WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Sundand of Advento

DECEMBER 22, 2024



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 Mrs. Michelle Biscan mwacnik@smswarriors.org Executive Assistant Mrs. Karen Rapacz krapacz@stmichaelparish.life Director of Religious Education Mrs. Kimberley Hoogeveen khoogeveen@stmichaelparish.life Administrative Assistant Mrs. Mary Jo Rymarczyk mrymarczyk@stmichaelparish.life

PARISH OFFICE 1 E. Wilhelm St, Schererville (219) 322-4505/FAX (219) 322-4508 9:00-4:00 PM MONDAY-FRIDAY or by appointment www.stmichaelparish.life

Pastor Rev. Martin Dobrzynski ext. 8220 pastor@stmichaelparish.life Associate Pastor Rev. Robert Ross ext. 8229 frrobertr@stmichaelparish.life **Permanent Deacon** Deacon Ron Pyle ext. 8284 deaconron@stmichaelparish.life Permanent Deacon/Scholarship & **Grant Coordinator** Deacon Gary Wolfe ext. 8222 gwolfe@stmichaelparish.life Pastoral Associate Mrs. Janice Gatons ext. 8241 jgatons@stmichaelparish.life Director of Liturgy & Music Miss Debbie Mangione ext. 8227 dmangione@stmichaelparish.life **Director of Finance & Accounting** ext. 8226 Mrs. Jesica Cherry jcherry@stmichaelparish.life **Executive Secretary** ext. 8220 Mrs. Judi Patzelt jpatzelt@stmichaelparish.life **Communications** Director Elizabeth Munoz ext. 8263 emunoz@stmichaelparish.life **Bulletin Editor/Clerical Assistant** Mrs. Rhonda Haddad ext. 8239 bulletin@stmichaelparish.life Accounting Clerk Mrs. Jeanette Negrete ext. 8234 jnegrete@stmichaelparish.life **Campus Facilities Coordinator** Mr. Rick Gilbert ext. 8232 rgilbert@stmichaelparish.life Head Sacristan Mrs. Loretta DePrez ext. 8228 sacristan@stmichaelparish.life

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Nancy Finley	Parish Life Liaison
Martha Kozub	Parish Life Liasion
Connie Solorio	Spirituality & Worship Liasion
Alice Lewinski	Spirituality & Worship Liaison
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Lisa Codo	Peace & Social Justice Liaison
Lou Bufano	Stewardship Liasion
Mick Adamson	Stewardship Liaison
Jeffrey Cox	Secretary
Rev. Martin Dobrzynsk	iPastor
Rev. Robert Ross.	Associate Pastor
Deacon Ron Pyle	Permanent Deacon
	Permanent Deacon

From the Pastor's Desk

Gifts that keep on giving! The feast for which we have been preparing is almost here. Christmas is a gift that keeps on giving. Day after day, during the Christmas season, we unwrap the gift of the great mystery of

God becoming flesh. The greatest gift God gives is Himself in Jesus. The Creator has chosen to become part of His creation. This is a mystery that cannot be explained in one day with a few Scripture readings and some Christmas carols.

As Americans, we are very good at preparing to celebrate something like the fourth of July or Halloween. Indeed, we end up celebrating the feast before it even arrives. Christmas is no exception. However, feasts like Christmas are intended to be more than "one" day celebrations. The mystery of Christmas, the birth of God as a man, cannot be contained to one or two days.



None of us open the biggest package under the tree and leave the smaller ones untouched. We open all the presents given to us. Some are more grand than others, yet it is all the presents together that give a special meaning to Christmas. Indeed, sometimes the smaller presents end up being the most memorable. It would be sad if all we opened was the big present of Christmas Day and did not open the other gifts of the season like Holy Family, New Year's Day, Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord. Not to mention, the weekday gifts of the martyrdom of St. Stephen and the Holy Innocents. All of these feasts give deeper meaning to the feast of Christmas.

Indeed, the whole year is an unwrapping of the gift of Christmas. That is why we are called each week to hear more about the good tidings which find their beginning with the angels at Bethlehem. This is why each week we need to gather for prayer, all of us who have received the gift, so we can understand its powerful impact on our daily lives. Listening to God's Word and celebrating the Eucharist weekly unveils God's awesome revelation we commemorate today.

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 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 is needed. We want to help you have a successful and happy marriage, not just a nice wedding day.



The Christmas Spirit. It is said that "giving is better than receiving." Why? Because, when I give of my treasure or time or talents I participate in something bigger than myself. You are part of something bigger, that is, Jesus' Church. Pope Francis has said that 'we are built to be givers.' Be thankful. Thankful that you are set on the path to enjoy more than just the things that pass away, that are temporal. You have been gifted with the ability to enjoy the things that are eternal. Being thankful always leads to being generous. Your generosity towards your parish at Christmas deepens the Spirit of Christmas within you and your family. Thank You.

Website: www.stmichaelparish.life

ST. MICHAEL CHOIR

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT

January 5, 2025 3:00 PM in the Church

Special Performance by The Occasional Brass Quintet and an Organ Solo by Fr. Gregory Bim-Merle



Everyone is invited to help with decorating of the church for the Christmas Season. What a great way to earn service hours.

Dec. 23rd at 12:30 PM

Ninth Month IT's my Birthday! Thank you so much for all your prayers. Because you prayed for me, I got the best of all gifts — LIFE!

Spiritual Adoption Program

During your earthly life this spiritually adopted child of yours will be known only to God but in the world to come it is hoped that you will meet the child whose life was spared by your prayers and spend eternal happiness with them.

Submitted by Cathy Bartczak

Thank Yow Reception for all St. Michael Parish and SMS Volunteers December 27th, 6:00-8:00 PM in St. Patrick Hall Please contact the office at ipatzelt@stmichaelparish.life or 219-322-4505, ext. 8220 to RSVP by Dec. 24th at noon.



RADIATE'S ANNUAL

FUNDRAISER

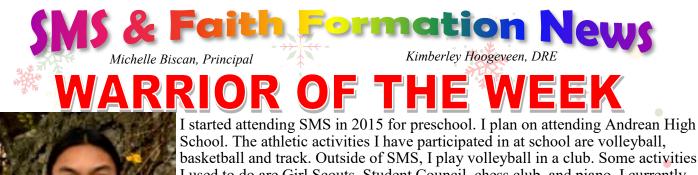
OPLATKI

THIS WEEKEND

AFTER ALL MASSES

Submitted by Elizabeth Munoz **December 22, 2024**

Website: www.stmichaelparish.life





I started attending SMS in 2015 for preschool. I plan on attending Andrean High School. The athletic activities I have participated in at school are volleyball, basketball and track. Outside of SMS, I play volleyball in a club. Some activities I used to do are Girl Scouts, Student Council, chess club, and piano. I currently work for a business called Smoothie Bomb, where I make and serve smoothies with my friends. Some things that make SMS special to me are the teachers and the classes. Our school is unique because we have religion classes, which most people do not have access to. Our teachers care for us and want us to succeed. Instead of just passing kids along so that the next teacher could take care of them, they try to teach us and help us learn new things. A piece of advice I would give to younger students is simply to always try your best. Try your best in your relationships with God, family, and friends. Try your best to be nice and welcoming to everyone. Try your best to be the best version of yourself that God created you to be! SMS has helped me grow A LOT. I have learned what it means

to be a good friend and family member. I have become a better student in my foundation. For example, I now accept failing as a learning experience, and I try harder in the future. SMS has taught me to be loving and caring to everyone I encounter. I have grown as a disciple of Jesus from when I just started attending this school to now. SMS has taught me to live out my Catholic faith throughout my day-to-day life. I have enjoyed the 10 years I have spent at SMS and will never forget it, no matter how greatly my life changes in the future.

HELP SMS EARN FREE EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT

Please save all your Strack & Van Til receipts (Sept. 1, 2024-March 31, 2025), put them in an envelope marked Apples for the Students and place in one of the collection towers, drop them in the dropbox by the parish office or bring them to the parish office during normal business hours. The school will earn technological items. The more receipts saved, the more the school receives.

St. Michael School and Faith Formation will be closed for the Christmas Season, December 23rd-January 5th. We will



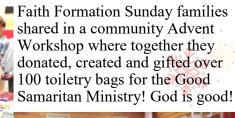
reopen on Monday, January 6th. Wishing you all a very blessed and beautiful Christmas season.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SMS!



Third Grade Faith Formation Students creating an Advent Wreath in class to take home and share with their families during this Advent Season! HOPE... LOVE... JOY... PEACE

Website: www.stmichaelparish.life





December 22, 2024

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Welcome the Newly Baptized

Andrea Nicole Palacio Tyler Matthew Radford Leonardo Alen Toth Natalie Everlyn Toth

Even the Cold Doesn't Stop **Our Ministry From Building Ramp** #86

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

Helen Marshall, Mary Ann Adam, Sue Gatons, Nicole Villanueva, Jerilyn Chapman, Judy Paswinski, Franklin Stafko, Cyndy Wilson, Erin Brown, Tim and Helen Hazzard, Steve Gatons, Phyllis Levba, Pat Matz, Timothy Bunchek, Ruth Marie

Sarros, David Sarros, Joan Gillespie, Nancy and David Schiesser 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.

On Dec. 13th

(brrr), members

of St. Michael's Wheelchair Ramp Ministry installed its 86th ramp in Hobart for Sandra Johnson who is due to be released from Rehabilitation. This installation was a referral from Catholic Charities by her daughter, Tammy Norman, who is her POA. Tammy Norman is pictured. This installation was aided by Deacon Tom Kubik of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Cedar Lake.

If you would like to participate in this ministry in any way, please contact the St. Michael parish office at 219-322-4505. If you know of anyone who may benefit from our services, please have them contact Catholic Charities at

outreach@catholic-charities.org or call 219-886-3549 and ask for Daniela Ocanas. Submitted by Jim Koeling

Respect Life Ministry Says Thank You for Helping to Put 'Christ' Back in Christmas

The Respect Life Ministry would like to thank all of you who purchased Christmas cards this year. Your support was overwhelming as always and we actually sold out all cards before the 9:30 AM Mass on Dec. 8th. Also, the purchase of the cards helps to keep 'Christ' in Christmas by offering a Mass on the Feast of the Holy Family and keeping recipients of the cards in the Book of Intentions throughout the year. We also want to



thank all of you who attended the Breakfast with Baby Jesus and St Nicholas. We were so glad to see you all taking advantage of the 'photo op' having your family pictures taken with Baby Jesus and St Nicholas.

Congratulations to the lucky family who was the winner of our drawing of the Bear stuffie and hope you enjoyed the extra game of 'count the ornaments in the container' in order to win handmade ornaments. We really appreciate your support as it will continue to allow us to assist the organizations that help to protect life.

A special thank you to the Knights of Columbus (especially to Fritz Priller for playing the role of St Nicholas), the Crossbearer Ministry and all of you who assisted us at the Breakfast with Baby Jesus and St Nicholas. We would like to thank Robbie Hansen for providing the camera/printer set up to assist with taking these pictures. Our ministry may only consist of a small number of 'actual' members but there are many parishioners who will always step up to make our

events successful and to them we are extremely grateful. Submitted by Cathy Bartczak

As always, thank you for your support and God Bless You.

Website: www.stmichaelparish.life

December 22, 2024

"Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well." Voltaire

With sincere gratitude, the Good Samaritan Ministry wishes to thank our generous and caring partners, who made Thanksgiving so special for the many families in need of assistance. Our Ministry provided 25 families with full Thanksgiving meals. Many gave time, treasure and talent to make this effort a success and we wish to acknowledge their kindness. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus St. Michael Council #12177 for their donations to our Ministry through their "Food for Families" Program. Additionally, we sincerely thank the Knights for their generous donation of the proceeds from the Pancake Breakfast they hosted on November 17th.. We thank all the parishioners who supported that event! Thank you to our parish families, who annually donate turkeys and all the sides, which make up complete and perfect meals for our clients' holiday. Your generosity, through the years, is humbling. We thank the Senior Gems for their donation of grocery gift cards, Ursula Buchnet and the Chair Yoga participants for their generous monetary donation, and our very generous gentleman angel, who donates monthly to our ministry. Thank you to all who donated to the Giving Tuesday appeal. We extend a special thank you to both the Office and Maintenance Staff of our Parish for their help during this busy time of year. Rick, Joe and Jonathan, thank you for the heavy lifting you provided!!! Judi, Rhonda and Elizabeth, thank you for your help with our communication. Also, we are so appreciative of Fr. Marty's support of our Ministry. Finally, to our wonderful and benevolent St. Michael Parish Family, who donated, again, nearly \$3000.00 in cash and gift cards and groceries at Thanksgiving. Your consistent and generous support of our ministry is overwhelming. This year has been stressful for many of our clients. Your help has been consistent and is a witness to the strength, spirit and compassion of this community. Our shelves are stocked because of YOU, the GOOD partners of our ministry. A shout out to all the parishioners who were willing to grab a bag and help transport the groceries to the pantry...Joe, Amy, Kat, Linda, Maryann, Judy, Joe, Randy, Mike, Don & Mary. You are appreciated!! You are a special blessing from God and please know the Good Samaritans value your kind sharing and wish you and your families a blessed and healthy Advent and Christmas. # St. Michael Proud!! Submitted by Sue Cohen PHANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU

Website: www.stmichaelparish.life

December 22, 2024



Thank you for Generosity THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE GIVING TUESDAY 2024 - \$465.00







SERVING THE SCHERERVILLE COMMUNITY... FOR GROCERIES OR UTILITY/ RENT ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CALL

219-322-4505 EXT. 8250



No Chair Yoga Dec. 27th Next Session will be Jan. 3rd at 8:00 AM in St. Patrick Hall. Please call Ursula at 219-741-3276 to register.



Adult Children EFTs Loose December 15, 2024

\$14,400.00 \$61.73 \$2,883.74 \$842.00

Total Weekly Offering \$18,187.47

Immaculate Conception \$5,004.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Parish Office Closed

So that the office staff may enjoy family and friends during the Christmas Season, the Parish Office will close at noon on December 24th and reopen on Friday, December 27th, at 9:00 AM.

S[†]ewardship in Action

Spend time with family and / or a senior citizen possibly watching their favorite Christmas movie. *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 22

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

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

<u>MONDAY DECEMBER 23</u> Christmas Décor Set Up 12:30 PM, Church

TUESDAY DECEMBER 24

Parish Office Closes at Noon Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM Lessons and Carols 11:00 PM, Church

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS

Masses: 12:00 AM, 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM No Eucharistic Adoration

THURSDAY DECEMBER 26

Parish Office Closed Choir Practice 7:00 PM, Church

FRIDAY DECEMBER 27

No Chair Yoga Bell Choir Practice 6:00 PM, Church Thank You Reception 6:00 PM, St. Patrick Hall

SATURDAY DECEMBER 28

Confessions 3:30-4:30 PM, Chapel Super Raffle Ticket Sales After Vigil Mass, Gathering Space

SUNDAY DECEMBER 29 Super Raffle Ticket Sales After All Masses, Gathering Space OCIA 9:30 AM

Website: www.stmichaelparish.life

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.

Diocesan Life Information

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.

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



Website: www.stmichaelparish.life

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December 22, 2024



SATURDAY	DECEMBER 21	THURSDAY	DECEMBER 26
5:00 PM	Robert & Carol Keyl	7:00 AM	Margaret Kulig-Sink
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 22 4TH SUNDAY		Walter (Mack) Makarowski-15 Year Anniversary
	OF ADVENT		Teur Anniversury
7:30 AM	Helen Frantz-18 Year Anniversary	FRIDAY	DECEMBER 27
	♥ Fred Neil, Jr.	7:00 AM	Deceased Members of Drabik
	♥Joseph Terri		Family
9:30 AM	St. Michael Parish	SATURDAY	DECEMBER 28
11:30 AM	For an End to Abortion on Demand	8:00 AM	Problem 23 • Robert & Patricia Hansen
	and for a Conversion of Heart for those who Provide Abortions	5:00 PM	◆Fr. Patrick Connolly
	ulose who Flovide Adoltions		♥Fr. Berg
MONDAY	DECEMBER 23		♥Fr. Biegel
7:00 AM	♥Henry Lyza		e
TUESDAY	DECEMBER 24	<u>SUNDAY</u>	DECEMBER 29 THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY &
7:00 AM	*Departed Souls in Congregation		<u>FAMILT OF JESUS, MART &</u> JOSEPH
	of Mother of Carmel	7:30 AM	
5:00 PM	For All Souls	9:30 AM	Ted & Marie Tokarski
WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 25 NATIVITY OF		For All Families Listed in the Book
,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	THE LORD		of Intentions who Purchased
12:00 AM	For All Souls	11:30 AM	Christmas Cards St. Michael Parish
7:30 AM	For All Souls	11.30 /11/1	
9:30 AM	For All Souls	♦ indicates deceased	
11:30 AM	For All Souls		

THE WORD

(Readings for December 29, 2024, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph)

Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28 Hannah conceived and bore a son, Samuel, whom she presented to the Lord in the temple at Shiloh saying, "As long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the Lord."

II. 1 John 3:1-2,21-24

God's love has been given to us so we may be called His children. And so we are. We should believe in Jesus Christ and love one another as He commanded.

III. Luke 2:41-52

At age twelve, Jesus sat in the temple at Jerusalem listening to the teachers and asking them questions. He astounded everyone by His understanding and answers.

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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.



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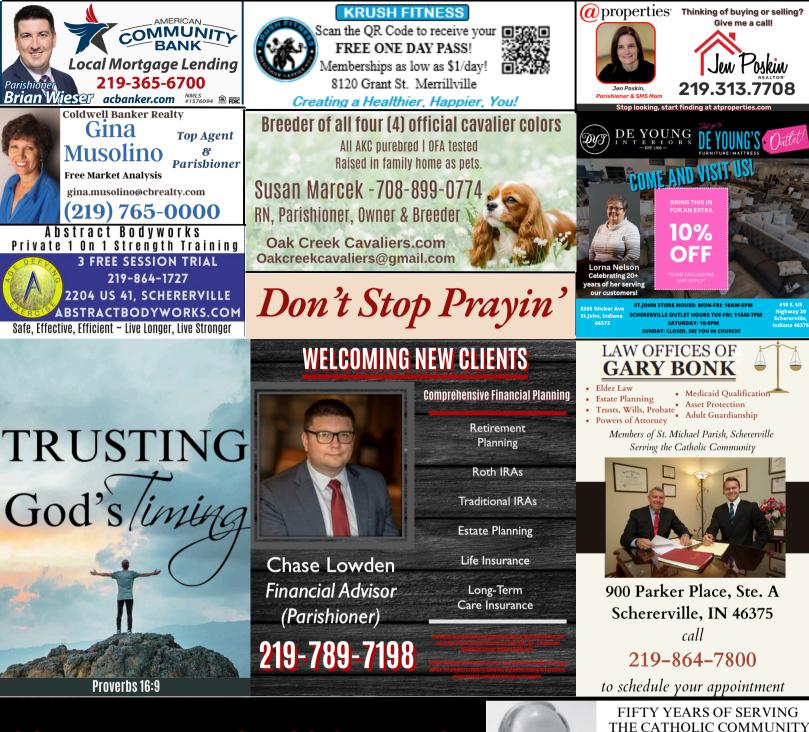
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Wishing you a Merry Christmas!