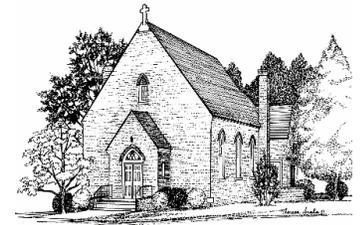




ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH MISSION OF ST. DOMINIC

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Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

May 16, 2021

Dear brothers and sisters,

Pope John Paul II in 1998 wrote an encyclical to help modern man see that Faith and Reason are not in conflict. Both of these intellectual powers are the means by which man seeks to grasp the truth. Between the two, faith is the higher gift which brings reason to perfection. The study of theology contemplates the greatest reality which is God. The Pope wrote, *“The chief purpose of theology is to provide an understanding of Revelation and the content of faith.”*

All that Jesus Christ revealed to us is truth, in fact, He referred to Himself as *“the Way the Truth and the Life”*. He is no deceiver, nor can He be deceived. The truth that He offers to us comes from the divine intellect.

We see it written in nature and so we study all science to understand the world of truth around us. But there is a higher science that is purely spiritual. Our natural human intellects are incapable of grasping this. So, God comes to our aid with the gift of Faith, so that we can grasp and seek to understand what is literally beyond us. It is in this sense that we say that faith perfects reason. What we grasp of the truth about God is due to the help that we receive from Him.

The most difficult teaching for the Apostles and disciples to receive was the suffering and death of the Lord and the command to take up our cross and follow Him. St. John Paul II touched on that point as being the most important fruit of our openness to the teaching of Jesus.

“From this vantage-point, the prime commitment of theology is seen to be the understanding of God's kenosis, a grand and mysterious truth for the human mind, which finds it inconceivable that suffering and death can express a love which gives itself and seeks nothing in return.” (Fides et Ratio #93) The saintly pope indicated that our idea of love cannot reach its proper height without the revelation of Jesus Christ and the assistance of the Holy Spirit. If man finds it “inconceivable” that suffering and death can be the perfect expression of love, then he needs the aid of faith to correct natural reason which flees from suffering.

The Ascension of our Lord was an occasion of faith for the sorrowful Mother as her Son ascended into heaven, leaving her with the infant Church – what sweet agony!

Come Holy Spirit at Mary's beckoning, Fr. Martin Flum

*** Wednesday, May 19 ***

Our Lady of Guadalupe Comes to St. Michael !



The Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is coming to the DC/Maryland area. The event is called:

“The Triumph of Mary Tour”.

It will consist of a series of visitations to parishes in the area and appearances at abortion sites. An approximate outline of the visit to our parish:

6:00 PM – The Image of Our Lady will be in church.

7:00 PM – There will be a Gospel reading and reflection by Fr. Martin Flum, followed by Benediction and Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

7:30 PM - Holy Rosary and Procession with Our Lady (*This will take the place of the usual Wednesday Eucharistic Procession*)

This Missionary Image was made from the original Miraculous Image produced by the Blessed Virgin Mary on the “tilma” of Saint Juan Diego. These full-size images were blessed at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico by the Rector. The mission of these images is to end abortion and to bring conversions. They have traveled all over the world to thousands of parishes and have been the occasion for outstanding and, at times, reportedly miraculous events. The following is a quotation from the “Visitation Manual” describing one such event:

In Wichita, Kansas, the Missionary Image visited an abortion center where late-term babies are killed and cremated in an incinerator on the premises. As the Image was in procession around the center, people smelled a strong fragrance of roses. Then, they saw rose petals miraculously flaking from the Image in all directions.

An eyewitness to this extraordinary event, experienced an overwhelming peace and said that it seemed as if heaven had come down to earth and Our Lady was saying, “It is good for you to be here; as I too stood at the foot of the Cross silently watching and praying as my innocent Son was crucified.”

Our goal for this tour is to advance the pro-life cause through the powerful assistance of Our Lady.

Please consider participating in this special event.

It will be an experience to remember.

“It is impossible to measure the good that we derive from sitting at the feet of the divine Master in Eucharistic Adoration. He Himself told Martha that it was ‘the better part’ and would not be taken from her sister, Mary.”



Please consider committing to one of these hours:

Monday: 6-7 PM

Thursday: 7-8 PM

Saturday: 12-1 PM, 1-2 PM, 6-7 PM

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

Our goal is for each family to have one hour each week to which they are committed. If you would like to be on our substitute list, call the office (240) 681-3551.

Please PRAY for our SICK

For those who suffer from chronic illness, especially Christopher Becker, Arlene Bloom, Arlene Bonds, Madison Brady, Keith Brown & Family, Lynn Brown, Ann Canter, Aldrin Castillo, Charlene Cardwell, Tom Cardwell, Joyce Chambers, Thomas Chambers, Greg Connick, Mary Connick, Reiss Danielson, Diane DiSandro, John DiSandro, Leo Dixon, Marysa Dixon, Dorothy Dunston, Angela Farmer, Kathy Fisher, Robert Flum, Mabel Hamilton, Barbara Harding, Florence Henderson, Crystal Johnson, Bernice Kirby, Marie Knobel, Margaret Kramer, Wanda Langley, Betty Lindsay, Kenny Lindsay, Adam Lumpkins, John Martone II, Rita Miller, Michael Mohun, Claire Mason, Ralph and Regina Nasatka, Fannie Newman, Vaughn Newman, Yvette Parker, Carolyn Parson, Michael Proctor, Joyce Pickeral, Rev. Robert Pittman, Betty Proctor, Garland Proctor, Gary Reinhardt, Marsha Reinhardt, Shawn Reinhardt, Lorrie Riess, Traci Renner, Dawn Russo, Mary Savoy, Frances N. Sewell, Blanche Simms, Dee Smith, Geraldine Stewart, Lillian Stewart, Savannah Stuart, Thomas and Pat Stuart, George Thomas, Marion Walzel, Shirley Watson, Juanita Wilson, Ken Wilson, Terry Wilson, Louis Wimbish, Belinda Windsor, Beverly Windsor, Caroline & Peter Yashinski, Carmelita, Cheryl Young, Lewis Young, Theodore Young. Jesus, Divine Mercy, heal and console us! I trust in You! Stay with us!

HR 5, The Equality Act

The U.S. Bishops have publicly spoken against HR 5, more commonly known as “the Equality Act”. The bill has passed the U.S. House of Representatives and is currently being considered in the Senate. The bill HR 5 would discriminate against faith-based organizations including Catholic Charities and our schools. For more info and resources, please visit:

<https://www.usccb.org/equality-act>. To join our Bishops in opposing HR 5 by sending e-mails to lawmakers, please go to the USCCB action center page:

<https://www.votervoice.net/USCCB/Campaigns/80967/Respond>

Save the date!

Our next **parish dinner** will be in the fall at the beginning of our jubilee year, September 25th!

May Crowning

We are looking forward to the crowning of Our Lady this year on Sunday, May 23rd, the Feast of Pentecost after the 11:30 am Mass (approximately 12:30). More details to come! The Flowering Buds of Mary young women’s group will host the event.



Memorare to St. Joseph

Remember, O most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, my great protector, Saint Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to your protection, or implored your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding therefore in your goodness, I come before you. Do not turn down my petitions, foster father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	05/15/21	5 PM	Rev. William Westhoven +
Sunday	05/16/21	8 AM	Ray Connick +
Sunday	05/16/21	10 AM	Parishioners
Sunday	05/16/21	11:30 AM	Donna Cranford +
Monday	05/17/21	7 AM	Clara Mae Thomas +
Tuesday	05/18/21	8 AM	Joseph R. Tucker & Family
Wednesday	05/19/21	7 AM	Donna Cranford +
Thursday	05/20/21	8 AM	Suzanne & Sarah Bugbee
Friday	05/21/21	7 AM	Victor Salinas- Linares +
Saturday	05/22/21	8 AM	Francis Garland Proctor, Jr. +

YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS – May 9, 2021

St. Michael	Offertory Collection	\$ 5140.00
St. Dominic	Offertory Collection	\$ 960.00

As we begin to prepare for the jubilee of the parish...

“in the ordinary conditions of society, Christians, as witnesses to man's authentic dignity, by their obedience to the Holy Spirit contribute to the manifold "renewal of the face of the earth", working together with their brothers and sisters in order to achieve and put to good use everything that is good, noble and beautiful in the modern progress of civilization, culture, science, technology and the other areas of thought and human activity.

They do this as disciples of Christ who—as the Council writes—“appointed Lord by his Resurrection, ... is now at work in the hearts of men through the power of his Spirit. He arouses not only a desire for the age to come but by that very fact, he animates, purifies and strengthens those noble longings too by which the human family strives to make its life more humane and to render the earth submissive to this goal". (DV, #60)