

ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Weekend of March 23 & 24, 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

Instagram: Instagram.com/stmichaelbiloxims

Mass Schedule:

Weekdays

Tues-Fri 8am*

***See posted schedule
for Holy week Masses**

Weekends

Saturday 5pm

Sunday 10am



venmo



Confessions:
Saturday 4-4:30 pm or by Appointment

Office hours: Tues-Thurs

8:30am-3pm

Office Closed March 26th

Palm Sunday

Mark 14:1—15:47 (shorter form: Mark 15:1-39)
Jesus is sentenced to death and crucified. The centurion who witnessed his death declared, "This man was the Son of God."

Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday, called Palm or Passion Sunday, is the first day of Holy Week. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday are called the *Triduum*—three days that are the highlight of the Church year. There are two Gospels proclaimed at today's Mass. The first Gospel, proclaimed before the procession with palms, tells of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. Riding on a borrowed colt, Jesus was hailed by the crowds as they blessed God and shouted "Hosanna!" This event is reported in each of the four Gospels.

At the Liturgy of the Word on Palm Sunday, the events of Jesus' passion are proclaimed in their entirety. In Lectionary Cycle B, we read the passion of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Mark. We will hear these events proclaimed again when we celebrate the Triduum later in the week. On Good Friday, we will read the passion of Jesus from the Gospel of John.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus' passion and death are presented as the consequence of the tension between the Jewish authorities and Jesus that had been building throughout his public ministry. This tension reached its breaking point when Jesus drove the merchants and moneychangers from the Temple. After this event, the chief priests and scribes began seeking a way to put Jesus to death, and yet, this is only the surface explanation for his death.

When Jesus was arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin—the council of Jewish priests, scribes, and elders—he was charged with blasphemy, citing his threat to the Temple. When he was brought before Pilate, however, the religious authorities presented his crime as a political one, charging that Jesus claimed to be king of the Jews. In continuity with a theme of Mark's Gospel, the messianic claim of Jesus is widely misunderstood.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus' disciples are rarely models of faith and do little to invoke confidence in their capacity to continue his ministry after his death. They fare no better in Mark's narrative of Jesus' passion and death. At the Last Supper, the disciples insisted that none among them would betray Jesus. When Jesus predicted that their faith would be shaken in the events ahead, Peter and the other disciples protested

vehemently. Yet in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus returned three times to find them sleeping. Jesus prayed in agony over his impending fate while his disciples slumbered through the night. Just as Jesus predicted, Peter denied Jesus, and the disciples were absent during Jesus' passion and death. Only the women who had been followers of Jesus in Galilee are said to have been present at the Crucifixion, but they remained at a distance.

Throughout this Gospel, Mark challenges the reader to consider the claim with which the Gospel begins: Jesus is the Son of God. When we read Mark's account of the passion, we begin to comprehend the deeper theological statement being made about Jesus' death. In Mark's telling of the passion narrative, Jesus understood his death to have been preordained, and he accepted this death in obedience to God's will. Jewish Scripture is quoted only once, but there are several references to the fulfillment of the Scriptures. Jesus understood his anointing in Bethany as an anticipation of his burial, and he announced that this story would be told together with the Gospel throughout the world. Jesus predicted his betrayal by Judas as well as Peter's denial. At his arrest, Jesus acknowledged that the preordained time had arrived. Jesus was both confident and silent before his accusers. After he was sentenced to death, Jesus did not speak again until his final cry from the cross. The bystanders misunderstood and believed that he was calling for Elijah. The Roman centurion, however, affirmed what Mark has presented throughout this Gospel: Jesus is the Son of God. Nowhere was this revealed more fully than in his death on the cross.

During Holy Week, we prayerfully remember the events of Jesus' passion and death. As we meditate on the cross, we ask again and anew what it means to make the statement of faith that Jesus, in his obedient suffering and dying, revealed himself to us as God's Son.

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



Collections March 16 & 17, 2024
\$4086.00

**Next Week's Second Collection is for
The Holy Land**

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sat, Mar 23 +Paula Hire

Sun, Mar 24 For the People

Wed, Mar 27 +Thomas Skymetti Sr.

Thurs, Mar 28 +Rosa Leleaux

Mass Intentions: Tuesday-Saturdays excluding Holy Days. If you would like to have Mass said in memory of or in honor of a loved one, please call the office at 228-435-5578. Thank you!

UPCOMING Events

In Our Parish

March 26: No 8am Mass

March 26: Office Closed

March 27: 8am Mass

March 28: Holy Thursday Mass 6pm (no 8am Mass)

March 29: Good Friday Stations of Cross 12pm, Liturgy at 3pm (no 8am Mass)

March 30: Holy Saturday Mass 7:30pm (no 5pm Mass)

March 31: Easter Sunday Mass 10am

March 31: Easter Egg Hunt 11am ages 13 and younger

April 1-5: No 8am Masses, Priest Retreat

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

Ongoing Events:

Sundays: 6:40pm LifeTeen

Mondays: 7pm Men's Prayer Group

Tuesdays: 7pm OCIA

Wednesdays: 10-11am SVDP Food Pantry

Wednesdays: 5:30 CCD

Thursdays: 9am Homeschool Explorers Club

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.

July 17-21-10th National Eucharistic Congress. Catholics from every corner of the U.S. will be in Indianapolis for this transformative gathering, and YOU are invited to represent our parish at this pivotal moment! Come encounter and worship Jesus in a new way, and be anointed to share those graces with our community when you return home. More than ever, you will be proud to be Catholic and excited about the future of the Church in America. Scan the code to learn more about the event and explore the full schedule for each day.



Lay Leanings

By Deacon Mike Stewart

Once a year, my wife, Karin and I take the opportunity to read to the second graders in our parish school. It's always great fun, and I tend to leave the poor second grade teachers with the absolute mayhem I created. My wife, who is a trained faith educator for children, does not approve of my behavior. Fortunately, the teachers are smart enough now to schedule us at the end of the school day.

This year, I read them the book, *Memoirs of a Goldfish*, by Devin Scillian, a story about the power of surrounding ourselves with community, even if it means others are different than ourselves. We ended the session by sharing Goldfish crackers, and engaging the children in questions and answers for Deacon Mike.

Now bear in mind, armed with two graduate degrees in pastoral studies and theology, I was ready for these little challengers. Besides, I taught high school theology for several years, and now teach in the seminary. Bring it on, I was fully charged for those little minds.

Then came the questions ...

"Deacon Mike, what's your favorite color?"

"Deacon Mike, did you know I had a pet iguana named Fred, but it died. Is Fred in heaven?"

"Deacon Mike, I have to share my bedroom with two brothers, and they stink a lot. Did your brothers stink?"

As the time went on, the questions continued to challenge my deep theological formation all the more.

Though we are big people now, with big people problems and big people intellects, consider that you and I were once those uncluttered little minds that found room in heaven even for iguanas. Perhaps today, we would debate the theological complexities of all this. Who knows ... we might even argue the political ramifications, because, of course, we'd find some. What we probably *wouldn't* do, is see the world as God sees it, and as you and I once saw it, through simple, unfiltered little eyes that left room for the awesome wonder of God. And maybe that's what it takes ... to step backwards to step forward; to stop hiding behind our theology, our doctrines and dogmas, our denominations and decrees, and just see God for who God *really* is; just as we once did.

[And Jesus said] *Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.* Mark 10:15

*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*

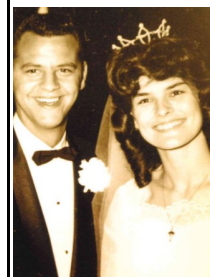


Always in our hearts

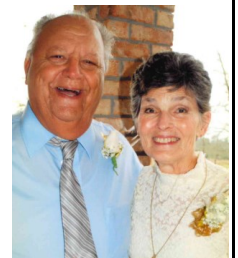
*Stanley "Rook" Kopszywa Sr, Lola Broussard Derouen,
Victoria "Tori" Felsher, Rogers "Poochie" Broussard,
Aldo & Anna Caprari, Evorise Boudreaux Broussard
& Cyrus A. Broussard*



Happy Birthday
Helena C. Pelous
March 22nd
From, the Pelous Family
and all your friends



To our loving parents
**Elwin and Yvonne
Battaya**
We wish you both a
Happy 60th Wedding
Anniversary!
3/15/64 to 3/15/24
Love, Your Children & Family



A Prayer for Palm Sunday

Lord Jesus Christ, on this Palm Sunday, as we remember Your triumphant entry into Jerusalem, let us also remember the path that lay before You. Fill our hearts with the humility and faithfulness that You displayed. Teach us to follow Your example of selfless love, to praise You in our hearts and with our lives, as we carry our crosses daily. Hosanna in the Highest! Amen



Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday March 31

Following 10am Easter Sunday Mass
All parishioners and visitors ages 13 and
younger are invited to bring their basket
and hunt for eggs!

Call Cherie Prentiss for more information
228-365-4017