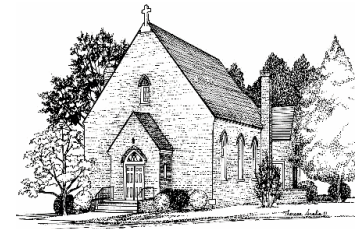




ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH MISSION OF ST. DOMINIC

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2nd Sunday of Advent December 6th, 2020

Dear friends:

Recently when blessing a family's home, I discovered that the Eucharist was being kept there. If this shocks you, it should. If it does not shock you, then you may be aware that certain parishioners were allowed to keep the Eucharist in their homes. This is the fourth time since my arrival that I have become aware of this grave violation of Church discipline and Church law. *"It is not lawful for anyone to keep the blessed Eucharist in personal custody..."* (Canon Law #935)

If you or anyone you know has the Eucharist in their home, please ask them to return the Eucharist to the parish. No questions will be asked.

Jesus showed the depths of his love when He took bread on the night before He died and instituted a memorial sacrifice of his Body and Blood. In doing so, He gave us a ritual that prompts us to remember the love with which He laid down his life for us. *"This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me."* And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, *"This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you."* (Luke 22:19-20) As he said those words, his Heart was dilated with zeal to give Himself for us. Our hearts are stirred when recalling that heroic sacrifice.

Further, He intended to provide a most sweet means of engaging us in the intimacy of friendship after He was gone. He promised to remain with us. And so He has provided a sacramental means for that to happen. In the same ritual by which He causes our hearts to swell in love recalling his voluntary death to save us, the Blessed Sacrament was entrusted to the Church. *"It is the Lord!"* (John 21:7)

With the understanding that the ritual of the Mass makes present the Lord our God, Jesus Christ in the flesh (not merely a memory but a present reality), the Church then refers to the Blessed Sacrament of the altar as "the Real Presence". God is present everywhere, but the Lord Jesus in his incarnation is only present in two places: Heaven and wherever the Blessed Sacrament is. The Church for good reason only allows the Eucharist to be reserved in places consecrated for that purpose. I had to formally request permission from the Archbishop to have the Blessed Sacrament in the rectory!

Jesus, we adore your Real Presence! Fr. Martin Flum

St. Michael and St. Dominic

All Night Adoration – Vigil for Life

We will have our own vigil for life at St. Michael on the patronal feast of the United States – the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. As we already have adoration from 6am-9pm each day, we will attempt to accomplish **our first all-night vigil before the Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament!** A sign-up sheet is available at the main entrance of the Church, as well as through our website. Thank you! The Lord of Life welcomes you into his sacramental light.



Each year during Advent, we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Christ our Savior at Christmas. As we anticipate this joyful celebration, we recall the journey of the Holy Family from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Far from home, poor, and in great need, Mary and Joseph find refuge in a simple stable. But this humble setting among the livestock soon welcomes the heavenly host of angels and the infant Jesus himself.

Today, women in our own communities are pregnant, poor, perhaps without a home, and in great need. They may feel alone, scared, and overwhelmed, not knowing where to turn. In challenging circumstances, expectant mothers need a refuge of their own. Like the Holy Family, they may be reliant on the kindness of others. This year, may the story of the first Christmas inspire us to reach out to mothers in need. May we proactively seek to offer loving support and encouragement as they prepare to welcome their children. By answering this call, may we help mothers experience the joy, hope, and peace brought by the infant Jesus. And may we, too, share in and bear witness to the miracle of new life. Learn more by following [@walkingwithmoms](https://www.instagram.com/walkingwithmoms) on Instagram!

Acts of Reparation (Choose one.)

1. On December 8, attend Mass (8am or 7pm) as we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
2. Contact your local pregnancy resource center or diocesan/parish pregnancy support ministry. Ask about ways you can help, such as volunteering or donating baby items.
3. Offer some other sacrifice or prayer that you feel called to do for this month's intention: **May the advent of the infant Jesus bring expectant mothers joy, hope, and peace.**

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception will provide meals for hundreds of poor, homeless, elderly, and needy individuals living in the District of Columbia and surrounding areas on **Christmas Day** (Including the Baden area). Meals will be available for pick up or delivery only. To request a Christmas Day dinner please call 202-526-8313. All meal requests must be received by Friday, **December 18th**. What is included in the Christmas Dinner? Turkey and stuffing with gravy, sweet potatoes, green beans, dinner rolls, cranberry sauce, apple pie, a soft drink, a gift bag containing an orange, a candy cane, chocolates, a prayer card and, of course, the joy of Jesus born for us! **Volunteers** are needed to fill many different positions. To volunteer, register at www.nationalshrine.org/christmasdinner. For more information, please contact rsvp@bnsic.org or 202-526-8300.



Catholic Charities Angel Tree

Give the gift of joy at Christmas! This year Catholic Charities is inviting parishioners to donate money for gift cards for the many families served by their programs.

You can sponsor a family on the *Catholic Charities Angel Tree* at: www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/angeltree1/

Please PRAY for our SICK

For those who suffer from chronic illness, especially Joe Aviles, Christopher Becker, Eddie Bond, Arlene Bloom, Arlene Bonds, Madison Brady, Keith Brown & Family, Ann Canter, Aldrin Castillo, Charlene Cardwell, Tom Cardwell, Joyce Chambers, Thomas Chambers, Greg Connick, Mary Connick, Leah Danielson, Diane DiSandro, Leo Dixon, Marysa Dixon, David Dixon, Dorothy Dunston, Angela Farmer, Kathy Fisher, Mabel Hamilton, Barbara Harding, Florence Henderson, 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, Traci Renner, Dawn Russo, Mary Savoy, Frances N. Sewell, Blanche Simms, Dee Smith, Geraldine Stewart, Tom & Patricia Stuart, Clara Thomas, George Thomas, Marion Walzel, Shirley Watson, Ken Wilson, Terry Wilson, Caroline Yashinski, Belinda Windsor, Carmelita and Lewis Young, and Cheryl Young. Jesus, heal and console us!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	12/05/20	5 PM	Robert Ruggieri
Sunday	12/06/20	8 AM	Rev. Thomas Morrow
Sunday	12/06/20	10 AM	Claude Boswell +
Sunday	12/06/20	11:30 AM	PARISHIONERS
Monday	12/07/20	7 AM	Pamela Leon Gonzalez Vu +
Tuesday	12/08/20	8 AM	David Mason
Tuesday	12/08/20	7 PM	Mgsr. Thomas Kane +
Wednesday	12/09/20	7 AM	Ann Proctor +
Thursday	12/10/20	8 AM	Paul Basak +
Friday	12/11/20	7 AM	Deacon Thomas Genis +
Saturday	12/12/20	8 AM	PARISHIONERS

YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS – Nov. 29, 2020

St. Michael Offertory Collection \$3,812.00

St. Dominic Offertory Collection \$548.00

May God reward your generosity!

2nd Collection - Retirement Fund for Religious

The Archdiocese of Washington will hold the Retirement Fund for Religious collection on the weekend of **December 12-13**. The National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) coordinates this annual appeal and distributes the proceeds to assist eligible U.S. Catholic religious communities with their retirement needs. Today, numerous communities face a critical shortage in funding as retired religious now outnumber wage-earning members, resulting in declining income and a rising cost of care. In June 2020 the NRRO disbursed \$25 million in financial assistance to 341 religious communities. God Bless you and thank you for your support of those who have given so much to serve Christ and his Church. To donate online, visit: <https://retiredreligious.org/>

Advent Reflection: the Immaculate Conception

From the very beginning, and before time began, the eternal Father chose and prepared for his only-begotten Son a Mother in whom the Son of God would become incarnate and from whom, in the blessed fullness of time, he would be born into this world. Above all creatures God so loved her that truly in her was the Father well pleased with singular delight. Therefore, far above all the angels and all the saints so wondrously did God endow her with the abundance of all heavenly gifts poured from the treasury of his divinity that this mother, ever absolutely free of all stain of sin, all fair and perfect, would possess that fullness of holy innocence and sanctity than which, under God, one cannot even imagine anything greater, and which, outside of God, no mind can succeed in comprehending fully. (Bl. Pius IX, Ineffabilis Deus)

**“Fear not to cry out
and say to the cities of Judah:
Here is your God!”**

(Isaiah 40:9)

Committed adorers are STILL needed (most urgent hours are marked in red): **Mondays:** 8-9 PM

Thursdays: 5-6 PM

Fridays: 2-3 PM, 5-6 PM

Saturdays: 10-11 AM, 3-4 PM, 6-7 PM

Sundays: 4-5 PM, 5-6 PM, 6-7 PM

Please consider having one family member in the Church adoring Jesus for an hour each week. If you would like to be on our **substitute list**, call the office (240) 681-3551.

Prepare the way of the LORD!