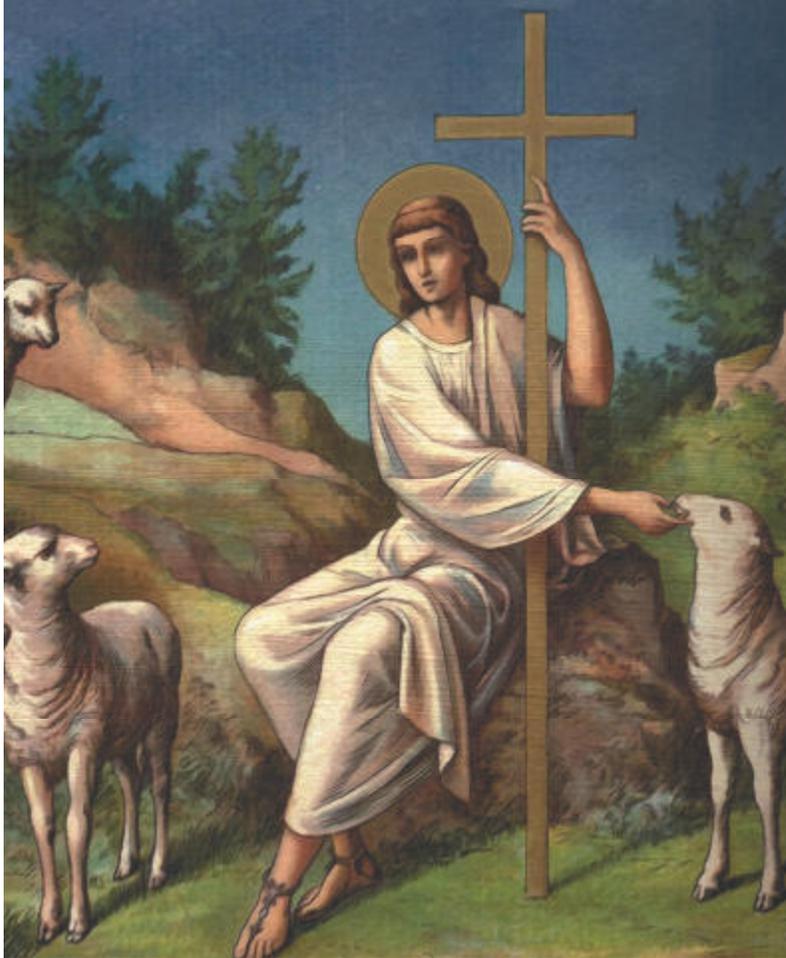


# ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC PARISH

APRIL 25, 2021



## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

“I am the good shepherd,  
and I know mine and mine  
know me, just as the  
Father knows me and I  
know the Father; and I will  
lay down my life for the  
sheep.” - Jn 10:14-15

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

©LPA

### CONTACT US!

#### MAIN CHURCH (MC)

750 BRIGHT ROAD  
FINDLAY, OH 45840  
P: 419.422.2646  
F: 419.422.2602  
findlaystmichael.org  
parish@findlaystmichael.org

#### DOWNTOWN CHURCH (DT)

617 W. MAIN CROSS ST.

### MASS SCHEDULE

#### DAILY MASSES

MC: Mon.- Fri. 6:45 AM  
DT: Wed. 12:10 PM  
MC: Sat. 8:00 AM

#### WEEKEND LITURGIES

MC: Sat. 4:30 PM  
MC: Sun. 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM,  
NOON & 6:00 PM  
DT: Sun. 9:00 AM



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Search St. Michael  
the Archangel Parish

## PARISH STAFF

- Fr. Adam Hertzfeld** ..... 332  
*Pastor*
- Fr. Peter Grodi**..... 334  
*Parochial Vicar, Youth Director*
- Msgr. Mike Hohenbrink** ..... ----  
*Pastor Emeritus*
- Dow Campbell** ..... 335  
*Chief of Staff*
- Suzanne Nickerson** ..... 336  
*Accountant*
- Geri Leibfarth** ..... 333  
*Director of Religious Education*
- Ryan Neal** ..... 328  
*Director of Music and Liturgy*
- Dave Sadler** ..... 337  
*Deacon*
- Mike Eier** ..... 223  
*Deacon*
- Keith Talbert** ..... 330  
*Deacon*
- Armando Gonzalez** ..... ----  
*Deacon*
- Donna Zoll** ..... 324  
*Administrative Asst., Bulletin Editor*
- Courtney Popenberg** ..... 331  
*Administrative Assistant*
- Denise Burkin** ..... 325  
*Administrative Assistant*
- Kim Schmitz** ..... 325  
*Evening Receptionist*
- Stephen MacDonald** ..... 327  
*Director of Facilities & Technology*



Visit our website to learn more and sign up for electronic giving through WeShare. [www.findlaystmichael.org](http://www.findlaystmichael.org)



### WELCOME

To everyone who has joined us today, whether you are here on your own or with family or friends, we want you to feel at home.

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## SACRAMENTS

### BAPTISM

Baptism instruction is necessary when this is your first child, there are more than 3 years between children or if the baptismal instruction was completed at a different parish. To arrange a baptism, please contact the Parish Office.



### MARRIAGE

Please contact the Parish Office six months in advance to start planning your wedding. Email: [cpopenberg@findlaystmichael.org](mailto:cpopenberg@findlaystmichael.org)



### RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

#### Main Church:

#### Saturday

8:30 AM

3:00-4:00 PM

#### Downtown:

#### Wednesday

11:30—11:50 AM



### Anointing of the Sick

Please call the Parish Office if you need a Priest to perform the Anointing of the Sick or Last Rites. If calling after hours, there will be a number available for you.



### Adult Faith Formation

#### RCIA & Discipleship

Contact Geri Leibfarth, Director of Religious Education, by calling the Parish Office.

	March 2021			July 2020 - March 2021		
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
Sunday Collection	\$ 181,745	\$ 192,165	\$ (10,420)	\$ 1,454,830	\$ 1,479,676	\$ (24,846)
Easter	1,751	-	1,751	5,166	-	5,166
Building & Maintenance	11,758	6,000	5,758	60,166	54,000	6,166

Thank you for your great generosity!  
Dow Campbell

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** MON-THURS.: 8:00 AM—8:00 PM  
FRI.: 8:00 AM—4:30 PM  
SAT. & SUN.: CLOSED

## Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last week's Confirmation Mass was a splendid celebration of faith and I am grateful to all who helped form our young people for this Sacrament. Special thanks go to Mrs. Geri Leibfarth, our Director of Religious Education, and to the parents, teachers, and sponsors of these good students. May God bless the newly confirmed with an abundance of His grace!

This weekend, we are pleased to announce that Bishop Thomas has assigned a seminarian to us for an internship year. The internship year is a time of formation in the apostolic works of parish life, since most priests will serve God in the context of a parish. Our seminarian's name is Mr. Chris Turner. Chris has been in formation with the Diocese of Toledo for the last several years. Prior to that, he served as a youth minister in Toledo and Atlanta, GA. We look forward to Chris' arrival this summer!

Looking ahead, on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of the Body and Blood of the Lord, I will celebrate a Mass at the downtown church in the "Extraordinary Form". The Extraordinary Form is celebrated according to the Missal of Pope Saint John XXIII. Most people know it as "the Latin Mass". This Mass will start at 11:30 a.m. and will conclude with a procession of the Blessed Sacrament. Since several families have asked for Mass in this form, I am happy to offer it on occasion. Included in this bulletin (Page 4) is a brief overview of the Extraordinary Form written by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The above announcement is a good introduction to my main topic for this article. Last week I mentioned that I have a list of very good questions from our eighth graders regarding the faith. One of them asks, "Shouldn't we be moving forward in the church, instead of going back to old ways?" I love the honest boldness of this question! This enquiry likely arises from some of the liturgical changes introduced since my coming here (such as the use of bells, a crucifix on the altar, etc.). On the one hand, these "old ways" have been exceedingly well received (I have been flooded by many positive words, cards, emails, etc., thanking me for these things—most especially from young people), but for some individuals the changes are puzzling or even the source of disquiet. As I mentioned in one of my very first articles, I make no apologies for my approach. My time in parish life convinces me that these things are an important part of the healing our culture needs—a culture which has lost the sense of the transcendent.

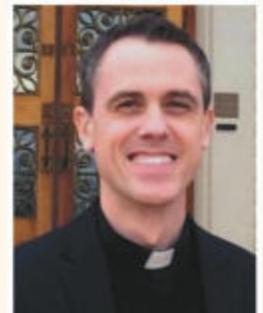
More specifically, however, one very important part of the vocation of the Christian is to hold fast to the teachings and example of Christ (see 2 Thessalonians 2:15, 1 Corinthians 11:2, Romans 16:17). As the Second Vatican Council reiterates in the Constitution on Divine Revelation, Jesus is the fullness of God's Word to us and his teachings come to us through Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture. The Church is the only authoritative interpreter of that truth: "Sacred tradition and Sacred Scripture form one sacred deposit of the word of God, committed to the Church...But the task of authentically interpreting the word of God, whether written or handed on, has been entrusted exclusively to the living teaching office of the Church, whose authority is exercised in the name of Jesus Christ" (10).

This precious deposit of faith does not change, although our understanding of it deepens. Saint John Henry Newman refers to the "development of doctrine" as a way to describe how Christ's teaching becomes more detailed and precise over the centuries. Development, therefore, does not contradict earlier Church teaching; rather it is a growth which remains consistent with earlier statements, like an oak tree which grows naturally out of the acorn. Thus we hold early Church teaching with the deepest reverence as something foundational to what we believe today.

Progress (moving forward) is neither good nor bad in itself. Its value depends upon whether or not the movement forward is in the right direction. After all, a car headed off a cliff is moving forward—just in the wrong direction! Things that are old are not necessarily bad and things that are new are not necessarily good. Both old and new must be weighed against the truth as it has revealed itself to us in Jesus Christ.

Sincerely in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Hertzfeld



## 04 FROM OUR PASTOR

*The following is taken from the USCCB website (usccb.org):*

The earliest Church documents that describe the Eucharist show differences in the way it was celebrated from region to region. Rome, Jerusalem, Alexandria, Antioch, Milan, Gaul—all of these centers of the Church had different ways of celebrating the Eucharist from the earliest days. And yet, there was never a question that it was the same Eucharist, the same Sacrifice, the same faith, and the same Apostolic foundation which underlay them all. Even within the area encompassed by the Roman Rite, there had been considerable variation in the celebration of the Mass over the centuries. The Council of Trent endorsed some of this diversity, as well as called for greater centrality in promoting uniformity. Popes from the fourth century through the twenty-first century have made changes for the sake of adapting or reforming the Roman Rite, but all of these changes must be seen not with “the hermeneutic of discontinuity and rupture” but within “the hermeneutic of reform, of renewal in continuity” as Pope Benedict XVI taught.

It is in this light that Saint John Paul II, with a special indult *Quattuor abhinc annos*, issued in 1984 by the Congregation for Divine Worship, granted the faculty under certain conditions to restore the use of the Missal promulgated by Saint John XXIII. He then promulgated the *motu proprio Ecclesia Dei* in 1988 which established a Commission for the pastoral oversight of those Catholics who remain attached to the Mass as it was celebrated in the 1962 *Missale Romanum*. In 2007, Pope Benedict XVI issued another *motu proprio*, *Summorum Pontificum*, which expanded and simplified the permissions to celebrate the whole liturgy according to the norms of 1962. He clarified that the 1962 *Missale* and 2008 *Missale* are both legitimate forms of the one Roman Rite, respectively called the *Extraordinary* and *Ordinary* Forms.

This Apostolic Letter has the aim of:

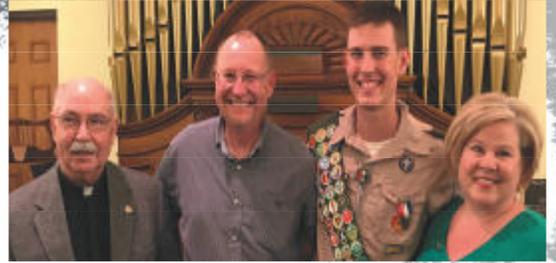
- offering to all the faithful the Roman Liturgy in the *Usus Antiquior*, considered as a precious treasure to be preserved;
- effectively guaranteeing and ensuring the use of the *forma extraordinaria* for all who ask for it, given that the use of the 1962 Roman Liturgy is a faculty generously granted for the good of the faithful and therefore is to be interpreted in a sense favorable to the faithful who are its principal addressees;
- promoting reconciliation at the heart of the Church.

Thus did he exhort the whole Church to “generously open our hearts and make room for everything that the faith itself allows.” Any Priest of the Latin Church—provided he has the minimum rubrical and linguistic ability—may, without any further permission from the Holy See or his Ordinary, celebrate the Extraordinary Form of the *Missale Romanum* in a Mass without the people at any time except during the Sacred Triduum. If members of the faithful wish to join in these celebrations, they are permitted to do so. In parishes where a stable group of the faithful are attached to the Extraordinary Form of the Mass, they may approach the pastor, who is to support their petition willingly.

The vernacular edition of the Lectionary for Mass may be used in the extraordinary form, while the 1962 calendar is to be followed. In 2011, the *Ecclesia Dei* Commission promulgated the *Instruction Universae Ecclesiae*, which further specified the use and regulation of the Extraordinary Form. This Instruction deals with the competence of Diocesan Bishops; the meaning of a “stable group of the faithful”; the qualifications of the priest-celebrant; some matters of liturgical and ecclesiastical discipline; the use of the other sacraments, including Confirmation and Holy Orders; the use of the *Breviarium Romanum*; the Sacred Triduum; the rites of religious orders; and the use of the *Pontificale Romanum* and the *Rituale Romanum*.

Continuing the work of the Pontifical Commission *Ecclesia Dei*, which was suppressed in January 2019, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith studied the integration of new saints and some prefaces from the ordinary form into the extraordinary Missal and issued two decrees in early 2020.

It is not certain what the future holds, but for the present the Church hopes that the two forms of the one Roman Rite may provide a mutual spiritual enrichment for the faithful and promote the Communion of the whole Church as an expression of unity in diversity.



**Congratulations** to Clayton Skulina on the achievement of Eagle Scout!  
And a big "Thank You!" to those individuals and companies who were able to make his Eagle Scout Project a success!



This is the last weekend to submit your donations in honor or memory of your loved ones for Mother's & Father's Day Altar Flowers.

## Father's Day Flower Fund

YOUR NAME AS YOU WOULD LIKE IT LISTED IN THE BULLETIN:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

CIRCLE ONE: IN HONOR OF OR IN MEMORY OF

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I AM ENCLOSING A DONATION OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

## Mother's Day Flower Fund

YOUR NAME AS YOU WOULD LIKE IT LISTED IN THE BULLETIN:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

CIRCLE ONE: IN HONOR OF OR IN MEMORY OF

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

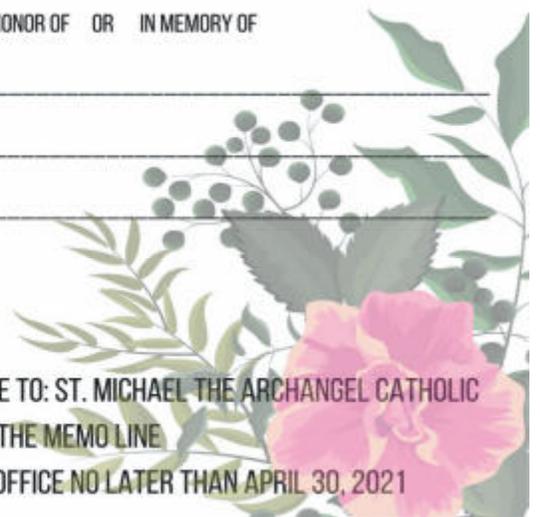
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PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC PARISH - WITH FLOWER FUND ON THE MEMO LINE

PLEASE RETURN TO THE PARISH OFFICE NO LATER THAN APRIL 30, 2021

**APRIL 25, 2021**



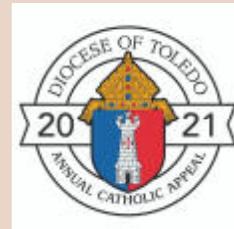
# 06 PARISH EVENTS

If you have a friend or relative that is homebound or living in a nursing home that would enjoy a visit from a priest or lay minister, please call the Parish Office with their name and address. We will contact the facility to get their COVID protocols before we visit.

We have reached **90.39%** of our goal of **\$120, 254** for the Annual Catholic Appeal.

**Congratulations** to these Parishes for reaching their goal:

- St. Joseph, Ft. Jennings
- St. Michael, Gibsonburg
- St. John the Baptist, Glandorf
- St. Rose of Lima, Perrysburg



## Are You Considering A Ministry?



St. Michael Parish is looking for men & women to distribute communion at area nursing homes & to the homebound of our Parish. Please call the Parish Office if you would like to be a part of this ministry. *Training is available.*

**AFTER ALL MASSES TODAY!  
IN THE ACTIVITY CENTER  
BETHLEHEM WOOD CARVING LOUIE  
7028 Marigold Ct, Grand Blanc, MI, 48439  
810-344-7055**

### **OLIVE WOOD SALE from the Holy Land**

**BETHLEHEM WOOD CARVING** is an organization that prides itself on transparency and honesty. The olive wood and mother-of-pearl products Louie sells are carefully handcrafted and shipped directly overseas from the Holy Land. These items hold special value, as they are not only unique, but purchasing them helps support the presence of Christianity in the Holy Land. Louie is not a team of merchants, rather family ambassadors for the 200 plus families back home working to stimulate the economy in a land once thriving that is now troubled. This art is an invaluable way to sustain the Catholic Christian community in the Holy Land.

Bethlehem Wood Carving's mission, since their development 12 years ago, has been to provide for Catholic Christian families in the Holy Land and support the schools and churches. The members of this community take olive wood limbs from ancient "immortal" trees and transform them into inspirational religious artworks, thus stimulating the economy in a declining population and reducing the emigration rate. The handiwork has been passed down for many generations. Louie strives to keep this tradition alive. Olive wood trees have been a sign of peace since the dove returned to Noah's Ark with an olive branch. Please visit our display after the mass and help Louie on his good cause mission. Your support will make a difference in the lives of many Catholic Christian families.

***THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS!***



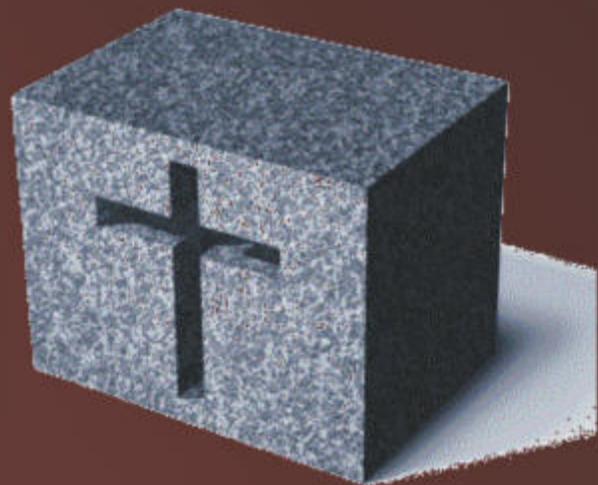
# THE VALUE OF A CORNERSTONE

Any builder worth his or her salt knows the value and importance of a cornerstone. Properly laying and securing this primary unit determines how the rest of the project unfolds and its success. Cornerstones are necessary elements not only of buildings but of lives as well. Many human beings conduct the business of their lives paying little attention to a grounding reference or starting point. Hence, what unfolds is a tapestry of relativism, with few anchors or guideposts and many impulsive choices. Some consider love to be their cornerstone. While this may sound attractive and useful, the pursuit of love without a simultaneous pursuit of its source can be shallow and self-focused. Just because a person chooses to do no harm and love others does not mean that they are living in truth and properly anchored to the real cornerstone.

Jesus is the true and authentic cornerstone and shepherd. It is only in following the Risen One as the way, the truth, and the life that we can move from being well grounded ethical people to properly focused moral ones. Proper conduct, a true sense of justice, wisdom, virtue, moral principles, faith, hope, and love will be difficult to find unless we listen to the right Voice. It is when we learn to listen to the voice of God that we begin our journey on the road to salvation. It is only the Good Shepherd, the authentic and solid cornerstone, who can guide us through life's questions and challenges and bring us to the safe and proper pasture.

A person's life only has meaning when the cornerstone is properly selected and set. Understanding themselves only as random acts of creation, existing without intent or purpose, will color their choices and influence their decisions. The foundation of their lives will be simply a matter of preference and choice, leaving benchmarks of growth and higher ideals optional to pursue. Whereas people who believe that they are fashioned and loved into existence by a God who purposely made them, have this incredible unconditional relationship at their source which has tremendous significance. Their allegiance is not to themselves but to their Creator. Life, then, is an adventure in search of this Creator God and a journey of self-discovery that seeks to unite their will to His. There is a cost. We have to give up our life in order to gain our life. As ironic as that sounds, it is true. It is only when we finally figure this out that the true cornerstone of our lives will be properly laid and we can, with God's help, get about the business of properly constructing a temple that endures.

©LPi



# 08 DOMINICAN SISTERS OF MARY, MOTHER OF THE EUCHARIST

## Fear Not Little Flock, I am the Good Shepherd

By: Sr. Cora Rose, OP

Today we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Easter, known as Good Shepherd Sunday. We are reminded of Jesus' promise that he will endure all things, even death, for the safety of his sheep. When I think of the theological virtue of faith, I consider this and the other promises of Jesus, because this virtue helps us to believe all that He has said and revealed to us through Divine Revelation. What has God promised and revealed throughout all of salvation history? That He is ALWAYS with us. From creation to the present day, He has never abandoned man. But instead, has been the Good Shepherd, guiding those in the flock, seeking out the lost sheep, and protecting each soul from the wolves who prowl about the world.



Saint Catherine of Siena, a great Dominican and Doctor of the church, whose feast day we celebrate this week (April 29) had this virtue of faith and deeply trusted in God's closeness. Her "Dialogue" is a written record of her conversation with the Father, and she was also known to conclude the recitation of the Divine Office with, "Glory be to the Father, and to Thee, and to the Holy Spirit." For her, Christ was not a distant figure. Rather, He was at her side, and prayer was conversation between friends.



A look through Scripture inspired me to write the following Litany of Faith as a prayer and reminder that Jesus is always with me. And for those times that I, like the first disciples, am tempted to doubt that this is true, I beg for an increase in faith to believe with all my heart that God keeps his promises and is truly with me. Because of that, I have nothing to fear.

### Litany of Faith

Lord have mercy on us.  
Lord, have mercy on us.

God the Father of Heaven  
God the Son,  
Redeemer of the world  
God, the Holy Spirit  
Holy Trinity, One God

Christ have mercy on us  
Chris hear us.  
Christ graciously hear us  
Have mercy on us.

Have mercy on us  
Have mercy on us  
Have mercy on us

As a sheep without a shepherd.. ***I will be with you***  
As with Adam & Eve walking in the garden.  
As with Abraham and Sarah, leaving their father's house.  
As with Jacob, wrestling through the night.  
As with Joseph, living in slavery.  
As with Moses, wandering tin the desert.  
As with Joshua, collapsing the walls of Jericho.  
As with David, fighting against the giant.  
As with Elijah, thirsting in the years of drought.  
As with Esther, presenting a request.  
As with Daniel, facing the lions in the den.

When I am tossed in storms at sea. ***Increase my faith***  
When I worry about tomorrow.  
When You call me to walk on the water.  
When I forget about the miracles You worked.  
When I don't trust my own power to rebuke demons

To lie down in green pastures ***I will lead you***  
Near restful waters  
Along right paths  
Through dark valleys  
Out of the shadows of death  
To dwell in the house of the Lord

If I have faith the size of a mustard seed nothing will be impossible. Thus faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

***Fear not, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the Kingdom. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. I am the Good Shepherd. Do you believe this?***

Yes, Lord, I have come to believe ... I fear no evil, for you are with me.



**STAFF 419-423-2738**  
 Principal - Amy Holzwart.....x222  
 aholzwart@findlaystmichael.org  
 Asst. Principal - Mike Eier.....x223  
 meier@findlaystmichael.org  
 Counselor -Tammie Morman.....x303  
 tmorman@findlaystmichael.org  
 Secretary - Vicky Bihn .....x221  
 vbihn@findlaystmichael.org  
 Attendance -Heather Kreinbrink .....x296  
 hkreinbrink@findlaystmichael.org  
**findlaystmichaelschool.org**



### 7B—Ms. Moening

7B has been busy in Religion. We've been visited by Fr. Adam, Fr. Peter and the novices, Sr. Sophia and Sr. Andrew John. The 7th graders have so many questions that they are coming back again in the next few weeks! 7B wrote their pledges of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving for Lent on crosses that are hung by our crucifix. Also for Lent, we pray the Stations of the Cross and we've also made Easter cards for the shut-ins.

7th grade Math has been working hard on simplifying linear expressions and using the distributive property. We are moving on to solving equations with rational coefficients next. 7th grade Pre-Algebra recently completed work with percentages—discount, mark-up, rate of change, and simple & compound interest. They are now working with linear expressions and will soon be working on multi-step equations and inequalities. 8th grade Algebra students just finished up exponential functions, growth and decay and recursive formulas and are moving on to polynomials and solving quadratic equations by factoring. Please keep the students in your prayers and thank you for your support!



Are you a senior in high school?  
 Did you graduate from SMS in 2017?  
 Pursuing a degree in the math or science fields?

If YES, Apply for the  
**Michael J Gardner Memorial Scholarship**



The Michael J Gardner Memorial Scholarship is in memory of Michael J. Gardner, who provided so much for our church, school, and community. His family has generously established scholarship funds that provide financial resources to be awarded to a graduate of St. Michael the Archangel School who will attend a full-time, undergraduate college program with a focus in the math or science fields. The value of the scholarship is \$1,000 for the first year and renewable for 3 additional years for qualified applicants. If the student continues in school, the 4th and final year of the scholarship would be for \$2,000. The student chosen for this scholarship will be required to write one letter each year of college, addressed to the Gardner Family, to express their progress and experience at college.

Apply online by May 1, 2021 at:  
<https://forms.gle/BhpaCE21sCPZ9MdR6>



### Aluminum Can Drive

Ball Metal is once again holding their aluminum can drive. Our school has the chance to win Dietsch's ice cream bars for the whole school! A trailer will be parked in the South lot from **April 23—May 6**. Thank you for recycling and supporting our school!




# 10 MASS READINGS AND LITURGIES

## WEEKLY LITURGIES

### Monday, April 26

6:45 AM (MH) MC Dolores & Phillip Saldana

### Tuesday, April 27

6:45 AM (AH) MC Catalina & Francisa Saldana

### Wednesday, April 28

6:45 AM (AH) MC Margaret Babarcsik

12:10 PM (PG) DT Dawn Gibson

### Thursday, April 29

6:45 AM (AH) MC Dave & Dorothy Arnold

8:35 AM (PG) MC Shirley Snow

### Friday, April 30

6:45 AM (MH) MC Dean Martin

8:35 AM (AH) MC Lee Bixby

### Saturday, May 1

8:00 AM (MH) MC Jackie Wilson

4:30 PM (AH) MC Alfonso & Margie Gonzalez  
Gary Weaver  
Carol Mae Diel  
Mary Klear

### Sunday, May 2

8:00 AM (AH) MC Eugene Reinhart  
Joan Casey

9:00 AM (PG) DT For The People of The Parish

10:00 AM (AH) MC Todd Kozlowski  
David Inman  
Kevin Wolford  
Bob & Ann Hildreth

12:00 PM (PG) MC Al, Ron, Kevin & JJ Linhart  
Elmer Nicholas Mora  
Colleen Riesen  
Charlie Michael Webb  
Jose & Angie Arreguin  
*66th Wedding Anniversary*

6:00 PM (MH) MC Stephen Van Atta

## Readings for the week of April 25, 2021

**Sunday:** Acts 4:8-12/Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29 [22]/1 Jn 3:1-2/Jn 10:11-18

**Monday:** Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4 [cf. 3a]/Jn 10:1-10

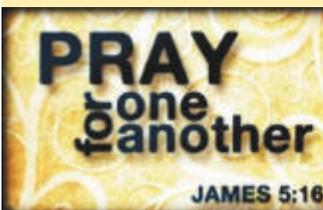
**Tuesday:** Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 [117:1a]/Jn 10:22-30

**Wednesday:** Acts 12:24—13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8 [4]/Jn 12:44-50

**Thursday:** Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27 [2]/Jn 13:16-20

**Friday:** Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab [7bc]/Jn 14:1-6

**Saturday:** Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 14:7-14 **St. Joseph the Worker:** Gn 1:26—2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24/Ps 90:2, 3-4, 12-13, 14 and 16 [cf. 17b]/Mt 13:54-58



Submit your prayer request.

Saint Michael the Archangel is a praying Parish and has an active and continuous prayer ministry. We will be happy to pray for you, and you can rest assured that your requests will be handled confidentially. Please send your requests to: [parish@findlaystmichael.org](mailto:parish@findlaystmichael.org)

- Joan Vaughn
- Nancy Smith
- Dolores McCullough

With  
DEEPEST SYMPATHY

## SAINT STORIES

### Fidelis of Sigmaringen

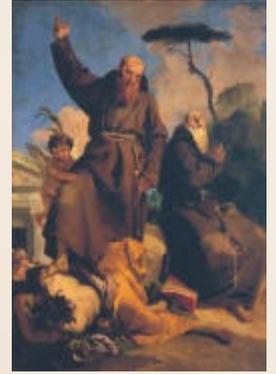
To understand the historical and religious context for today's saint, consider an event that took place fifty years before he was born. On January 5, 1527, in Zurich, Switzerland, a young man named Felix Mantz was taken hold of by local officials, had his hands and feet bound to a pole, and was rowed out in a boat to the deepest part of the local river. With a large crowd watching from the shores, he was tossed overboard into the dark water and immediately drowned to death. Felix Mantz's crime? He believed only adults should be baptized, not children. Mantz was not killed by the Inquisition, the Pope, the local Bishop, or a Catholic mob. His cruel drowning, which mocked his views on baptism, was carried out by dissenting Protestants.

The Protestants of Zurich believed in infant baptism while rejecting almost all other Catholic beliefs. And they allowed absolutely no dissenting from their own dissenting from Catholicism. Felix Mantz was the first Protestant martyred by other Protestants. Heretics killing other heretics for not conforming to their heresy captures the chaos, intellectual dissonance, and cultural confusion in some regions of sixteenth and seventeenth century Europe. This total meltdown is known as the Reformation. Today's saint, Fidelis of Sigmaringen, walked right into this still-raging storm of violence in the early seventeenth century, suffering a fate similar to the Protestant Felix Mantz, though for contrary reasons.

He was born as Mark Roy in the town of Sigmaringen in Prussia, in Northern Germany, and raised in the Faith. He had always been an exceptionally ardent Catholic, so he entered the Capuchin Order and was ordained a priest in his thirties. He took the religious name of "faithful"—in Latin, "Fidelis." Fidelis was intelligent, disciplined, ascetic, and committed. His abundant human and spiritual gifts were amplified and sharpened when put in the service of the King of Kings, and he rose to positions of leadership within the Capuchin Order.

Having become locally well known for his fervor and holiness, Father Fidelis was appointed by the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith in Rome to preach, teach, and write in present day Switzerland, with the goal of exhorting the people

to return to the embrace of the Mother Church which had given them birth. Father Fidelis desired martyrdom, and it came for him soon enough. In Switzerland, his zeal and example brought some prominent Calvinists back to the true Faith. This made him an official enemy of the Calvinists who controlled much of that land. One day, when traveling between two



towns where he was preaching and saying Mass, Fidelis was confronted along the road by Calvinist soldiers led by a minister. Fidelis had recently caused an uproar in a nearby town and had barely escaped with his life. The soldiers knew exactly who was before them. They demanded that he abandon his Faith. Fidelis answered, "I was sent to rebuke you, not to embrace your heresy. The Catholic religion is the faith of all ages, I do not fear death." His skull was then cracked open with the butt of a sword, his body punctured with stabs, and his left leg hacked off in retribution for the numerous journeys he had made into Protestant territory. Saint Fidelis died at the age of forty-five, ten years after entering religious life. He was canonized in 1746. Over three hundred miracles were attributed to his intercession during his canonization process. Saint Fidelis was faithful in life and continues to intercede faithfully in death.

## COUPLES CORNER

Beloved, see what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God (1 John 3:1). Yet so we are. What a simple and profound truth to ponder.

Sometimes I tend to complicate the Christian life when what I really need is to get back to the basics and reconnect on a relational level with God as my Father.

The same is true for marriage. Keep it simple, be authentic, and connect with your spouse intentionally.

Lord, help me to be authentic with You, my spouse, and all those I connect with in my life. May my ways be guided by the simple truth that I am your child and I call you Father. Amen.

# 12 SUMMER FUN FAITH CHALLENGE



Who - 4yr-olds to upcoming 5th graders

When - the weeks of June 6, - August 1  
(excluding the week July 4)

What - weekly faith lessons, prayer and activities

Why - because we love our faith!

Although this year's Vacation Bible School is canceled, we still wanted to provide an opportunity for our children to grow in their faith...and win prizes! Each week the kids may complete a lesson at home: focus, virtue, prayer and craft. Each time you email in a picture of the completed craft, a raffle ticket will be placed in the bucket for your child. We will have a drawing each week for those who sent in a picture for that week; then a final drawing will be held for the **BIG PRIZE**. All tickets for the 8-weeks will be included in the bucket for the final drawing! To participate, return the form by May 21. More information will be sent to those who register.

*Summer Fun Faith Challenge - Registration Form - Due by May 21*

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade (21/22) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Information on pick-up of materials will be sent via email.

## The Fourth Sunday of Easter

APRIL 25, 2021

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;  
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

—Jn 10:14

Cathy Images

### World Day of Prayer for Vocations

World Day of Prayer for Vocations will be observed on Sunday, April 25, 2021 also known as "Good Shepherd Sunday." The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life or secular institutes.



### Catholic Home Missions Appeal 2021

Your support of the Catholic Home Missions Appeal strengthens the Church At Home. Over 40% of dioceses United States and its territories are considered mission territories, because they are unable to fund essential pastoral activities needed in their communities. Your support funds religious education, seminary formation, lay ministry training, and other programs that build vibrant faith communities right here in the United States. **Prayerfully consider supporting the collection at this weekend!** More information can be found at [www.usccb.org/home-missions](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions).



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