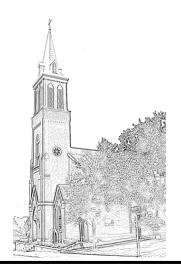


May 17, 2020 Sixth Sunday of Easter ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PARISH



301 SPRUCE STREET, HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA 16648

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

PARISH STAFF

Very Rev. Alan E. Thomas, VG, Pastor	.695-0912
Janet Klingbeil, Administrative Assistant695-0912 or	207-1479
Sue Teske, Director of Religious Education695-0912 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 - H	ollidaysburg(814) 695-6112
Holy Trinity Catholic School -	Altoona(814) 381-7011
Holy Trinity Catholic Middle Scl	hool(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.

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17 Last week we heard how the Christian assembly in Jerusalem chose seven of their number to minister to the Greek-speaking Christians who lived there. One was Philip. Today we find him in Samaria, about 60 miles north of Jerusalem, fearlessly proclaiming the good news of Jesus and experiencing astounding results.

1 Peter 3: 15-18 The first letter of Peter was written to Christians whose pagan neighbors continually questioned and ridiculed them about their faith. Since most of the Christians were low-born or slaves, their opponents couldn't understand why they were so joyful and hopeful. Today's passage offers pastoral advice and encouragement.

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 1:12-14 and 1 Peter 4:13-16; Gospel: John 17:1-11a

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

May 16 - May 24

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>	Requested by
Saturday 5/16	+ Helen Gajewski	by her husband
	+ Carol Jeffreys- Scott (An	niversary Rem.) by her family
Sunday 5/17	+ Frank Lingenfelter	by his wife & children

+ Robert James "Jim" Gildea by 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

Monday 5/18 + Guy Luciano by Josephine Schachtner

Tuesday 5/19 + Anita Jubas by husband; John & daughter; Maren Jubas

Wednesday 5/20 + Fr. John J. Palko by Brian & Joyce McCord

Thursday 5/21 - Ascension Thursday

+ Rev. Anthony J. Legarski by Cathy & Bob Allen

+ Ernest Tomassetti by Walter & Connie Tomassetti + Living & Deceased Members of the Holy Name Society

+ Richard Gildea by Bob & Louise Irwin For the people of St. Mary & St. Michael Parishes

Friday 5/22 + Margaret Baker - Hart by Mark & Jo Delozier

Saturday 5/23 + Jack Hallberg by his wife

+ Kathy Ray (Birthday Rem.) by her sister; Peachy Thomas & family

Sunday 5/24 + Craig Carnell by Beverly & John Buterbaugh

> + Tim Veller (Anniversary Rem.) by his mother Connie + Karen Felus McCosar by Mom & Dad

+ Barbara Wilt by her husband Terry & children

For the people of St. Mary & St. Michael Parishes

WELCOME CHILD OF GOD

Congratulations Cliff & Amanda Taylor as we welcome your newly baptized son, Finnley James 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.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE

Our deepest condolences to the family and friends of parishioner Walter "Sam" Wilt who died this week. Please remember him in your prayers as well as his wife Ginger, their children; Michelle and Jeff, and his friends and family as they mourn. May Sam rest in peace in the presence and comfort of our Risen Lord.

THE CHURCH DOORS ARE NOW OPEN FOR VISITATION AND PRIVATE PRAYER!

Following the directives from Bishop Mark, we have reopened the church for daily visitation and private prayer. Please note the following: Please recognize that there are potential risks of unintended exposure to the coronavirus, please refrain from visiting if you are sick or at a greater risk of susceptibility. When you visit: Maintain social distancing of 6 ft or more. No more than 25 people are permitted in the church at any one time. (If waiting outside; remember to practice social distancing.) Limit prayer time to 1/2 hour at a time (Please be aware of others wishing to pray.) You may visit multiple times a day. Face masks or face shields must be worn inside the church. Please wipe down any surfaces that you touch, and use hand sanitizer before and after your visit. Please sit in the designated seating area.

The church doors will be open from: (subject to change)

7 AM - 7 PM Monday - Friday *

6 AM - 3 PM on Saturdays and 7 AM - 7 PM on Sundays.

*Please note that THIS Wednesday the church will be open from 7 AM - 3 PM.

≈≈≈ OUR GIFTS TO GOD ≈≈≈

Thank you for your generosity!

Sunday Offering (5/10/2020): \$6,938.53

On-Line Giving not available at time of publishing

Easter Offering (5/10/2020): \$54.00 Ascension Offering (5/10/2020): \$90.00 Peter Pence (5/10/2020): \$5.00 Holy Land/Good Friday (5/10/2020): \$9.00 Holy Thursday (5/10/2020): \$14.00 Twin Parish in Jamaica (5/10/2020): \$117.00

Maintenance (5/10/2020): \$271.00

Catholic Communication (5/10/2020): \$30.00 Catholic Ministries Drive (as of 3/31/2020) Target Goal: 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 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.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



This Thursday, May 21, we commemorate the Ascension of the Risen Lord to the Father's right hand. Forty days have passed since the celebration of scension Easter Sunday. The Risen One has returned to the Father and

taken his seat in the eternal kingdom. Easter time continues. We are filled with joy as the Son of God returns to his Father. We await his return in glory when all things will be made new. Fr. Alan will video record the Ascension day Mass and it may be viewed on our parish website and the parish facebook page.

"Then he led them (out) as far as Bethany, raised his hands, and blessed them. As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven."

- l uke 24:50-51

YOUTH MINISTRY OFFICE PLANNING VIRTUAL EVENTS FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Deepening her Catholic faith has always been a priority to Marian Stephens, but now more than ever, a relationship with the Lord is a must for the 10th grader. "In this time where there is sickness and death and disappointment all around me, I need to put my hope and trust in God completely," said the parishioner of Saint Rose of Lima in Altoona. "Leaning on God is more important than ever right now. He, alone, has gotten me through this time of isolation."

Recognizing the struggles young people are facing these days and the value of keeping them connected to their faith, the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Office of Youth Ministry is turning to technology to evangelize. The office is planning two virtual nights for youth in specific age groups and a virtual gathering for young adults.

The first event is scheduled for **May 20 at 7:00 p.m.** for junior high students (grades 6-8). The theme will be "Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart." Will Smith will be the presenter. Smith is the Director of Music at Mother of Sorrows Parish in Murrysville in the Diocese of Greensburg. He is also active in youth ministry outreach and is a past presenter at Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown youth events such as Junior High Youth Day and Senior High Youth Conference (SHYCON).

A virtual gathering is also planned for senior high students (grades 9-12) on **May 26 at 7:00 p.m.** Jonathan Jerome will speak on the theme "Facing the Storms of Life." Jerome is the Director of the National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia in Philadelphia and a former campus minister for the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. He assists with various diocesan youth programs, including the annual summer camps.

Jerome will also be the featured presenter for a virtual gathering for young adults on **May 29 at 7:00 p.m.** The theme will be "Living with Joy and Hope." According to Youth Ministry Coordinator Francine Swope, all three events will happen through Zoom conferencing, and registration is required. "I thought if we could spend a little bit of time with them in their comfort zone just to give them a little bit of time to really think about what they've gone through in the past few months and how it has affected them, but most importantly make them think a little about how their faith has carried them through this," she said.

The upcoming summer camps – Camp Timothy and Camp Zacchaeus – will also be hosted virtually this year. All these efforts are critical right now, maintained Swope, as a way of meeting youth where they are at this remarkable time in history.

"I keep telling our young people that no matter where you are, as long as we're praying together and staying faithful together, we'll get through this together," Swope stated. Swope's support and the efforts of her team are appreciated by many, including Stephens. "Whenever I'm feeling lonely or sad about what's going on in our world, I turn to the Lord and know that nothing is impossible for God," she emphasized. "It is extremely important to keep faith right now, and participating in faith based events is a great way to do that"

- Reprinted with permission; @ "PROCLAIM" Diocese of Altoona- Johnstown.

UPCOMING VIRTUAL NIGHTS REGISTER TODAY!

Junior High (Grades 6-8)

May 20 – 7:00 p.m. Speaker: Will Smith

Theme: Trust in the Lord with all your Heart!

Link to register:

https://www.dioceseaj.org/jr-high-virtual-night/

Senior High (Grades 9-12)

May 26 - 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Jonathan Jerome Theme: Facing the Storms of Life

Link to register:

https://www.dioceseaj.org/senior-high-virtual-night/

Young Adults

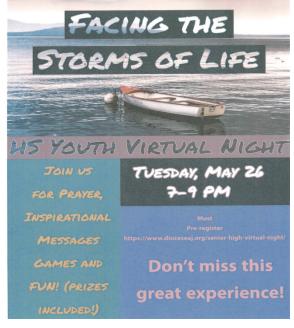
May 29 - 7:00 p.m.

Facilitator: Jonathan Jerome Theme: Living with Joy & Hope

Link to Register:

https://www.dioceseaj.org/daj-young-ad-event/





JOHANNINE NOVENA

Novenas are a popular form of prayer for Catholics. The reason for praying for nine days in a row comes from the Scripture itself. The Acts of the Apostles begins at the time of Jesus' Ascension into heaven. Before he ascends, Jesus tell his disciples that they are to remain in Jerusalem until they are baptized in the Holy Spirit, the "promise of the Father" (Acts 1:4). Following the Lord's Ascension, the disciples return to the upper room in Jerusalem. It was here that they celebrated the Last Supper and here that they encountered the Risen Lord. Now they gather in the same place to await the Holy Spirit. St. Luke, who wrote the Acts of the Apostles, reminds us of the names of the eleven remaining apostles and then adds:

"All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers" (Acts 1:14). The nine days of prayer are those days between Ascension and Pentecost. Notice that the Blessed Virgin Mary is specifically mentioned as one of those gathered for this time of prayer.

Within the last few years, I have become aware of a Benedictine monk, not from our country, who seems to be having special messages from the Lord. One of these dealt with this period of prayer between Ascension and Pentecost. Whether or not the message is genuinely from the Lord will be up to the Church to decide. Regardless, though, I found the message thought-provoking.



When the apostles and Mary gathered for this time of prayer, the apostles fell into three groups. One group was comprised of Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus and abandoned the Church through suicide. Ten of the apostles are noteworthy (maybe notorious would be better) for their fear and timidity during Jesus' trial, passion, and death. They are nowhere to be found. Their fear has paralyzed them. One of the apostles, John the Beloved, remains with Mary at the foot of the cross, as John's gospel tells us. Rather than rejecting the Lord or cowering in fear, this one apostle, because of his close association with Mary, remains with Jesus throughout his ordeal.

I hope that during these nine days of prayer, we will pray for leaders in our Church, especially our priests. Pray for priests like me that we will develop a stronger connection with the Blessed Virgin Mary and, relying on her strength, will remain steadfast at the cross, neither abandoning the Lord by giving up nor failing him through fear. The prayer of the nine days, prayed along with Mary, brings the Holy Spirit who gives courage to all the apostles. May the Holy Spirit give that same courage to all the leaders of the Church today so that we will remain faithful to the suffering Body of Christ and shepherd it to resurrection and life.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY OF YOUR ORDINATION FR. ALAN!

May 23

"O Jesus, our great High Priest, Hear my humble prayers on behalf of your priest, Fr. Alan Thomas. Give him a deep faith, a bright and firm hope, and a burning love which will ever increase in the course of his priestly life.

In his loneliness, comfort him. In his sorrows, strengthen him. In his frustrations, point out to him that it is through suffering that the soul is purified. Show him that he is needed by the Church, he is needed by souls, he is needed for the work of redemption.

O loving Mother Mary, Mother of Priests, take to your heart your son who is close to you because of his priestly ordination, and because of the power which he has received to carry on the work of Christ in a world which needs him so much. Be his comfort, be his joy, and be his strength. Amen."

TELEVISED MASS FOR WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS

The Family Life Office will recognize widows and widowers who register and their deceased spouses during the Sunday Mass celebrated privately on May 31 at Saint John Gualbert Cathedral in Johnstown. Bishop Mark will be the celebrant and homilist. The Mass will air live at 11:00 AM on WATM ABC 23 and will be rebroadcast that night at 9:00 PM on Atlantic Broadband channel 9.

All deceased spouses of registered individuals will be acknowledged and remembered during the liturgy. The Family Life Office invites you to register by calling the Family Life Office at (814) 317-2647 or (814) 317-2643 or emailing the office at familylife@dioceseaj.org. When registering, please give your name, address, phone number, and the name of your spouse who passed away.

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.

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. Precious Life will be distributing bottles around **June 7 and collecting them July 5**. Start saving your change and please watch the bulletin for further announcements.

IS THERE A GRADUATE IN YOUR FAMILY?

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.)

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 <u>EVERY SUNDAY</u> 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.

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.

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.

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!





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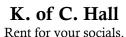
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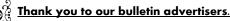


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