



HE OPENED THEIR MINDS TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE SCRIPTURES.

Today we hear what happened after the two disciples returned from meeting their risen Lord on the road to Emmaus. Like these two, the rest of the disciples are only reassured when they hear

Jesus' voice and apprehend his words, and see his actions at the table where they gather to eat. We, too, meet the risen Lord when we come to hear God's living word in the Scriptures today and know his presence in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup of salvation.



LORD,
Let Your Face Shine On Us.

Readings for the Week of April 26, 2009

- Sunday** Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; Ps 4; 1 Jn 2:1-5a; Lk 24:35-48
- Monday** Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119; Jn 6:22-29
- Tuesday** Saints Peter Chanel, priest, martyr; Louis Mary de Montfort, priest
Acts 7:51—8:1a; Ps 31; Jn 6:30-35
- Wednesday** Saint Catherine of Siena, virgin, doctor
Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66; Jn 6:35-40
- Thursday** Saint Pius V, pope
Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66; Jn 6:44-51
- Friday** Saint Joseph the Worker
Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117; Jn 6:52-59
- Saturday** Saint Athanasius, bishop, doctor
Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116; Jn 6:60-69
- Sunday** Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:8-12; Ps 118; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18

EASTER CANDLE

During the Easter Season, the **Paschal Candle** should be placed in a prominent location; often times it is near the Ambo where the Word of God is proclaimed. **It is lit each time the people of God gather during the Easter Season.** The Easter Candle has always had a connection with the Easter Vigil. It is during the Vigil that the candle was solemnly lit from the Easter fire. In former times, the Paschal Candle was extinguished with great solemnity after the Gospel on the feast of Ascension Thursday. That ritual was a way of dramatizing the fact that the lighted candle represented the presence of the Risen Lord now ascended to the Father. Today, there is no such ceremony. In fact, the Paschal Candle is used throughout the year. It has a special significance at Baptisms and Funerals because the focus of both these events is on the new life that we share in the Risen Christ. Many churches burn it at all the Masses during the month of November as we remember those who have died.

The Paschal Candle should be a reminder of the promise of Jesus: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them."



alleluia
Liturgies For The Week

APRIL 28 THROUGH MAY 3

- TUESDAY** 5:30 P.M. †Charles William Schroll
- WEDNESDAY** 8:30 A.M. †Ryan Barnes
†Brenda Richard
- THURSDAY** 5:30 P.M. †Albert & Rosa Romano
†Joe & Lena Mandola
- FRIDAY** 8:30 A.M. Pres Obama & VP Biden
†George Robie, Sr.
- SATURDAY** 5:30 P.M. †Leonard Rubalcaba
†Atanacio Gonzales
- SUNDAY** 8:00 A.M. †Donald & Remedios Young
9:30 A.M. †Leonard T. Williamson, Jr.
11:00 A.M. †Fern Henderson
†Cecelia Peterson

Names submitted for the prayer list will remain in the bulletin for **one month**. Please call the parish office to request a name to be listed for an additional period of time.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Nelda Alford, John Boettiger Jr., Kellie Chaney, Paige Haas, Dennis Heinroth, Michael Hunt, Tony Jaris, Chris Kana, Ralph Lewis, Judy Pacella, Tiffany Lynn Sanchez, Donna Schwertner and Tommy Tomlinson.

Congratulations to our First Communicants!
St. Michael's will have 55 children make their First Holy Communion on May 2, 2009.

"Body of Christ, true bread of life, stay always in their hearts."

FIRST EUCHARIST

During the Easter season many children receive the **Body and Blood of Jesus in First Holy Communion for the first time**. We congratulate them and their parents and teachers. They experience what we all believe about the presence of Jesus under the signs of bread and wine: **that the Lord is truly with us to be our very life**. It is no accident that food and drink are the primary symbols of the presence of Jesus in Christian worship. Without food and drink we cannot survive. **Without sharing the food and drink that is Eucharist we cannot live in Jesus**. Actually, in our celebration, the ultimate sign of peace is not the handshake of friendship but the sharing of communion—sharing at the table of the Lord. Most parishes do fairly well at celebrating the communal nature of the liturgy until it comes to communion, then it can tend to become a rather individual experience. It's not that receiving Eucharist should not be intensely personal. But, at the same time, we need to be aware that the presence of the Lord must also include our brothers and sisters. **We are sharing from the one loaf and the one cup which is meant to make us one in Christ**. We congratulate those receiving Eucharist for the first time. As they begin to experience with us a new level of sharing in the presence of Jesus, let's pray that all of us can allow our sharing in the banquet table of the Lord to help us discover new ways to share our lives with others.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

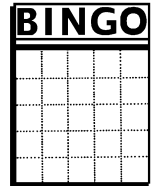


DSF UPDATE:

As we continue to move towards our **Parish goal of \$100,405.00**, it is very important that **everyone complete and send in their pledge card**, or donate online. Additional DSF envelopes are available on the table at the rear of the church or in the Parish Office. You can mail your pledge directly to the Archdiocese, or you can return it in the collection basket and we will mail for you. As of **4/20/09, 353 families** have pledged to DSF, and **66.10%** of the pledges have been paid. **We need your help to wrap up this part of the campaign. Thank you again to all who have given so generously.** The next step will be for everyone to pay the amount that they so generously pledged. To donate online, you can go to www.archgh.org/dsf.

Attention All Parishioners!!!! Join us for FUN, FUN, FUN!!!
St. Michael's 5TH Annual Family Fun Fest to be held THIS
Sunday, April 26th from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

on our Church grounds.
Come join us for **BBQ, a Silent Auction, Children's Activities,**
Games, Booths, Entertainment, BINGO, and more!



A Blood Drive will be held in conjunction with the Fun Fest. We will have Mobile Units set up from the Blood Center in the church parking lot from **10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.!** We will have **3 COACHES (BLOOD MOBILES)** set up near the FunFest activities. We will give you a **FREE T-SHIRT** for your gift. No appointments necessary--come out enjoy the activities and give the **GIFT OF LIFE.**



Give Blood.
Give Life.

Pro-Life group meeting to pray the **rosary for the unborn** is held on the **First Saturday of the month at 8:00 AM in the chapel.** The next rosary/prayer day is **May 2nd.** Rosaries specifically for saving the unborn from abortion, from our Blessed Lady, will be available. **COME JOIN US! Pray for an end to abortion!"** For more information and/or rosaries, please contact Betty Betczynski, 285-9139.



The **Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court 2364** will meet on **Thursday, April 30th at 7:00 p.m. in the F-Wing.** All Catholic women are invited to join us for a **Social** and a report on the 2009 CDA convention events & workshops.



CDA Court 2354 will be having a **BAKE SALE on Mother's Day** after all Masses on **SUNDAY 5/10** in the Hall. Treat your MOM on her special day!

3rd Annual Baby Bottle Boomerang begins here Sunday, May 10th. Pick up your baby bottle in the FLC Hall and fill it with change for the Pregnancy Help Center and return by June 21st.



The **Women of St. Michael's** invite all women of the parish to attend our next meeting **Tuesday, May 5.** We will meet at **8:30am for Mass and the May crowning of our Lady.** This will be followed by a short meeting in the Angelina room, and **brunch at GrapeTaste at 10:30 a.m.** If you plan to join us for brunch, **call 297-4109 to RSVP.**

Creating Sacred Space, Retreat Formation Program provides parish retreat teams, CYMs, Adult Volunteers and teens with valuable tools needed to conduct retreat ministry for youth, young adults, family programs. **Creating Sacred Spaces provides opportunities for the new and the season retreat veteran** to explore the latest ideas and retreat experiences and suggestions to **help keep the ministry fresh** and deepen the spiritual life of retreat participants. The program will be held at St. Michael's on:

May 19, 2009 - Part 1
May 26, 2009 - Part 2

Both evenings are from **6:30 p. m. - 9:30 p. m.**
(Must attend both sessions to receive credit)

Cost: \$20.00 per person

This covers all material and Retreat Formation Booklet.

Please **R.S.V.P. by Monday, May 11** to reserve your spot
Mike Marshal – mikem@smlj.org, 979-299-3508 or Lisa Ondrey –
lisa@smlj.org, 979-299-3509. Payment of \$20 (check made out to St. Michael's) can be brought the first night, May 19th.

awaken

Youth Ministry 7th – 12th Grade

APRIL
Apr 26th

PARISH FUN FEST—NO CLASS

MAY
May 3rd

Last Class!

May 7th

VIRTUS - pre-register www.virtus.org

May 17th

Graduation Mass & Luncheon

May 24th

Final Summer Camp meeting 12:30 pm all forms and fees due.

May 24th

Mission meeting—all forms and fees due;
Notary available 2—3 p.m. in Hall
Adults only 1-2 pm. Everyone 2-4 pm

Don't Miss Out! Summer Camp 2009 – “CHILDREN OF GOD” Registration Deadline has been extended to April 26th. Registration Packets can be found in the hall outside Youth Office or www.smlj.org.

FINAL PARENT/CAMPER MEETING: Sunday, May 24th, 12:30-1:30pm, Angelina Room. All **paperwork and fees are due at this time!**

There are still openings for **YOUTH ON A MISSION 2009!! RISE: Give Yourself Away!** Registration packets can be found in the hall outside of Youth Office or www.smlj.org.

Next Mission Meeting will be **Sunday, May 24th, FLC Hall** from 1-2pm **Adults only** and 2-4pm **Youth and Adults**. Balance of **Fees** and **NOTARIZED Medical/Consent Forms are due!** A **Notary will be available** at the meeting from 2-3 pm for your convenience with signing forms.

Reminder to all Mission Participants: It is **mandatory for all adults and youth ages 16 and over, who have NOT attended before, to attend a VIRTUS: “Protecting God’s Children” Workshop.** (**ages 16-17 require a signed Parent Consent Form for admittance.)

Next **VIRTUS workshop** at St. Michael's is on **Thursday, May 7th, 6:15-9:30pm.** Pre-register on www.virtus.org

YOUTH FUNDRAISING

Our parish youth, grades 6-12 will be fundraising for SUMMER CAMP, '09 MISSION, and STEUBENVILLE.

Remaining Fundraisers include:

- Enchilada dinners on Sat. & Sun. May 30th & 31st.
- Breakfast Taco sales Sunday mornings— 4/26 & 5/3

Please come through the hall of the Family Life Center and support them.



ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: The deadline for scholarship applications is coming soon! Women of St. Michael's is giving out scholarships and your applications must be in by **April 30, 2009.** If you have any questions or did not get an application please call Mary Gerwig at 979.373.1330.



The High School **Graduation Mass** will be held on **Sunday, May 17th** with **11:00 a.m. Mass** followed by a **luncheon** in the Hall of the FLC for graduates and their parents. Additional guests are \$10. **Please Respond** to the Youth Office with **YES or NO** by **May 8th.**

Dates to Remember:

- **VIRTUS—PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN WORKSHOP** at St. Michael's on **Thurs. May 7th 6:15—9:30 p.m.** Register in advance at www.virtus.org.
- **Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) Court 2364** will have a **BAKE SALE** after all Masses on **Sunday, May 10th.** Bring home a **dessert to treat your MOM on Mother's Day.** Proceeds will support youth scholarships and other charitable projects.
- **FIREPROOF—Making a Marriage Work MOVIE, May 17th 9:15 a.m. and May 24th 12:15 p.m.** in the Wolters Room. Hosted by Adult Faith Formation.
- **Vacation Bible School—Son Harvest County Fair** will be held **June 22nd—26th** from 9 a.m. to noon.
- **Summer Camp 2009** for 6th, 7th, & 8th will be **June 18th – 24th**
- **Youth on a Mission 2009 – “RISE: Give Yourself Away”** will be **July 18th – 25th.**
- **Women's Christ Renews His Parish** retreat at St. Michael's on **Sept 12th—13th**

UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR AREA

- ◆ **Brazoria County National Day of Prayer Event** will be held on **Thursday, May 7, 2009, 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.** across from the Angleton Courthouse on East Locust Street. Free lunch served to the first 250 people at 11:30 a.m.
- ◆ We invite you to join the Helpers of God's Precious Infants in a **Peaceful, Prayerful, Mass and Rosary Procession to an Abortion Facility** on **Saturday, May 9, 2009.** Mass will begin at 8:30 a.m. at Christ the Good Shepherd, 18511 Klein Church Road, Spring, Texas 77379. A Rosary Procession to Women's Medical Center of NW Houston, 17070 Red Oak will follow.
- ◆ **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** weekend upcoming dates: **June 12th —14th** and **July 17th—19th.** Contact Brian & Tina Little at 281-485-5648 for more information or see website at www.mehouston.org
- ◆ **International Evangelization Conference Calls All Faithful To Holiness**

What do a pope, an archbishop, a missionary and a mother have in common? They all said “yes” to **God's Universal Call to Holiness**, walking unhesitatingly according to their own gifts and duties in the path of a living faith. The result was to arouse hopes and works of charity amongst others, thus living out the words of Vatican II bishops faithfully. Participants will have the opportunity to discover their own path of a living faith on **September 11 -12, 2009**, Friday and Saturday, during a unique and exciting evangelization conference. The **Call to Holiness** conference will be held at the **George R. Brown Conference Center downtown.**

For more information please go to www.cth2009.org



Spot light on...

Ministry at St. Michael's

A Welcoming Parish—Hospitality

We have some specific ministry groups who are assigned to help with hospitality every weekend at Mass. The **Greeter Ministry** is made up of parishioners scheduled for each Mass on the weekend to help provide a spirit of hospitality by welcoming people as they come into church. They try to arrive at least fifteen to twenty minutes before the scheduled time of Mass. This gives them time to verify that all is prepared for their ministry and then they can welcome those who gather. Nothing formal, just a natural, "Good Morning!" Greeters do not replace **USHERS**, but augment what they are already doing. The **Ushers** help parishioners find available seats, pass the collection baskets at the proper time during Mass, help during Communion to make sure we all know which way and when to exit the pews, and especially help to make sure Communion is distributed to anyone who can not come forward to receive. This is in addition to **just being "available"** to answer questions or direct visitors and newcomers who join us at Mass.

But the story just begins with our SCHEDULED ministers.... If we are ALL greeting people, the greeting process can even extend out to the parking lot. Newcomers can be brought in and seated next to and introduced to a "regular." The parish can be catechized to reach out to these people in a special way, to answer their questions, to help them find their way around...to tell them about coffee and donuts after Mass in the hall, for example. The first thing that we do as part of the Liturgy of the Eucharist is to GATHER. Maybe we've taken that seemingly simple process too much for granted. All of us, regardless of what ministry we belong to, **are called to extend hospitality to those who come to the house of the Lord.** When we are made to feel welcome, it is much easier to welcome the Lord in his Word and Sacrament. **The proper atmosphere has been set when we are made to feel that someone is happy that we have come to church.** All of us have had the unfortunate experience of not feeling welcomed. If, for example, you are a stranger in an unfamiliar church and you are not made to feel welcomed, it is so much harder to really hear and respond to what God wants for you that day. St. Paul puts it quite simply: **"Welcome one another warmly as brothers and sisters in Christ."** So, before Mass starts, look around where you are sitting and see if there is someone you don't know and introduce yourself! **And don't forget to extend that hospitable attitude to the Hall of the Family Life Center or the parking lot after Mass. It takes all of us as individuals, doing our part, to make St. Michael's the truly "welcoming" parish we all want it to be!**