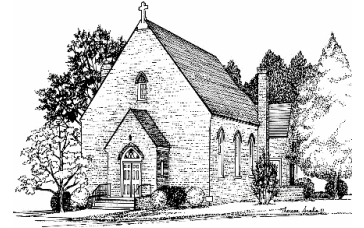




St. Michael Catholic Church Mission of St. Dominic

17510 Horsehead Road
Brandywine, MD 20613
240-681-3551
stmichaelbaden.org



23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time **September 6th, 2020**

Dear friends:

The “separation of church and state” is a concept that has been used for good and for ill. It is not my purpose here to discuss the theory from the point of view of political science. We will look at the reality of what that phrase *cannot* mean.

Catholics are aware that God exists and that his part in our lives is not an artificial layer that can be peeled off.

O blessed reality, we are in a personal relationship with our Creator who calls us his sons and daughters! So, as human beings participating in a political system, we cannot separate our relationship with God from our other relationships.

This is embodied in the saying of Jesus about the last judgment, “*He will answer them, ‘Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.’*” (Mt 25:45) As Catholic citizens it is our responsibility to be faithful to our country and to love our fellow citizens. This idea is not an American original. Patriotism falls under the virtue of piety. And piety falls under the cardinal virtue of Justice.

There are those who have said that Catholics should not have the right to vote precisely because our decisions are guided by our faith. That is because they are faithless and see religion as just an arbitrary set of rules meant to control people.

On the contrary, our faith is the revelation from God of what is really true about man and his relationships. The rules that God has for us are the reasonable expectations that derive from a loving relationship. The teaching of the Lord is therefore a healing balm to the fractures we find in our human relationships and more profoundly the means of our reconciliation with God. The Gospel is for all.

Our political life can only benefit from the sympathetic influence of the Lord who sees our struggles and expects his disciples to bring the blessings of our relationship with Him to the sphere of public discourse, policy and law. We must reject outright any attempt to silence the voice of the Holy Spirit who speaks through Catholics for the building up of the Kingdom of God (*see the prayer in the next column*). We cannot say that we love our neighbor and at the same time allow our gift of right reason informed by faith to be withheld from others.

Christ the King, reign over us! Fr. Martin Flum

Parish Seafood Dinner

Saturday, September 26th, 2020

How would you like to help out?

Call (301) 440-4295

Curbside pick-up - no dining in. The main area of the hall will be a work area for assembly of the dinners. Orders taken curbside will be delivered by runners. And there will be CRAB CAKES!!! The Bakesale table will be outdoors and the raffle tickets will be available when you order your dinner. Our raffle will include a 50/50 and a hand-painted glass window. We will also be auctioning off dinner prepared by and shared with Fr. Flum on a date TBD!

Prayer pleading for Christ to reign over us!

You Christ, the only Ruler of states, nations and of all creation, are the King of kings and Lord of lords! We entrust to you the United States of America. Make all those who exercise power do so with justice and govern rightly in accordance with your Laws.

Christ our King, we confidently entrust to your Mercy all of America, and especially those of the people who do not follow your ways. Give them your grace, enlighten them through the power of the Holy Spirit, and lead us all to eternal communion with the Father.

In the name of brotherly love, we entrust to you all the world's nations, especially those that have been enemies of the Church and of our country. Make them recognize You as their rightful Lord and King and use the time given to them by the Father to submit voluntarily to your lordship.

Lord Jesus Christ, King of our hearts, make our hearts like your Sacred Heart. Let your Holy Spirit descend and renew the face of the earth. May He support us as we accomplish the obligations that are the consequences of this act. May He protect us from evil, sanctify us and make America holy.

In the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we place our decisions and commitments. We entrust all to the maternal care of Our Blessed Mother and to the intercession of all the saints.

Christ, reign over us! Reign over America and every nation – for the greater glory of the Most Holy Trinity and the salvation of humanity. Make our homeland and the entire world into your kingdom: a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace. Amen.

“For where two or three are gathered together in my Name, there am I in the midst of them.”

(Mt 18:20)

The parish and mission are being called to become **centers of Eucharistic love**. These hours are not yet filled:

Sundays: 6-7 PM

Mondays: 12-1 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. If you would like to be on our substitute list, call the office at (240) 681-3551. *Your guardian angel will rejoice!*

YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS - August 30, 2020

St. Michael	Offertory Collection	\$ 3827.00
St. Dominic	Offertory Collection	\$ 713.00

Clothes Closet Update #1

Thank you to all who have been so diligently providing the closet with your new and gently used clothing and shoes! The Clothing Closet has not been open for several months and we have an overabundance of items with no clients to visit and help reduce the inventory. We are asking if you would please continue to collect items but store them at home until we have time to sort, categorize and hang the huge inventory we currently have on hand. You have been more than generous and the mountains of clothing we are dealing with prove that!!

GOOD FRIDAY IN SEPTEMBER – SECOND COLLECTION



Next weekend, Sept. 12-13, at the request of Pope Francis, parishes will officially be taking up the 2020 Pontifical Good Friday Collection. Due to the closing of masses during Holy Week, the official collection was rescheduled from Easter weekend to September. Be assured that the envelopes marked and collected specifically for Good Friday will be designated for that fund. Thank you.

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, Ann Clifford, Greg Connick, Leah Danielson, Leo Dixon, Marysa Dixon, David Dixon, 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, Mr. Maida, John Martone II, Rita Miller, Michael Mohun, Claire Mason, Ralph and Regina Nasatka, Fannie Newman, Yvette Parker, Carolyn Parson, Joyce Pickeral, Rev. Robert Pittman, Betty Proctor, Garland Proctor, Gary Reinhardt, Marsha Reinhardt, Shawn Reinhardt, Dawn Russo, Frances N. Sewell, Dee Smith, Geraldine Stewart, Tom & Patricia Stuart, George Thomas, Marion Walzel, Shirley Watson, Ken Wilson, Skip Wilson, Terry Wilson, and Belinda Windsor. Lord, heal us!

Becoming Catholic...?

"When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.'" - John 1:38-39a

Are you or is someone you know interested in Catholicism? Or perhaps you grew up Catholic, but then drifted away from the Church, and are now considering coming back. Maybe you are an adult Catholic but have not received all the sacraments of initiation: Baptism, First Communion, or Confirmation? Anyone who fits into one of these categories should come to RCIA class (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). Even if you are not already decided about converting/returning to Catholicism, we encourage you to come. There is no pressure on those who attend; this is simply a chance to get more information about what it truly means to "be Catholic" and what we actually believe. Call the Parish Office (240)681-3551 to let us know you would like to participate, and/or for more information.



From the ARCHDIOCESE

Remind the Faithful of Information on the Website

The archdiocesan website is updated regularly with information, in English and Spanish, for you and the Faithful available at adw.org/coronavirus, which includes a link to a listing of live stream Masses and prayers at adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-prayers/. The *Catholic Standard* and the Spanish-language *El Pregonero* newspapers are currently available online at cathstan.org and elpreg.org.

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us!

St. Dominic, pray for us!

Voter registration

To check your registration status, go to:

www.CheckYourVoterRegistration.com

To obtain a national voter registration form:

www.eac.gov/voters/national-mail-voter-registration-form

“Every Catholic is a missionary of the Good News of human dignity redeemed through the cross. While our personal vocation may determine the form and style of our witness, Jesus calls each of us to be a leaven in society, and we will be judged by our actions. No one, least of all someone who exercises leadership in society, can rightfully claim to share fully and practically the Catholic faith and yet act publicly in a way contrary to that faith.” (US Bishops, *Living the Gospel of Life*, 1998, n.7).