

# ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Weekend of April 20 & 21, 2024

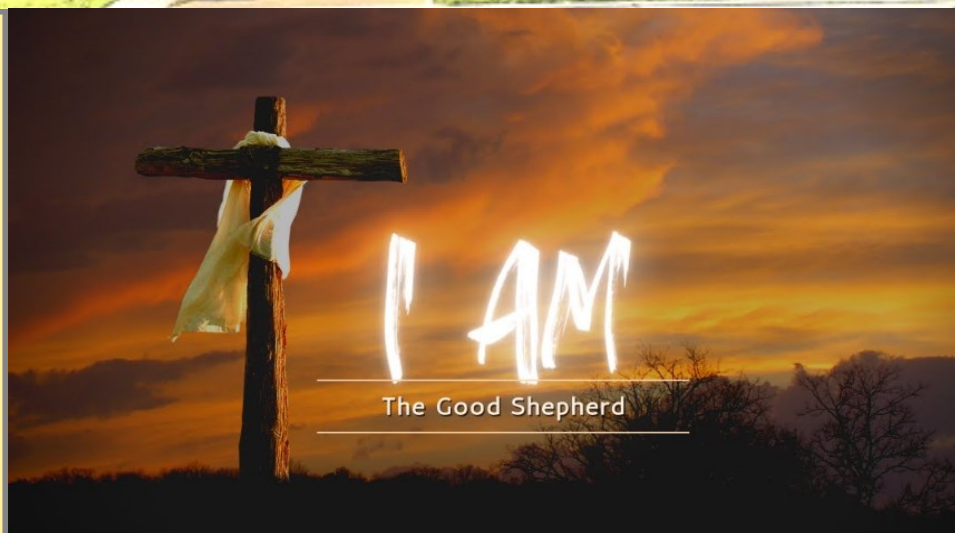
Established 1917



Photo: Chase Sekul

## PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



Monsignor Dominick Fullam, Pastor

Robert Wescovich Jr., Deacon

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**App Store:** MyParish (select St Michael)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/Stmichaelbiloxi](https://facebook.com/Stmichaelbiloxi)

**Instagram:** [Instagram.com/stmichaelbiloxims](https://Instagram.com/stmichaelbiloxims)

### **Mass Schedule:**

**Weekdays**

**Tues-Fri 8am**

**Weekends**

**Saturday 5pm**

**Sunday 10am**



venmo



### **Confessions:**

Saturday 4-4:30 pm or by Appointment

**Temp Office hours: Tues & Thurs**

**1-4pm**

# Fourth Sunday of Easter

*John 10:11-18*

*Jesus says that he is the good shepherd who knows his sheep.*

## Background on the Gospel Reading

The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. In each of the three lectionary cycles, our Gospel is taken from the 10th chapter of the Gospel of John. In Cycle B, we hear the middle verses of this chapter. Unless we consider this chapter in the greater context of John's Gospel, we will miss the radical nature of the statement Jesus makes when he declares himself to be the Good Shepherd.

This chapter of John's Gospel follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by the Jewish leaders who question Jesus' authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge by calling himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticizing the leadership of the Pharisees and the other Jewish leaders. The Pharisees and other Jewish leaders are so angry that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus (see John 10:31,39). This controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus' death.

In the portion of the chapter that we hear proclaimed today, Jesus describes his relationship with his followers as similar to the relationship between a good shepherd and his sheep. As a good shepherd will risk and lay down his life in order to protect his sheep, Jesus willingly sacrifices himself for the sake of his sheep. Jesus contrasts the actions of the good shepherd with the actions of the hired shepherd who abandons the sheep in the face of danger. In the verses following Jesus' teaching, we learn that the Pharisees and the other religious leaders understand that Jesus is referring to them when he describes the hired shepherds.

The concern of a good shepherd for his sheep is part of the shepherd's job. Jesus says, however, that the actions of the good shepherd are based upon the relationship that develops between the shepherd and the sheep. This is at the heart of the difference between the good shepherd and the hired shepherd. The good shepherd knows the sheep and therefore acts out of love. For the Good Shepherd, this is never simply part of a job; this love-in-action is integral to his identity.

As with so much of John's Gospel, one hears in this passage John's particular focus on Christology. As the sheep are known by the Good Shepherd, the Father knows Jesus and Jesus knows the Father. There is an essential unity between the Father and the Son. The

freedom with which Jesus acts when he lays down his life is rooted in the unity that he shares with his Father.

In this context, Jesus also refers to others with whom he shares a relationship. By this reference, John probably understands the eventual inclusion of the Gentiles in the Christian community. Our modern ears hear this as a reference to Christian unity. The work of ecumenism is to restore unity among all Christians so that we form one flock under one shepherd, as God desires.

See: <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/>

## *Knights of Columbus*

**Speck & Snapper Give Away**-tickets go in sale this weekend \$10 each or 11 for \$100 for a chance to win 2 Shimano Rod/Reel combos. One for inshore and one for offshore fishing adventures. Drawing May 26th, see a Knight for tickets.

## *Religious Education*

**Stella Maris Explorers** Homeschool group meets most Thursday mornings in the Family Life Center. The Explorers Club is an art, faith, and science enrichment program primarily for PK3-5th graders. Call Ashley Rodriguez at 410.693.8825 for more information.

**July 17–21-10th National Eucharistic Congress.** Exciting news, our Biloxi Diocese can now offer packages to people who are interested in providing their own transportation to the event. The special package includes tickets for the event and hotel rooms. For those interested, the prices are \$975 for double occupancy/per person and \$845 for 3 or 4 persons in a room/per person. That is the good news! The bad news, we only have 50 tickets remaining. So if you are interested in attending this historic event, please use the link provided [caragrouptavel.com/nec-2024-tour](http://caragrouptavel.com/nec-2024-tour), to and choose option 2. You may also call Paula at (228) 697-7814. This is a pivotal moment in both American history and the legacy of the Catholic Church. We are expecting tens of thousands of pilgrims—but space is limited. Jesus Christ will be there. Will you?



**Altar Flowers are in Honor of  
Joseph Eric Lofton's  
Birthday**

**Collections April 13 & 14, 2024  
\$4382.00**

**Next Week's Second Collection is for  
Catholic Home Missions**

# Mass for the Intentions Week

Sat, April 20 For the People  
Sun, April 21+Army Gollott Jr.  
Tues, April 23 +Joseph "Joey" Jurich  
Wed, April 24 +Danny Williams Sr.  
Thurs, April 25 Tony Kozlowski  
Fri, April 26 +Adam & Ethel Kozlowski

## UPCOMING Events

### In Our Parish

**May 12:** May Crowning 10am Mass

**June 10-14:** Vacation Bible School

**June 15:** Children's Boat Building Workshop

**July 7:** Blessing of the Fleet, 11am-5pm, Great Lawn

### In Our Diocese

**First Saturday Devotions-Adoration, Rosary Meditation and Confessions**, first Saturday of each month, St. Mary Church, Woolmarket 9:45am followed by Mass at 11am. All are welcome.

**April 22-Passover Seder Celebration** 6 p.m. in the parish center gymnasium, St. James, Gulfport. Tickets are \$25. Children 10 and under attend and eat free. The Seder includes full dinner, dessert and all ritual foods. Donations to further offset the cost of the Pesach Meal are requested. If you are willing to donate, please contact the parish office at 228-896-6059.

**April 24-A night of Healing with Adoration, Prayers of Deliverance Sacrament of Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick and One-on-Once Pastoral Counseling.** 6:30pm, Holy Family, Pass Christian.

**April 29-June 2**-Another event happening in the Diocese of Biloxi in preparation for the upcoming Eucharistic Revival. We are organizing a "33 Days Eucharistic Consecration Challenge" based on the book "33 Days to Eucharistic Glory." to start on April 29th to June 2nd. Participants will receive a copy of the book along with a wellness planner and journal to embark on a journey towards holistic well-being of body, mind, and soul. For more information, please visit [mercyrnunsonlove.com](http://mercyrnunsonlove.com)

**May 20-Father Tony Arguelles invites St. Michael Parishioners to his 50th Anniversary of his Ordination Mass** at 6pm at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cathedral. Father was ordained at St. Michael May 18th, 1974 and received all of his sacraments here. He also attended St. Michael School. There will be a reception following the Mass at the Sacred Heart Center behind the Cathedral. He hopes you can join him in his celebration and to pray to promote more vocations to the Priesthood in the Diocese of Biloxi.

**July 17-21-10th National Eucharistic Congress**

## Lay Leanings By Deacon Mike Stewart

Have you ever listened to yourself pray? Odd as that may sound, for most of us, prayer tends to be one of those closet aspects of our lives. We go to extraordinary lengths to make certain that others don't hear our conversations with God; and just as oddly, many of us don't want to hear ourselves any more than we want others to hear us. Let's face it; conversations with God are carefully placed in that compartment of our lives labeled 'confidential.'

This past week, I became very aware of a conversation I was having with God. My first reaction when I heard myself was that I sound a bit like a kid in a grocery cart while his parents are shopping. "Please God ... please ... if only you would ... I could sure use ... just this one time, God, please." Admittedly it was pretty pathetic, and if I were God, I would have sent me to the time-out chair.

Since that experience, I've tried very hard to become more aware of the words I invest in God. In fact, I've tried to accept the reality that freedom with which Jesus acts when he lays down his life is rooted in the unity that he shares with his Father.

In this context, Jesus also refers to others with whom he shares a relationship. By this reference, John probably understands the eventual inclusion of the Gentiles in the Christian community. Our modern ears hear this as a reference to Christian unity. The work of ecumenism is to restore unity among all Christians so that we form one flock under one shepherd, as God desires. My words with God are one of the most important investments I can make in my life. And when we don't invest wisely, we get what we 'pay' for. In fact, it's no wonder that so many of us admit to struggling in our relationship with God.

I was at my doctor's office recently, and while waiting to check out, I overheard another patient talking to one of the doctors. "Well, whatever you think is best for me, doctor. I trust your judgment." When I heard those words, it occurred to me that that's what is often missing in my conversation with God. So often I resort to begging, pleading, cajoling, or bargaining, without giving a thought to the reality that God already knows full well what I need. Instead, I should detach myself from the outcome, and surrender myself to God's will for my life, "Whatever you think is best for me, God. I place my trust in you."

Perhaps this week it would do us well to 'listen' to ourselves as we talk to God. You just might be surprised at what you hear.

*It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in men.* Ps 118:8

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*In Loving Memory  
of Lusk, Baker, McCaleb,  
Ryan & Aken Families*



*In Memory of Kathy Theriot  
11/27/45-12/28/20  
We love you a bushel and a  
peck and a hug around the  
neck. You are forever in our  
hearts.  
Love, Bubba and your family*



In Loving Memory of  
**Berniece Louise Garner**  
Dec. 8 1932–Dec. 22, 2022  
Truly an example of Amazing  
Grace.



*In loving memory of  
Nicolas & Loyce Hire  
Oct 2, 1921-Mar 9, 2021  
Feb 10, 1933-Oct 7, 2022  
Together in Heaven*

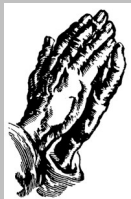


Temp office hours at St. Michael  
Tues & Thurs 1-4pm

Please call and leave a message if you need anything

*Always in our hearts*

*Stanley "Rook" Kopszywa Sr, Lola Broussard Derouen,  
Victoria "Tori" Felsher, Rogers "Poochie" Broussard,  
Aldo & Anna Caprari, Evorise Boudreaux Broussard  
& Cyrus A. Broussard*



Prayer for Spring

Dear God: Spring is a metaphor  
for change. Some changes we ea-  
gerly await, and some we abhor.

Some changes we plan and others arrive un-  
invited. To all these changes we ask the gift  
of Your perspective beckoning us to expecta-  
tion, hope, and rebirth.

May the sunlight and the rain be reminders  
that You are at work renewing the earth. As  
a God of renewal, You are ever at work in  
our lives, too.

Open our eyes and lives to the needed  
changes in our lives this Spring. Awaken  
us to new life and perspective, for we pray in  
Jesus' name. Amen.



**Never Far From our  
Thoughts**  
**Lola Broussard Kopszywa  
Derouen**  
**10/19/26-4/30/04**



myParish



The App for Catholic Life Every Day™

*Have you downloaded this app yet? It's a one stop shop for  
real time information about St. Michael via your cell phone.  
Consider downloading today and select our Parish after  
opening.*