ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Weekend of November 5 & 6 , 2022

Established 1917

Photo: Chase Sekul

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PRAYER TO SAINT <u>MICHAEL</u> 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:

<u>Weekdays</u> Tues-Fri 8am <u>Weekends</u> Saturday 5pm Sunday 10am

Use your cell phone camera to link to St. Michael for online donations



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

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Monsignor Dominick Fullam, Pastor

Robert Wescovich Jr., Deacon

William Shaidnagle, Deacon 177 First Street Biloxi, MS 39530

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> Office hours: Tues-Thurs 8:30am-3pm

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Reading

Luke 20:27-38 Jesus answers a question from some Sadducees about the resurrection of the dead. (short form Luke 20:27, 34-38)

Background on the Gospel Reading

In today's Gospel, we hear about an encounter between Jesus and some Sadducees. The Sadducees were a party of Judaism active in Jesus' time, descended from the priestly family of Zadok. They were literal interpreters of the written Law of Moses, which means that they were in disagreement with the position of the Pharisees, who offered an oral interpretation of the Law of Moses.

The Sadducees are described in this Gospel as opponents to the belief in resurrection. In the dialogue presented here, we see an example of the means of disputation that was common in first century Judaism. The Sadducees use the example of Levirate marriage, found in the Law of Moses, to disprove belief in the resurrection. According to <u>Deuteronomy 25:5-</u> <u>10</u>, if a man died without producing an heir, the man's brother should marry his wife and the offspring of this union would inherit the property and carry on the name of the man who had died. The Sadducees use this as an example to challenge belief in the resurrection.

Jesus argues from the same written Law of Moses to show that there is resurrection. Using the texts from the Book of Exodus (<u>Chapter 3</u>) that describe Moses' encounter with God in the burning bush, Jesus shows that God is the God of the living, not the dead. Here Jesus uses the same method and texts of the Sadducees to counter them. As the Gospel text suggests, he beat them at their own game!

More importantly, in this discourse Jesus shows the limits of our imaginations when it comes to eternal life. The Sadducees argued against resurrection because of the limits of earthly existence. They did not imagine another possibility for existence and relationship with God. Jesus proposes that the possibilities of resurrected life are beyond our imaginations. Jesus' conclusion suggests something else as well: To spend time worrying about resurrected life is to miss the point. The point is eternal relationship with God is possible, for God is the God of the living, ". . . for to him all are alive."

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

Ministry News

St. Michael Saint Vincent de Paul

To make a donation of food or money, bring your offering to St. Michael's office, leave in basket in entry of church (money can be placed in poor box, checks payable to SVDP) or give to Mrs. Cynthia Powell. Thank you for all your support in this worthwhile ministry that helps the people of East Biloxi.

St. Michael Knights of Columbus

The Knights are having their annual baby bottle drive. Pick up a bottle to collect your spare change during the month of October. Proceeds benefit Morning Star Pregnancy Center. church.

Religious Education

Life Teen and Edge groups, consisting of youth in grades 6-12 from Blessed Seelos, Nativity, Our Mother of Sorrows, and St. Michael parishes, meet in the Sacred Heart Center. Upcoming youth events:

November 11-13 - Life Teen Retreat for our high school youth, grades 9-12, at Palmer Creek.

November 13 - No Sunday Night Meeting due to the high school weekend retreat

November 20 - Confirmation Class begins - 4:30 - 5:15 p.m. + Life Teen & Edge meet 6:40 - 8:00 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Center - St. Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving Baskets

Please keep our youth and adult CORE team in your prayers. Are you a youth that would like to join our Life Teen/ Edge group? Are you an adult that would like to provide a meal, a dessert, or join our adult CORE team? Contact Kristy Arguelles: 228-324-9934, <u>eastbiloxiyouthministry@gmail.com</u>



The devotion to the memory of the dead is one of the most beautiful expressions of the Catholic spirit." —Pope St. John XXIII



Mass for the Intentions Week

Sat, Nov 5 For the People Sun, Nov 6 +Thomas J. Skrmetti Tues, Nov 8 +Lillian Sasfy Wed, Nov 9 +George Sekul Thurs, Nov 10 +Robley Broussard Fri, Nov 11 +Mike Sekul

UPCOMING In Our Parish

November 5-Until Gone: Limited Edition Christmas Ornaments on sale \$20 each. (details on back)

November 20: Altar Society Ham & Turkey Bingo FLC, doors open 11am, door prizes, split the pot and refreshments available for purchase.

November 29: #igivecatholic

<u>Sundays:</u>4pm LifeTeen <u>Mondays:</u>7pm Men's Prayer Group <u>Tuesdays:</u>7pm RCIA <u>Wednesdays:</u>10-11am SVDP Food Pantry Wednesdays: 5:30 CCD

In Our Diocese

<u>November 6:</u> Annual Mass of Wedding Anniversaries celebrating 25, 30,35,40,50,55, or 60 years of marriage, 2 pm at the Nativity BVM Cathedral. Registration required.

<u>November 18:</u> Healing Mass Service 6pm Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church, 216 Saucier Ave. Pass Christian, MS. 39571

December 8-11-Women's Cursillo #291 at the Sacred Heart Dedeaux Retreat Center in Pass Christian. Applications are currently being accepted. Applications can be found online at www.biloxicursillo.org. For questions and/or more information, contact Gay Camagong at (228)424-7722 or Marcia Hebert at (413)433-3903.

<u>May 3-14, 2023</u>– Holy Land Trip, Fr. Joe Dilettuso is very excited to announce this tour to Israel. It will be a 12 day customized pilgrimage to the Holy Land, the cost is approximately \$5699 per person (double occupancy.) Contact Heidi Clark 228 388-4429

Collections October 29&30, 2022 \$4954.65

Next Week's Second Collection is for Catholic School Subsidy

Lay Leanings

By Deacon Mike Stewart

'I feel like I just want to curl up in a blanket and take a nap until spring.' My wife's sentiments likely echo many of ours as the days grow shorter and colder.

Fall is essentially a time when nature seems to curl up in a blanket and go to sleep until spring. Even the readings we hear in Church on Sundays are increasingly pointing to the reality of our own mortality; this earth is not our home.

I lost a friend this week who suffered much. At the same time, I'm also convinced that she died well because she lived well. I'd say the same thing about Jesus.

So, what about us? Will we die well? After all, by the time God actually calls us home, we'll have plenty of time to practice. Since life is a process of transition to death, I suppose we could consider ourselves dying right this very minute. So, how is your death going? If Jesus came for you tomorrow, are your bags packed? Yeah, me neither. So what's the problem?

As believers in Jesus Christ, we should be living in the promise of everlasting life. After all, Jesus came and conquered death. Game over, right? Well, maybe so on an intellectual level; but how many of us still pull the covers over our heads at night and wonder if that darkness is what we'll face after we breathe our last breath? It's not that we're sinful, faithless people, mind you; but rather, human beings who are simply struggling to grip onto that which we cannot see, let alone understand.

I was pondering these cheery thoughts this week, and my mind suddenly recalled the popular game show many of us grew up with, *Let's Make a Deal*. Who can ever forget Monty Hall challenging his excited contestants to guess what was behind door number one, door number two, or door number three. One wrong decision would spell game show disaster, and so you found yourself gasping in anticipation of the selected door being open to reveal the contestant's fate.

Sometimes I think we view death a bit like that. Let's face it, no one but Jesus and those he raised has gone beyond the door and returned to talk about it, so we're left solely to our own choice – either we believe in the promise of everlasting life, or we don't. Science won't solve this one for us, folks. It's left *entirely* to faith. And so where does that lead us? It leads us right back to Jesus' own words in the 14th chapter of the Gospel of John.

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me.

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be.

Game over. You've opened the right door. © 2022 Mike Stewart Email: *layleanings@gmail.com* Used with permission

