

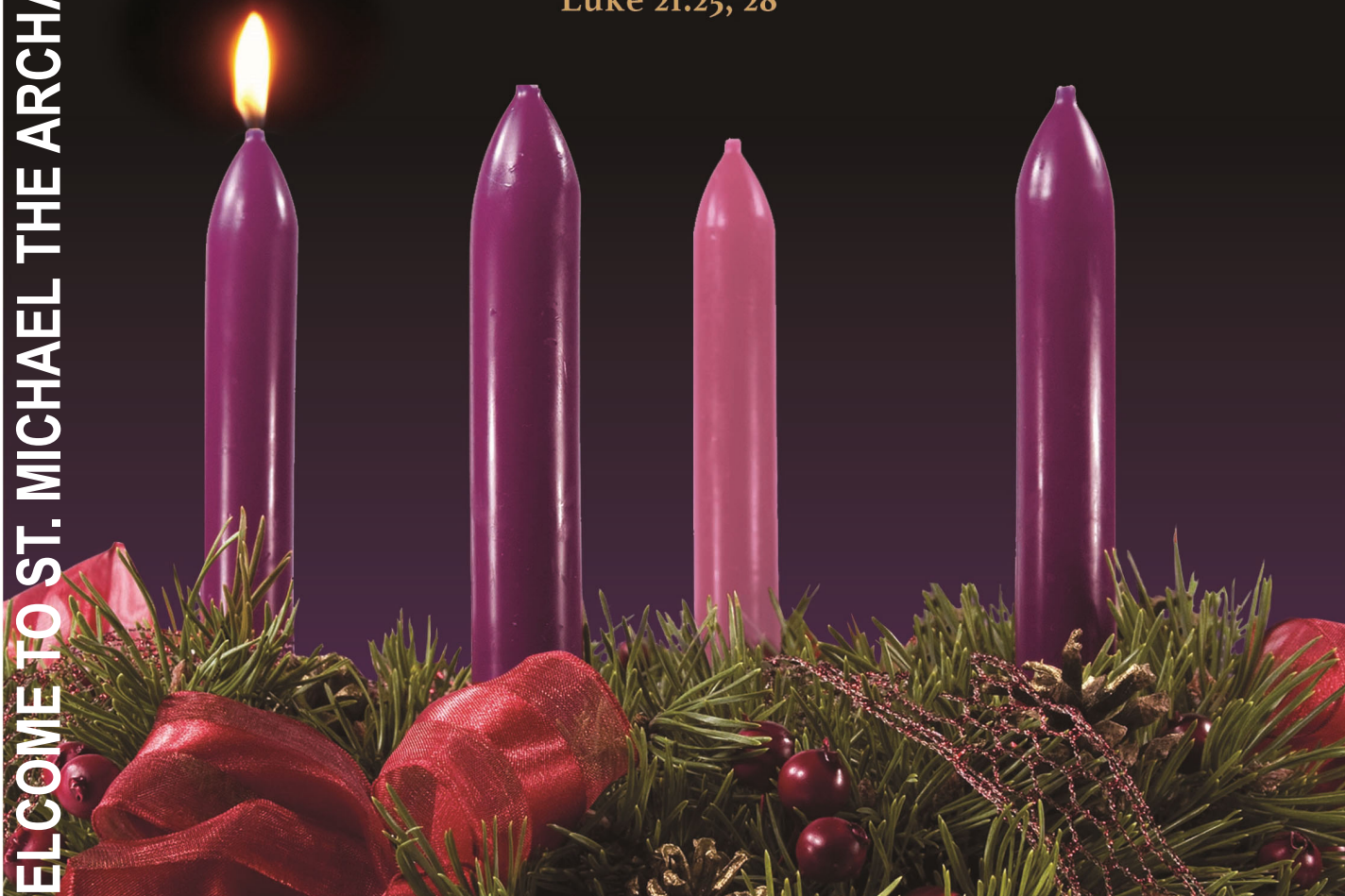
# *First Sunday*

## OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 2, 2018

*There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars.  
When these signs begin to happen,  
stand erect and raise your heads  
because your redemption is at hand.*

Luke 21:25, 28



# Community, Personnel, & On-Going Information

## PARISH OFFICE STAFF

Pastor.....322-4505, ext. 220  
 Rev. Martin J Dobrzynski ..... pastor@stmichaelparish.life  
 Associate Pastor.....322-4505, ext. 229  
 Rev. Gregory Bim-Merle.....frgregory@stmichaelparish.life  
 Transitional Deacon.....dmcnicholas@stmichaelparish.life  
 Deacon Declan McNicholas.....322-4505, ext. 222  
 Permanent Deacon.....322-4505, ext. 285  
 Deacon Edwin Gatons.....deacon@stmichaelparish.life  
 Permanent Deacon.....322-4505, ext. 284  
 Deacon Ron Pyle.....deaconron@stmichaelparish.life  
 Executive Secretary.....322-4505, ext. 220  
 Mrs. Michaeline Gargas.....mike@stmichaelparish.life  
 Director of Liturgy & Music.....322-4505, ext. 227  
 Miss Debbie Mangione.....dmangione@stmichaelparish.life  
 Pastoral Associate.....322-4505, ext. 241  
 Mrs. Janice Gatons.....jgatons@stmichaelparish.life  
 Finance/Accounting Services Manager.....322-4505, ext. 226  
 Mr. Glenn Cantrell.....gcantrell@stmichaelparish.life  
 Campus Facilities Coordinator.....808-1489  
 Mr. Rick Gilbert.....rgilbert@stmichaelparish.life  
 Administrative Assistant.....322-4505, ext. 225  
 Mrs. Debbie Fotia.....dfotia@stmichaelparish.life  
 Bulletin Editor/Accounting Clerk.....322-4505, ext. 239  
 Mrs. Rhonda Haddad.....bulletin@stmichaelparish.life  
 Accounting Clerk.....322-4505, ext. 234  
 Mrs. Fran Hintz.....fhintz@stmichaelparish.life  
 Communications Coordinator.....322-4505, ext. 263  
 Steven Koontz.....skoontz@stmichaelparish.life  
 Assistant Sacristan.....322-4505, ext. 228  
 Mrs. Loretta DePrez

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Office Hours: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM Monday-Friday and  
 by appointment  
 Phone:.....(219)322-4505 Fax.....(219)322-4508  
 Email.....office@stmichaelparish.life  
 Website.....www.stmichaelparish.life

## ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL

Office Hours: 8:00 AM-3:30 PM Monday-Friday  
 Phone.....(219)322-4531 Fax.....(219)322-1710  
 Website.....www.stmichaelparish.life/school  
 Principal  
 Miss Colleen Kennedy.....ckennedy@stmichaelparish.life  
 School Executive Assistant  
 Mrs. Karen Rapacz.....krapacz@stmichaelparish.life

## FAITH FORMATION

Office Hours: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM Monday & Thursday  
 12:00-8:00 PM Tuesday & Wednesday  
 Phone.....(219)322-3077 Fax.....(219)322-1710  
 Director of Religious Education  
 Mrs. Marge Swanson.....mswanson@stmichaelparish.life  
 Administrative Assistant  
 Mrs. Mary Jo Rymarczyk.....mrymarczyk@stmichaelparish.life  
 Traditional Classes...Tuesday or Wednesday 6:00 PM-7:30 PM  
 Good Shepherd Classes...Tuesday 6:00 PM-7:30 PM  
 Sunday Family Classes.....Once a month 9:30 AM-11:00 AM

## SATURDAY LITURGY

**Vigil: 5:00 PM**  
**DAILY LITURGY**  
 Weekdays **7:00 AM**  
 Saturday **8:00 AM**

## SUNDAY LITURGY

**7:30, 9:30, & 11:30 AM**  
**HOLY DAY LITURGY**  
 See page 15 of the bulletin for  
 Holy Day Mass Schedule.

## 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 322-4505, ext. 241 to schedule the prep  
 session and/or baptism date.  
**Marriage**...The bride, groom, 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 re-  
 quires 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.  
 Anointing of the Sick is celebrated on the third Saturday of each  
 month at the 8:00 AM Mass in the chapel.  
**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**  
 Wednesdays from 1:00-6:00 PM 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.

## PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

John Companik.....Chair  
 Daniel Price.....Vice Chair/Parish Life Liaison  
 Lee Ann Egan.....Spirituality & Worship Liaison  
 David Gray.....Peace & Social Justice Liaison  
 Thomas Molnar.....At Large  
 Linda Kinzer.....Education & Formation Liaison  
 Jim Prasopoulos.....Parish Life Liaison  
 Lynn Schmitt.....Stewardship Liaison  
 Joseph Tomaszewski.....Stewardship Liaison  
 Jeffrey Cox.....Secretary  
 Rev. Martin Dobrzynski.....Pastor  
 Rev. Gregory Bim-Merle.....Associate Pastor  
 Deacon Ed Gatons.....Permanent Deacon  
 Deacon Ron Pyle.....Permanent Deacon



**ST. MICHAEL**  
**PARISH**  
 Schererville, Indiana

St. Michael Parish  
 1 E. Wilhelm St.  
 Schererville, IN  
 46375

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## From the Pastor's Desk

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***The Day Is Coming!*** The next few weeks will witness a flurry of activity as you and I prepare to celebrate the feast of Christmas. As we enter into this festive, yet frustrating, time of the year, we are told today quite plainly why we are preparing.

The celebration of Christ's coming is a preparation for the end of the world as we know it to exist. That is pretty serious business. Sadly, however, the very feast that is meant to help us prepare for the coming of Christ carries with it so many distractions that can prevent us from truly preparing ourselves for the great manifestation of Christ "coming on a cloud with great power and glory," as the Gospel relates.

Our preparations for Christmas are meant to not only prepare our homes but more importantly prepare our hearts for Christ's coming. The "coming" the Church has spoken of down through the ages is not a repeat of the birth in Bethlehem. That has happened, in history, once and for all. The coming you and I need to be attentive to is much more mature.

It is said Christmas is for children, how true if what is anticipated is the excitement of the family gathering, presents being opened and lots of good food being eaten. As adults we sell ourselves short if we think Christmas is not for us too. Not the Christmas of a child but the Christmas of a mature disciple of Christ.

Christmas is for adults just as much as for children, but in a significantly different way. As we grow, we realize the very real need for Christ to come again. We realize as we mature our weakness and inability to set things right in our own lives let alone the world. We need a Savior to save us and bring us finally to God.

Because our anticipation of Christmas has a different focus than it did when we were eager for the tap, tap, tap of the reindeer's paws on the roof; our preparation of Christmas is a bit different too. A good gauge for our Advent preparations is to ask if all the things we do in these next weeks lead us to prepare for the real coming of Christ, or does all this activity distract us from being able to deepen Christ's presence in our daily life?

Retiring to the desert to pray is not an option for the majority of us, so how do we use the activity we find ourselves in to help us prepare for Jesus' coming? The attitude we bring to these weeks sets the tone.

Bringing patience in long lines at the stores and in the traffic teaches you and me the patience of waiting for Christ. Opening our hearts to acts of charity for children and adults can prepare us to accept God's charity at the end. Forbearance in our parties, staying sober and alert, can lead us to thirst for the wine of God's kingdom, where no one is left out in the cold. Remembering that all the possessions we look to buy and give as presents, or to receive, do not possess us but are deeper signs of the ultimate gift we have received in the person of Jesus Christ, the same Christ who will surely come again to complete the good work He has begun in each one of us.





# Spirituality and Worship Commission

**Little Blue Advent Books  
Available in Gathering Space  
After All Masses This Weekend.**

**Commission Members:** Director of Liturgy, Art & Environment, Eucharistic Ministers, Hospitality, Lectors, Music, Sacristan, Altar Servers, Cross Bearers, Prayer Ministry, RCIA, Ministers of Care, Deer Creek/Clarendale Ministers

## Parish Advent Activity

In the Gathering Space, there are links of paper with items needed by the Sojourner Truth House, the Carmelite Home, Respect Life and the Good Samaritans. Please take a link or two home and purchase the items. Bring the gift(s) with the link attached and place in the baskets provided. At Christmas, we will join the links and decorate the Gathering Space. Let us fill the space with a chain symbolizing our love and concern for our brothers and sisters.

*Submitted by Judy Hisick*

**Advent Evening Prayer  
Come Share a Moment of  
Prayer and Fellowship  
Dec. 3rd, 10th & 17th  
7:00 PM in the Church  
Fellowship and Refreshments  
to Follow in St. Patrick Hall**

**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: 8:00 AM**

**Come Decorate the Church  
for Christmas  
December 18th at 6:30 PM**

## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Charles LaCacco and Kevin Hernandez along with their sponsors were present for the Rite of Call to Continuing Conversion for the Candidates at the Cathedral on Nov. 18th. Bishop Hying deemed them ready to continue preparing for reception of the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist early in 2019. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their preparation.



**The Feast of  
Our Lady of Guadalupe  
December 12th  
7:00 PM Mass  
Bishop Hying  
Concelebrating.  
Refreshments,  
Mariachi and  
Folk Dancing  
afterwards in  
St. Patrick Hall.**



# Education and Formation Commission

**Commission Members:** Director of Religious Education, School Principal, Sport/School Advisory Board/HSA Representatives, Marriage Prep, Baptismal Prep, Adult Catholic Education, Vocations Ministry, RADIATE Youth Ministry, Bible Study

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Warrior of the Week



This week's Warrior of the Week is Ryese Evanatz. Ryese has been a student at SMS since preschool. In her years at SMS, Ryese has participated in basketball, soccer, track, book club, Girl Scouts, band and art club. She has also done sand volleyball and horseback riding outside of school. Ryese's favorite thing about SMS is the family-like feel. She will be attending Andean High School next year, and she will miss all of her classmates and her teachers. She says, "I will miss walking into this school every day and it feeling like home." Ryese's advice for younger students is, "Enjoy your time at SMS. Don't be troubled over the small stuff, it goes by so fast." We wish you a wonderful 8th grade year, Ryese!

*Submitted by Jen Poskin*

## Herbarium Project by 7th Graders

### NATURE IS THE ART OF GOD-THOMAS BROWNE

Our schoolyards and home yards are great classrooms for learning. Our 7th graders did the Herbarium project during their advisory classes. It was a group activity and it started during the second week of school and finished at the end of the first quarter. This opportunity helped them to explore and discover the treasures in their own schoolyard and home yard. They did a nature walk in their schoolyard and collected the leaves, and pressed for this purpose. Students worked in pairs in the outdoor schoolyard and gathered at least ten different specimens each. With the help of a plant identification website, local guides, and charts, they identified the plants and recorded in their journal. After this, they mounted the dried specimens on construction paper and put a label on it, which includes the collection date, collector's name, the name of the plant and its uses. Bundles of specimen were arranged in a folder and each group shared their knowledge within the group and then exhibited them for the whole school. Students, through the inquiry process, demonstrated the ability to design, conduct, evaluate, and communicate results and reasonable conclusions of scientific investigations. Students were so excited about their findings!



*Submitted by Sr. Serene*

## SCHOOL NEWS continued

### Meet Mr. Williams, The Middle School Social Studies Teacher

Hello! My name is Zachary Williams, and I am the new Social studies teacher here at St Michael School.



I received my Bachelor's Degree in Social Studies Secondary Education from Illinois State University in May of 2016. Previously, I did my student teaching in Tremont, Illinois. I like to think that I bring a passion for the historical process into everything I do. But this is not simple memorization of content. Instead, I promote the use of skills in order to "do" history, understanding it as a process, and not as some static thing. In my class, students will discover their inner historian, as they analyze and interpret a variety of historical sources related to theme of their class. Once practiced, students will then need to apply these skills to the study of history, and hopefully take them into their other classes, and even into high school!

My end goal is to make the study of history a little less daunting. While I don't expect all of my students to walk out of here ready to become a History major, I do hope that my enthusiasm and passion for the subject will be imparted on them.

*Photo submitted by Steven Koontz*

### Jump on Board for our March for Life to Washington, DC Pilgrimage!



Registration, waiver & payments are due to the Church Office by Monday, December 3rd by 10:00 AM.

Information and waivers can be printed off from [www.stmichaelparish.life](http://www.stmichaelparish.life).

***Expect a Peaceful, Prayerful, Life-Changing Experience and Walk for the Celebration of Life.***

Feel free to contact Jeannine Quigley at (219)775-5356 or Erika Dolder at (219)895-3072 with any questions.

Washington, DC at-a-glance:

- Leaving January 17th in evening and arriving back to church parking lot on morning of January 20th
- Charter Bus & Hotel & 1 Breakfast & Excursions = \$250 per person
- Visiting: The March, Arlington Cemetery, Holocaust Museum, Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, including special tour from Deacon Declan

**Radiate is a place for all high school teens.  
Come check us out and see what we are all about!**

#### Our Upcoming Calendar:

**Dec. 9th:** Christmas Party, 6:00 - 8:30 PM in St Patrick Hall

**Dec. 14th:** Service Project-Caroling at Dyer Nursing Home at 4:00 PM

**Dec 8th-9th & Dec 15th-16th:** Christmas OPLATKI FUNDRAISER after Saturday Vigil and all Sunday Masses

*Submitted by Jeannine Quigley*





# Education and Formation Commission



## December Calendar

Dec. 2nd: Family Session 9:30-11:00 AM  
Dec. 4th: Good Shepherd/Traditional Classes  
6:00-7:30 PM  
Dec. 5th: Traditional Classes 6:00-7:30 PM  
Dec. 11th: Good Shepherd/Traditional Classes  
6:00-7:30 PM

Dec. 12th: Traditional Classes 6:00-7:30 PM  
Dec. 18th: Good Shepherd/Traditional Classes  
6:00-7:30 PM  
Dec. 19th: Traditional Classes 6:00-7:30 PM  
**Dec. 25th/26th: No classes-Christmas Break**

# Peace & Social Justice Commission

## Welcome the Newly Baptized

Emilia Rae Mesick  
Brooklyn Grace Shawver

**Commission Members:** Ministry of Consolation and Hope, Good Samaritans, Pastoral Care, Respect Life, Health & Spirituality Committee, Parish Nurse Ministry, Rebuilding Hope Mission Team, Visitation Ministry, Labors of Love



**Raul Joffre, Norman Kendys, Michael Suty, Evelyn Mathews, David Sarros, Jen-Mei Dorris, Pam Matonovich, Mark Biegel, Mike Rose, Deacon Ed Gatons, Sharon Kras, Britney Tuskan, Rosemarie Rossman, John Palis, Carol Smialek, Debbie Kaminski, Anthony Adducci, Anthony Caposey, Betty Carlos, Larry Miller, Wally Gargas** and all those in need of the healing touch of God.

*Life is precious; handle with prayer.*

Placing the name of a loved one or yourself in the bulletin *Prayer List* can be done through Michaeline or Debbie at 322-4505, ext. 220 in the parish office. The names 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. In

praying for a sick person, we show our solidarity with that person and we remind ourselves to do all that is within our power to help in the healing done through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

***Please remember that the names of parishioners and non-parishioners who are still in need of our prayers after the 4 week period of time of being in the bulletin are placed in our Book of Intentions in the Chapel. It is updated weekly.***

***St. Michael's parishioners are in bold, italic print.***

## Blood Pressure, Glucose and Oxygen Level Screenings

The next screenings will take place December 15th & 16th in the east coat room after the 5:00 PM, 7:30 AM and 9:30 AM Masses by the parish nurses.



# Peace & Social Justice Commission



*Please*

*"help trim our tree,  
help trim our tree..*

*how lovely are thy branches."*

*In our gift to others, we remember the true meaning of Christmas,  
the birth of the Prince of Peace.*

*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.*

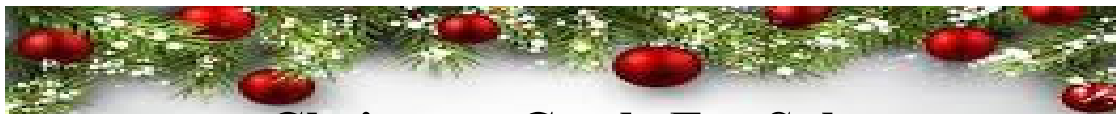
*We wish you and those you love peace and God's blessings.*

*The Good Samaritans*

*thank you for your  
generous hearts.*



We are here to assist anyone with temporary help. If you know someone from Dyer, Schererville or St. John who could use help with their NIPSCO bill, rent, or groceries, please have that person in need (due to privacy act) call 322-4505, ext. 250 and leave a message.

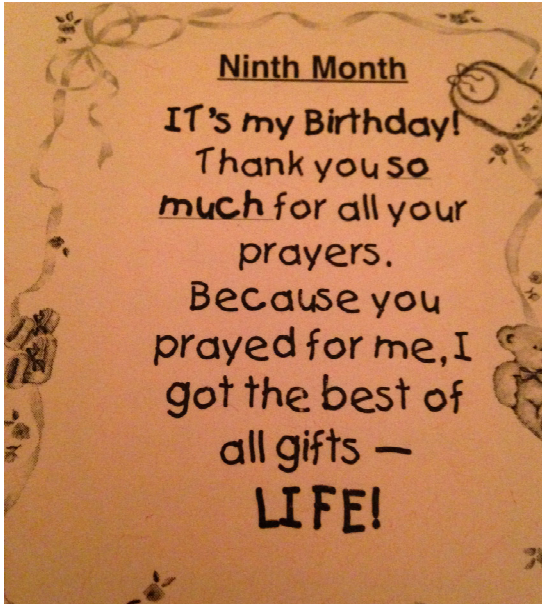


## Christmas Cards For Sale

The Respect Life Ministry will be selling Family Christmas Cards after all Masses this weekend in the Gathering Space and at the Chapel Door and on December 9th in St. Patrick Hall during the Breakfast with St. Nicholas. For \$2.00 you not only get a beautiful card to send to your family for Christmas, but their name will be entered in our Book of Intentions and prayed for at Mass throughout the year.



# Peace & Social Justice Commission



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.

In celebration of the baby's birth next month, the Respect Life Ministry is sponsoring a Diaper Drive during Advent. Please bring diapers in any size and place them in the box next to the Good Samaritan chest. The Respect Life Ministry will make sure they are donated to one of our supported organizations.

## Parish Life



**Commission Members:** Welcoming Ministry, Holy Name Society, Knights of Columbus, Festival Committee, Comforting Chefs, Senior GEMS, Boy Scouts of America

### Save the Date Commissions Night

Who: Ministry Leads

Where: St. Patrick Hall

When: Wednesday, February 6, 2019

What: A gathering of all the Parish ministries to discuss how to support each other as well as the new Synod endeavours

### Everyone Has Questions. Alpha helps you find answers.



Alpha provides an environment to explore the Christian faith, ask questions, and share your point of view. There are 11 sessions, beginning mid-January on Tuesday evenings, here at St. Michael's. Each session includes food, a short talk in the form of a video, and discussion in a small group where you can share your thoughts. There's no pressure, no follow up, no charge, and no homework.

More details coming soon!



## SENIOR GEMS

Fun For Seniors

**December 5th:** Miracle on 34th Street at Performing Arts Center at 2:00 PM. Meet there at 1:30 PM.

**December 11th:** Gathering at 10:00 AM, Book Club/games at 11:00 AM

**December 19th:** Christmas Show at Valpo Opera House at 1:00 PM. Meet in church parking lot at 10:30 PM. Lunch at Suzy's Café before show.

*There are no more tickets available for either show.*

Questions? Please contact Carol at 805-0413.



## Breakfast with St. Nicholas

**December 9th**

**After All Masses in  
St. Patrick Hall**

Have your child's picture taken with Baby Jesus and St. Nicholas.

A continental breakfast will be available:  
juice, milk, cereal, donuts, bagels

Good will offerings accepted.

See You There!



## Bulletin Schedule for the Advent/Christmas Seasons

### Bulletin Date

Dec. 9th  
Dec. 16th  
Dec. 23rd  
Dec. 30th  
Jan. 6th

### Article Deadline

Dec. 3rd by noon  
Dec. 10th by noon  
Dec. 12th by noon  
Dec. 19th by 9:00 AM  
Dec. 27th by noon

## Registration for New Parishioners

There will be no parish registration during the month of December. You may register at the parish office Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. We ask that you have the **dates and places of Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation and Marriage** for all members of the family. If you have any questions please call Debbie at the parish office 322-4505, ext. 225.

## Changing Your Address

If you will be moving, we ask that you contact the parish office at your earliest convenience to inform us of your new address and phone number. If you will be leaving the parish and do not wish to be included in future mailings, please let us know that as well. Thank you in advance for being good stewards.

## Can You Please Help?

Because of the repairs going on in the church, extra hands are needed to clean the church on Friday afternoons around 2:00 PM to get our worship space ready for weekend Masses. Please call the parish office for more details.



## Making Christmas a Little Brighter for Foster Children

The Lake County Department of Child Services will be hosting a Christmas Party for foster children in our area on December 15th. They are looking for Christmas wrapping paper to wrap gifts for young children as well as \$5 gift cards to local eateries for tweens and teens in the Lake County Foster Care system. If you are able to meet this need, please contact Maria Dahn at 219-512-5957 or mariadahn@yahoo.com, and she will be happy to collect any wrapping paper or gifts you may be willing to donate to this very worthy cause. **All donations must be in by December 2nd.** Please consider a small donation to make a child's life a little brighter this Christmas. Thank you and God bless.

*Submitted by Maria Dahn*



## Thank You Reception

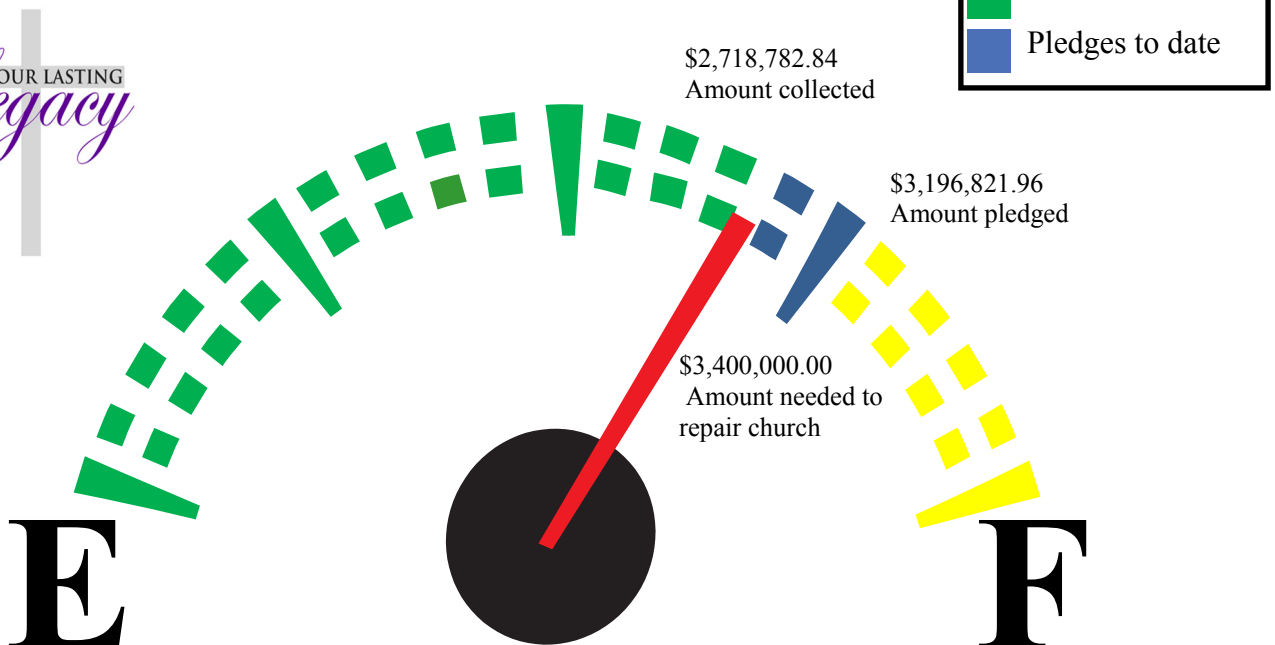


For all St. Michael Parish volunteers (Festival, School, Faith Formation, etc.), Liturgical Ministers, Parish Ministries, Council/Commission Advisory Boards, and Parish & School Staff

**Thursday, December 27th**  
**6:00-9:00 PM in St. Patrick Hall**

Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served. Please RSVP by Dec. 24th at noon to the parish office, 322-4505, ext. 220.

## Capital Campaign Totals as of November 23, 2018



## From the Communications Department

### Construction Update

It was previously reported that the primary interior worksite would be shifting from the west side of the church, to the east; however, plans have changed in order to better facilitate holiday events. Work will now be conducted on other less invasive projects instead and there shouldn't be any plastic sheeting for Christmas. Thank you for your continued patience and understanding. For more detailed information, please visit our website.

## Stewardship & Parish Administration Commission

**Commission Members:** Finance Council, Gardener Ministry, Education Foundation, Cemetery Committee

Thank you for your generous support to the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development! As a parish, we raised \$4,510.18 to support those on the margins who are living in poverty in the United States. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Visit [www.usccb.org/nationalcollections](http://www.usccb.org/nationalcollections) and click on "How to Give" on the left.



### Christmas Flower Envelopes

A reminder that "Christmas Flower Offering" envelopes are due today if you wish to have your intentions printed in the December 23rd bulletin.

## The First Sunday of Advent Stewardship: A Way of Life

### ON GUARD

The author of Saint Mark's Gospel was what we call a straight shooter. His writing style is plain, with no elaboration or sophistication. In today's Gospel reading, he gets right to the point: be on your guard; stay awake; the Lord must not find you asleep when He arrives. Advent comes from the Latin word *advenire*, which means "to come to." The season of Advent, then, is a time to think about and to reflect on three advents in particular: God's coming into the world as a human child, God's coming into our world today, and God's glorious coming at the end of time. These reflect three promises: God's promise to bring salvation to all people, Jesus' promise to be with those who follow Him, and Jesus' further promise to return at the end of time. It is not enough simply to admire Jesus and be impressed by what He says. We are asked to take the extra step and follow the way of discipleship. We do not know where the path of discipleship will lead us, or when Christ Himself will return. In the meantime we are the gatekeepers, the stewards, and the ones left in charge. Our responsibility is to stay alert and focused, even when others seem to be asleep or distracted, so that we are ready to welcome Christ into the world when He comes again. We are also asked to be attentive to the coming of God into our lives today: in the sacrament of Christ's Body; in the unlikely guise of the homeless, the hungry, the prisoner, the addict in whom Christ appears before us; and in the Spirit who is within us. We are urged to live with hope in our hearts for Christ's final return. If you have young children, make a Jesse tree or use an Advent calendar, preferably one with Advent rather than Christmas themes. Find more information on both at [www.catholicculture.org](http://www.catholicculture.org).

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# Stewardship & Parish Administration Commission

## Stewardship Challenge

Strengthen your hearts, be ready for His coming. Choose to speak words of kindness, even when angry. Apologize for any wrongdoings. Light your first advent candle.

## Weekly Schedule

### **SUNDAY DECEMBER 2**

Advent Blue Books Available After All Masses  
Christmas Cards Sale After All Masses  
RCIA 9:30 AM  
Children with Special Needs Christmas Party 2:00 PM

**Rosary is said after 7:00 AM Weekday**  
**Mass Except Tuesday – after OLPH Devotions**

### **MONDAY DECEMBER 3**

Centering Prayer 6:00 PM  
Advent Evening Prayer 7:00 PM

### **TUESDAY DECEMBER 4**

OLPH Devotions 7:30 AM  
Labors of Love 10:00 AM  
Children's Choir Practice 3:15 PM  
Good Shepherd/Traditional Classes 6:00 PM

### **WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 5**

Eucharistic Adoration 1:00-6:00 PM  
Traditional Classes 6:00 PM  
Good Samaritans' Meeting 6:30 PM

### **THURSDAY DECEMBER 6 ST. NICHOLAS**

Choir/Cantor Practice 7:00 PM

### **FRIDAY DECEMBER 7**

Cleaning of the Church 2:00 PM  
Bell Choir Practice 5:30 PM  
Holy Day Vigil Mass 7:00 PM

### **SATURDAY DECEMBER 8 IMMACULATE**

### **CONCEPTION**

Holy Day Mass 8:00 AM  
Confessions 3:30-4:30 PM  
RADIATE Oplatki Sales After Vigil Mass  
Blessing of Calendars at Vigil Mass

## STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE



### **November 18, 2018**

Adult	\$19,195.00
EFTs*	\$3,220.00
Children	\$56.10
Loose	\$1,205.61

**Total Weekly Offering**  
**\$23,676.71**

### **November 25, 2018**

Adult	\$14,004.85
EFTs*	\$1,540.00
Children	\$38.35
Loose	\$906.86

**Total Weekly Offering**  
**\$16,490.06**

*\*Electronic Funds Transfer*

## EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Please consider supporting our education endeavors at St. Michael Parish through the

**St. Michael Education Foundation**  
**with a Memorial Donation.**

Your gift will be listed here and acknowledged to the family or individual you memorialize.

Living Memorial - Anniversary Memorial -  
Deceased Memorial

### **Directors of the Foundation**

Rev. Martin J. Dobrzynski, Pastor  
Colleen Kennedy, Principal

Kenneth Bohling, Patrick Cusick, Don Doffin,  
David Jarzombek, Hal Slager, Joe Townsend,  
Dr. Ed Udani, Donna Velez

Look for us on the website: [www.stmichaelparish.life](http://www.stmichaelparish.life).

## ANDREAN EVENTS.

### Schedule Your Shadow Day Now!

Contact Andrean's Director of Enrollment Management, Mr. Jim Nohos, at 219-887-5959, ext. 260 to schedule your visit today!

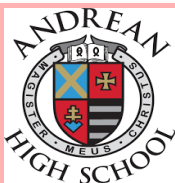
### Upcoming Admissions Events

**Every Wednesday:** Parent Tours of Andrean High School, 9:00 - 10:00 AM

**December 9th:** Entrance Exam 1:00 - 4:30 PM

**December 13th:** Parent Information Night 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Pre-register for an event by visiting [andreanhs.org/rsvp](http://andreanhs.org/rsvp).



## BNI OPEN HOUSE

Families considering a Bishop Noll Institute education can attend an Open House, 6:00 to 8:00 PM on **Dec. 6th** to see the school in action. Bishop Noll, a Catholic college preparatory high school, is located at 1519 Hoffman St., Hammond.

Attendees can tour the school, meet current students, teachers and coaches and learn how Noll educates students in mind, body and soul. For more information, contact Director of Admissions Jeff Stur at [jstur@bishopnoll.org](mailto:jstur@bishopnoll.org) or call (219) 932-9058, ext. 1008, or visit [bishopnoll.org](http://bishopnoll.org).



## COOKIE WALK & CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

St. Andrew Women's Guild is having their annual Christmas Cookie Walk & Craft Bazaar on **Dec. 8th**, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM in *Ameling Hall*, 801 W. 73rd Ave., Merrillville.



## \*SPRED MEETING

Advent is a time of waiting. The SPRED program at *St. Mary*, 525 Broad St., Griffith is waiting to begin. An informational gathering will take place for adults who live with people, of any age, with a developmental, intellectual, or learning disability. SPRED is a faith development program that will extend a lifetime. St. Mary is the first parish in the Gary Diocese to welcome SPRED. Other parishes are invited to come and learn more about this ministry. Join Monica, Drew and Rosemary on **December 12th** at 6:30 PM. This is an informational meeting, not a commitment. SPRED is different from religious education programs. It is a small faith community model. Come and discover what it is. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Sivek at [e.sivek@sbcglobal.net](mailto:e.sivek@sbcglobal.net).

## POLISH ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS

A program on "Polish Advent and Christmas Customs" will be presented by Fr. Walter J. Rakoczy at 5:00 PM on **Dec. 12th** and repeated at 2:00 PM on **Dec. 16th** at the *Michigan City Public Library*, 100 E. 4th St. Admission is free and open to the public. For reservations and more information, please call Theresa Child at 219-464-1369 or Robin Kohn at 219-873-3049.



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## STM CAREER NETWORKING GROUP

On **Dec. 12th**, 7:00-8:30 PM, at *STM Weis Center*, 8635 Calumet Ave., Munster, Marlene Murphy, youth business engagement specialist from Work One, will present a free seminar, "Resources for Young Adults," for those ages 16-24. Adult services will also be available at this meeting.

## COOKIE SALE

St. Stephen Martyr Women's Club is having a cookie sale the weekend of **Dec. 15th/16th**, after all Masses. *St Stephen Martyr* is located at 5920 Waite St., Merrillville.



## \*CHRISTMAS CANTATA

A Christmas Cantata, *Invitation to a Miracle* by Joseph M. Martin, will be performed by the Queen of All Saints Contemporary Choir under the direction of Stephanie Sobecki at *St. Mary the Immaculate Conception Church*, 400 W. Tenth Street, Michigan City on **December 16th** at 3:30 PM. Joyful sounds abound in this Christmas gift of music. Through poetic narration, scripture passages and creatively arranged carols, the timeless story of the birth of Christ is presented. Gathered around the wonders of Jesus' birth, this cantata journeys from the miracle of prophecy to the incarnation and proclamation of this significant moment. Admission is free.



## \*LOVING OUTREACH TO SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE

If you are coping with the loss of a loved one due to suicide, contact LOSS and begin the healing process. Please call 312-655-7281 for a meeting schedule and locations. This group offers help for adults in a nonjudgmental environment.

# — We Remember . . . We Prepare . . . —



<b><u>SATURDAY DECEMBER 1</u></b>		<b><u>THURSDAY DECEMBER 6 ST. NICHOLAS</u></b>	
5:00 PM	✠Tom Kudzia	7:00 AM	All Souls
<b><u>SUNDAY DECEMBER 2</u></b>		<b><u>FRIDAY DECEMBER 7</u></b>	
7:30 AM	St. Michael Parish	7:00 AM	Intentions of the Paswinski Family
9:30 AM	✠Frank Sink	7:00 PM	✠Dolores & Rupert Leluga
	✠Pauline Coniglio		
	✠Daniel "Bud" Ruf		
11:30 AM	✠Joan & Joseph Dobrowolski	<b><u>SATURDAY DECEMBER 8 THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION</u></b>	
<b><u>MONDAY DECEMBER 3</u></b>		8:00 AM	✠Robert & Leone Zaborske
7:00 AM	All Souls	5:00 PM	✠Rose Zych
7:00 PM	Advent Prayer Service	<b><u>SUNDAY DECEMBER 9</u></b>	
<b><u>TUESDAY DECEMBER 4</u></b>		7:30 AM	✠Elaine Balcerzak
7:00 AM	✠Beverly Mullaney	9:30 AM	✠Lucinda Andreshak
<b><u>WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 5</u></b>			✠Donald Broderick
7:00 AM	All Souls		✠Julia Grish
8:55 AM	✠Melissa Thompson	11:30 AM	St. Michael Parish
		✠indicates deceased	



## reflections...

### THE WORD

*(Readings for December 9th, Second Sunday of Advent)*

I. *Baruch 5:1-9*

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and be glad! The glory of God will shine upon you. The mountains and valleys will become a level plain. "God is leading Israel in joy."

II. *Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11*

Paul prayed for the Philippians that the good work begun in them may be "filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ."

III. *Luke 3:4,6*

The word of God was spoken to John the Baptizer. From that time on he went about proclaiming a baptism of repentance, saying, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

## The Parish Website

Visit our website, [www.stmichaelparish.life](http://www.stmichaelparish.life) for up-to-date information on upcoming events, St. Michael Catholic School, St. Michael Cemetery, photo gallery, information on all of our ministries/committees, and St. Patrick Hall and our adjacent meeting rooms.

Dear Parish Members,

Our Sunday bulletin is a primary way we use to communicate with you. The parish does not pay for the bulletin printing because of the generosity of our advertisers-many of which are our own parish members. Most are members of our local community. Please support our advertisers with your patronage. Let the business owner know that you appreciate their support of our parish through their advertising in the bulletin.

***A strong and vibrant parish is good for our community  
and a strong business community is good for our parish.***

If you would like to advertise in our bulletin, please call Barbara at 219-427-4803.



# INFORMATION PAGE FOR J.S. PALUCH

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