

WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



December 24, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



December 25, 2023

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



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

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
School Administrator

Stewardship & Parish Administration

AV Ministry
Cemetery Committee
Parish Gardeners
Stewardship

Parish Life

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

Peace & Social Justice Commission

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

CONVENT

Congregation of Mother of Carmel

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

SCHOOL OFFICE

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(219)322-4531/FAX (219)322-1710

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Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Mary Jo Rymarczyk ext. 8329
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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

Associate Pastor

Rev. Robert Ross ext. 8229
frrobertr@stmichaelparish.life

Permanent Deacon

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deaconron@stmichaelparish.life

Permanent Deacon

Deacon Gary Wolfe ext. 8220
garywolfe@hotmail.com

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Bob SolorioVice Chair/Stewardship Liaison

Barbara AndersonPeace & Social Justice Liaison

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

Do You Believe in Miracles? I remember as a child that it seemed to take forever for Christmas to arrive. The mystery of the season is intoxicating. That mystery exhibited in the bright lights that shine in the darkness, in the relatives seen once or twice a year that were all at once familiar but mysterious, in this strange man in a red suit that seemed jolly yet pretty ominous, in the incense that blessed the manger scene, and in the songs sung only yearly, but remembered like they were sung every day.

The older one becomes, the more the mystery starts to age and the more skeptical a person becomes about the man in the red suit and his reindeer. The familial relationships seem less mysterious and more fragmented. The bright lights bring worries about the NIPSCO bill. The sweet incense that blesses the union of God and humanity becomes a matter of division.

The very miracle of Christmas is this: God took on flesh with all its characteristics, except sin — the Creator took on the aspect of His creation, God became a human being. This is the miracle that is hard to accept. How often do we refer to the miracle of Christmas as angels singing or of animals talking or the birth of a beautiful baby? Babies are indeed miracles, but this baby is the highest of miracles. The word we use to describe this is “Nativity.” Rarely does the liturgical texts of the Church refer to this as Jesus’ “birthday.” The use of Nativity is purposeful. The word finds its root in the word “native.”

Someone born in the USA who acts differently because they have been in a foreign country for a long time is sometimes teased with the question, “Have you gone native?” This is indeed what God has done in His Nativity. God, in the person of His Son, Jesus, has gone Native. God intervenes directly into human history. It is this miracle that is really hard for us to comprehend particularly in times of despair, violence, tragedy and natural disasters.

You and I sometimes find it nearly impossible to believe that God still directly intervenes in our daily life. We have grown leery of such promises as we age year after year. Yet, God still has entered human history, and thus our own histories. Christmas is a celebration, not just of hope in some storybook sort of way, but a remembrance that Hope has entered our world and dwells in each one of us baptized in His name.

Evil still exists, the results of countless years of men and women choosing to go against God’s will. We suffer both from the residual and the present influence of evil. Remember, as we pray the Our Father, we pray to be delivered from evil. Its final removal will be at the LAST Christmas, Jesus’ final coming. Until then, we are the ones enlivened by Christ and endowed with the Holy Spirit (given a share in the Life of God) that need to make the difference to ensure that the miracle of Bethlehem grows brighter and stronger in our families, communities, workplaces, country and the world. You and I are the living miracle of Christmas.

Just as God went “Native” in His nativity, so we too in our nativity (our second birth, baptism) are made native to God. We are now the bearers of Christ to the world. When we do that daily in all those circumstances of the day, up and down, we show ourselves and the world that the miracle of Bethlehem cannot be ignored.

Please remember your parish in your Christmas giving. 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.

submitted by Elizabeth Munoz



New Ministry Needs Members!

The AV Ministry supports the many worship services and other experiences within the St. Michael parish community by providing technical support and expertise in the field of technology specifically audio, video and photography. The mission of the ministry is to seamlessly integrate technology into our parish activities. Have you ever heard the microphones in church squeak or go silent? That's likely the only time most people think about the technology in their worship experience. The church sound system is one of many behind the scenes aspects to our parish that few people know about. We are looking for dedicated, technology-appreciating people to help aid not only in our worship experience, but also with other parish functions. If you have an interest in any of these technologies, or would like to learn, consider joining this new ministry. To learn more about the ministry and to join, contact the church office at 219-322-4505, ext. 8220.

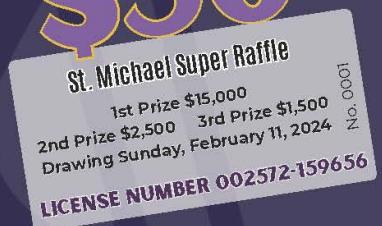
Submitted by Bob Solorio

SUPER RAFFLE WIN YOUR SHARE OF \$29,000*!



BUY YOUR TICKET
TODAY

\$50



1ST PRIZE \$15,000

2ND PRIZE \$2,500

3RD PRIZE \$1,500

PLUS! + ADDITIONAL
CASH PRIZES*

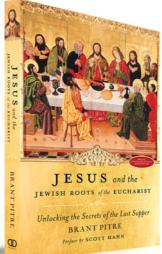


submitted by Elizabeth Munoz

Livestream of Drawing
@ 2PM, Feb. 11th on Facebook LIVE

@StMichaelSville

* \$29,000 is the total prize package based on a minimum of 750 tickets sold to guarantee prize money, otherwise a percentage will be given.
Winner need not be present to win. If ticket sales exceed 1,000 sold, 1 prize will be added for every additional 30 tickets.



Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist

Mondays, Feb. 5th - Mar. 25th 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Inspiring and informative, Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the **Eucharist** is a groundbreaking work that is sure to illuminate one of the greatest mysteries of the Christian faith: **the mystery of Jesus' presence in "the breaking of the bread."** More information to follow or call 219-322-4505, ext. 8241.

Submitted by Janice Gatons

SAINT MICHAEL SCHOOL EST 1900

OPEN HOUSE
JANUARY 28, 2024 10:30AM - NOON
MARCH 7, 2024 6PM - 7:30PM

Submitted by Elizabeth Munoz

Walt Disney



Meet the Principal & Staff • Tour the School • Indiana Choice Scholarship Opportunites • Special Gift for New Families

Save-the-Date

Enjoy the World at your Fingertips...

St. Michael School PASSPORT TO OUR HERITAGE

SATURDAY 13 April 2024

Experience an Upscale Evening of Entertainment, Specialty Cuisine from Various Countries from Around the World, Drinks & a Silent Auction.

submitted by Elizabeth Munoz



LIFE IS PRECIOUS; HANDLE WITH PRAYER

Connie Grzybowski, **Helen Kwiatkowski**, **Marlene Townsend**, Susan Wallace, Christopher Howard, Father Joseph Pawlowski, **Mark Wierkowski**, **Mary Ann Adam**, **Pat Christenson**, **Sherry Lazzaro**, Mary Scheub, **Sue Cohen**, **Richard Benak** 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.

SENIOR GEMS

GAMES

WE WISH YOU A
merry
CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY
NEW YEAR
OUTINGS

LAUGHTER

For those 50+, parishioner or non-parishioner

Our meeting to start off the new year is January 9th at 10:00 AM in the SE meeting room.

ST. MICHAEL PARISH
Schererville, Indiana

THE GOOD SAMARITANS

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

219-322-4505 EXT. 8250



**OPLATKI FOR SALE AFTER
ALL MASSES
1 PACKET = 3 WAFERS/\$5**

Would you like to be more Involved in St. Michael Parish?

Come to know and recognize through “Discernment” where you can best use your talents and strengths to help our parish grow and thrive.

**Faith Formation Board
School Advisory Board
Pastoral Council**

**Home School Association (HSA)
Sports Advisory Board
Finance Council**

We are seeking dedicated parishioners who want to participate more in the parish. There are no nominations and no elections. Committee members are determined through a process of DISCERNMENT (coming to know and recognize where you can best serve your parish community). This is the same way the Apostles came to choose those who would help them. The discernment process is painless, and even a bit of fun when you are aware of your true values in life. At these two sessions, a trained discernment team will assist you in learning about the above groups, their function and their work. This process has worked well in helping people to decide where they want to give their talents and also where the Holy Spirit wants them to give their talents. Through prayer and scripture, learning about our parish mission and structure as a Catholic community and by good Christian camaraderie you might find a niche for your particular talents. Both sessions are necessary for a good discernment. You and other interested parishioners simply come to two Thursday evening sessions on March 7th & 14th, 7:00-8:30 PM.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CALL JANICE AT 322-4505, EXT. 8241 FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THE DISCERNMENT PROCESS AND TO RESERVE A SPACE.



It is time to “RADIATE.”

All high school teens are welcome and encouraged to join us. Let's walk together and Navigate Life together...We are here for you! Keep informed by signing up for reminders. Send a text to 81010 then text this message, @radiate. If you have any questions, please contact Jeannine Quigley 219-775-5356 or Marisa Richardson 219-730-4735. Our next gathering is January 14th in St. Patrick Hall, 6:00-8:00 PM.



Several of the members of Radiate went to the NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference) in November. What an amazing time it was! Here are a few quotes from our Radiate Teens:

- ◆ *“It was a balance of a lot of Fun while growing in my Faith” (-B.Y.)*
- ◆ *“I’ve been on religious retreats before, so I felt like I knew what to expect, however it was a very religious and uplifting experience – one of the top 2 retreats I’ve ever been on” (-P.S.)*
- ◆ *“I thought it was going to be really serious and boring, instead it definitely was very inspiring” (-S.G.)*
- ◆ *“I feel like I’ve spent my whole life searching for God, this weekend it felt like God has been searching for ME!” (-SS)*

submitted by Jeannine Quigley

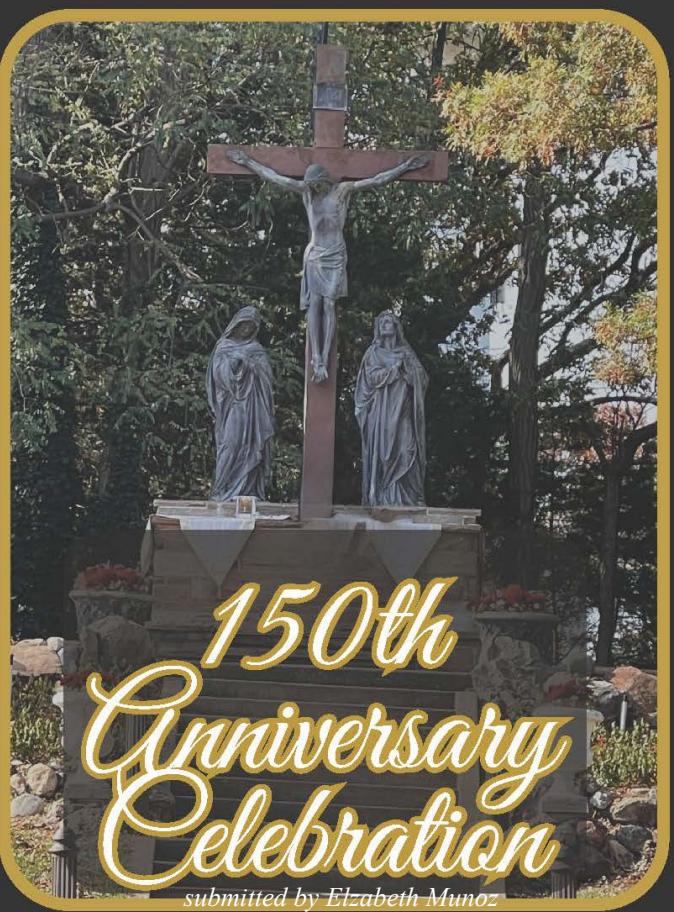
Parish Wide Homecoming

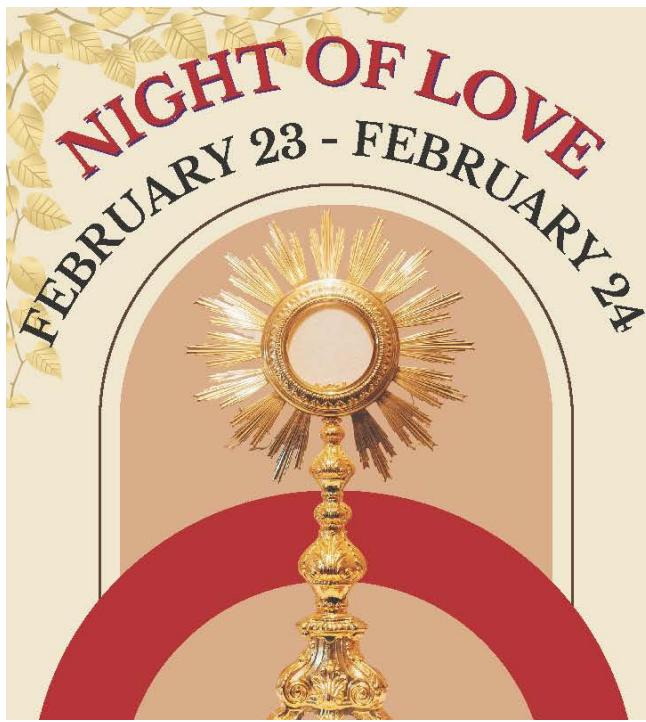


Holy Mass on Mount Calvary
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

Outdoor Mass at 2pm with the Bishop
& Clergy of the Diocese.

*All parishioners and friends past and present of St. Michael
are welcome to participate in this historic event
Thanks be to God!*





**ST. VALENTINE
DINNER & DANCE**

Saturday, February 10, 2024
St. Patrick Hall - Doors Open at 6pm
Welcoming all couples & adult singles.

Dinner, Live Music, Cash Bar & Special Prizes

Tickets are \$50 each
Limited tickets available thru Feb 1st.
To buy tickets visit
stmichaelparish.life/events or
scan QRCode
Cash or Check visit the Parish Office.
Questions? Contact Kathryn Sanders at 219-201-1172

submitted by Elizabeth Munoz

Join us for a night of Eucharistic Adoration and spend some time in the Real Presence of our Lord.

Let us fill the church with warriors of prayer.



SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

- 6 - 6:45 PM Confessions in Chapel
- 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross
- 7:45 PM Mass followed by
- All Night Eucharistic Adoration*
- 8:30 PM Confessions

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

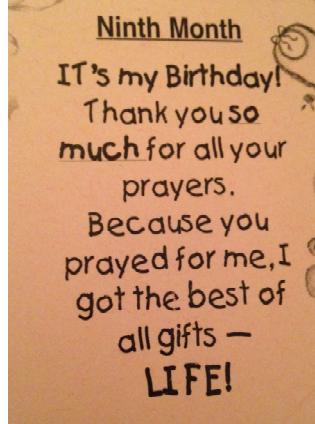
- MIDNIGHT Confessions
- 7:00 AM Confessions
- 8:00 AM Mass

submitted by Elizabeth Munoz

Fr. Marty, Fr. Robert, Deacon Ron, Deacon Gary, the Office Staff, SMS staff and students and the Faith Formation students and staff wish everyone



Spiritual Adoption Program



During your earthly life, this spiritually adopted child of yours will be known only to God. 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. In

celebration of the baby's birth this month, part of the Parish Advent Activity has Respect Life as one of the charitable organizations that will be helped. Donations will help the many organizations that promote life and adoption. Thank you for your generosity!

Submitted by Cathy Bartczak

Parish Mission

3 Evenings of Inspiration

Guest Inspiration Speaker

PAUL KOLESKE,

Catholic Speaker & Music Minister

'Paul's 3 night Mission is constructed under the broad "umbrella" of *Igniting the Light of Christ* within you'...absolutely life changing.



All Are Welcome!

no registration required

submitted by Elizabeth Munoz



The Labors of Love Ministry has been going strong since 2018. Our group provides handmade items for people and groups in the community who would benefit from a gift made just for them. Recipients include nursing home residents (lapghans, twiddle muffs, shawls, walker caddies, etc.); Veterans (afghans); newly baptized babies (special Baptismal gift); children in therapy (loveys and puff pillows). We also partner with the Good Samaritan Ministry providing hats, scarves and blankets; Women's Care Center for all their needs; and a new focus this year, The Linus Blanket Project. Our outreach is flexible and expanding as more requests are received.

Labors of Love meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month in St. Patrick Hall, 10:00 AM-Noon.

Our first meeting in the new year will be on January 16th. New members and donations are always welcome.

Submitted by Eve Duray



March 3rd - March 5th
at 7pm in St. Patrick Hall

Welcome the Newly Baptized

Cameron Jay Mesick

Thank You Reception

To all St. Michael Parish and School Volunteers and Staff

Thursday, December 28th
6:30-9:30 PM in St. Patrick Hall

Please RSVP by
December 27th at noon



FAITH FORMATION ACTIVITIES DURING ADVENT



5th grade Faith Formation students prepare for Christmas by creating their own cards, to give to their

families and loved ones! Christmas is coming soon... The greatest gift is Jesus!



Submitted by K. Hoogeveen

Sunday Faith Formation families gathered to help make "tie-blankets," decorate "Care Boxes" and "Cards of Hope" for Phil's Friends. The families also donated items that will be part of a care package that will be delivered to cancer patients! Advent is a time for giving!

Wheelchair Ramp Ministry Receives Grant from Legacy Foundation

Legacy Foundation, the community foundation for Lake County, Indiana, recently announced its Fall 2023 community grants totaling \$264,070 to 27 organizations. St. Michael's Wheelchair Ramp Ministry is honored to be a Legacy Foundation grant recipient. Legacy Foundation grants support a variety of programs and are intended to strengthen and empower nonprofits, neighborhoods and residents in Lake County. Other recent grant recipients include Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana, Dunes Dog Training Club, Center for Possibilities and Operation Combat Bikesaver. With the support of Legacy Foundation, the Wheelchair Ramp Ministry is able to provide necessary services to our community. At Christmas time, and throughout the year, please consider supporting Legacy Foundation. Your gift to the Lake County Community Fund will be matched \$2-for-\$1, meaning your impact on Lake County organizations will be tripled! Donations can be made at legacyfdn.org/donate or by calling 219-736-1880.

Wheelchair Ramp Ministry Installs Two More Ramps

St. Michael's Wheelchair Ramp Ministry installed its 64th and 65th ramps recently. One was in Hobart for Sylvia Ruiz who is wheelchair bound and the other ramp was installed at the American Legion Post #369 in St. John. Help was needed with the installation as the ramp material was owned by the American Legion. It took two days to install because of its size and unique installation requirements. 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 anyone who may benefit from our services, have them contact Catholic Charities at outreach@catholic-charities.org or call 219-886-3549 and ask for Jessa Conn.

Submitted by Jim Koeling



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 24

Oplaki Sales After All Morning Masses
Christmas Vigil Mass 5:00 PM
Christmas Lessons 11:00 PM

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

MONDAY DECEMBER 25

Christmas Masses: 12:00 AM, 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM
Parish Office Closed

TUESDAY DECEMBER 26

Parish Office Closed

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 27

Eucharistic Adoration 1:00-4:00 PM

THURSDAY DECEMBER 28

Thank You Reception 6:30 PM
Choir Practice 7:00 PM

FRIDAY DECEMBER 29

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

SATURDAY DECEMBER 30

Confessions 3:30-4:30 PM
K of C Holy Cards After Vigil Mass

SUNDAY DECEMBER 31

RCIA 9:30 AM
K of C Holy Cards After All Masses



November 12, 2023

Adult	\$11,386.00
Children	\$18.00
EFTs	\$2,878.00
Loose	\$557.00

**Total Weekly Offering
\$14,839.00**

**Christmas Flowers
\$5,179.00**

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.




Christmas Flower Donations

Indented names are in memory or in honor of family and friends

<p>Mr. and Mrs. George Adam Mr. and Mrs. Charles Alexa Dr. and Mrs. John Ancich +Victor & Mary Ancich, In honor of Sheila, Elizabeth, Victor & Debra Ancich, John & Mary Haenney, Rose & Olan Smith, Brad & Carole Ladwig Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Anderson Ms. Rita Anderson Mr. and Mrs. David Andrews Mr. and Mrs. Jose Arenas +Jesus, Margarita, Agustin & Jessee Iniguez, +Jesus & Antonia Arenas, +Celia Iniguez Odroa Mr. and Mrs. William Balachowski +James & Elizabeth Balachowski, +Joseph Martinez, +Connie & Ramon Manzo Mr. and Mrs. Othello Banaag Mr. & Mrs. Burton Barrientez M/M Andres Magana, M/M Adam Barrientez, Lenora & Burton P. 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Mass Intentions

SATURDAY	DECEMBER 23	THURSDAY	DECEMBER 28
5:00 PM	† Margaret Kulig-Sink	7:00 AM	† Rev. Patrick J. Connolly-21st Anniversary
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 24 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT		† Fr. Verb † Fr. Biegel
7:30 AM	All Souls	FRIDAY	DECEMBER 29
9:30 AM	All Souls	7:00 AM	† Michele Leipert
11:30 AM	All Souls	SATURDAY	DECEMBER 30
5:00 PM	All Souls	8:00 AM	Peter Henry Thiel
MONDAY	DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS	5:00 PM	† Margaret Kulig-Sink
12:00 AM	All Souls	SUNDAY	DECEMBER 31 THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH
7:30 AM	All Souls	7:30 AM	St. Michael Parish
9:30 AM	All Souls	9:30 AM	† Kyle N. Arnold † Ted & Marie Tokarski
11:30 AM	All Souls	11:30 AM	† Intentions of the Right to Life Holy Family Cards † Rosalba Hernandez
TUESDAY	DECEMBER 26		
7:00 AM	† John Thomas Rich		
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 27			
7:00 AM	† Philip Bruno		

♦ indicates deceased



reflective intentions

THE WORD

(Readings for December 31, 2023, the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph)

- I. *Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3* Abram and Sarah put faith in the Lord, and gave the name Isaac to their son. Your descendants shall be as numerous as the stars in the heavens.
- II. *Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19* The descendants of Abraham and Sarah are “as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands of the seashore.” Abraham’s faith was tested.
- III. *Luke 2:22-40* Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to the temple to be consecrated. Simeon, a holy and pious man, took the child in his arms, and Anna, the prophetess, gave thanks to God.

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