



The Defender

Weekly parish bulletin of the Catholic community of
St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church

Parish Website: www.saint-mikes.org

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Our Mission

To be the presence of Christ...

In Welcoming

In Service

In Worship

In Compassion

In Faith Sharing

In Fellowship

To be the Light of the World!

Edition 1442

May 31, 2020

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Jesus said to them
again, "Peace be
with you. As the
Father has sent
me, so I send
you." - Jn 20:21



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

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Weekly Message

How Can We Keep (You) From Singing (Tom Kaczmarek)

We have a proud tradition of sung liturgy at St. Michael. But now, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are asked to *refrain* from singing. How can that be? God has wired us to praise him in song, our impulse is to worship God with Glorias, Alleluias, and Hosannas. *Hallelujah is our song*, right? How can we keep from proclaiming to the rafters as we exit Mass, 'blessed be the name of our God'? How can Fr. Dan keep from singing as he dances?

Sadly, scientific evidence bears out that the physical act of singing leads us to project droplets further, and not just a little further, into the air than speaking. And the deep breathing necessary to sustain singing leads us to inhale air—and all that is in the air—more deeply into our lungs. Masks are not 100% effective in this case. Simply put, singing in a confined space is dangerous.

Along with all those who love to sing, the Music Ministry mourns the loss of this essential aspect of our praise and worship. Our hearts are broken. The loss of the voice of the assembly leaves a void that cannot be filled.

So, what hope do we have, even in the darkest night? Well, we are not prohibited from singing while *away* from church. I am one of those (annoying?) people with a song at the ready on the tip of my tongue. In this, I am like my grandfather who always had a song in his heart.

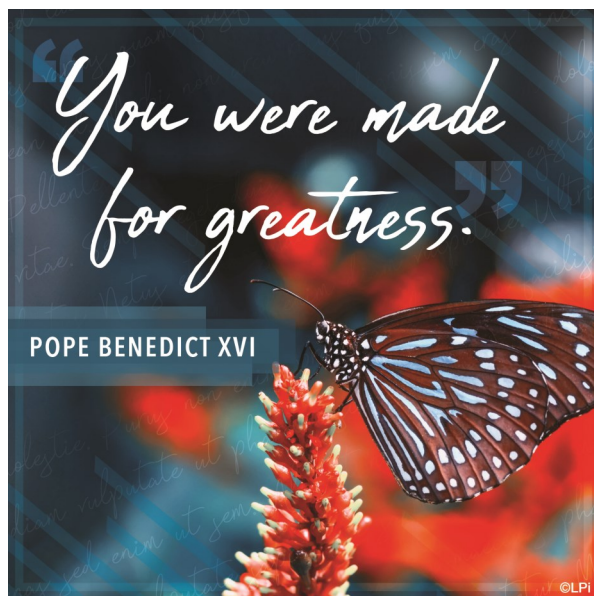
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Weekly Message continued

That song is ours for keeps. Go ahead, sing as you do the dishes, while walking the dog, and, by all means, sing at home with the 11:15 AM *Music Mass* on Sunday mornings. For just as God hears the cry of the lowly, he hears songs of joy from the hearts of his humble servants, regardless of where they ring out from. God does not check your GPS coordinates. Whether you are on your porch, in your garage, or seated in your den/office/kitchen—sing!

Keep your voice in good shape, and, one day, we will once again raise the roof in praise—Hallelujah is our song! Sing! Just not in the sanctuary. For now.

Additional Important and Helpful Information: saint-mikes.org/music-ministry



Worship & Sacraments

Scripture Reading for the Following Weekend

**June 7, 2020
The Holy Trinity**

Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9
Daniel 3
Second Corinthians 13:11-13
John 3:16-18



Mass Intentions

† Deceased

Sat.		May 30		5 PM	For the People
Sun.		May 31		7:45 AM	Anne Di Laura †
Sun.		May 31		9:15 AM	Bob Hoppel †
Sun.		May 31		11:15 AM	James Cozzie †
Sun.		May 31		5 PM	Chris Rapp
Mon.		June 1		12:15 PM	John Weber †
Tue.		June 2		7:30 AM	Dinah Foreman
Wed.		June 3		8:30 AM	Sal Lapaglia
Thu.		June 4		12:15 PM	Peggy Lomba †
Fri.		June 5		7:30 AM	
Sat.		June 6		5 PM	Linda Sherman †
Sun.		June 7		7:45 AM	Zygmunt Skala †
Sun.		June 7		9:15 AM	Mike Walker †
Sun.		June 7		11:15 AM	Lorna Britto †
Sun.		June 7		5 PM	Michael Kolesar †

Happy 28th Anniversary, St. Michael Parish!



We are such a blessed faith community, filled with amazing parishioners who do God's work through our many ministries, spreading God's love and mercy to our sisters and brothers, both near and far.

Our Parish Through the Years: saint-mikes.org/history

THANK YOU!

A Note of Thanks from Our Lady of Lourdes Food Pantry

(Joan DuFour | Coordinator | Human Concerns | Our Lady of Lourdes Church)

Friends at Saint Michael Church,

One day in the future, I hope to meet many of you. Thank you notes are kind and thoughtful, but I am a face-to-face talker! Once again, we were overwhelmed with the outpouring of generosity from your parish with the leadership of Fr. Brady and his staff. *Good grief, Charlie Brown.* It was awesome. The amount was beyond impressive, but **you cared enough to read the items most needed and you sent them.** YAY! I wish it were possible to record the phone calls of thanks we receive from the families we serve. We have a grandmother who cares for four grandchildren and does all she can to give them what they need. I will tell you that this lady is a trip. She asks for pancake mix and syrup each month, along with personal care items for the kids. One grandchild thrives on pancakes, and, believe me, she will leave me many messages reminding me of this. I told her one month, *if you call me one more time, I may not give you the pancake mix.* She laughed and said, *OK, Miss Joan, I will leave you alone.* In April, she asked for a cake mix, because one little boy was having a birthday. Of course, we made certain she had pancake mix, cake mix, and frosting. She called ever so happy (with the little guy in the background, yelling *thank you!*) thanking us for making his birthday so special. Please know how very much we appreciate your help and kindness. God bless you all.

Introducing... **E-SCRIP** Gift Cards



Online shopping is more important than ever.

To adhere to social distancing guidelines, we are not conducting in-person SCRIP Sales.

We are pleased to offer you the convenience of buying your SCRIP gift cards online!

Introducing E-SCRIP Gift Cards!

Now, you can continue to shop at your favorite store or online retailer, while supporting our parish!

Hundreds of top-brand gift cards are now available as E-SCRIP gift cards.

E-SCRIP Gift Cards are sent immediately to your account (Wallet) for use.

They are perfect for your regular purchases and take-out orders.

Send an E-SCRIP gift card to someone in need. Schedule an E-SCRIP gift card to be sent to someone's email inbox on a specific date as a special gift!

Support Our Parish, Help a Friend, and Support the Economy!

How to Get Started - It's Quick and Easy!

- You may use a computer or smartphone to get started.
 - **On your computer/laptop:** visit <https://www.shopwithscrip.com/> and click on *Register*
 - **On your smartphone:** visit myscripwallet.com and click on *Create an Account*
- Enter your personal and credit card information.
- Enter the beneficiary code (**3F1DFB4D5936**).
 - **Please make sure to enter the code correctly to ensure that our parish receives the commissions.**
- Select **EGIFT Card** to order the merchant, dollar amount, and number of gift cards you wish to purchase.
 - No local merchants available at this time.
- The E-SCRIP Gift Card will be available immediately on your Wallet account to:
 - print and use at a retail location
 - show the card in your Wallet on your phone when ready to pay in person



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has activated a Vincetian Relief Fund (VRF), and they are asking for donations to assist with the increase in request for help that they are receiving.

Vincetians have been able to respond to those in need quickly and compassionately. A gift to the Vincetian Relief Fund will allow them to continue to serve the increase in families who have been financially impacted by these trying times.

Donate Online: svdp-rva.org



Many people have asked how they can continue to financially support St. Michael Parish.

As you may know, the St. Michael Parish operating budget is 100% dependent on offertory donations throughout the year. About 45% of our donations come through electronic giving, primarily through WeShare and autodraft. The balance of giving comes through the Sunday Collection.

It is also true that during this crisis, many people will suffer financial hardship through the temporary loss of employment, a reduction in investment-based retirement income, or the need to support other family members. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is ready to assist during this time.

Keeping in mind both of these realities, we ask that you consider the following, remembering that no one is expected to financially endanger themselves or their family:

Please continue to support St. Michael parish through your donations.

- **Mail your usual donation amount by check.**
- **Use WeShare, our online giving platform (<https://saintmikes.weshareonline.org/>).** You can set up one-time or recurring donations using your bank account or credit card. If you previously have not set up your account in WeShare, you can do so easily. Remember, you have total control over your giving using WeShare.
- **You can text stmikes to 555888.** This will connect you directly to our WeShare giving platform, and you easily can set up your online giving details.

In this time period, St. Michael Parish has suspended discretionary spending. We are focused on carefully stewarding the donations of our parishioners so that the essential work of the Church can continue. We will be here throughout this time of crisis—we are here for you. Please help us maintain that presence as you are able.

You are in our prayers. Please keep us in yours.

Please Pray

NOTE:

When adding people to our Prayer List, please ask them ahead of time if this is alright with them. Not everyone wants his/her name announced or published, and we wish to respect everyone's privacy.

Let us pray also for those parishioners with ongoing health concerns:

Rebecca Phares, Amy Toombs, Victoria Arroyo, Shirley Froemming, Rosemarie Walpole, Anthony Doria, Tom DelPozzo, Thomas Forbs, Tyler Bohn, Maria Teresa Kelleher, Robin & Ron Woods, Nancy Harris, John Rymisyewski, Andy Flores, Tina Polito, Roy Ambler, Stefanie Cousins, Kess Kessler, Charlotte Domalik, Thomas Bunce, Francis Laghi, Tyler Bohn, Richard Taylor, Joan Pardue, Percy Pickral, Michael Levay, Earl Harris, Toni Schmiegelow, Monique Anastasio, Eleonor (Ele) Dashielle, Evan Neal, Emily White



Please also pray for these members of the St. Michael extended family:

Malgoscia Banasinska, Ela Barszcz, Alfred Neill, Gloria Schuster, Christopher Tomasi (Sabina Volpe), Jean Folkes (Clair Folkes), Bert & Becky Kuhns (Liz & Mike Munger), Lexi & Rowan Galkowski (Lana Dreelin), Justin Dutcher & Genevieve Myrick (Colleen Dutcher), Kristine Fitzgerald (Simon Family), Danny White, Raymond Laureano (Nancy Fonseca), Donna Jardine & Sauling Hong (Chris & Keith Burns), Anna Huseboe (Bernadette Law), Percy Pickered (Janet McBride), Billy Esposito (Fred Esposito), Robert Accomando (Debra Vuturro), Grace Whitmer (Richmond Walsh), Lori Lewis, Marilyn Barrett (Marie Chickey), Knox Walker (Lani & Rey Vasquez)

We remember those who have preceded us to the Father:

Kenneth Schriewer, Mary Jane Heaton, John Barret, May Paraiso, Robert Fanning

Please pray for those in our military who are serving here or overseas:

Tanner Phister, Allan Schmidt, Leslie Schmidt, Kurt Ober, Roberto & Rebecca Fonseca, Nicholas Paraiso, Captain Russell Timmons, Michael Gaines Ballato, Jason Strickland, Nicholas Perkins, Jacob Fonner, Nicholas Hassell, Jason Maraffi, Adam Dutcher

Would You Like Your Loved One On the List?

Contact: Magda Schultheis | 804-527-1037 ext. 126 | mschultheis@saint-mikes.org

Every few months, we delete names listed here and ask family members to contact the parish office again, if they wish their loved one added back in. In the section *We remember those who have preceded us to the Father*, we usually include the names of the recently deceased or those celebrating an anniversary that week. In order to have a request pertaining to anniversaries of the deceased included in the *Prayers of the Faithful* (the Universal Prayer) at a Sunday or weekday Mass, such request should be submitted through the parish office in the form of a *Mass Intention*.

Around the Diocese

Commonwealth Catholic Charities (CCC)

CCC continues to provide critical services, such as:

- Food Pantry
- Baby Clothes Closet
- Counseling Services
- Workforce Development
- Housing Counseling
- Independence for Seniors (Call Reassurance Program)

For more info, visit: cccofva.org

Contact Us

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Human Concerns | Parish Life | Pastoral Care

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Stay Informed!



Scan the QR Code
or
Visit Our Parish Website
(www.saint-mikes.org)

