

WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



*The Nativity of the Lord*





## 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

## 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](mailto:bulletin@stmichaelparish.life) or in print form to the office or by fax to 322-4508.

Website: [www.stmichaelparish.life](http://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

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## PARISH OFFICE

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9:00-4:00 PM MONDAY-FRIDAY

or by appointment

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Rev. Robert Ross.....Associate Pastor

Deacon Ron Pyle.....Permanent Deacon

Deacon Gary Wolfe.....Permanent Deacon

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## From the Pastor's Desk

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### *Glory to God in the highest! God has come to visit His people.*

But wait, what does this all mean? You and I are raised in a world full of borders. Nations, states, professional behavior and respect for other persons all rely on borders. Geographical borders seem to us to be rather rigid, but if we study a little history we realize that the lines on our present day map did not exist 150 years ago. The same holds true for personal borders. Fifty years ago, one would never think of calling a person older than you by their first name and you would certainly never refer to a customer by their first name. It was Mr. So and so - or Mrs. So and so. Not today, such honorifics are considered old fashioned. We consider ourselves to be freer of such stuffy boundaries.

Yet, this breakdown in boundaries has not made us closer; people feel even more disconnected than they did 50 years ago. Perhaps the boundaries are less in our speech and more in our heart. Those old fashioned honorifics helped people to be more respectful of each other and thus enabled them to actually be more intimate and close with each other.

Although we cannot escape the use of boundaries, God is not held to the same reality. God breaks down the biggest boundary of all and intermingles the Divine with the human. This intermingling is unlike the boundary violations we hear about in the ancient myths of the Greek gods. Those minglings did not raise humanity to share in the Divine; they used humanity to satisfy the gods. The Incarnation (God becoming human, incarnate) that we celebrate was done for one purpose; to save us all and raise us up to God.

This boundary violation we call Christmas, at first, seems quaint, but upon more reflection, we realize that it is a great challenge. God has come to us, to you, to me, but now what is my response to God? If we spend some time thinking about it, we might feel that God is a little too close for comfort. Thus through the ages, there are those who want to put God back up into the heavens at a safe distance from us. This way we can carry on with our boundary violations of greed, prejudice, anger, hurt, war, etc...

But God is not only in heaven, but present in you and me, His Church. God does not look at us from a distance, but lives with us everyday at work, school and home. This is a great gift but it also demands a response from you and me. Do I accept the gift? Do I try to allow God to lift me up out of my despair, greed, laziness, anger, etc...? You and I cannot be forced to send a thank you to the Gift Giver, but not responding is a response as well.

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## From the Associate Pastor's Desk

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Merry Christmas!

Today we honor one of the greatest mysteries of our Christian faith: the Incarnation, when God took on flesh and became a human being in all things but sin.

Growing up a cradle-Catholic, I often take such earth-shattering mysteries (like the Incarnation) for granted, and they fail to move me. But while I was a pilgrim to the Holy Land several years back, I stumbled across an image that opened my eyes to the beauty of God's humility, revealed to us in the Incarnation. It was an image of the Virgin Mary breastfeeding the infant Jesus.



Since as early as the sixth century, Christians have honored a particular cave in Bethlehem known as "The Milk Grotto." The story goes that, as Joseph and Mary were fleeing to Egypt with the baby Jesus (because Herod was about to slaughter, in Bethlehem, all children two years old or younger), they stopped in this cave for refuge. As Mary was breastfeeding Jesus, a drop of her milk fell to the ground, and all the stones of the cavern turned milk-white. They say that no other rocks in the region around Bethlehem have this same coloration, so the cave is an anomaly.

But within the shrine now built within the Milk Grotto, there was this beautiful image of Mary feeding her baby. You can see it for yourself: just Google search "Milk Grotto Virgin Mary."

The depiction of the nursing Jesus pierced through my Christian apathy. For the first time, the doctrine of the Incarnation dropped from my head into my heart. Jesus needed His mother for food; the almighty God was dependent on a creature. I don't know how else to express it. What humility God possesses! He who created the massive balls of gas that burn and fly through the heavens, who set the mountains in place, and who filled the depths of the oceans with life—this God became a helpless infant.

Perhaps some of us might blush with embarrassment at an image of Our Lady exposing her breast, but I ask you: What will it take to stir you out of your complacency this Christmas? I pray that, like me, you can be led to awe at the mystery of God's Incarnation.

Peace & Christmas Blessings,  
Fr. Robert

# Christmas flower donations in memory of/in honor of family and friends

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 M/M Michael Zvyak

*Choir*  
**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**  
 January 5th, 2025  
 3:00pm  
*Special Performances by*  
 The Occasional Brass Quintet & Organ Solo By Father Greg Bim-Merle





Thank you to Elizabeth Munoz for creating most of the bulletin articles for this Christmas bulletin.

From all of us at St. Michael Parish and School:

May the joy and peace that were present at the birth of Christ be present in your home this Christmas season.





Join Us at the Annual

# Chili

## COOK OFF



**SATURDAY,**  
**JANUARY 25**  
**6:00 - 8:00 PM**

St. Michael Parish Hall

CALL/EMAIL DEACON GARY 219-678-1332  
GWOLFE@STMICHAELPARISH.LIFE

**Submit Your Best Recipe for a Chance to Win a Prize and Earn Well-Deserved Recognition!**

**EVENT ADMISSION**

- \$10 PER PERSON
- DOZENS OF CHILI & SOUPS TO SAMPLE
- HOT DOGS AND JUICE INCLUDED
- CASH BAR

# Join us...





**Enroll Today! Call 219-322-4531**  
or visit [stmichaelparish.life/school](http://stmichaelparish.life/school)

## OPEN HOUSE

### Sunday, January 26th

10:30am - 12:30pm

## 2025-2026 OPEN ENROLLMENT

### Educating Pre-K - 8th Grade

Indiana Choice Scholarship • "A" Rated Academics • Safety First Plan  
Small Class Sizes • Family Environment • Full & Half Day Pre-K Program  
Science Lab • Technology Driven • Middle School with Rigorous Academics

**\$50 EACH TICKET**



**ST. MICHAEL PARISH  
SUPER RAFFLE  
2025**

## WIN YOUR SHARE of over \$29,000!

**1st Prize \$15,000**  
**2ND PRIZE \$2,500**  
**3RD PRIZE \$1,500**  
**\*30+ ADDITIONAL CASH PRIZES**



**GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!**  
CALL 219-322-4505 EXT. 8246 OR  
ONLINE AT: [STMICHAELPARISH.LIFE](http://STMICHAELPARISH.LIFE)

License #: 002572-161557  
\*subject to promotion rules

FACEBOOK  
LIVE STREAM DRAWING

## 09 FEB 2:00 PM



**SAVE A DATE**

**ST. VALENTINE  
DINNER & DANCE**

**Saturday, February 8, 2024**  
**St. Patrick Hall - 6pm**

Dinner, Live Music, Cash Bar & Special Prizes

**Tickets go on sale in January**

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL BIGGEST FUNDRAISER

**PASSPORT 25**

*To Our Heritage*

**Saturday, February 22, 2025**

**\$75 per Ticket**

**Scan Here**

*Delicious Cuisine • Specialty Drinks • Dancing • Auction • Unbelievable Fun*

**Parish Mission  
2025**

**Three Days, March 2, 3 & 4**

Great for the whole family, highlighting the Scriptures that help us to recognize the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

DRAMA • HUMOR • INSPIRATION

Learn more about the presenter at [runyeonproductions.com](http://runyeonproductions.com).

*The Bread of Life!*

Starring Frank Runyeon, translator and performer of Biblical texts.

**Be Transformed as a Disciple of Christ**

The Adult Catholic Education Ministry will present the series of "Into His Likeness"

**Thursday Evenings, March 6th-April 5th**

Into His Likeness provides an approachable but in-depth exploration of how to live as a disciple and experience the transformation Jesus wants to work in our lives. We might desire to live more like Christ, but we know we fall short. These sessions simply helps us follow those initial promptings of the Holy Spirit, so that we may more intentionally encounter Jesus anew each day and be more disposed to his grace changing us ever more into his likeness. *Submitted by Janice Gatons*

**Into His Likeness**  
*Be Transformed as a Disciple of Christ*  
Edward Sri





### All Night Adoration

Come, spend sacred time in the Real Presence of our Lord. We gather together as a community of prayer, uniting our hearts and minds in adoration, worship, and intercession.

Knight of Columbus Fish Fry  
March 14 from 4-7pm  
in St. Patrick Hall



## Italy & Amalfi

### Jubilee Pilgrimage

12 days: 7 cities  
December 1 - 12, 2025

Hosted by Fr. Marty and Fr. Peter  
interested? email: [frmartyd@stmichaelparish.life](mailto:frmartyd@stmichaelparish.life)





### Wine, Bourbon & Craft Beer Tasting Event!

## Sunday, April 27, 2025

3-6 pm, St. Patrick Hall

- Order Wine
- Exclusive Auction
- Delicious Food



**ST. MICHAEL PARISH**  
TASTING EVENT

**\$80 per ticket**

Mark Your Calendar

**AUGUST 1ST & 2ND**

# St. Michael Parish Festival

## 2025

Family Fun Event!

Plus...

