

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH



## 27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



“The stone that the builders rejected has become  
the cornerstone.” - Mt 21:42ab

PARISH OFFICE

415 Tioga St., Johnstown, PA 15905  
Phone: 814-535-7646  
Fax: 814 536-7850  
Email: [omos@dioceseaj.org](mailto:omos@dioceseaj.org)  
Website: [omostoday.com](http://omostoday.com)

PRESBYTERY

407 Tioga St., Johnstown, PA 15905  
814-535-7646  
By appointment

ST MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

180 Gilbert St., Johnstown, PA 15906

DIVINE MERCY SCHOOL—WEST

Phone: 814 539-5315

## FATHER MARK'S NOTES

### **Thoughts From a Christian, and a Citizen Too, About the Election and the State of Our Country**

I promised you a couple of weeks ago to write about and make a video about our present-day political situation, but it has been rather busy this past couple of weeks, and I haven't had a chance to gather my thoughts. But today, I would like to begin.

I write to you with a certain "fear and trembling" because I am sure what I share here and in the video will not make some or maybe many of you happy. I hope it does, but I'm just not sure. Because I am NOT going to pick a side-neither side. My comments will be an attempt on my part to reflect on how I believe Jesus would engage the present situation in our country. How bold is that!?!? Some of you ask me what Jesus would do. Well, in the weeks to come, I am going to share my thoughts about that. These are my thoughts on the present situation and only my thoughts. You are welcome to comment on them.

Someone once said that influence takes years to build and seconds to lose. I guess I am risking that here. But, as your pastor, I think I need to reflect on our current situation. John Maxwell states clearly, "Leadership is complex, at its heart, leadership is influence." As a Christian, and as your pastor, I have been given a *trust*. I seek to be a person of influence because of things bigger than myself-that is your life of faith. I say all of this; knowing that to lose my influence, I lose my mission. Each week will be a different thought about our present-day situation. So here goes. Let's pray together that we will all seek above all the will of God.

Much, surely not all, but I need to give credit where credit is due, comes from a blog written by Carey Nieuwhof. I read him daily, and when he wrote about the election, I completely agreed with what he said. So, I will be using many of his thoughts throughout these next few weeks.

#### **Point number one: As Believers, we need to focus on timeless truths more than temporary viewpoints.**

Viewpoints change. Truth doesn't. Carey Nieuwhof writes, "Christians in this generation are called to speak to what is happening in culture. But if you look at voices that endure over the centuries, they tend not to belong to hotheads, knee jerk reactionaries, people caught up in the latest "Truth" they stumbled on, or those who hold deeply partisan positions. Voices that have endured in the last century like, Martin Luther King, Jr., Deitrich Bonhoeffer, or Oscar Romero, are voices that spoke into the violence and injustices of their day with a timeless word. Their positions tapped into deep biblical frameworks at a level few voices on social media do today. The more deeply anchored your viewpoints are in timeless truth, the more deeply it will resonate. Mere opinions never carry that kind of weight.

Let me share with you a parable written by Ronald Rolheiser in his book, The Holy Longing. If there was anyone who focused on timeless truths, it was Jesus. He was never partisan that I can see and always, always sought to unite and never divide.

#### **Parable:**

Imagine a man, whom I will call Michael, who has a heart the size of the Grand Canyon. He is gracious, loving, devoid of prejudice, and with an understanding and empathy wide enough to encompass everything and everybody. Because he is so loving, he has a wide variety of friends, and one night he decides to have a party and invite them all. He rents a hall to hold everyone. And his guests begin to arrive. Men, women, and children show up of every description, ideology, background, temperament, taste, social standing, and religion. A curious mixture of persons fills the hall. Liberals and conservatives, independents, fundamentalists, and feminists, New Agers, priests and anticlerics, union presidents and bankers, animal rights activists and persons involved in the seal hunt, meat-eaters, and militant vegetarians mingle with each other. Present is the president of the local pro-life association, but the president of pro-choice is also there.

Given the mix, there is a fair amount of tension, but because Michael is there, because he is in the center of the room, and because they respect who he is and what he stands for, everyone is polite to one another and is enough engulfed in a certain spirit of tolerance, respect, decency, and charity to stretch them beyond how they would normally feel, think, and act.

As you can imagine, such a gathering would work only while Michael was present. Should he have to

## FATHER MARK'S NOTES

excuse himself and leave, or should persons get preoccupied with ways that would make them forget the real reason they are there, you would soon enough get a combination of fireworks and dissipation that would empty the room. This particular mix of persons can be brought together and kept together **only around one person, Michael**. Everything depends on his presence and upon those present having his wide empathy while they are in that presence, that is, upon being in his spirit.

That is an image of the Christian church around Jesus Christ. Outside of a focus on his person and what we are drawn to spontaneously live when we sense his presence, we have angry fireworks and constant dissipation, as the state of our families, communities, nations, and world gives ample testimony to.

Nothing else ultimately holds us together. Jesus never divides. Jesus is never partisan. Anything we do that helps create the division we are experiencing in our country today is not of Christ. We are called as followers of Jesus to unite, bring together, to invite all, to make everyone feel like they are welcome-like they belong. It's the only way we change hearts.

## MESSAGE SERIES ON MARY



Our Mother Mary has many titles. We learned about "The New Eve" the "New Ark" and now we will learn about "Mary: Mother of the Messiah." Join in the reading and discussion on Mary, her genealogy, and how Matthew's Gospel sets the foundation to establish Mary as the "Mother of the Messiah" and the "Mother of God." Intrigued? Join us!

## SMALL GROUP NEWS

Small Group Definition: "a small group is an intentional gathering, meeting regularly for the purpose of joining God's mission." **To be intentional:** They have a purpose. **They meet regularly:** Their next meeting date is known and expected. **For the purpose of joining God's mission:** They desire to be a disciple of Christ and to live His mission. **What is God's mission?** To love God, to love others, and to go out and make more disciples. Let's all join a small group and become intentional in living God's mission. Contact Julie Sheehan for information on joining a group. [jsheehan1081@gmail.com](mailto:jsheehan1081@gmail.com) or (814) 535-1994

## EPIC

Thank you to all of our CORE team members for helping to lead and serve our Youth! We are so grateful to all of you. **Youth Alpha:** Hello parents! Please consider helping us feed our teens for Youth Alpha on Thursdays. Go to [Perfectpotluck.com](http://Perfectpotluck.com) (Name: Koch, Password: epic). Thank you for considering to help us! A big thanks to all the parents and parishioners who are helping! **Save the Dates:** October 25—*Shycon* will be held virtually this year. Just a reminder this is part of the formation for Confirmation. This virtual option will be worth 4 credits. **11th Graders:-** Confirmation is Thursday, April 22, 2021, at St. John Gualbert at 7 pm. Please start thinking about your saint name and your sponsor. This will also be discussed during small groups as well as the 11th-grade retreat.

## R.C.I.A.

**Are you or someone you know:**

- Curious about God and the Catholic faith?
- Been baptized Catholic and want to receive Eucharist and Confirmation?
- Been baptized in another faith but want to become Catholic?

The process of exploring the Catholic faith is called the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). It is a journey of study and prayer in a warm, friendly, and informal atmosphere. There is time for questions and discussions. This process begins in the Fall and continues until Spring. Meetings are beginning now. If you would like to join us or have any questions, please contact Joyce Dailey - [jdailey@dioceseaj.org](mailto:jdailey@dioceseaj.org) or 535-7646.

# OMOS OUTREACH

OCTOBER 2020



## SEPTEMBER WRAP UP

Feeding people continues to be a priority. The people we serve do not function in the ways you and I do on a daily basis—mental illness, abuse, unemployment and so on grip the lives of these individuals whom God created.

We can reference St. Mother Teresa when we begin to ponder all of the need, “For you see, in the end, it is between you and God; it was never between you and them.” The words are haunting. When we judge others, find ways to avoid helping others, we enter into

the notion of relieving ourselves of any responsibility. We know we should; it just doesn’t materialize.

It is impossible for most of us to walk into work on a Monday and say I quit, because I am going to help the homeless. Why do we tend to think in such binary terms? I can’t devote my life to this, so I end up not doing anything.

Make it a promise to pick a project in OMOS Outreach and start small. We’d love for you to join us!

## JOSEPH’S HANDS

We are installing steps and a railing, moving a washer and dryer to remove the danger of navigating to the basement, taking care of an elderly person’s lawn...

Do you know someone in a similar situation? We are looking for the people who may not have the financial means or are physically unable to fix/upkeep because of age or health. If you know someone, contact us, and we will work on contacting the person to help with whatever they need.

Go to [omostoday.com https://www.omostoday.com/donate/service/](https://www.omostoday.com/donate/service/)

To let us know if someone needs help or if you would like to join the Joseph’s Hands team.



Helping at the Food Truck Distribution, September 26th

**For ideas on how to help, go to [omostoday.com](https://www.omostoday.com)**

**“ OMOS OUTREACH ”**

## WEEKLY & MINISTRY SCHEDULES

Monday, October 5

6 a.m.—Eucharistic Adoration

8 a.m.—Mass

Tuesday, October 6

6 a.m.—Eucharistic Adoration

7:30 a.m.—Confession

8 a.m.—Mass-at OMOS

Wednesday, October 7

7:00 a.m.—Praise and Worship

4:30 p.m.—Eucharistic Adoration

5:30 p.m.—Confessions

6 p.m.—Mass

Thursday, October 8

6 a.m.—Eucharistic Adoration

**9 a.m.—School Mass**

Friday, October 9

6 a.m.—Eucharistic Adoration

8 a.m.—Mass

Saturday, October 10

3 pm—Confessions

4 p.m.—Mass at OMOS

**Server:** Ayda Dorian

**Lector:** Sandy Mackel

**Euch. Min.** Mary Kay Clark, Marilyn Billow, Michelle Petrell

Saturday, October 10

6:00 p.m.—Mass at St. Michaels

**Server:** Tim Burgess & Alexis Williams

**Lector:** Doug Puchko

Sunday, October 11

8:30 a.m.—Mass at OMOS

**Server:** Rachael Cameron

**Lector:** Rick Messina

**Euch. Min:** David Milligan, Estelle Milligan, Karen Hoffman

Sunday, October 11

11:00—Mass at OMOS

**Server:** Nathan DiFrancesco

**Lector:** John McGrath

**Euch. Min:** Patty Falcone, Olivia Marabito, Mike Garver

**12:30 p.m.**—Communion outside Mass



## REST IN PEACE

**Mary Linda Trexler**

Wife of Donald Trexler

**Donald Irwin, Sr.**

Father of Sandy & Tom Torchia

*Our sympathies go out to the families and friends of the deceased.*

## WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Gal 1:6-12/Ps 111:1b-2, 7-8, 9 and 10c [5]/Lk 10:25-37

Tuesday: Gal 1:13-24/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15 [24b]/Lk 10:38-42

Wednesday: Gal 2:1-2, 7-14/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Lk 11:1-4

Thursday: Gal 3:1-5/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75 [68]/Lk 11:5-13

Friday: Gal 3:7-14/Ps 111:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6 [5]/Lk 11:15-26

Saturday Gal 3:22-29/Ps 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [8a]/Lk 11:27-28

Next Sunday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Phil 4:12-14, 19-20/Mt 22:1-14 or 22:1-10

## MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, October 3

4:00 p.m. Albert & Anne Likar (Bill & Terrie Ray)

Sunday, October 4—27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. Rosemarie Weinzierl (Jay & Cheryl Bakale)

9:45 a.m. Mark Stem (Jim & Jane Spisak)

11:00 a.m. Louise Antonazzo (Nick & Donna Antonazzo)

Monday, October 5

8:00 a.m. Joann Rosage (Bill Rosage)

Tuesday, October 6

8:00 a.m. Budash & Donnelly Families (Budash & Ray Families)

Wednesday, October 7

6:00 p.m. John Farabaugh (wife, Georgia)

Thursday, October 8

8:00 a.m. Tom Newhouse (Family)

Friday, October 9

8:00 a.m. Barbara Regula (Jim & Kathy Ridella)

Saturday, October 10

4:00 p.m. Perry Omodio (Dad & Mom)

6:00 p.m. Hilary & Lucille Schrum (Popchak & Urban Families) (Sanctuary Candle—Puniak Family)

Sunday, October 11 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. Mark Staib (M/M Steve Sakmar)

11:00 a.m. Mary Jane Messich (Denny & Nancy McIntyre)

## ST. MICHAEL'S

St. Michael's is selling Giant Eagle & Sheetz Scrip. Available after Mass and at Riek's Country Store. Hours are Thurs. & Fri. 11 am—4 pm & Sat. 9 am to noon. Call Marissa 243-3674 with questions.