

29th Sunday
in Ordinary Time

October 22, 2017

The Priest's Mass Intentions

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Monday, October 23

8:30 a.m. Veronica Shin +
12 noon Deacon David & Carol McCaffrey

Tuesday, October 24

8:30 a.m. Javier Guerrero +
12 noon Kenneth Medved +

Wednesday, October 25

8:30 a.m. Christopher Goroud
12 noon Thanksgiving Prayer (Soriente Family)

Thursday, October 26

8:30 a.m. Rev. Fr. Peter Okola, AJ
12 noon George and Mary Nawrocki +

Friday, October 27

8:30 a.m. Maria Ngo Nguyen +
12 noon Regina Plunkett

Saturday, October 28

8:30 a.m. Jamaica Evangelists Filart +
5 p.m. Barbara Jean Hluboky +

Sunday, October 29

7 a.m. Rev. Fr. Russell Raj, OCD
8:30 a.m. People of the Parish
10:30 a.m. Anthony Arra +
12:30 p.m. Jim & Marie Kelly +

A Word from Fr. Drummond

A Birthday Letter from Father Drummond

This past Friday the twentieth of October was my Sixtieth Birthday. Since I was ordained at the age of 36 and half, I have been a priest for over a third of my life. At the age of sixty I believe that I can in all honesty refer to myself as an "Old geezer". And I am a happy old geezer, at that.

One might reasonably ask why I waited so long to be ordained. First of all, I was not raised Catholic. On Christmas Day 1957 I was baptized in the Lutheran Three King's Church in Frankfurt am Main by my grandfather Pfarrer Fritz Creter who was the Pastor there. In May 1970 I was confirmed in the same church by Pfarrer Schmidt, the then Pastor with my grandfather coming out of retirement to assist. The baptism took, but I had to be confirmed again when I entered the Catholic Church in December 1985 at St. Mary's in Old Town. Father William Saunders who instructed me in the Catholic Faith also received me in the Catholic Church, confirming me and giving me First Communion. The reason for being confirmed a second time is that the first, the Lutheran confirmation was not a sacrament - even though Baptism in the Lutheran Church is. Very quickly after being

received into the Church, I felt drawn to the Mass, attending daily and feeling the lack of it when I was unable to attend.

A number of years ago, when I was still Pastor of St. Catherine's in Great Falls, I had many of the Protestant Clergy over for afternoon tea. The local Lutheran Minister asked me what prompted me to become Catholic - they were all aware that I was a convert I prefaced my response by saying, "I am only saying this because you asked me, I would not have offered this as it might sound challenging or even offensive and I have no wish to be either". I then quite honestly told them that my journey to the Catholic Church was more an historical one than a spiritual one; that looking closely at all the historical evidence it seemed quite clear to me that Christ intended to and did found a Church and that that Church subsists today in the Roman Catholic Church". An awkward silence ensued. I refrained from adding that I preferred to belong to the Church that Christ founded rather than the break away Church founded by Dr. Martin Luther, a run away priest. Indeed, the fullness of Christianity can only be found, in my opinion, in the Catholic Church.

Becoming a priest was not my intent upon becoming Catholic; that just sort of happened. However, it did not come as a surprise to those who have known me. My father told me a few years ago that he had said to my mother when I was still a child and we were still living in Germany that he thought I might grow up to become a Catholic Priest!. My best friend from high school with whom I had lost contact for 3 decades told me that he was not at all surprised when he learned I had become a priest. A number of other friends and acquaintances have made similar remarks. Although my grandfather died long before I became a Catholic, I believe he would have been overjoyed to see me become a priest. He had a tremendous respect for the priesthood and counted a number of Priests among his close friends. After my grandfather retired to the country their first visitor was a Catholic Priest!

What drew me to the Catholic Church in the first place? Well, as I mentioned, history played a large part. But additionally, and even unknown to me at the time, the Eucharist was drawing me in; as a Lutheran I was taught the concept of Consubstantiation with regard to the Eucharist. The leap from that to the Catholic Dogma of Transubstantiation is not very wide, and the Catholic Dogma made more sense to me - as in all things Catholic, there is a greater "fullness". As a boy visiting many historic churches in Germany and France I remember thinking that Catholic Churches "felt" more like Churches than their Protestant counterparts. Now I understand why, it was the presence of the Eucharist, the "Real Presence".

So here I am at the age of sixty, the pastor of St. Michael's in Annandale, Virginia. Priests retire from active ministry at the age of 75, so I hope to have another fifteen years here at St. Michael's. But I will need your prayers to be able to do so. It is my great joy to serve you in Christ as your priest and pastor. I am all too aware of my faults and shortcomings. If I have hurt or offended anybody by my words or deeds, if I have seemed abrupt or uncaring at times, I am truly sorry. My hope is to bring all of you a bit closer to Christ and

that when the time does come for me to move on from St. Michael's it will be a source of regret for the parish and not relief. And so I close this by wishing to each and every one, **Ad Multos Annos!**

In Our Parish

“Thank you” to: - Our Parish Patron Saint, St. Michael the Archangel and to all our Guardian Angels; -

The Knights of Columbus: our wonderful hamburger, hotdog and sausage flippers soccer challenge scholars, especially JP Garces, Steve Jarvis and Joe Caporaletti;

- The early crew of tent and chair setter-uppers and the later crew who took down the tents and put them and the chairs away...especially Dan, William and the Auclairs;
- All the wonderful behind-the-scenes kitchen helpers, food-hander-outers and cleaner-uppers, especially: Kathleen Rizzardi, Julie dela Houssage and Cynthia Clark, Joe Caporaletti, Dan; Jim and Jermaine Perkins and Family;
- Everyone who signed up to volunteer and made it to their stations on time, especially those who stayed on when replacements didn't show;
- Dan who somehow always managed to get to be right where he could do the most good;
- John Buckreis who set-up and MC'd the 50/50 table and raffle and to Mary Sheahan and Carol-Ann Jones for managing the sale of tickets;
- To all the wonderful folks who presented their causes for Parish interest and support:
The Knights for the “Keep Christ in Christmas” card campaign, the Legion of Mary, The Adoration Chapel Committee, The Race for Seminarians, The American Red Cross Blood Drive
- All the delightful youngsters who signed up to help out to work for some Community Hours;
- All the Parishioners who perused the picnic and enjoyed themselves;

And an especially a great big thank you to everyone and anyone who helped in any way, at any time, whose name is not mentioned in the above listing!

Knights Coffee and Donuts -- All parishioners are cordially invited to join the St. Michael's Knights of Columbus for coffee, juice, and donuts on Sunday, October 22 in the All Purpose Room after 8:30 and 10:30 AM Masses. New parishioners are particularly welcome!

Next Week's Special Collection -- will be taken to help the *Little Sisters of the Poor*, whose mission provides a home where the neediest elderly of every race and religion are welcomed as Christ and cared for as family since 1874 in the Commonwealth of VA. The Sisters will be present at all the Masses to explain their mission and to ask for your support. They go out to the community to beg for the needs of the Home. They count on your generosity to continue their work of mercy as much as you can count on their grateful prayers

for you and your loved ones. You are invited to visit the website, www.littlesistersofthepoorvirginia.org.

Diocesan Survey -- <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/2017-Diocesan-Survey/>

NVJCYO Basketball Beginning Soon! -- Inviting parish members attending our CCD/Religious classes in grades 3-8 to register and join our St. Michael Parish teams to play in the upcoming Northern Virginia Catholic Youth Organization (NVJCYO) basketball program. Teams being formed, with practices soon to begin and games starting the 1st weekend of December. Volunteer Coaches may also be needed! Please contact Jermaine Perkins at 703-658-4876 or wrauthor@gmail.com for information. No basketball experience needed to participate.

40 Days for Life -- Now through November 5th, you are invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life, 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You are also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside Falls Church Healthcare Center at 900 S. Washington Street. **St. Michael Sponsor's Dates & Time for the Vigil hours are from 7AM - 7PM on every Friday for the following weeks on: October 27th, and November 3rd.**

Please help spread the word about this important community outreach. If you'd like more information -- and especially if you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact: Anh Tu Do at 703-919-4370 or e-mail anhdo18@gmail.com. Feel free to visit www.40daysforlife.com/fallschurch for more information.

Rite of Christian Initiation For Adults -- If you are interested in the Catholic faith or in receiving the Sacraments or if you know someone who is interested, instructions just started last week. To learn more, contact Deacon McCaffrey by phone (1-571-643-6895 or email dsmjrl@gmail.com). Or leave a message at the Church office (703-256-7822). All are welcome.

HAPPY 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY -- to Joe and Natalie Coleman. Please join us for light refreshments following the 8:30 a.m. Mass on Saturday, November 11, 2017. We wish to extend thanks for the many kindnesses shown to our family by St. Michael Parishioners. RSVP to shac_clan@yahoo.com or 703-476-3939.

ST. MICHAEL'S SENIORS (50+) GROUP

What: Sunday Brunch at Toby's Theater in Columbia, MD with a performance of “Miracle on 34th Street.”

When: Sunday, December 10, 2017

Time: Leave St. Michael's from the Senior School at 9 a.m. Return approx. 5 p.m.

Cost: \$80 for group members; \$84 for non-group members.

Reservation Deadline: Friday, November 3, 2017

Mail reservation checks, payable to St. Michael's Seniors (SMS) to Bill Fietze, 6919 Richard Place, Annandale, VA 22003. Any questions, call Geri, 703-941-3848 or Bill, 703-256-4563.

Enjoy an excellent Brunch Buffet selection and get into the Christmas spirit with a fine performance of a seasonal favorite, “Miracle on 34th Street.” Invite a friend to join you!

Teams of Our Lady -- is a world-wide movement in the Catholic Church to help couples grow in their spiritual life as a couple. Locally it is composed of teams of five to seven couples who meet monthly with a spiritual counselor. To learn more and find out if you are interested, come to an Information Meeting after either the 5 p.m. Mass on Saturday, October 28 or after the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, October 29. The meeting will be in the All Purpose Room in the Junior School at St. Michael Church, 7401 Ravensworth Road in Annandale. Alternately, call Carol & Deacon Dave McCaffrey, 703-941-4573.

Afternoon of Recollection -- A priest of Opus Dei hears Confessions every Wednesday afternoon (except on the 1st Wednesday) from 1:00 to 4 p.m. For more information regarding Opus Dei, please contact Lorraine Anderson, 703-425-0921.

Perpetual Adoration -- St. Michael is one of the few parishes in the entire Diocese with perpetual adoration — and vocations are one of the many fruits! To sign up for an hour or for more information, contact Rosemary Duffy at 703-256-4468. Currently, we are in most need for members on: Mondays 2-3 p.m.; and Fridays 4-5 a.m.

Mass of Remembrance -- The annual Mass of Remembrance will be held here at St. Michael's Church on Saturday, November 4, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. This Mass will be offered for all those parishioners and loved ones of parishioners who have died this past year. All the deceased whose funeral Mass was celebrated here at St. Michael's will have their names included on the program. If you have lost a loved one this past year and would like that name included on the program, please call Anne Keast at 703-354-5888. If leaving a message, please be sure to leave your phone number. *The deadline for adding names is Wednesday, November 1, 2017.* The names of the deceased will be remembered during the Prayer of the Faithful. A reception with light refreshments will be held in the Senior School cafeteria immediately following. We invite all members of the parish to attend this special memorial Mass and join together in prayer for our fellow parishioners who have been called home to Our Lord.

Please Pray for: Tracy Wilson; Maria Pozar*; Rosemary Dooley*; Ariadne Pasa; Maria Kerrinckx*; Richard Owen*; Marissa Ann Wuerthele*; Jean O. Cole; Lilia Prieto; Tuy Nguyen*; Cathy Callaghan*; Ellen Louise Daily; Steve Maitland*; Rose Guinan*; Dan Keller; Lili Lang; June & Norman Grimm*; Julia & Sophia Lattanzio; Carlton Hanson; Sr. Paul Marie; Dan Weiler*; Delia Sinn; Julie Molony Lee; Joe Meister; William Jeoff Robbins; Mary Roche*; Marco Tulio Gamba; Terry Spragens; Madelyn Respicio Cabatic; Rose Bledsoe; Bob Cafarella; Terry Chuppe; Michelle Soumner; Elsa Noriega*; Paul McEnrue*; Julia Garcia; John and Marie Sibenik*; Margaret Johnson*; Charlie Wisecarver*; Theresa Corcoran*; Jean Kratochvil*; Irma Barrera; John Carlson; Robert "Bob" Stephens*; Elizabeth Medved*; Beatrice Clark*; Robert and Courtney Villareal*; Michael Malovic*; *with apologies to anyone we dropped; to re-add names call the Parish Office for next week.*

Here are the names of family members -- of parishioners who are serving our country overseas: PFC Mark Haugh, USMC; Cdr. David Stabish, USNavy; Alex Puentes USNavy; Sgt. Ramsey Hamilton; LtJG Grace Dalton, USNavy; Ens. Andre Acevedo, USNavy; Maj. John D. Barringer, III, USAF; LCpl Benjamin C. Martino, USMC; Lt. Matthew Becker USNavy; and.... [call Mary at the parish office, 703-256-7822, and we'll keep our prayers going for our military in harms way.]

St. Michael Parish's Scouting Corner

Recycling Dates -- AHG's Troop VA0894 collection of aluminum cans/recyclable metal will take place on the following dates

AFTER the Saturday, 5 p.m., and Sunday, 8:30 a.m., and 10:30 a.m. Masses: 10/21, 10/22, 11/18, 11/19, 12/16, 12/17.

Trail Life Troop 894 -- Meetings for the newly formed St. Michael TL Troop 894 has begun. The Trail Life Boy's Scouting Program is open to all boys in grades Kindergarten thru Grade 12. Our next meeting is scheduled for 10/27/17 in the All Purpose Room from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Please join us. Both youth members and adult leaders are needed to help make our new program successful. Please contact Jim Perkins at 703-615-2607 or jim@jim-perkins.com with any questions. **AHG Troop VA0894** -- Our parish's AHG girls scouting troop has officially begun another year of scouting. Our program is open to all girls in grades Kindergarten thru Grade 12. We meet every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month in the All Purpose Room from 7 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Both youth members and adult leaders are needed to help continue to make our program successful. Contact Jermaine Perkins at 703-658-4876 or wrauthor@gmail.com with any questions.

School News

Registration is NOW OPEN for Preschool 3 – through 8th Grade -- Saint Michael School is dedicated to teaching the whole child. Our teachers and staff are committed to the success of each student. For a tour of our school, or if you have any questions, please call Michelle Kennedy at the school office 703-256-1222.

Religious Education

"Who am I to Judge?" Over the next few weeks, we will continue to explore (during the 'Coffee Talks' hour) this series by Edward Sri on how to respond to relativism with logic and love. Many of us have been affected by the relativistic outlook that pervades the modern world. We live in a society that supports the opinion that each person should make up his or her own morality - that there is no moral truth that applies to everyone. Maybe some of us wonder whether there really is an absolute right and wrong for everyone. Or maybe we accept that there is a moral standard for all, but we don't know how to explain our moral convictions in a convincing way. Maybe some of us are afraid of saying something is immoral because we're afraid of offending others or of being labeled intolerant. Join us for 'Coffee Talks' from 2-3 PM All Purpose Room. We will explore how we talk about morality in a relativistic world. **Youth Group** meets Sunday evenings at 6 PM in All Purpose Room of the Junior School Building.