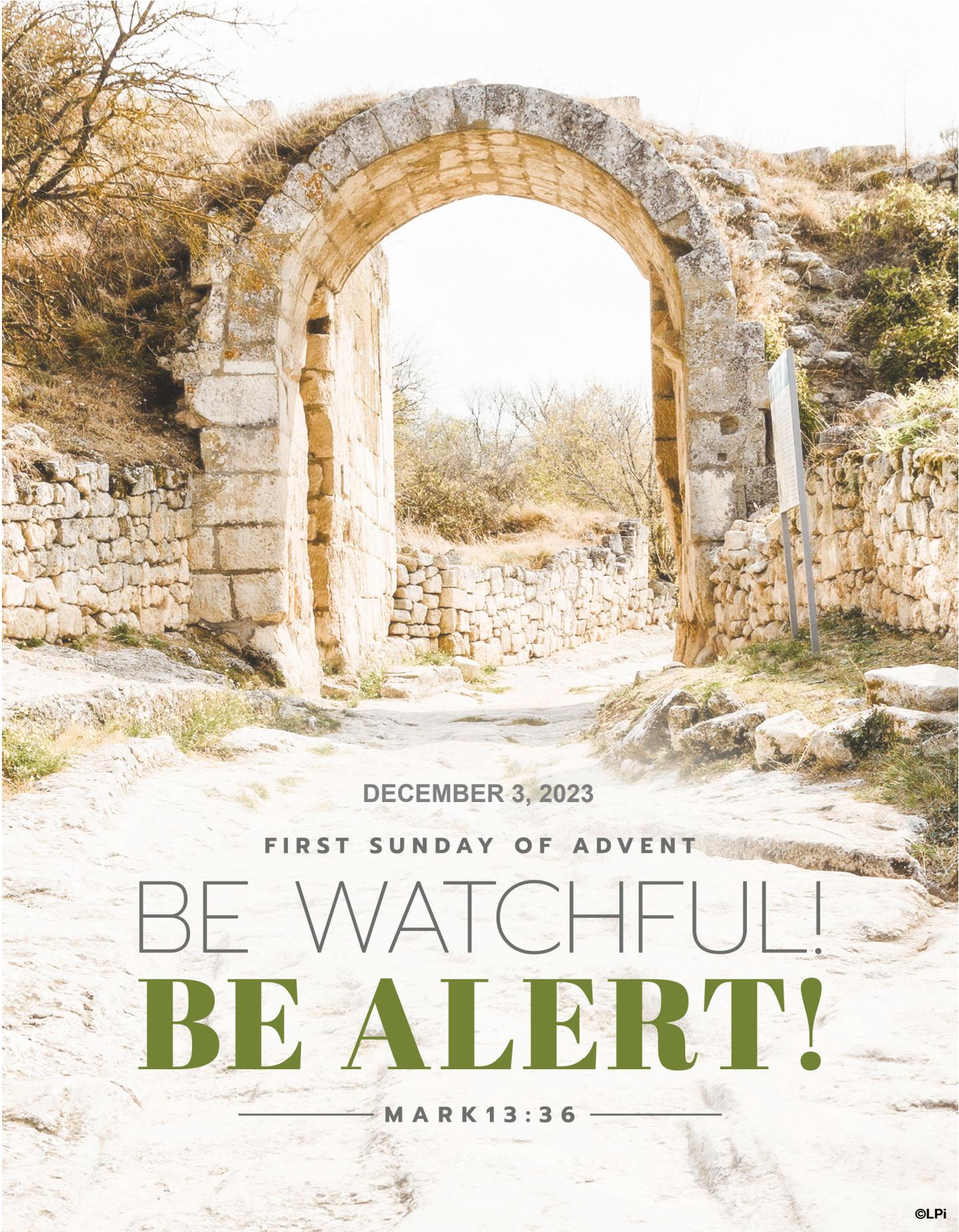


WELCOME TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



DECEMBER 3, 2023

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**BE WATCHFUL!
BE ALERT!**

MARK 13:36



SATURDAY LITURGY

Vigil: 5:00 PM

SUNDAY LITURGY

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

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.

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
RCIA
Sacristan
Ministers of Care

Education & Formation Commission

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

Stewardship & Parish Administration

Cemetery Committee
Parish Gardeners
Stewardship
Parish Life
Boy Scouts of America
Comforting Chefs
Emotions Anonymous
Festival Committee
Holy Name Society
Knights of Columbus
Ministry of Hope & Consolation
Parish Nurse
Senior GEMS
Welcoming Ministry

Peace & Social Justice Commission

Good Samaritans
Labors of Love
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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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

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pastor@stmichaelparish.life

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frrobertr@stmichaelparish.life

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Permanent Deacon

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Nancy FinleyParish Life Liaison
Michael MorleyEducation & Formation Liaison
Donna KriepsEducation & Formation Liaison
Devin SandersSpirituality & Worship Liaison
John ZaborskePeace & Social Justice Liaison
Lou BufanoStewardship Liaison
Martha KozubParish Life Liaison
Connie SolorioSpirituality & Worship Liaison
Jeffrey CoxSecretary
Rev. Martin DobrzynskiPastor
Rev. Robert RossAssociate Pastor
Deacon Ron PylePermanent Deacon
Deacon Gary WolfePermanent Deacon

From the Pastor's Desk

Prepare? For what? This question is not as irreverent as it first sounds. Advent is a time to get ready for the coming of the Lord. This coming of the Lord for which we must ready ourselves is the Lord's final coming. In doing this, we must know why He came in the first place. It is good for us to recall that we are created in God's image. That is why we are concerned about each other and especially the poor and forgotten. However, being made in God's image, we choose to disfigure that image with our willful choice to do things our way, and not God's way. In short, our first parents ate that fruit in disobedience to God. The fruit promised wisdom, but all it did was provide knowledge, cold hard knowledge; knowledge of our fragility which led to fear of the other. It opened up our unbridled passions and changed our self-awareness to selfishness.

The genie could not be simply put back in the bottle. There are other stories about this, like the Greek myth of Pandora's Box. But, the difference is that our story doesn't end with a disobedient bite of the fruit from the forbidden tree. Our story is always subject to God's love which pervades even the darkest places that we humans can find ourselves in. That is why the prophets of the Old Testament are so important to us. They remind us of how God keeps reaching out to not just a people but to persons, always calling them back to His plan for the human race. Remember, you and I are the clay. It is what we are made from, and our potter, our maker, is the Lord. He created all things and governs all things, even the one who leads us astray, even Satan.

Satan has led, and certainly still does lead others, to eat the forbidden fruit that leads to an abuse of God's creation. But he could not disfigure God's plan to re-configure us into his own image, once again. Here is the reason for Christmas Joy. God Himself, in His Son, Jesus, takes on our flesh, our humanity. He becomes one like us and one with us in all things, but sin. Our Creator, who is born to us, cannot be born with "our" sin. Rather, He is born to us without sin, so He could freely take our sin and suffer the consequences of our disfigurement. Only He could re-configure us once He removed our sinful state. Thus, we now are reborn in Him, who was born to us through Divine Desire which is NOT marred in disobedience and the fragmented passions of human desire.

Unfortunately, though Satan has lost, he does not give up. He cannot give in. He is the epitome of disobedience and jealousy; jealous of our (the human race's) special created relationship with God. For we are made in his Own Image (angelic beings are not) and this jealousy leads to disobedience. He keeps tempting us to eat the "fruit" promising wisdom but only delivering undisciplined knowledge. He even tempts us to think that God's world, created as good, is no good. He wants you and I to get lost in revelry that gives lip service to the reason for Christmas. Satan wants us to forget that though the world suffers, it does so in the image and pattern of Jesus, who still conquers pride, jealousy, prejudice, violence, rebelliousness, anger, indifference, selfishness, and disobedience. Satan wants you and me to think that the world is broken beyond repair. Because if he can accomplish despair in our lives, he can continue to disfigure us.

The antidote to this is Jesus, who is not about despair. Jesus doesn't ring His hands in despair; He tackles that which disfigures us head on. He heals the sick, makes the lame walk, the blind see, the deaf hear. He turns the sinner into the saint. He has done this and continues to do so even in your day, in your home and in your community.

Preparing for Jesus' coming in a society that would rather celebrate only the historical fact that He came "once upon a time" is a challenge. One good way of preparing for that final Christmas (*which means "Christ's day"*) is by putting despair away. If you want to open yourself to becoming who God originally made you to be, put despair in its place by offering yourself like Jesus does, like the Saints have done, like holy people you know still do. Offer your talent to make Jesus' coming a reality today; even plumbers, domestic engineer and artists, etc... are needed. Offer your treasure to fund His good work, to feed the poor, and care for the forgotten. Offer your time in prayer, together at Mass weekly, in the morning and evening and in the special times for us to grow in our faith.

You and I are equipped for more than just Holiday "cheer." We are equipped to experience and to bring many holy days of "joy."

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE FEAST DAY



Join us on

Tuesday, December 12th at 6pm

At 6:15 pm

Featuring Danza Azteca

Performing a Traditional Dance
with Honor & Love

At 7:00 pm

Our Lady Guadalupe Mass

Following Mass

Celebration Reception in

St Patrick Hall

Enjoy Mariachi Music
& Fellowship

Donations are welcome. Thank you!

St Michael Parish, Schererville, IN



Advent Evening Prayer



Take some time away
from the craziness of
shopping, baking and
parties and share a
Moment of
Prayer and Fellowship
December 4th, 11th &
18th
7:00 PM in the Chapel

Advent Books

will be
available

this weekend
after all Masses.

\$1.00 Donation

Submitted by Janice Gatons



ADORATION
of the
BLESSED
SACRAMENT

December 6th
1:00-4:00 PM
in the Chapel

The Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Patronal Feast Day of
the United States of America
and a Holyday of Obligation

December 8th

Mass Times

Dec 7th: 7:00 PM

Dec. 8th: 7:00 AM, 8:55 AM &
7:00 PM

THANK YOU for all your Prayers, Donations and Support over the years with our
Radiate HS Youth Ministry. Our "young church" is alive and well!

Upcoming Radiate Events:

Dec 10th: "Have you ever doubted your faith? Does God really hear us?" 6:00-8:00 PM in St Patrick Hall

Dec 22nd: SERVICE PROJECT & CHRISTMAS PARTY! Meet for Caroling at Dyer Nursing home at 5:00 PM. Then Party in St Patrick Hall at 6:30-8:30 PM

Keep updated by signing up for our texts: Send text to 81010 then text this message to: @radiate
Any questions, please contact Jeannine Quigley (219-775-5356) or Marisa Richardson (219-730-4735).

Radiate's Annual Oplatki Fundraiser
December 16th, 17th, 23rd & 24th After All Masses



Michelle Wacnik, Principal

Kimberley Hoogeveen, DRE

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

Starr Di Silvestro

This is my first year at SMS. I plan on attending Crown Point High School, I participate in CYO volleyball, which I enjoy with my friends and have fun. I also love to play softball and do competitive dance. I also serve a lot in church praising God and I have a wonderful time doing it. What makes SMS special are the teachers and people. The students are so fun and make school ten times better. Also, the teachers are amazing and supportive. They help whenever you need it and make sure you get to the spot physically and mentally where you need to be in school. The teachers help you with your specific abilities. So don't ever be afraid to ask a teacher a question; they are always there for you. I love the events we have at SMS like practicing for programs, such as the Christmas and the Veterans Day programs. My advice to younger students is to strive in the moment. And do your best to get along with everyone and don't be shy. Everyone is funny, polite, and very welcoming. Don't be afraid to make friends! St. Michael School has helped me grow as a person a lot because I have learned different rules to respect and be respectful to everyone. SMS also helped me grow to be a lot more social.

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Saint Michael the Archangel
Knights of Columbus Council #12177
The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, December 3

St. Michael Church
1 W. Wilhelm
Schererville, IN
8 AM - 1 PM

Adults: \$8.00
Children (6-12): \$5.00
5 & Under: Free

INCLUDES:
Sausage Links
Scrambled Eggs
Country Potatoes
Juice, Milk, Coffee
All-You-Can-Eat Pancakes

Support
Saint Michael Good Samaritans



For Those Who Have Died...

Steven Cerrito

Life has changed, not ended

American Red Cross

GIVE SOMETHING THAT Means Something

GIVE BLOOD

Blood Drive

Knights of Columbus

St. Patrick Hall

December 7th

8:00 AM-1:00 PM

For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org, use the QR code or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)



LIFE IS PRECIOUS; HANDLE WITH PRAYER



Mary Ann Adam, Mary Scheub, John Schnosenberg, Sue Zajac, Audrey Lyons, Sherry Lazzaro, Pat Christenson, Steven DeLuca, Faith DeBartolo, Audrey Weber, John LaMagdeleine, Tim & Helen Hazard, Pamela Matonovich, Betty Ann Bradtke, Timothy Buncek, Sue Cohen, Joan Hamnik, Richard Benak, Connie Grzybowski 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.

A THANKSGIVING THANK YOU



Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to say "Thank you" to all who have supported our Ministry throughout the year. We are Blessed to have in our Parish those who have donated items such as yarn, fabric, sewing and crafting supplies, gift cards and monetary donations so we could continue making items for those in need. A special thank you to those who make our meetings possible and to all our wonderful members who are the hands and heart of our Ministry. With your help, we have donated to several local nursing facilities; memory units, Hospice, veteran facilities, Phil's Friends, Meals on Wheels, Good Samaritans, local schools, Women's Care Centers, trafficked children and the underserved and homeless and so many more. Our outreach has no borders.

GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT. HAVE A HAPPY, HOLY HOLIDAY SEASON.

Submitted by Co-ordinator, Sharon Przybylinski

Please join us for our meeting on **December 5th**, 10:00 AM in St. Patrick Hall.

The Good Samaritans News



"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 generous hearts.

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 219-322-4505, ext. 8250 and leave a message with your name and contact number **by December 11th**.

A ministry member will return your call to explain distribution details. We are here to assist our St. Michael Parish Family.



Feast of the Holy Family

Mass Card Sale is

this weekend until December 9th (after all weekend Masses) in the Gathering Space. On December 10th, sales will take place in St. Patrick Hall during Breakfast with St. Nicholas & Baby Jesus. Individual cards are \$2 and a pack of 10 cards is \$15.

Breakfast with St. Nicholas & Baby Jesus is December 10th 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.

Submitted by Cathy Bartczak





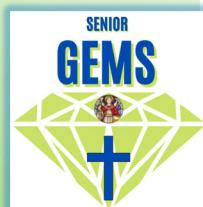
Ministry is HEART work

Spread Advent Kindness

3	Pray for the sick, the health care workers and the homeless. Do something kind.	4	Write a love note and put it under a loved one's pillow.	5	Do a chore for someone. Help decorate or wrap presents.	6	Smile at someone you don't know and say hi!! Try to do this everyday for the fun of it.	7	Give someone a compliment.	8	Make a card for someone you love or someone in a nursing home.	9	Sing a Christmas song to someone.
10	Donate a little extra at Church.	11	Read the Christmas story of Jesus to a young person.	12	Donate food or toiletries to the church food pantry.	13	Rake, sweep, snow shovel or pick up random trash.	14	Drop old Blankets and Towels to an Animal Shelter.	15	Bake cookies and share with a neighbor.	16	Call someone who lives alone or has lost a loved one this year.
17	Have someone over for dinner or take dinner to someone.	18	Give a loved one an extra long hug and let them know how much you appreciate them.	19	Donate to a charity such as Salvation Army, Toys for Tots or Food for the Poor.	20	Dance to a Christmas song like no one is watching and record it.	21	Leave a festive treat for your mail carrier or delivery person.	22	Watch A Christmas Movie as a family or with a senior citizen.	23	Pay for a drink or food for the person in front of you or behind you in line.
24	Go to church today or tomorrow and give thanks for the gift of Christ.	25	Make a list of what you are thankful for about your family and share it on Christmas.		Share your experiences with hot chocolate and cookies.		Pray Each day for those you are serving.		LOVE & JOY	Gratitude			
									Share with a heart of love and joy.	Give back with a heart of gratitude.		Set an intention to pray the rosary or read the Bible in 2024.	

Please hang on your refrigerator and keep track of the days. Be sure to have fun and invite all your family members to participate. Remember to take each day to slow down, get present, pray and to take deep breaths of appreciation and gratitude. Please send pictures of your family participating to Conchita@callconchita.com or text 219-712-6518 to be included in the church bulletin. Please list participants' names.

**All Those 50+:
Parishioner or
Non-Parishioner
Join the Fun!
Christmas Party with
Labors of Love
December 12th at
Teibel's
Time TBA**



submitted by Nancy Finley



A reminder that "Christmas Flower Offering" envelopes are due **December 4th** by 9:00 AM if you wish to have your intentions printed in the December 24th bulletin.

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.



October 22, 2023

Adult	\$10,256.54
Children	\$1.00
EFTs	\$9,378.00
Loose	\$695.00

**Total Weekly Offering
\$20,330.54**

**Propagation of Faith Collection
\$2,436.00**

Thank you for your generosity!

Effective April, 2020: In an effort to provide accurate weekly collection totals, there is a six week lag in bulletin reporting. The timing of when weekly collections are received changed in early 2020, due to Covid. We went from 90% received on Sunday, to 30%. We have gradually moved up to 70%, but feel it's best to hold off on reporting until the majority of envelopes are received.

End your day with a smile, a happy thought, and a grateful heart.

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Stewardship by the Book

We are the servants of God, each with his or her own task. We will be judged good stewards if, at His coming, He finds us ready and conscientiously pursuing the tasks to which we have been called.

Weekly Schedule

SUNDAY DECEMBER 3

Blessing of Advent Wreath at All Masses
K of C Pancake Breakfast 8:00 AM-1:00 PM
Advent Books Available After All Masses
Respect Life Card Sales After All Masses
RCIA 9:30 AM

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

MONDAY DECEMBER 4

Emotions Anonymous 6:00 PM
Liturgy Committee Meeting 6:00 PM
Advent Prayer Service 7:00 PM

TUESDAY DECEMBER 5

Labors of Love 10:00 AM
Faith Formation 6:00 PM
Catholic Bible Study 7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 6

Eucharistic Adoration 1:00-4:00 PM
Faith Formation 6:00 PM
Good Samaritans' Meeting 6:30 PM

THURSDAY DECEMBER 7

K of C Blood Drive 8:00 AM-1:00 PM
Children's Choir Practice 3:15 PM
Holy Day Vigil Mass 7:00 PM

FRIDAY DECEMBER 8

Holy Day Masses 7:00 AM, 8:55 AM & 7:00 PM
Respect Life Meeting 1:30 PM

SATURDAY DECEMBER 9

Finance Council Meeting 9:00 AM
Confessions 3:30-4:30 PM
Blessing of 2024 Calendars at 5:00 PM Mass
Respect Life Card Sales After Vigil Mass

SUNDAY DECEMBER 10

Blessing of 2024 Calendars at All Masses
Breakfast with St. Nick & Baby Jesus After All Masses
Respect Life Card Sales After All Masses
Faith Formation Family Session 9:30 AM
RCIA 9:30 AM
"Do This in Memory of Me" Mass 11:30 AM
Radiate 6:00 PM

*denotes new article

HOLIDAY MARKET

The St. Margaret Ann Polish Language School will host a Holiday Market, 11:00 AM-3:00 PM, **Dec. 3rd** at the Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine's Millennium Hall, 5755 Pennsylvania St., Merrillville. Admission is free; featured will be baked goods, crafts, clothing, jewelry and more. Proceeds will benefit the students and also used toward school supplies. Interested vendors should contact Margaret Blachut at 219-613-5148; **vendor forms and a \$25 rental fee are due by Nov. 25th.** Participants must bring their own tables.



**BISHOP NOLL INSTITUTE
OPEN HOUSE
DECEMBER 7TH
6:00-8:00 PM
1519 HOFFMAN ST., HAMMOND**



RSVP HERE!

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The first Sharing Meadows Christmas Bazaar will take place on **December 9th**, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, at the St. Timothy Center of Sharing Meadows, 6437 County Rd 300 E, LaPorte. The villagers will have their soaps, rosaries, woven table runners, zucchini bread, cranberry walnut bread, cookies and more. All sales from this event benefit Share Foundation with the Handicapped.

ROYAL BRUNCH

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! Bishop Noll Institute invites families to attend its first Princess Brunch and enjoy a day of magical experiences. The event will take place 10:30 AM-12:00 PM on **December 9th** at Bishop Noll in Hammond. Tickets include brunch, swag bags, visits by Region Royalty princesses, games, mini princess makeovers (hair and nails) and more. Tickets, on sale now, cost \$20 for children 12 and younger and \$15 for adults. Visit <https://bniprincess.givesmart.com> for tickets. No tickets will be sold at the door. For more information, visit bishopnoll.org or call (219) 932-9058.

CAMP SHARING MEADOWS

The Share Foundation is seeking staff, volunteers and campers, for our 2023-2024 Mini-Camps for adults with intellectual & developmental disabilities. The camps are filled with activities, community & prayer and will take place **December 15th-17th** (2024 dates coming soon) at the St. Timothy Center in LaPorte, IN. The session runs 7:00 PM (CDT) on Friday to 2:30 PM (CDT) on Sunday. For more info contact Corinne at (219) 778-2585 or camp@sharefoundation.org.

*COOKIE WALK

**DECEMBER 16TH 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
CHURCH HALL**

**545 E. 77TH AVE, SCHERERVILLE
DELICIOUS HOMEMADE COOKIES,
PASTRIES, NUT ROLLS AND BREADS
HOMEMADE CABBAGE ROLLS,
HALUSHKI AND PIEROGIES SOLD BY
THE DOZEN.**

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION,
PLEASE CALL SHARON HOLOLOWAY
AT 219-864-4342.**

*BEYOND THE NUTCRACKER

**DECEMBER 16TH 2:00 & 7:00 PM
DECEMBER 17TH 3:00 PM
LINCOLN-WAY EAST PERFORMING ARTS
CENTER**

**201 COLORADO AVE, FRANFORT IL
TICKETS \$10-35**

A classic holiday tradition with a Ballet 5:8 twist. Join Emma and Uncle Abrahms as they embark on a miraculous journey through time and discover what Christmas is all about.

MARCH FOR LIFE-

BE A VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

The Diocese of Gary Prolife Activities and Lake County Right to Life invite you to join us at the Indianapolis March for Life on **Jan. 22nd**. We will be leaving the Our Lady of Consolation parish parking lot at 7:00 AM on premium coach buses. The day starts with Mass celebrated by 4 bishops from Indiana, continues with the March and a rally afterwards. The trip home includes a box lunch. Space is limited. Registration and prepayment are required. Cost is \$30 per person. Take a stand for life! <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ek34o9ug9523a355&lrr=auyfgkvab>



Mass Intentions

SATURDAY	<u>DECEMBER 2</u>	THURSDAY	<u>DECEMBER 7</u>
5:00 PM	† Anton & Soraya Haddad	7:00 AM	† George Doppler-Birthday
SUNDAY	<u>DECEMBER 3 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</u>	7:00 PM	† Robert (Bob) Dobrzynski
7:30 AM	† Marcia Jurek	FRIDAY	<u>DECEMBER 8 THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION</u>
9:30 AM	St. Michael Parish	7:00 AM	† Mary Lee Thiel-Birthday
11:30 AM	† Donald Meyer † Dave Harangody † John & Helen Sandor	8:55 AM	All Souls
MONDAY	<u>DECEMBER 4</u>	7:00 PM	All Souls
7:00 AM	† Bill Salas	SATURDAY	<u>DECEMBER 9</u>
TUESDAY	<u>DECEMBER 5</u>	8:00 AM	† Robert & Leone Zaborske
7:00 AM	† Charles Cary	5:00 PM	† Rebecca Bliefnick
WEDNESDAY	<u>DECEMBER 6</u>	SUNDAY	<u>DECEMBER 10 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</u>
7:00 AM	† Philip Bruno † Alicia & Andres Magana † James Burnham	7:30 AM	Brenda, Bill & Ryan Pammer
		9:30 AM	† Joseph "Patrick" Logue
		11:30 AM	St. Michael Parish

◆ indicates deceased



reflections:

THE WORD (Readings for December 10, 2023, Second Sunday of Advent)

I. *Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11*

Speaking for God, Isaiah said, “Comfort, give comfort to my people,’ says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and proclaim to her that her service is at an end.”

II. *2 Peter 3:8-14*

Peter wrote that God does not want anyone to perish but wants all to repent, for the day of the Lord comes like a thief in the night.

III. *Mark 1:1-8*

Fulfilling what Isaiah foretold, John appeared in the desert as a messenger making ready the way of the Lord and proclaiming a baptism of repentance.

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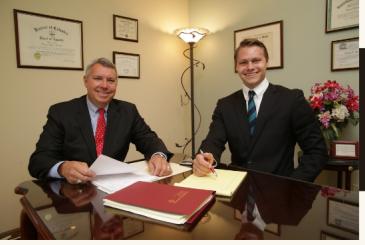
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