

WEEKLY CALENDAR

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

MONDAY, March 13

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike 

TUESDAY, March 14

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike 
5:00 pm- Mass *Ron Underwood+*
@ GB Church
5:50 pm- Reconciliation @ GB Church

WEDNESDAY, March 15

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

THURSDAY, March 16

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike 
8:30 am- Mass *Anna Elchert+* @ GB Church

FRIDAY, March 17

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

SATURDAY, March 18

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike 
4:00-4:45pm Reconciliation @ GB Church
5:00 pm- Mass *Richard Widman+, Al Williams+*
@ GB Church

SUNDAY, March 19

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike 
9:00 am- Mass *Pete Schalk+* @ MV Church 
10:00 am- Knights of Columbus Brunch
@ GB Parish Life Center
11:00 am- Mass *For the People of Our Parishes*
@ GB Church

MV=Saint Mary GB=Saint Michael
Facebook: Saint Mary and Saint Michael Catholic Parishes
Flocknote: text MVGB to 84576

Financial Stewardship

Saint Mary March 5, 2023

Sunday	\$6761.71
Loose	\$47.00
Repair	\$20.00
Home Missions	\$205.00

Saint Michael March 4-5, 2023

Sunday	\$3576.59
Loose	\$226.00
Cemetery	\$30.00
Special Impro.	\$475.00
Ash Wed./ CRS	\$35.00
Home Missions	\$205.00
Food Pantry	\$165.00
Initial Offering	\$5.00

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.



Knights of Columbus Pancake Brunch Sunday, March 19th at St. Michael's Parish Center in Gibsonburg.

Brunch will be served
from 10:00 AM -12:30 PM
Cost: \$10 - Adults, \$6 - Kids age 4 to 12,
Free - kids under 4

All adult meals will include a FREE Super Cash Bonanza Charity raffle ticket (valued at \$5). All proceeds must be used for Charity.

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/>

St. Boniface Fish Fry: At St. Boniface Catholic School, 215 Church Street, Oak Harbor. Fridays March 10-March 31. Serving 4-7pm or until sold out. Menu: Fried Fish, French Fries, Macaroni & Cheese, Pasta Salad, Cole Slaw, Hushpuppies, dessert, Coffee, Water and punch. \$13 for Adults, \$8 for Children



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 12, 2023

Third Sunday of Lent

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.

In Truth and Charity: The woman at the well

This Sunday, the Third Sunday of Lent, we will hear in the Gospel the story of the encounter and conversation of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well. I invite you to think about the thirst of Jesus and the thirst of the woman in the Gospel, representing also our thirst, the thirst of our souls.

First, let's think about Jesus being thirsty. On the surface, Jesus was naturally thirsty. He had been on a long journey on foot and He sat down beside Jacob's well in the midday heat. Jesus asks the woman for a drink of water. It was quite unusual for a Jewish man to speak to a Samaritan and a woman. But our Lord does so with a deeper motive. He is thirsty for water, yes, but He is also thirsty for the salvation of the Samaritan woman. St. Augustine wrote: *Although Jesus asked for a drink, His real thirst was for this woman's faith.*

We see this thirst of Jesus again when He is hanging on the cross. Some of His last words at the crucifixion were: *I thirst.* Yes, Jesus was physically thirsty, but these words have deeper meaning. He is thirsty for our salvation, thirsty for our faith and our love. St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta often meditated on these words of Jesus from the cross. She recognized their deeper meaning. Mother Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity. In every convent of the sisters throughout the world, the words "I thirst" are displayed beneath an arm of the crucifix.

Mother Teresa wanted the sisters to meditate on these words, to realize that Jesus is thirsting for our love, our affection, our intimate attachment to Him, and our sharing of His passion. God is thirsting for us to come forward to satiate His thirst by giving Him our love and by spreading the love of His heart. God is thirsty for souls. Jesus was thirsty for the soul of the Samaritan woman and brought her to faith. She, in the end, went forth to bring the Good News to her people.

When we look at the crucifix, it is good to remember Jesus' words: *I thirst.* God thirsts for us. He thirsts for you and for me. What specifically is Jesus thirsting for in us? He longs for our love, our attention, our devotion, the total entrusting of our lives to Him. Reflecting on Jesus' words from the cross, Mother Teresa said: "At this most difficult time He proclaimed, 'I thirst.' And people thought He was thirsty in an ordinary way and they gave Him vinegar...; but it was not for that thirst; it was for our love, our affection, that intimate attachment to Him, and that sharing of His passion."

In prayer, I invite you to hear Jesus saying to you: "I thirst." Imagine Jesus saying those words personally and directly to you. We can then respond to these words by being generous with Jesus with our time, giving Him attention throughout our day, and spending time with Him in prayer. Mother Teresa also taught that we satiate Christ's thirst by loving Him in our neighbor, those people He places in our lives, especially those in most need of our

care and attention. Jesus thirsts for us to surrender our lives to Him, to entrust ourselves to Him.

The other part of today's Gospel to consider is the thirst of the Samaritan woman. She went every day to the well to draw water. Yes, this was a physical necessity. But again there is something deeper here. The woman had many disappointments in her life. Like all of us, she was thirsty for meaning in her life. She was thirsty for love. Jesus pointed out to her that she had been married five times and now was living with a sixth man. Her life-thirst was not being satisfied. She was unhappy. She wasn't finding authentic love. She didn't find anyone or anything to satisfy the deep longing of her heart until she met Jesus.

Our Lord spoke to the Samaritan woman about the living water He would give, the water that would truly quench her thirst and become in her "a spring of water welling up to eternal life." This is the water we all thirst for, the living water of the Holy Spirit, the water that satisfies our infinite thirst. Pope Francis wrote about this in these words: "Man of every time and place desires a full and beautiful life, just and good, a life that is not threatened by death but that can mature and grow to fullness. Man is like a traveler who, crossing the deserts of life, thirsts for the living water: gushing and fresh, capable of quenching his deep desire for light, love, beauty, and peace. We all feel this desire! And Jesus gives us this living water: He is the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and whom Jesus pours out into our hearts. "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly," Jesus tells us."

Lent is a time for us to quench our thirst, to rediscover the meaning of our life in Christ. This is a special time to encounter Jesus like the Samaritan woman at the well, and to be transformed by our encounter with Jesus, like she was. The Lord wants to give us living water. This is why He came to earth, that we might have life and have it abundantly. Sin is an obstacle to that full life in Christ, so we have this time of Lent for our deeper conversion to the Lord.

The Church invites us to drink from the living waters of the Holy Spirit. Then, like the Samaritan woman, we are no longer thirsty. In fact, we are transformed into missionary disciples, who go forth to bring the Good News to others, like the Samaritan woman did and like Mother Teresa did, going forth then to spread the love of Christ and satiate His thirst for the salvation of souls.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades originally published March 14, 2017 <https://todayscatholic.org/the-woman-at-the-well/>

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 18, 5:00 pm
Ambassadors Jerry Wasserman

Server Mary Ann Myerholtz
Lector Deb Dazley
EMOHC Hank Reineck

Saint Mary— Sunday, March 19, 9:00 am

Rosary Servers Terri Parks and Dave Wonderly
Macey Kohler

Parker Eidenour
Lector Harold Foes
Communion Alice Reineck
Jeanine Van Der Laar

Ambassadors Amber Hoffman
Neil Hoffman

Count Roger and Barb Wasserman
Clean Jeff and Erin Foes

Saint Michael— Sunday, March 19, 11:00 am

Ambassadors Dave Estep Family
Servers Evie Estep

Scarlett Hunker
Lector Erin Estep
EMOHC Norma Vela

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.



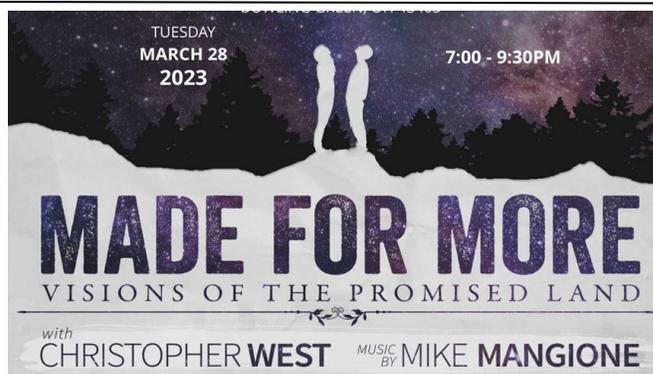
Please remember in prayer: Ed Herman, Joe Pertner, Pat Miller, John Castner, Cody Noftz, Ellie Marks, Nikki Parks, Jean Obenauer, Deanna Wagner, Rosie Neeb, Michelle Schaser, Sister Maria Miguel, Christi Holman, and all our loved ones in care facilities, or staying at home and not able to safely leave. 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 mshparishoffice@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.



Church Rummage Sale
May 12-13, 2023
8:00am-4:00pm
Saint Michael Parish Center

Proceeds will pay for the shipping of Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes.

Lent is a good time to go through your belongings and purge and set aside clean, usable, sellable, items. Clothing, shoes, toys, puzzles, holiday décor, home décor, household items, etc. to donate. Volunteers will be needed to help set up, clean up and work in the kitchen. If you have questions or would like to volunteer to help, please Call Julie at 419-559-5160 or Pat at 419-419-9921



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.

Our Lenten collection for the Village House this week includes the following: cases of bottled water - big or small, juice boxes/pouches (no red). Please place your gifts by the baptismal font at St. Michael's, and in the pew at the bottom of the stairs going into the basement at St. Mary's. Thank you for your generosity!

Family Catechesis



From the desk of Patti Wasserman...

**Faith Formation Classes
for Pre K-6th Grade**

**Saint Michael:
Wednesday March 15th-Class**

Saint Mary: Class March 19th

Confirmation Class

**Next Class:
March 26th @ Saint Michael**



**ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL
YOUTH!!!**

**Including this years 8th
graders!**

Join us for **YOUTH GROUP**

5:00pm on March 26th

@ Saint Michael's Parish Center

To learn about two events just for YOU!

Bring a friend or two for a little Sunday Funday! We will have food and shenanigans too!

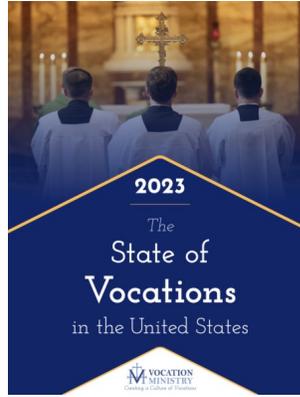
**First there is...
STEUBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE
July 7-9, 2023**



And coming this fall-November 16-19, 2023

NCYC

The National Catholic Youth Conference



Taken from the intro of the State of Vocations in the United States report. "As Catholics, we believe the Lord never stops calling men to work in his vineyard. The same calling is still there. Rather, it is our response to God's call that has gone missing on many levels. The question does not offer a straightforward answer. On the surface, the most obvious problem is a large number of Baby Boomer generation priests on a steady retirement track that began a

decade ago and is only picking up pace. That, coupled with low seminary numbers across the country, leaves an obvious gap. With fewer ordinations year over year, the Catholic Church in the United States is far below replacement level compared to the number of Catholic parishes and registered parishioners. In a world where young people experience fewer hardships in life and are impressed with materialism, social media pressure, and unlimited access to pornography, a vocation to the priesthood is easily bypassed. As dioceses have consolidated and the duties of priests have increased, many dioceses can no longer spare the priest personnel to serve at Catholic high schools and university campuses, the places where young men are most likely to encounter a priest and be exposed to the priesthood as a life calling. Most Catholic boys in America only see a priest behind an altar once a week (if they are even attending Mass weekly with their family) with a possible handshake as they leave Mass. Boys can't consider a vocation to a calling and a life they have no exposure to. So, many questions loom...How did we get here? How long will it take to rebuild the priesthood? How do we reach young men caught in the snare of an increasingly secularized culture? Is this a family life issue or lack of focus on vocations in parishes across the country...or both? With these questions in mind, Vocation Ministry has set out to explore the answers". This report is written as a summary of key findings and is not intended to offer a comprehensive analysis of the data. For a full downloadable copy of their findings, please visit VocationMinistry.com to read the whole report.



With thirteen of the Sainly Sixteen ready to move on, we wait for the last three to be chosen this coming week. On Thursday, March 16th the action will begin as we narrow the field down to the Elate Eight! Each day, a more in depth part of each saints life will be shared. These stories will be ones that we have never heard before and will be available on LENTMADNESS.org to help us vote each day.



MARCH OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

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