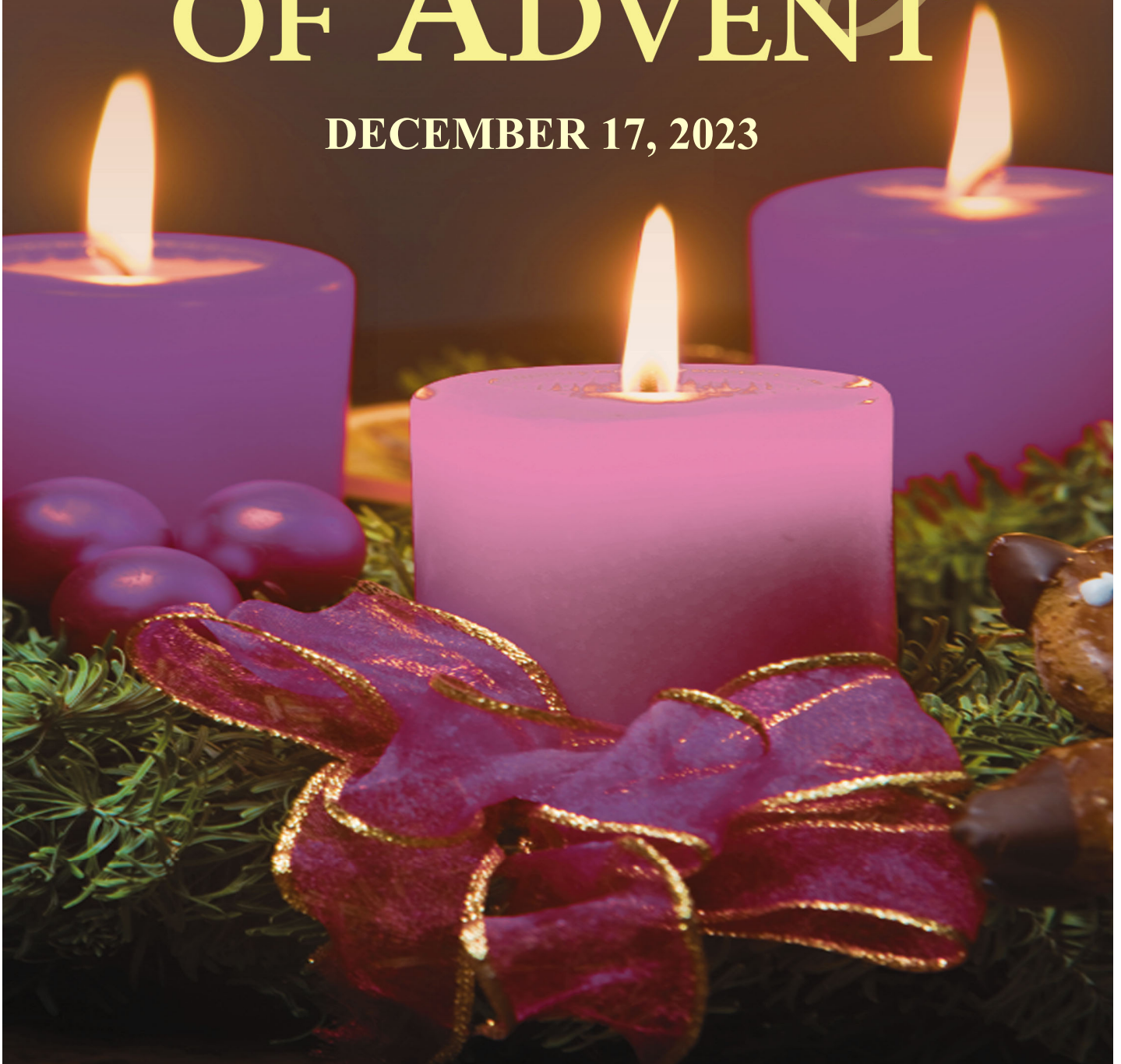


WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

3rd

Sunday
OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 17, 2023





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.

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

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Art & Environment

Cross Bearers

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Hospitality

Lectors

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Music Ministry

Centering Prayer Ministry

RCIA

Sacristan

Ministers of Care

Education & Formation Commission

Adult Catholic Education

Alpha

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Marriage Preparation

Radiate

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Cemetery Committee

Parish Gardeners

Stewardship

Parish Life

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Pastoral Care

CONVENT

Congregation of Mother of Carmel

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9:00-4:00 PM MONDAY-FRIDAY

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Deacon Ron Pyle.....Permanent Deacon

Deacon Gary Wolfe.....Permanent Deacon

From the Pastor's Desk

The Art of "Rejoicing" Today, the third Sunday of Advent has always been called "Gaudete Sunday." The Latin word "*gaudete*" means 'to give joy' or 'rejoice.' The second reading at Mass from St. Paul begins with this instruction. It is an instruction given by St. Paul because not to have a sense of joy in our dealings with others, even when it is difficult, is to not use the gift of God's grace to overcome the gloominess that tries to overtake us.

Our rejoicing is much more than just being happy that Christmas is almost here. True rejoicing finds its genesis in the realization that God has done more for us than provide a holiday on December 25th. A good friend of mine often shares this insight when things get tough: "Remember, everyday is Christmas." This might seem trite, but there is much truth in this statement. Everyday Christ is borne to us in the many gifts God wants to impart to us each day; gifts of persons who we cherish and even those who challenge us, gifts of treasure which we earn with the talents He has given us, and the gift of time itself, time to "get it right" to be ready for our final Christmas. All of these remind us of the gift of Christ to all of us as by the power of the Holy Spirit He dwells in each one of us.

Perhaps, St. Paul did not have to brave the travails of the present age. However, St. Paul did have to brave unforgiving seas that left him ship-wrecked and stranded twice and he did have to brave the civil courts of his time where he was beaten in the presence of the Judge. St. Paul endured hardships that place our present difficulties into perspective. In all, he endured to stay faithful to Jesus as he sets for us an example of perseverance. Let nothing hinder your rejoicing in Christ.

Next time we feel our patience slipping and our nerves unraveling, think of St. Paul who rejoiced in the midst of difficulty and frustration. Think of the Lord he followed, who endured a less than dignified birth and a shameful death. Paul rejoiced and urged his fellow Christians to do the same because Jesus lived a life of 'giving joy' (rejoicing). Jesus did this though He often had nowhere to lay His head and did without the many comforts of the modern world.

You and I, as well as the children we guide, would do well during this season of stress to lay our stress at the feet of Jesus rather than at the doorstep of a brother or sister, mother or father, friend or stranger. Jesus, who calms every anxiety, can deal with our stress. After all, He has helped billions throughout the ages to REJOICE in the middle of pain of sickness, the fear of death, the sorrow of war, the anxiety of the economic roller coaster and the uncertainty of worldly peace. He gives us the same grace to rejoice in the midst of it all because everyday is a celebration of how He has rescued us from Satan so we can live each day as Christmas day.

Please remember your parish in your Christmas giving. We are entering a time that asks a lot of us. Our church home, God's House, needs our attention too. Even as many of us stretch ourselves to provide for our "Growing Into the Future Together" campaign, the work of spreading the Gospel of the Child born in Bethlehem must also continue. Your generous gifts enable us to do His work. Required Minimum Distributions is one way to give, please call the Office to speak to Jesica, our Director of Finance.

Someone Getting Married? It is at this time of the year and in the month ahead that many young people get engaged. If you are getting engaged, please remember that you need to contact the parish office no less than six months in advance of your wedding date. If you have a friend or a family member that is Catholic, you can help them by reminding them of this important fact too. Contacting the parish office nine months in advance is best. Deacons Ron and Gary, Fr. Robert and I are charged with the responsibility to help couples prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage. This preparation is bolstered by other married couples in the parish and it takes time. The six months is needed. We want to help you have a successful and happy marriage, not just a nice wedding day.

Blessings of Homes. It is customary to bless the homes of parishioners during the Christmas Season. If you wish your home to be blessed, please contact the main office, 322-4505, ext. 0.
FYI: Obviously daytime appointments are more numerous than evening appointments.



Christmas Concert

January 7th

3:00 PM in the Church

**Come and enjoy the
sounds of the season**

performed by the

St. Michael

Music Ministry



Communal Penance Service

Wednesday, December 20th

7pm

(8-10 priests will be available)



Submitted by E. Munoz

Help the Arts & Environment Ministry

Decorate for Christmas

December 19th at 6:00 PM

December 24th after the 11:30 AM Mass

Please call Tina at 865-8663 if you have any questions.

Advent Evening Prayer
Come Share a Moment of

Prayer and

Fellowship

Dec. 18th

7:00 PM in the

Chapel



Our Parish Advent Activity



In the Gathering Space, there will be paper hearts with items needed by Respect Life, Sojourner Truth House, and the Good Samaritans. Please take one or more hearts home, decorate the heart if you like, purchase the items needed and return the heart(s) and the donation(s) and place in the boxes provided. Hearts will be hung on the trees in the Gathering Space. See list below for items needed:

<u>The Good Samaritans</u> cleaning supplies disinfectants laundry supplies paper products bath soap deodorant shampoo toothpaste toothbrushes wipes	<u>The Good Samaritans (continued)</u> canned veggies, fruit and meat soups peanut butter rice pasta <u>Respect Life List</u> diapers-any size baby wipes baby ointments baby bath items	<u>Sojourner Truth House</u> all purpose cleaners & disinfectants bathroom cleaners laundry supplies Kleenex toilet paper bar soap toothpaste deodorant diapers-size 4 feminine items <i>Submitted by Tina Kempf</i>
--	--	---

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK



Jonas Jasaitis

I have been attending SMS since I was in Kindergarten. I plan on either going to Marian, Illiana or Lake Central for high school. Inside of school, I do crossing guard during Mass and I did scoreboard for some games at the St. Michael soccer field in 7th grade. Outside of school, I do things like guitar, personal training and coding in GameMaker. I also like to develop some passion projects in my own time at home. For me, the thing that makes SMS special is their traditions and events. Things like service hours, dances, fun fair and fun fest make SMS special for me. Not only does it show off Warrior Spirit, but it also lets us hang out with our friends and do fun things with them. And things like service hours incentivize us to work and serve those in need of help. My advice for the students in the lower grades is to make sure you put a lot of work into school and make sure you do well. You must focus and put your all into it, no matter how much you hate it or love it. Personally, SMS helped me grow in many ways. First of all it taught me many things I would not have learned had I not gone to school. From reading to multiplication to the American Revolution to learning how plants grow and how to use a Chromebook to learning about the quadratic formula and algebraic equations; it has helped me a lot in life in every single subject. It also helped me get into a lot of the things I like. I hope all the teachers will continue to teach the new generation of kids.

Faith Formation & SMS Students Having Fun on St. Nicholas Day!





Radiate's Annual Fundraiser

**OPLATKI
will be
for sale
Dec 16-17
&
Dec 23-24
after all
Masses**

**Thank
you for
your
support!**

#photofmyday

**All High Schoolers
are Welcome to
Come On Out and
Join Us to "Radiate."**



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

- Wear "Christmas-y" outfit (best outfit wins prize)
- Gift exchange game (value \$5-10)
- Make an ornament craft
- Games and food

Jan. 14th: Gathering in St Patrick Hall, 6:00-8:00 PM

Jan. 28th: Cook a Homemade Dinner with Fr. Marty in St. Patrick Hall, 6:00-8:00 PM

Any questions, please contact Jeannine Quigley (219-775-5356) or Marisa Richardson (219-730-4735).

Submitted by Jeannine Quigley



LIFE IS PRECIOUS; HANDLE WITH PRAYER

Tim & Helen Hazard, Betty Ann Bradtke, Timothy Bunchek, Sue Cohen, Joan Hamnik, Richard Benak, Connie Grzybowski, Sue Zajac, Helen Kwiatkowski, Marlene Townsend, Susan Wallace, Christopher Howard, Father Joseph Pawlowski 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.

**"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 the Good Samaritans 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.

Submitted by Sue Cohen



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**Eucharistic
Adoration**

December 20th

1:00-4:00 PM

in the Chapel



Knights of Columbus Council 12177 is pleased to acknowledge our Family of the Month Award to Joan McNerney. Thank you Joan!

K OF C EVENTS



Thanks to all who contributed to our recent Blood Drive, 19 units donated to save lives!



Thank You Reception

To all St. Michael Parish Volunteers from EVERY event, Liturgical Ministers, Parish Ministries, Council/Commission Chairs, Advisory Boards and Parish & School Staff

Thursday, December 28th
6:30-9:30 PM St. Patrick Hall
Hors d'oeuvres & Beverages will be served.



Please RSVP by Dec. 22nd
to the parish office
at 322-4505, ext. 8220.



Submitted by E. Munoz

So that the office staff may enjoy the Christmas holiday with family and friends, the Parish Office will close at Noon on December 22nd and will reopen at 9:00 AM on December 27th.



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.



November 5, 2023

Adult	\$14,650.00
Children	\$13.05
EFTs	\$6,903.00
Loose	\$273.85

***Total Weekly Offering
\$21,839.90***

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.



Stewardship by the Book

All of the people in today's readings—the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist—seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I?

Stewardship in Action

Please follow the Advent calendar that was in last week's bulletin. If you don't have the printed version, look for the December 3rd bulletin on our website.

Weekly Schedule

SUNDAY DECEMBER 17

Blessing of Baby Jesus Figurines at All Masses
Oplatki Sales After All Masses
RCIA 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 18

Emotions Anonymous 6:00 PM
Advent Prayer Service 7:00 PM

TUESDAY DECEMBER 19

Faith Formation 6:00 PM
Christmas Decor Set Up 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 20

Eucharistic Adoration 1:00-4:00 PM
Faith Formation 6:00 PM
Communal Penance Service 7:00 PM

THURSDAY DECEMBER 21

Children's Choir Practice 3:15 PM
Choir Practice 7:00 PM

FRIDAY DECEMBER 22

Parish Office Closes at Noon
Radiate Service Project 5:00 PM
Bell Choir Practice 6:00 PM

SATURDAY DECEMBER 23

Confessions 2:30-4:30 PM
Oplatki Sales After Vigil Mass

SUNDAY DECEMBER 24

Oplatki Sales After All Morning Masses
RCIA 9:30 AM
Christmas Vigil Mass 5:00 PM
Christmas Lessons 11:00 PM

MONDAY DECEMBER 25

Christmas Masses: 12:00 AM, 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM



Mass Intentions

SATURDAY DECEMBER 16

5:00 PM † Sandy Pyle

SUNDAY DECEMBER 17 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30 AM † Richard Kalembe

9:30 AM St. Michael Parish

11:30 AM † Sharon & David Kras

MONDAY DECEMBER 18

7:00 AM † Joe & Rachel Porea

TUESDAY DECEMBER 19

7:00 AM † Sophie Norman

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 20

7:00 AM † All Deceased Members of the
Drabik Family

8:55 AM All Souls

THURSDAY DECEMBER 21

7:00 AM † All Deceased Members of the
Elliott Family

FRIDAY DECEMBER 22

7:00 AM † Helen Frantz-18th Anniversary

† Tina Aloisio

† Mitch Schneider

SATURDAY DECEMBER 23

8:00 AM † Raymond Dravet

5:00 PM † Margaret Kulig-Sink

SUNDAY DECEMBER 24 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30 AM All Souls

9:30 AM All Souls

11:30 AM All Souls

5:00 PM All Souls

† indicates deceased



reflections...

THE WORD

(Readings for December 24, 2023, Fourth Sunday of Advent)

- I. *2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16* With help from the prophet Nathan, King David decided to build a house for the Lord to dwell in. "Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."
- II. *Romans 16:25-27* According to Paul, the Gospel reveals the mystery hidden for long ages but now, at God's command, is made manifest in Christ Jesus.
- III. *Luke 1:26-38* The angel addressed Mary, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." When Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord," she became a model for all.

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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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"At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God's own love and concern." -Mother Teresa

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