

St. Michael the Archangel

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Dear Parish Family,

Have you noticed something different when you came to church this week? I am sure you did!

All our statues, images, and crosses are draped and covered in purple cloth. Now you may be asking why. Actually, the covering of statues, images, and crosses is a long time tradition of the Catholic Church. It had its beginnings in the 17th century in Germany and the practice has been adopted all over the world. It used to be practiced during the entire season of Lent when it started but here in America the practice is observed beginning the 5th Sunday of Lent and onwards. The cross is unveiled on Good Friday and the statues and images are uncovered at the Easter vigil mass when we sing Glory to God in the Highest.

When we cover the statues and crosses during this time, I believe we are reminded of our Catholic roots as we participate in this long held tradition. But most of all, it heightens and intensifies our preparation for the greatest feast of our faith. For now the glory of this great feast is “veiled” until we celebrate it on Easter Sunday.

I would like to quote from the WCU Catholic Campus Ministry this paragraph, “This is a metaphor of our life on earth (the veiling of statues and crosses). We are living under a veil. Our true home is in heaven. Only there will the veil of mortality be removed and our true glory be revealed. This will only happen by our participating in Christ's passion, death, and resurrection. We must make the Paschal Mystery our own.”

A Blessed Passiontide to you,

Fr. Dwight