

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, Kalida, OH: Divine Mercy Sunday, April 26, 2020

Pastor: Fr. Mark Hoying, C.P.P.S. In Residence: Fr. Elmer Wurth, M.M.

Thoughts from Fr. Mark

Happy Easter, everyone. Easter continues, as does the dealing with the coronavirus. It seems like the virus has taken over more than the physical health of the world. For some people, lives have been put on hold. First Communion, Proms, Senior Trips, Weddings and Baptisms have either been postponed or even canceled. In sports, Opening Day with the Reds or Tigers or Indians is put on hold. Going to State in basketball, track, baseball or softball are only dreams. Walking for graduation from college is now a virtual thing. In New Zealand, when times are like this, it is called "Wonky."

I have to say that, compared with other Easter celebrations, my spiritual life is "Wonky," also. I've had a lot to pray about and I do, but it surely doesn't seem like Easter. I've had people to pray for, from the youngest who needs surgery or delivered healthy, to unexpected health needs, such as flare-ups with cancer or terrible infections. I've prayed for lots of people I don't know, such as people in nursing homes and people outside of nursing homes who can't be visited. I've prayed for people, near and far, who have lost their sense of normal due to job loss or fear. I've prayed for Fr. Elmer because he has to deal with me. I have to say that this Easter has been a time of more prayer than most Easters.

But...I want some sense of Easter to the full. I want to be like Mary Magdalene, who is surprised in the garden when she recognized the risen Jesus. I want to be like the disciples who recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread at Emmaus. I want joy! I've realized that, with the coronavirus, life has been heavy and not lighthearted. My prayer life has been heavy, also. I have prayed about heavy things and that is good, but not always healthy for a good prayer life.

And so...I went turkey hunting this morning. I got to see first light. I got to hear robins rustling the leaves and chirping that there would be rain later in the day. I heard the riveting sound of woodpeckers of many varieties, as they searched for breakfast. I watched a raccoon dance across a log, as it crossed a small creek. I heard blue jays sound the alarm that deer were passing close by my camouflaged position. I took in the small delicate spring flowers as they promised a new growing season. I was purposely giving myself permission to have joy. I put this article on hold for a little Easter joy. I put on hold meetings about when First Communion would be. I gave myself permission to tell people that I don't only work about my faith...I enjoy it. And for those people who need some joy, I would be like Mary Magdalene. I would be an ambassador or resurrection. For all those people whose lives are Wonky, I can be that person who has seen the Lord and shares some joy. If I am to get back to normal, I need some balance of lightheartedness and heaviness. I believe that is what the disciples had to go through as they had to deal with Jesus' death and resurrection. They would miss Him and were so glad for Him and themselves. But what that might look like, they were unsure. I think that is us today with the coronavirus pandemic. Now we have to figure out what life beyond the virus will look like. Surely, if we are people of the resurrection, it has to deal with joy.

So my message this week is to think of joy. Have it, share it, celebrate it. I've got that joy, joy, joy down in my heart. I might have to wear pink again.

Have an Easter week. Let the joy on the Risen Lord fill the world. And, by the way, I did not get a turkey. I went out with a sling shot. The turkeys were happy, also.

Fr. Mark

First Communion

As soon as I find out any news from the diocese about gathering as a parish, I will let all of you know. I had a dream on Tuesday night that we were all together again and it was quite the celebration. God is good...all the time. To be in communion is a great thing and makes a great Church.

Mass Intentions/Schedule for TV and Facebook

MONDAY, APRIL 27

NOON End to Covid-19

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

8:00 AM Jim & Helen Knueven

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

8:00 AM Jim Unverferth

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

7:30 PM Joyce Klausing (A)

FRIDAY, MAY 1

8:00 AM

SATURDAY, MAY 2 *Live on Channel 70 & Facebook*

4:30 PM NM Hoffman & Recker
George, Nora & Dan Basinger
Alvin & Marcella Recker
Dick Langhals
Joyce Klausing, Alvin & Mary Hoffman
Norm Kahle, L/D Nartker Family

SUNDAY, MAY 3

8:00 AM Replay of Mass on Channel 70

11:00 AM Replay of Mass on Channel 70

*Mass will be at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays at Continental
St. John's on Facebook.com/kalidastmichaels*

Attention Preschool - Grade 8 Parents

Parents of students in our preschool through grade 8 CCD programs can pick up their child's textbooks, folders, journals, and anything else their teacher would like to give them. Starting Friday, April 24, the materials will be available in the church basement, by grade, on the kitchen and bar counters. Please pick up the material by May 1, if possible. Our second grade students will be given a packet in preparation for First Communion. Parents are asked to work with their child. First Communion will be held as soon as we can keeping in mind the safety of everyone involved.

Use Amazon to Support Kalida Parks

Shop at smile.amazon.com and choose "Kalida Park Foundation" as your charity. It is the same as shopping at Amazon with NO ADDITIONAL FEE, but 0.5% of your purchase will benefit Kalida parks. It's a win-win!



FINISHING TOUCHES

This past Wednesday, Webken Masonry did the brickwork on the outdoor sign at St. Michael's. They did a wonderful job...the sign looks great! What this picture also says is to look soon for pictures of our seniors, who will be highlighted in the coming weeks on the outdoor sign.

Rosary & Reconciliation

The rosary will be broadcast on Monday at 1:30 p.m. and Thursday at 7:00 p.m. on Channel 70 and Facebook, and Drive-Up Confession will be on Thursday at 6:45 p.m. and Saturday at 10:00 a.m., in the church handicap parking lot.



Upcoming Wedding

Kendra Hoffman & Andy Recker

will be married on
May 2, 2020.

Please include them
in your prayers.



Parish Cook Book Update

Jill has been working feverishly on finishing up the cook book. We will post a list of recipes on the parish website, under "Recent Bulletins." If you don't see your recipe, please email kalida.stmichaelyouth@bright.net. Thanks to everyone who took part in this project.

Cemetery Cleanup

To prepare for the mowing season, please remove all Christmas decorations and any objects around the footer in the grass. Thanks for your help!

Have an Upcoming Wedding?

If you have an upcoming wedding at St. Michael's, and would like your picture on the bulletin or on the outdoor sign, email the full size picture to: stmich@bright.net.

Holy Name Tickets

Please turn in any money and tickets sold to either Nick Schulte or Mark Warnecke, as there may be checks sitting around, needing to be cashed. Thanks!

Name the Parish Cook Book

Help us name the parish cook book! Submit your entry by Monday, May 4, 2020 by emailing stmich@bright.net or mailing to: PO Box 387; Kalida, OH 45853

Winner gets a free cook book!

Name of Cook Book:

Your Name: _____

Phone Number: _____