

Votive Mass of Blessed Michael McGivney



**Diocesan Priest and Founder
of the Knights of Columbus**

Blessed Michael McGivney, Priest

He was born on August 12, 1852, in Waterbury (Connecticut) of Irish immigrant parents and baptized there on August 19 in St. Peter's Church (predecessor to what is today the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception). Ordained priest on December 22, 1877, he was assigned to St. Mary's Church, New Haven, where his remarkable ability to relate to all people of every social, economic and religious background became apparent. In 1882, he founded the Knights of Columbus, a fraternal benevolent association that offered spiritual and apostolic direction to Catholic men. He died of tuberculosis on August 14, 1890, while Pastor of St. Thomas Church in Thomaston (Connecticut) and was beatified on October 31, 2020, in Hartford (Connecticut).



Father Michael McGivney was beatified on October 31, 2020, during a Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in the Archdiocese of Hartford, Conn., where an apostolic letter from Pope Francis was proclaimed, declaring that Father McGivney “henceforth be given the title of Blessed and that his liturgical memorial be kept each year on 13 August, in those places laid down by the norm of law.” A step in the process of canonization, beatification is meant primarily for devotion and veneration of the blessed within a local diocese — in this case, the Archdiocese of Hartford, in which Michael McGivney was born, served as a priest, founded the Knights of Columbus, and died. Not until a candidate for sainthood is canonized are devotion and veneration extended to the entire Church.

Consequently, there are restrictions on where and when Mass in honor of Blessed Michael McGivney may be offered, and proper permissions must be obtained in all cases. These limitations should encourage us to pray all the more for a second miracle that might lead to Father McGivney's eventual canonization.

According to a directive from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, August 13 is inscribed on the liturgical calendar as a memorial of Blessed Michael McGivney for the Archdiocese of Hartford. The congregation, however, noted that “it will be possible for gatherings of Knights [of Columbus] to celebrate a votive Mass in honor of Fr. McGivney with the permission of the local ordinary and respecting the rules of precedence laid out in the Table of Liturgical Days” (Prot. N. 436/20).

In accordance with this guidance, Knights of Columbus chaplains as well as priests with active councils in their parishes outside of the Archdiocese of Hartford may seek permission from their diocesan bishop to offer a Votive Mass of Blessed Michael McGivney on August 13. In this way, Masses honoring Blessed Michael McGivney may be offered for gatherings of Knights around the world, provided the permission of the local ordinary is obtained.

A Votive Mass in honor of Blessed Michael McGivney may also be offered on other days, again with permission of the diocesan bishop, when Knights of Columbus gather for special occasions, as long as the chosen day does not conflict with a solemnity or other obligatory observance on the Church's liturgical calendar.



The following document provides the proper Collect and Lectionary readings for Blessed Michael McGivney, as established by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (Prot. N. 400-20). Other prayers are from the Common of Pastors: For One Pastor.

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CHAS FAYAN 2015

COMMON OF PASTORS

III. For Pastors B. For One Pastor

1

Entrance Antiphon

Your priests, O Lord, shall be clothed with justice;
Your holy ones shall ring out their joy.

Cf. Ps 132(131):9

COLLECT

God of eternal mercy,
who set your priest **Blessed Michael in the Church**
to comfort the suffering and the weary, the lonely and the oppressed
with works of charity and a gentle heart,
grant that, through his intercession,
we too may become vessels of mercy in our day
and so enter into our heavenly inheritance.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord, we pray,
the offerings placed on your altar
in commemoration of blessed Michael,
so that, as you brought him glory,
you may, through these sacred mysteries,
grant to us your pardon.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Blessed is the servant whom the Lord finds watching
when he comes. Amen, I say to you:
He will put him in charge of all his property.

Cf. Mt 24: 46-47

Or:

This is the steward, faithful and prudent
whom the Lord set over his household,
to give them their allowance of food at the proper time.

Lk 12: 42

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May partaking at the heavenly table, almighty God,
confirm and increase strength from on high
in all who celebrate the feast day of blessed Michael,
that we may preserve in integrity the gift of faith
and walk in the path of salvation you trace for us.
Through Christ our Lord.

Entrance Antiphon

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
for he has anointed me
and sent me to preach the good news to the poor,
to heal the broken-hearted.

Cf. Lk 4: 18

Or:

The Lord chose him as a priest for himself,
to offer him a sacrifice of praise.

Cf. Sir 45: 20

COLLECT

God of eternal mercy,
who set your priest Blessed Michael in the Church
to comfort the suffering and the weary, the lonely and the oppressed
with works of charity and a gentle heart,
grant that, through his intercession,
we too may become vessels of mercy in our day
and so enter into our heavenly inheritance.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

**PRAYER OVER
THE OFFERINGS**

We humbly implore your majesty, almighty God,
that, just as the offerings made in honor of blessed Michael
bear witness to the glory of divine power,
so they may impart to us the effects of your salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age, says the Lord.

Cf. Mt 29: 20

**PRAYER AFTER
COMMUNION**

May the mysteries we have received, O Lord,
prepare us, we pray, for the eternal joys
that, as a faithful steward, blessed Michael came to deserve.
Through Christ our Lord.

Or:

Make us, who have been nourished
by this sacred meal, almighty God,
always follow the example of blessed Michael
in serving you with constant devotion
and assisting all with untiring charity.
Through Christ our Lord.

THE COMMON OF PASTORS

722 READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

8.

Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13 In the work of ministry, in building up the Body of Christ.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

**Brothers and sisters,
I, a prisoner for the Lord,
urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received,
with all humility and gentleness, with patience,
bearing with one another through love,
striving to preserve the unity of the spirit
through the bond of peace:
one Body and one Spirit,
as you were also called to the one hope of your call;
one Lord, one faith, one baptism;
one God and Father of all,
who is over all and through all and in all.**

**But grace was given to each of us
according to the measure of Christ's gift.**

**And he gave some as Apostles, others as prophets,
others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers,
to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry,
for building up the Body of Christ,
until we all attain to the unity of faith
and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature to manhood,
to the extent of the full stature of Christ.**

The word of the Lord.

721 RESPONSORIAL PSALM

7.

Psalm 110:1, 2, 3, 4

℟. (4b) You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

**The LORD said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand
till I make your enemies your footstool.”**

℟. You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

**The scepter of your power the LORD will stretch forth from Zion:
“Rule in the midst of your enemies.”**

℟. You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

**“Yours is princely power in the day of your birth, in holy splendor;
before the daystar, like the dew, I have begotten you.”**

℟. You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

**The LORD has sworn, and he will not repent:
“You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”**

℟. You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

**723 ALLELUIA VERSE AND VERSE
BEFORE THE GOSPEL**

4.

Luke 4:18

**The Lord sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor
and to proclaim liberty to captives.**

742 GOSPEL

1.

Matthew 5:1-12a Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

**When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain,
and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.
He began to teach them, saying:**

**“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you
and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.
Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward will be great in heaven.”**

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL
Sample Petitions

Celebrant:

Brothers and sisters, as we now offer our prayer for our community and for the world, let us pray in the spirit of Blessed Michael not only for ourselves and our own needs but for the entire people.

Deacon or Petitioner:

For our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, and for all bishops throughout the world, that God will guide and protect them as they teach, govern and sanctify the flock entrusted to their care, we pray to the Lord. **R/ Lord, hear our prayer.**

For priests, including chaplains of the Knights of Columbus, that Blessed Michael McGivney's life as a holy and heroic parish priest will inspire them to live their vocation with fidelity and evangelical zeal, we pray to the Lord. **R/ Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the laity, that they will fulfill their baptismal call with creative courage and contribute to the sanctification of the world, as Blessed Michael inspired Catholics of his day to do through the Knights of Columbus, we pray to the Lord. **R/ Lord, hear our prayer.**

For vocations, that Blessed Michael will continue to inspire many young people, as he did his two brothers who also answered God's call to the priesthood, we pray to the Lord. **R/ Lord, hear our prayer.**

For immigrants and for families, especially those who struggle from the death of the breadwinner, that Blessed Michael will advocate for them from heaven as he did on earth, we pray to the Lord. **R/ Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the cause of life, and for parents facing negative prenatal diagnoses, that Blessed Michael will intercede for them and help all people to see the image of God in every human life, especially the marginalized and most vulnerable, we pray to the Lord. **R/ Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who have died, that Blessed Michael, may intercede for them so that they may soon see the face of God in heaven, we pray to the Lord. **R/ Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the canonization of Blessed Michael, that a second miracle attributed his intercession may open the way for him to be proclaimed a saint of the universal Church, we pray to the Lord. **R/ Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant:

**God of mercy, you know the many needs of your people.
Hear our prayers, and through the intercession of Blessed Michael,
grant what we ask in faith. Through Christ our Lord.**

