

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 14, 2021

VISION STATEMENT
A CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ON
JOURNEY IN THE TRADITION OF
THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL
SEEKING COMPANIONS ON THE
WAY TO THE REIGN
OF GOD



Rev. Benson C. Okpara, Ph.D., Pastor

God, who is
rich in mercy,
because of the great
love he had for us . . .
brought us to
life with Christ
(Ephesians 2)



PARISH OFFICE: 3430 ST. MICHAEL DR NW, CANTON, OHIO 44718

PHONE: 330-492-3119 **FAX:** 330-492-0339 **SCHOOL:** 330-492-2657

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY: 9AM - 2PM

WEBSITE: WWW.STMICHAELCANTON.ORG **FACEBOOK:** WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/STMICHAELCANTON

MASS TIMES: SATURDAY: 4:00PM; **SUNDAY:** 8:30AM, 11:00AM, & 5:30PM (MASS ALSO STREAMED ONLINE)

WEEKDAY: MONDAY - FRIDAY: 6:45AM (ALL MASSES EXCEPT THURSDAY WORD SERVICE WITH COMMUNION)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION | SATURDAY (MARCH 13, 20, 27): 11AM (MASK REQUIRED)

Parish Office

Our office is open 9am—2pm, Monday through Friday. To make an appointment with a staff member please call us at (330) 492-3119, and leave a voicemail if necessary. Thank you!

Parish Staff

Rev. Benson C. Okpara, Ph.D., Pastor—ext. 212
Mrs. Stephanie Bole, Administrative Assistant—ext. 220
Mrs. Sarah Bressler, Bookkeeper—ext. 225
Mr. Jeff Fricker, Music Ministry/Social Justice Ministry—ext. 214
Mr. John DeCola, Director of Advancement—ext. 213
Mr. Bruce Gordon, Business Manager—ext. 211
Mr. Justin Huyck, Pastoral Associate/Adult Faith Form.—ext. 218
Mrs. Libby Saxton, Music & Liturgy Director—ext. 215
Ms. Rachel Shumar, Youth Minister/Confirmation—ext. 222
Mrs. Julie Sutton, Director of Faith Formation—ext. 219
Mr. James Shundry, Facilities Manager—ext. 104
Emergency Assistance—ext. 226
For a listing of staff email addresses go to stmichaelcanton.org/staff/

Scripture Readings for March 14, 2021 Fourth Sunday of Lent

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23
Ps 137: 1-2, 3, 4-5, 6
Eph 2:4-10
John 3:14-21

Bulletin Deadline

*The deadline for the Mar. 21st bulletin has passed.
The deadline for the Mar. 28th bulletin is Mar. 17th.
The deadline for the Apr. 4th bulletin is Mar. 24th.
Please e-mail bulletin information to:
Stephanie@stmichaelcanton.org &
Justin@stmichaelcanton.org*

Giving Summary

February 21, 2021

Envelope Amount	\$20,984
Loose Cash	\$797
Online Giving	\$18,613
Total Collection (This week)	\$40,394
Weekly Budget Number	\$33,985
Weekly Budget +over/-shortage	+\$6,409

2020 Week's Total (same week one year ago) \$32,820

*Sincere thanks for your first fruits offered onto
God. —Fr. Benson*

PARISH UPDATES

Holy Week Schedule: In addition to our Lenten prayer opportunities, please see the Holy Week and Easter schedule in this bulletin.

Feast of St. Joseph: This Friday, March 19th, is the Feast (Solemnity) of St. Joseph. This feast day has particular meaning this year for us this year since Pope Francis has proclaimed this a Year of St. Joseph. The Holy Father explained that this proclamation was motivated by two reasons. First of all, it is a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church. Second, Pope Francis hopes that St. Joseph may serve as an inspiration and guide to all of us as we undergo the crisis of the ongoing pandemic. **We invite you to pick up St. Joseph prayer cards at Church this weekend or during the week.** (Reminder: The lower parking lot door is open until 3pm on weekdays.) We plan to celebrate this Year of St. Joseph in a more extended way as a parish later this year.

No Abstaining from Meat this Friday: Since the Solemnity of Saint Joseph Day, March 19th, falls on a Friday during Lent this year, Bishop David Bonnar reminds us that in accord with canon 1251 of the Code of Canon Law the obligation to abstain from eating meat or partake in any other usual penances on that day has been lifted. The Solemnity of St. Joseph, as with any other Solemnity during the year, is a time to celebrate.

Sacrament of Reconciliation Before Easter: Please note that we will next have confessions on Saturdays, March 13th, 20th, and 27th. **March 20th and 27th will be our last two Saturdays for confession before Easter, and we will have additional priests with us to celebrate the sacrament.** Due to pandemic protocols, confessions will continue to be heard in the main church (and not in confessional rooms), with portable screens for those who wish to use a screen.

Bishop's Appeal for Catholic Charities and Church: THANK YOU to all who have already responded to the Bishop's Appeal, either by returning your commitment envelope or giving online! As a reminder, two-thirds of this appeal goes to the work of Catholic Charities, supporting those most in need, and the remainder supports diocesan ministries of worship, religious education, youth and young adult ministry, seminarian formation, and more. With the pandemic these ministries have become even more critical, and especially the needs of Catholic Charities, which is serving more and more people. Our parish has been a leader in this campaign in the past, and we are asked to lead again this year with a parish goal of \$195,800. **If you haven't already, we invite you to make your commitment this week if possible.**

...continued on page 3...

....continued from page 2...

Registered parishioners should be receiving letters from Bishop Bonnar this week, and we ask you to please prayerfully consider your response. Bishop's Appeal commitment envelopes are also available here at Church, and online giving is already available via our homepage.

Church Teaching on Vaccines: Father Benson has received his vaccination doses, and (along with Pope Francis and the U.S. Bishops) is encouraging parishioners to do as well, when it becomes available to you. U.S. Bishops write that receiving vaccines **“ought to be understood as an act of charity toward the other members of our community.”** Bishop Kevin Rhoades, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Doctrine, notes that, **“the Vatican has made it clear that all the COVID vaccines recognized as clinically safe and effective can be used in good conscience. There is no moral need to turn down a vaccine, including the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which is morally acceptable.”** Because of the ways in which the vaccines were developed, the bishops recommend getting the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines if possible. But recognizing that often individuals do not have a choice of which vaccine to receive, as well as the worldwide suffering we are experiencing, the bishops affirm that being vaccinated with any of these vaccines “can be an act of charity that serves the common good.” Bishop Rhodes reiterates that what is “most important is that people get vaccinated.” Our bishops encourage Catholics to remain vigilant about further vaccine development and just distribution, upholding the sanctity of human life and concern for the most vulnerable during this pandemic. Links to full statements can be found at www.stmichaelcanton.org

LENTEN ROSARY

Starting the first Sunday of Lent, February 21st, and continuing each Sunday in Lent, we will be praying the Rosary before the 8:30am Mass **in person** and also **Sunday evening (online)**. On Sunday mornings, we will begin in the church at 8:00AM. Free Rosary beads and guides will be available in the Gathering Space. We will also be offering the Rosary virtually through Zoom on Sunday evenings at 7:00pm. Please email Justin at justin@stmichaelcanton.org to receive the zoom link for the Sunday evening Rosary. These are two great opportunities to learn how to pray the Rosary and to join with other Catholics in this communal prayer.

Foot Washing on Holy Thursday

Fr. Benson is looking for volunteers for the foot washing prayer on Holy Thursday, April 1st at 7pm Mass. At the Last Supper, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, as a gesture of love and as a sign for them to go forth and serve others. What we do is not meant to be a dramatization of the gospel story – not a re-enactment – not a drama, but a ritual. A drama has an audience – ritual does not. What ritual is meant to do is to mirror everyday ways of how people should act toward one another. It is meant to portray the Biblical injunction of Christian charity – to love one another – that all members of the Church must serve one another in love. Jesus said: *“If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.”* (John 13:15). What an honor for us to take part in this ritual. If you would be willing to have your feet washed on Holy Thursday, please contact Libby Saxton to sign up (libby@stmichaelcanton.org)



Weekdays

- 3/15 @ 6:45am ~ Ruth & Norm Volzer (Mr. & Mrs. Marion May)
- 3/16 @ 6:45am ~ Jackie Hibbard (The Family)
- 3/17 @ 6:45am ~ Jennie Sliman (Family)
- 3/17 @ 8am **school only Mass** ~ Mary Ann Fearon (SMS faculty & staff)
- 3/18 @ 6:45am ~ *Communion Service*
- 3/19 @ 6:45am ~ Thanksgiving (Maryann Meniru)

Weekend

- 3/20 @ 4:00pm ~ Sam Sturiale (Pat & Eileen Gallucci)
- 3/21 @ 8:30am ~ Lucy Addressi (Jackie Hibbard)
- 3/21 @ 11:00am ~ Rose Marie Gill (Dolores Bailey –sister)
- 3/21 @ 5:30pm ~ Madelin Burke (Claire Gatti & Monica Jacobson)

Tabernacle Candle

the week of March 20th



Burns in Memory of
Mary Ann Fearon
From
Vickie Cannell

**Have you ever considered becoming an altar server?
learning more about the Mass?
helping the priests and deacons?**

We are in need of altar servers. Any 4th grade through high school student or adult is welcome to join the ministry of altar servers. Please complete the form below and return it to the parish office or email Libby Saxton at libby@stmichaelcantan.org for an electronic version of this form.

Our wonderful deacons have taken up the responsibility of preparing the altar during this pandemic as we have tried to keep everyone safe. We now have a plan for keeping our altar servers and our priests/deacons safe as we reinstate this wonderful ministry. Our deacons have graciously accepted to **train new altar servers Saturday March 20th 9:30am-10:30am and/or Sunday March 21st 1-2pm.**

St. Michael the Archangel Church *Altar Servers*
Registration Form 2021

Full Name: _____ Parent/Guardian: _____

If student, school: _____ Grade (2020-2021): _____

Best Contact Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Home Address: _____

Mass Preference (please circle)

Sat. 4:00pm Sun. 8:30am Sun. 11:00am Sun. 5:30pm Wed. SMS 8am

Commitment:

*Arrive at least 15 minutes before your assigned Mass. *Be responsible for finding your own substitute.

*Appropriate dress and behavior required. (Face masks required.) *Attend a training session.

We are willing to accept the responsibility of being an altar server.

Volunteer's Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

*Please return this form to your teacher or the parish office.



Holy Week and Easter

Livestreams Available Online at
stmichaelcanton.org, Facebook, and YouTube

Palm Sunday, March 27/28

SATURDAY: 4:00 PM (Livestreamed) | SUNDAY: 8:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 5:30 PM
Due to the pandemic, Mass will begin in the Church this year with the blessing of palms.

Holy Thursday, April 1

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER | 7:00 PM (Livestreamed)
*The Altar of Repose will be in the Gym for a brief time of prayer after Mass.
(There is no adoration during the day on Holy Thursday.)*

Good Friday, April 2

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION | 3:00 PM (Livestreamed)
Due to the pandemic, the cross may be venerated with a bow or genuflection.

Holy Saturday, April 3

EASTER VIGIL MASS | 8:30 PM (Livestreamed)
*Due to the pandemic, the assembly will remain in the Church for the Service of Light this year.
Blessing of Easter Foods and Baskets | 1:30 PM in the Chapel*

Easter Sunday, April 4

Masses at 7:15 AM, 9:00 AM (Livestreamed), 11:00 AM
*Please note that the early Mass on Easter Sunday is at 7:15 (not 7:30)
There will not be a 5:30 PM Mass on Easter Sunday.*

Reminder: Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confessions on Saturdays, March 20th and 27th | 11:00 AM – 12:00PM
*Last two Saturdays before Easter – additional priests will be available
No Confessions on Saturday, April 3rd
Confessions will resume on Saturday, April 10th (Divine Mercy Weekend)*

Catholic Conversations

Tuesdays | 7PM | Zoom Video Chat

Each week, we explore scripture and discuss a key Catholic topic.

Email justin@stmichaelcanton.org for the Zoom link and a "preview" of each week's conversation.

Are you thinking about becoming Catholic?

These weekly gatherings are a great way to explore Catholicism and connect with our parishioners.

But whatever your schedule and digital comfort is, connect with us and let's start the conversation:

Fr Benson Okpara
frbenson@stmichaelcanton.org

Justin Huyck
justin@stmichaelcanton.org
(330) 492-3119

Upcoming Virtual Gathering
ST. MICHAEL CANTON YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday, March 14th - 7 PM

Sunday, March 21st - 7 PM

FOR A COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING GATHERINGS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

STMIKESCANTONYOUTHMINISTRY.WEBBLY.COM

OR

CONTACT RACHEL SHUMAR

EMAIL: RACHEL@STMICHAELCANTON.ORG. OR CALL: 330-492-3119 X222

**Announcing our special guest speaker
March 24th ~ 7:00pm via Zoom**

Julie Sutton, MA Director of Faith Formation at St Michael Parish and a trained Stephen Minister and Stephen Leader will present information about this one-on-one caregiving ministry.

Mark your calendars now!

Link invitation: jeff@stmichaelcanton.org



YEAR-ROUND FOOD DRIVE

Weekday collections
Monday – Friday 8:00AM – 5:00PM
Door # 11 Lower Level
Weekend collections before each Mass

Special "Ask": Canned

- Chicken & Tuna
- Ravioli
- Fruit

A special thank-you to everyone who continues to support our Year-Round Food Pantry and Hunger Awareness

Periodically throughout the year parishioners, and staff members receive emails that look like they may be from our pastor or our principal.



**⚠ DANGER
DON'T FALL
FOR THE
BAIT!**

They usually have a simple request for your assistance. DO NOT open or respond to these requests. Delete them from your email. If you have any questions about communications from one of these sources call the office for confirmation.

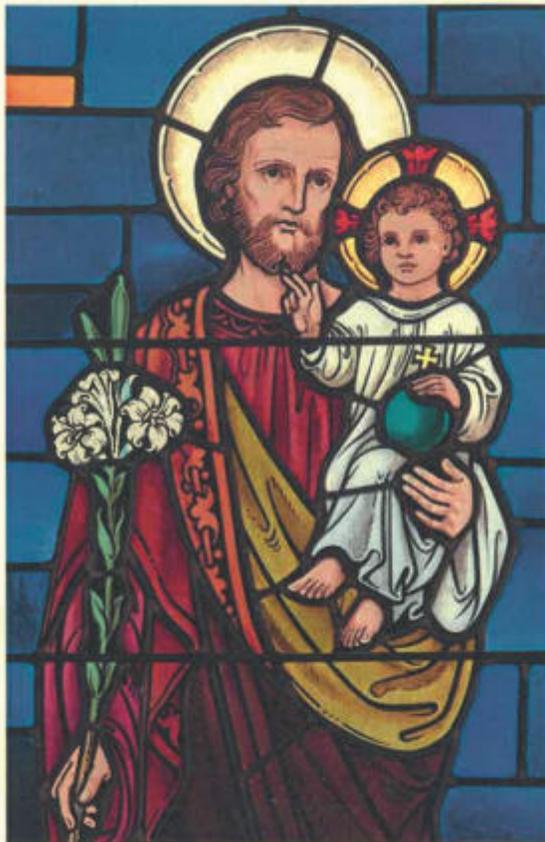
Helman Parish Library Donations

Please note: We are suspending donations to our parish library for the time being, in order to better manage our facilities and for the sake of our library committee.

OH NO! It's tax time.

St. Michael will be sending out your contribution statements for 2020. The current delay in the Postal Service is the perfect time to use some of the new functionality we have in our community pages. We will be using email to deliver these statements to all of our households who have an email address on file. Now is the perfect time to update your record with an email address. If you have any trouble making the update contact Bruce Gordon bruce@stmichaelcanton.org or Stephanie Bole stephanie@stmichaelcanton.org in the parish office and we can add this information to your record.





Feast of St. Joseph—March 19

Pope Francis declared the Year of St. Joseph Dec. 8, 2020 – Dec. 8, 2021

Prayer to St. Joseph

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust,
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us, too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.



*Prayer is from the conclusion
of the Apostolic Letter Patris Corde*

Parishioners Supporting Parishioners

COVID-19 has brought many economic struggles to all, especially our local businesses. There are many of our own St. Michael Parishioners, including many who advertise on the back page of our bulletin, who own a small or local businesses in our area. Please consider supporting these parishioners and their businesses! Our St. Michael Community thanks you!



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Join our webinar with Award Winning Author Tom Hegna where he will share his scientifically proven approach that will enable you to create a secure retirement no matter how long you live.
March 23 @ 7:30 pm

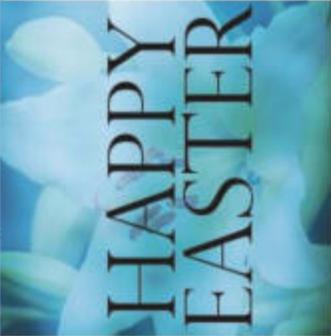


Hosted by the Spencer Agency



<p>March 14 4th Sunday of Lent 8:00am –Rosary <i>"We are God's handiwork."</i> Ephesians 2:10a 7:00pm –Virtual Rosary on Zoom</p>	<p>March 15 9am –Minute Meditation, virtual only <i>"I will praise you Lord for you have rescued me."</i> Psalm 30:2a</p>	<p>March 16 <i>In the Gospel today, Jesus asks, "Do you want to be well?" Jesus can heal our soul if only we believe.</i></p>	<p>March 17 Feast of St. Patrick <i>"Though the mountains may fall and the hills turn to dust, yet the love of the Lord will stand." Though the Mountains May Fall by Dan Schutte</i></p>	<p>March 18 Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people. 6pm—Lenten Music, virtual only</p>	<p>March 19 Feast of St. Joseph  8pm —Living Stations, virtual or in person</p>	<p>March 20 11am –Confessions <i>"O Lord, my God, in you I take refuge."</i> Psalm 7:2a</p>
<p>March 21 5th Sunday of Lent 8:00am –Rosary <i>"Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be."</i> John 12:26a 7pm –Virtual Rosary</p>	<p>March 22 9am –Minute Meditation, virtual only <i>"Even though I walk through the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side."</i> Psalm 23:4a</p>	<p>March 23 <i>"The one who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone." John 8:29</i></p>	<p>March 24 <i>"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." John 8:31b-32</i> 7pm—Social Justice Speaker on Zoom</p>	<p>March 25 Annunciation <i>"I say, 'Yes,' my Lord, in all the good times, through all the bad times, I say, 'Yes,' my Lord to every word you say." Digo Si, Seor by Donna Pena</i></p>	<p>March 26 <i>"In my distress, I called upon the Lord, and he heard my voice."</i> Psalm 18:7 8pm —Living Stations, virtual or in person</p>	<p>March 27 11am –Confessions <i>"The Lord will guard us, as a shepherd guards his flock."</i> Jeremiah 31:10</p>
<p>March 28 </p>	<p>March 29 9am –Minute Meditation, virtual only <i>"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?"</i> Psalm 27:1</p>	<p>March 30 <i>"Jesus answered, 'Will you lay down your life for me?'"</i> John 13:38a</p>	<p>March 31 <i>"Lord, in your great love, answer me."</i> Psalm 69:14c</p>	<p>April 1  <i>Holy Thursday</i> 7pm –Mass, virtual or in person</p>	<p>April 2 Good Friday 3pm –Good Friday Liturgy, virtual or in person</p>	<p>April 3 Holy Saturday 1:30pm –Blessing of Easter foods in chapel 8:30pm –Easter Vigil Mass, virtual or in person</p>

April 4
Easter Sunday
 7:15am –Mass
 9:00am –Mass, virtual or in person
 11:00am –Mass
 (No 5:30pm Mass)




Sunday, March 14, 2021

First Reading

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23

In those days, all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people added infidelity to infidelity, practicing all the abominations of the nations and polluting the LORD's temple which he had consecrated in Jerusalem.

Early and often did the LORD, the God of their fathers, send his messengers to them, for he had compassion on his people and his dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised his warnings, and scoffed at his prophets, until the anger of the LORD against his people was so inflamed that there was no remedy. Their enemies burnt the house of God, tore down the walls of Jerusalem, set all its palaces afire, and destroyed all its precious objects. Those who escaped the sword were carried captive to Babylon, where they became servants of the king of the Chaldeans and his sons until the kingdom of the Persians came to power. All this was to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah: "Until the land has retrieved its lost sabbaths, during all the time it lies waste it shall have rest while seventy years are fulfilled."

In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD inspired King Cyrus of Persia to issue this proclamation throughout his kingdom, both by word of mouth and in writing: "Thus says Cyrus, king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD, the God of heaven, has

given to me, and he has also charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever, therefore, among you belongs to any part of his people, let him go up, and may his God be with him!"

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6

R. (6ab) Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

By the streams of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. On the aspens of that land we hung up our harps.

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

For there our captors asked of us the lyrics of our songs, And our despoilers urged us to be joyous:

"Sing for us the songs of Zion!"

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

How could we sing a song of the LORD in a foreign land?

If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand be forgotten!

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

May my tongue cleave to my palate if I remember you not,

If I place not Jerusalem ahead of my joy.

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

Second Reading

Eph 2:4-10

Brothers and sisters: God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ — by grace you have been saved —, raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the immeasurable

riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast. For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them

Gospel

John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "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."

For God so loved the world that he gave his only 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 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.

Share prayer intentions quietly or aloud.

Pray the Lord's Prayer.

Pray the Anima Christi (right)

Close with the sign of the cross.

Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me;
Body of Christ, save me;
Blood of Christ, inebriate me;
Water from the side of Christ, wash me;
Passion of Christ, strengthen me;
O Good Jesus, hear me;
Within your wounds hide me;
separated from you, let me never be;
From the evil one, protect me;
At the hour of my death, call me;
And close to you, bid me;
That with your saints,
I may be praising you forever and ever.
Amen.

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