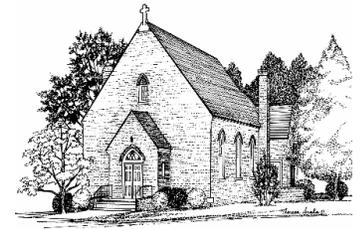




St. Michael Catholic Church Mission of St. Dominic

17510 Horsehead Road
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240-681-3551
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17th Sunday of Ordinary Time July 26th, 2020

Dear friends:

Our thoughts on all social issues can be guided in accord with Catholic moral teaching. Voluntary human actions fall within the category of morality. Human acts are subject to the natural law which is built into our nature. God's laws are not arbitrary. Once one has been raised up by baptism into supernatural life, God can command us to do even what is beyond our nature (supernatural). His commands are given so that we can achieve the common good here and beatitude after death.

Libertarians disagree because they want to be free of moral standards while establishing their own arbitrary norms. Ironically, they expand government oversight and seek to limit moral oversight. And that is what is currently happening. Each year our legislators are churning out volumes of new laws that few of us read, but all of us are responsible as citizens to follow! Clearly in today's political arena, limited government is a neglected political virtue, and the effort to remove our society's moral compass has been disastrous.

Why do I say that limited government is a virtue? Because the law of our land is being weakened by the seesaw effect of politics. As each party rises and falls in political power, we see laws being written and unwritten, back and forth from election cycle to election cycle. This is a clear indication that the moral foundation of law is eroding and law is becoming the highly perishable fruit of political power, manipulated public opinion and situation ethics. Law is losing its stabilizing influence.

Conversely, when morality is the foundation of law, government is more stable because morality is timeless and determines the true good of human society. When the law of the land is radically subject to the changing political winds, the average citizen ends up getting caught in the cultural crossfire. Due to situation ethics, our laws are constantly changing. In that scenario there is general loss of respect for the political process and for law itself. The student of history can see that certain policies, programs, ethics and law tend toward a civilized society and other paths lead to social breakdown. We are relearning political history the hard way.

Lord, I love your command more than gold,

Fr. Martin Flum

SAVE THE DATE ~ *Parish Dinner*

Saturday, September 26th, 2020

Volunteers needed! Call (301) 440-4295

The parish of St. Michael and the mission of St. Dominic are being called to become centers of Eucharistic love.

"Remain here and keep watch with me."

(Matt 26:38)

No family left behind... all of our families are being invited... has your family committed yet? Encourage each other with the graces you have received. Here are some days/times that Jesus is waiting for a family to commit to visit:

Tuesdays: 2-3 PM

Thursdays: 2-3 PM

Saturdays: 1-2 PM

Sundays: 7-8 PM

Once you have signed up for a weekly holy hour, you are committed to having at least one family member in the Church adoring Jesus for the entirety of that hour harvesting the Lord's blessings. If you would like to be on our substitute list, call the office at (240) 681-3551.

The Holy Spirit has chosen us to manifest the Faith of the Church in the hidden but Real Presence of Jesus in Holy Communion by our quiet visits to Him in the church.

First Saturday and Blue Army is Back!

First Saturday Devotions will take place after 8 AM Mass on August 1st. There will be the usual Rosary, opportunity for confession, and a 15-minute reflection on a mystery of the Rosary by Fr. Flum. The Blue Army will meet afterwards, in the Parish Hall, for breakfast, prayer, and discussion.

Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	07/25/20	5:00 PM	The Shlagel Family
Sunday	07/26/20	8:00 AM	James Cole
Sunday	07/26/20	10:00 AM	Jackie Chapman +
Sunday	07/26/20	11:30 AM	Parishioners
Monday	07/27/20	7:00 AM	Francis Sewell
Tuesday	07/28/20	8:00 AM	Nathan Cortes-Peck +
Wednesday	07/29/20	7:00 AM	Meredith Edmunds +
Thursday	07/30/20	8:00 AM	Jackie Chapman +
Friday	07/31/20	7:00 AM	Agathe He +
Saturday	08/01/20	8:00 AM	Carolyn Parson

IT Security

Someone has tried to use Fr. Flum's name to solicit gift cards by texting, taking advantage of his relationship as pastor to manipulate our parishioners. Please be diligent - do not respond to suspicious emails and texts. The Archdiocese warns us: there is an increase in spam and scams including apps that appear to share Coronavirus-related information so to gain access and lock your devices until payment is received; seeking donations fraudulently for illegitimate or non-existent charitable organizations; medical providers obtaining patient information for COVID-19 testing and then using that information to fraudulently bill for other tests and procedures.

Please PRAY for our SICK

For those who suffer from chronic illness, especially Austin Aley, Joe Aviles, Christopher Becker, Arlene Bloom, Madison Brady, Ann Canter, Aldrin Castillo, Charlene Cardwell, Tom Cardwell, Jayne Cassella, Joyce Chambers, Thomas Chambers, Greg Connick, Leo Dixon, Marysa Dixon, David Dixson, Dorothy Dunston, Angela Farmer, Kathy Fisher, Patricia Gray, Mabel Hamilton, Barbara Harding, Florence Henderson, Amanda Hubbard, Crystal Johnson, Bernice Kirby, Marie Knobel, Wanda Langley, Betty Lindsay, Kenny Lindsay, Adam Lumpkins, John Martone II, Michael Mohun, Claire Mason, Ralph and Regina Nasatka, Fannie Newman, Yvette Parker, Peter Parkinson, Carolyn Parson, Joyce Pickeral, Rev. Robert Pittman, Betty Proctor, Gary Reinhardt, Marsha Reinhardt, Shawn Reinhardt, Dawn Russo, Frances N. Sewell, Dee Smith, Geraldine Stewart, Willie Stewart, Kim Stuart, Patricia Stuart, George Thomas, Marion Walzel, Shirley Watson, Ken Wilson, Terry Wilson and Belinda Windsor, may their crosses be joined to the Cross of Jesus.

Please Pray for the Soul of the Faithful Departed

+ *Ruth Alice Richards*

+ *Mary Bernice (Proctor) Walters*

*Let Perpetual Light shine upon them;
may they rest in Peace. Amen.*

YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS

July 19, 2020

St. Michael	Offertory Collection	\$ 4123.00
St. Dominic	Offertory Collection	\$ 930.00

Courage Apostolate Meetings in English and Spanish

Courage is an apostolate of the Roman Catholic Church that helps persons with same-sex attraction who seek to develop an interior life of chastity and move beyond the confines of the homosexual identity to a more complete identity in Christ. Courage meetings provide members a place to share their concerns and struggles, to support one another and to find support for themselves. Strict confidentiality is maintained. For more information email Fr. John Dillon, chaplain, at: courage@adw.org.

The CATECHISM is our guide

Here are some helpful teachings in the Catechism which should guide our thinking when evaluating what we are seeing in the public square:

1749 Freedom makes man a moral subject. When he acts deliberately, man is, so to speak, the father of his acts. Human acts, that is, acts that are freely chosen in consequence of a judgment of conscience, can be morally evaluated. **They are either good or evil.**

1754 The circumstances, including the consequences, are secondary elements of a moral act. They contribute to increasing or diminishing the moral goodness or evil of human acts (for example, the amount of a theft). They can also diminish or increase the agent's responsibility (such as acting out of a fear of death). **Circumstances of themselves cannot change the moral quality of acts themselves; they can make neither good nor right an action that is in itself evil.**

1756 It is therefore an error to judge the morality of human acts by considering only the intention that inspires them or the circumstances (environment, social pressure, duress or emergency, etc.) which supply their context. There are acts which, in and of themselves, independently of circumstances and intentions, are always gravely illicit by reason of their object; such as blasphemy and perjury, murder and adultery. **One may not do evil so that good may result from it.**

1759 "An evil action cannot be justified by reference to a good intention" (cf St. Thomas Aquinas); **the end does not justify the means.**

WALK WITH JESUS in Eucharistic Procession

Busy on Wednesday nights? - we have Confession at 7pm and a Eucharistic Procession at 8pm at St. Michael. Our purpose is to give public honor and worship to Jesus present among us in the Holy Eucharist and to plead for His protection and solemn blessing over the whole territory of the Parish and Mission.

