



St. Michael Catholic Church Mission of St. Dominic

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Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

This Thursday will be 40 days since Easter. Forty days after Easter Jesus ascended into Heaven. He who came down from heaven to take flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary, returns to the bosom of the Father with his resurrected human nature – body and soul. Next week, Deacon Steve McKimmee will write about that experience of the early Church.

Today we will focus on the Novena to the Holy Spirit. The novena or nine days of prayer begins the day after the Ascension. Our novena is patterned from the nine days spent in prayer by the Apostles, some other disciples and the Blessed Virgin Mary. *“When they entered the city they went to the upper room where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.” (Acts 1:13-14)*

This is from the Archdiocese of Washington regarding the public Mass schedule:

"The restriction on not holding public Masses is still in place until further notice.

We continue to put plans and resources together for when we can resume public Masses and to do so in an orderly, safe, and well-communicated manner. It is our hope to communicate soon to you a timeline for when public Masses can resume so you can plan accordingly."

The Catholic encyclopedia says that a novena is *a nine days private or public devotion in the Catholic Church to obtain special graces. The octave (or 8 days) has more of the festal character; to the novena (or 9 days) belongs that*

of hopeful mourning, of yearning, of prayer. "The number nine in Holy Writ is indicative of suffering and grief" (St. Jerome, in Ezech., vii, 24; — P.L., XXV, 238, cf. XXV, 1473).

This characteristic of the novena being one of mourning and yearning and grief was unknown to me. However, we see how perfectly that fits the dispositions of the hearts of Mary and the Apostles. Jesus had remained with them 40 days after the Resurrection and now He is gone! *“He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.” (Acts 1:3)*

It is no wonder that they were praying with a spirit of mourning and grief. They had experienced the horrors of the Crucifixion, then the wonders of the Resurrection and now the departure of the Master into the bright blue firmament! Yet it is also fitting that they were praying with “yearning”. Jesus had made a promise! *“While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for “the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the holy Spirit.”” (Acts 1:4-5)*

The promise of Jesus was fulfilled at Pentecost when the tongues of fire came to rest on those praying for nine days with the Blessed Virgin Mary. The promise extends to us as well. The Holy Spirit who transformed us in our Baptism and completed his Gifts to us in Confirmation, still has particular graces to give us as we walk in the Way of Jesus Christ. You may choose what prayer(s) to pray for the nine days. EWTN has a novena prayer on their website or you could pray the Rosary for those nine days with the intention of receiving from the Holy Spirit or you can use this prayer from St Augustine:

“Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen.”

Come Holy Spirit. Fr. Martin Flum

VISITS TO JESUS IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

All of you are encouraged to visit Jesus at least weekly in St. Michael Church for a time of personal prayer and adoration of God who is present among us. He chose to remain hidden in the Holy Sacrament of the Altar so that we could make a great act of Faith by drawing near to Him under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. If you can make a weekly commitment, go to our website

<https://stmichaelsbaden.weconnect.com/>

to sign up for a recurring weekly holy hour! Thank you! Join us for prayer anytime 6am-9pm.

Important Update on the Jubilarian Mass

The annual Jubilarian Mass has been postponed to the fall. More information will be available in upcoming weeks. We ask that parishes still continue registering your couples. Contact the office for Family Life for additional questions at visiblesign@adw.org or call 301-853-4546.

NEW Parish Group: Join From Home!

The Sharers of the Cross

Even before this quarantine started, a new ministry to "work from home" was in development for St. Michael and St. Dominic: **The Sharers of the Cross!** There are no meetings, and the only commitment you have to make is one in your heart: members of the Sharers of the Cross will unite their sufferings through Love to Jesus sacrifice on the cross, choosing to offer whatever trials they bear for the salvation of souls and in reparation for sin. In a particular way, they will pray and offer sacrifices for all those souls within our parish boundaries, and for the special intentions of our parish. Every month, members will be updated on specific parish intentions. They will be provided with a member handbook, a rosary, and a scapular.

We all have a cross to bear, a yoke to shoulder. Some are large, others small. Whatever yours is, make it one with Christ's by bearing it united with His Love, and your burden will become light. To join, or just to find out more, please contact Joanna Mason at evangelization.stmichaelbaden@gmail.com or call the parish office.

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly of heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Mt 11:29)

Priests for Life offer this Life-Saving Information!

Priests for Life also has set up the special website AbortionForgiveness.com at which one can enter a zip code and find the ministries for healing after abortion closest to

where one lives. These include pregnancy centers, special ministries and [Rachel's Vineyard](#) retreat sites.

Sign-up - Perpetual Rosary on our website

The Perpetual Rosary still has many slots open. You DO pray the Rosary, don't you? Join us in praying for the evangelization of our parish! How pleasing it is to God and to our Lady when we pray the Rosary for souls! The idea is to have someone praying the Rosary throughout the day for the growth of our parish and mission. The prayer of the Rosary will help you understand Sacred Scripture, draw your heart closer to Jesus and help you understand the role of our Lady in your life. You can add your name to the list on-line or call the parish secretary to add your Rosary to the effort: <https://stmichaelsbaden.weconnect.com>.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

For those who suffer from chronic illness, especially Joe Aviles, Angela Farmer, Madison Brady, Ann Canter, Aldrin Castillo, Charlene Cardwell, Tom Cardwell, Joyce Chambers, Thomas Chambers, Jackie Chapman, David Dixson, Dorothy Dunston, Kathy Fisher, Mabel Hamilton, Florence Henderson, Crystal Johnson, Bernice Kirby, Marie Knobel, Wanda Langley, Betty Lindsay, Kenny Lindsay, Adam Lumpkins, John Martone II, 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, Patricia Stuart, George Thomas, Terry Wilson and Belinda Windsor, may their crosses be joined to the Cross of Jesus.

MASS INTENTIONS

Only one Sunday Mass is being offered for Parishioners, the other Sunday intentions will be moved to a future date.

Sunday	05/17/20	Parishioners & Families
Monday	05/18/20	Doris Riess +
Tuesday	05/19/20	Rev. Francis Bober +
Wednesday	05/20/20	Sarah Bugbee
Thursday	05/21/20	Rev. Edward Dougherty, SJ +
Friday	05/22/20	Hedy Pirner +
Saturday	05/23/20	Thelma Rose Weinelt +

YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS

5-10-2020

St. Michael	Offertory Collection	\$ 5283.00
St. Dominic	Offertory Collection	\$ 827.00

We want to thank everyone who has been mailing their weekly tithe or dropping it off at the office or using electronic means. You can see above the generosity of our parish members and friends. May the good Lord reward all of you! With electronic banking, your regular contribution can be issued by your bank as a check to be mailed directly to us. This method of "direct pay" avoids the fee associated with credit card transactions.