

Weekly Calendar All Masses are live-streamed on the parishes face book pages

Saturday, Sept. 12	7:00 am 5:00 pm	Morning Prayer with Mike Mass— <i>Mary Lou Guyer+</i>	 Saint Michael-Gibsonburg Saint Michael Church
Sunday, Sept. 13	7:00 am 9:00 am 11:00 am	Morning Prayer with Mike Mass— <i>Increased Reverence for Life</i> Mass— <i>For the People of Our Parishes</i>	 Saint Michael-Gibsonburg Saint Mary Church Saint Michael Church
Monday, Sept. 14	7:00 am	Morning Prayer with Mike	 Saint Michael-Gibsonburg
Tuesday, Sept. 15	7:00 am	Morning Prayer with Mike NO MASS	 Saint Michael-Gibsonburg 
Wednesday, Sept. 16	7:00 am	Morning Prayer with Mike NO MASS	 Saint Michael-Gibsonburg
Thursday, Sept. 17	7:00 am 8.30 am	Morning Prayer with Mike Mass— <i>Carlos Mancha+</i>	 Saint Michael-Gibsonburg  Saint Michael Church
Friday, Sept. 18	7:00 am 8:30 am 9:00-9:30am	Morning Prayer with Mike Mass— <i>Don Davies+</i> Reconciliation	 Saint Michael-Gibsonburg Saint Mary Church  Saint Mary Church
Saturday, Sept. 19	7:00 am 5:00 pm	Morning Prayer with Mike Mass— <i>Michael Hoffman+</i>	 Saint Michael-Gibsonburg  Saint Michael Church
Sunday, Sept. 20	7:00 am 9:00 am 11:00 am	Morning Prayer with Mike Mass— <i>For the People of Our Parishes</i> Mass— <i>Les Bechtel+</i>	 Saint Michael-Gibsonburg Saint Mary Church Saint Michael Church

Financial Stewardship

Saint Mary + Sept. 6, 2020

Sunday Envelopes	\$2083.00
Loose	\$132.00
Festival Substitute	\$300.00
Catholic Univ.	\$10.00
ACA	\$11,936.11 (goal \$10,000)

Saint Michael + Sept. 5-6, 2020

Sunday Envelopes	\$1910.00
Loose	\$0.00
Special Improvements	\$335.00
Religious Ed.	\$10.00
Cemetery	\$30.00
Food Pantry	\$135.00
Catholic Univ.	\$140.00
ACA	\$13,757.50 (goal \$11,500)



If you have a prayer request for members of either of our parishes please email the name to be listed to mmparishoffice@gmail.com. Please ask permission from the person for whom you are requesting prayers before submitting their name. Each name will be listed for one month. If you would

like your name or the name of your loved one listed longer, kindly message the Saint Mary Parish Office each month.

Please remember in prayer: Jim Wonderly, Jesse Manibusan, Steve Woods and all our loved ones in nursing homes, or staying at home and not able to get out.

Look upon us, O God,
Creator and ruler of all things,
and, that we may feel the working of your mercy,
Grant that we may serve you with all our heart.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. *(Collect for Sunday, Sept. 13, 2020)*

St. Michael - Gibsonburg



September 27th 11am-1pm

Don't forget to get your Saint Michael Chicken Barbecue Presale Tickets! Tickets will be available to purchase after all Saint Michael Weekend Masses and

at Saint Mary Masses, September 13th and 20th, Tickets are also available near Saint Michael's Hall from 9-11ma and 5-7pm Thursdays. Cost is \$10 for a delicious 1/2 chicken dinner including Amish noodles, homemade coleslaw, applesauce and pies!

Staff contact information for Saint Mary (MV) and Saint Michael (GB)

Pastor: Father Scott Woods (MV,GB)
fatherscottwoods@gmail.com 419-637-3434
Pastoral Associate: Mike Dazley (MV,GB) dreyouth@gmail.com
Director of Faith Formation: Patti Wasserman (MV, GB)
motherlove77@gmail.com 419-637-9929
Liturgical Coordinator: Kathy Otermat (MV, GB) kotermat04@gmail.com
Administrative Assistant: Terri Reinhart (MV)
mmparishoffice@gmail.com 419-638-3042
Parish Secretary: Maria Porteous (GB) returning in October
Bookkeeper: Nancy Patterson (GB) patterson55@outlook.com

September 13 + Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saint *Mary*
MILLERSVILLE



Saint *Michael*
GIBSONBURG

865 State Route 635, Helena, Ohio 43435
419-638-3042 msmparishoffice@gmail.com
Facebook: Saint Mary - Millersville

317 East Madison Street, Gibsonburg, Ohio 43431
419-637-2255 gburgstmichael@woh.rr.com
Facebook: Saint Michael - Gibsonburg

stMaryandstMichael.org

Beloved,

How often have you heard it said, or perhaps have even said yourself, "I wish there were more hours in the day"? The Parish Leadership Team knows how busy family life can be and we realize that religion class can often seem like "just one more thing" families have to cram into their already busy schedule. Some of us other "kids" used to call it "catechism class" and it consisted mainly of memorizing answers to questions in the *Baltimore Catechism*. After Vatican II, we called it "CCD" and it was much more interactive. Lately we have been calling it PSR (Parish School of Religion) and using textbooks with lesson plans and tests. But now we are speaking about a lifelong faith formation call to holiness! Here at Saint Mary and Saint Michael parishes it is our hope that you will come to see **Family Faith Formation** as just that!

We are introducing some new and exciting initiatives to our Faith Formation Program at Saint Michael and Saint Mary for the 2020-2021 year, and we are very much looking forward to your family being a part of our program! These ideas came about as a result of researching the most successful ways in which children learn the faith. The results show that unless parents take a primary role in the religious education of their children, nothing will stick. It is our role, as a parish, to not take away that responsibility but work alongside parents in helping them pass down the faith. In our sports loving communities, I picture myself and all catechists as coaches, encouraging, teaching, and cheering on our parents as you take the lead role in forming your own children. What is Family Faith Formation, you ask? Family Faith Formation is a partnership between parents and the parish. Family Faith Formation empowers the parents to be the primary educators of faith in their family.

Pope Francis said at the World Meeting of Families in 2015, "In our continuing catechesis on the family, we reflect today on the connection between the family and the Christian community. The Church is the home of those who believe in Jesus Christ as the source of the unity of the entire human family. Christ chose to enter our history, to become part of a human family, and to form a community which welcomes all who wish to hear his good news of the Father's love."

The National Directory for Catechesis says this, "Family-centered catechetical programs are opportunities for parents to catechize their children directly, for spouses to catechize each other

and for children to catechize one another and their parents" (National Directory for Catechesis #61.2).

Our commitment to quality and Christ-centered teachings remain unchanged. It is our goal, however, to enrich and improve the way children and families experience faith formation at our parishes. This is why we have decided to move in a direction that will focus on forming the family as a whole. Family catechesis has proven to be a powerful experience for hundreds of families within the diocese and across the nation. Children and teens need to become lifelong Catholics and members of the church which starts by involving the whole family in the life of the church.

What is the goal Family Faith Formation at our parishes?

- help families learn how to pray and to discuss their faith together
- help parents better understand their role as primary catechists
- bring families together in order to share and deepen their Catholic faith
- strengthen the relationship between the family and the Church
- establish ongoing Catholic faith practices within the family life
- integrate the family into the parish community

Next week, September 20th is Catechetical Sunday. The theme this year is "I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you." How fitting is this theme the year we are being led by the Holy Spirit to move in a new direction with faith formation? Parents are truly the primary catechists of their children. They prepare the soil and plant the first seeds of faith. On Catechetical Sunday, we will have a special blessing for all parents and guardians encouraging them to take seriously their role of making their Catholic households a place where faith is passed on to the next generation. There will be Family Faith Formation registration and more information about our program after all masses next weekend. I look forward to continuing as your partner/coach in the faith formation of your children at Saint Mary and Saint Michael! Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Peace and Love,
Patti Wasserman
Director of Faith Formation

CONSCIENCE AND THE CATHOLIC VOTER – 2ND OF 8

“In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation.”
- *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, 13

Since participation in political life is a moral obligation, Catholics need to form their conscience with the mind and heart of the Church on issues of consequence. This outline is the second of eight, which will examine important moral and political issues. This second outline will provide an overview of the issue of abortion.

Abortion

Every single human life is valuable and possesses a dignity beyond our imagination. As 4th century Church Father St. Gregory of Nyssa wrote:

God did not make the heavens in his image, nor the moon, the sun, the beauty of the stars, nor anything else which you can see... You alone are made in the image and likeness of that nature which surpasses all understanding... Nothing in all creation can equal your grandeur. (Kyriaki FitzGerald, *Persons in Communion*, p. 72)

This is why the Church has unequivocally taught that abortion is an intrinsic evil, which must be opposed. It violates the fifth commandment of ‘thou shalt not kill’ as it destroys an innocent human life. No circumstance warrants any person, let alone a mother of a child, to end the life of another human person. This is why Archbishop Jose Gomez, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) once remarked,

Abortion is not a “Catholic” issue. It is a matter of fundamental human rights. In fact, I believe it is the foundational issue of our time. Because it is so important, the church has spoken clearly about it and believes it is an essential aspect of the Catholic faith. (Today's Catholic, Newspaper of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, 10 October 2008)

Because the opposition to abortion is an essential aspect of the Catholic faith, Catholics cannot support politicians who advocate for abortion or ‘abortion rights.’ While this does not mean Catholics should only care about the abortion issue, it does mean Catholics cannot excuse or dismiss this grave error in judgment concerning politicians political positioning on this issue. As the USCCB has written:

*Any politics of human dignity must seriously address issues of racism, poverty, hunger, employment, education, housing, and health care ... **But being ‘right’ in such matters can never excuse a wrong choice regarding direct attacks on innocent human life. Indeed, the failure to protect and defend life in its most vulnerable stages renders suspect any claims to the ‘rightness’ of positions in other matters affecting the poorest and least powerful of the human community.** If we understand the human person as the ‘temple of the Holy Spirit’ — the living house of God — then these latter issues fall logically into place as the crossbeams and walls of that house. All direct attacks on innocent human life, such as abortion and euthanasia, strike at the house’s foundation. These directly and immediately violate the human person’s most fundamental right — the right to life. Neglect of these issues is the equivalent of building our house on sand. Such attacks cannot help but lull the social conscience in ways ultimately destructive of other human rights.* (1998 Pastoral Letter of the USCCB, *Living the Gospel of Life*, 22)

In summation, abortion is not just one issue among many. It is the human rights issue of our time and the preeminent issue of life and importance in this election. As Catholics, it is our duty to protect the most fundamental right of the human person: the right to life. The intentional destruction of innocent human life is intrinsically evil. It must always be opposed.

Peter Range, Director, Office for Life and Justice, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Toledo, prange@toledodiocese.org.

Learn more and watch videos at www.awakencatholic.org/election. Read the party platforms: Democratic Party, <https://bit.ly/3hrosqq>; Republican Party, <https://bit.ly/3hqWVSD> (Note: Rep. Party voted to continue their 2016 Platform)



In marriage, communication is more than just talking. At some point, did you stop sharing about the things that were important to you? Did your spouse? Improving a marriage takes time and a conscious effort to learn about your spouse. Growing closer in a marriage does not happen automatically. Retrouvaille is a marriage program dedicated to helping couples grow closer and develop a stronger bond. Sometimes the distance between a husband and a wife can seem so wide that it cannot be repaired. Retrouvaille is a marriage program designed to bring couples closer together. The next weekend in our area is September 25-27, 2020. For more information, contact registration team: Joe and Arlene 419-481-1116 or visit- HELPOURMARRIAGE.COM

Tue, Sep 15 | Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center Lunch and Learn Wise Guys---And Wise People Does wisdom come, as many cartoons show, from a bearded guru sitting cross-legged on a mountain top? If not, then where? Join Sr. Patricia Schnapp, RSM and, as she says, "kick this around together!"
Time & Location Sep 15, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM EDT
Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center, 1250 Tiffin St, Fremont, OH 43420, USA Register at <https://www.pinesretreat.org/0915>



project rachel

Peace starts here

Are you or someone you know hurting from a past abortion? Contact Project Rachel for confidential help in starting your healing journey. God's mercy is abundant and waiting for you. 419-260-5811 - kpakka@toledodiocese.org - www.hopeafterabortion.com

You are Invited to *Come and See*: A Virtual Discernment Retreat with the Sisters of Precious Blood. The "Zoom and See" retreat is an invitation for women ages 18-45 to get to know the Sisters of the Precious Blood through a series of short Zoom calls. We will meet each day, Monday, Sept 21—Thursday, Sept. 24 for one hour, beginning at 7:30 pm. There will be an opportunity to hear vocation stories from our sisters, learn about community life, the vows, and Precious Blood Spirituality. On Sunday, September 20th, you will receive an e-mail with the Zoom link and other pertinent information. We do ask that women commit to attend all four evenings. For more information and to register: tinyurl.com/pbcomeandsee or call 937-974-0626

USCCB Bishops Disaster Relief Fund

We offer our prayers to families who have lost loved ones, homes, and businesses in recent natural disasters. The traditional storm season has only just begun and already we have witnessed the devastating impact of Hurricane Laura and the California wildfires. Thousands of homes, businesses, and churches have been severely damaged or destroyed, and the impact will be long-lasting. Recovery efforts are expected to take months.

Most Reverend Jose H. Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles, and U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops President is making a special appeal for a special collection to support the USCCB Bishops Disaster Relief Fund. Funds will be used in response to disasters that occur and will be distributed where they are most needed: to support the efforts of Catholic Charities USA and/or Catholic Relief Services, for such necessities as water, food, shelter, and medical care, and aid in long-term rebuilding and recovery efforts; and to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for pastoral and reconstruction needs of the Church.

As in past disasters, Catholic Charities Diocese of Toledo is collecting and forwarding donations dollar for dollar directly to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Please make checks out to Catholic Charities Diocese of Toledo, with a notation designating USCCB Bishops Disaster Relief Fund. Mail Checks to Catholic Charities Diocese of Toledo, 1933 Spielbusch Ave., Toledo, OH 43604.

You also may donate on our secure website: www.catholiccharitiesnwo.org, noting USCCB Bishops Disaster Relief Fund as your donation designation.. Thank you for generously supporting those in need.

The SJCC Athletic Booster Club will be providing their annual Cabbage Roll dinner on Wednesday, September 18 starting at 5pm. They will be providing a drive-thru only event on Clover Street. For \$10, you can enjoy 2 (homemade) cabbage rolls, applesauce, mashed potatoes, a roll and a piece of pie. We hope to see you Wednesday!



Join the diocesan-wide initiative to reconnect with our faith and one another. The month of September our focus is on praying for holy disciples.

Some ideas on how to participate:

Set aside 10 minutes per day to pray for the intention of holy disciples, particularly that the faithful of the Diocese of Toledo will become holier disciples.

Make a Holy Hour. Go to church and pray before the tabernacle and spend time in the presence of Jesus.

Go to ReconnectToledo.org/September to find a collection of videos about discipleship.