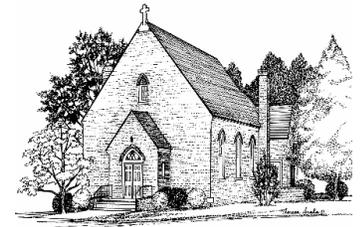




St. Michael Catholic Church Mission of St. Dominic

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240-681-3551
stmichaelbaden.org



14th Sunday of Ordinary Time
July 5th, 2020

Dear friends:

This weekend we celebrate Independence Day! Our celebration is an exercise of the virtue of patriotism which falls under the cardinal virtue of Justice. To love one's country and to seek its highest good is a work of justice. We all have an innate sense of justice, especially when it comes to what is owed to us! But we are aware at a deep level that we owe much gratitude for the blessings that flow to us as Americans. Patriotism is a natural love for our homeland.

As St. Thomas Aquinas reminds us, each man is a debtor to his country. The debt we owe is our duty to contribute to the common good of our country. This is not essentially anonymous, but it means we have a special regard for our fellow citizens and their well-being.

Of course, just as we love our individual families and are aware that each member has his/her flaws, so patriotism does not ignore the fact that Americans need healing, repentance, and growth. This is true in every generation and always will be. In fact, in these days, patriotism itself needs to be restored!

There are elements in our society that see patriotism as an evil. They think that we need to despise our own institutions and feel embarrassed about our history. In every age there is a temptation to teach history from a particular viewpoint, but today the temptation is more sinister. There are those who are willing to fabricate history or to present history through a very narrow lens so as to prevent patriotism!

History should neither be sugar coated or fabricated. We can rightfully be proud of America and what Americans have done for others. And this love for our country moves us to seek the conversion necessary for the citizens of the nation to become more virtuous. That conversion begins with ourselves.

What we see happening in the streets of America and throughout the world is not conversion, but upheaval, unrest, and anarchy. What communism could not accomplish during the Cold War is being attempted by those who consider themselves socialist. Either way, there are powerful, atheistic elements that seek a way of life that is unsuitable for Christians.

Celebrate July 4th and give thanks to God for our native land! May America grow wiser and more grateful.

*Father, we await our true native land with Thee,
Fr. Martin Flum*

Offering Mass "TOWARD THE EAST"

For the past three weeks, we have been reflecting on the Mass and "the direction" of our prayer. First, we saw that the priest, who has been given a prophetic vocation, teaches the people what God has revealed. His vocation has a sacrificial and priestly aspect as well. So, the priest begins by communicating with the people and then in his sacrificial role, he turns to the Lord to speak to Him.

This change in direction from the people to God is fundamentally spiritual, but it has an outward expression in how the priest speaks the words and where he stands. One speaks to God differently than one speaks to others.

From the beginning of Mass thru the Liturgy of the Word, we are the recipients of the Holy Spirit calling us to repentance and the Word of God instructing our faith. Throughout these parts of the Mass attention is directed to the faithful. Then the "direction" of the liturgy changes radically.

Beginning with the Presentation of the Gifts we turn toward the Lord ("*conversi ad Dominum*" as St. Augustine says). Bringing our gifts to the Lord, we ask Him to make them holy and acceptable. The people and the priest are united in facing the Lord and worshipping Him in Spirit and in Truth.

Unless we have this proper inner manner of worship, we are not carrying out the command of Jesus to "do this in memory of me". Pope Benedict XVI reminds us that we are to offer Mass *from Christ in the Holy Spirit to the Father*. Our orientation at Mass especially when we are offering the Holy Sacrifice is toward the Father, as the Lamb of God directs us by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. (Rev 7:9-17)

Last week we learned that it is Jesus Christ, the High Priest, who directs our prayer. This cannot be emphasized enough. We are being led by Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit to the Father. The ministerial priest at the altar acts "in persona Christi". Our Catholic priests have received a special sacrament that unites them so intimately with the High Priest that when the priest acts in accord with what the Church intends to do at Mass, the High Priest cooperates with the priest and makes present what the words express, "This is my Body which will be given up for you." And "This is the chalice of my Blood, the Blood of the New and Eternal Covenant..." offered to the Father in atonement.

The priest and the people of God, participate differently, according to their distinct roles, in this Mystery of Faith.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	07/04/20	5:00 PM	Parishioners
Sunday	07/05/20	8:00 AM	Alene Martin +
Sunday	07/05/20	10:00 AM	Marion Walzel
Sunday	07/05/20	11:30 AM	Carolyn Parson
Monday	07/06/20	7:00 AM	Barbara Boswell +
Tuesday	07/07/20	8:00 AM	Ann Proctor +
Wednesday	07/08/20	7:00 AM	Mima Dominica & Family
Thursday	07/09/20	8:00 AM	Ann Proctor +
Friday	07/10/20	7:00 AM	Alene Martin +
Friday	07/11/20	8:00 AM	David & Lynne Mason
Saturday	07/12/20	8:00 AM	Jackie Chapman +

"Spend an Hour with Jesus" Challenge

Thank you to all who have responded to the challenge! We have 10 more openings to fill... so if you have not responded yet, Jesus is still waiting for you! If you have, encourage someone else to respond. Here are the days/times that are still unfilled:

Mondays: 6-7 PM

Wednesdays: 12-1 PM, 1-2 PM

Thursdays: 11 AM -12 PM

Fridays: 2-3 PM, 3-4 PM

Saturdays: 1-2 PM, 2-3 PM, 3-4 PM, 4-5 PM

Once you have signed up for a weekly holy hour, you are committed to having at least one family member in the Church adoring Jesus for the entirety of that hour. If you would like to be on our substitute list, call the office at (240)681-3551.

Hidden from our bodily eyes, but visible to the eyes of Faith, Jesus dwells day in and day out among us in the earthly tabernacles in our Catholic Church.

The parish of St. Michael and the mission of St. Dominic are being called to become centers of Eucharistic love. The meaning of this is that we have the privilege of being moved by the Holy Spirit to treat the Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament with greater attentiveness and to receive the charism of loving the "hidden" Jesus in an open way without apology. He has chosen us to manifest the Faith of the Church in His Real Presence by our regular visits to see Him in the church.

THE FOOD PANTRY

is always in need of staple foods such as canned tuna and chicken, canned soup, peanut butter, jelly, and spaghetti sauce. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

Employment - Help Wanted

St. Philip the Apostle Church in Camp Springs, MD is accepting applications for a **part-time Parish Bookkeeper**. Job link: <https://cpros.org/job/33385>

The Clothing Closet

Kathy Fisher, the stalwart leader for *The Clothing Closet* is calling for help. She recently has suffered some health issues which have curtailed her ability to guide this parish ministry. So, we are seeking new parish volunteers for when we will reopen, but we are also looking for a new interim coordinator! Contact Fr. Flum at the parish office.

DID YOU KNOW?

Every Wednesday evening at St. Michael we have Confession available at 7pm and at 8 pm there is a Eucharistic Procession. That means that we take Jesus to the streets! (Well, just our parking lot so far....) Our purpose is to give honor and worship to Jesus present among us in the Holy Eucharist, to plead with Him for protection and to impart His Benediction (solemn blessing) over the whole territory of the Parish and Mission.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

For those who suffer from chronic illness, especially Austin Aley, Joe Aviles, Christopher Becker, Arlene Bloom, Madison Brady, Ann Canter, Aldrin Castillo, Charlene Cardwell, Tom Cardwell, Jayne Cassella, Joyce Chambers, Thomas Chambers, Greg Connick, David Dixson, Dorothy Dunston, Angela Farmer, Kathy Fisher, Patricia Gray, Mabel Hamilton, Barbara Harding, Florence Henderson, Amanda Hubbard, Crystal Johnson, Bernice Kirby, Marie Knobel, Wanda Langley, Betty Lindsay, Kenny Lindsay, Adam Lumpkins, John Martone II, Michael Mohun, Ralph and Regina Nasatka, Fannie Newman, Yvette Parker, Peter Parkinson, Carolyn Parson, Joyce Pickeral, Rev. Robert Pittman, Betty Proctor, Dawn Russo, Dee Smith, Geraldine Stewart, Willie Stewart, Patricia Stuart, George Thomas, Marion Walzel, Ken Wilson, Terry Wilson and Belinda Windsor, may their crosses be joined to the Cross of Jesus.

Please Pray for the Souls of the Faithful Departed

+ Lucille Shanks

+ Renae Briscoe

*Let Perpetual Light shine upon them;
may they rest in Peace. Amen.*

YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS

June 28, 2020

St. Michael	Offertory Collection	\$ 5574.00
St. Dominic	Offertory Collection	\$ 807.00

May God reward your generosity!

Come to Daily Mass!

Mon/Wed/Fri - 7am; Tue/Thu/Sat - 8am

And don't forget to look at the *new* parish website:

www.stmichaelbaden.org