

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH



30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." - Mt 22:37

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Thoughts From a Christian, and a Citizen Too, About the Election and the State of Our Country

Today I would like to offer my fourth and final reflection involving the Election and the state of our country. Let me reiterate one final time; my purpose is simply to offer a reflection on how Jesus might view the bitter divisions we presently experiencing in our country today. My comments will be an attempt to reflect on how I believe Jesus would engage in the present situation in our country. Some of you have asked me what Jesus would do? Last week's Gospel can help us see how Jesus would see all we are going through here in our present-day situation.

By way of review, in part one, I stated that Jesus is never the divider, but always the uniter. In part two, I asserted the Jesus would be furiously and unconditionally pro-life. In part three, I stated that despite what you might think, God isn't a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent. As the Body of Christ, we include people who are different economically, racially, socially, and ideologically. God is not a Republican, a Democrat, a Conservative, a Liberal, or a Socialist.

Fourth, **the Church is meant to be an alternative to the culture, not a reflection of it!!** This is important. "Christendom" (We can discuss one day exactly what that is, and how it existed from the time of Constantine to the present age. Maybe that can be part of a Facebook discussion one day.) was a reflection of the culture, and it watered down Christianity to where culture determined what Faith would look like, as opposed to the other way around. True Christianity is not Christendom! Our mission is to point people to Jesus, a very challenging and counter-cultural reality in our post-modern world. It's important to state clearly if our Church is either conservative or liberal -- it has lost its way.

Finally, people don't just want to know what you or I think is right; they want to know what's real, what is true. If people like me are just a reflection of some liberal or conservative ideology, we will not be proclaiming Christ, and we will ultimately lose the next generation. The experts tell us that our young people are looking for authenticity more than anything. They're not looking for a reflection of culture. They're looking for an alternative to it. Nobody finds life in "my" kingdom; they find life in Christ's Kingdom. Talking about my political views on the world in a loud voice is not cutting it. And getting louder doesn't help.

So, there are a few partial but hopefully helpful thoughts on the political state of our country and the upcoming election. Again, **they are meant to be an assertion of values, not a prescription of solutions.** And, may I recommend a prayerful reading of the Pope's newest encyclical, "Fra-telli Tu-ti" "On Fraternity and Social Friendship," as a deeper dive into a new vision, a new way of envisioning ourselves as believers in the world. I'm excited for both you and me to study it.

Here's a thought: start real-life relationships with people, not necessarily other Christians, who think differently than you. Ask questions, AND listen. It's the best way to become more thoughtful, understanding, and empathetic with people who are different acting, looking, thinking. If you are a Democrat, ask a Republican out to lunch; if you are a Republican, ask a Democrat.

Again, I in no way offer these thoughts as exhaustive or complete. Maybe you have some thoughts of your own you would like to share. I'm happy to listen. I simply wanted to make the point that there is a different way to look at all of this. And, if we want to truly live and proclaim the truth, Jesus must be at the center of our minds and hearts. We often think there is only an either/or solution to every situation. That's not the case. In my experience, Jesus often offers us "another way," a deeper way, a truer way through the complex issues of the world. I think Pope Francis offers something like that in his new encyclical. Indeed, "*Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life, no one comes to the Father but through Him.*" John 14:6.

FATHER MARK'S NOTES (continued)

May I conclude my remarks about being a Christian and a citizen with a prayer:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace
Where there is hatred, let me sow love
Where there is injury, pardon
Where there is doubt, faith
Where there is despair, hope
Where there is darkness, light
And where there is sadness, joy
O Divine Master, grant that I may
Not so much seek to be consoled as to console
To be understood, as to understand
To be loved, as to love
For it is in giving that we receive
And it's in pardoning that we are pardoned
And it's in dying that we are born to Eternal Life
Amen

All Saints Day

Mass for All Saints Day is this weekend, Oct. 31 and Nov 1. Our schedule will be our usual weekend schedule. **Mass at St. Michael's will be Saturday evening.** There will not be a morning Mass at St. Michael's for the first Sunday of the month. Who knows, maybe we will get outside again. So, see you next weekend for the Feast of All Saints.

Message Series on Mary, Mother of God

This week's topic for our Message Series on Mary is "Mary, Our Mother of Sorrows." Interesting. The author writes about the significance of this feast in a very thought-provoking manner. I've never heard this theology before. Join us for Facebook Live on Sunday at 7 pm and get a deeper look at Mary as Our Mother of Sorrows.

NEWS FROM THE VOCATION OFFICE

College and young adult men: An opportunity to discern your vocation is being made available via the convenience of Zoom. Every Friday at 8:30 PM join others in an organized discussion about different aspects of prayer and vocational discernment. We will use the book "To Save a Thousand Souls" which can be ordered for FREE by going to GoPriest.com and selecting "free resources." If you are interested, please contact Fr. Peter Crowe at vocations@dioceseaj.org to receive the zoom link. There is no commitment or pressure, just an opportunity to be with others, at least digitally, to gather in prayer, and have a good discussion that could be very helpful. If we don't know about a vocation, it is not possible to properly discern it. We need good men to say yes to our Lord. Could that man be you? Come and see!

SMALL GROUP NEWS

We are a short 35 days from the start of Advent! Now's the time to start thinking about getting a group together for the beautiful Advent/Christmas season. This is a wonderful way to change the routine of the holidays by spending some time with family and friends discussing the real reason for Christmas. Contact Julie Sheehan for information on getting a group together. jsheehan1081@gmail.com or 535-1994.

MESSAGE SERIES ON MARY



This week's title for Mary is near and dear to our hearts, Mary - The Mother of Sorrows. We will explore how Mary shares in the passion of her Son, Jesus, as He brings to us the Kingdom of God, the Church. With Mary's great yes, her "fiat", she participated in bringing forth Jesus, our Savior, but also became our Mother. She suffered through many sorrows, but none more important than Jesus' death on the cross. Join us as we learn more about this very special Lady, Our Mother of Sorrows.

EPIC

11th-Grade Retreat: We are offering the 11th- grade Confirmation all-day retreat in the school gym from 9 am to 5 pm on Saturday, November 14. If you are unable to attend this scheduled retreat, you will be responsible for attending and completing the diocesan virtual retreat. Arrangements for the virtual retreat should be made with Ali Koch A.S.A.P.

Service: Let us be the hands and feet of Jesus! Join us in the soup kitchen on November 11 and December 19. We need 4-5 teens to help. Please sign up by contacting Ali Koch.

Our Mother of Sorrows Mass of Remembrance

Monday, November 2, 2020 / 6:00 PM Mass

Our Mother of Sorrows Parish family traditionally gathers on this evening to pray, and find hope while remembering all our deceased loved ones. You will have two options regarding this mass. You are welcome to join us inside of the church for Mass as we sit socially distant with facemasks. Our second option is watching the Mass on your smart tv or computer as we livestream it in real-time on the church website: omostoday.com.

During the Mass of Remembrance, there will be a special commemoration for those who have died since last November, and a candle will be lit in their honor at this very inspirational evening mass.

Due to social distancing; all seating will be assigned and masks are required.

If you wish to have someone remembered who has died in the past year, please sign up on-line at www.omostoday.com or call the Parish Office at 535-7646, Ext. 221.

Please provide the following information by: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30TH

Name of Deceased: _____ / Date of Death: _____

Parish Member (Requesting Memorial) _____

Will Attend Mass (Last Name) _____ / Number Attending _____

OR Will watch the livestream Mass _____

OUTREACH

OMOS OUTREACH

Shopping?

Food Bins – Drive up and drop off –
located on our back patio behind Holy Grounds.

When you are shopping, pick up a couple extra items for the food bank. Canned items, peanut butter, pasta, etc. / Also, items for the St. Vincent de Paul Tuna Noodle dinner such as large cans of tuna, egg noodles, and large cans of mushroom soup. There is a great need currently.

Thanksgiving in a box!

Next week, we will have information on how we can provide Thanksgiving to those in need. Your family can provide Thanksgiving in a box to a Johnstown family in need. You will have two options; one click and the box is purchased **or** shop the items for us to put in the box. It is up to you! Stay tuned!



WEEKLY & MINISTRY SCHEDULES

Monday, October 26
6 a.m.—Eucharistic Adoration
8 a.m.—Mass

Tuesday, October 27
6 a.m.—Eucharistic Adoration
7:30 a.m.—Confession
8 a.m.—Mass-at OMOS

Wednesday, October 28
7:00 a.m.—Praise and Worship
4:30 p.m.—Eucharistic Adoration
5:30 p.m.—Confessions
6 p.m.—Mass

Thursday, October 29
6 a.m.—Eucharistic Adoration
9 a.m.—School Mass

Friday, October 30
6 a.m.—Eucharistic Adoration
8 a.m.—Mass

Saturday, October 31
3 pm—Confessions
4 p.m.—Mass at OMOS
Server: Haley Kessler & Vindy Kohan

Lector: John Skelley
Euch. Min: Linda Rosenbaum, Marilyn Billow, Michelle Petrell

Saturday, October 31
6:00 p.m.—Mass at St. Michaels
Server: Tim Burgess & Alexis Williams
Lector: Doug Puchko

Sunday, November 1
8:30 a.m.—Mass at OMOS
Server: Alyssa Kush & Rachael Cameron

Lector: Sharon Kovac
Euch. Min: Dawn Zabala, Rick Messina, Rosemary Zenone

Sunday, November 1
11:00—Mass at OMOS
Server: Nathan DiFrancesco & Joe Gritzer

Lector: Monica Garver
Euch. Min: Michele Varner, Linda Fleming, Donna Gillan

12:30 p.m.—Communion outside Mass



ST. MICHAEL'S

Reservations for Christmas Day Mass at St. Michael's may be made by calling Maureen Puchko at 539-6321 and leaving a message.

St. Michael's is selling Giant Eagle & Sheetz Scrip. Available after Mass and at Riek's Country Store. Hours are Thurs. & Fri. 11 am—4 pm & Sat. 9 am to noon. Call Marissa 243-3674 with questions.

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Eph 4:32—5:8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Eph 5:1]/Lk 13:10-17
Tuesday: Eph 5:21-33/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [1a]/Lk 13:18-21
Wednesday: Eph 2:19-22/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5a]/Lk 6:12-16
Thursday: Eph 6:10-20/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10 [1b]/Lk 13:31-35
Friday: Phil 1:1-11/Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [2]/Lk 14:1-6
Saturday: Phil 1:18b-26/Ps 42:2, 3 5cdef/Lk 14:1, 7-11
Next Sunday: Rv 7:2-4, 9-14/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 6]/1 Jn 3:1-3/Mt 5:1-12a

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, October 24—Vigil
4:00 p.m. Leo O'Connor & Bill Galliker (Polly O'Connor)
6:00 p.m. Patricia Kessler (Nancy Lill)

Sunday, October 25—30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 a.m. Hazel Johnnie (Tony & Marianne Spada & Family)
11:00 a.m. Philip & Marie Catanese (Ric & Patty Csarak)

Monday, October 26
8:00 a.m. Millie Trotz (Funeral Choir)

Tuesday, October 27
8:00 a.m. Mary Linda Trexler (Jack & Carroll Green)

Wednesday, October 28
6:00 p.m. Frank Nicoletti (Nick & Donna Antonazzo)

Thursday, October 29
9:00 a.m. George C. Cassanese (Jean Marie Brinker)

Friday, October 30
8:00 a.m. Richard Blaschak (Blaschak Family)

Saturday, October 31—Vigil
4:00 p.m. Helen Kohan (Bob & Lori Wagner & Family)
6:00 p.m. John E. Polak (wife, Josephine & Family)

Sunday, November 1—All Saints' Day
8:30 a.m. Edward, Sr. & Marie Burkhard (Edward Burkhard, Jr.)
11:00 a.m. Anenita Wong (Ed & Ellen Dumayas)

**Don't forget to turn
your clock back one
hour on Saturday night,
October 31st!**