



### **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

### **EUCHARISTIC 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

### **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

16 W. Wilhelm St., Schererville (219)322-4531/FAX (219)322-1710

### **Principal**

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mwacnik@smswarriors.org

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krapacz@stmichaelparish.life

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khoogeveen@stmichaelparish.life

### **Administrative Assistant**

Mrs. Mary Jo Rymarczyk

mrymarczyk@stmichaelparish.life

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### or by appointment www.stmichaelparish.life

**PARISH OFFICE** 

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9:00-4:00 PM MONDAY-FRIDAY

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pastor@stmichaelparish.life Associate Pastor

Rev. Robert Ross ext. 8229

frrobertr@stmichaelparish.life

### **Permanent Deacon**

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deaconron@stmichaelparish.life

### Permanent Deacon/Scholarship &

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gwolfe@stmichaelparish.life

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### PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

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	iPastor
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	Permanent Deacon

December 15, 2024

### From the Pastor's Desk

**Replace worry with...** You would think that with all the options for buying Christmas gifts, life would get easier. This is simply not the case for most of us. Whittling away at our list of things to get ready, including gifts, moves all too slowly at times. In addition to this, you and I can easily assume that the all of our activity is essential for Christmas to happen, and even for the world to go around.

The message from St. Paul is quite different today. St. Paul reminds us that as Jesus' followers we are to practice the same sort of trust Jesus demonstrated. You and I don't make the world revolve for our family or even for ourselves. Certainly, you and I would be missed by families and friends, but life would go on as does our life when we lose someone. Realizing the truth of this is a sobering thought. It tempers our tendency for self-importance and redirects our attention to God. For only God makes it all spin and you and I need to continuously discover our need to trust in God's importance.

Advent presents a real challenge as we get ready to commemorate Jesus' birth and prepare for His final coming. All of the hustle and bustle can lead us to think that if we don't do this or that, Christmas won't be meaningful; as if "we" give meaning to Christmas. Certainly, we like things to be nice, but nice is not perfect. If you and I are trying to prepare for a close to perfect Christmas, we are bound to worry, because so many variables can lay our preparations to waste. What happens is that you and I are not able to see the beauty of the forest. We only see the individual trees, many of which are not perfect at all.

When we hand our hopes over to God, our worry diminishes and we are able to see God being made flesh in many more places than manger scenes. You see, our worry about the things of this life can easily cloud our vision of the great gift of God's presence among us. In handing our worry over to God in prayer, our tasks do not go away but they are put into perspective. We begin to see how God takes the less than perfect trees making them into a forest of great beauty.



*Marriage Preparation.* It is at this time of the year and in the month ahead that many young people get engaged. If you or someone (another Catholic) you know is getting engaged, please remember that you need to contact the parish office no less than six months in advance.

A Catholic looking to get married must be married in a Catholic church witnessed by a Catholic priest or deacon. Any dispensation from the "form" must be approved by the Bishop. If one chooses not to follow this expectation, the marriage is not sacramentally valid and thus the couple involved cannot go to communion. As Catholics, we believe that marriage is a sacramental state, not just a civil one.

Fr. Robert, Deacons Ron and Gary and I are charged with the responsibility to help couples prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage. Thus, it is best to contact the office sooner rather than later. The preparation period is at least six months, so it is best to contact us nine months from the wedding date. This preparation is bolstered by other married couples in the parish and it takes time. Time that cannot be made up. The whole six months are needed. We want to help you have a successful and happy marriage, not just a nice wedding day.

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**Communal Penance Service** Dec. 18th at 7:00 PM

**Individual Confessions** Dec. 21st at 2:30-4:30 PM



### Advent Evening Prayer Come Share a Moment of



Prayer and Fellowship Dec. 16th 7:00 PM in the Church Fellowship and Refreshments to Follow in

St. Patrick Hall



**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION DECEMBER 18TH** 1:00-4:00 PM IN THE CHAPEL

### **Parish Advent Activity**

- Pick up an ornament or two in the Gathering Space
- Buy the needed items listed for the Charity
- Return the ornament decorated with purchased items
- The ornaments will decorate one of the trees in the Gathering Space



Radiate's Charcuterie **Board Night was** Awesome!

> And then spending time with our Lord in the tabernacle after our Advent discussion

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### It's Time to "Radiate" with our Teen Ministry! We have a lot of fun: Themed Nights, Group Activities & Faith. All High Schoolers are Invited to Join Us-YOU are Welcome!



Dec. 20th: SERVICE PROJECT Night & CHRISTMAS PARTY Night! Meet at Dyer Nursing Home at 4:45 PM for Caroling, then meet at St. Patrick Hall for our Christmas Party: Christmas Games, Nacho Bar, Christmas Outfit Contest & Gingerbread Contest-bring our own Gingerbread House, 6:00-8:00 PM! submitted by Jeannine Quigley



# Kimberley Hoogeveen, DRE

Michelle Biscan, Principal

The Faith Formation 4th grade Wednesday class is preparing for Advent. The students learned about the history of the Advent wreath and made their own to take home.



Even St. Nicholas needs a helping hand this time of year... Faith Formation 7th grade Wednesday students sharing goodies and smiles for everyone!

Faith Formation will be closed for the Christmas Holiday beginning Monday, December 23rd and will reopen on Monday, January 6th. Wishing all our Faith Formation families a very blessed and beautiful Christmas Season!



I started attending SMS in 3rd grade. Being in SMS has helped me make lots of fun memories. I'm planning on attending Andrean High School, and I also look forward to playing soccer for Andrean. Andrean feels like a great place to continue learning new things and making more memories. I've played both soccer and basketball for SMS. Being on the soccer and basketball teams taught me about teamwork and discipline. Outside of school, I volunteer in my church. I'm Byzantine - Catholic. It is different from Roman Catholic but shares some similarities. What makes my school special is that everyone is treated with kindness and respect. I was born in a small country called Slovakia in Europe, and I moved here when I was little. Teachers helped me and supported me when I needed help. Our school is like a big family where everyone is supportive and kind to others. SMS allows everyone to explore the things they are interested in. SMS focuses on their students and makes everyone feel valued. My advice to younger students is to have fun and enjoy every moment of your childhood. Spend time with friends and create unforgettable memories. SMS has helped me improve as a person.

SMS helped me grow as a friend by creating a supportive and caring space, where we can share our experiences and support each other. As a family member, the morals taught in school have helped me communicate better with my family and strengthen our relationships. In school, my teachers have provided me with guidance and support, making it easier for me to stay motivated and learn new things. SMS has also helped me strengthen my relationship with Jesus through Mass, activities and discussions in religion class, which helped me gain a deeper understanding of what it's like to be a disciple of Jesus.

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### For Those Who Have Died...

Rev. Gerald Sroka

Life has changed, not ended

# I said a prayer for you today, that God would touch you with His healing hand and give you the comfort and peace you need to get through.

### LIFE IS PRECIOUS; HANDLE WITH PRAY

Denise Hahney, Pam Weslowski, Helen Marshall, Karen Dezarn, Mary Ann Adam, Carmelina Spiccia, Nicole Villanueva, Sue Gatons, Jerilyn Chapman, Judy Paswinski, Franklin Stafko, Cyndy Wilson, Erin Brown 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.

## Trim the Good Samaritans' Christmas Tree

"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.

Submitted by Sue Cohen



### **Helping Others During the Holidays**

St. Michael's Wheelchair Ramp Ministry installed its 84th and 85th Wheelchair Ramps last month.

One was installed in Demotte and was a referral from St. Michael's Rebuilding Hope



Mission Team leader. The other ramp was installed in Gary for 88 year old Cliffie Jordan. If you would like to participate in this ministry in any way, please contact St. Michael's parish office at 219-322-4505. If you know of anyone who may benefit from our services, have them contact Catholic Charities at <a href="mailto:outreach@catholic-charities.org">outreach@catholic-charities.org</a> or call 219-886-3549 and ask for Daniela Ocanas.

Submitted by Jim Koeling

Website: www.stmichaelparish.life Page 6 December 15, 2024

Dear St. Michael Congregation,

I am writing to extend heartfelt congratulations on behalf of First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association to St. Michael Church on the momentous occasion of your 150th anniversary. This remarkable milestone is a testament to the enduring faith, dedication, and community spirit that has been the cornerstone of your church for a century and a half.

Over the years, St. Michael Church has not only been a place of worship but also a beacon of hope, love, and service to the community. Your commitment to fostering spiritual growth, providing support to those in need, and promoting unity and compassion has made a profound impact on countless lives. As you celebrate this significant anniversary, it is an opportunity to reflect on the rich history and the many blessings that have been bestowed upon your congregation. It is also a time to look forward with hope and anticipation to the future, continuing the legacy of faith and service that has defined St. Michael Church for 150 years.

May this special anniversary be filled with joy, gratitude, and a renewed sense of purpose. I wish you all continued blessings and success in your mission to serve and uplift the community. Congratulations once again on this incredible achievement.

With warmest regards,

Cynthia M. Maleski National President/CEO St. Michael would like to thank FCSLA for their donation and best wishes in honor of our 150th Anniversary. Knights of Columbus Council 12177 congratulates Fr. Mick Kopil in receiving the November Family of the Month certificate and family icon. Submitted by Jerry Bromley







### **WAYS TO GIVE**

### Electronic Funds Transfer

You can choose to give through an automatic bank withdrawal, credit card or debit card.

Check

You can choose to give with checks payable to St. Michael Parish over the course of your pledge. Stocks, Mutual Funds, Securities, and IRA Distribution

You can choose to give through stocks, mutual funds, and securities. Interested, the parish office can provide more information on this process, please call 219-322-4505 ext. 8226.

### **OUESTIONS:**

Email us at gift@stmichaelparish.life

Scan to Make an Instant Donation or to Begin Your Pledge TODAY!

Submitted by Elizabeth Munoz

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BP, Glucose and Oxygen Level Screenings this weekend in the east coat room after the 5:00 PM, 7:30 AM and 9:30 AM Masses



# Blood Drive Knights of Columbus St. Michael's Archangel Parish

1 Wilhelm St. Schererville, IN 46375

Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> 12:00PM-5:00PM

Come give Dec. 16 thru Jan. 3 for a NEW long sleeved Red Cross T shirt, ltd. qty. Chill with us!



### Schedule your blood donation appointment today!

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App



### **December 8, 2024**

 Adult
 \$23,101.00

 Children
 \$103.00

 EFTs
 \$7,628.74

 Loose
 \$216.00

Total Weekly Offering \$31,048.74

Thank you for your generosity!



Chair Yoga Class
December 20th
\$5/session
Please call Ursula at
219-741-3276 to register.

## STewardship in Action

Have someone over for dinner or take dinner to a homebound person. *submitted by Conchita Bryner* 

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.

# Weekly Schedule

### **SUNDAY DECEMBER 15**

Blessing of Baby Jesus Figurine at All Masses BP Readings After 7:30 & 9:30 AM Masses, East Coat Room Oplatki Sales After All Masses, Gathering Space OCIA 9:30 AM "Catch the Spirit" Mass 11:30 AM

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

### MONDAY DECEMBER 16

Advent Evening Prayer 7:00 PM

### **TUESDAY DECEMBER 17**

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 18**

Eucharistic Adoration 1:00-4:00 PM, Chapel Faith Formation Traditional Classes 6:00 PM, SMS Communal Penance Service 7:00 PM, Church

### THURSDAY DECEMBER 19

KofC Blood Drive 12:00-5:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM, Church

### FRIDAY DECEMBER 20

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

### SATURDAY DECEMBER 21

Anointing of the Sick Mass 8:00 AM
Confessions 2:30-4:30 PM, Chapel
Oplatki Sales After Vigil Mass, Gathering Space
Super Raffle Tickets After Vigil Mass, Gathering Space

### **SUNDAY DECEMBER 22**

Oplatki Sales After All Masses, Gathering Space Super Raffle Tickets After All Masses, Gathering Space OCIA 9:30 AM

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### Diocesan Life Information

### 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.

### **EVENING PRAYER**

Come share a moment of prayer and fellowship and take a moment off from the craziness of shopping, baking, and parties. On **Dec. 18th**, you are invited to join us at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 509 W Division Road, Valparaiso for Evening Prayer and socializing. Fr. Robert Ross will reflect on the three apparitions of the Archangel Gabriel to Daniel, Zechariah and the Blessed Mother. We will begin at 7:00 PM and be finished by 7:45 PM.

### **ADVENT SERIES**

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

### \*A FILIPINO CHRISTMAS TRADITION

Simbang Gabi/Holy Mass starts at 4:00 PM on December 21st with Bishop Robert McClory officiating at Our Lady of Consolation, Merrillville. Reception to follow in Vamos Hall.

### **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 or call 219-769-9292, ext. 221.

### **MARCH FOR LIFE**

The Diocese of Gary Office of Prolife Activities and Lake County Right to Life invite you to join us at the annual March for Life in Indianapolis on Jan. 22nd. We will be traveling via a premium coach bus. Registration and prepayment is required. Cost is \$35 per person which includes a box lunch for the way home. Youth Rally and Mass are being hosted by the 5 Dioceses of Indiana. The fight for the right and dignity of life is not over! Come and be a voice for the voiceless. For more information and to register, go to the dcgary.org events page. Or call Rosanne at 219-769-9292.

### \*MARRIAGE DATE NIGHT

The Diocese of Gary is hosting a Marriage Date Night on **February 7th** at Don Quijote Restaurant, 119 E. Lincolnway, Valparaiso. Cash bar starts at 5:30 PM followed by dinner at 6:30 PM and speakers, Sofia and James Bilder at 7:30 PM. The topic of the evening is "Pilgrim Hearts." Cost for the evening is \$120/couple. Learn more and register at dcgary.org.

### **BECOME A MISSIONARY**

Make this summer one you will always remember, sharing the Gospel with children and teens in NWI, **May 29th-July 26th**. \$3000 stipend + meals and housing. Learn more and apply at dcgary.org/totustuus.

### \*EMOTIONS ANONYMOUS

Emotions Anonymous is a 12-Step program, based off the recovery program of Alcoholics Anonymous. Anyone experiencing emotional difficulties who is willing to try this recovery program is welcome to attend our meetings. Every Monday at 7:00 PM in ST. Thomas More Weis Center, 8635 Calumet Ave., Munster. We meet in Room 101. For more information, please visit www.emotionsanonymous.org



SATURDAY 5:00 PM	DECEMBER 14  ◆Thomas Kudzia	THURSDAY 7:00 AM	DECEMBER 19  *Deceased Members of the Elliott
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 15 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	FRIDAY	Family DECEMBER 20
7:30 AM 9:30 AM	St. Michael Parish  †Henry Lyza  †Deacon Jack Krol  †Kyle Arnold	7:00 AM <u>SATURDAY</u> 8:00 AM	<ul><li>*Kristin &amp; John Finley</li><li>DECEMBER 21</li><li>*Joseph Zaborske</li></ul>
11:30 AM MONDAY	PFrank Sink  DECEMBER 16  ACCOUNT WORLD	5:00 PM SUNDAY	PRobert & Carol Keyl  DECEMBER 22 4TH SUNDAY  OF ADVENT
7:00 AM <u>TUESDAY</u> 7:00 AM	♦ Gerald Verdeyen  DECEMBER 17  David & ♦ Sharon Kras	7:30 AM	†Helen Frantz-18 yr Anniversary †Fred Neil, Jr. †Joseph Terri
WEDNESDAY 7:00 AM	<ul><li>DECEMBER 18</li><li>†Charles Cary</li><li>†Violet Malone</li><li>†Steve Shelby</li></ul>	9:30 AM 11:30 AM	St. Michael Parish For an End to Abortion on Demand and for a Conversion of Heart for those who Provide Abortions
8:55 AM	†Harold Rich	†indicates decease	ed

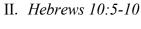


(Readings for December 22, 2024, Fourth Sunday of Advent)

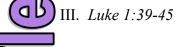


Micah 5:1-4a

Out of tiny Bethlehem will come one who is to be ruler over all Israel. "He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock...he shall be peace."



God took no delight in holocausts and sin offerings, even those that fulfilled the law. Rather, God desired Christ. By death, Jesus took away the first covenant to set up the second.



When Mary visited Zechariah's house, Elizabeth greeted her: "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb." When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, "the infant leaped in her womb."

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### **OUR GENEROUS ADVERTISERS**

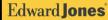
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