



St. Michael the Archangel Maronite Catholic Church

806 Arsenal Avenue .Fayetteville, NC 28305

Office: 910 - 484 - 1531



Email: stmikeoffice@gmail.com **website:** stmichaelsmaronite.net **August 18, 2024**

14TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

MARY AND MARTHA

In the Gospel of Luke, we hear the story of Jesus' visit to two sisters, Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38-42). Martha and Mary are presented in contrasting ways, but are they two sides of the same coin? Let's take a look by exploring their story and its implications from a discipleship perspective.

Martha welcomes Jesus into her home. Martha's sister Mary seats herself at the feet of Jesus to listen to him speak. Martha, who had been "distracted by her many tasks" (Luke 10:40) goes into the room where Jesus is speaking and demands that Jesus tell Mary to help her! But instead of doing as Martha asks, Jesus reminds her that she is worried and distracted by many things, but "there is need of only one thing." (10:42). Mary had chosen the better place to be, with him. This short story holds three lessons for all who are striving to be missionary disciples.

Set the stage for an encounter with Jesus through hospitality.

While many authors focus on the interaction that took place at Martha's house, the opening lines of this story are incredibly significant from a discipleship perspective. Martha, with great boldness and generosity, throws open the doors of her home to Jesus. Martha and Mary's encounter with Jesus would not have been possible without her hospitality. This is an important lesson for us: hospitality always sets the stage for an encounter with Jesus Christ. This is especially true of parish hospitality. Unfortunately, hospitality has become synonymous with coffee and donuts after Mass or relegated to a committee such as the stewardship committee or the hospitality committee. Not only has this mindset absolved us of the need to go out of our comfort zone to welcome others, but it also reinforces the mindset that hospitality is something only certain people do. Hospitality is who we are as the people of Christ. Martha reminds us that it is the responsibility of every person to help facilitate encounters with Jesus through generous living.

Be bold in prayer.

A striking element of this story is Martha's attitude in addressing Jesus. Clearly frustrated with her sister's lack of support in the kitchen, she speaks to Jesus with boldness and in fact, issues him a command: "'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.'" (Luke 10:40) While we may think that Martha was out-of-line in her tone and approach, Scripture reminds us that "we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in [Jesus Christ]." (Ephesians 3:12) We can approach God our Father in our prayers with the same spirit of boldness and confidence, although knowing that his will be done, not ours.

Dwell in the Word.

In life and in ministry, there will always be distractions and much to do. But we are human "be-ings" and not human "do-ings" for good reason. Martha, in her desire to make sure that everything was prepared and ready, forgets that the most important thing is to be present to Jesus. The greatest gift we have been given is Jesus' presence in Sacred Scripture and the Blessed Sacrament. We can often forget that when we are busy with our various ministries. As disciples, one of the best ways to be nourished and strengthened is through Scripture. The Word is welcomed, not as a human word but the Word of God. It is God's intended gift to us that gives us the strength to arise each day. Being nourished by the Word gives us the strength to focus and set aside distractions so that we can hear the voice of God in our daily lives.

At one time or another, we have all been a bit of a Martha in our walk of discipleship. The popular expression "missing the forest for the trees" is a good reminder to slow down and to set aside all other distractions so to be truly present to every person we meet.

CLERGY

Fr. Paul Damien,
Pastor

Fr. Jack Morrison
(retired)

PARISH OFFICE

HOURS:

Tuesday, Thursday,
Friday

10:00 AM to 2:00
PM

LITURGY / MASS :

Tues - Fri: 9:00 am

Saturday: 5:00 PM

Sunday: 10:30 AM

Office Email:

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Saint Michael the
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nite Catholic
Church



“14th Sunday of Pentecost ”

Saturday, Aug 17- 5:00 PM: All Souls in Purgatory by MJ Fredette Hahn

Sunday, Aug 18- 10:30 AM: For the Sherman’s intentions for August

Tuesday	Aug 20	9:00 am	St. Bernard, Doctor of the Church, C	For Robert Baxley by Marie Reale
Wednesday	Aug 21	9:00 am	Samuel the Prophet, C	for Kim Ngan Nguyen intentions By Thanh & Han Vo Nguyen
Thursday	Aug 22	9:00 am	St. Symphorian, M	Everyone on the prayer list By MJ Fredette Hahn
FRIDAY	Aug 23	9:00 am	St. Isaac of Nineveh, C	For Thanh & Han intentions by Thanh & Han Vo

“15th Sunday of Pentecost”

Saturday Aug 24 - 5:00 PM: For the Healing of Terry Balasic by MJ Fredette Hahn


**Sunday Aug 25 - 10:30 AM: - For the Sherman’s intentions for August
- for the Vo Nguyen family by Thanh & Han Vo**

READERS

8/17	Rick Criste	8/18	Jason Byrne
8/24	Kathy Criminger	8/25	Scott Dinse
8/31	MJ Hahn	9/1	Meredith Blalock
9/7	Lynn Vaughan	9/8	

To be listed as Reader, please
text Kim Phelan @ 352-317-8529
or email :consecrated2021@gmail.com

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



Sign up today, at the church entrance for a Holy Hour!

**Every Thursday
9:30 am - 2:00pm
Rosary for Peace
@ 9:30 am**

CATHOLIC SOCIAL MINISTRIES


Kindly, Place your donation of Peanut butter & jelly in the basket next to the Confessional in the back of the church

SCRIPTURE

14th Sunday of Pentecost
1 Thes 2:1-13/Lk 10:38-42

15th Sunday of Pentecost
1 Thes 1:1-10/Lk 7:36-50

16 Sunday of Pentecost
Rom 8:18-27/Lk 18:9-14



GIFTS OF THANKSGIVING

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars

THIS MONTH



August 17 @ 1:30 pm	Kids Choir Practice
August 23rd @ 6:30 pm	Ladies Night out @ MiCasita-Ramsey Street RSVP: 910-229-5368 Kim
August 28	Religious Education first class
September 6 @ 6:00 pm	St. Michael Party (bring a dish)

To join RCIA, please email/or text:

Stmikeccd@gmail.com

(910)229-5368 for more info



PRAYER CHAIN

Please contact Lucy Zahran to **join the prayer chain** or with **prayer requests**



VOCATION CHALICE

- 8/17: Volunteer
- 8/18: Connie Reidlinger
- 8/24: Volunteer
- 8/25: Chris Cooper



If your family would like to volunteer to pray for Vocations to Religious Life, please text or email **Kimberly P. @ (352) 317-8529 or consecrated2021@gmail.com**

St. Michael's Lent

Lent is the only penitential season currently on the calendar but Saints have practiced them at other times of the year. Saint Benedict reminds his monks that they should practice the disciplines of Lent for the entire year, but at least from the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross in September to Easter, a time known as the monastic fast. Saint Francis Paola founded the Order of Minims, which held to the old Lenten practices all year—one meal a day and no animal products. Saint Francis of Assisi practiced Saint Michael's Lent to honor the angels. St. Francis of Assisi often practiced additional times of penance leading up to major feast days. One of the most important for him was St. Michael's Lent, showing his devotion to the great defender of the Church. He went up to Mount La Verna (Alyvernia) to spend time in solitude, accompanied by his beloved birds, while praying and fasting for his brothers. Saint Michael cast Satan out of Heaven, and this summertime Lent also involves spiritual warfare. Up on the mountain, Francis came under assault from the enemy though he was supported in this battle by the holy angels. *The Little Flowers of St. Francis* describes how Francis "persevered in that fast, and although he endures many assaults of the devil, nonetheless he received many consolations from God, not only by visits of angels." As St. Francis was drawn close to the angels in prayer, he was lifted to encounter God. On one of these occasions, flaming seraphim appeared to him, as St. Bonaventure describes it, and impressed on his body the "likeness of the Crucified, engraved, not on tables of stone or of wood, by the craftsman's hand, but written on his members of flesh by the finger of the Living God." Within the spiritual battle, Francis offered himself as a living sacrifice and was drawn in a special way to the Cross, modeling the only way to overcome attacks of the enemy.

God Bless you

FROM THE LADIES GUILD



- Next meeting is Friday, September 13th at 6pm.
- Tentative Good Stuff Sale date is 26 October

More Ways To Give



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Congratulations to St. Michael Archangel Ladies Guild, established in 2013, celebrating 11 years of service. Committed to "promoting the work of the Church & building a spiritual community of faith within the Parish." AD BY: **MJ**

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