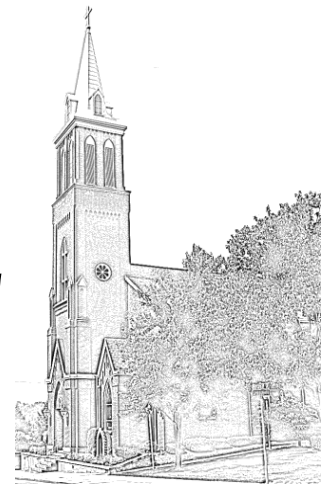




March 22, 2020  
Fourth Sunday in Lent

# ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PARISH

301 SPRUCE STREET, HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA 16648



## PARISH STAFF

**Very Rev. Alan E. Thomas, VG, Pastor** .....695-0912  
**Janet Klingbeil, Administrative Assistant**.....695-0912 or 207-1479  
**Sue Teske, Director of Religious Education**.....695-0912 or 934-2180  
**Tim Baranik, Youth Group Director**.....207-7008  
**Tom Kunkle, Music Coordinator**.....312-3897

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Rectory/Church Office**.....(814) 695-0912  
**Office Fax Number**.....(814) 693-9820  
**Parish Email**.....stmichaelhburg@dioceseaj.org  
**Parish Website**.....www.stmichael-hldg-pa.org  
**Holy Trinity Catholic School - Hollidaysburg**.....(814) 695-6112  
**Holy Trinity Catholic School - Altoona**.....(814) 381-7011  
**Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School**.....(814) 942-7835  
**H.T.C.S. Website**.....www.holytrinitycatholic.school  
**Greenlawn Cemetery**.....call Tom at (814) 695-2546

## MISSION STATEMENT OF THE ST. MICHAEL FAITH COMMUNITY

Extending a rich parish heritage built upon the pioneering traditions of the first settlers of the Southern Allegheny mountains, St. Michael the Archangel Parish embraces as its mission the use of all available resources, both spiritual and temporal, to minister to the needs of the people of Hollidaysburg and its surrounding areas. We do this in a fashion which reflects the teachings and example of Jesus Christ, while promoting a tradition of liturgical excellence, strong support for Catholic education in all its varieties, and enlightened social outreach to the community at large, in union with both the Diocesan and Universal Church.

## MASSES

Saturday Evening: 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
Daily & Holy Days: *See inside the Bulletin*

## CONFESSIONS

Regularly on Saturdays: 1:00 p.m. and Sundays: 7:30 a.m.

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Closed: Weekends, Holy Days and Holidays

## MARRIAGES & BAPTISMS

Call the church office to schedule an appointment.  
Nine month advance notice is normally required for marriage.

## BULLETIN DEADLINE

The deadline to have information considered for publication in the bulletin is 4:00 p.m. Tuesday prior to the weekend of the announcement. Mail or email the information to the church office.

## PARISHIONER REGISTRATION

If you would like to join the parish, please contact the rectory/church office. Please remember to notify us if you move or will be moving out of the parish. Registration, the practice of stewardship, and regular participation in the Sacraments indicate that a person is an active member of the parish and is eligible to act as a godparent or sponsor. As a Church community seeking to be faith-filled disciples and good stewards, the sacrifice of our time, talent and treasure is essential for the common good.

## CHRISTIAN INITIATION

Interested in becoming a member of the Catholic faith? Please contact the parish office. Classes generally begin each Fall.

## **INTRODUCTION FOR TODAY'S READINGS FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**1 Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13** It is about 1000 B.C., 250 years after Moses brought God's people from slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land. It took a long time for these people from different tribes to unify as a nation. The turning point came when David became their king. The story of how he was chosen is told in today's reading. Samuel was a venerable old prophet. Jesse was a resident of Bethlehem who had eight sons, the youngest being David.

**Ephesians 5: 8-14** Ephesus was located on the western coast of what today is Turkey. The Christians there existed in a society dominated by pagan values, which today's reading equates with darkness.

**Next Sunday's Readings: Ezekiel 37:12-14 and Romans 8:8-11; Gospel: John 11:1-45**

# Mass Intentions this week for St. Mary & St. Michael Parishes

**March 21 - 29**

Fr. Alan will be saying Mass privately each day for the following Mass intentions.  
Please remember them in your prayers as well.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested by</u>
<b>Saturday, 3/21</b>	+ Peter & Evelyn Miller	<i>by Richard &amp; Dottie Gonsman</i>
	+ Dick Gildea	<i>by his family</i>
<b>Sunday, 3/22</b>	+ Joseph Skibo	<i>by the Casado Family</i>
	+ Mary E. Glass	<i>by her family</i>
	+ Vance Boland	<i>by Maureen Halerz</i>
	For the Physical & Spiritual Wellness of Rick Kutz	
	<i>by the 10:00 Ushers</i>	
	For the people of St. Mary & St. Michael Parishes	
<b>Monday, 3/23</b>	+ Robert James (Jim) Gildea	<i>by his brother; Bill &amp; sisters; Pat &amp; Donna</i>
<b>Tuesday, 3/24</b>	+ Rita Burger ( <i>Birthday Rem</i> )	<i>by her family</i>
<b>Wednesday, 3/25</b>	+ Raymond Boslett	<i>by Ann Ference &amp; Eric</i>
<b>Thursday, 3/26</b>	+ Louis Fanelli, Jr.	<i>by his sister Patti Geesey</i>
<b>Friday, 3/27</b>	Special Intention	<i>by Victor &amp; Joan Ballish</i>
<b>Saturday, 3/28</b>	+ Mike Varlotta	<i>by Bill &amp; Judy Ward</i>
	+ Barb Michelone	<i>by her children</i>
<b>Sunday, 3/29</b>	+ Don Figurelli	<i>by Greg &amp; Shari Figurelli</i>
	+ Joe Burger	<i>by Joan Luciano</i>
	+ Les Emery	<i>by his wife, Patty</i>
	+ Chris Weyant	<i>by Kim &amp; Gregg Olsavick</i>
	For the people of St. Mary & St. Michael Parishes	

Things continue to change rapidly regarding how public authorities are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. An increasing number of reported COVID-19 cases in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have led public officials to discourage people from leaving their homes so as to prevent the further spread of the coronavirus. As of Thursday evening, March 19, all non-life-sustaining businesses in Pennsylvania are required to close their physical locations. Bishop Mark and the priests of our diocese are making the safety and wellbeing of parishioners a top priority. Please stay home as a way of avoiding COVID-19 for yourself and to keep from becoming an unwitting source of infection to others. This does not mean isolation. You are encouraged to contact one another through phones and other media, and you can still contact the parish office. But please limit your personal physical exposures.

**There will be no public Masses.**

**Masses will continue to be celebrated privately every day by Fr. Alan.**

Proclaim! will continue to air every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. on WATM ABC 23. The show will continue to be posted on the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Facebook and Twitter social media platforms as well.

Bishop Mark will celebrate Sunday Masses, which will air every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. on WATM ABC 23 and at 9:00 p.m. on Atlantic Broadband Channel 9. The Masses will also be posted on the diocesan website and Facebook and Twitter social media platforms. Audio of the Liturgies will air Sundays at 10:00 a.m. on WFBG AM 1290. Also during this time, daily Mass, celebrated by Father Matthew Baum at Prince of Peace Parish in Northern Cambria, will be streamed on their parish website and the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Facebook page.

Our Parish Website: <https://stmichael-hldg-pa.org/> will continue to be updated. You may also find the current bulletin and a recording of the Sunday Gospel and Fr. Alan's Homily on our website.

As of the writing of this bulletin, the church is open daily but no more than ten people are permitted in the church at a time and we ask that you space as far apart as possible. (*Please note, that this may change at any time.*)

Fr. Alan will still make every effort to hear your confessions as he can with some modifications. Please contact the parish office to schedule a confession time.

## OUR GIFTS TO GOD

*Thank you for your generosity!*

**Sunday Offering (3/15/2020): \$4,281.00**

Sunday Envelopes: \$4,048.00

Sunday Loose Collection: \$233.00

**Minority Groups (as of 3/15): \$560.00**

**Catholic Relief Services (as of 3/15): \$420.00**

Thank you for your continual weekly support to our parish, our mission collections and the Annual Catholic Appeal. Your financial support is vital and continues to be so especially during the COVID-19 crisis. You may continue to mail in your weekly offering, bring it to the parish office, or donate through on-line giving.

The diocese has recently set-up a parish on-line giving account for every parish in the diocese. If you would like to give this way just visit: <https://www.dioceseaj.org/giving/> to setup an account. Our parish will receive a report on all donations and money collected will be forwarded to us. The diocese will not be recording the gift or donor info in for their donor database. We and the diocese just want to be able to give you options for your giving. Just look for "St. Michael, Hollidaysburg (054)" under the "Select a parish to receive your gift." Contact the parish office if you have any questions.

## GREEN LAWN CEMETERY CLEANUP

The spring cleanup of our parish cemetery, Greenlawn, is being planned for **Saturday, March 28 at 10 AM**. Please adhere to any state and local requests at that time regarding gathering with others.

## VETERANS COLLECTION



**March 21 and 22**

*before each Mass in the church hall*



Our parish Peace & Justice committee would like to thank everyone who already bought items for the parish Lenten Veteran's Collection drive. If you already have items for the collection, you may place them in the blue container at the main entrance to the church or bring it to the parish office. *\*Please adhere to any state and local requests regarding to sheltering in place.*

You may also contact Kathy Balconi to arrange for her or other Peace & Justice members to pick up the items at your home. Contact Kathy Balconi by calling, text message 585-730-0757 or emailing her at: [kathybalconi1@gmail.com](mailto:kathybalconi1@gmail.com) We will be extending this collection for as long as we need to.

**If you, or if you know of a parishioner who needs some help or assistance, PLEASE contact the parish office so we can figure out a way to help them.**

## Fourth Sunday of Lent - Year A **FR. ALAN'S REMOTE HOMILY**

Below is Fr. Alan's Homily for this weekend. You may also hear an audio recording of it on our parish website... <https://stmichael-hldg-pa.org/>

I find a certain similarity between our lives at present and the life of the man born blind about whom we hear in today's gospel. Jesus unexpectedly comes to him and things get turned upside down. That's sort of the case for us right now as well. Things are turned upside down. Who would have thought a week ago that we would be communicating in this fashion this weekend? Even a short week ago, at least for me, it was hard to imagine not having public Masses, curtailing all parish events, canceling penance services, and preparing to celebrate the most important liturgical events of our entire Church year privately! Who would have imagined? Who could have foreseen that Rome would not publicly celebrate Easter this year? Who could have imagined that we would be longing to have our lives back the way they were just a short week ago?

But, things have been turned upside down. Like the blindness that afflicted the man born blind, we would like to know the whole story about the virus that wages war with us. I think it is important to hear the Lord remind us that evil things, whether blindness or coronavirus-es, are not easy to understand. What is easy is to lay blame—mistakenly—just like the disciples do. Evil is far more complex than we sometimes allow ourselves to believe.

It is important, I think, that we again hear for ourselves the Lord's words that even what we are going through right now is not meant for our destruction. Rather, our current dilemma is so that "the works of God might be made visible" through the hardship we are experiencing.

In the midst of our encounter with evil, we are asked again, "Who or what is the light of my life?" In whom do I trust? In whom do I seek liberation from evil? I am convinced that God's way is always one of bringing healing and peace, just as Jesus did for the blind man. I have faith that the Lord Jesus will also bring us healing and peace. In our case it may not involve washing in the pool of Siloam, but might be in seeking out appropriate medical care and making sure we do what we can to defend ourselves against this tiny viral menace.

This experience of physical liberation—physical healing, however, is only the beginning step. The Lord wishes to liberate us from the darkness of evil so that we might come to the full sight of his glory. This means affirming over and over again, and learning more deeply each time, that Jesus is Lord, the Christ, the One sent by the Father.

I think that we can expect our challenges to intensify over the next several weeks. It will be tempting to second-guess our civil authorities, political figures, and even our Church leaders. We may be afraid, just like the parents of the man born blind. However, if we endure in hope, we will find that, like the blind man who sees better than others, we too will have new insight into Christ and a far deeper trust in him.

I hope that today you will invite this Lord, the Christ, the Son of Man who turns things upside down, into your lives through a spiritual communion so that, when we at last can come together again in Eucharistic community, we will be ready to worship him with joy.

### **VISIT OUR WEBPAGE**

[www.stmichael-hldg-pa.org](http://www.stmichael-hldg-pa.org)

### **FIND US ON FACEBOOK**

**"St. Michael the Archangel Church Hollidaysburg"**

### **DAILY AND SUNDAY READINGS**

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings>

**PLEASE NOTE:** Fr. Alan mailed a letter this week to all parishioners of St. Michael and St. Mary parishes. If you did not receive the letter please contact the parish office.

## **ST. MICHAEL PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION**

Any questions call our D.R.E., Sue Teske  
at 695-0912 or 934-2180 email: [Steske@dioceseaj.org](mailto:Steske@dioceseaj.org)

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR**

PLEASE CHECK OUR PARISH WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

Dear Families of Religious Ed Students,  
In light of all the cancellations, I would like to suggest you take this opportunity to do the religious education classes at home with your children. Take time to do a family rosary each day to pray for those suffering from the COVID-19 virus and their care takers. Get to know where your child is on their spiritual journey and encourage them to build a personal relationship with our heavenly Father. - Sue

Visit [www.magnifikid.com/free](http://www.magnifikid.com/free) to view and download a weekly colorful booklet Sunday missalette for children ages 6 -12. While so many children are missing formal religious instruction and are unable to attend Mass, MagnifiKid! can be their special guide, accompanying them through each week as they prepare to attend Mass or watch it at home.

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY FR. CROSSER**

One of our former pastors of St. Michael parish will be celebrating his 90th birthday on April 7. If you would like to send him a card, his address is:



**Rev. Fr. Raymond Crosser**  
c/o Garvey Manor  
1037 S. Logan Blvd. - Rm C115  
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

## **STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION**

The curing of the Blind Man gave hope to the community that they were deserving of God's love no matter what their circumstance. Reflect on the words of Pope Francis this week, "To protect creation, to protect every man and every woman, to look upon them with tenderness and love, is to open up a horizon of hope; it is to let a shaft of light break through the heavy clouds; it is to bring warmth of hope!" (Pope Francis, March 19, 2013) May I be the light in the darkness of this world by generously sharing my time, my talents, and all of my resources, in the name of Jesus.

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

This Sunday, we continue in the Gospel of John with the story of the man born blind. It's an amazing story of reversal. The man who was born blind is able truly to see who Jesus really is.

Meanwhile, the ones who can physically see, who have all the Scriptures right in front of them, are completely blind to the reality of who Jesus is.

The man who was blind was completely dependent on others for nearly everything. He was a beggar, yet he had a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. He knew beyond any shadow of a doubt what had happened. He had encountered the true light of the world, and now he could see, and no one would be able to tell him different. Meanwhile, the leaders of the synagogue had decided that because Jesus didn't honor the Sabbath the way they expected, he couldn't be from God. They had become so blinded by their own personal way of looking at things that they missed the miracle right in front of them.

There's an old joke that if you want to make God laugh, tell him your future plans. Are we open to the very real possibility of our own blindness? When someone else tells me something happened that I have a hard time believing, does it cross my mind that they might have had different experiences than me, that my way of seeing the world might not be the only way? Am I open to the reality that I might be the blind one in need of the light of Jesus in my own heart and mind?



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going on here at St. Michael!

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