



THE WAY

A NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION BY ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, UNION, NJ
Volume 4 | Issue 2 | MAY 2024

LOVE FEAST—PENTECOST SUNDAY

The Holy Spirit, the patron saint of charismatic groups that is celebrated on Pentecost Sunday represents the indiscriminating love of God for all mankind. The early church after the Pentecost encounter lived a life that promoted love and unity hence they were identified as Christians in Antioch (Acts 11: 26).

In like manner, every year after the 12 noon mass on Pentecost Sunday, our Parish's Charismatic Prayer Group, that meets every Wednesday from 6 pm to 7:30 pm at the lower Church to pray, sing, and reflect on God's word, organizes a love feast for St. Michael's Parishioners. This feast aims at promoting Christian love among our parishioners and reminding us that Jesus cares about our earthly challenges. This is demonstrated by the ceremonial sharing of 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread that is reminiscent of the feeding of 5,000 by our compassionate and great provider Jesus Christ (Matthew 14:17-19).

It is our prayer
that as the
Pentecost experience
brought together people from every
tongue, race, and nation in Jesus
Christ (Acts 2:5-6), God will
reconcile us individually to Himself
through His son Jesus, and through
Him make us truly one body in this
Parish. Amen.

By Victoria Anaedu



MINISTERS & MINISTRIES

WELLNESS MINISTRY

Dance and Defense

Exciting News! I am thrilled to announce my involvement in St. Michael's Wellness Ministry, where I will be incorporating the integration of self-defense classes with our beloved Dance Classes every Saturday morning at 9:30 am. As we embark on this journey together, I am eager to blend the artistry of dance with the practicality of self-protection, fostering a space where both mind and body can flourish.

Join me in this empowering endeavor as we prioritize holistic wellness and community safety.

Let's dance our way to strength, confidence, and unity at St. Michael's! Stay tuned!



By Rey Seide

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

*"This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!"*

Religious Education in combination with St. Michael's School brought sixty-six children to the Lord's table to receive 1st Holy Communion this spring. Through song, prayer and watching pottery being made in a Blessing Cup Retreat in February, the children and their parents learned about reconciliation. By listening to the potter's voice, they were reminded to listen to the voice of the divine potter, God. They each decorated a chalice that became their blessing cup. In March, they received the sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation for the first time. Earlier this year, Msgr. Anselm presided at a Teaching Mass to provide the children and their families with a better understanding of the liturgy. In April they attended a Eucharist Retreat where, among other things, they learned about the rosary, how Communion bread is made and wrote mass petitions for their special day. Finally, at the May Crowning on the evening of May 15, the children- once again in their Communion outfits- will form a procession as they crown the Blessed Mother, place flowers at her feet and lead the congregation in praying the rosary. There will be a special prayer consecrating them to the care and protection of the Blessed Mother. May we, as a parish family, continue to pray for these children and their families.

By Clare Andriola

OUR LADY OF FATIMA MESSAGES

Complacency or Commitment?

It has been over a hundred years since our Blessed Mother appeared to Lucia, and her cousins - Francisco and Jacinta in 1917 in Fatima, Portugal. What is our response: complacency or commitment to her messages?

The first message is to be sorry for our sins and to put God first in our lives. We should review our spiritual lives, confess our sins, and turn away from our wrong doing. One goal should be to go to the Sacrament of Penance every four weeks. Putting God first in our lives is using our time, talent, and treasure for His glory. If these increase, our complacency (uncritical satisfaction), will decrease.

Second, praying the Rosary (the second message) on a regular basis will increase our commitment to what our Blessed Mother intended in honoring Her and reflecting on Mysteries of the life of Christ.

Third, Sister Lucia received a message that Catholics should be making reparations-making amends for insults given to God through sin. Applications of reparations may be going to daily Mass instead of spending excessive time with technology, praying for peace in a world which is increasing against Christ, or forgiving a person who has offended us.

Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us to be committed to your messages.

By Chuck Cababe

UNITY IN FAITH

Reflecting on Good Friday

On Good Friday, our community came together for a reflective outdoor journey through the Stations of the Cross around Union. With over 700 parishioners in attendance, the atmosphere was charged with spiritual significance as we retraced the steps of Christ on His way to Calvary.

What truly touched our hearts was the overwhelming support from our neighbors, who respectfully stepped out of their homes to honor the procession. Their gesture was a beautiful demonstration of spiritual unity within our community.



By Lucy Sefia

SAINTS & US TODAY

St. John Vianney



The feast of Pentecost celebrated this year on Sunday, May 19th, reminds us of the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church and in our lives as

Catholics. St. John Vianney, one of the most beloved saints of the nineteenth century, had a strong belief in the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit in his personal life. His feast day is celebrated on August 4th.

John Vianney was a French Catholic Priest who is most known for his great dedication to his call to be a priest and to serve his people. But he also seemed to have a vivid grasp of the Holy Spirit’s role in our lives as Christians. His writings on the power of the Holy Spirit are still quoted today. To take just one example, he said: **“Take in one hand a sponge full of water, and in the other a little pebble; press them equally. Nothing will come out of the pebble, but out of the sponge will come abundance of water. The sponge is the soul filled with the Holy Spirit, and the stone is the cold and hard heart which is not inhabited by the Holy Spirit.”**

As we prepare for Pentecost, let us pray for the intercession of St. John Vianney to live out our faith with the help of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives, in our work, and in our devotion to God.

By Deacon Michael Alfano



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R	E	T	S	A	E	F	O	Y	A	D	N	U	S	H	T	N	E	V	E	S	W	F	X	N

Acts Chapter One	Live Forever
Ascend into Clouds	Luke Chapter Twentyfour
Ascension of Jesus	Nicene Creed
Before Pentacost	Overcame Death
Disciples Witnessed	Returned to God
Ecumenical Feast	Right Hand of God
Elevation	Risen Jesus
Forty Days after Easter	Seventh Sunday of Easter
Heaven	Solemnity
Jesus Is Alive	Thursday Sixth Week of Easter