

# March 10, 2013 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

Our Mission: The Catholic Church of St. Michael the Archangel exists to joyfully proclaim the presence of Jesus to the total community.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Since it's Lent, here's another thing that may help you return to the Sacrament of Reconciliation if you've been away. It's a reflection by **Fr. Mike Smitz**, called, **"My Side of the Confessional: What Is It Like for a Priest?"**

I was once riding in a shuttle-bus with a number of older folks on the way from an airport. They noticed that I was a priest and started asking questions about it. "Do you do all of the priest stuff?" "Yep." "Even the Confession thing?" "Yeah. All the time." One older lady gasped, "Well, I think that that would be the worst. It would be so depressing; hearing all about people's sins."

I told them that it was the exact opposite. There is almost no greater place to be than with someone when they are coming back to God. I said, "It would be depressing if I had to watch someone leave God; I get to be with them when they come back to Him." The Confessional is a place where people let God's love win. The Confessional is the most joyful, humbling, and inspiring place in the world.

**What do I see during confession?** I think there are three things. First, I see the costly mercy of God in action. I get to regularly come face to face with the overwhelming, life-transforming power of God's love. I get to see God's love up-close and it reminds me of how good God is.

Not many folks get to see the way in which God's sacrifice on the Cross is constantly breaking into people's lives and melting the hardest hearts. Jesus consoles those who are grieving their sins . . . and strengthens those who find themselves wanting to give up on God or on life.

As a priest, I get to see this thing happen every day.

**I see a saint in the making.** The second thing I see is a person who is still trying – a saint in the making. I don't care if this is the person's third confession this week; if they are seeking the Sacrament of Reconciliation, it means that they are trying. That's all that I care about. This thought is worth considering: going to Confession is a sign that you haven't given up on Jesus.

This is one of the reasons why pride is so deadly. I have talked with people who tell me that they don't want to go to Confession to their priest because their priest really likes them and "thinks that they are a good kid."

I have two things to say to this:

1) He will not be disappointed! What your priest will see is a person who is trying! I dare you to find a saint who didn't need to God's mercy! (Even Mary needed God's mercy; she received the mercy of God in a dramatic and powerful way at her conception.)

2) So what if the priest is disappointed? We try to be so impressive with so much of our lives. Confession is a place where we don't get to be impressive.

Confession is a place where the desire to impress goes to die. Think about it: all other sins have the potential to cause us to race to the confessional, but pride is the one that causes us to hide from the God who could heal us.

**Do I Remember Your Sins? No!** So often, people will ask if I remember people's sin from Confession. As a priest, I rarely, if ever, remember sins from the confessional. That might seem impossible, but the truth is, sins aren't all that impressive. They aren't like memorable sunsets or meteor showers or super-intriguing movies . . . they are more like the garbage.

And if sins are like garbage, then the priest is like God's garbage-man. If you ask a garbage-man about the gross-est thing he's ever had to haul to the dump, maaaaaybe he could remember it. But the fact is, once you get used to taking out the trash, it ceases to be noteworthy, it ceases to stand out.

Honestly, once you realize that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is less about the sin and more about Christ's death and resurrection having victory in a person's life, the sins lose all of their luster, and Jesus' victory takes center stage.

In Confession, we meet the life-transforming, costly love of God . . . freely given to us every time we ask for it. We meet Jesus who reminds us, "You are worth dying for . . . even in your sins, you are worth dying for."

Whenever someone comes to Confession, I see a person who is deeply loved by God and who is telling God that they love Him back. That's it, and that's all.

**In Confession I see my own weakness.** The third thing a priest sees when he hears Confessions is his own soul. It is a scary place for a priest. I cannot tell you how humbled I am when someone approaches Jesus' mercy through me.

I am not over-awed by their sins; I am struck by the fact that they have been able to recognize sins in their life that I have been blind to in my own. Hearing someone's humility breaks down my own pride. It is one of the best examinations of conscience.

But why is Confession a scary place for a priest? It is frightening because of the way in which Jesus trusts me to be a living sign of His mercy.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen once told priests that we scarcely realize what is happening when we extend our hands over someone's head in absolution. We don't realize, he said, that the very Blood of Christ is dripping from our fingers onto their heads, washing the penitent clean.

The day after I was ordained, we had a little party and my dad stood up and made a toast. He has worked his entire life as an orthopedic surgeon, and he was a very good one. My whole life, his patients have come up to me at one time or another and told me how their lives have been changed because my dad was such a good surgeon.

So, there my dad was, standing in the midst of these people, and he began to say, "My whole life, I have used my hands to heal people's broken bodies.

But from now on, my son Michael . . . um, Father Michael . . . will use his hands (at this point, he got choked up) . . . He will use his hands to heal broken souls. His hands will save even more lives than mine have."

Confession is such a powerful place. All I have to do is offer God's mercy, love, and redemption . . . but I don't want to get in Jesus' way. The priest stands in judgment of no one. In the Confessional, the only thing I have to offer is mercy.

**I get to sacrifice for you.** Lastly, when a priest hears Confessions, he is taking on another responsibility.

One time, after college, I was returning to Confession after a long time and a lot of sin and the priest simply gave me something like "one Hail Mary" as my penance. I stopped.

"Um, Father...? Did you hear everything I said?" "Yes, I did." "Don't you think I should get a bigger penance than that?" He looked at me with great love and said, "No. That small penance is all that I'm asking of you." He hesitated, and then continued, "But you should know . . . I will be fasting for you for the next 30 days."

I was stunned. I didn't know what to do. He told me that the Catechism teaches that the priest must do penance for all those who come to him for Confession. And here he was, embracing a severe penance for all of my severe sins.

This is why Confession reveals the priest's own soul; it reveals his willingness to sacrifice his life with Christ. He sees our sins as a burden that he will take up (with Jesus!) and offer them to the Father, while offering us the mercy of God.

Remember, Confession is always a place of victory. Whether you have confessed a particular sin for the first time, or if this is the 12,001<sup>st</sup> time, every Confession is a win for Jesus. And I, a priest, get to be there. That's what it's like . . . I get to sit and watch Jesus win His children back all day.

It's Awesome!

Hope to see (or hear) you in the box.

Peace and prayers,



## Community Life

### Mass Attendance—March 2 & 3

4pm-148, 6pm-100, 7:30am-116, 9:30am-204, 11:30am (Church)-222, 11:30am (Chapel)-176. Total: 966.

### Welcome to St. Michael's!

If you are visiting with us this weekend, or have been away from the Church for a while, we invite you to become an active part of our parish community. Please pick up a registration form, available in the bulletin racks at all church entrances, and formally enroll as a member of the parish. Registration in the parish is necessary whenever requesting eligibility forms to serve as sponsors at baptisms and confirmations. It also ensures that you will receive parish communications in a timely manner. Young adults, living independently, should register in their own names. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can help in any way. If you are not Roman Catholic, please know that you

are most welcome. While we are unable to extend an invitation to our non-Catholic brothers and sisters to receive Holy Communion, please feel free to come forward at Communion time and ask for a blessing.

### We Pray for the Sick

Marge Fader, John Schrenker, Sr., Frank Novotny, William Connolly, Kent Neibaur, Tom Cimino, Gloria Summerfield, Phillip Breece, Susan Kasper, William Critcher, Wilfredo Feliciano, Jr., Chris Workman, Gavin Sparzk, Chuck Cochran, Collen Cleary Perzan, Marie Crusse, Roselyn Marconi, Donna Freeley, Tory Robinson, Claire Conger, Elmer Morkovsky, Sr., Jeannine Moriconi, Peggy Via, James Via, Gregory Meecham, Joseph Foreman, John Schreiber, Kara Taylor, Elmer Diepold, Blanca Rosario, Pauline Pritchett, Gloria Blowe, Rita Arrigo, Donna Rossello, Walter Truszkowski, Howard White, Aubrey Spradley, Patricia Watkins, Edward Clocker, Evie Rains & family, Ian Moore, Donna Kline, Emma Wayne, Edward Greives, Deborah M. Hopkins, George Kurgan, Jon Web, Bill & Sheila Schone, William Dovalovsky, Jr., Robert Dovalovsky, Anna Zukowski, Mary Forest, Dante Petrolini, Janet Hofmeister, Emma Wyant, Patricia Ann Taylor, Tom Kleinota, Chard II, Regina Celia Prospero, Caroline Ayres, Kim Schisler, Ann Schisler, Frank Thomas Cimino, Zenaida Santander Jacobo, Elsy Michelena, Victoria Plaskon, Mary Soistman, Anna Rebetsky, Amelia Loveless, Mary Lou James, Susan Misiara, Jonathan Kielek, Chuck Kropfelder, Sharon Edwards, Jaidan Richardson, Rita Grutkowski, Walter Plaine, Barbara Pochatko, Ann Horchar, Ines Reynel, Kelly Soltis, Sharon Cuneo, Rita Miller, Thomas Bzdil, Thomas Michocki, Don Jacobs, Jake Masarweh, Linda Tabaka, Betsy Rickter, Amelia Coleman, Adrian Luca, Jane Burns, Vera Over, Kathleen Plaine, Patricia Cadden, Vernon & Catherine Franck, Paul Kayle, Marge Bowen, Marge Winterling, Rose Sikorsky, Barbara Kelley, Rosemary Posha, John McQuaid III, Braylon Buck and Jedd Cochrane. *To have a name placed on, removed, or returned to the prayer list contact the Parish Office.*

### Prayers for Those Who Protect and Defend Us

Countless men and women place their lives in harm's way each day, many in areas riddled by war and violence. May God watch over them and protect them. Please pray especially for Cpl. Michael Smith, BCPD, and Wilbur Smith BCFD & EMT, Officer Buddy Pugh, Officer Christopher Robinson, Officer Norman Rogers, Jr., SPC Katherine Leach, Lance Cpl. Michael Meise, Jr., PFC Joshua Flick, Lt. Victor Barba-Sorra, Lt. Col. Robert Wojciechowski, Patrick Cook, Lora Hamilton, Sgt. Richard J. Peschek, Lt. Kevin Flaherty, Daniel Michael Ging, Officer Mark Flaherty, Commander Jim Litsch, Officer Joseph Robinson, Officer Anastasia Robinson, Officer Michael Forish, Sgt. Raymond Conger, Lt. Joe Conger, Michael A. Violanti, Jr., David R. Edwards, Jr., Sgt. John Kollar, Officer Dennis Gunther, and all who protect and defend us. *To have a name added to the list contact the Parish Office.*

### Welcome to Our Newly Baptized

Our parish rejoices with **Olivia Rae Bolyard, Anna Marguerite Beall, Marissa Louise Johnson,** and **Daphne Autumn Ryan,** who were baptized last Sun-

day, March 3. May the Lord watch over you and bless you.

### **This Week at St. Michael's**

*Meeting Rooms: Parish Meeting Room (PMR) and Conference Rooms (CR) 1 & 2 are in the Parish Center; Chapel Meeting Room (CMR) & Youth Room (YR) are in the Lower Church. For all Parish Center meetings come to the main entrance of the school at 10 Willow Ave.*

#### **Sunday, March 10**

9:45 am Children's Faith Formation (*Classrooms*)  
1 pm Baptism Prep Class *English (PMR)*  
6 pm Boy Scout Troop 419 Meeting (*Scout Room*)

#### **Monday, March 11**

6 pm Cub Scout Committee Meeting (*Scout Room*)  
7 pm RCIA (*PMR*)  
7 pm Holy Name Society Meeting (*CMR*)

#### **Tuesday, March 12**

6 pm *Seussical* Rehearsal (*Gym*)  
6 pm G.I.F.T. (*PMR*)  
7 pm Hispanic Prayer Group (*Chapel*)

#### **Wednesday, March 13**

11 am Ladies of Charity Meeting (*CMR*)  
3:15 pm Children Choir Rehearsal (*Church*)  
5 pm-6:30 pm The Light is on for You (*Church*)  
7 pm Meeting *Christ in Prayer (PMR)*

#### **Thursday, March 14**

12 Noon Meeting *Christ in Prayer* Group 2 (*CR2*)  
6 pm Cub Scout Meeting (*Scout Room*)  
7 pm Hispanic Community (*Chapel*)  
7:30 pm Traditional Choir (*Choir Loft*)

#### **Friday, March 15**

11:30 am Stations of the Cross & Benediction (*Chapel*)  
5 pm Hispanic Community (*Chapel*)  
6 pm Simple Lenten Supper (*Gym*)  
6 pm Girl Scout Cadette Troop 590 Meeting (*CMR*)  
6 pm Girl Scout Junior Meeting (*YR*)  
7 pm Stations of the Cross (*Church*)

#### **Sunday, March 17**

9:45 am Children's Faith Formation (*Classrooms*)  
1 pm Baptisms *Spanish (Church)*  
2 pm Eagle Scout Ceremony (*Gym*)  
6 pm Boy Scout Troop 419 Meeting (*Scout Room*)

### **Hispanic Community**

7 pm Grupo de Oración en Español (*Capilla*) All Tuesdays. 10 am Grupo de Reflexión en Español (*CMR*) All Sundays. 5 pm Viacrucis en Español (*Iglesia*) Fridays until Lent ends. **Santo Nombre en Español:** La misa del Santo Nombre en español será el 17 de marzo en la misa de 11:30 am. Todos los miembros de sus familias y amigos están invitados a rezar el rosario a las 10:50 am en la Capilla.

## **Liturgy**

### **Saint Patrick, March 17**

When Patrick was 16, his father's farm in Britain was invaded. The raiders carried Patrick off with his father's servants to be slaves in Ireland Patrick spent the next six years tending sheep. As a slave, he suffered greatly from loneliness. In his solution of loneliness he found a deep sense of God's love for him. He began to pray. Finally Patrick was able to escape. He made his way home to Britain. He became a monk and studied so that he could return to Ireland as a missionary. By the

year 433, he had also become a bishop. Patrick went back to Ireland and traveled throughout the land. He preached to the Irish in their own language, which he had learned during his years of slavery. By the time Patrick died, most of the Irish people were baptized. Monasteries in Ireland became centers of learning. St. Patrick's Day always comes during Lent, when the church is getting catechumens ready for baptism at Easter. Patrick used the three-leafed shamrock to try to explain to catechumens the mystery of the Holy Trinity.

### **Mass Intentions & Scripture Readings**

#### **Sat. Vigil, March 9**

4 pm ✠Pete Canzi  
6 pm ✠Joe Balakier

#### **Sunday, March 10-4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

Jos 5-9a, 10-12; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32  
7:30 am ✠George H. Wakefield, Sr.  
9:30 am ✠Joyce Edwards  
11:30am (*Church*) All Parish Members  
11:30am (*Chapel*) ✠Lidia Ramona Polanco

#### **Monday, March 11**

Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54  
9 am ✠Elsie Chabalko

#### **Tuesday, March 12**

Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16  
9 am ✠Jim Hughes

#### **Wednesday, March 13**

Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30  
9 am All Parish Members

#### **Thursday, March 14**

Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47  
9 am ✠Christine Redel

#### **Friday, March 15**

Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30  
9 am ✠Cecilia Radziminski

#### **Saturday, March 16**

Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53  
8:30 am ✠Joan Little

#### **Sat. Vigil, March 16**

4 pm ✠Joseph Cataldo  
6 pm ✠Elsie Chabalko

#### **Sunday, March 17-5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

Isaiah 43:16-21; Phil 3:8-14; John 8: 1-11  
7:30 am ✠Marie C. Foreman  
9:30 am ✠Mary Catherine White  
11:30am (*Church*) ✠George H. Wakefield, Sr.  
11:30am (*Chapel*) All Parish Members

### **Confession Schedule for Saturday, March 16**

Saturday: 3 pm -Fr. Jim Sorra

*Please note this schedule is subject to change.*

### **Hispanic Community**

Confesiones en Español todos los domingos de 11 am a 11:25 am. Misa en Español: 11:30 am (Capilla).

### **Holy Week and the Beginning of the Triduum**

**Holy Week** begins on **Sunday, March 24** with the Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. The Passion Gospel of Saint Luke will be proclaimed at all the Masses. Palm (branches of a tree of the palm family) are blessed and distributed to the faithful. Most palm in the United States comes from the Florida Everglades. **Tenebrae** is the Latin term for darkness. **Tenebrae** refers to the evening setting for a service of the Word, song, and the progressive extinguishing of the

church lights and candles during them. The main focus during Tenebrae is on Christ's suffering, death and descent among the dead. **Tenebrae** will be celebrated on **Wednesday, March 27 at 7pm in the church.** **Morning Prayer** during Holy Week will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. in the chapel beginning on Thursday, March 28. **Holy Thursday, the Mass of the Lord's Supper,** will be celebrated on Thursday, March 28, at 7 pm in the Church. As we begin this Sacred Triduum, we carry the holy oils blessed by our archbishop at the Monday, March 25, Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen. Washing feet is a sign of the humble service to which Christians are called. We celebrate Eucharist on this sacred night. Following the sharing of communion, the sacred Body of Christ is taken, in solemn procession, to its place of repose. Night Prayer begins at 11pm in the Chapel.

## Catholic Faith Formation

### Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults-RCIA

Are you or someone you know interested in knowing more about the Catholic Faith? If so, call the parish office for more information. We meet on Monday evenings from 7 to 8:30 pm (except holidays). The topic for Monday, March 11, is *The Nicene Creed*. We commit **Baylie Connelly, William Sullivan, Ryan Sullivan, Tyler Sullivan, Salaya Corbin** and **Nashir Corbin** to your prayers as they prepare to receive the Easter Sacraments. They are in need of our community's prayer and good example as they continue on their journey to the Resurrection.

### First Eucharist Preparation

During this week of preparation the children will learn the story of Moses and the Burning Bush and how Moses prepared to meet God. We will learn how this is important to us. Please keep these children and their families in your prayer.

### School News

**High School Acceptances:** Students from St. Michael's have been accepted at *Archbishop Curley, Calvert Hall College, Institute of Notre Dame, John Carroll, Mercy High School, Mt. Carmel High School, and The Catholic High School.* **Enrollment for the School Year 2013-2014:** Please consider St. Michael's for the education of your child. The program starts with full-day programs in pre-K (4 year old program) and Kindergarten and continues until 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Part-time preschool for 3 and 4 year old children is available through God's Little People. Call Mrs. Dossa at 410-668-8797 to arrange a tour of the School and receive an information packet. Registration material will be available. Remember to register early to guarantee your seat at the School or for GLP. **1<sup>st</sup> in Math:** St. Michael the Archangel School returned to 3<sup>rd</sup> of all the schools participating in the state of Maryland and moved up to 74<sup>th</sup> in the national rankings. Jirsa Kendzlerski, Grade 1 is ranked at 16<sup>th</sup> in Maryland. For the week of March 3, the player of the week was Andrew Heffernan in Grade 2 and Team of the Week was Mrs. Dover's homeroom. Player of the month is Andrew Heffernan in Grade 2 and the team of the month

is Mrs. Dover's Grade 2 homeroom. Mrs. Conti's Grade 3 team is ranked 79<sup>th</sup> and Mrs. Hanley Grade 4 is ranked 92<sup>nd</sup> in the state of Maryland. Students in pre-Kindergarten are now participating in *First in Math*. Congratulations to the 188 students who are participating in *First in Math*.

### Pequeñas Comunidades

Continúan las reuniones todos los viernes a las 7 pm en diferentes Casas. Reflexionamos sobre la Palabra de Dios en este tiempo de Cuaresma. Si desea participar en algún grupo, contactarse con Jeanette Estrada, Sandra Abarca, Madelyn Cortes, María Teresa Luque y Sandra Martinez al 443-315-3867.

## Service and Justice

### St. Michaels 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Health Fair

Mark your calendar for St. Michaels 5<sup>th</sup> annual Health Fair on Friday, April 19, to be held in the gym. All are welcome. For information or to volunteer contact Barb Maher.

### Hispanic Community

Pedimos a la Comunidad Hispana, por favor, lea la información que aparece en el tablero que se encuentra ubicado donde tomamos el café los domingos (Youth Room). Allí se encuentra información que puede ser de gran ayuda para usted : empleo, salud, actividades, emigración, donaciones para la Fundación Servicio de Ayuda Católica (CRS) a través de la campaña PLATO DE ARROZ, que permite recoger fondos para las familias más pobres de los distintos países del mundo, etc.

## Stewardship

### March 3, 2013

Envelopes .....	\$8,917.29
Loose Offerings.....	\$1,320.30
*Total.....	\$10,237.59
Poor Box ( <i>Sisters Academy</i> ) .....	\$165.55
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection ( <i>Maintenance &amp; Repair</i> ) .....	\$2,566.11

### Year to Date Offertory (35 weeks)

Envelopes .....	\$292,186.66
Loose Offerings.....	\$48,648.01
Total.....	\$340,834.67
*Average Weekly Offertory.....	\$9,738.13
Weekly Shortfall .....	\$1,398.87
*Our budget is based on weekly income of <b>\$11,137</b> (envelopes + loose). Thank you for your generous support.	

### Second Collection

**This Weekend: Catholic Relief Services** supports six Catholic agencies that touch more than 100 million lives around the world. **Next Weekend: Utility and Energy.** Your contributions help us meet the rising costs of electricity and heating fuel.

### March Poor Box Donations

Poor box donations received during March will benefit our St. Michael's food pantry.



## THE REAL PRESENCE OF JESUS

*“ What will convert America and save the world? My answer is prayer. What we need is for every Parish to come before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in the Holy Hours of prayer.”*

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

**Where:** St. Michael The Archangel Parish in Overlea.

**When:** First Saturdays and Saturdays during Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter seasons after the 8:30 am Mass until 2:30pm. We also say the Rosary.

**Needs:** Two adorers for each hour.

**How:** Just come and pray. Or for more information, contact Sue Fowler at 410-444-1256 or e-mail [ST5Fowler52@live.com](mailto:ST5Fowler52@live.com)

Jesus said in the Garden of Gethsemane: ***“So, could you not stay awake with me one hour?”*** Matthew 26:40