3:10), and a member of the religious party most opposed to the teaching of Jesus. In fact it was Nicodemus' own group, the Pharisees, which intimidated the authorities against confessing Jesus (ref. John 12:42). Instead he engaged him in a seemingly unrelated topic of conversation. Jesus said that rebirth was necessary to enter the kingdom of God. Of course, Nicodemus the Pharisee had already found religion, so he thought that Jesus must have referred to physical rebirth. No, Jesus responded, someone who is reborn spiritually knows the experience as surely as one who has been refreshed by an invisible breeze. How can a respected rabbi among the Jews not know this? And that is precisely the point. Nicodemus is the first of what we might loosely call the official clergy with whom Jesus has personal engagement.

Prayer: Grant we pray, almighty God, that we, who have been renewed by Paschal remedies, transcending the likeness of our earthly parentage, may be transformed in the image of our heavenly maker. 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're familiar with the term "born again" or to be "reborn" in Christ. What does it mean? The new birth Jesus speaks of is a spiritual birth to new life and relationship with God as his sons and daughters. This new birth is made possible when one is baptized into Christ and receives the gift of the Holy Spirit. God wants to renew all his people in the gift of new life in his Holy Spirit. This new life brings us into God's kingdom or heavenly rule – a never-ending life of love, peace, joy, and freedom from sin and the fear of death. Do you know the joy and freedom of new life in Jesus Christ?

Tuesday, April 29 ~ Second Week in the Season of Easter
Memorial: Saint Catharine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

Holy Gospel: John 3:7b-15 Jesus said to Nicodemus: "'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus answered and said to him, 'How can this happen?' Jesus answered and said to him, "You are the teacher of Israel and you do not understand this? Amen, amen, I say to you, we speak of what we know and we testify to what we have seen, but you people do not accept our testimony. If I tell you about earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."

Meditation: Jesus spoke to Nicodemus of the power of his cross and a "new birth in the Spirit." The Hebrew word for "spirit" means both "wind" and "breath." Jesus said to Nicodemus: "You can hear, feel, and see the effects of the wind, but you do not know where it comes from. In like manner, you can see the effects of the Holy Spirit in the lives of those the Spirit touches." Jesus was explaining to Nicodemus the necessity of the crucifixion and resurrection by analogy with Moses and the bronze serpent in the desert. 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" (Book of Numbers 21:8).

Prayer: O God, who set Saint Catharine of Siena on fire with divine love in her contemplation of the Lord's Passion and her service to your Church, grant, through her intercession, that your people, participating in the mystery of Christ, may ever exult in the revelation of his glory. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: 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 the Cross of Christ. The Holy Spirit gives us his seven-fold gifts of wisdom and understanding, right judgment and courage, knowledge and reverence for God and his ways, and a holy fear in God's presence (ref. Isaiah 11) that we may live for God and serve him in the power of his strength. Christ came to serve, not to be served. Do you lovingly serve others as Christ served us?

Wednesday, April 30 ~ Second Week in the Season of Easter
Optional Memorial: Pope Saint Pius V

Holy Gospel: John 3:16-21 God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

Meditation: Do you know the love which surpasses all else? A true lover holds nothing back but gives the best that can be offered, even everything in their possession for the beloved. God proved his love for us by giving us the best he had to offer – his only begotten Son who freely gave himself as an offering to God for our sake and as the atoning sacrifice for our sin and the sin of the world. Abraham's willing sacrifice of his only son, Isaac prefigures the perfect offering and sacrifice of God's beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. This passage in the gospel of John tells us of the great breadth and width of God's love. Not an excluding love for just a few or for a single nation, but a redemptive love that embraces the whole world, and a personal love for each and every individual whom God has created. God is a loving Father who cannot rest until his wandering children have returned home to him. Saint Augustine says, God loves each one of us as if there were only one of us to love. God gives us the freedom to choose whom and what we will love – let's pray that we use that freedom wisely.

Prayer: As we recall year by year the mysteries by which, through the restoration of its original dignity, human nature has received the hope of rising again, we earnestly beseech your mercy, Lord, that what we celebrate in faith we may possess in unending love. 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: Jesus shows us the paradox of love and judgment. We can love the darkness of sin and unbelief or we can love the light of God's truth, beauty, and goodness. This all takes place by the choices we make – our "free will." If our love is guided by what is true, and good and beautiful then we will choose for God and love him above all else. What we love shows what we prefer. Do you love God above all else? Does he take first place in your life, in your thoughts, and actions? Are your choices guided by the love of God? If not, why not?

Thursday, May 1 ~ Second Week in the Season of Easter Saint Joseph the Worker

Holy Gospel: John 6:52-59 The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his Flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink his Blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my Flesh is true food, and my Blood is true drink. Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever." These things he said while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

Meditation: Why did Jesus offer himself as "food and drink"? The Jews were scandalized and the disciples were divided when Jesus said "unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you have no life in you." What a hard saying, unless you understand who Jesus is and why he calls himself the bread of life. The miracle of the multiplication of the loaves, when Jesus said the blessing, broke and distributed the loaves through his disciples to feed the multitude, prefigured the superabundance of the unique bread of the Eucharist, or Lord's Supper. The Gospel of John has no account of the Last Supper meal (just the foot washing ceremony and Jesus' farewell discourse). Instead, John quotes extensively from Jesus' teaching on the bread of life. In the Old Covenant bread and wine were offered in sacrifice as a sign of grateful acknowledgment to their Creator. Melchizedek's offering of bread and wine, who was both priest and king (Genesis 14:18), prefigured the offering made by Jesus, our high priest and king. The remembrance of the manna in the wilderness recalled to Israel that it lives by the bread of the Word of God (Deuteronomy 8:3). When at the Last Supper Jesus described his blood "poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:28), he was explaining his coming crucifixion as a sacrifice for sins. His death on the cross fulfilled the sacrifice of the paschal lamb. That is why John the Baptist called him the "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."

Prayer: O God, Creator of all things, who laid down for the human race the law of work, graciously grant that by the example of Saint Joseph and under his patronage we may complete the works you set us to do and attain the rewards you promise. 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.

Prayer to Saint Joseph for Employment: Dear Saint Joseph, you were yourself once faced with the responsibility of providing the necessities of life for Jesus and Mary. Look down with fatherly compassion upon me in my anxiety with my present inability to support my family. Please help me find gainful employment very soon, so that this great burden of concern will be lifted from my heart and that I am soon able to provide for those whom God has entrusted to my care. Help me guard against discouragement, so that I may emerge from this trial spiritually enriched and with even greater blessings from God. Amen.

Contemplation (in relation to today's feast): Do you find yourself in need of prayer looking for work these days? The Prayer to Saint Joseph for Employment (above) is presented today in the hope it might provide some relief and comfort to those who find themselves in this situation. Do not despair! Seek this great Saint's help in carrying the vexing and at times quite bitter cross of being out of work, remembering always that you always have great worth in the eyes of God no matter what your situation may be.

About today's Feast: "May Day" has long been dedicated to labor and the working man. It falls on the first day of the month that is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Pope Pius XII expressed the hope that this feast would accentuate the dignity of labor and would bring a spiritual dimension to labor unions. It is eminently fitting that Saint Joseph, a working man who became the foster-father of Christ and patron of the universal Church, should be honored on this day. The texts of the Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours

provide a catechetical synthesis of the significance of human labor seen in the light of faith. The Opening Prayer states that God, the creator and ruler of the universe, has called men and women in every age to develop and use their talents for the good of others. Then, in the second part of the Opening Prayer, we ask that we may do the work that God has asked of us and come to the rewards he has promised. The liturgy for this feast vindicates the right to work, and this is a message that needs to be heard and heeded in our modern society. In many of the documents issued by Pope John XXIII, Pope Paul VI, the Second Vatican Council and Pope John Paul II, reference is made to the Christian spirit that should permeate one's work, after the example of Saint Joseph.

Friday, May 2 ~ Second Week in the Season of Easter **Memorial: Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**

Holy Gospel: John 6:1-15 John Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee. A large crowd followed him, because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. The Jewish feast of Passover was near. When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" He said this to test him, because he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred days' wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people recline." Now there was a great deal of grass in that place. So the men reclined, about five thousand in number. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted. When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted." So they collected them, and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves that had been more than they could eat. When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, "This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world." Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone.

Meditation: Can anything on this earth truly satisfy the deepest longing and hunger we experience God? A great multitude had gathered to hear Jesus, no doubt because they were hungry for the word of life. Jesus' disciples wanted to send them away at the end of the day because they did not have the resources to feed them. They even complained how much money it would take to feed such a crowd – at least six month's wages! Jesus, the Bread of Life, took the little they had – five loaves and two fish – and giving thanks to his heavenly Father, distributed to all until they were satisfied of their hunger. The miraculous feeding of such a great multitude pointed to God's provision of manna in the wilderness for the people of Israel under Moses' leadership. This food foreshadowed the true heavenly bread which Jesus would offer his followers. Jesus makes a claim only God can make: He is the true bread of heaven that can satisfy the deepest hunger we experience. The sign of the multiplication of the loaves when the Lord says the blessing, breaks and distributes through his disciples prefigures the superabundance of the unique bread of his Eucharist or Lord's Supper. When we receive from the Lord's table we unite ourselves to Jesus Christ, who makes us sharers in his sacred body and blood. Saint Ignatius of Antioch calls it the "one bread that provides the medicine of immortality, the antidote for death, and the food that makes us live forever in Jesus Christ" (Ad Eph. 20,2).

Prayer: Almighty ever-living God, who raised up the Bishop Saint Athanasius as an outstanding champion of your Son's divinity, mercifully grant, that, rejoicing in his teaching and his protection, we may never cease to grow in knowledge and love of 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 feeding of the five thousand shows the remarkable generosity of God and his great kindness towards us. When God gives, he gives abundantly. He gives more than we need for ourselves that we may have something to share with others, especially those who lack what they need. God takes the little we have and multiplies it for the good of others. Do you trust in God's provision for you? Do you share freely with others, especially those who lack even the most basic necessities? How about doing some spring cleaning and take what you're not using in your home (clean items in good condition, of course) and give them to any number of Catholic organizations reaching out to help those in need.

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops;
prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011;

meditations and contemplations adapted from *Biblical Medications for Easter* by Rev. Carroll Stuhlmueller, C.P.;
information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.



Do This in Remembrance of Me; Part 52: Anamnesis, Mystery of Faith

Blessings to you all! As we continue through the Mass, here comes another big word: Anamnesis (commonly pronounced: Ann-amm-nee-siss), also known as the Memorial Acclamation. Now that Jesus is truly present on the altar and we have adored him quietly, what else should we do but raise our voices and proclaim our joy out loud? After the elevation of the chalice, the priest genuflects in adoration. When he rises, he says, "The mystery of faith." These words invite one of three responses: "We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again"; or "When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again"; or "Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free."

A Charles Belmonte writes, "The Anamnesis is a prayer of remembrance in which the Church calls to mind the Lord's passion, resurrection, and ascension into heaven... We have just been asked to 'proclaim the mystery of faith.' And what is this mystery? Precisely the redeeming sacrifice of Christ celebrated in these rites" (Understanding the Mass, p. 145).

Christ's Sacrifice: A Past Event Made Present

The Diocese of Peoria points out, "As the Second Vatican Council teaches, the Mass perpetuates the Sacrifice of the Cross throughout the ages until Jesus Christ comes again in glory. The Mystery of Faith announces three main points: past, present, future. It recalls the event of the Cross [We proclaim your Death, O Lord], a present reality [and profess your Resurrection] and a future anticipation [until you come again]. The redemptive sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross is of infinite and eternal value. Therefore, redemption isn't an historical event—it is a present reality! At the celebration of the Mass, then, the Cross is remembered in such a way that it is rendered present. We are not spectators of a theatrical re-enactment, but of a sacramental re-presentation" ("A Study of the Mass," pp. 15-16).

This teaching highlights for us that having Christ truly present in the Mass really stretches us beyond our limits of space and time. At a point in history, we know that Jesus carried the Cross and offered himself in sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins. Yet, the Mass allows us to touch that offering, not just as something that happened in the past but as truly present—the one perfect sacrifice of Jesus there before us.

A Memorial That Leads Us into the Mystery

Continuing with the Diocese of Peoria, "How does this happen? On the altar of the Cross, Jesus Christ offered himself to the Father 'for you and for [many for the forgiveness of sins]. At the Last Supper, when Jesus instituted the way in which we would celebrate this redemptive sacrifice, he said, 'Do this in memory of me.' The anamnesis (memorial) of the Eucharistic prayer calls to mind the Paschal Mystery—the passion, death, resurrection, and ascension of the Lord. As the catechism teaches, 'the memorial is not merely the recollection of past events but the proclamation of the mighty works wrought by God' (CCC 1363). Thus, the sacred events are made present and real at the Mass. As the Paschal Mystery is made present to the Father, the Church, through the Holy Spirit, is united with Christ in his perfect sacrificial offering" ("A Study of the Mass," p. 16).

Perhaps this helps us more clearly understand what we mean when we say "Memorial." The Biblical understanding of memorial is much more than remembering. For us, we might look at an old photo album and recall from the pictures the joy of a certain day. The beauty of the Mass as sacrificial memorial is that it brings us into that certain day. This reality leads us into the meaning of "Mystery."

Mystery: An Invitation to Grow Deeper

I think the word mystery is one we don't always fully grasp. Through the years, I have heard people say, "It is a mystery," as a reason to leave one of our teachings at a distance. Maybe for them, saying a certain truth is a mystery is a way of saying, "This is beyond my understanding, so I'm not going to worry about it." Certainly, one meaning of the word mystery is that something is difficult to explain or understand. But from our faith perspective, it really is an invitation to grow deeper. We know that God is infinite and we are not. We know that the truths of God can sometimes feel beyond our daily lived observation and experience. We also know that God has revealed himself to us in love and that Jesus has given himself in sacrifice out of love. The Mystery of Faith really invites us to meditate with joy on the realization that God loves us and brings many truths and realities together at once to show the abundant generosity of that love.

A quote from Mother Teresa might help us meditate on how the Last Supper, the Cross, and the Mass are together the one perfect and loving sacrifice of Jesus: "If Jesus had not established the Eucharist we would have forgotten the crucifixion. It would have faded into the past and we would have forgotten that Jesus loved us. There is a saying that to be far away from the eyes is to be far away from the heart. To make sure that we do not forget, Jesus gave us the Eucharist as a memorial of His love... When you look at the Crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you then; when you look at the Sacred Host, you understand how much Jesus loves you now."

For Reflection:

1. Next time you participate in Mass, arrive early enough to take time to reflect on the crucifix in the church. Be attentive to the crucifix while the Mass unfolds as you deepen your awareness of the relationship between Christ's sacrifice on the Cross and his Eucharistic Presence.
2. How do you memorialize significant events in your life? Consider participating in Mass on those important anniversaries and reflecting on how the Liturgy of the Word and the prayers of the Mass relate to your history.





Do This in Remembrance of Me; Part 53: Offering

Continuing through the parts of the Eucharistic Prayer, this week we look at the Oblation, where the Church “offers the unblemished sacrificial Victim in the Holy Spirit to the Father... as well as our very selves” (GIRM, 79). We certainly have a lot to be excited about, especially Holy Communion, which is coming. Lest we lose focus and let our attention fade, the prayers that follow the Memorial Acclamation help us to recall the Mass as the one perfect sacrifice, as well as our participation in that sacrifice.

Placing Ourselves on the Altar with Christ

Perhaps you will recognize these words from Eucharistic Prayer I: “We, your servants and your holy people, offer to your glorious majesty from the gifts that you have given us, this pure victim, this holy victim, this spotless victim, the holy Bread of eternal life and the Chalice of everlasting salvation.” According to the Diocese of Peoria, “As we offer to God the gifts, we offer to Him ourselves—as Christ did, we offer Him our very lives. As we offer ourselves, we do so with the entire Church, here on earth and in heaven, and we ask that we, too, may share in their fellowship... Our praise and worship is always united with theirs, as the entire Church is present at every Mass” (“A Study of the Mass,” p. 16). As we hear in Eucharistic Prayer II, “Have mercy on us all, we pray, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with blessed Joseph, her Spouse, with the blessed Apostles, and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the ages, we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life, and may praise and glorify you through your Son, Jesus Christ.”

This offering also reminds us: “We are not mere spectators; we are participants. Even though it is the priest who offers these prayers in the name of the community, all present at the Mass can offer their silent prayers with the priest. This is a most opportune time to ‘place our intentions on the paten’ and unite our offering with our Lord” (“A Study of the Mass,” p. 16). You may recall how previously we shared that Mother Teresa would imagine placing her heart and intentions on the paten on the altar. What Mother Teresa understood was that at this time of the Mass, all the eyes of heaven are focused on the altar before us. With all the saints and angels gathered around giving glory to God, they are praying with us and for us, making this time a great moment to be joined together with Christ.

Offering Ourselves to God

The Eucharistic Prayers remind us that we not only offer our prayers in union with Jesus, the perfect offering, but we also offer ourselves to God: all that we are and all that we have to give, both to God and to others. This part of the Mass reminds us that we participate in the life of Jesus and that we should live out that participation every day. Charles Belmonte writes, “Following the footprints of Jesus, our life becomes a prolonged Mass. Here is a summary or program of life by which we can achieve this ideal:

- To remember Christ’s passion and death. It delivered us from the real evil—sin; and merited for us all true good.
- To experience constantly the joy of his resurrection.
- To proclaim his resurrection and ascension, through our words and deeds.
- To center our day on this holy sacrifice, while we look forward to Christ’s coming” (Understanding the Mass, p. 147).

So, instead of thinking about that nice meal that is going to follow the Mass, the fun day you have planned, or even what the next week will look like, why not thank God for the gift of Jesus present and remind ourselves to “live out the Mass”? In that mindset, maybe the meal or fun activity becomes a joyful offering. Maybe our work week or school schedule becomes a sacrificial offering. How different might our work be if, instead of putting in the time or getting our homework done, we are joined with Christ in making an offering to God?

For Reflection:

1. Apply Charles Belmonte’s “program of life” to your own circumstances, and consider how you can witness to the joy of the Resurrection and Ascension in your daily life.
2. As you make your plans for the day or week, reflect on what follows immediately after your participation in Mass and how to bring the graces you have received into the rest of your day.

Next Week: Intercessions

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Questions? Contact Jake Asuncion
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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

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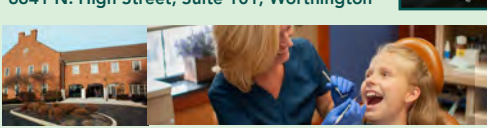
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