

# St. Michael Catholic Church Mission of St. Dominic

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# The Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday, January 7th, 2024

Reflection by St. Michael's Parishioner, Virginia Jones

Over the years, my Adoration time has evolved in focus and purpose. When I first started my hour with Jesus, I spent time praying for faith and good things for my family and friends, reading, and thinking about what I needed to accomplish in the upcoming week. As my father became sicker and sicker, my prayers turned from almost benign request to "help cousin so and so get over the flu," to desperate pleadings and begging God to give my dad a miracle, let him live longer to see his grandsons grow, to hear the youngest call him Grandpop. I wanted them to remember him. That was not meant to be. He passed back in May, and it tested my faith. I was angry and hurt. I felt God had let me down again (I had prayed for a child but was not blessed in that way). But with the grief came memories and the memory of my father's deep faith. He came to accept his passing long before I did, and while he could still speak, he assured me I was going to be ok and to have faith in God.

With my father's faith in mind, I kept coming to Adoration. The first few weeks after my dad's death, I was not sure what to pray for anymore. All that I had wanted was gone, no chance for children, no father. But as I continued to just fill the pew each week during my Adoration time, it came to me that I was being selfish. Not only would my earthly father have been disappointed with my selfish attitude, but I was pretty certain my Heavenly Father was not impressed either. I started looking outward and finding meaningful things to pray for that weren't so "me" focused. As I continue to struggle with my thoughts turning inwards, the time I spend in Adoration is renewing my spirit to focus on the goodness of Jesus once again.

## Daily Gospel Readings for this Week



Monday – Mk 1:7-11 Tuesday – Mk 1:21-28 Wednesday – Mk 1:29-39 Thursday – Mk 1:40-45 Friday – Mk 2:1-12 Epiphany Christmas Party!
Holy Day Hoedown
Fr. Cusick Farewell Lunch
Sunday, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1 PM



Join us after 11:30 Mass this Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, Feast of the Epiphany, for the annual Epiphany Christmas Party!

This is also our opportunity to say a

fond and grand farewell to our dear pastor, Fr. Cusick. The theme he requests for this party is "Hoedown," so bring either a crown (Epiphany) or a cowboy hat (hoedown) to celebrate.

We'll have an open mic for instrumental Christmas Carol performances and Christmas poetry recitations. Consider reciting a poem or playing a Christmas carol, but even if you don't contribute, ALL are welcome to come enjoy fellowship, live music, and poetry!

Thank you, and we hope to see you there!

# JOIN US FOR THE NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE

Washington, D.C. | January 19, 2024

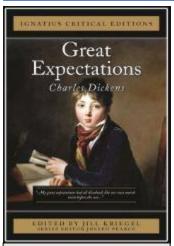
Friday, January 19th

9 AM Mass at St. Michael's

11 AM departure from St. Mary's, Upper Marlboro

Although Roe v. Wade has been overruled, there is still so much work to do to protect the sanctity of life. Parishioners of St. Michael's and St. Dominic's are teaming up with the parishioners of St. Mary's Assumption in Upper Marlboro to take a bus to the March for Life in DC. We will have Mass together at St. Michael's at 9 AM before gathering at St. Mary's to board the bus. The bus will leave the St. Mary's parking lot at 11 AM and return around 5 PM. Please RSVP on our <a href="website">website</a> or to Joanna Hellerman at joanna@stmichaelbaden.org, (240)681-3551.

# **FORMED** Recommendation



eBulletin: click the picture or title to be directed to the link!

# Great Expectations by Charles Dickens Edited by Joseph Pearce

Kindle Book File

Pope John Paul II described Dickens' book as "filled with love for the poor and a sense of social regeneration...warm with imagination and humanity." Such true charity permeates Dickens's novels and ultimately drives the characters either to choose regeneration or risk disintegration. In Great

Expectations, Pip, symbolic of the pilgrim convert, gains both improved fortunes and a growth in wisdom, but as he acquires the latter, he must relinquish the former.

That the Diskensian message was a Christian one is unmistakable. Remniscent of an Augustinian model, one of reflection, conversion, and moral improvement, Pip undergoes an internal change that manifests itself in his profound contrition for his earlier deeds and his equally profound resolution to make amends. As we travel with Pip, we find that Dickens leads us to an acceptance of worldly limitations and an anticipation of final salvation.

# **Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass** to Celebrate the Vocation of Marriage

Saturday, February 10, 2024
Basilica of the National Shrine

This year, Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala will celebrate the Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass to honor the Vocation of Marriage on Saturday, February 10, 2024, 10:00 a.m. at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. This Annual Mass is a celebration of the living vocation of all couples who provide a Catholic witness to the beauty of the Sacrament of Matrimony. Couples must register with the parish office by January 27, 2024 to attend the Mass and/or receive a certificate from Cardinal Wilton Gregory in honor of their anniversary year.

# Christmas Flowers – Thank you!



Thank you to those who contributed towards the Christmas Poinsettias, and to those who helped decorate the Church for Christmas! Mass will be offered for the intentions of our

Christmas Flower Donors this Sunday, January  $7^{th}$  at 11:30  $\Delta M$ 

### Mass Times

Saturday: 5:00 PM St. Michael Sunday: 8:00 AM & 11:30 AM St. Michael 10:00 AM St. Dominic

Tues - Fri 8:00 AM, 1st Fri 7:30 PM, First Sat 9:00 AM, all at St. Michael

### **Confession Times**

Sunday: 7:30 AM Wednesday: 7:00 PM Saturday: 4:00 PM

## **Daily Adoration**

Visit our website for the full schedule

#### Please PRAY for our SICK

(Please notify us if you or your family member should be removed) Brenda Baden-Ritter, Joe Bauer, Joanne Butler, Gavin Birl, Arlene Bloom, Arlene Bonds, Grayson Bowling, Madison Brady, Flossie Brown, James Brown, John Brown, Jr., Lynn Brown, Thomas Canavan, Ann Canter, Larry Canter, Sr., Richard Canter, Sr., Charlene Cardwell, Tom Cardwell, Andrew Catterton, Joyce Chambers, Thomas Chambers, Christine Clontz, Mary Connick, Terri Cox, Stacey Danielson, Judy Dement, Diane DiSandro, Leo Dixon, Marysa Dixon, Shaun Donnelly, Kathy Fisher, Rosemary Flum, Foley Family, Gloria Foley, Bert Hall-Foxwell, Mike Frisby, Jerry Frisby, Don Gardiner, Gerald Gray, Glenn Hale, Mabel Hamilton, Barbara Harding, Randy Herriott, Larry Horton, Crystal Johnson, Kathy Johnson, Margaret Kramer, Wanda Langley, Betty Lindsay, Adam Lumpkins, Jackie Markam, Mike & Elaine Mohun, John Martone II, Teddy Miller, Neal Myers, Ralph & Regina Nasatka, Fannie Newman, Thomas Pancamo, Yvette Parker, Carolyn Parson, Lena Pettit, Joyce Pickeral, Donald Prather, Michael Proctor, Betty Proctor, Gary Reinhardt, Marsha Reinhardt, Shawn Reinhardt, Paul Richards, Ann Bowie Rice, Lorrie Riess, Bonnie Robertson, Dawn Russo, Mary Savoy, Garrett Sawall, Sylvia Scott, Thomas Scott, Jr., Blanche Simms, Dee Smith, Dave Spadaro, Robin, Patricia & Thomas Stuart, Fr. Larry Swink, George Thomas, Bernard Torreyson, Cecelia Turner, Joseph & Jean Wade, Doug Walker, Raymond Washington, Jackie Weaver, Joseph & Patricia Welch, Jim Williams, Ken Wilson, Terry Wilson, Cheryl Young, Dean R. Young, Lewis Young, and Theodore Young.

Jesus, Divine Mercy, heal and console us! Jesus, I trust in You!

#### MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	01/06/24	5:00 PM	Parishioners
Sunday	01/07/24	8:00 AM	Deacon Scott Stuart +
Sunday	01/07/24	10:00 AM	Shelley Venables
Sunday	01/07/24	11:30 AM	Christmas Flowers Intentions
Tuesday	01/09/24	8:00 AM	Helga Castro
Wednesday	01/10/24	8:00 AM	Anonymous Benefactor
Thursday	01/11/24	8:00 AM	Lori McMahon
Friday	01/12/24	8:00 AM	Suzanne Stuart

YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS - Dec. 31, 2023

St. Michael Offertory Collection \$ 5365.00 St. Dominic Offertory Collection \$ 975.00

May God reward your generosity!