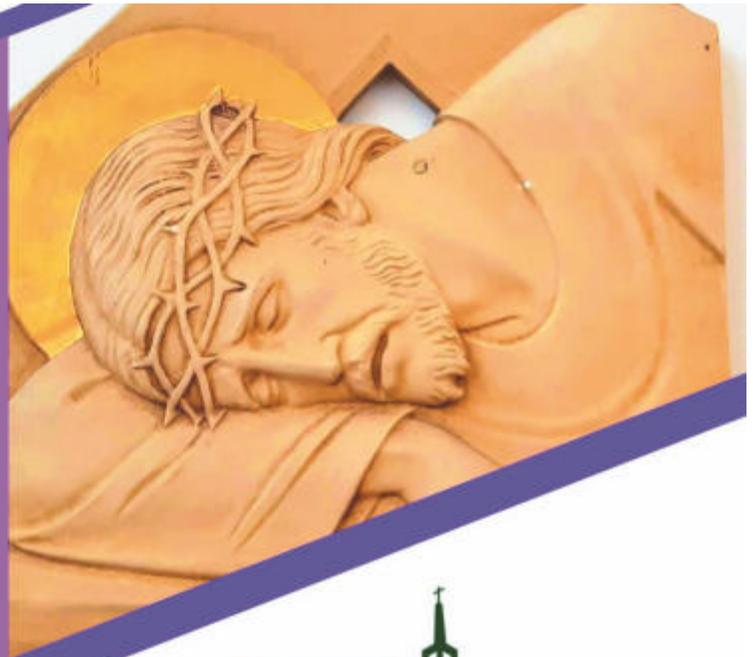


FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 21, 2021



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



**... unless a grain of
wheat falls to the
ground and dies,
it remains just a grain
of wheat;
but if it dies, it
produces much fruit.**
(John 12)



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 20 AND 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 21, 2021 Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jer 31:31-34
Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15
Heb 5:7-9
John 12:20-33

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 28, 2021

Envelope Amount	\$12,183
Loose Cash	\$997
Online Giving	\$12,968
Total Collection (This week)	\$26,148
Weekly Budget Number	\$33,985
Weekly Budget +over/-shortage	-\$7,837

2020 Week's Total (same week one year ago) \$29,340

*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.

Sacrament of Reconciliation Before Easter: Please note that we will have confessions on Saturdays, March 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.

Abstaining from Meat: As a reminder, Roman Catholics (ages 14 and onward) are called to abstain from meat on Fridays during Lent.

Additionally, Good Friday is an obligatory day of fasting and abstinence for Roman Catholics. For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. (This obligation is suspended on Friday, March 19th, the Solemnity of St. Joseph - which is a day of feasting and celebration.)

Obviously, those with nutrition restrictions should attend to what is best for their health, and might consider embracing the spirit of Lent prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in a way appropriate to their situation.

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.** Extra Bishop's Appeal commitment envelopes are available here at Church, and online giving is already available via our homepage.

..continued on page 3...

....continued from page 2...

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 to use.”** 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

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)

Divine Mercy Sunday

Fr. Benson and St. Michael Parish are excited to be part of the Divine Mercy Service to be celebrated on Sunday April 11th at 2:00pm. This service will include reflections from Saint Faustina, Scripture Readings, silent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and the praying of The Chaplet of Divine Mercy - all are welcome - instruction and explanations will be provided. Parish Confessions and Divine Mercy **Confessions will be offered on Saturday April 10, starting at 11:00am.**



Weekdays

3/22 @ 6:45am ~ David Maser
(Robert & Tricia Krabill)

3/23 @ 6:45am ~ The Intentions of
Carolyn Hinton (The Hanolt Family)

3/24 @ 6:45am ~ The Pelosi &
Firmi Families (Bob Pelosi)

3/25 @ 6:45am ~ *Communion
Service*

3/26 @ 6:45am ~ Therese & John
“Ned” Shadle (Chris Shadle)

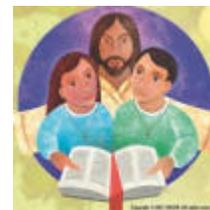
Weekend

3/27 @ 4:00pm ~ Sam Sturiale (Jim
Miklandric & Tracy Smith)

3/28 @ 8:30am ~ Ruth Scheetz
(Jason, Dawn & Mia Roberts)

3/28 @ 11:00am ~ Sam Bagnola
(Yvonne Pasko)

3/28 @ 5:30pm ~ John & Christine
Arthur, Tim Brown & Ingrid
Springer (Mike & Jennifer Brown)



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.

CHRISM MASS

The Diocesan Chrism Mass from St. Columba Cathedral can be live streamed on Tuesday, March 30th at 10:30am at stmichaelcanton.org. At this Mass, Bishop David Bonnar will bless and consecrate the oils used in our Sacraments and Rites for the coming year, and our priests will renew their priestly promises.

It will be rebroadcast in Canton on WIVM TV 39 and Spectrum Cable 898 and in Massillon Channel 128 on Thursday, April 1 at 10:00pm. This broadcast is produced by The Catholic Television Network of Youngstown (CTNY).

Because of the pandemic, the Mass is not open to the public.

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY LAND

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Your support helps the church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools and offers religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines.

The wars, unrest and instability have been especially hard on Christians. In these times of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection provides humanitarian aid to refugees.

When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land.

PLEASE BE GENEROUS!

For more information about Christians in the Holy Land, visit www.myfranciscan.org/good-Friday.

25th, 40th, 50th and over Wedding Anniversary Celebrations

The Diocese of Youngstown is sponsoring a **Wedding Anniversary** on **Sunday, June 13, 2:00pm at St. Columba Cathedral in Youngstown**, honoring couples observing their 25th, 40th, 50th and over wedding anniversaries in 2021.

The Wedding Anniversary Celebration will include Mass with Bishop David J. Bonnar, renewal of marriage vows and a personalized certificate for each couple. Couples may opt to attend the Wedding Anniversary Celebration Mass in person at St. Columba Cathedral or they may participate remotely via livestreaming on the diocesan website at www.doy.org. Limited spaces are available for couples at the cathedral. You must make reservations in advance for this event by contacting the St. Michael Parish office at 330-492-3119 ext. 220. before May 12th.

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.



PAYCHECKS AND PLAYCHECKS ~ RETIREMENT SOLUTIONS FOR LIFE – March 23 @ 7:30pm

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.

Attendance limited — must Pre-register — kofc.link/hegna ~ Hosted by the Spencer Agency



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 21st - 7 PM

Sunday, March 28th - 7 PM

FOR A COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING GATHERINGS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

STMIKESCANTONYOUTHMINISTRY.WEEBLY.COM

OR

CONTACT RACHEL SHUMAR

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



River Valley Paper Company

It is "high-time" we thank our satellite partners who continue to support our recycling ministry which helps fund the Emergency Assistance program throughout each year!

- Beacon Academy • Casey's Countryside Furniture
- Crescent Pointe Building • Demario's Pizza • Graphic Enterprises
- Laura of Pembroke • Lindsey's Pizza • OMNI Orthopedics • RL Spaulding
- That Little Italian Kitchen



This collaboration, along with our school & church recycling bins on campus, totaled 70,649 pounds = 35.33 tons = \$530 (\$15 per ton) = February 2021



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

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":

- **Household Cleaning Supplies**

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



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

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




March 16, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Just one year ago we found ourselves entering what would be a very dark place. The onset of the Coronavirus resulted in a worldwide Pandemic. Life, as we had been accustomed to living it, changed in so many ways. Who could ever have imagined that we would be temporarily displaced from in-person Masses, not to mention the fact that the Sunday Obligation would be lifted for the safety of all? What is more, who could have ever believed that Covid-19 would claim over 500,000 lives in our country alone? Indeed, this has been a dark time filled with uncertainty, anxiety and loss.

A year later, it appears that we are slowly coming out of the darkness and anxiously awaiting the new dawn, especially as more and more people continue to embrace the proper protocols of masks and social distancing. It is also noteworthy that with the increasing availability of vaccines, the numbers of those afflicted with the virus seem to be diminishing. There is light at the end of this tunnel of darkness.

As your bishop, I want to thank you, the faithful, for your cooperation in this difficult time. Your commitment to the protocols as well as your continued stewardship has enabled us to be the Church. I think we also owe a debt of gratitude to our clergy and parish leaders for their courageous leadership in this unprecedented time. The expectations placed upon all of us over the past year have been challenging and life altering. I know we all long for the day when we can be together again and return to a fuller sense of community around the altar of the Lord and in our parish communities.

While the dispensation from the Sunday Mass remains in effect at the present time, we all need to keep holy the Lord's Day. Thanks to the efforts of our pastors and parish leaders, as well as the guidance of government and health officials, our churches are safe and open. People are returning to the pews to celebrate Eucharist. Livestreaming of the Masses, however, remains a temporary option with Spiritual Communion. For those unable to attend Holy Mass in person there is a new resource page on the website of the Ohio Catholic Conference.

I believe that we have come a long way in this battle from where we were a year ago. We are getting closer every day to the new dawn. There is hope on the horizon. Nevertheless, the virus remains, and we need to all remain vigilant by wearing masks, social distancing and using hand sanitizer in church. The health and safety of everyone, especially those whose health is compromised in any way, is of extreme importance.

Saint Paul reminds us that, "We walk by faith, not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5:7) As we continue this journey through the darkness may faith be our guide, may hope drive us forward and may the love of Christ Jesus strengthen and unite us so "That all may be one."

Let us continue to pray for one another and "Joyfully witness to the light."

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend David J. Bonnar
Bishop of Youngstown



144 West Wood Street • Youngstown, Ohio 44503

(330) 744-8451 • Fax (330) 742-6448 • Email: dbonnar@youngstowndiocese.org

Sunday, March 21, 2021

First Reading

Jer 31:31-34

The days are coming, says the LORD,
when I will make a new covenant with the
house of Israel
and the house of Judah.

It will not be like the covenant I made
with their fathers
the day I took them by the hand
to lead them forth from the land of Egypt;
for they broke my covenant,
and I had to show myself their master,
says the LORD.

But this is the covenant that I will make
with the house of Israel after those days,
says the LORD.

I will place my law within them and write
it upon their hearts;

I will be their God, and they shall be my
people.

No longer will they have need to teach
their friends and relatives
how to know the LORD.

All, from least to greatest, shall know me,
says the LORD,

for I will forgive their evil-doing and
remember their sin no more.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15

**R. (12a) Create a clean heart in me, O
God.**

Have mercy on me, O God, in your
goodness;

in the greatness of your compassion
wipe out my offense.

Thoroughly wash me from my guilt
and of my sin cleanse me.

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

A clean heart create for me, O God,
and a steadfast spirit renew within me.

Cast me not out from your presence,
and your Holy Spirit take not from me.

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Give me back the joy of your salvation,
and a willing spirit sustain in me.

I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners shall return to you.

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Second Reading

Heb 5:7-9

In the days when Christ Jesus was in the
flesh,

he offered prayers and supplications with
loud cries and tears

to the one who was able to save him from
death,

and he was heard because of his
reverence.

Son though he was, he learned obedience
from what he suffered;

and when he was made perfect,

he became the source of eternal salvation
for all who obey him.

Verse Before the Gospel

Whoever serves me must follow me, says
the Lord;

and where I am, there also will my servant
be.

Gospel

John 12:20-33

Some Greeks who had come to worship
at the Passover Feast

came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida
in Galilee,

and asked him, "Sir, we would like to
see Jesus."

Philip went and told Andrew;

then Andrew and Philip went and told
Jesus.

Jesus answered them,

"The hour has come for the Son of Man
to be glorified.

Amen, amen, I say to you,
unless a grain of wheat falls to the
ground and dies,

it remains just a grain of wheat;
but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

Whoever loves his life loses it,
and whoever hates his life in this world
will preserve it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me,
and where I am, there also will my
servant be.

The Father will honor whoever serves
me.

"I am troubled now. Yet what should I
say?

'Father, save me from this hour?'

But it was for this purpose that I came
to this hour.

Father, glorify your name."

Then a voice came from heaven,

"I have glorified it and will glorify it
again."

The crowd there heard it and said it was
thunder;

but others said, "An angel has spoken to
him."

Jesus answered and said,

"This voice did not come for my sake
but for yours.

Now is the time of judgment on this
world;

now the ruler of this world will be
driven out.

And when I am lifted up from the earth,
I will draw everyone to myself."

He said this indicating the kind of death
he would die.

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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