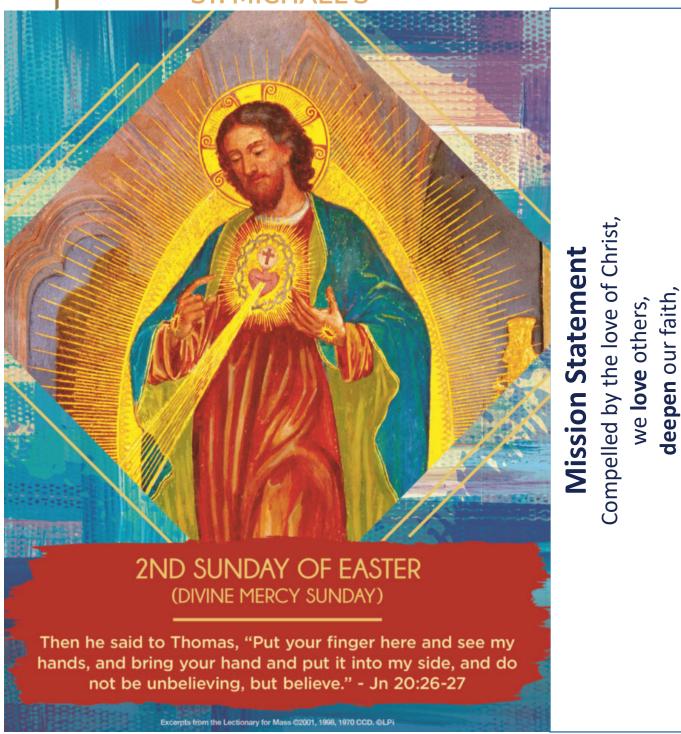


Second Sunday of Easter April 16, 2023

ST. MICHAEL'S



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FR. MARK'S NOTES

Sacred Triduum/ Holy Three Days

What I wrote last week about the Sacred Triduum I wrote before it all happened. My words of gratitude for all those involved in pulling things together mean more to me now that we have all experienced our Holy Three Days 2023. Thank you, Music Ministry. That includes everyone involved, from the Liturgies to our Healing Evening on Good Friday and everything in between. It was all so heartfelt. It was all so sacred. Then the Liturgical Ministers: Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers (Reintroducing the Cup for the first time in 3 years!), foot-washing moderators, Altar Servers (Joyce behind the scenes!), Cross carriers (Joe Tallari was the one who really was carrying the Cross), Easter Candle carriers, (John Fontana, Jess Smith, and Michelle Rivetti), Hospitality, and all of you who participated so deeply and so fully – thanks to all of you.

Holy Thursday was unbelievable. We began each day with Morning Prayer and brief reflection on the meaning of that day. Our celebration of the Mass of the Lord Supper was indeed an expression of the Holy Thursday Revolution. We all learned the profound teaching of Jesus to serve and not to be served. The washing of feet was incredible, and it truly did lead us to the celebration of the Eucharist, including the Precious Blood, where we become more and more like Christ. The Prayer Stations touched the hearts of so many – including me. They were so well done, so prayerful. Thanks to the team, (Julie, Jeanne, Denise), that put all that together. Those prayer stations added to the evening of prayer as we entered into the Lord's Passion.

Good Friday Liturgy of the Lord's Passion was awesome. I don't think I have ever seen a more reverent and prayerful veneration of the Cross. Yeah, I tried to hurry you up twice, but you knew what you were doing and were in no hurry doing it. Of course, we had the Walking Station and Stations of the Cross at St. Michaels. Then that evening, we had our Evening of Healing through the Cross for the first time. I felt particularly unprepared, but the Holy Spirit took that evening over and transformed it into something exceptional. From the music (what a music team!), the meditation, "I Thirst" (Thanks, John), to everyone praying for each other all at the same time, to our prayer ministers, and again, the Prayer Stations, what a Spirit-filled night. Even the relatively informal social afterward was a very special time for everyone. After all that, I couldn't sleep very well, pondering what had just happened that day and what was about to happen the next day.

Holy Saturday is a day when we observe not only that Jesus died but was dead and went into hell to redeem those dead trapped in Sheol. But, for some of us, it was a time of preparation for the **Great Easter Vigil**. We began outside and lit our Easter Candles for OMOS, St. Michael's, and Bishop McCort. (Great fire Matt!) We did indeed pour inside (thank you!); and were met with the singing of the great Easter Proclamation, the Exsultet! (Great Job Keith!). The Liturgy of the Word, and our Baptisms: Congratulations Valarie and McKenzie, and our Confirmations: Michele, Luke, and Valarie. And, really, your participation was special. What a great night! Thank you.

Our Easter Sunday Masses we great, except for my little meltdown. Again, awesome participation, and thanks to all for being there. The music people did double duty. How can I thank you, guys, enough?

Now we have 50 days to unpack all of that, the **Easter Season**. We have time to prepare for the **Feast of the Ascension** (a very misunderstood feast) and the great **Feast of Pentecost**. Thanks to all of you. What a joy, honor, and privilege (one that I do not deserve) to be your pastor. Happy Easter – all of you!

PILGRIMAGE JOURNEYS OF PAUL IN GREECE

Join Fr. Dave Peles and Deacon Michael Russo to follow in the footsteps of St. Paul and Silas to Amphipolis and explore the ruins of the many Christian basilicas there. Discover Thessaloniki, Berea, Delphi, and Corinth, where St. Paul met Aquila and Priscilla. Enjoy the rich architectural splendor of the ancient city of Athens. Visit the Acropolis and the Parthenon. Mass will be celebrated every day.

Starting at \$2948 from Philadelphia, your all-inclusive trip includes the basic tour and guided sightseeing, round trip international airfare, administration fees, entrance fees, hotel gratuities, and program fees. In addition, enjoy daily breakfast and dinner, deluxe motor coaches, first-class hotels, and much more. A round-trip bus will be provided from St. Benedict Church, Johnstown, to the Philadelphia airport. For more information and a brochure, contact Michael Russo (814) 288-3036 or michael.russo@atlanticbb.net.

BASKET PARTY @ LAUREL VIEW VILLAGE May 3,4,5 (11 am—7 pm) May 6 (10 am—1 pm)

Baskets will be available on the campus of Laurel View Village for you to drop your tickets in the baskets. Winners will be drawn on Saturday, May 6, @ 2 pm on Facebook. Winners will be posted on the Laurel View Village Facebook page and website.

Donations of baskets are welcome, and all proceeds of this event will benefit The Caring Fund for residents who have exhausted their financial resources. For more details please call Barb Cotchen at (814) 208-4015.

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION BE KIND SIGNS

Our Youth Faith Formation students in 2nd through High School will display the yard signs they designed in front of Holy Grounds and OMOS Church on April 23. Donations will be accepted and given to a local charity chosen by the Faith Formation students. Thank you for your generosity!



FOLLOW YOUR FAITH—April 16 @ 7 pm Follow Your Faith will have a special guest tonight. Fr. Mark has invited his niece to join him in a discussion titled "Musings of a Former Catholic." Join Fr. Mark tonight at 7 pm to hear a different perspective on our faith and to add your thoughts and questions.

UNBOUND PRAYER MINISTRY

Do you long for spiritual, relational, and/or emotional freedom but feel unable to receive it? Do you struggle with forgiveness? Do past sins, hurts, or memories weigh you down?

We have loving, trained prayer ministers available to provide individual prayer sessions according to your schedule using the UNBOUND Model of prayer.

UNBOUND Prayer is based on five scriptural keys that help you unlock those areas of your life where you want to receive greater freedom and spiritual growth.

If you would like to schedule an appointment or want more information, please email OMOS at omos@dioceseaj.org and put UNBOUND in the subject line, and someone will get back to you quickly. Or go to the website,

omostoday.com. Then, go to the Ministry Tab, Prayer drop-down, and email the address under Unbound.

EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL: DID YOU KNOW? Why Do Catholics Fast Before Receiving Communion?

Growing up, we were all taught to fast before Mass. This correlates directly to Jewish customs, which frequently involved fasting. Early Christians embraced the practice too. This was described as the first bread Christians ate before consuming other food. This practice changed over the years. In 1983, St. John Paul II promulgated the Code of Canon Law to read:

Can. 919 §1. A person who is to receive the Most Holy Eucharist is to abstain for at least one hour before holy communion from any food and drink except for only water and medicine.

We are called to fast to prepare ourselves to fully join Christ as He nourishes us with his body and blood.

Men of God:

are you irish carholic?



As we celebrate each March, Irish American Heritage Month, do you feel called to embrace more fully your Irish Culture and Catholic Faith?

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> Now is your chance, to become a member of a local AOH Division.

If you are interested, please contact one of our division presidents:

Our Johnstown Division: John Skelley (814) 525-2505 / JSkelley@atlanticbb.net

Our Altoona Division: Tom Hallinan (814) 934-7940 / xcrunr1@yahoo.com

ST. MICHAEL'S NEWS

Thank you, Denny & Annette Noll, Tom & Marisa Williams, Sister Nancy, Kathy Kovach, and Doug & Maureen Puchko for cleaning and making the church so clean and beautiful for the Easter Season.

Gifts cards for Giant Eagle, Sheetz, Walmart, and BiLo are available at Riek's Country Store Thursday and Friday, 11 am to 5 pm, and Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm, or by calling Marisa Williams at 814 243-3674. Please make checks payable to St. Michael's Church. Sorry, we cannot accept cards for payment.

CURSILLO WEEKEND

Another Step in Your Journey of Faith

Join us for the Women's (April 20 – 23) and Men's (April 27 – 30)

Cursillo weekend at St. Ann's in Ebensburg.
The cost is \$200, which covers lodging and meals.
Scholarships are available. Contact Sean O'Dowd
(sodowd8@yahoo.com; 814 539-1489)
for additional information.

MARIAN CONSECRATION PRAYER

The monthly Marian Consecration Hour will be held on Tuesday, April 18 at 3 pm in the Church on the tabernacle side. We will pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet and the Louis de Montfort method of the rosary. New members are welcome to join us in prayer.

SHARING THE JOURNEY

April 16 @ 3:00 pm

Grieving is lonely. Please consider joining other adults who have experienced loss for **Sharing the Journey**. We meet on the third Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is on Sunday, April 16, at Holy Grounds from 3—4:30 pm. These informal gatherings are intended to provide the opportunity to share, listen, and open our hearts to Jesus. There is no need to pre-register. You are welcome to come as often as you would like.

If you have questions, call Mary Petrak at 814 502-6076.

STUFF THE TRUCK April 22/23

Our April Stuff the Truck will be for the Westy Wardrobe and High School Snack Program at Westmont Hilltop High School. This program provides students in need with clothes, hygiene items, and food. Students can come in to discreetly "shop" for items during lunch periods. ALL items are FREE to the students; they can pick a hygiene item, a school supply item, and a clothing item. All available snacks, need to be peanut and tree-nut-free due to the increase in peanut allergies.

- Sweatpants (small, medium, large, XL, 2XL)
- New underwear for girls (small, medium, large)
- ♦ Hygiene products—body spray, cologne, lotions
- Sanitary napkins, tampons, , panty liners
- Pencils, pens, notebooks, binders
- ♦ Combs, hairbrushes, toothbrushes, toothpaste

SNACKS (all must be peanut and tree nut free)

- Rice Krispies Treats
- Cheez-its
- ♦ Small individual chip bags
- ♦ Fruit snacks
- Pop Tarts
- ♦ Individual packs of Oreos or chocolate chip cookies
- Individual packs of Goldfish crackers
- ♦ Saltines/Graham Crackers
- Ginger Ale



WEEKLY & MINISTRY SCHEDULES

Monday, April 17

6 a.m. –Eucharistic Adoration 8 a.m. – Mass at OMOS Server: Isabella Segear

Tuesday, April 18

6 a.m.—Eucharistic Adoration 7:30 am—Confession

8 a.m.—Mass at OMOS

Server: Nicolas Barger & Noah Feighner

Wednesday, April 19

7 a.m.—Praise & Worship

4:30 p.m.- Eucharistic Adoration

5:15 p.m.—Confessions 6 p.m.—Mass at OMOS **Server:** Tim Burgess

Thursday, April 20

6 a.m.—Eucharistic Adoration9 a.m.— Mass with Divine MercyServers: Divine Mercy Students

Friday, April 21

6 a.m.—Eucharistic Adoration

8 a.m..-Mass OMOS
Server: Stanley Smith

Saturday, April 22

3 p.m.—Confession

4 p.m.-Mass at OMOS

Servers: Arianna & Adriel Manalang

Lector: Marty Radovanic, Sr.

Euch. Min. Michelle (2) & Pat Petrell, Pam Fisher, Mary Kay & Jerry Clark, Tom &

Nancy Simmons

Hosp. Cathy Vigna, Jim & Ann Mattie, John Flynn, Helen Hromulak, Pat Smith,

Pattie Porter, Gerri Isban

Saturday, April 22

6 p.m.-Mass at St. Michael's Servers: Tim Burgess Lector: Sister Patty

Sunday, April 23

8:30 a.m.—Mass at OMOS

Servers: Joe Nibert & Kylee Mateljan

Lector: Matt DiFrancesco

Euch. Min: Janet Bowser (2), Keith Santee, Ron Golias, Ed & Julie Sheehan,

Denise Esch, Kim Belskey

Hosp: Janette & Ray Cowan, Jackie Ayres, Karen Findish, John Shima, Maria

& Ralph DeMarco, John Esch **Prayer Ministry:** Rick Wess, Vicki

DiGuardi, Evie Wess

Sunday, April 23

11:00 a.m.-Mass at OMOS

Servers: Domenick & Mason Lokesak

Lector: Rick Messina

Euch. Min. Mary (2) &Tom Polacek, Mary Beth Cartwright, Brad Duca, Maria Nesmith, Michele Varner, Nelson Lowes

Hosp: Marianne Krizner, Mary Lynn Evans, Gail Stotler, Barbara & Rich Luckner, Rick Phillips, Lisa Shetler, Joyce

Nesmith

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 15-Vigil

4:00 p.m. Anthony Perry (wife,

Carmela Perry)

6:00 p.m. Patricia Balog (Dick & Nancy Popchak) & Barbara Petruska

(Mary Lou Dobrick)

Sunday, April 16—Second Sunday of Easter

8:30 a.m. Edward J. Sr. & Marie Burkhard (Edward, Jr. & Florine

Burkhard)

11:00 a.m. Clara Vranich (Tim &

Jackie Ayres)

Monday, April 17

8:00 a.m. Mary Linda Trexler (J. T.

& Anita Tuskan)
Tuesday, April 18

8:00 a.m. Thomas Hammerle, Sr.

(Thomas & Michele Maurer)

Wednesday, April 19

6:00 p.m. Shirley Vien (David &

Stephanie Wright)
Thursday, April 20

9 a.m. Marlene Kessler (Bill &

Carol Moudy)
Friday, April 21

8:00 a.m. Carol Gadert (Sister,

Helen Kittka-Wilson)

Saturday, April 22-Vigil

4:00 p.m. Rose Mirabile (Georgia

Farabaugh)

6:00 p.m. Bernice Stem (Nellie Skubak) & Monica Coyle (Spack Family)

Sunday, April 23—Third Sunday of Easter

8:30 a.m. Spiritual & Temporal

Welfare of Polly O'Connor

11:00 a.m. Doreen Chiodo (Jim &

Cindy Muir)

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9/Jn 3:1-8 Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 3:16-21 Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4,13-14/Jn 6:1-15 Saturday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/Jn 6:16-21

Next Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 (11a)/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk

24:13-35

REST IN PEACE

Dolores Kadas

Wife of Joseph Kadas

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