

March 1st, 2020
First Sunday of Lent

Dear friends in Christ,

Prayer, fasting and almsgiving...

Under these three titles we find the spiritual exercises to which Jesus directs us. Having pointed out that there are two paths - the broad path to destruction and the narrow path to salvation – the Lord guides us along the narrow path with these spiritual counsels.

Years ago, I had a conversation with a Catholic from another parish who was in financial difficulties. He had called the parish where I was assigned as the assistant to complain that the pastor was not willing to give him a large amount of cash at the door of the rectory to solve his financial woes. (You can imagine the length of the line at the rectory door if we adopted a policy like that!)

The part of the conversation that got to me and that relates to our Lenten practices is that he complained that he had ALWAYS given to the collection plate over the years and now he felt entitled to get it back! Suddenly I felt like a bank teller. "This is not a bank," I told him.

Should we be insensitive to the needs of the poor? Shouldn't we take care of our own? These are legitimate questions, but how the parish pastor deals with the needs of the poor is not the subject of this column. What is the point?

When a Catholic gives alms, he gives it to the Lord to provide for the temporal needs of the kingdom. Almsgiving is not a financial investment from which we hope to reap some future financial benefit. Nor should the faithful regard their alms as a means of entitlement to certain services, i.e. special privileges for weddings, baptisms, funerals, or family events. Why?

We give alms because God has been so good to us! We give alms to fulfill the command of the Lord *to make a return for the blessings that He has showered upon us*. When we give alms, there should be no strings attached. If we are attached to the alms that we have given, then we are "lending" our alms to God! But God owes us nothing.

God also is not a banker. Jesus tells us *"when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you."* (Mt 6:3-4) A bank gives you back what you deposited plus interest; the Lord, who has provided everything for us, still rewards us – but in heavenly currency. We have been paid back even before we have given. He pays us back with something infinitely more valuable than our alms. *"But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be."* (Mt 6:20-21)

Have mercy on us O Lord, for we have sinned against You., Fr. Martin Flum

The Fishers of Men Project

More Volunteers Urgently Needed - Consider Visiting our Neighbors!

We are still in need of more volunteers to visit our neighbors as part of our Fishers of Men project- so far we only have 2! If you would like to volunteer with a friend or family member rather than alone, that would be fine! In either case, you will accompany Joanna Mason on this mission. Our visit will be simple; we will introduce ourselves as parishioners of St. Michael or St. Dominic, let them know that we are here for them, and offer to pray for them and their intentions. We will also invite them to use our FORMED subscription. If no one answers the door, we have door hangers ready, so our visit will not be in vain!

Please join Joanna so she isn't wandering around the neighborhood alone. :) Contact her, even if you only want to ask some questions about this, at evangelization.stmichaelbaden@gmail.com or at (240)681-3551.

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord!

Be FORMED this Lent

Are you looking for more to enrich your Lenten season? It's not too late to sign up to receive a daily Lenten reflection by scripture scholar Dr. Timothy Gray at formed.org/lent.

LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Stations of the Cross will be on Fridays during Lent (Friday, February 28th – April 3rd). Stations will begin at 3pm at St. Dominic's, then again at 7pm at St. Michael's Church.

First Friday and Saturday Are Here Again!

This coming Friday, March 6th, is First Friday. In addition to our 8am Mass, Mass will be at 7:30 PM, preceded by confessions from 7-7:30 PM and followed by Eucharistic adoration with Rosary until 9 PM. The next morning, March 7th is First Saturday! 8 AM Mass will be followed by adoration of the Eucharist, the Rosary, Confessions, and a 15-minute reflection. The **Blue Army** group will be gathering for breakfast and their meeting afterwards. If you are new to the **Blue Army** and have questions or would like to attend a meeting, call Joanna Mason at the office or email evangelization.stmichaelbaden@gmail.com.

YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS

St. Michael's	
Offertory Collection	\$ 3205
St. Dominic's	
Offertory Collection	\$ 681

WEEKLY UPDATES

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	02/29/20	5pm	Ann Proctor +
Sunday	03/01/20	8am	Linda Brown & LaCole Cole
Sunday	03/01/20	10am	Parishioners & their families
Sunday	03/01/20	11:30am	Ann Proctor +
Monday	03/02/20	8am	Kent Mowry +
Tuesday	03/03/20	8am	Bradley Alan Brown +
Wednesday	03/04/20	8am	Thelma Rose Weinelt +
Thursday	03/05/20	8am	Doris Riess +
Friday	03/05/20	8am	Ann Proctor +
First Friday		7:30pm	Brian & Elizabeth Miles & family

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK

Saturday	03/07/20	5pm
Rosary Leader: Arlene Bloom	Lector: Claude Boswell	
Server: James Aviles	EMHC: Joe Sobnosky	
Sunday	03/08/20	8am
Rosary Leader: Betty Lindsay	Lector: Jeanine Wilson	
Server: Dan Wilson	EMHC: TBD	
Sunday	03/08/20	11:30am
Rosary Leader: Kevin Mondorf	Lector: David Mason	
Server: Taylor Nickens	EMHC: TBD	

Readings for the week of March 2, 2020

Mon	3/02/20	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19/Mt 25:31-46
Tues	3/03/20	Is 55: 10-11/Ps 34/Mt 6:7-15
Wed	3/04/20	Jnh 3: 1-10/Ps 51/Lk 11:29-32
Thurs	3/05/20	Esth C: 12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138/Mt 7:7-12
Fri	3/06/20	Ezk 18: 21-28/Ps 130/Mt 5:20-26
Sat	3/07/20	Deut 26: 16-19/Ps 119/Mt 5:43-48
Sun.	3/08/20	Gen 12: 1-4a /Ps 33/2Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: For those who suffer from chronic illness, especially Joe Aviles, Angela Farmer, Madison Brady, Ann Canter, Charlene Cardwell, Tom Cardwell, Joyce Chambers, Thomas Chambers, Jackie Chapman, Teresa Devore, Dorothy Dunston, Kathy Fisher, Mabel Hamilton, Florence Henderson, Crystal Johnson, Bernice Kirby, Marie Knobel, Wanda Langley, Betty Lindsay, Kenny Lindsay, Adam Lumpkins, Michael Mohun, Ralph and Regina Nasatka, Fannie Newman, Joyce Pickeral, Rev. Robert Pittman, Betty Proctor, Dawn Russo, Lucille Shanks, Dee Smith, Geraldine Stewart, Willie Stewart, George Thomas, Terry Wilson and Belinda Windsor, may their crosses be joined to the Cross of Jesus



The Light is On for Confession
 Every Wednesday during Lent
 at St. Michael's 7-9pm.

"Tell souls where they are to look for solace, that is, in the Tribunal of Mercy [the Sacrament of Reconciliation]. There the greatest miracles take place [and] are incessantly repeated." (Jesus to St. Faustina)

Our discipline of Lent

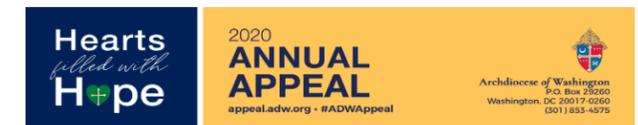
Good Friday is an obligatory day of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. **When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.** The law of fast is binding on those from age 18 until age 59. The Fridays of Lent are days of obligatory abstinence from meat only. The law concerning abstinence from meat is binding from age 14 onwards. All of us are bound to the law of penance, especially during Lent, which means that we willingly carry the crosses of our daily duties and those that the Lord sends us for our conversion, in reparation for our sins and for the conversion of poor sinners.

Parish Penance Service March 30, 2020

We will have a penance service at St. Michael on Monday, March 30, the week before Holy Week in preparation for Easter. Visiting priests will be available to hear confessions from 6:30-8pm. The Penance service will begin with Scriptural readings, a homily and an



examination of conscience. Mark your calendars!



The Annual Appeal invites us to support the work of the Archdiocese in projects that are bigger than a parish can handle. Often we see chronic needs in our communities that go unmet because they involve resources that are beyond our reach. By means of the Appeal, we can participate in those efforts with our alms. If you have not yet made a pledge to the Annual Appeal, you can still find the envelopes to do so at the entrances to the church.

Women's Holy Hour - This Week

Next Wednesday night March 4th we will have a Holy Hour for Women at 6pm. Come learn about Blessed Alexandrina, a Portuguese mystic from our time whose life speaks powerfully about our share in the redemptive work of Christ our Lord. Our Blessed Mother stood at the foot of the Cross – she witnessed the cruel death of her own Son and in a powerful way merited the salvation of souls by sharing in the Cross of Christ. Blessed Alexandrina is considered in Portugal to be the "fourth seer of Fatima". Come find out why!