Welcome to the Parish Communities of

ST. MICHAEL &
ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Palm Sunday

Praise God aloud with joy

April 4/5, 2020 / Palm Sunday
Palm Sunday

Human beings are united in their suffering. When we find ourselves in a painful moment, our first reaction is “why me?” as if we are the only person on earth who ever encountered this challenge. Going through life with a “why me” attitude only finds us wallowing in the mire of self-pity and never seizing opportunities or graces. We walk in solidarity with every human being in the experience of suffering. Believing that the goal of life is the elimination or avoidance of suffering is simply an illusion that keeps us entrenched in a collective myth. This myth distorts us and limits us.

There are living witnesses among us showing how courage and determination can overcome any degree of hardship, pain, loss, or tragedy. Folks finding the normalcy of their lives suddenly torn asunder are faced with options: opportunity or despair, stay or leave. Jesus stands before us as the prime example of endurance and perseverance. He is the One who showed humility through both the triumphs of life (by learning to be humble) and the tragedies and injustices (by learning how to be obedient). To secular ears, this may be perceived as nonsense. But to those with the eyes of faith, they are pearls of great price.

True humility tempers the temptation we have to become complacent and prevents an excessive relishing of life’s successes and affirmations. Learning obedience keeps us faithful to our relationship with God so that we can find the courage to endure any depth of hardship, disappointment, betrayal, or agony. While we may want our cup of suffering to be taken away, it simply cannot be. Somehow and somewhere in the seemingly opposing experiences life can deal us, God is present with His reassuring, compassionate, empowering, and persevering love. To be true to who we are and who God is, we must take up the cross of suffering, even when it’s the hardest and most apparently senseless thing to do.

Only our soul can understand these things, but our minds cannot, so they continue to run to secular ideas and solutions to pain and hardship. It goes without saying that we need to do all we can to eliminate as much senseless, unjust suffering as possible. Hunger, violence, abuse, exploitation, rejection, prejudice, homelessness, disrespect for life, and a whole host of other sins all result in suffering that is within our control. Then, when we face the uncontrollable kind of suffering or find ourselves the victim of injustice, what do we do?

St. John and St. Michael Catholic Parishes are vibrant faith communities committed to living the Gospel of Jesus Christ through lives of prayer, service and education while actively proclaiming “all are welcome.”

A Message from the Pastor

Hello Parishioners,

It’s been two weeks since churches closed for public worship. For me, it feels like a long time. Now the church is shut down everywhere in the world. It is tough to face this situation, especially entering Holy Week. We aren’t able to worship or socialize like we used to, or go where we want. But remember we do not suffer alone, or in vain. Let’s offer this suffering as a prayer to God.

Though we can’t worship God in church, God is still with us. We are the living temples of God; open your heart to God so he can be with you.

During this time of separation, may I urge you continue to read spiritual readings and pray the rosary and the Divine Chaplet. In contrast to living in an individualistic world, I think in this moment we are called to focus on our charity to one another. Sometimes we feel alone, but at the same time, we share the suffering of people everywhere who are affected by the coronavirus, especially those who lost a family member to the outbreak.

When we look beyond ourselves, seeing the difficulties of others around the world, we come to know our suffering is small compared to others. This Holy Week, God is calling us to solidarity with one another in love. Just like Jesus, while carrying his cross, forgot his own pain and showed compassion to the women weeping for him, let’s share one another’s pain in this difficult time. Let’s share in the suffering of others by praying more.

Finally, thank you for your prayers and phone calls showing concern for my mom who recently lost everything in a house fire. I appreciate your prayers and concern.

I think of you whenever I pray private Masses at St. Michael’s and St. John’s. I dedicate the Masses to you and ask God to protect us. I encourage you to dedicate yourselves to the Blessed Virgin Mary and Divine Mercy of Jesus in this moment.

Stay healthy and be united in spirit by prayer, charity, and love. May God protect us all from any evil and disease.

Fr. Robert Ni Ni

Visit our Website at http://stjohnstmichael.com
**Plastic Bag Sleeping Mats For Homeless**

St. Michael is collecting plastic grocery bags to make mats that can be used by the homeless. Each mat takes between 500 - 700 bags. Please drop off clean bags at the church. Bags may be placed in the rectory garage, which will be open during regular office hours.

**St. Michael and St. John Cemetery Spring Cleanup**

Just a reminder to please remove all winter flowers and decorations in the cemetery by April 15th. Items remaining after this date will be removed. Please do not put any summer decorations out until May 1st.

**LIGHTER SIDE**

A guy named Joe found himself in dire trouble. His business had gone bust, and he was in serious financial trouble. He was so desperate that he decided to ask God for help. He began to pray, “God, please help me. I’ve lost my business, and if I don’t get some money, I’m going to lose my house as well. Please let me win the lotto.” Lotto night came, but somebody else won it. Joe again prayed, “God, please let me win the lotto! I’ve lost my business and house, and I’m going to lose my car as well.” Lotto night came, but Joe still had no luck. Once again, he prayed, “My God, why have you forsaken me? I’ve lost my business, house, and car. My wife and children are starving. I don’t often ask you for help, and I’ve always been a good servant to you. Please just let me win the lotto this one time so I can get my life back in order.” Suddenly, there was a blinding flash of light as the heavens opened. Joe was confronted by the voice of God himself. “Joe, meet me halfway on this. Buy a ticket!”

**ST. MICHAEL PARISH SUPPORT**

Needed Each Week............................................ $2170.00

See future bulletins for support totals.

Bishop’s Appeal to Date: $9210 of $9185 (100%)

Thank you to all who donated and helped us reach our goal! We very much appreciate your generosity and willingness to help people in need beyond our parish boundaries by supporting the Bishop’s Appeal.

Visit our Website at http://stjohnstmichael.com

**Lent Project**

Thank you to all that donated to the organization “Save the Children” during this Lenten season. If you still would like to contribute, please send or drop off your donation at either parish office.

**Musicians Needed**

St. John’s parish is looking for a third musician/song leader to play at 1-3 weekend Masses per month. If you are interested, please contact the parish office for further information.

**PASTOR….Fr. Robert Ni Ni**

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Facebook........St John and St. Michael Catholic Church

**Office Hours**

St. John Monday - Wednesday
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

St. Michael Monday - Wednesday
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

(St Michael’s office will be closed Tuesday, April 7.)

**ST. JOHN PARISH SUPPORT**

Needed Each Week............................................ $1912.00

See future bulletins for support totals.

Bishops Appeal To Date.............$4335 of $9954 (44%)
MASS INTENTIONS
For the Week of April 6 - 12

ST. MICHAEL - CHUTE POND

SUNDAY, APRIL 12
7:30 AM † Open

ST. MICHAEL - SURING

SUNDAY, APRIL 12
8:45 AM † Open

ST. JOHN - GILLETT

SATURDAY, APRIL 11
4:00 PM † Agnes Wolfe
By Family

SATURDAY, APRIL 12
10:00 AM † Open

Father continues to say Mass privately on Sundays and welcomes Mass intentions.

Open Dates For Mass Intentions
St. Michael Parish
Suring, Sunday: April 19, 26,
Chapel, Sunday: April 5, 12, 26
St. John Parish
Saturdays: Apr. 4, 18
Sundays: Apr. 5, 12, 19, 26

"Hosanna to the Son of David;
blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;
hosanna in the highest."

And when he entered Jerusalem the whole city was
shaken and asked, "Who is this?" And the crowds
replied, "This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in
Galilee." - Mt 21:9-11

Readings for the week of April 5, 2020


Monday: Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14 [1a]/Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17 [cf. 15ab]/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34 [14c]/Mt 26:14-25

Thursday: Chrism Mass: Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9/Ps 89:21-22, 25 and 27 [2]/Rv 1:5-8/Lk 4:16-21


The Empowering Love of God

APRIL 4/5, 2020
PALM SUNDAY

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