

Saint Michael the Archangel Church

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Sexagesima Sunday

January 31, 2016

Fr. José M. Zepeda, FSSP, Pastor

Mass Intentions

Sun. Jan. 31st 8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	Sexagesima Sunday, II Class Sr. Marie Bernarde, OSB - <i>Her Parents</i> <i>Pro Populo</i>
Mon. Feb. 1st 7:45 a.m.	St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr, III Class FSSP - <i>Chris & Joyce Keifer</i>
Tues. Feb. 2nd 7:45 a.m.	Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, II Class Michael E. Craig - FOSS
Wed. Feb. 3rd 7:45 a.m.	St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr, IV Class † Marilyn Lessel - <i>Mike & Nancy Emig</i>
Thu. Feb. 4th 7:45 a.m.	St. Andrew Corsini, Bishop & Confessor, III Class † Helen Toman - <i>Daughter</i>
Fri. Feb. 5th 6:00 p.m.	Sacred Heart of Jesus, III Class Fr. Michael Stinson, FSSP - <i>Mitchell Family</i>
Sat. Feb. 6th 9:00 a.m.	Immaculate Heart of Mary, III Class Liam Holden - <i>His Mother</i>
Sun. Feb. 7th 8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	Quinquagesima Sunday, II Class Intentions of Mary & Leonard Tabone <i>Pro Populo</i>

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday

Low Mass: 8:00 am

High Mass: 10:15 am

Weekdays

Monday-Thursday: 7:45 am

Friday: 6:00 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am

CONFESSIONS

Monday-Saturday

One half hour before Mass

Sunday: 7:15-7:50

& 9:15-10:05

DEVOTIONS

Exposition-Benediction

Friday 5:00 pm

Saturdays 8:00 am

DAILY ROSARY

Monday-Thursday - After Mass

Friday-Sunday - Before Mass

OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Friday 9 am-4 pm

THURSDAY - CLOSED

Saturday - 10 am-Noon

Sexagesima Sunday

EPISTLE

2 Cor. 11, 19-23; 12, 1-9

Brethren, you gladly suffer the foolish; whereas yourselves are wise. For you suffer if a man bring you into bondage, if a man devour you, if a man take from you, if a man be lifted up, if a man strike you in the face. I speak according to dishonor, as if we had been weak in this part. Wherein if any man dare (I speak foolishly), I dare also, They are Hebrews; so am I. They are Israelites; so am I. They are the seed of Abraham; so am I. They are the ministers of Christ (I speak as one less wise); I am more: in many more labors, in prisons more frequently, in stripes above measure, in deaths often. Of the Jews five times did I receive forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods; once I was stoned; thrice I suffered shipwreck; a night and a day I was in the depth of the sea. In journeying often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils from my own nation, in perils from the gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils from false brethren. In labor and painfulness, in much watchings, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness; besides those things which are without, my daily instance, the solicitude for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is scandalized, and I am not on fire? If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things that concern my infirmity. The God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is blessed for ever, knoweth that I lie not. At Damascus the governor of the nation under Aretas the king, guarded the city of the Damascenes to apprehend me; and through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and so escaped his hands. If I must glory (it is not expedient indeed): but I will come to the visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ above fourteen years ago (whether in the body, I know not, or out of the body, I know not; God knoweth): such an one rapt even to the third heaven. And I know such a man (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell; God knoweth); that he was caught up into paradise; and heard secret words, which it is not granted to man to utter. For such an one I will glory; but for myself I will glory nothing, but in my infirmities. For though I should have a mind to glory, I

shall not be foolish; for I will say the truth. But I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth in me, or anything he heareth from me. And lest the greatness of the revelations should exalt me, there was given me a sting of my flesh, an angel of Satan, to buffet me. For which thing thrice I besought the Lord, that it might depart from me. And He said to me, My grace is sufficient for thee; for power is made perfect in infirmity. Gladly therefore will I glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

GOSPEL

Luke 8, 4-15

At that time, when a very great multitude was gathered together and hastened out of the cities unto Him, He spoke by a similitude; The sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. And other some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And other some fell among thorns; and the thorns growing up with it, choked it. And other some fell upon good ground; and being sprung up, yielded fruit a hundred fold. Saying these things, He cried out, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. And His disciples asked Him what this parable might be. To whom He said, To you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God, but to the rest in parables; that seeing they may not see, and hearing may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. And they by the wayside are they that hear; then the devil cometh, and taketh the word out of their heart, lest believing they should be saved. Not they upon the rock are they who when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no roots, for they believe for a while, and in time of temptation they fall away. And that which fell among thorns are they who have heard, and going their way, are choked with the cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and yield no fruit. But that on the good ground are they who in a good and very good heart, hearing the word, keep it and bring forth fruit in patience.

Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen

O Lord, I am here before You. Grant that my heart may be the good ground, ready to receive Your divine word.

Today, Jesus, the divine Sower, comes to scatter the good seed in His vineyard the Church. He wishes to prepare our souls for a new blossoming of grace and virtue.

“The seed is the word of God.” Jesus Christ, the Word Incarnate, eternal Utterance of the Father, came to sow this word in the hearts of men; it is, as it were, a reflection of Himself. The divine word is not a sound which strikes the air and disappears rapidly like the word of men; it is a supernatural light which reveals the true value of things; it is grace, the source of power and strength to help us live according to the light of God. Thus it is a seed of supernatural life, of sanctity, of eternal life. This seed is never sterile in itself; it always has a vital, powerful strength, capable of producing not only some fruits of Christian life, but abundant fruits of sanctity. This seed is not entrusted to an inexperienced husbandman who, because of his ignorance, might ruin the finest sowing. It is Jesus Himself, the Son of God, who is the Sower.

Then why does the seed not always bring forth the desired fruit? Because very often the ground which receives it does not have the requisite qualities. God never stops sowing the seed in the hearts of men; He invites them, He calls them continually by His light and His appeals; He never ceases giving His grace by means of the Sacraments; but all this is vain and fruitless unless man offers God a good ground, that is, a heart, well prepared and disposed. God wills our salvation and sanctification, but He never forces it; He respects our liberty.

Today’s Gospel (Lk 8,4-15) mentions four categories of people who receive the seed of the divine word in different ways. It compares them to the

hard ground, to the stony soil, to the earth choked with thorns, and lastly, to the good fertile field.

The hard ground: souls that are frivolous, dissipated, open to all distractions, rumors, and curiosity; admitting all kinds of creatures and earthly affections. The word of God hardly has their heart when the enemy, having free access, carries it off, thus preventing it from taking root.

The stony ground: superficial souls with only a shallow layer of good earth, which will be rapidly blown away, along with the good seed, by the winds of passion. These souls easily grow enthusiastic, but do not persevere and “in time of temptation fall away.” They are unstable, because they have not the courage to embrace renunciation and to make sacrifices which are necessary if one wishes to remain faithful to the word of God and to put it into practice in all circumstances. Their fervor is a straw fire which dies down and goes out in the face of the slightest difficulty.

The ground covered with thorns: souls that are preoccupied with worldly things, pleasures, material interests and affairs. The seed takes root, but the thorns soon choke it by depriving it of air and light. Excessive solicitude for temporal things eventually stifles the rights of the spirit.

Lastly, *the good ground* is compared by Jesus to those “who, with a good and upright heart, hearing the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit in patience.” The good and upright heart is the one which always gives first place to God, which seeks before everything else the kingdom of God and His justice. The seed of the divine word will bear abundant fruit in proportion to the good dispositions it finds in us: recollection, a serious and profound interior life, detachment, sincere seeking for the things of God above and beyond all earthly things, and finally, perseverance, without which the word of God cannot bear its fruit in us.

THANK YOU to Fr. Orłowski, FSSP, for his generosity in filling in while Fr. Zepeda was on vacation.

FIRST FRIDAY is February 5th. Eucharistic Adoration begins at 5:00 p.m. and ends with Benediction at 5:40 p.m. Our Lord is waiting for you.

FIRST SATURDAY is February 6th. We are invited to pray the Rosary, meditate for 15 minutes on the Mysteries, make sacramental confession and Communion in reparation for sins and blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart of Our Blessed Mother.

ATTENTION: The Altar Boys will meet on the First Saturday of February at the regular hour. Everyone needs to attend.

CANDLEMAS: The celebration of Candlemas originated in the late fifth century as a tribute to the light of God's glory that was manifested in Christ Jesus. During Candelaria, candles are blessed, lit, and borne in procession in celebration to Jesus being the light of the world. Bring as many candles as you want

blessed and leave them in the sacristy. You must have your candles in by Sunday, January 31st. Candles will be blessed before Mass February 2nd. You may pick up your candles after the Mass.

ST. MICHAEL TALENT SHOW: The 2016 Talent Show will be Sunday, February 7th (Sunday before Ash Wednesday) after the 10:15 Mass. This year's theme is **DOWN ON THE FARM**. Please see the sign-up sheet in the church vestibule. For more information please contact Terry Zuranski (570-677-6845 or ajzuranski@gmail.com). Everyone is invited. Pizza and lemonade will be provided. Please bring deserts and veggies to share.

STATEMENTS: The contribution statements for 2015 will be mailed out at this week.

ASH WEDNESDAY IS FEBRUARY 10
Mass schedule TBA

Altar Boy Schedule

SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY

Jan. 31st
8:00 a.m. Mass

ACI Stephen LaFata
AC2 Francis LaFata

TEAM D

MC Joshua Sica
TH Andrew Pheasant
AC1 Patrick Schneider
AC2 Timothy Sica
C John Skuba
S1 Joseph Skuba
S2 Peter Sica

WEEK ONE

Monday Patrick Schneider
7:45 a.m.

Tuesday Collin Chidester
7:45 a.m. Ian McGuirk

Wednesday Andrew Pheasant
7:45 a.m.

Thursday John Skuba
7:45 a.m. Joseph Skuba

QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY

Jan. 31st
8:00 a.m. Mass

ACI Joshua Sica
AC2 Timothy Sica

TEAM A

MC Timothy Emig
TH John Gillenkirk
AC1 Andrew Pheasant
AC2 Matthew Gillenkirk
C Sean Michelin
S1 Joseph Seeley
S2 Brendan Seeley