

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, Kalida, OH: Sunday, June 7, 2020

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

Thoughts from Fr. Mark

Hi, everyone. It was wonderful to see so many of you at last week's services. With the addition of two extra services, there was room for everyone. We are not back to our old normal when it comes to numbers, but we are not about numbers: we are about being God's family. I fully understand that some are reluctant to attend due to a multitude of reasons. I think of my own big family and our gatherings for Christmas, Easter, and weddings. It goes without saying that not everyone can attend. Instead of a time of judgment of who could be there or not, the invitation is always there that the next occasion might afford the opportunity to bring more of the family together. For those who can make it: welcome. For those who cannot: you are thought well of, missed and welcomed when the time is right to come together. We can still pray for each other and love each other even though we are not physically present together.

Our parishes are getting ready for First Communion. In this time of social distancing, only immediate families are invited to come to church. This is so difficult for everyone. There is something special to have the whole family together. Maybe this will put an extra emphasis on how important the family is to our Church and our society. Again, it is not about numbers. It is about being God's family. To be in Communion with God means that we are in communion with one another. As many have missed each other by not being able to attend Mass, many have missed being in Communion with God through not being able to participate in the Holy Eucharist. A new emphasis on the importance of the Eucharist has been a definite outcome of the effects of the coronavirus.

This past week has been hard on hearts as lives have been lost and disrespect has been shown through unruly protests. Sometimes the peaceful protests have been overshadowed by the darkness of a few. There have been people who have knelt and prayed together. There are those who have cleaned up after the protest who have brought light in darkness. As our parishes get ready for First Communion, I want to have my eyes set on the simplicity of the goodness of children. They want to take in the Lord. I will let all the theology to people with degrees. I just want to be part of God and His family. These children show the best of who we are called to be. With life being hard sometimes, it is nice to have the simplicity of children to show that not all the world is hard. Congratulations to all our First Communicants and thanks for being part of God's family and ours.

Have a blessed week, everyone. *Fr. Mark*

First Communion is Next Sunday!

First Communion will be held on Sunday, June 14, at 1:00 p.m. for the current second graders and their parents only. This is also the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ! It will be broadcast on Facebook and Cable Channel 70.

Get Your Holy Name Raffle Tickets!

Contact Nick Schulte (419-532-2131) or Mark Warnecke (419-532-3662) for tickets. The first drawing for the new year is coming up quickly in July.

Sign-Up for Ministries for Weekend Masses...

Click on the link at stmichaelskalida.org, under "Ministry Schedules," email stmich@bright.net or call 419-532-3474.

Mass Intentions & Schedule for the Week

MONDAY, JUNE 8

NOON Jim & Esther Siefker

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

8:00 AM Wilbur & Mildred Remlinger
Carolyn Unverferth, Successful Surgery

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

8:00 AM Betty Rambo

THURSDAY, JUNE 11 *St. Barnabas, apostle*

7:30 PM Ed Schroeder, Leo & Irene Schnipke

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

8:00 AM Carl Vorst

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

4:30 PM Bev Nandi Siefker, Harold Barnhart
John Phillips, Jim Warnecke
Eugene Osterhage
Herk Selhorst, Tom Wannemaacher

SUNDAY, JUNE 14 *Body & Blood of Christ*

8:00 AM Len & Dolores Bockrath

11:00 AM Norm Kahle, Vince Erhart

Special Intention

Richard & Gladys Unverferth Family

1:00 PM First Communion Mass



Our Condolences

The Funeral Mass for

Betty Rambo

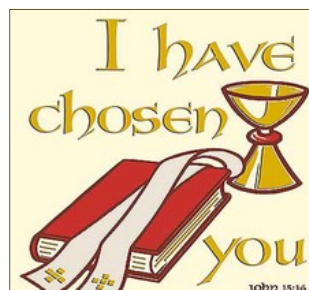
was held on

Friday, June 5.

Please include Betty

and her family

in your prayers.



Happy Anniversary of Ordination

On Tuesday, June 9, Fr. Elmer will celebrate his 64th anniversary of ordination and Deacon Bob will celebrate his 30th anniversary of ordination. Thanks to both of you for all you have done and continue to do for our parish!

Youth Mass in the Park

ALL High School Students from Putnam County (incoming Freshman thru outgoing Seniors) are invited to the **YOUTH MASS IN THE PARK** on Saturday, June 20, at 8:00 p.m. at Kalida Four Seasons Park. Please bring your own lawn chair. If you have any questions, please contact Jill Zeller (567-376-9115). *This is for youth only.*

“Statement of Bishop Daniel E. Thomas on The Death of George Floyd and the Resulting Aftermath”

“I can’t breathe.” The harrowing plea of George Floyd as he was violently robbed of his life, now seared into our minds, hearts and souls; and the chanting of that phrase in protests, many tragically marked by violence and vandalism, are a stark reminder that hatred, racism and injustice are alive and well. Attacks on human life cannot be tolerated because each human life has inherent dignity and all human life is sacred. The right to life is the first and most fundamental principle of human rights that leads us actively to work for a greater respect for human life and a greater commitment to justice and peace.

United with Catholics throughout the Diocese of Toledo and together with all people of good will, we denounce in the strongest terms immoral actions which are the poison fruit of racism; and we denounce immoral actions which are born of hatred and result in unbridled violence. "Love compels each of us to resist racism courageously. It requires us to reach out generously to the victims of this evil, to assist the conversion needed in those who still harbor racism, and to begin to change policies and structures that allow racism to persist" *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call To Love, A Pastoral Letter Against Racism* (USCCB, Nov 2018, p. 18).

While it might be easy to denounce racism and violence in a written statement, in a catchphrase on a poster, or in a political call for systemic change; it is far from easy to stop and examine where they have their roots: in one’s own heart, thoughts, intentions, speech and attitudes. It is never easy for anyone to identify any sin or vice and work courageously to eradicate it, never easy to work to replace it with goodness and virtue. Only such an examination leads to a "genuine conversion of heart, a conversion that will compel change, and the reform of our institutions and society" (p. 7). Only personal ongoing conversion from evil and sin can lead to the healing so desperately needed today.

Pope Francis exhorts us: “My friends, we cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life. At the same time, we have to recognize that the violence of recent nights is self-destructive and self-defeating. Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost...let us implore the national reconciliation and peace for which we yearn.”

As we pledge our prayers for the repose of George Floyd, for all who have lost their lives, and for their grieving loved ones, we pray together for our broken and wounded nation. Most of all do we pray that every person so disturbed and outraged by the events of these last days will work to promote and protect that peace and justice which is the right of all citizens, no matter their race. We cannot condone the brutality of some in law enforcement which led to the horrific death of George Floyd; we cannot condone the violence of some protesters which brutalizes and ruins the livelihoods of ordinary citizens.

“If one member of the body suffers, all suffer together” (1Cor 12:26). In this moment we are all suffering, united in particular with the suffering African American community. In this moment, we cannot lose sight of George Floyd’s struggle to breathe, nor be deaf to the “I can’t breathe” of the countless voices of those for whom there is no one to speak. Nor can we be blind to those who try to manipulate this moment of suffering to promote an agenda of hatred and foment division to pit us one against the other.

As members of the human race, in this moment, it feels difficult to breathe. The violence we have all witnessed has left us breathless. We look forward to that day when, moved by the Holy Spirit, the Breath of God, we can stand united as one human family in a society moving toward hope and healing. We look forward to that day when the harrowing plea “I can’t breathe” has been transformed into a full throated “I can breathe freely!”; where each human person can breathe deeply of the pure air of mercy, love, harmony, peace, justice, understanding and respect for each human person!