

WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

DECEMBER 1, 2024

*First Sunday of*  
**ADVENT**





**SATURDAY LITURGY**

Vigil: 5:00 PM

**SUNDAY LITURGY**

7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 AM

LIVESTREAM 9:30 AM MASS

**DAILY LITURGY**

Weekdays 7:00 AM

Saturday 8:00 AM

**HOLY DAY LITURGY**

See page 9 of the bulletin

**CHAPEL HOURS:**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

8:00 AM-3:00 PM

Wednesdays

8:00 AM-4:00 PM

Saturday

9:00-3:00 PM

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Wednesdays

1:00-4:00 PM in the Chapel

**SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION**

**Sacrament of Penance...**Saturday

3:30 PM-4:30 PM

**Baptisms...**First time parents at

St. Michael must attend a Baptism Prep session before the baptism date can be scheduled. Please call Janice at ext. 8241 to schedule the prep session and/or baptism date.

**Marriage...**The bride, groom or their parents/grandparents must be active registered members of the parish for at least one year prior to reserving a date for the wedding. The diocese requires that arrangements must be made at least six months in advance of the wedding date in order for the proper personal, spiritual and liturgical preparations of the couple to be completed.

**Sacrament of the Sick...**Please call the office until 4:00 PM. After 4:00 PM, please call 322-6623 Monday-Friday and anytime on the weekend.

Names of the sick are placed in the bulletin for a period of four weeks after which time they are either removed or placed in the Book of Intentions in the Chapel.

**BULLETIN DEADLINE**

Monday prior to the Sunday printing 12:00 PM (Noon). Holidays have exceptions. Please submit potential bulletin articles by email to bulletin@stmichaelparish.life or in print form to the office or by fax to 322-4508.

Website: [www.stmichaelparish.life](http://www.stmichaelparish.life)

**MINISTRIES**

If you are interested in participating in any of these ministries, please visit the website for Ministry Coordinator information.

**Spirituality & Worship Commission**

- Altar Servers
- Art & Environment
- Cross Bearers
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
- Hospitality
- Lectors
- Liturgy Committee
- Music Ministry
- Centering Prayer Ministry
- OCIA
- Sacristan
- Ministers of Care

**Education & Formation Commission**

- Adult Catholic Education
- Alpha
- Baptismal Preparation
- Catholic Bible Study
- Faith Formation
- Marriage Preparation
- Radiate
- School Administrator

**Stewardship & Parish Administration**

- AV Ministry
- Cemetery Committee
- Parish Gardeners
- Stewardship

**Parish Life**

- Boy Scouts of America/Girl Scouts
- Comforting Chefs
- Festival Committee
- Holy Name Society
- Knights of Columbus
- Labors of Love
- Ministry of Hope & Consolation
- Parish Nurse
- Senior GEMS
- Welcoming Ministry

**Peace & Social Justice Commission**

- Good Samaritans
- Rebuilding Hope Mission Team
- Wheelchair Ramp Ministry
- Respect Life Group
- Pastoral Care

**CONVENT**

**Congregation of Mother of Carmel**

43 W. Wilhelm St., Schererville  
219-322-4011

**SCHOOL OFFICE**

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pastor@stmichaelparish.life

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frrobertr@stmichaelparish.life

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Mrs. Loretta DePrez ext. 8228  
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- Bob Solorio.....Chair
- Michael Morley.....Vice Chair
- Linda Kinzer.....Education & Formation Liaison
- Barbara Judge.....Education & Formation Liaison
- Nancy Finley.....Parish Life Liaison
- Martha Kozub.....Parish Life Liaison
- Connie Solorio.....Spirituality & Worship Liaison
- Alice Lewinski.....Spirituality & Worship Liaison
- Barbara Anderson.....Peace & Social Justice Liaison
- Lisa Codo.....Peace & Social Justice Liaison
- Lou Bufano.....Stewardship Liaison
- Mick Adamson.....Stewardship Liaison
- Jeffrey Cox.....Secretary
- Rev. Martin Dobrzynski.....Pastor
- Rev. Robert Ross.....Associate Pastor
- Deacon Ron Pyle.....Permanent Deacon
- Deacon Gary Wolfe.....Permanent Deacon



# From the Associate Pastor's Desk

## Come Lord—Our Justice!

About one month ago we celebrated All Souls Day, a day where we pray for every human person who has died. On this day, there is a traditional song we sing for our dearly departed. It's called the *Dies Irae* in Latin, which translated means "The Day of Wrath." (If you haven't gotten it yet, we Christians are strange people—we put our feet in heaven and say everyone else is standing upside-down). Yes, that's right: on a day when we're mourning the loss of grandma, we hear about the fear and trembling of the Day of Judgment when God will dissolve the world in fire, raise the dead out of the ashes, and judge everyone according to his or her deeds.

What does this have to do with Advent? Well, as I said, we, Christians are strange people. During Advent, we call on God to hasten the Day of Judgment, the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. "Come Lord Jesus, Judge of the earth! Destroy the world with heavenly fire! Set everything ablaze—let none escape!" Really cheery stuff to be praying before Christmas. Nothing says "Seasons Greetings" like fire and brimstone.

The reason we Christians have the audacity to make such prayers is because God's wrath is not meant for us. God prepared the lake of fire for the devil and his angels (Matt 25:41; Rev 20:14-15). What God prepared for us human beings is the kingdom of God (Matt 25:34).

Imagine that you commit a crime. You are arrested and brought to court. The accusing party demands that you receive the death sentence for your crime. The adversarial lawyer presents a beautifully worded brief, during which *even you* begin to believe that he's right—your crime is so heinous, how can you be allowed to live? You turn to your lawyer and tell him your thoughts to deny the charges, to plead innocent; how else can you escape the horrid death penalty if you are found guilty? Your advocate, however, tells you not to worry, that you won't die, that he'll present his brief and convince the judge to lighten the sentence. "But," he notes, "if you attempt to deny the charges, there's not much I can do for you. Come clean, and trust in my ability to soften the judge's heart. After all, the Lord Justice is the one judging this case, not your adversary."

For millennia, people of faith have seen our human situation like a court trial. The name Satan means "Adversary" or "Accuser," for he seeks our condemnation. The Holy Spirit is called the "Advocate" or the "Paraclete," for he is the one who stands beside us to defend our case (cf. John 16:7). Jesus Himself is declared to be the Judge of the world, able to judge fairly because He became man. The psalmists cried out to God, asking deliverance from enemies who falsely accuse; they appealed to God's justice and His law. The legal analogy is not new.

We Christians have courage in the Final Judgment because our accuser is a liar and the father of lies, and our advocate is God Himself. Moreover, the judge is Jesus Christ, who already suffered our punishment for sin, that we might accept His offer of mercy and change our ways. The court is stacked in our favor, so we have confidence that the day of trial will be the day of our vindication.

We call judges of the highest courts "Justices" because their word of sentence *becomes* justice; there is no further chance for appeal, no chance to be accused again. We look forward to the day that we stand before Jesus and say, "Behold the Lord, our Justice!" For then we will be at peace, and the accuser silenced. God's Word is Justice. May He come swiftly and bring an end to our trials!





# SMS & Faith Formation News

Michelle Biscan, Principal

Kimberley Hoogeveen, DRE

## WARRIOR OF THE WEEK



**AnnaMae Baker**

I joined SMS in the fifth grade after I finished elementary school. I plan on attending Andean High School like the rest of my friends. During my time at SMS, I played a few sports. I have played cross country, soccer, basketball and track and field. Out of school, I participate in Boy Scouts and I get to do a lot of fun activities, such as camping. Also, I altar serve for Saint Michael's and another church. What I think makes SMS special is the learning environment that we are in. I feel safe and at home in the classrooms. Also, the people of Saint Michael make the school special. Being in a class all day with my friends makes us feel like a family. My advice for the younger kids is to enjoy and cherish your time here. Have fun here while you can, and make memories that you will remember when you are older. Don't try to grow up too fast, because you will miss being younger. SMS helped me grow in so many ways. This school taught me how to be a better person in my words and in my actions. I became a better friend by learning to treat them in a nice way. I became a better family member by becoming more helpful around the house and making sure that my family is doing okay. They helped me grow as a student by helping me learn and grow to my full potential. Most importantly, SMS helped me grow closer to Jesus by teaching me the importance of God, teaching me more about my religion and strengthening my relationship and trust with Jesus.

### Turkeys of Thanks

The first and third graders each wrote 3 things they were thankful to God for (prayers of thanksgiving ) and 3 things to ask for God's help (prayers of petition).



### School Scholarship Tax Credit Program

Donate and get 50% tax credit on your IN state taxes. To donate by mail: Make your check payable to **Sagamore Institute SGO**. On the check, please indicate that it is for St. Michael School, Schererville. Please mail the check to:  
SEC at Sagamore Institute  
P.O. Box 301076 Indianapolis, IN 46230  
To donate online:  
<https://scholarshipsforeducationchoice.com/st-michael-school/>

### HELP SMS EARN EDUCATIONAL REWARDS

Please save your Strack's receipts, put them in an envelope marked Apples for Students and place in one of the collection towers in church, drop them in the dropbox by the parish office or bring them to the parish office during normal business hours.



**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SMS!**

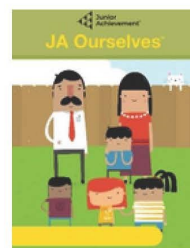
# Junior Achievement is Headed to St. Michael School

Join us as we inspire students, enlighten them about finances, and open doors to their futures. We are looking for volunteers to head into the classrooms and deliver the JA Programs!



**Friday, December 13th, 2024**  
**8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

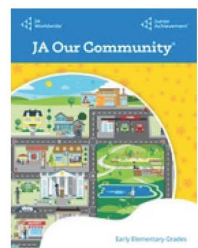
Lesson plans are scripted and easy to follow and training is provided to prepare you to confidently present the JA program in the classroom. The programs for each grade level are listed here. For more information on the program content, access program summaries at [bit.ly/2024StMikeJA](https://bit.ly/2024StMikeJA)



Kindergarten



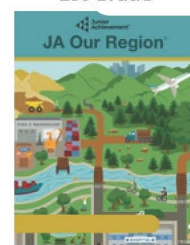
1st Grade



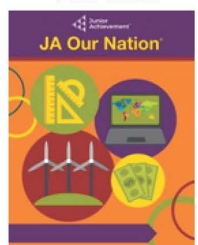
2nd Grade



3rd Grade



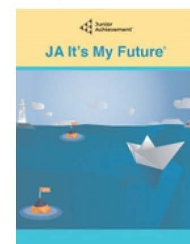
4th Grade



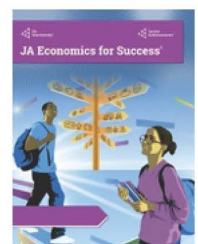
5th Grade



6th Grade



7th Grade



8th Grade



**Sign Up to Volunteer:** To volunteer your time to teach, please use the QR code or the following link to sign-up. More information will follow. [bit.ly/2024StMikeVol](https://bit.ly/2024StMikeVol)

**More Info:** Joan Grott - [jgrott@jachicago.org](mailto:jgrott@jachicago.org)  
JA Program Manager - Northwest Indiana





## LIFE IS PRECIOUS: HANDLE WITH PRAY

Special Prayers  
For Those In Need



Stephen Gatons, ***Tim & Helen Hazard, Robert Habasinski, Sandy Evans, David Sarros, Ruth Marie Sarros, Joan Gillespie, Glenda Davalos, Denise Hahney, Joan Hamnik, Timothy Bunchek, Pat Matz, Marlene Townsend, Phyllis Leyba, Sherry Lazzaro, Patricia Christenson, Pam Weslowski, Helen Marshall, Karen Dezarn, Lillian Zaborske*** and all those in need of the healing touch of God. Please call 219-322-4505, ext. 8220 to place a loved one on the Prayer List. Please see page 2 for guidelines regarding Pray for the Sick List.

*St. Michael's parishioners are in bold, italic print.*



### For Those Who Have Died...

Cecilia O'Donnell

**Life has changed, not ended**



**December 3rd**

**10:00 AM**

**in St. Patrick Hall**

### Handmade Gifts For Sale

Tree of Life Imports returns this weekend with a beautiful handmade gift selection that supports poor and marginalized families in Guatemala and El Salvador. Our fair trade mission continues to bring the work of loving human hands to your families in time for Christmas shopping. Also view our catalog online: [www.thetreeoflifeimports.com](http://www.thetreeoflifeimports.com). Both cash and credit cards accepted.

**The Respect Life Ministry is having their Holy Family Christmas Card Sale this weekend until December 7th (after all weekend Masses) in the Gathering Space. On December 8th, sales will take place in St. Patrick Hall. Individual cards are \$2 and a pack of 10 cards is \$15. Proceeds help us support the many organizations that need our help.**



PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
**BREAKFAST WITH  
ST. NICK AND BABY JESUS**

**December 8th after all  
Masses in St. Patrick Hall**

Have your child's picture taken with Baby Jesus & St. Nicholas. For \$5, we can take your picture and frame it or you may take your own picture. This event is sponsored by the Respect Life Ministry.

"Why did the Christmas tree go to the barber?"



"It needed to be trimmed."



As we prepare our hearts and homes for Christmas, decorating is a fun and festive way to get ready for Jesus' coming!

**IT IS HERE!**

**150th Anniversary  
Pictorial Directory**



**Pick up your Reserved Copy  
December 7 & 8**

BEFORE AND AFTER EACH MASS TIME IN THE ST. AMAND ROOM.

PARISH MEMBERS THAT REQUESTED A BOOK WILL RECEIVE A COMPLIMENTARY COPY.  
ONE DIRECTORY PER FAMILY

UNRESERVED OR ADDITIONAL COPIES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT A LATER DATE.

# 2024 Advent Kindness Calendar



1 Pray for the sick, the health care workers and the homeless. Do something kind.	2 Pay for a drink or food for the person in front of you or behind you in line.	3 Call and old friend and chat.	4 Smile at someone you don't know and say hi!! Try to do this everyday for the fun of it.	5 Give someone a compliment or tell a joke to make someone laugh.	6 Make a card for someone you love or someone in a nursing home.	7 Sing a Christmas song to someone.
8 Donate a little extra at Church.	9 Read the Christmas story of Jesus to a young person.	10 Donate food clothes or toiletries to the church food pantry.	11 Rake, sweep, snow shovel or pick up random trash or babysit for free.	12 Drop old Blankets and Towels to an Animal Shelter.	13 Bake cookies and share with a neighbor.	14 Call someone who lives alone or has lost a loved one this year.
15 Have someone over for dinner or take dinner to someone.	16 Give a loved one an extra long hug and let them know how much you appreciate them.	17 Donate to a charity such as Salvation Army or Toys for Tots.	18 Dance to a Christmas song like no one is watching and record it.	19 Leave a festive treat for your mail carrier / delivery person. Tell them thank you.	20 Do a chore for someone. Help decorate or wrap presents.	21 Write a love note and put it under a loved one's pillow.
22 Watch A Christmas Movie as a family or with a senior citizen.	23 Make a list of what you are thankful for about your family and share it on Christmas.	24 Go to church today or tomorrow and give thanks for the gift of Christ.	25 <b>HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!</b> <i>Well Done!</i>	<i>Pray</i> Each day for those you are serving.	<b>LOVE &amp; JOY</b> Share with a heart of love and joy.	<i>Gratitude</i> Give with a heart of gratitude.

Have fun and invite all your family members to participate.

Remember to take time each day to slow down, get present, pray and to take deep breaths of appreciation.



“Help trim our tree,  
help trim our tree,  
How lovely are thy branches.”

“May the Holy Family bless you in a deep abiding way, with special joy and gladness of that first bright Christmas Day”

In that spirit, your cards help decorate our trees and your donations will allow our ministry to continue to do the work that is asked of us. We wish you and those you love Christmas peace and God’s blessings for good health.

*The Good Samaritans thank you for your kind sharing.*



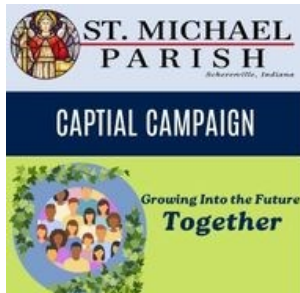
**Chair Yoga Class**  
**December 6th**  
**\$5/session**  
**Please call Ursula at**  
**219-741-3276 to register.**

**The Good Samaritans are offering a limited number of our annual Christmas Dinner Baskets to Parishioners in need of assistance. Please contact our voice mail at 322-4505 ext. 8250 and leave a message with your name and contact number by December 16th. A ministry member will return your call to explain distribution details. We are here to assist our St. Michael Parish Family.**



**Join us for our last meeting of the year**  
**December 10th at**  
**10:00 AM in the SE Room**





### Additional Funding to the G.I.F.T. Campaign

Grapes, Mash & Hops Tasting Event - September 8th  
 • Total Proceeds towards the Campaign - **\$11,843.33**  
 Thank you to Gamba's Ristorante, RNDC Distributing Co., Lake Liquors, Devin Sanders and the Planning Committee.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE NEXT GMH EVENT, Sunday, April 27th.

Questions? Email us at gift@stmichaelparish.life or call 219-322-4505

## Weekly Schedule

### SUNDAY DECEMBER 1

Advent Books Available After All Masses, Gathering Space  
 Tree of Life Sales After All Masses, Gathering Space  
 Respect Life Christmas Cards Sale After All Masses, Gathering Space

OCIA 9:30 AM  
 Vietnamese Confessions 4:30 PM, Chapel  
 Vietnamese Mass 6:00 PM, Church  
 Vietnamese Fellowship Following Mass, St. Patrick Hall

**The Rosary is said after 7:00 AM weekday Mass except Tuesday-after OLPH Devotions**

### MONDAY DECEMBER 2

Liturgy Committee Meeting 6:00 PM, SE Room  
 Advent Evening Prayer Service 7:00 PM

### TUESDAY DECEMBER 3

Labors of Love 10:00 AM, St. Patrick Hall  
 Children's Choir 3:15 PM, Church  
 Faith Formation Traditional Classes 6:00 PM, SMS

### WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 4

Eucharistic Adoration 1:00-4:00 PM, Chapel  
 Faith Formation Traditional Classes 6:00 PM, SMS  
 Good Samaritans 6:30 PM, SE Room

### THURSDAY DECEMBER 5

Baptismal Prep 6:00 PM, SW Room  
 Choir Practice 7:00 PM, Church  
 Marriage Ministry Meeting 7:00 PM, SE Room

### FRIDAY DECEMBER 6

Chair Yoga 8:00 PM, St. Patrick Hall  
 Bell Choir Practice 6:00 PM, Church

### SATURDAY DECEMBER 7

First Saturday Devotions After 8:00 AM Mass, Chapel  
 Confessions 3:30-4:30 PM, Chapel  
 Blessing of 2025 Calendars at Vigil Mass  
 Church Directory Pick Up After Vigil Mass, Gathering Space  
 Respect Life Christmas Cards Sale After Vigil Mass, Gathering Space

### SUNDAY DECEMBER 8

Blessing of 2025 Calendars at All Masses  
 Breakfast with St. Nick/Baby Jesus After All Masses, St. Patrick Hall  
 Church Directory Pick Up After All Masses, St. Amand Room  
 Respect Life Christmas Cards Sale After All Masses, Gathering Space  
 Faith Formation Family Session 9:30 AM, SMS  
 OCIA 9:30 AM  
 "Do This in Memory of Me" Mass 11:30 AM  
 Radiate 6:00 PM, St. Patrick Hall

There are towers available on either side of the main aisle in church to place your Sunday donations. We no longer pass baskets for regular collections.

## Stewardship in Action

Pray for the sick, healthcare workers and the homeless. Do something kind and please see the Kindness Calendar in the Bulletin for other acts to perform throughout December. *submitted by Conchita Bryner*



### November 10, 2024

Adult	\$15,385.00
Children	\$66.25
EFTs	\$4,517.99
Loose	\$871.35

**Total Weekly Offering**  
**\$20,840.59**

### November 17, 2024

Adult	\$20,157.00
Children	\$102.13
EFTs	\$6,839.47
Loose	\$604.38

**Total Weekly Offering**  
**\$27,702.98**

**Thank you for your generosity!**

Effective immediately, we are changing our counting procedure back to pre-Covid times. There will be two weeks of reporting until we are caught up to the current collection.

\*denotes new or updated article

# Diocesan Life Information

## \*ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

On **December 3rd**, 6:00-8:00 PM, at St. Thomas More Weis Center, Munster, Sr. Josetta Rose will lead the program, *Wait and Watch for the Light that Shines in the Darkness*. Reservations are requested. Donations are welcome. Please reserve your place by visiting: <https://forms.gle/ZtKc8E49j8K2aU6r6> or call 219-836-0052.

## ADVENT SERIES

Our Lady of Consolation is having an Advent Series during the month of December at 7:00 PM.

**Dec. 5th:** *“Joy to the World; the Mystery of the Incarnation”* by Deacon Gary Wolfe

**Dec. 13th:** *“Make Room in your Heart”* by Fr. Steven Caraher

**Dec. 19th:** *“Receive the Gift”* by Sr. Deanna Love  
Light refreshments will be provided in the Narthex afterwards. For more information, please call 219-769-1755, ext. 308.

## CHRISTMAS AT VALPO: A VESPERS CONCERT

A service of readings, prayers and music in preparation for Christmas will be held on **Dec. 6th** at 7:30 PM and **Dec. 7th** at 5:00 PM in the Chapel of the Resurrection, Valpo University. Tickets are \$20/adult and \$15/seniors (62+), children (6+) and non-VU students. Tickets may be purchased through the VUCA box office or in person at the University Center for the Arts. Visit [valpo.edu/chapel/cav24/](http://valpo.edu/chapel/cav24/) for more information.

## ROYAL BRUNCH

Bishop Noll Institute (BNI) invites families to a magical morning of fun at its Royal Brunch. The event will take place 10:30 AM-12:00 PM on **Dec. 7th** at BNI and will include brunch, swag bags, character interactions, crafts, treats, mini makeovers and more. The brunch will feature several princesses and even a special guest appearance by Santa Claus! Tickets cost \$20/child 12 and younger and \$15/adult. Visit or text NollPrincess to 76278 for tickets. No tickets will be sold at the door. The event will take place in the Bishop Noll Cafeteria and Fieldhouse, 1519 Hoffman St. in Hammond. Enter Door C.

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

You are invited to the **Second Annual Christmas Bazaar** on **December 14th**, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM at the St. Timothy Center of Sharing Meadows, 6357 N 300 E, LaPorte. For details, please call 219-778-2585.



## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our Lady of Consolation in Merrillville is hosting a Christmas Concert featuring *“The Noteables”* on **December 15th** at 2:00 PM. Doors open at 1:30 PM. Adult tickets are available in advance for \$10 or \$12 at the door. Tickets for ages 12 and under are \$3. For more information or tickets, please call 219-769-0304 or 219-277-9507.

## \*SENSORY SANTA VISIT

Logan’s Love—Logan Speaks presents Sensory Santa Visit at Homan Elementary School-Door F on **Dec. 14th**, 12:00-5:00 PM.

Homan is located at 210 E. Joliet St., Schererville.

This event is open to all ages and abilities. Reserve a time using the QR code. Free admission. Donations appreciated. For more information, please call Nicole 219-805-0750 or Eliana 219-885-8434.



## \*COOKIE WALK

Descent of the Holy Spirit, 545 E. 77th Ave., Schererville is hosting a Cookie Walk on **Dec. 21st**, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM. Delicious homemade cookies, pastries, nut rolls and breads, homemade cabbage rolls, halushki and pierogies (sold by the dozen) will be available. For additional information, please call Sharon Holowaty 219-864-4342.

## A DAY OF DISCERNMENT

All high school aged men are invited to a Day of Discernment, “Vocasti Me” or “You Have Called Me” on **Dec. 27th** at St. Teresa of Avila, 1511 LaPorte Ave, Valpo, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM. Come for a day of prayer, discussion, food, sports and fellowship. To RSVP or obtain more information, email [jrosenow@dcgary.org](mailto:jrosenow@dcgary.org) or call 219-769-9292, ext. 221.



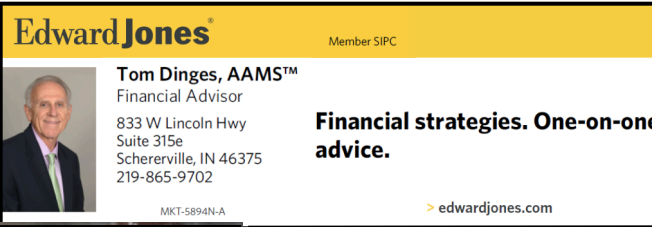




# OUR GENEROUS ADVERTISERS

Our weekly bulletin is created and managed within our parish office. Advertising proceeds directly support our parish. When seeking services for your home, please consider these businesses and mention our bulletin when you visit their establishments!

To advertise in our bulletin, call Elizabeth Munoz, Communications Director at 219-334-8042.

	 <p><b>Cindy Jansky</b> VP, Branch Manager NMLS: 525361 219.741.7048 cindy.jansky@ruoff.com ruoff.com/cindyjansky</p>	 <p><b>Edward Jones</b> Member SIPC</p> <p><b>Tom Dinges, AAMS™</b> Financial Advisor 833 W Lincoln Hwy Suite 315e Schererville, IN 46375 219-865-9702</p> <p><b>Financial strategies. One-on-one advice.</b></p> <p>&gt; edwardjones.com</p>	<p><i>Advertise Here!</i></p> <p>\$20/ad R 1.1 w: 2.5" h: 1.2"</p>
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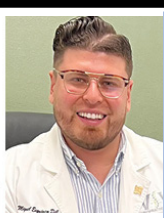
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