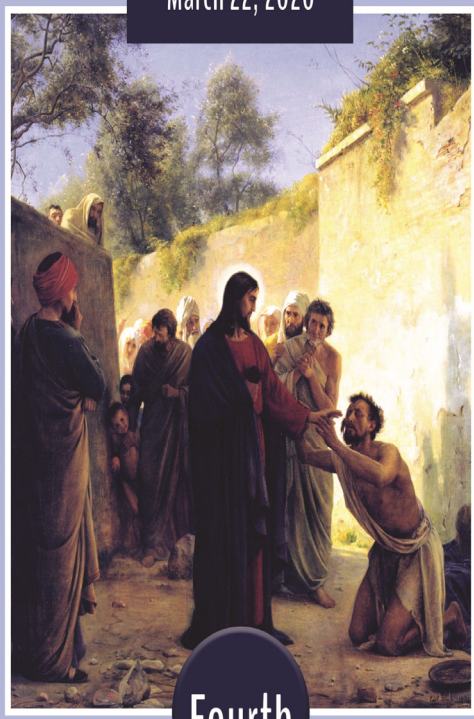


St. Michael The Archangel Catholic Church

2281 State Road 580
Clearwater, Florida 33763
Phone: (727) 797-2375
www.stmichaelfl.org

March 22, 2020



Fourth

Sunday of Lent

Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment,
so that those who do not see might see,
and those who do see might become blind."

John 9:39

**BISHOP PARKES HAS SUSPENDED THE
PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF MASSES IN
THE DIOCESE OF ST. PETERBURG UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE. HE HAS ISSUED A
DISPENSATION FROM THE OBLIGATION
TO ATTEND SUNDAY MASS WHILE THE
SUSPENSION REMAINS IN EFFECT.**

In addition to the suspension noted above, *all* parish events and ministry gatherings are also cancelled until further notice. Please visit our parish website: www.stmichaelfl.org for regular updates to our parish response to the evolving Coronavirus crisis.

Welcome to our Community

Fr. Gregg Tottle, Pastor
Fr. Theodore Costello, Associate Pastor
Fr. Joseph Hertel, OFM, Assisting
Fr. John D'Antonio, Assisting
Pastoral Assistants:
Deacon Paul Koppie, ext 215
Sr. Thérèse Carolan, OSC, ext. 229

Parish Administrator:

Eileen Woodbury ext. 221

Director of Religious Education:

Katie White, ext. 243

Director of Music:

Elizabeth Lyons, ext. 237

Youth Director:

Cheryl de la Cruz, ext. 244

Maintenance Director:

Bert Tottle, ext. 234

Chairman of the Parish Council:

Chuck Chucri

Chairman of the Finance Committee:

Nancy Ridenour

Guardian Angels Interparochial School

Mrs. Mary Stalzer, 799-6724

ORATORY MEDITATION CHAPEL HOURS:

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri: 8:30 am to 7:00 pm
Wednesday: 8:30 am to 8:00 pm
Saturday 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Wednesdays from 8:30 to 8:00 PM in the Oratory
Vocations Holy Hour with Benediction
from 6 until 7 PM

Parish Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.
Friday: 9:00 am to noon.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Every Saturday:
3:00-4:00 pm and after the 4:00 pm Mass; also after the
8:00 am Mass on the Thursday before the first Friday of
each month.

BAPTISM: Arrangements are made six weeks in advance.

MARRIAGE: Six months formation program is required.





DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG
Office of the Bishop

March 18, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you are aware, because of the fluid and unprecedented nature of the Coronavirus crisis, our response to the threat posed by the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States has been to closely monitor the guidance of government leaders and public health officials, and to make appropriate and necessary decisions for the overall well-being of the faithful of the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

Now that guidance has been given to further limit gatherings, and out of deep pastoral concern for the most vulnerable among us, after prayer and discernment, **effective immediately, I have decided to suspend the public celebration of Masses in the Diocese of St. Petersburg until it can be determined that it is safe to return to normal schedules and public worship.** Therefore, the faithful of the Diocese of St. Petersburg and all visitors present in this diocese are dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass for as long as the suspension of public celebration of the Mass is in effect.

In addition, I have directed our parishes to postpone Confirmations, public penance services, parish and social events, and ministry gatherings (unless they are determined to be essential by the local pastor i.e. charitable ministries to those in need)

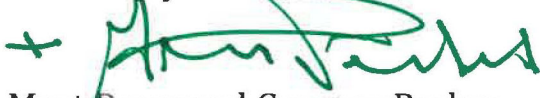
Together with your pastors and priests, I encourage the Catholic Faithful to make prudent decisions about Weddings and Funerals during this time, and to limit participation to immediate family members, in keeping with the guidance on public gatherings. Baptisms are to be celebrated in cases of emergency only.

I have asked our pastors to keep our churches open for private prayer and devotion, and to make every effort to keep the faith life of our parishes alive by creative means which are adapted to the current circumstances. I invite you to visit our Diocesan website for updates and for opportunities to view or listen to the celebration of the Mass. Along with our parishes, we will provide other opportunities to remain in spiritual solidarity during this period. Remember that Christ abides with us, and we can always be united in spirit and in prayer.

As your Bishop, I wish to thank you for your generous support of our parishes, the Diocese and Catholic Charities. I also ask you to continue your generosity, in light of your personal circumstances, so that our Church is able to continue its ministries and to serve the poor during this time of crisis.

During this time, I entrust the faithful of our Diocese to the loving intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that by the grace of her Son we will be strong and courageous as we face the current challenges together. May God bless you!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Gregory Parkes
Bishop of St. Petersburg



These are an opportunity to reflect on the Scripture of the day and your personal faith journey with a daily prayer intention. The reflections feature a variety of writers from around the Diocese of St. Petersburg and will be sent to you each day via email or text.

Sign up to receive it at:
www.dosp.org/reflection
or text REFLECTION to 84576.



**ACCESS THE BIBLE AND DAILY READINGS
ONLINE: www.usccb.org**

Saint Leo University Offers Social Justice Summer Camp

Saint Leo University will host a residential, co-ed social justice summer camp for students ages 14 to 18, June 21-June 27, at 33701 State Road 52, St. Leo, FL 33574. The camp will expose students to important societal issues, including human and environmental rights. To learn about camp requirements and to register, visit: www.totalcamps.com/SOCIALJUSTICE. For more information, call (352) 588-7324.

A message from the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office:
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SUCCESSFUL SERMON

"The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending, and to have the two as close together as possible."

--George Burns

CORONAVIRUS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR THE FAITHFUL

- **During the time in which public Masses are suspended in the Diocese of St. Petersburg, are Catholics in the Diocese dispensed from their obligation to attend Sunday Mass?**

Yes, the Bishop has dispensed the faithful of the Diocese and visitors present in the Diocese, from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass for as long as the suspension of public Celebration of the Mass is in effect.

- **I live near a diocese that is still holding public Masses. Is it permissible for me to attend Mass outside the Diocese of St. Petersburg during this time?**

All of the Dioceses of Florida have agreed to suspend public Masses for public health reasons. All Catholics are urged to follow the cautions of Public Health Officials and choose to observe the Lord's Day at home or with others through virtual means.

- **Does Bishop Parkes have the authority to suspend Sunday Mass and our Mass obligation? I don't want to commit a mortal sin.**

The Church's law anticipates that there will be circumstances when participation in the celebration of Eucharist will be prevented because of a grave cause. Public health threats from epidemics have often been considered a grave cause throughout the Church's history. Therefore, the Diocesan Bishop can determine that a grave cause exists which prevents the faithful from attending Mass and give directives on how the Faithful ought to observe the Lord's Day in appropriate ways. It is not a sin to miss Mass during this period.

- **Where can I watch Mass now that there are no public, in-person options?**

The Diocesan Website www.dosp.org lists how Catholics can watch or listen to the Celebrations of the Mass.

- **Do I have a moral obligation to watch one of the Masses that are being livestreamed or recorded on social media, websites, and television?**

While you are encouraged to find ways of listening or watching Mass, your obligation is to observe the Lord's Day as Holy and celebrate your faith in Christ by drawing upon the Church's rich spiritual tradition of prayer and devotions. Suggestions for other ways to observe the Lord's Days during the suspension of Masses can also be found on our Diocesan Website as well as your Parish's website and social media postings.

- **How should Catholics respond to the Coronavirus?**

Catholics should intensify their prayer and follow the guidance that is issued for the common good. Also, by phone or virtual means Catholics who are self-distancing should sustain the bonds of family, friendship and neighborhood so that none of our brothers and sisters feel abandoned.

- **What can my family and I do at home if we're not attending Mass?**

Families can watch or listen to celebrations of the Mass broadcast by livestreaming, TV, and Radio. A list of these opportunities can be found at www.dosp.org Also, at that website there are suggestions for other appropriate ways to observe the Lord's Day as Holy.

- **How do Church closures affect other Sacraments and Sacramentals, specifically the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent? I'm concerned since I thought Catholics are supposed to make a good Confession before Easter.**

As always, Catholics in need of confession are encouraged to make a sincere Act of Contrition and promise to make a good confession as soon as possible. Consult your Parish for the availability of individual confessions. Bishop Parkes has instructed Pastors to postpone the celebration of other Sacraments and Sacramentals unless there is an emergency situation or danger of death.

During the time period when Masses are suspended and activities are cancelled due to Coronavirus, we will use our bulletin supplier's "generic" bulletin here at St. Michael's. We will revert to reporting parish news and events via the bulletin when our routine normalizes once again. In the meantime, please refer to our website for updates and know that you are in our prayers!



Bishop Parkes has prepared a series of Gospel Reflections which we will use throughout Lent

Seeing the Presence of God in Our Midst

Today's Gospel on this Fourth Sunday of Lent is about healing and about hope. We hear about a blind beggar who Jesus encounters as he was passing by. We don't know the name of this man, only that he was blind from birth. As a result, the man was relegated to begging for his very sustenance since he couldn't do any other type of work. Without being asked, Jesus heals the man's blindness by smearing clay on his eyes. Jesus gives him instructions to go and wash in the Pool of Siloam. The man does so and returns able to see. We see in this miracle the love and compassion of Jesus. He was moved by the sight of the poor blind beggar and desired to heal him and restore him to a place of dignity in the community.

In an interesting twist, it is the Pharisees who are spiritually blind and unable to accept or believe that the man was healed by Jesus. They even criticize Jesus for doing this on the sabbath. On the other hand, the man who was healed not only regains his sight, but comes to know and believe in Jesus as the Son of Man.

In our lives, are we sometimes like the Pharisees in that we fail to see the presence of God around us and in our very midst? Are we blind to His presence in our lives or in the lives of others? Do we have faith and trust in God that He can heal our spiritual and even physical weaknesses?

Each time we come to Mass, it's a new opportunity to profess our faith in God and to give Him thanks for His many blessings. During the coming week, take time each day to think of at least one blessing that you've received from God. Say a prayer of thanksgiving to Him. And remember, the love and compassion of Jesus Christ is there for us, just as it was for the blind beggar.

--Bishop Gregory Parkes, Diocese of St. Petersburg

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Here at St. Michael's we pride ourselves on our wonderful sense of community and on the quality of our liturgies. This happens by design. Look around today and witness how many fellow parishioners donate their time and talent toward making our worship meaningful and beautiful. If you have untapped talent that could enhance any of our Teams: Greeters, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Choir, Sacristans, or Altar Servers, consider using it in joyful service to our God and community. Please contact Deacon Paul Koppie at ext. 215 to volunteer.

Thank you.

The St. Vincent de Paul volunteers
extend sincere thanks to all who
contributed last weekend, helping them
to continue to help those most in need
with food, rent and utility assistance.
God bless you!



PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

SUMMER ADVENTURE OPPORTUNITIES

at Good Counsel Camp in Floral City, owned and operated by the Diocese of St. Petersburg. This is a co-ed residential camp for ages 7-15 offering 1 and 2 week sessions. Camp brochures are available in the Parish Office or by calling (352) 270-8831 or e-mailing Frjohnson@goodcounselcamp.org or visit their website: GoodCounselCamp.org

Mass Intentions for the Week****Sunday, March 22**

8:00 AM Maureen Melvin
 9:30 AM Richard Cummings
 11:00 AM Janet Theresa Fisher

Monday, March 23

8:00 AM Eleanor De Furie

Tuesday, March 24

8:00 AM Michael Scotto di Vetimo

Wednesday, March 25

8:00 AM Vocations

Thursday, March 26

8:00 AM Jeff Willms

Friday, March 27

8:00 AM Chuck Leon

Saturday, March 28

8:00 AM Ann Sunzuri Marzullo
 4:00 PM Madelyn Miller

Sunday, March 29

8:00 AM Our Parish Family
 9:30 AM Julia Bertke
 11:00 AM Alejandro Jacome

****These Masses will be celebrated in private by our priests or those at the St. Anthony Friary in St. Petersburg. This will hold true until such time as we resume regular celebration of Mass in our Church.**

**TODAY'S READINGS**

First Reading — As the prophet Samuel anointed David with oil, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David (1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a).

Psalm — The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want (Psalm 23).

Second Reading — You who were once darkness are now light in the Lord (Ephesians 5:8-14).

Gospel — The man who had been blind from birth proclaimed: The one called Jesus made clay with his saliva, anointed my eyes with it, and told me to wash (John 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54
 Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16
 Wednesday: Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
 Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47
 Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
 Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53
 Sunday: Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

Weekly Collection
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SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2020

Offertory	\$	12,230
Online Giving/Offertory	\$	3,230
Envelopes Used		307
Attendance		952

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2020 ANNUAL PASTORAL APPEAL
 APA Diocesan Assessment \$226,222
 382 Pledges as of 3/18/20 151,504
Pledges needed: \$ 74,718

PRAYER FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

O God of all the nations, the One God who is and was and always will be, in Your providence You willed that Your Church be united to the suffering of Your Son. Look with mercy on Your servants who are persecuted for their faith in You. Grant them perseverance and courage to be worthy imitators of Christ. Bring Your wisdom upon leaders of nations to work for peace among all peoples. May Your Spirit open conversion for those who contradict Your will, that we may live in harmony. Give us the grace to be united in truth and freedom, and to always seek Your will in our lives.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for us.

*Prayer composed by Archbishop William E. Lori,
 Supreme Chaplain KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS*

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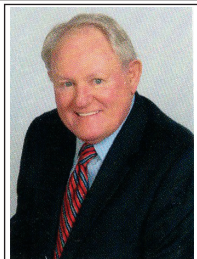
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