

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, Kalida, OH: Fifth Sunday of Lent - March 29, 2020

From the Desk of Fr. Mark

Hi, everyone and I miss you. It is so strange to pray in the building of the church and be the only one there for Mass. Fr. Elmer is now usually there at St. Michael's, but when I celebrate Mass at St. John's, it is just me...and my smart phone. The virtue on the cross in St. Michael's for this week is "diligence." For me it means to do our best. At this time, a Smart Phone and our cable channel are the best we can do for as many as we can to pray together and celebrate that God is with us in the good, the bad, sickness and health, the confusion and in victory.

Diligence is the opposite of sloth. I think of my mom and all the work she did to raise our family. In my family there were birthdays on the 24th, 25th, and 26th of March. Mom went the extra mile to make sure that each day was special for each birthday child. I think of mom sitting through our childhood diseases of mumps, measles and chicken pox. I think of all the laundry that mom had to do when flu season went through the house. I'm sure that there were times when mom was at the end of her rope...and was barely hanging on. She was diligent because of her family. She was diligent because of her faith. There were many times when mom walked the path of Calvary with Jesus. Raising a family was not easy then or now. There are times when we need to remember diligence not only within the realms of raising a family, but also at work, in friendships, in life.

I also think of Jesus being diligent. He had to work hard because He loved us. Oftentimes we think of the Way of the Cross and Agony in the Garden as times when Jesus went the extra mile. But there were times when it must have been hard to control his tongue when the Pharisees didn't get the Kingdom of God. There were times when He knew they were trying to kill him and He kept preaching the Kingdom. Jesus went the extra mile for us.

Through this coronavirus time in our history, I see many people who are being diligent. I hear of people calling neighbors. I hear of extra meals being made for a shut-in. I see more people waving in their cars as they drive by a stranger. At this time of diligence in our history, we need to be committed to go the extra mile for our neighbor to keep them healthy. I am reminded of my family in the days before immunization for measles, mumps and chicken pox. Once one got it, we all got it (we slept six in a room and three in a bed). It is so important to keep the virus from spreading.

That is why our Church is being diligent about attendance. This will be an odd year when it comes to Holy Week and Easter. Only necessary people will be allowed to attend. We will do our best to celebrate this important time in our faith story. Continue to pray for each other, because that may be the most important thing we can do for each other. Let us be diligent in lifting up our families, our neighbors, the world. With God, all things are possible. May the possibility of the end of this coronavirus happen soon. May God bless you all.

Miss all of you. I want to put all of you on cardboard cut outs and put you in the pews where you sit. It is really difficult to pray as I look into a camera.

Fr. Mark

Our New Sign

I hope you like our new sign. There will be messages regarding distribution of palms, Confession times and Mass times to check out. Please let us know how we can be diligent in serving you. I am still hearing Confessions by appointment when I'm not in my mobile confessional. Confessions are at the regular times in Kalida. I also come to the hospital or nursing home or a person's house for Anointing of the Sick. Or you can just call, as I really do miss hearing and seeing everyone.

Mass Intentions/Schedule for TV and Facebook MONDAY, MARCH 30

NOON End to the Spread of COVID-19

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

8:00 AM Ray Aversch (HN)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

8:00 AM

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

7:30 PM Carolyn Unverferth

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

8:00 AM Special Intention

SUNDAY, APRIL 5 Palm Sunday

8:00 AM George, Nora & Dan Basinger

Paul & Kevin Lammers

Alvin & Mary Hoffman, Jim Unverferth

L/D Alphonse & Frances Schulte Family

*Mass will be at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 5
at Continental St. John's on Facebook*



Our Condolences

The Funeral Mass for

Ray Aversch

was held on

Saturday, March 28.

Please include Ray and

his family in your prayers.

A Little Humor

Fr. Elmer is not the only comedian at our parishes. This week I met a family who had a story of last Sunday's Mass. While I was wearing pink, my favorite color, and appeared on the television screen, a little girl pointed at the screen. The mom said, "Look, it's Fr. Mark." The little girl shook her head and said, "No, it's Elsa." I may NEVER wear that pink vestment again.

Rosary on Channel 70

Tune into Cable Channel 70 (and sometimes Facebook) on Mondays at 1:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. for the rosary, recited by Fr. Elmer and Fr. Mark. We will pray the Sorrowful Mysteries during the Lenten Season.

Sacrament of Confession

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered in the handicap parking lot of church by driving your car up to Fr. Mark's red Impala. Please only one car in the lot at a time.

This drive-up Confession will be offered on:

Thursdays at 6:45 p.m.

and on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

You can also call Fr. Mark to make an appointment for Confession (419-969-0148).

If not making a Confession, please don't park in handicap lot during Confession times listed above. Thanks!

Mass on TV and Online at Our Parishes

Saturday, March 28, 2020

4:30 p.m. Mass at St. Michael's on Cable Channel 70 and on facebook.com/kalidastmichaels

Sunday, March 29, 2020

9:30 a.m. Mass at St. John's only on facebook.com/kalidastmichaels

Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020

8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Michael's on Cable Channel 70 and on facebook.com/kalidastmichaels

9:30 a.m. Mass at St. John's only on facebook.com/kalidastmichaels

Staying Connected to St. Michael Church

1. facebook.com/kalidastmichaels
2. Website: stmichaelskalida.org
3. Listen to updates from Fr. Mark after any Mass on Cable Channel 70 or our facebook page.
4. Our new outdoor sign

Parish Offices Closed

The parish offices are closed. You can still email stmich@bright.net. If you have an emergency, call Fr. Mark's cell phone: **419-969-0148**.

Church Open for Private Prayer

At least through and including Easter Sunday, there is to be no one in attendance at church for Mass, but you are still invited to come to church for private prayer outside of Mass time. If possible, use the elevator entrance, as you can enter without touching any doorknobs by pressing the blue handicap access button with your hip or elbow, etc.. **When in church, please use the side pews, as they are cleaned daily.**

Kalida Area Garage Sales are Canceled...

due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At this time there are no plans to reschedule. As an alternative to a garage sale you can donate items at the recycling bins located west of town at the village maintenance facility. Every pound of recycled items supports your Parks. Thanks for understanding and we'll be back in 2021!

Spreading God's Light

Pictured Below: Scarlett Hanneman (left) and Aubree and Kayden Sickles (right) created these beautiful "stained glass" doors by using some tape, washable paint, a drop of Dawn dish soap and a little water. Wouldn't it be neat to see these popping up all over town? Share your creations with us and we'll put it on our facebook page or in the bulletin.



Connecting Generations

Earlier this year, Kayla Nartker visited her grandpa Richard Kortokrax, who is temporarily at the assisted living facility at The Meadows of Kalida. She quickly noticed several residents didn't have many visitors. This sparked her to create a pen pal program between Kalida High School students and, not only the residents at the nursing home, but adults in the Kalida community, as well. The response from the high school youth and Stacy Knueve, advisor to the school's "Cats Who Care" group, was amazing. Over three dozen exchanges have already been created. Now they are inviting other adults and high school students in the Kalida community to join this pen pal program. **If you would like to participate, email stmich@bright.net or call Fr. Mark (419-969-0148).** The letters don't have to be long. Just a simple note back and forth to keep the connection going. We hope you join this worthwhile program. Kudos to all involved with this project. Let's keep it growing!

