



THE WAY

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BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The Feast of Assumption

On August 15th, Christians worldwide celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Church teaches us that the Virgin Mary "having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory." This doctrine was defined by Pope Pius XII on November 1, 1950.

The Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of our savior Jesus Christ, is honored in the prayer life of the Church. The Church everywhere has always had great affection and veneration for the Blessed Virgin. As Mary herself foretold: "All generations will call me blessed (Luke 1:48)."

Devotion to the Blessed Virgin is part of Christian worship. Out of love for the Lord, we honor His Mother, Mary.

Let us allow Mary to lead us through every walk and challenge of life. Our parish has weekly devotions to Mary. The devotion takes place virtually on our parish website on Monday and Friday evenings at 7:00pm. The devotion is held live in the Church on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm.

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!

By Deacon Michael Alfano

YOUNG ADULTS

Being Catholic in College

To the young adults of St. Michael's Parish,

My name is Joseph Veliakath and I am currently a graduate student at Kean University with one semester left before I earn my M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction. I am studying to become a high school math teacher. Growing up Catholic, I have been an altar server, tech crew member, CYO alumni, currently a lector, and a public speaker. Throughout my education at Kean University, I have been involved in the Catholic Newman Club, which has helped shape my beliefs to what they are today. I also continue to assist the CYO here at St. Michael's with Core Team Retreat planning and other activities for members to participate in. Nevertheless, I have faced academic and personal life challenges that have been drawbacks from my goals. Despite these obstacles, I found that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is with me through it all.

My message to you all is this: even when the times we live in get tougher, I ask you all to seek God even more, surrendering all your struggles and pain to him. He will provide healing day by day as he has for me. I hope this message reaches you well.

Thank you and God bless.

By Joseph Veliakath

OUR MINISTERS & MINISTRIES

WELCOME MINISTRY

Meet Our Usher

Hello from Rachael at Saturday Evening Mass. It's not difficult for me to give an hour per week of my time by serving as an usher. It keeps me connected and grounded to my faith and my community. I reflect on how it all started. Unfortunately, as a young widow I moved back home to get my footing for a bit. Next thing I knew, I had purchased a home in Union. Shortly thereafter I joined St. Michael's where my brother David is a Eucharistic Minister at the 7:30 Mass. 3 years later, I completed my MBA, remarried, and opened a massage therapeutic and wellness practice all within the same year. I continued to attend Saturday evening Masses where I was always warmly greeted by usher Lenny; a nicely dressed man with white sneakers that reminded me of my grandfather. The next Easter vigil Mass, Betty, a Eucharistic Minister, was looking for usher volunteers and the rest was history. From there usher Medford recruited me into the usher family. Ushering during covid restrictions could be challenging, but as guidelines relax, I'm humble and grateful in continuing to evolve in our new norm of ushering our parish...

By Rachael LaParre



EDITORIAL BOARD

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CYO

Introducing the Executive Board

Hello, my name is Vincent Espana and I am very ecstatic to announce that I will be the 2021-22 CYO President!

I am sixteen years old, a rising senior currently attending the Academy for Allied Health Sciences, and also work as an instructor at UnionUTA Martial Arts. In addition to myself, there is an executive board, who are talented and capable individuals who have been active members of this organization for the past three years and are just as eager as I am to begin the CYO year.

These individuals include **Vice President:** Cristian Simms, **Secretary:** Ava Moran, **Treasurer:** Michael Kelly, **Religious Chairperson:** Joe Matos, and **Creative Chairperson:** Jenna Brual.

The previous year was tumultuous, with a majority of CYO being virtual. However, as we move into the new year, I hope to regain the sense of community and family that CYO once had, pre-COVID. That way, we can prosper faithfully and thrive as we once did, together as one.

Again, I cannot wait for the upcoming year and I hope to see all of you there!

By

Vincent Espana



EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY

Why The Eucharistic Ministry

Ever since I was little, I would go to Mass and dream of being a member of the Eucharistic Ministry. My dad, being a minister himself, inspired me to want to be a minister. I believed that being able to touch the Eucharist and distribute it to the congregation meant that you had to have practically known or seen Jesus at one point in your life. That is how holy I believed Eucharistic Ministers were. Nowadays, after learning from my father what one must do to be a Eucharistic Minister, I have come to realize a less exaggerated version of my understanding of this Ministry.

Although handing out hosts may look like a simple task, Eucharistic Ministers evangelize by introducing Jesus in the form of the Eucharist to everyone present in the Mass and outside the Masses (if they are given the responsibility to give the host to someone who is unable to be present at Masses).

This year I was commissioned to serve as a Eucharistic Minister in my school, and I feel very blessed to also serve as a Eucharistic Minister here at St Michael's.



I really hope and pray that more young adults will be drawn to serving our Lord in this very special Ministry.

*By
Paula Sefia*

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

My Bible Class Experience

Bible class started for me as a personal Lenten obligation but eventually turned into one of my favorite nights of the week. Many of us can relate--when we have one thing in mind, a lot of times, God uses that thing to lead us to what He called us to do, which ultimately produces a different outcome than we anticipated. Since attending Bible class, I have grown tremendously as a follower of Christ. I have also experienced a stronger, familial relationship with Saint Michael's Church as our class is made up of other parishioners that I normally would not interact with, let alone see every single Tuesday night. We meet weekly for Bible study and go through a guide prepared by Monsignor Anselm. The questions encourage attendees like me to go deep and reflect on life and our experiences. The teachings are so rich with wisdom, and as a young adult, I cannot begin to tell you how instrumental this class has been in making big life decisions. As Catholics, sometimes we overlook the joys of reading the Bible--this amazing book, filled with a living word that guides our daily living. I was used to coming to church on Sunday and listening to the readings, but never consistently opening the Bible to read the text by myself. I would rely on the Homily to give me everything I needed for the week, but that is not enough. We need constant replenishment from God, and Bible class has provided me with the extra nourishment I never knew I needed. I hope this message inspires you to log on for at least one class to see what the Bible class is all about. God is waiting for you :)

By Oluwatosin Ajayi

WORD SEARCH

Annunciation	Mother of God
Assumed	Infallible Doctrine
Body and Soul	No Original Sin
End of Earthly Life	Physically
First Christian Disciple	Pope Pius XII
Fourth Glorious Mystery	Resurrection
Full of Grace	Rosary
Glorification	Servant of the Lord
Heavenly Glory	Spiritually
Immaculate Conception	Virgin Mary



SAINTS & US TODAY

St. Dominic

St. Dominic, a Catholic priest, was born in Castile, Spain in 1170. He changed the Church with his dedication to prayer and education. Dominic helped to establish a religious order known today as the Dominican Order, whose priests travel and preach living a simple life of prayer and intellectual study. History reveals that St. Dominic was one of the first to preach and teach the Holy Rosary as a form of devotional prayer to our Blessed Mother Mary.

Dominic knew that a life rooted in prayer and being educated in the truths of our faith could lead us deeper into our relationship with God. Dominic's mother had a vision that her son would "light the world on fire" with his passion for prayer and religious study.

I myself have been inspired by reading about St. Dominic's passion for prayer and spiritual education. His teachings helped influence my decision to get a master's degree in Theology.

St. Dominic, pray for us, that we may follow your example and passion for prayer and religious education.

By Deacon Michael Alfano

CALL FOR EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

If you have a reflection or questions you want clarified about our faith, Catholic traditions and practices or you have a witness write up about what God has done in your life, and will like to share this in our newsletter, please send it to the editorial board at dziedzicc@comcast.net. We would love to publish your story.

