

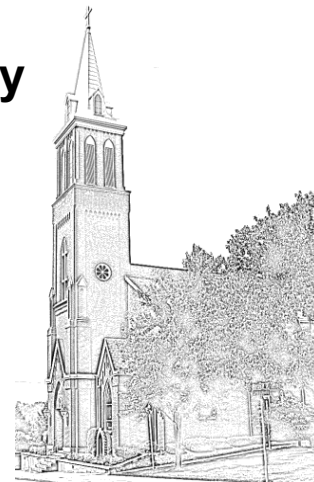
May 10, 2020

Fifth Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PARISH

301 SPRUCE STREET, HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA 16648

Parish Website: www.stmichael-hldg-pa.org



PARISH STAFF

Very Rev. Alan E. Thomas, VG, Pastor695-0912
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
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CONTACT INFORMATION

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Parish Website.....www.stmichael-hldg-pa.org
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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

No Public Masses at this time.

**Please see inside the Bulletin for ways
to view Mass online or on TV.**

CONFESSIONS

Please call the parish office

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6: 1-7 In Jerusalem at the time of Christ, some Jewish people spoke Greek, others spoke Aramaic and they each went to their own synagogues. It appears that the Apostles were among those who spoke Aramaic. In today's reading, we will hear some of the problems this created in the Christian community and how these were addressed.

1 Peter 2: 4-9 The first letter of Peter was written to a Christian community that felt alienated from their pagan neighbors. Today the author reminds them that they belong to a special group of people, the people of God.

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 8:5-8 and 1 Peter 3:15-18; Gospel: John 14:15-21

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

May 9 - May 17

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>
Saturday 5/9	For all mothers, living and deceased	
Sunday 5/10	For all mothers, living and deceased	
Monday 5/11	+ Rt. Rev. Msgr. John Cullinan <small>(50th Anniversary rem. of death)</small>	by the Baker Family
Tuesday 5/12	+ Leona George	by her family
Wednesday 5/13	+ Bruno DeGol	by his children
Thursday 5/14	+ Marie M. Baker <small>(Anniversary Rem.)</small>	by her children
Friday 5/15	+ Jim Seasoltz	by Jean Bickel
Saturday 5/16	+ Helen Gajewski	by her husband
	+ Carol Jeffreys-Scott <small>(Anniversary Rem.)</small>	by her family
Sunday 5/17	+ Frank Lingenfelter	by his wife & children
	+ Robert James "Jim" Gildea	by his brother Bill & sisters Pat & Donna
	+ Pat Madden	by the family
	+ Mary DeLozier	by daughter, Lucie Dodson
For the people of St. Mary & St. Michael Parishes		



I was taking a walk in Altoona the other day and I saw several little children trying to sit on the same skateboard and make it go. Hovering nearby and offering words of encouragement was the mother. I saw her laughter, her zeal for life and her concern for her little ones. It made me realize again that

mothers rank at the very top of the blessings that God has given us. So, to all mothers of our parish, please accept my wishes for a happy Mother's Day. To all who have lost their mothers, please know that I will remember all deceased mothers in my prayers and Masses this weekend. Blessings to you all. - **Fr. Alan**

WELCOME CHILD OF GOD

Congratulations **Luke & Becca Swintek** as we welcome your newly baptized son, **Philip Michael** into our faith community. Your child is a gift to all of us, and with you we celebrate the beginning of your child's faith journey.

IS THERE A GRADUATE IN YOUR FAMILY?

CELEBRATING THE
CLASS of
2020

Prayers and best wishes go out to all our graduates who have recently graduated, or will be graduating soon, from HTCS, high school, college, technical school, graduate school or from professional training this year. If you wish to share some details about your graduate please email it to the church: stmichaelhburg@dioceseaj.org include a picture(s) if you can. We'd like to share your good news with others through our bulletin and facebook page. *(If you would like to keep the information private that's fine too, just let us know.)*

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Thank you for your generosity!

Sunday Offering (5/3/2020): \$8,723.00

On-Line Giving not available at time of publishing

Easter Offering (5/3/2020): \$70.00

Ascension Offering (5/3/2020): \$62.00

Catholic Home Mission (5/3/2020): \$10.00

Holy Land/Good Friday (5/3/2020): \$10.00

Holy Thursday (5/3/2020): \$5.00

Twin Parish in Jamaica (5/3/2020): \$113.00

Maintenance (5/3/2020): \$265.00

Catholic Communication (5/3/2020): \$20.00

Catholic Ministries Drive (as of 3/31/2020)

Target Goal: \$48,361.00

Received to Date \$18,020.00

Under Goal by \$30,341.00

Thank you for your 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, donate through on-line giving, or place your donation in the mail slot at St. Mary Rectory (312 Clark St. - just be sure to mark that it is for St. Michael Parish).

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 information in their 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.

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.

Have you called a fellow parishioner this week, see how they are, shared your feelings *(we are all in this together)* and prayed together?

This week we ask that you remember all mothers of our parish. Please keep them in your prayers especially those who are unable to be with their children today.

Would you like a bulletin mailed to you? Please let us know.

STAY CONNECTED

The Diocese has launched a new way to communicate with the faithful. If you are able to receive text messages, you can sign-up to receive messages and alerts from them.

To register, text the word "DAJ" to 84576. Sign-up today!

Our Lady of Fátima

Feast Day May 13

Our Lady of Fátima is one of the more recent and well-known devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our Lady appeared six times to three shepherd children, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta, between May 13 and October 13, 1917, in the little village of Fátima.

She asked the children to devote themselves to the Holy Trinity and to pray the rosary every day to bring peace to the world and an end to war—World War I, a long and tragic war, had just entered into its fourth year. She also asked the children to help increase devotion to her Immaculate Heart.

In her last apparition, it has been reported, Mary gave a great sign—the sun dancing—as a way of proving that she was truly there. There were 70,000 witnesses on October 13, 1917, in Fátima who saw this sign. It is said all could stare at the sun without blinking, or even hurting their eyes. It is said the sun rotated, got larger and smaller and “danced” in the sky.

Two of the children, Francisco and Jacinta, died in 1919 and 1920, respectively, as part of the great, worldwide flu epidemic. The third, Lucia, became a Carmelite nun and died in 2005 at the age of 97.

The children said that Mary gave them three secrets to reveal to the world. Lucia told all of this in a series of memoirs that she was asked to write. In 1941, she said the first secret was shown in July 1913. That secret was a vision of hell that the children were allowed to see.

The second stated: “The war is about to end [World War I], but if men do not cease to offend God there will begin a worse one in the pontificate of Pius XI...the punishment of the world is at hand for its so great sins by means of war, famine and persecutions directed against the Church and the Holy Father.”

The third secret was written down by Lucia in 1944 and given to a Portuguese bishop. It was sent to the Vatican in 1957 and finally revealed in 2000 by Pope St. John Paul II.

She wrote: “We saw an Angel with a flaming sword in his left hand; flashing, it gave out flames that looked as though they would set the world on fire; but they died out in contact with the splendour that Our Lady radiated towards him from her right hand: pointing to the earth with his right hand, the Angel cried out in a loud voice: ‘Penance, Penance, Penance!’”

The secret also spoke of a bishop dressed in white going up a steep mountain and being killed along with many other bishops, priests and religious. Many believe that this is a reference to the assassination attempt of Pope

St. John Paul II in 1981. However, Pope Benedict XVI said the third secret did not directly refer to the assassination attempt. Pope Benedict has said that all of the third secret has been revealed and that the matter is settled.

For most people, though, Fátima is not about secrets. Rather, it is about the faith of small children and the benevolence of a loving mother who cared for them.

The feast of Our Lady of Fátima was approved by the local bishop in 1930. It was added to the Church’s worldwide calendar in 2002. About four million people visit Fátima each year.

In August 2015, Pope Francis said, “Virgin of Nazareth, Mary: the first human person who believed in God by accepting the flesh of Jesus. Let us learn from her, our Mother, joy and gratitude for the gift of faith, a gift that is not private but shared. It is for the life of the world.”

Mary believed, and she continues to go out and help others to believe.

Mary, you come to us in so many different ways and in so many different parts of the world. You come, so often, to the humble and the young. Thank you for continuing to talk with us and reach out to us. You were young and humble and believed. Help us to believe!



Reflection:

- Imagine that Mary appeared to you. It would be a blessing but also imagine having to convince people that it really happened. What would you do? How do you explain your own faith? For that, too, is miraculous.
- So often we think back on the “good old days.” But Mary appeared at a time when war was raging. A worldwide flu epidemic followed. Heartache and death were commonplace. Sorrow is part of life, but the comfort of Mary also is a constant. When do you turn to Mary? How has she helped?

Hail Mary...

You've probably heard these words a lot. Maybe you say this prayer. But have you ever wondered why we say it? What about all the songs, statues and feast days dedicated to Mary? Why do we honor Mary so much?

First, think about this. People who do great and heroic things have schools, streets and even cities named after them. Some heroes even have holidays in their honor. Great people can inspire us to do great things too. It's a little like that with Church heroes. Except that when we honor the people who love and follow Jesus, we're not glorifying them, we're giving God the glory. Now, can you think of any saint who loved and followed Jesus more than his own mom?

Who could be more loving, kind and good than the person God himself chose to be the mother of his son?

No one else but Mary.

When we give Mary the honor that's due to her, we give glory to God who created her. And imagine how happy that makes Jesus!



ACROSS

2. Mary's cousin
4. The angel who visited Mary
5. He wanted a sign from Juan Diego
7. Mary and Joseph took Jesus here to worship God
9. String of beads for praying

DOWN

1. Mary's birthday is this month
3. Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus escaped Herod here
6. At the end of her life Mary was taken up to _____
8. Mary asked St. Catherine to create the Miraculous _____
10. The angel called Mary "Favored _____"
11. Mary's answer when God asked her to be Jesus' mom



In Fatima, Portugal, Mary appeared to three kids

named Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco with an important message for the world to turn away from sin and back to Jesus.

Sometimes Mary gives us special reminders too. She appeared to Catherine Labouré, asking her to create a special medal. Nowadays, many people wear the Miraculous Medal to show they belong to God. Another time, Mary offered a small piece of cloth tied to a string, called a **scapular**, which some people wear as a reminder to live as Mary and Jesus lived.

2020 WELGE SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

The Independent Catholic Foundation is currently accepting applications from students of the parish who will be entering their Junior or Senior year at an accredited college or university. Please visit the "Grants" page of the Independent Catholic Foundation website, www.icfdaj.org to download, complete and sign the application, which should be emailed to grants@icfdaj.org no later than 4:00 PM, Friday, June 12. The Welge (WELL-ghee) Scholarship Endowment has grown sufficiently for the Foundation to issue three \$500 awards this July.

FREE ONLINE RESOURCES

We recently added some links to some great online resources for families, children, teens, young adults and individuals to our parish webpage:

<https://stmichael-hldg-pa.org/faith-resources>

If you are using another online resource that you think others would like, email a link to the parish office so we can add it to our website.

PRECIOUS LIFE, INC.'S ANNUAL BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN!



For several years we have collected donations for Precious Life through their **Baby Bottle Campaign**. This fun fundraiser helps support Precious Life's primary mission, to extend the love of Christ, in tangible ways, to pregnant women in crisis. Last year Precious Life raised well over \$85,000 in change! Precious life is a Christian ministry dedicated to providing positive alternatives to abortion. They provide free pregnancy testing, confidential counseling, material support and housing to young women in need. In the past parishioners were invited to take a baby bottle home with them after Mass on Mother's Day, fill it with change for the next six weeks and return the baby bottle on Father's Day. Since we are unable to be together at this time to distribute bottles we will be starting bottle distribution **June 7 and collecting them July 5**. Start saving your change and please watch the bulletin for further announcements.

**Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,
Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.**



We fly to you today as your beloved children.

**We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,
as you did at the wedding in Cana.**

**Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of your holy angels,
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.**

**For those already afflicted,
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.**

**Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.**

**In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us in the Church to love one another
and to be patient and kind.**

**Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts. We
come to you with confidence,**

**knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,
health of the sick and cause of our joy.**

**Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,**

help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

MASSES FROM ST. MICHAEL CHURCH ARE ONLINE

With much gratitude to Fr. Alan, Deacon Chuck Ahearn, Deacon Allan Duman, seminarian Brian Norris, and parishioners Harold & Kathy DeLozier, **we will continue to have video recordings of the Sunday Mass EVERY SUNDAY on our parish website and the parish facebook page.** Fr. Alan will also continue to record the Gospel and his daily Homily.

VISIT OUR WEBPAGE
www.stmichael-hldg-pa.org

FIND US ON FACEBOOK
"St. Michael the Archangel Church Hollidaysburg"

**As per Bishop Mark's directive,
the church building is closed at this time.**

**Currently there are no public
Masses here at St. Michael.**

Masses will continue to be celebrated privately every day by Fr. Alan. **Audio recordings of the daily & weekend Gospel and Fr. Alan's Homilies are available on our parish website.**

PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.

Be our protection against the wickedness
and snares of the devil.

May God rebuke him we humbly pray
and do thou O Prince of the Heavenly Host,
by the power of God,

cast into hell, Satan and all the evil spirits,
who wander through the world,
seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

WILL THE CHURCH REOPEN SOON?

As our state begins the transition to reopen, county by county, we will soon be able to reopen the church. At this point we don't really know what "opening" means. Meetings are being held daily to discuss this and to explore all options that will meet both your safety and spiritual needs. Decisions will be made following the guidelines issued by the governor, the CDC and under the guidance of Bishop Mark. We will announce any changes, as they happen, to our current situation on our Website and Facebook page. In the meantime, Fr. Alan will continue say Mass privately daily and video record the weekend Mass.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Since we are unable to receive communion physically at this time, here is a prayer for spiritual communion. It was written by Pope Francis:

I prostrate myself at your feet, O my Jesus, and I offer you the repentance of my contrite heart, which abases itself in its nothingness in Your Holy Presence. I adore you in the Sacrament of Your Love; I desire to receive You in the poor abode that my heart offers You. While waiting for the happiness of a Sacramental Communion, I want to possess You in spirit. Come to me, O my Jesus, that I may come to You. May Your Love inflame my whole being, in life and in death. I believe in You, I hope in You, I love You. Amen.

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Want to rehear Fr. Alan's Homily?
Misplaced your bulletin?
On vacation? Don't miss what's
going on here at St. Michael!

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