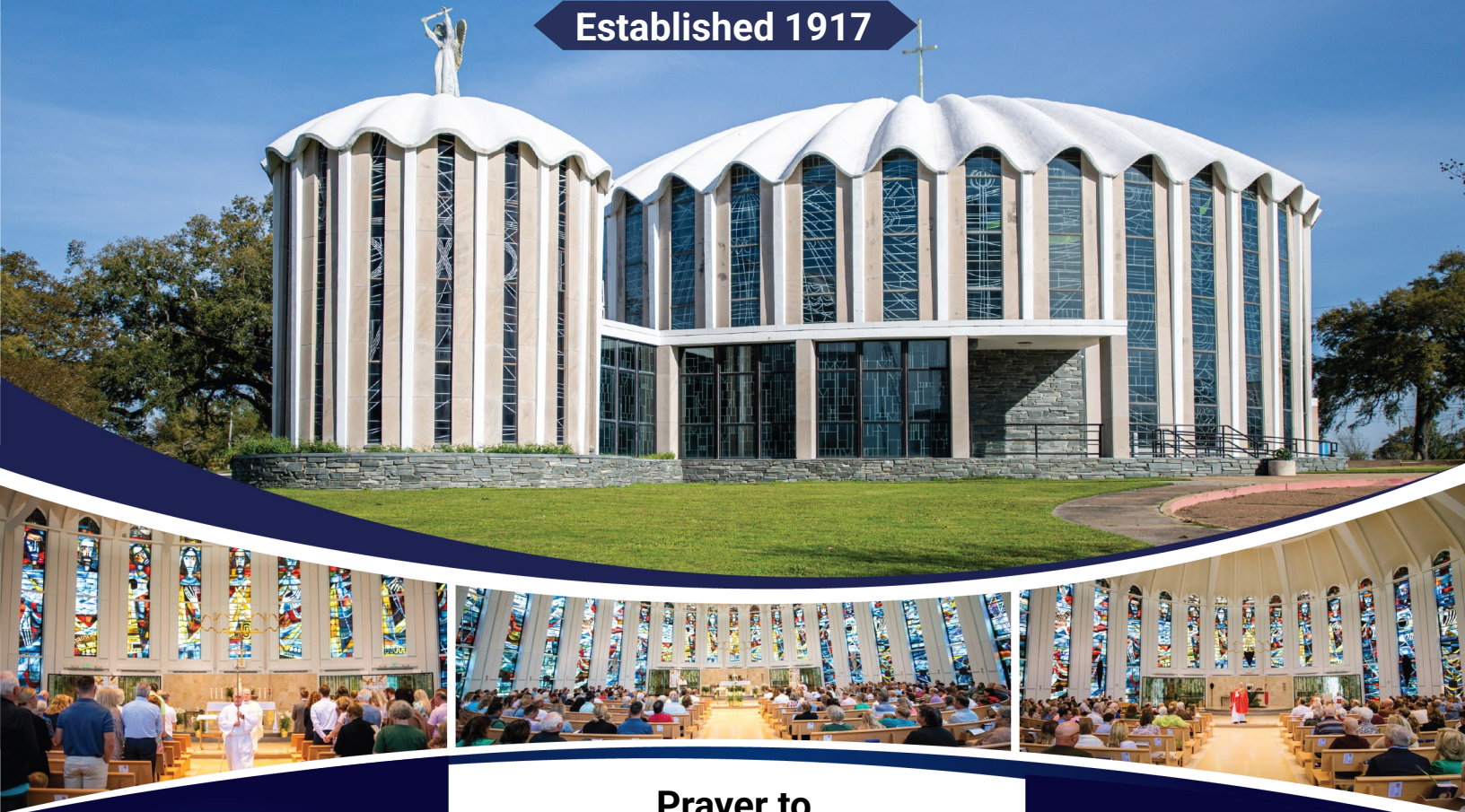


# St. Michael Catholic Church

Weekend of August 31 & September 1, 2024

Established 1917



## Confessions

Saturday 4 - 4:30 pm  
or by appointment

## Office Hours

Tuesday—Thursday  
8:30 - 3 pm  
or as posted

## Prayer to

### St. 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.

## Mass Schedule

Weekends  
Saturday 5 pm  
Sunday 10 am

Weekdays  
Tuesday - Friday 8 am



venmo



**Monsignor Dominick Fullam, Pastor**

**Robert Wescovich Jr., Deacon | Jessica Gollott, Administrative Assistant**

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## Lay Leanings by Deacon Mike Stewart

It's okay if you're not okay.

After my mom died very suddenly and unexpectedly just days before Christmas many years ago, I was left to care for my grieving father. By nature, Dad was characteristically a man of that era, dependent upon Mom for many things. Suddenly all those things shifted to me and to my wife. Since Dad had many health issues, he doctored quite frequently. I honestly had no idea the extent to which Mom carried that burden, both for scheduling as well as managing his care. Like it or not, that became my new reality.

Since Dad and I had never been particularly close, all those appointments, time spent sitting in waiting and exam rooms, and of course, breakfast or lunch afterwards, had the unexpected gift of helping us grow closer in his final years. God indeed works in mysterious ways.

In particular, one memory resulted in a great teaching opportunity for me. As doctors typically do when they enter an exam room, Dad was greeted with, "Hi Jim, so how are you doing?" To which Dad would always reply, "I'm fine." And yet, the very fact that we were in that exam room in the first place seemed to imply that he was anything but fine.

So how about you? Are you okay?

At the risk of over-diagnosing or finding fault in ourselves, we must admit to the truth that we are all broken people journeying through this world. It's why Jesus called us into communion with each other and with him; we need one another. And yet, the greatest epidemic that I see in our culture is not depression or anxiety, but rather the denial of our own brokenness. The late Evangelical pastor, Charles Stanley, once observed, "Brokenness is God's requirement for maximum usefulness." Until we can admit our own brokenness and need for healing, how can we be credible to others who are themselves broken and honest about their need for healing?

Jesus demonstrated that for us when he entrusted his church to broken people, from Peter to Magdalene. Dad was no more "fine" in those exam rooms, than you or I.

When we fail to acknowledge our own brokenness, we also fail to invite others to help carry that burden for us.

If you're willing to admit that you're not okay, I highly recommend a song by the Irish contemporary Christian group, We Are Messengers called, "Maybe It's Okay." Even if this is not your genre, I would encourage you to find and listen to the words of this song, and let the Lord pour the grace of honesty over your life, which is the first and most important step in healing.

*He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds. Psalm 147:3*

## Mass for the Intentions Week

*Sat, August 31: For the people*

*Sun, September 1: +Adam & Ethel Kozlowski*

*Tue, September 3: +Pat Cook*

*Wed, September 4: +Wayne Kopszywa*

*Thu, September 5: +Brenda Mareno*

*Fri, September 6: +Kathy & Tony Theriot*

### In Our Parish

**September 6:** SVDP Society Meeting 8:30am, conference room. New members welcome.

**September 6:** Altar Society Meeting, 6pm, conference room. New members welcome.

**October 15:** OCIA begins. If you or someone you know is interested in gaining a deeper understanding of our faith please refer to the registration form on the parish website.

### In Our Diocese

**September 15: Wedding Anniversary Mass:** The Bishop will recognize couples celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60 years or more with a Mass and reception. Please fill out the form in the vestibule.

**November 9:** 3rd Annual Bishop's Gala, Beau Rivage Magnolia Ballroom, purchase tickets online.

[Bishop's Gala \(catholiccharitiesofsouthms.org\)](http://catholiccharitiesofsouthms.org)



Altar Flowers are in honor of John Rogalski

## 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

*Jesus teaches that it is that which comes from our hearts that defiles us.*

### Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday, our lectionary returns to Mark's Gospel after a number of Sundays in which we heard the Bread of Life discourse from the Gospel of John. Recall that we focus on the Gospel of Mark in Lectionary Cycle B, but substitute John's report of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes for Mark's report of this event.

In today's Gospel, Mark provides a significant amount of information about the Jewish observance of ritual-purity laws. Most scholars believe that Mark includes this information because his audience includes Gentile Christians who have no knowledge or experience of these laws. We can infer, therefore, that many in Mark's community were not Jewish Christians.

In this Gospel, Mark addresses the question of which Jewish practices would also be observed in the newly emerging Christian community. This was a significant question for the early Christian Church, especially in communities that included both Jewish and Gentile converts to Christianity. We also hear this question addressed in the letters of Paul with regard to table fellowship. In Gospel passages such as the one today, we see the Gospel evangelists finding justification for a Christian practice distinct from Judaism in the remembrances of Jesus' teaching and the practice of his first disciples.

Jesus first criticizes the Pharisees for putting human tradition above God's Law. Here, Jesus is referring to the tradition of the elders, the teachings of the Pharisees, which extended the ritual-purity laws of Temple worship to everyday Jewish life. Jesus criticizes the Pharisees for making this tradition equal to and as binding as the Law of Moses.

Next, Jesus comments on the meaning behind the Pharisees' language of holiness—clean and unclean.

Jesus teaches that a person is not defiled by the food that enters his or her body, but rather by sin that emerges from his or her words and actions. In this teaching, Jesus unmasks a deeper question behind the one posed to him by the Pharisees. The real issue is holiness, which is not found in external acts alone. Holiness comes from within and is evidenced in the actions and attitudes that emerge from a person's life.

If we read today's Gospel carefully, we will see a pattern in Jesus' teaching method that will be repeated in the weeks ahead. Jesus' first teaching is directed to the Pharisees who questioned him. Jesus' words are then directed to the crowd, teaching that a person is defiled by his or her words and actions, not by the food that he or she eats. In verses omitted in today's reading, we learn that Jesus returned home with his disciples, who in turn questioned him about what he had taught. The words we read at the conclusion of today's Gospel are addressed to Jesus' disciples. Mark's narrative shows several audiences for Jesus' teaching: his antagonists, the crowds, and Jesus' disciples. As we see in this reading, the words to the Pharisees are often words of challenge. The teaching to the crowds is often a general, sometimes cryptic, message. With the disciples, who often misunderstand Jesus' words, further explanation is offered about his message and its meaning.

Jesus' words challenge us as well. In our desire to show that we are holy, we might also give too much credence to externals, following rules without thinking about the intention behind them. Jesus reminds us that we do not make ourselves holy by our actions. Rather, we become holy when we allow God's Spirit to transform us. Our actions should be an expression of the conversion of our heart to God and to God's ways.

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

Collections August 24 & 25, 2024

\$3989.75

*Next Week's Second Collection is for*

*Catholic School Subsidy*

*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*



The Little Ones

Jim Burrows

YOU DON'T HAVE TO  
SAVE ME, PETER.  
I CAME TO SAVE YOU



Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him, saying,  
"God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You." Mt 16:22

*In loving memory of*

*Nicolas & Loyce Hire*

*Oct 2, 1921-Mar 9, 2021*

*Feb 10, 1933-Oct 7, 2022*

*Together in Heaven*



*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*

*In Loving Memory of  
Berniece Louise Garner*

*Dec. 8 1932-Dec. 22, 2022*

*Truly an example of Amazing  
Grace.*



**Thank You**  
**for your support**

SVDP and the Knights of Columbus thank you for your generous support for the August fundraisers and food drive. Donations/contributions are accepted anytime but be on the look out for info regarding our holiday season food drive.

*John A. Rogalski*  
*July 6, 1926-January 22, 2011*

*Sadly, missed by wife  
Thelma, family, &  
friends.*



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*Have you downloaded this app yet? It's a one stop  
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**an additional**  
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**TEACHER ASSISTANT**

Email your resume and application to  
Mrs. Eleanor Hartzog at ehartzog@stal.org.

Visit our website at [www.stal.org](http://www.stal.org) to access the  
employment application and job description.