



*O Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, You know the longings of our hearts,  
and You desire that we enjoy friendship with You...*

JUNE 28, 2026 – THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

# ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

5750 N. High Street, Worthington, OH 43085

614-885-7814 [www.saintmichael-cd.org](http://www.saintmichael-cd.org)

## Saint Michael Staff Directory

Website: [saintmichael-cd.org](http://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  
Permanent Deacons:  
Dcn. John Crerand  
Dcn. Bill Demidovich  
Pastoral Minister: Sr. Riya Mary  
[sriya@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:sriya@saintmichael-cd.org)  
Youth Minister: Jake Asuncion  
[jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org)  
Director of OCIA: Jake Neal  
[jneal@sjhcc.org](mailto:jneal@sjhcc.org)

### Parish Office

Secretary & PGC: Kathy Trafford  
[ktrafford@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:ktrafford@saintmichael-cd.org)  
Receptionist: Rhonda Marinelli  
[rmarinelli@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:rmarinelli@saintmichael-cd.org)  
Business Manager/Accountant:  
Bryan Moore  
[bmoore@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:bmoore@saintmichael-cd.org)

### St. Michael Parish School

Website: [stmichaelworthington.org](http://stmichaelworthington.org)

School Office: 614-885-3149

Principal: Sr. Mary Regina, O.P.  
[principal@stmichaelworthington.org](mailto:principal@stmichaelworthington.org)  
Preschool Director: Laura Wells  
[lwells@stmichaelworthington.org](mailto:lwells@stmichaelworthington.org)

### Parish Representatives

Athletic Association Representative:  
Adam Rohrer  
[smaa@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:smaa@saintmichael-cd.org)  
Knights of Columbus Representative:  
John Greve  
[grandknight@kofc11445.com](mailto:grandknight@kofc11445.com)  
St. Vincent de Paul Society Representative:  
Elaine Miracle  
[svdp@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:svdp@saintmichael-cd.org)  
Parish Council Representative:  
Martha Bogue

## Saint Michael Information Center

### Sacrament of Baptism

Pre-Baptism classes offered at 2:00 p.m. on the second Sunday; preregistration required. All Baptisms are by appointment only; sponsors need Letter from their pastor. Baptisms may be scheduled on Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons. Please contact the Parish Office.

### Sacrament of Marriage

No date should be set prior to seeing a priest or deacon six months before desired date.

### Sacrament of the Sick

Please contact the Parish Office.

### 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](http://StMichael.WeAdoreHim.com) to sign up or use the QR code.

### Mass Intentions



Mass Intentions are currently available to schedule for 2026. 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.

### 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](http://www.saintmichael-cd.org).

### Low-Gluten Host



If you are in need of a low-gluten host, please scan this QR code for full details.

### Bulletin Deadline

To submit a bulletin request, the request must be made no later than 12:00 p.m., Monday. Send bulletin requests to [office@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:office@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](mailto: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.

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, June 27

- 8:15 a.m. S.I. Priest of St. Michael Church  
(Mauro Family)  
4:00 p.m. +Dcn. Klaus Fricke  
(Demidovich Family)

### Sunday, June 28

- 8:30 a.m. Living & Deceased Members  
of the Parish  
10:30 a.m. S.I. Mr. & Mrs. Ben Yip  
12:30 p.m. +Robert Hall Weir  
(Rako Family)  
5:00 p.m. +Gerald Ottiwu  
(Elochukwu & Ottiwu Families)

### Monday, June 29

- 6:30 a.m. +Mario Caboccia  
8:15 a.m. +Dcn. Klaus Fricke  
(Sharon Fricke)

### Tuesday, June 30

- 6:30 a.m. +Richard Smith  
(Smith Family)  
8:15 a.m. +Rebeca Patton  
(Lund Family)

### Wednesday, July 1

- 6:30 a.m. +Dcn. Ralph Parsons  
(Dcn. John Crerand)  
8:15 a.m. +Ben Gretencord  
(Lund Family)  
6:00 p.m. Living & Deceased Members  
of the Shimp Family

### Thursday, July 2

- 6:30 a.m. +John R. Temple  
(David Cap)  
8:15 a.m. S.I. Enid Li  
(Lund Family)

### Friday, July 3

- 6:30 a.m. +Deceased Members of the  
Jimenez Family  
8:15 a.m. S.I. Ron & Julie Winland

### Saturday, July 4

- 8:15 a.m. +Deceased Members of the  
Christie Kelly Family  
4:00 p.m. +Kyle Ann Kowaleski  
(Steve & Kristy Wagner)

### Sunday, July 5

- 8:30 a.m. S.I. Brinkman Family  
10:30 a.m. For the Living and Deceased Members  
of Our Parish  
12:30 p.m. S.I. George Sandy Simpson  
(Peter Griffith)  
5:00 p.m. +Thomas L. Honigford

## Parish Calendar – June/July

<b>Sunday, June 28</b>	2:00 p.m. Preregistered Baptisms 6:00 p.m. Adventurers Summer Events (G)
<b>Monday, June 29</b>	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (U) 6:30 p.m. Young Adults Theology of the Body (UMR)
<b>Tuesday, June 30</b>	Eucharistic Exposition (AC)
<b>Wednesday, July 1</b>	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 6:00 p.m. Mass followed by Holy Hour & Confessions (C)
<b>Thursday, July 2</b>	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 6:30 p.m. Festival Committee Meeting (UMR)
<b>Friday, July 3</b>	Parish Office Closed Eucharistic Exposition (AC)
<b>Saturday, July 4</b>	2:30 p.m. Confessions (C)
<b>Sunday, July 5</b>	Friendship Sunday (MH)

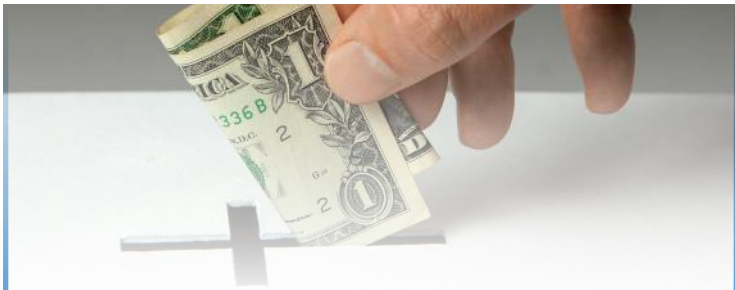
To view Parish Masses & Ministry Activities in advance,  
please view our Parish Calendar online by visiting  
[www.saintmichael-cd.org/about-us/calendar/](http://www.saintmichael-cd.org/about-us/calendar/).

(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



## Baptisms

**Scott Brudos**  
**Rose Brudos**  
**Calvin Brudos**



## Financial Stewardship

JUNE 21, 2026

Envelopes .....	\$	19,041.00
Online Giving .....	\$	13,446.00
Total: .....	\$	32,487.00



Diocesan Goal: .....	\$	165,482.71
Enhanced Goal: .....	\$	300,000.00
Total Goal: .....	\$	465,482.71
Raised to Date: .....	\$	238,003.00



🏠 9 households kept from Eviction or utility cut-off

👕 9 Neighbors served in Clothing Room



74 Neighbors provided with Food assistance



Monetary assistance to 2 other conferences

### Ways to donate:

Church envelopes; Online giving; Kroger Community Rewards program; Charitable Giving through your IRA account; Matching program through your employer; Food donations in boxes in Marian Hall; Clothing donations through the donation chute behind the school gym

## Around the Parish



### Live Wire Luncheon at Villa Nova Ristorante

Tuesday, July 14th at 1:30 p.m.

RSVPs are required to plan for adequate seating!

Please call the Parish Office at 614-885-7814 to attend.

We will take reservations until Monday, July 13th at 10:00 a.m.



### The St. Vincent de Paul Society invites you to help FILL THE TRUCK!

Our donation weekend for the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store is quickly approaching. Have you been cleaning out your closets and storage areas and thinking of donating them or having a garage sale? We make it easy to share your "preloved" used items and fill up the shelves and racks at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store. By sharing these items, you are helping St. Vincent de Paul raise money for the work it does in our community and provide others with an opportunity to purchase affordable items to help make their house a home.

The trailer will be in the Selby parking lot on:

- Saturday, July 18 from 12:00 noon-6:00 p.m. and
- Sunday, July 19 from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Members of our St. Vincent de Paul Society will be on hand to help you unload your car. We will accept clothing, shoes, home décor, household items, toys, and puzzles that are in good, gently used condition. If you have large furniture pieces to donate, please call the Thrift Store directly at 614-377-1065 to make arrangements to pick up these items from your home and ask them to credit the St. Michael's St. Vincent de Paul conference.

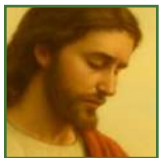
WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



## American Heritage Girls

On Thursday, June 18th, members of the American Heritage Girls Troop OH1247 from St. Michael the Archangel made a pilgrimage to Sacred Heart Parish in Italian Village to give thanks for a fruitful inaugural program year. They were joined by members of the troop from St. Patrick's for a Holy Hour and Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Johnstone. The AHG troop at St. Michael and all of the girl members have been entrusted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. If you would like more information about the AHG program at St. Michael, please email [ahg@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:ahg@saintmichael-cd.org).

Pilgrimage to Sacred Heart Church  
893 Hamlet Street, Columbus, OH



## PSR Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Registration Now Open

August-May 2026-2027 – Sundays: 9:15-10:15 a.m. | Toddlers: Saturday, 8:50-9:50 a.m.  
For more information, email [cgs@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:cgs@saintmichael-cd.org).



## St. Michael Young Adults

## Theology of the Body Series

Come and join us as we discuss Pope St. John Paul II's catechesis on The Theology of the Body. Considered one of the most influential teachings in modern times, TOB will be summarized by different speakers and discussion will be based on the anthropology of the human person, marriage, and vocation.

Please join us on the following dates in the Upper Meeting Room at 6:30 pm:

**Mondays**  
June 8, 15, 22, 29  
July 13, 20, 27

For any questions email Jake Asuncion  
[jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org)

# TOTUS TUUS

PARISH SUMMER CATECHETICAL PROGRAM



ST. MICHAEL CHURCH  
JULY 12-17<sup>TH</sup>

Join us for a fun and faith-filled week! Learn about the Apostles Creed and the Glorious Mysteries of the rosary while growing in your relationship with the Lord. See you there!




**DAY PROGRAM**

- Monday -Friday
- 9am-2:30pm
- Grades 1-6

**NIGHT PROGRAM**

- Sunday-Thursday
- 6:45pm-9pm
- Grades 7-12

Registration Open Now! Scan the QR Code to Complete your Registration Today!



Questions? Contact Jake Asuncion at [jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org)

# TOTUS TUUS

PARISH SUMMER CATECHETICAL PROGRAM

Help with Totus Tuus!

Volunteer Sign up!



Food Sign up!



ST. MICHAEL  
JULY 12-17

We need your help! We are looking for daily volunteers for Totus Tuus as well as lunch donations and dinner hosts for our missionaries! Adult Volunteers must be PGC certified.

Scan the QR code for volunteers or/and food sign up!

Questions? Contact Jake Asuncion  
[jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org)

## Middle School Youth Ministry The Adventurers

**SUMMER SCHEDULE  
SUNDAYS @ 6-7:30**

MEET IN THE GYM!!

**JUNE 28**

**JULY 12-17  
TOTUS TUUS**  
PLEASE REGISTER ON ST. MICHAEL'S WEBSITE

**JULY 19**

**AUGUST 2**

**INCOMING 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS ARE WELCOMED TO JOIN!**



For more information, contact Jake Asuncion  
[jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org)

## High School Youth Ministry



Follow Instagram: [smelevari](https://www.instagram.com/smelevari)

**SUMMER SCHEDULE**

**June 14:** Join us for a bonfire and s'mores starting at 6 pm!

**July 12-16:** Totus Tuus! Please register on St. Michael's website

**July 26:** Graeters Trip! Meet in Marian Hall after the 5 pm mass and walk down to Graeters with us

Incoming Freshman are welcomed to join!

Every Wednesday starting June 17, join us for mass @ 6, prayer, and dinner right afterward!

For more information, contact Jake Asuncion  
[jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org)

# Lectio Divina

## SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

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“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)

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*The Month of June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus*

*The Month of July is dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus*

**"Today, therefore, my final prayer is this: that God will bless America, so that she may increasingly become — and truly be — and long remain one Nation, under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all."** +POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II (1979 VISIT TO U.S.)

### **Monday, June 29 ~ Thirteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:16-19** When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

**Meditation:** Today the Apostles Peter and Paul are commemorated for tirelessly working for the spread of the gospel, not only to the people of Israel, but to all the nations as well. They risked their lives in the process and gladly poured out their blood in loyalty to their Master, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As Paul so eloquently stated in his second epistle to Timothy: "they courageously fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7). So it is worth asking: How firm is your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ?

**Prayer:** Grant, we pray, O Lord our God, that we may be sustained by the intercession of the blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, that, as through them you gave your Church the foundations of her heavenly office, so through them you may help her to eternal salvation. 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:** When Jesus asks: "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" he poses that question to each of us. Our response is twofold – first by our *words*, and second by our *actions* – the way we live our lives. We can proclaim Christ as our Lord and Savior, and share in his saving mission through word by sharing the message found in sacred scripture. But most important is to put the teachings of sacred scripture into action and "living" the word fully in our daily lives. If we are firm in our faith, this is something that occurs naturally. If we find ourselves hesitating out of "fear" or "embarrassment" then there is work to be done in making sure that when we proclaim to be a Catholic, a Christian, a disciple of Christ, that we mean what we say and say what we mean. Let's not insult Jesus with lip service – profess to be one thing and then do another – let's prove to him and to the world that we are true disciples by living the Word day in and day out, and that this desire comes from our hearts to be authentic disciples.

### **Tuesday, June 30 ~ Thirteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time First Martyrs of the Church of Rome**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 8:23-27** As Jesus got into a boat, his disciples followed him. Suddenly a violent storm came up on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by waves; but he was asleep. They came and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" He said to them, "Why are you terrified, O you of little faith?" Then he got up, rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was great calm. The men were amazed and said, "What sort of man is this, whom even the winds and the sea obey?"

**Meditation:** What is stronger than fear, even the fear of death? Scripture gives an answer: "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear" (1 John 4:18). The Wisdom of Solomon tells us that "love is

stronger than death" (Song of Songs 8:6). Jesus' sleeping presence on the storm-tossed sea reveals the sleeping faith of his disciples. They feared for their lives even though their Lord and Master was with them in the boat. They were asleep to Christ while he was present to them in their hour of need.

**Prayer:** O God, who consecrated that abundant first fruits of the Roman Church by the blood of the Martyrs, grant, we pray, that with firm courage we may together draw strength from so great a struggle and ever rejoice at the triumph of faithful 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:** Wherever the Good News of Jesus was preached, it met the same opposition as Jesus did, and many of those who began to follow him shared his suffering and death. But no human force could stop the power of the Spirit unleashed upon the world. The blood of martyrs has always been, and will always be, the seed of Christians. Jesus is always present to us in our hour of need – especially in times of challenge, fear, and anxiety. Jesus was there for the first martyrs of Rome in their persecution in living out the teachings of Christ, just as he is present to us as we bring the teachings of Christ into our world – into our homes, our places of work, our schools, in our neighborhoods. The truth of Christ always prevails and flourishes, while dictators, fads, people and activist groups with their own personal agendas and other secular things wither like a dead tree limb. Never be afraid to promote and live the truths of Christ, and to live your life of faith to the fullest, no matter what opposition you may experience. Remember this simple prayer: "Jesus my Lord, my God, my all, you are the only foundation that can hold us up when trials and disaster threaten us. Give me the wisdom, foresight, and strength of character I need to do what is right and good and to reject whatever is false and contrary to your will. May I always meet the challenges and trials of life head on, knowing you are at my side. May I be a doer of your word and not a hearer only."

### **Wednesday, July 1 ~ Thirteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time Saint Junipero Serra, Priest**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 8:28-34** When Jesus came to the territory of the Gadarenes, two demoniacs who were coming from the tombs met him. They were so savage that no one could travel by that road. They cried out, "What have you to do with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the appointed time?" Some distance away a herd of many swine was feeding. The demons pleaded with him, "If you drive us out, send us into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go then!" They came out and entered the swine, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea where they drowned. The swineherds ran away, and when they came to the town they reported everything, including what had happened to the demoniacs. Thereupon the whole town came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him they begged him to leave their district.

**Meditation:** Jesus took pity on these men who were overtaken by a legion of evil spirits. The destructive force of these demons is evident for all who can see as they flee and destroy a herd of swine. After Jesus freed the demoniacs the whole city came out to meet him. No one had demonstrated such power and authority against the forces of Satan as Jesus did. They feared Jesus as a result and begged him to leave them. Why would they not want Jesus to stay? Perhaps the price for such liberation from the power of evil and sin was more than they wanted to pay. Jesus is ready and willing to free us from anything that binds us and that keeps us from the love of God.

**Prayer:** O God, who by your ineffable mercy have been pleased through the labors of your priest Saint Junipero Serra to count many American peoples within your Church, grant by his intercession that we may so join our hearts to you in love, as to carry always and everywhere before all people the image of your Only Begotten Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** There were a growing number of Christians in Rome within a dozen or so years after the death of Jesus. Wherever the Good News of Jesus was preached, it met the same opposition as Jesus did, and many of those who began to follow him shared his suffering and death. But no human force could stop the power of the Spirit unleashed upon the world. The blood of martyrs has always been, and will always be, the seed of Christians. When you face opposition from friend, family members, co-workers, neighbors, classmates – whomever – for living your life according to the teachings of Christ and his Catholic Church, fear not as you are in good company. Jesus was ridiculed and mocked for proclaiming the truth, his apostles and disciples were mocked and scored for living the truth. We live in an era where it is acceptable – even "fashionable" – to embrace a life of political correctness, an era where many do not want to offend a friend or go against a societal trend by saying "no" but have no problem turning away from God or offending him. Never shy away from living your life according to the laws of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ. Remember, you profess to be a disciple of Christ – prove it by your actions.

## Thursday, July 2 ~ Thirteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8** After entering a boat, Jesus made the crossing, and came into his own town. And there people brought to him a paralytic lying on a stretcher. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Courage, child, your sins are forgiven." At that, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." Jesus knew what they were thinking, and said: "Why do you harbor evil thoughts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"— he then said to the paralytic, "Rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home." He rose and went home. When the crowds saw this they were struck with awe and glorified God who had given such authority to men.

**Meditation:** *Question:* What cripples the mind and heart and stifles the healing power of love? *Answer:* Sin and an unforgiving mind and heart! None of us should not be amazed at the fact that sin cripples us more than any physical ailment can. When the paralytic was brought to Jesus because of the faith of his friends, Jesus did the unthinkable. He first forgave the man his sins. The scribes regarded this as blasphemy because they understood that only God had authority to forgive sins and to unbind a man or woman from their burden of guilt. Jesus claimed an authority which only God could rightfully give. Jesus not only proved that his authority came from God, he showed the great power of God's redeeming love and mercy by healing the paralytic of his physical ailment.

**Prayer:** O God, who through the grace of adoption chose us to be children of light, grant, we pray, that we may not be wrapped in the darkness of error but always be seen to stand in the bright light of truth. 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:** It would be time well spent for each of us to look deeply and honestly at how we, too, may be crippled by our own sinfulness, and where we turn to for healing. It is all too easy to fall into the habit of letting societal trends redefine what sin is and is not. Truth is truth, and sin is sin, as defined by God the Father (not civil or secular laws, nor decisions of the Supreme Court), the timeless teachings of Jesus Christ (not popular show hosts, newspaper columnists, blogs and other humans) and the one, true church – the Catholic Church – founded by Jesus Christ. Yes, we are sinners. And yes, all are welcome in the Catholic Church. But all are called to convert from sin and the way of the world and submit ourselves to the way of Jesus Christ.

## Friday, July 3 ~ Thirteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time Feast of Saint Thomas, Apostle

**Holy Gospel: John 20:24-29** Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But Thomas said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

**Meditation:** What gives us unshakeable hope and confidence in the face of death and defeat? The apostles abandoned Jesus in his hour of trial and lost hope when Jesus was handed over to the Romans for execution. They saw the cross as defeat rather than victory. They were slow to believe the reports of the resurrection until the Risen Lord appeared to them and reassured them of his presence and love. The last apostle to meet the resurrected Lord was the first to go with him to Jerusalem at Passover time. The apostle Thomas was a natural pessimist. When Jesus proposed that they visit Lazarus after receiving news of his illness, Thomas said to the disciples: "Let us also go, that we may die with him" (John 11:16). While Thomas deeply loved the Lord, he lacked the courage to stand with Jesus in his passion and crucifixion. After Jesus' death, Thomas made the mistake of withdrawing from the other apostles. He sought loneliness rather than fellowship in his time of adversity. He doubted the women who saw the resurrected Jesus and he doubted his own fellow apostles. When Thomas finally had the courage to rejoin the other apostles, the Lord Jesus made his presence known to him and reassured him that he had indeed overcome death and risen again. When Thomas recognized his Master, he believed and exclaimed that Jesus was truly Lord and truly God!

**Prayer:** Grant, almighty God, that we may glory in the Feast of the blessed Apostle Thomas, so that we may always be sustained by his intercession and, believing, may have life in the name of Jesus Christ your

Son, whom Thomas acknowledged as the Lord. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** It is through the gift of faith that we, too, are able to recognize the presence of the risen Lord in our personal lives. The Holy Spirit reveals the Lord Jesus to us and helps us to grow in knowledge and understanding of God and his ways. Through the gift of faith we are able to proclaim that Jesus is our personal Lord and our God. He died and rose that we, too, might have new life in him. The Lord offers each of us new life in his Holy Spirit that we may know him personally and walk in this new way of life through the power of his resurrection. Do you believe in God's word and in the power of the Holy Spirit?

**Saturday, July 4 ~ Thirteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time  
Independence Day + 250th Anniversary of our Nation**

Given space limitations, it is rare that I have space left for Saturday in the Lectio Divina. What space I have left for this particular edition, as we celebrate this landmark day in the history of these United States of America, I want to provide our faithful readers simply with two prayers for this day to make our own: (1) The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Prayer of Consecration of Our Nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and (2) a Prayer of George Washington. God Bless America!

**USCCB PRAYER OF CONSECRATION OF OUR NATION TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS**

*O Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, You know the longings of our hearts, and You desire that we enjoy friendship with You. From Your pierced side, You have poured out the wellspring of life, for which we thirst. Your heart burns with a love for all people to return to a right relationship with You. We celebrate the abundant gifts You have given this nation, founded on the self-evident truths that our Creator has endowed all people with the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We make reparation for the offenses against You and against human dignity that have taken place in this nation. May our hearts be united to Yours, so that our families and communities enjoy peace and happiness; may broken relationships be reconciled, injustices repaired, and the wounds of our land be healed. May Your Holy Catholic Church serve as a sign, pointing all people to Your infinite love. O Desire of Nations and Center of History, we ask You to bless these United States of America. Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us! Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us!*

**A PRAYER OF GEORGE WASHINGTON**

**A FOUNDING FATHER AND FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

*O eternal and everlasting God, I presume to present myself this morning before Thy Divine majesty, beseeching Thee to accept of my humble and hearty thanks, that it hath pleased Thy great goodness to keep and preserve me the night past from all the dangers poor mortals are subject to, and has given me sweet and pleasant sleep, whereby I find my body refreshed and comforted for performing the duties of this day, in which I beseech Thee to defend me from all perils of body and soul.*

*Direct my thoughts, words and work. Wash away my sins in the Immaculate Blood of the Lamb, and purge my heart by Thy Holy Spirit, from the dross of my natural corruption, that I may with more freedom of mind and liberty of will serve Thee, the everlasting God, in righteousness and holiness this day, and all the days of my life.*

*Increase my faith in the sweet promises of the Gospel. Give me repentance from dead works.*

*Pardon my wanderings, and direct my thoughts unto Thyself, the God of my salvation. Teach me how to live in Thy fear, labor in Thy service, and ever to run in the ways of Thy commandments.*

*Make me always watchful over my heart, that neither the terrors of conscience, the loathing of holy duties, the love of sin, nor an unwillingness to depart this life, may cast me into a spiritual slumber. But daily frame me more and more into the likeness of Thy Son Jesus Christ, that living in Thy fear, and dying in Thy favor, I may in Thy appointed time attain the resurrection of the just unto eternal life. Bless my family, friends and kindred, unite us all in praising and glorifying Thee in all our works begun, continued, and ended, when we shall come to make our last account before Thee blessed Saviour, Who hath taught us thus to pray, our Father.*

Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition* © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. No portion of this text may be reproduced by any means without permission in writing from the copyright owner. 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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## *80th Anniversary Edition*

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- A quick family portrait
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**3-6 PM**

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**4-7 PM**

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**for more information & to sign up for your session today!**



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# Around the Diocese



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