

Leading the Flock: "Prudent Intentional Planning for the Future"

“Straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” Phil. 3:14

Do you remember the first time you had to make an important decision? Maybe it was whether or where to attend college. Perhaps it was discerning if you should get married, move to another state, or buy a house. When faced with an important decision, it is always prudent to be intentional: to look at the issue from every angle, study any data available, listen to trusted advisors, spend plenty of time in prayer asking the Lord for guidance, and then making a decision that is right for you and your family. And every person knows that every important decision always requires sacrifice.

Every day, we work together with our 122 parishes to make prudent intentional decisions that are best for the Catholics across the Diocese of Toledo. We want every parish to flourish and build a community of faith and love centered around the Eucharist. As a result of our 2019 Diocesan Strategic Plan, we started an Intentional Planning Ministry, which is part of our Department of Discipleship and Family Life. The ministry helps support parishes through an Intentional Planning Process that focuses on the future, on the pastoral and spiritual health and development of the parish. For every parish “is envisioned as a response to a precise pastoral need, namely that of bringing the Gospel to the People through the proclamation of the faith and the celebration of the Sacraments.”

Many of our parishes have already engaged in this process with significant results, becoming healthier parishes that will maintain vibrancy into the future. Some parishes have changed their Mass schedules, others have developed collaborations with nearby parishes to maximize use of personnel and resources, and some have built strong strategic plans to focus efforts for growth into the future. Still others have “twinned” or become “tri-parish groupings” by establishing a collaboration of two or three separate parishes that share a pastor, parish priests and deacons. These collaborative groups of parishes can explore creative ways to maximize resources. The purpose of prudent intentional planning is not, as some would like to think, focused on closing parishes, but instead on assisting parishes, through the process, to become more vibrant, more evangelical, more missionary.

As in making any important decision, we consider carefully both diocese and parish data points when working through the Intentional Planning Process. On the diocesan side, we have fewer men being ordained to the priesthood each year than we have reaching retirement age. In the last ten years, the total number of active Toledo Diocesan priests has dropped from 92 to 76. Therefore, we are not only concerned about having a sufficient number of priests to serve our parishes, but conscious that many younger priests are asked to become pastors sooner than in the past; we are grateful to senior status (retired) priests who generously continue actively to exercise their priestly ministry; we realize that for our pastors the balance of time spent on administrative tasks versus ministry is a constant struggle. We continue to strive to involve our generous laity who exercise their vocation in close collaboration with their pastor and invaluable service to the parish. We also analyze data regarding demographics like population, now and with projections into the future; the proximity of parishes/churches to one another (drive time); and the communities in which the parishes are located.

On the parish side, we consider data on the engagement of parishioners, Sunday Mass attendance, number of sacraments performed (baptisms, funerals, weddings), the structural integrity of buildings, financial health, etc. While some dioceses have used this data to make a unilateral decision to close a significant percentage of their parishes or assign a pastor to up to even eight parishes or more, with the support and counsel of our consultative groups, I am convinced this is not the right approach for our diocese. Together, we want the parish and the community to provide feedback to help make the decision of what is right for them using the information and resources available and to look at ways to engage and grow the Catholic faith in their area. Not all the decisions reached will be popular with every member of the parish community, but those decisions are not lightly taken, and they are based on current diocesan data, current parish data, listening to the parishioners, and a desire to have vibrant, faithful and joy-filled parish communities.

So deeply grateful for all the parish communities that have already engaged in the Intentional Planning Process, I would ask that if your parish goes through this process that you would proactively and productively participate with an open mind and heart, by thoughtfully considering the information that is published about the process and providing feedback in the manner that it is requested.

The parish “should put into action that ‘outgoing dynamism’ that, through collaboration among different parish communities, and a reinforced communion among clergy and laity, will orient it effectively toward an evangelizing mission, the task of the entire People of God, that walks through history as the ‘family of God’ and that, in the synergy of its diverse members, labors for the growth of the entire ecclesial body.”

Prudent intentional planning for the future means that with important decisions come sacrifices for the common good. We can no longer operate as in bygone years when parishioners of one ethnic group were vehement in not relating to parishioners of another ethnic group in the parish just down the block. We can no longer place our convenience as the highest good, as echoed in comments like “how dare they change my Mass time!” We can no longer operate in silos when parish ministries and catholic education programs will suffer unless parishes collaborate to offer the best possible pastoral service to the faithful. We can no longer presume that we’ll have enough parish priests, but instead must be actively praying for and encouraging vocations to the priesthood. What we can do is embrace the present with lively faith and deep hope, trusting in the Lord and praying with Saint Paul: “Straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:14).

For more information about Intentional Planning, go to toledodiocese.org/intentional-planning.

Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas, Bishop of Toledo



ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH - KALIDA, OH - PALM SUNDAY - APRIL 2, 2023
Pastor: Fr. Nathan Bockrath **Deacon:** Bob Klausing **DRE:** Connie Cleemput
Youth Minister: Jill Zeller **Maintenance:** Kevin Fischer
Website: stmichaelskalida.org **Address:** 312 N. Broad St.; Box 387; Kalida, OH 45853
Phone: 419-532-3474 **Email:** stmichaelskalida@gmail.com **Office Hours:** Mon-Thus, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.



“My Father, if it is possible, let this *cup* pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will.”

Matthew 26: 39

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday
7:00 p.m. - Kalida
7:00 p.m. - Continental

Good Friday
1:00 p.m. - Kalida
3:00 p.m. - Continental
6:00 p.m. - Kalida

Holy Saturday
8:30 p.m. - Kalida

Easter Sunday
8:00 a.m. - Kalida
9:30 a.m. - Continental
11:00 a.m. - Kalida

Holy Week is Here

This is meant to be the most sacred time of the year for all us...in large part because we need it! Our lives “fire on all cylinders” only when our Lord is the primary foundation. Holy Week helps to annually sure up this foundation in the most acute way by getting us back to the basics of the faith: God loves us, we are meant for God, our sins screw up this relationship (and thus hurt us in the process), Jesus is the way to overcome sin, and the Eucharist is the primary way now to stay in the closest Communion with Jesus. All these points are drilled into us through Holy Week. If we take this sacred time seriously, and allow it to be sacred for us and cut out unnecessary noise, we will be stronger on Easter Sunday. No matter how Lent has gone for you, let this week stand out through seriousness, intentionality, and prayerfulness.

So with Holy Week being here, kindly take note of our times: Holy Thursday will be 7:00 p.m. at both places; Good Friday will be 1:00 p.m. (SM), 3:00 p.m. (SJ), and 6:00 p.m. (SM); Holy Saturday will be 8:30 p.m.

God Bless,
Fr. Nathan

Cemetery Cleanup 2023

April 15 is the final cleanup date for the mowing season at St. Michael’s Cemetery. All decorations must be placed on the footers so the grass can be trimmed properly. Mulch, shrubs, bushes and stones are not permitted on or around the footers, as they also don’t allow for proper mowing. We would like to keep the cemetery looking beautiful and remain a peaceful as a final resting place for our loved ones. Thanks for all your help and understanding with this.

The Cemetery Committee

K of C Pork Chop Dinner!

For everyone who loved our Fish Frys and especially for those who like pork better, we’re holding a smoked Pork Chop Dinner on Saturday April 22 (4:00—6:30 p.m.) with lots of fixin’s, including red skinned potatoes, green beans and other stuff! Eat in or carry out. Cost of presale tickets is \$12. Contact a Club/Council officer or call Duane Steffan (419-532-3484 or 419-604-1801) for tickets.

Living Christ Campaign

Our goal here at St. Michael’s is to raise \$740,000 in pledges payable over five years from our parish families. 35% of the funds from these pledges will go toward repairing the front steps of St. Michael’s. That amount rises to 50% for anything over our goal. Thanks, in advance, for helping us reach that goal!

March Holy Name Raffle Winners

\$250	Gene Foppe	\$100	Chad Okuley
\$100	Elaine Laudick	\$100	Kayla Smith
\$100	Levi Karhoff	\$ 50	Dustin Bryan
\$ 50	Tammy Schroeder	\$ 50	Bonnie Knueve
\$ 50	Drew Stechschulte	\$ 50	Brandon Meyer
\$ 50	Mary Gail Selhorst	\$ 50	David Peck

Have a Prayer Line Request?

Call Rita Borgelt (419-532-3637).
Please leave a message if there is no answer.

Mass Intentions & Schedule for the Week

TUESDAY, APRIL 4	
8:00 AM	Lawrence Peck, Carolyn Unverferth
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5	
8:00 AM	Alice Brinkman
THURSDAY, APRIL 6 HOLY THURSDAY	
7:00 PM	Ed Schroeder, Jerry & Dorothy Unverferth Bob Schimmoeller, Lincoln Roebke Jerome, Ethel, Don, Evonne & Linda Bendele L/D Alfred & Marcella Ellerbrock Family
FRIDAY, APRIL 7	
1:00 PM	The Passion of Our Lord
6:00 PM	The Passion of Our Lord
SATURDAY, APRIL 1	
8:30 PM	The new members of the Catholic Church Mike, Arnie, Mary & Cel Verhoff Louis Verhoff, Bev Siefker, Ron Kahle, Jr. Jim, Keith & Mark Unverferth, Jim & Angie Erhart, Richard & Gladys Unverferth Gene & Mary Jane Stechschulte L/D Norman & Evelyn Utrup Family L/D Liz & Ben Miller Family
SUNDAY, APRIL 2	
8:00 AM	Lester Verhoff, Wilfred & Alma Verhoff Don & Joyce Jerwers, Klara Frommherz Bill & Mary Lou Felkey, Roger Buss Helen & Elmer Korte, L/D Korte & Brickner Families, Jim, Esther & Randy Siefker
11:00 AM	Len, Anna Rose, Triena & Emily Kahle Juanita Selhorst, Connie Miller Cleora, Bob & San Winkle, Tom Warnecke Tony, Marie & Mike Langhals Mary Kay Unverferth, Harry Horstman (HN)

Last Week’s Collection: \$ 17,902.75

Choir Assignment - Holy Thursday

7:00: YAHS

Choir Assignments - Good Friday

1:00: YAHS 6:00: HN

Choir Assignments - Easter

8:30: YAHS 8:00: HN 11:00: Children’s

Annual Kalida EMS BBQ - April 16

11:00 a.m. until gone, at the Kalida Fire Station. \$10/meal and carryout only. Thank you for your continued support!

PLEASE CHECK YOUR INFORMATION

We have printed the address and phone information for parishioners to be listed in the back of the parish pictorial. You can see the information on the tables in the back of church. **Please make sure to check the accuracy of your information. Everything listed on these papers will be printed in the directory. If you do not want your phone number in the directory, note that on the paper beside your listing. Call or email Leslie if there is a mistake or your name is missing. THANKS!**



Our Condolences

The Funeral Mass for
HARRY HORSTMAN
was held on
Wednesday, March 29.
Please include Harry
and his family
in your prayers.

Easter Flower Intention Deadline...

is this Sunday, April 2. Thanks!

Recent Baptisms

NORAH ELIZABETH GERDING

Daughter of Matthew & Katie (Schmitz) Gerding

ANNA MAE DILLARD

Daughter of Aaron & Emily (Ellerbrock) Dillard

Students Planning Mass are...

are Michele Doepker's grade 5 on Wednesday, April 5.
There is no school on Good Friday.

New Servers Training for Grade 6

A permission form has been sent home with the student for parent signature. Servers training will be Tuesday, April 11, and Wednesday, April 12, from 3:00-4:30 p.m. in church. Students must attend one of the sessions.

Thank You

Words cannot express our appreciation for the love and support shown to us during the last days and the death of our dear mother. The celebration to commemorate her life was made especially beautiful by the efforts of so many people—Deacon Bob, Deacon Don Inkrott, Fr. Ken Schnipke, the servers, the choir, Lynn and Julia Greber, Jill Zeller, CLC, Helping Hands, and especially Fr. Nathan whose sermon meant so much. The St. Michael’s family is truly special and we thank you. Mom, your struggles are over...rest in peace.

The Family of Dorothy von der Embse

Our Virtue for the Week is Temperance

The cardinal virtue of temperance aims to bring order into our desire and use of goods. It allows one to use properly and experience the goods and pleasure of this world, avoiding excess. Our prayer for this week is, "*Heavenly Father, You surround me with good things. I ask for the grace to use Your gifts rightly, allowing You to control my desires for the things You put into my life.*"

Kalida FFA Auction is This Sunday

Sunday, April 2, from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m., at the KHS Auditoria. Kalida FFA students welcome the public to check out their woodworking projects. All proceeds go to supporting FFA activities, events, trips, student learning experiences, & much more!

Kalida Area Garage Sales

April 20, 21 & 22. Please sign up at Kalida Telephone or Union Bank by April 6.

MONDAY, APRIL 3 ROSARY FOR PEACE: 1:30 p.m. in church HOLY NAME CHOIR PRACTICE: 8:00 p.m. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5 YAHS CHOIR PRACTICE: 8:00 p.m. FRIDAY, APRIL 7 CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY: 3:00 p.m. in church

April 6 (Holy Thursday) at 7:00 p.m.

Euc. Min: PB: Ryan Buss, Jerry Ellerbrock

Kay Unverferth, Gus & Judy Brinkman, Janice Foppe

LECTOR: Jill Laudick

Good Friday at 1:00 p.m.

Euch. Min: Ruth Foppe, Bob Buss, Michelle Buss, Darlene Hanneman

LECTOR: Kayla Nartker, Wendy Schimmoeller

USHERS: Team 1

Good Friday at 6:00 p.m.

Euch. Min: Lynda Fortman, Ryan Fischnich, Regina Fischnich, Bob Gerdeman

LECTOR: Mary Plescher, Nancy Rampe

USHERS: Team 2

Offertory Bearers - Easter

8:30: RCIA Candidates

8:00: Dale & Jill Liebrecht Family

11:00: Mike & Jessie Grime Family

SERVER SCHEDULE

Tues, 4/4	8:00 AM	Sophia Meyer Jagger Miller
Wed, 4/5	8:00 AM	Kylie Peck Cody Recker Josh Schulte
Thurs, 4/6	7:00 PM	Ryan Fischnich Evan Fischnich Alex Gardner
Fri, 4/7	1:00 PM	Nick Foppe Katelyn Foppe
	6:00 PM	Maria Gerding Kyla Grime
Sat, 4/8	8:30 PM	Grant Helmke Joel Horstman Nathan Kahle Erica Kahle
Sun, 4/9	8:00 AM	Audra Hovest Camille Hovest John Kaufman Mariah Kerner Logan Kerner Evan Klausing
	11:00 AM	

Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors - Easter

8:30: PB: Jill Zeller, Greg Zeller

Phil & Sue Fuerst, Becky Lucke

LECTOR: Greg Zeller, Joyce Schnipke

8:00: PB: Dave Kahle, Erica Kahle

Mary Grote, Mark Kahle, Dianna Kehres, Jane Kleman

LECTOR: Donna Schnipke

Ministers to Homebound: Tony & Sandy Vorst

11:00: PB: Ryan Kerner, Mike Krouse

Brooke Erhart, Jim Hanneman, Cherie Kemper, Jill Leis

LECTOR: Tony Unverferth

USHERS - Easter

8:30: Team 4 **8:00:** Team 5 **11:00:** Team 6