

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SATURDAY, March 4

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike 
4:00-4:45pm Reconciliation @ GB Church
5:00 pm- Mass *For the People of our Parishes+*
@ GB Church

SUNDAY, March 5

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike 
9:00 am- Mass *Don Davies+*@ MV Church
11:00 am- Mass *Judie Kelley+* @ GB Church 
4:00-6:00pm Intergenerational Lenten
Event @ GB Parish Center

MONDAY, March 6

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike 

TUESDAY, March 7

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike 
5:00 pm- Mass *Leonard Reino+, Katherine Ellis+*
@ GB Church
5:50 pm- Reconciliation @ GB Church
7:00 pm- Rosary for the Nation @ MV Church

WEDNESDAY, March 8

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike 
8:30 am- Mass *Tom Hoffman* @MV Church
6:45 pm- Faith Formation Classes @ GB
6:45 pm- Mass @ GB Church

THURSDAY, March 9

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike 
8:30 am- Mass *Judy and Dave Detzel+, Harry
Teeples+* @ GB Church

FRIDAY, March 10

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike 
8:30 am- Mass *Fr. Robert Holden+*
@ MV church
9:10 am Reconciliation @ MV Church
7:00pm -Stations of the Cross @ GB Church

SATURDAY, March 11

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike 
4:00-4:45pm Reconciliation @ GB Church
5:00 pm- Mass *Helen Reineck+*
@ GB Church

SUNDAY, March 12

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike 
9:00 am- Mass *For the People of Our Parishes*
@ MV Church 
10:00 am- Exposition @ GB Church
11:00 am- Mass *Abelardo Saucedo+* @ GB Church

MV=Saint Mary GB=Saint Michael
Facebook: Saint Mary and Saint Michael Catholic Parishes

Financial Stewardship

Saint Mary Feb. 26, 2023

Sunday	\$2760.00
Loose	\$88.00
Ash Wed.	\$20.00

Saint Michael Feb. 25-26, 2023

Sunday	\$2087.00
Loose	\$227.00
Cemetery	\$100.00
Special Impro.	\$25.00
Ash Wed.	\$542.00
Latin Am	\$50.00
Food Pantry	\$25.00



FORMED

Pick for the Week

Have you ever felt lost and alone, isolated in guilt? Like the Prodigal Son among the pigs, we know that we have sinned. But God won't leave us there—he searches for us and runs to welcome us home in the

Sacrament of Reconciliation. Where are You? In session one of a five part series on Formed to help us learn and understand better the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Haven't subscribed to FORMED yet? There is no cost to you! Visit formed.org/signup, put 43431 as your zip code, register with your name and an email address, then check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED today!

Dispensation from Lenten Abstinence on Friday, March 17, 2023

Out of pastoral solicitude, Bishop Daniel Thomas has dispensed the faithful of the Diocese of Toledo, whether actually present in the territory or not, from the obligation to abstain from meat on the memorial of Saint Patrick, Bishop, which will be observed this year on Friday, March 17. Catholics present in the Diocese of Toledo who otherwise reside in another diocese, are likewise dispensed. No member of the faithful is required to make use of this dispensation. Those who choose to make use of the dispensation are strongly encouraged to abstain from meat on some other day that week as part of their penitential practices during Lent. In this way, a faithful Catholic still keeps the penitential spirit of a Friday in Lent and unites oneself more closely with the suffering Christ and His Church.

Hallow

Join Matt Fradd on Hallow. We at Hallow are blessed to partner with Matt Fradd to help you deepen your personal relationship with God through audio-guided contemplative prayer. Start your complimentary free trial today and listen to his Bible Story and Catholic Lofi.

This is a link to get 3 months of Hallow free. <https://hallow.com/partner-mattfradd/>

Contact information for Saint Mary (MV) and Saint Michael (GB)

Pastor: Father Thomas Varghese (MV,GB) tvarghese@stmaryandstmichael.org
Pastoral Associate: Deacon Mike Dazley (MV,GB) mdazley@stmaryandstmichael.org
Director of Faith Formation: Patti Wasserman (MV,GB)
pwasserman@stmaryandstmichael.org
Liturgical Coordinator: Kathy Otermat (MV, GB) kotermat@stmaryandstmichael.org
Administrative Assistant: Terri Reinhart (MV) treinhart@stmaryandstmichael.org
Parish Secretary: Maria Porteous (GB) mporteous@stmaryandstmichael.org
Bookkeeper: Nancy Patterson (GB) npatterson@stmaryandstmichael.org
Prayer Chain: Eileen Foes 419-638-4244
Senior Status Deacons: Deacon George Miller, Deacon Rene Gonzalez
MV Office Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. 9:30am-2:30pm 419-638-3042
GB Office Hours: Tues., Wed., Fri., 9:30am-2:00pm 419-637-2255

Saint *Mary* Saint *Michael*

MILLERSVILLE

GIBSONBURG

Saint Mary Catholic Church

865 State Route 635, Helena, Ohio 43435

419-638-3042 treinhart@stmaryandstmichael.org

Saint Michael Catholic Church

317 East Madison Street, Gibsonburg, Ohio 43431

Mailing Address: 312 East Yeasting Street, Gibsonburg, Ohio 43431

419-637-2255 mporteous@stmaryandstmichael.org

stMaryandStMichael.org

Facebook: Saint Mary and Saint Michael Catholic Parishes

March 5, 2023

Second Sunday of Lent Ordinary Time

Connected as the Body of Christ,
we reverence the presence of God in each person
and nurture disciples at every age,
to live the Gospel with Christian charity and zeal.

A Primer for the Season of Lent

BY DR. JAMES MERRICK | FEB 24, 2020 -CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK

Why Forty Days?

We fast for forty days because it's a pattern well established in Sacred Scripture. The Great Flood lasted for forty days (Genesis 7:17). When Moses received the Ten Commandments from God on Mt. Sinai, he remained on the mountain for forty days (Exodus 24:18). After the Israelites broke the first commandment by worshipping the golden calf, Moses went back up Mt. Sinai to speak with the Lord. During this time, he fasted for forty days (Exodus 34:28). Then, the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for forty years before entering the Promised Land (Joshua 5:6).

When the Prophet Elijah was on the run for scorning the Israelites for their worship of false gods, he fasted for forty days (1 Kings 19:8) until he reached Mt. Sinai. After the prophet Jonah preached to the wicked Ninevites, they fasted in sackcloth and ashes for forty days to express their remorse (Jonah 3:4-10). Finally, and most significantly, before Jesus began his ministry, he fasted for forty days in the desert (Matthew 4:2).

From these examples, it's easy to see why Christians identified forty days as a period of preparation and penitence. Some Christians think that because salvation is by grace, we no longer have to fast and therefore this biblical pattern is irrelevant for today. Jesus doesn't want us to do anything, they say, but simply accept what he has done for us. The Catholic Church is wrong, then, to impose upon Christians a period of fasting.

The problem with this perspective is that not only does it fail to appreciate the significance of Christ himself fasting for forty days, it also neglects the fact that Christ himself taught his disciples how to fast (Matthew 6:16-18). Moreover, we have several examples in the Acts of the Apostles of Christians fasting. After Saul of Tarsus became a Christian, for example, he fasted for three days (Acts 9:9). Luke tells us that the leaders of the Church in Antioch were fasting when they were told to choose Barnabas and Paul for ministry (Acts 13:2). Similarly, Paul and Barnabas fasted in order to discern leaders (Acts 14:23).

Nowhere do we get the impression that this biblical practice is no longer important. By giving us the season of Lent, the Church gives us the opportunity to take our place alongside Noah, Moses, the Israelites, Elijah, and especially our Lord Jesus Christ.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* puts it beautifully when it says:

"By the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert."

CCC 540

What Do We Do During Lent?

The most commonly talked about aspect of Lent is the fast. For those between eighteen and fifty-nine years of age, Ash

Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting, which means one meal and, if necessary, two "snacks" that combined do not equal the full meal. Additionally, for everyone fourteen years or older, every Friday during Lent is a day of abstinence, a day when we give up meat in remembrance that on Good Friday Christ gave up his flesh for us. Although it is not obligatory, it is also customary to give up something for Lent, like chocolate, coffee, or social media. This gives the impression that Lent is primarily about cutting out things from our lives.

But fasting is only one of the three pillars of a holy Lent. The other two are prayer and almsgiving (giving to those in need). The Lenten fast is meant to facilitate the other two. In other words, we don't simply remove something from our lives during Lent. We remove or fast from something in order to *add* the disciplines of prayer and almsgiving. By giving up two meals, I now have time in my day to pray or to help someone in need.

Of course, this experience of going without can open a window into the experiences of those who regularly go without the things we so easily enjoy. It therefore gives us an opportunity for greater sympathy for those in need. But going without is also meant to occasion deeper reflection on what really fills us up. We can walk through this world thinking that what gives us life is our food, our wealth, our grades, our careers, our looks, our strength, our possessions, our athletic achievements, our sexual experiences, and so on. But in fact these things often leave us feeling quite empty and frustrated. The only true source of life that fills us to satisfaction is Jesus Christ. He is the Word which uttered the world into existence. Fasting from food or some other thing that we often turn to for that little shot of life, that little jolt of pleasure, such as a like on social media or a candy bar, can give us an opportunity to redirect ourselves to the one in whom "was life, and that life was the light of all men" (John 1:4). Fasting during Lent is meant to create hunger, and that hunger is meant to be transformed into a hunger for Jesus Christ and a thirst for justice for the poor and oppressed (see Matthew 5:6).

As you are considering what you will do for Lent, don't just think about what you will give up. Think just as deeply about what you will add. Think about how and when you might pray. Think about to whom you can give the money you saved from not eating chocolate or drinking coffee.

Dr. James R. A. Merrick is lecturer at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Senior Fellow at the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology, Read this article in its entirety at <https://media.ascensionpress.com/2020/02/24/a-primer-for-the-season-of-lent/>

Mass Assistants if you would like to serve in any of these ministries, please contact Kathy Otermat at kotermat@stmaryandstmichael.org

Saint Michael— Saturday, March 11, 5:00 pm

Ambassadors	Gerry Williams Paul Makulinski
Server	Volunteer
Lector	Jeff Schumaker
EMOHC	Sue Kaemming

Saint Mary— Sunday, March 12, 9:00 am

Rosary Servers	Dave and Mary Gutschalk Chloe Foos Aiden Foos
Lector	Nate Moffett
Communion	Larry Kosakowski Sue Kosakowski
Ambassadors	Terri Reinhart Jeanine Van Der Laar
Count Clean	Neil and Wanda Hoffman Volunteers

Saint Michael— Sunday, March 12, 11:00 am

Ambassadors	Volunteers
Servers	Cindy Hammer
Lector	Chris Lau
EMOHC	Natalie Liskai

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

Baptism - Please contact Dcn. Mike for information and to schedule, which for first-time parents includes an orientation to the Sacrament.

Confirmation - The normative time for Confirmation in the Diocese of Toledo is eighth grade. Please contact Patti Wasserman for more information.

Reconciliation - Fr. Thomas is available after Tuesday Mass until 6:30pm, @ GB and after Friday Mass until 9:45am (or later, if penitents remain past those times) @ MV. Saturdays at 4-4:45pm in GB, and Sundays at 8:15-8:45am in MV.

Anointing of the Sick - Please contact Fr. Thomas if you or a family member are critically ill, preparing for surgery, or are of advanced age and in need of this Sacrament. In case of an emergency outside of office hours, please press '8' when prompted by the automated phone system. This Sacrament can be received many times throughout one's life, and is not reserved for end of life only.

Matrimony - Please contact either parish office at least six months before you hope to marry, and know that a wedding date cannot be set until a couple's freedom to marry has been determined in consultation with Fr. Thomas or Dcn. Mike. Annulments, when necessary, may require 18-24 months to resolve.

Holy Orders - Please contact Fr. Thomas or Dcn. Mike if you feel the Lord may be inviting you to a vocation to the priesthood, the diaconate, or religious life.

Holy Communion for the Homebound - Please contact either parish office if you are unable to come to Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion in your home or care facility.



Please remember in prayer: Joe Pertner, Pat Miller, Dcn George Miller, John Castner, Cody Noftz, Ellie Marks, Nikki Parks, Jean Obenauer, Deanna Wagner, Rosie Neeb, Michelle Schaser, Sister Maria Miguel, Christi Holman, and all our loved ones in care facilities, or staying at home and not able to safely leave. If you have a prayer request for members of either of our parishes please email the name to be listed (make sure you have the consent of the person first) to mssparishoffice@gmail.com. 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.



High School Youth
Come March 26th to

Saint Michael's Parish Center at 5:00pm
All 9-12 graders along with 8th graders

that will be getting Confirmed, we would love to see you there. Come for faith, food, fellowship and fun.



MADE FOR MORE

with CHRISTOPHER WEST & MIKE MANGIONE
Brought to you by **St. Thomas More, Bowling Green**
& Theology of the Body Institute

Tuesday, March 28, 2023 7:00 - 9:30 PM

BGSU Bowen-Thompson Student Union Ballroom
1001 East Wooster Street, Bowling Green, OH 43403

MADE FOR MORE is an inspired blend of teaching, live music, and art that taps the deepest desires of the human heart revealing their ultimate purpose and goal. Want to be inspired by beauty and the wisdom of the Church? Join Christopher West and Mike Mangione as they offer a vision of the Gospel like you've never heard through the lens of Saint John Paul II's Theology of the Body.

Tickets are on sale now and are limited! Grab your tickets today in the St. Thomas More parish office or M4MBOWLINGGREEN.EVENTBRITE.COM Tickets are \$25.

Mark your Calendar for March 19th, the Knights of Columbus will be having a Brunch at Saint Michael's Parish Center from 10:00-12:30pm details to come in next week's bulletin

Family Catechesis



From the desk of Patti Wasserman...

Faith Formation Classes for Pre K-6th Grade

Saint Michael:
Wednesday March 8th-Class

Saint Mary: Class March 19th

Confirmation Class

Next Class:
March 12th @ Saint Michael

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH
(including this years 8th grade students!)

Join us for
STEUBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE
July 7-9, 2023

Contact Patti to reserve your spot now!



Another Event for High School Youth!
November 16-19, 2023

NCYC

The National Catholic Youth Conference

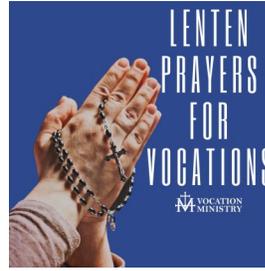


Musical Headliner is...For King and Country

If interested, please let Patti know now, so we can get a head count and begin to make plans to attend! The Diocese of Toledo no longer offers a pilgrimage. We are on our own for travel expenses, hotel rooms, food and the conference tickets. Adult chaperones are also needed. Scholarships are available through NCFYM, we need to apply by March 27th.

#FullyAlive #NCYC23

VOCATION MINISTRY



Pray for vocations this Lent! Make an impact by offering Mass or praying a Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, or a vocation prayer for more men and women to generously say "YES" to God's call. Vocation Ministry would like to have people across the globe join them in this effort, so sign up now at <https://i.mtr.cool/stdnjbdkyp>

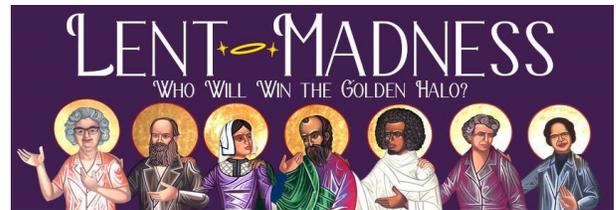
"We all have a vocation. We believe that God has placed us in this life to fill a special need that no one else can accomplish. Francis de Sales"

I don't know about you, but...



The Saints moving on to the Sweet Sixteen bracket so far include, Augustine of Hippo, Florence Li Tim-Oi, Bertha of Kent, Richard Hooker, Joanna the Myrrahbearer, Enmegahbowh, and at the bulletin deadline, Edmund was leading with 61% of the votes over Stanislaus the Martyr who is holding in there with 39% of the votes.

As for the brackets that were turned in and checked daily, no one has a picked the correct Saint each day. We do have one person with five out of the seven matches correct, two others that have four out of the seven correct and it's downhill from there for the rest of us! But, do not despair, there are many matches to go! An underdog can fly through the bracket and win the Golden Halo!



Another way of Almsgiving!

MARCH OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Quality Craft Kits/Supplies, Coloring Books, Paint Set, Play-Doh, Silly Putty, Stickers etc. Thank you for your generosity!

