

WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

December 14, 2025

Third sunday of
ADVENT



“Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.” Mathew 11:4-5



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 AM-3:00 PM

EUCARISTIC 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

9:00 AM. Holidays have exceptions.

Please submit potential bulletin articles by email to

bulletin@stmichaelparish.life or in print form to the office or by fax to 322-4508.

MINISTRIES

If you are interested in participating in any of these ministries, please visit the website for Ministry Coordinator information.

Spirituality & Worship Commission

Altar Servers

Art & Environment

Cross Bearers

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Hospitality

Lectors

Liturgy Committee

Music Ministry

Centering Prayer Ministry

OCIA

Sacristan

Ministers of Care

Education & Formation Commission

Adult Catholic Education

Baptismal Preparation

Catholic Bible Study

Faith Formation

Marriage Ministry

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

Young Adult Ministry

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

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or by appointment

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Deacon Ron Pyle.....Permanent Deacon

Deacon Gary Wolfe.....Permanent Deacon

Justice is Balanced by Mercy. It doesn't take long to figure out that most things in life are not simply a matter of black and white. Our love and our anger falls on a scale. This scale does help us deal with the ups and downs of life lived in this world.

Sadly, we often don't apply this same reality to our understanding of God. Last week John the Baptist foretold the coming of Jesus as the one who would set things straight. He comes with his winnowing fan to separate the wheat from the chaff, and the chaff will be thrown into the fire to be consumed. This week Jesus is questioned by John if He is the one. Why? Because, Jesus' ministry was at the beginning about mercy and healing. A bit different than John had foreseen. But, God is neither just one way nor the other. Jesus does bring God's mercy, forgiveness and healing. Yet, later in Matthew's Gospel He makes it clear that there will be a judgment based on how this gift of forgiveness, mercy and healing was received or rejected.

It's not that John the Baptist was wrong, Jesus is clear that He is the "greatest born among women." What John could not see, as he was sent to "prepare a people fit for the Lord" is that beyond God's judgment, is God's mercy.

This mercy is for you and me too. And we too need to make a decision either to accept it or to ignore it. When we accept it, we begin to act out of what has been given to us. Not only do we engage in works of charity but we also engage in converting our lives to be like the One who has shown us mercy. We are merciful to others, co-workers, our spouse, neighbors, family and classmates.

This week and next, there are many opportunities for the sacrament of penance. Not allowing yourself to be touched by Jesus in this beautiful sacrament is a sadness. To know his loving voice saying, so you can hear, "your sins are forgiven," is far more real than any mental exercise we might engage in to convince ourselves of that fact. If everyone is sinless, there is no need for Jesus or all the big hoopla that surrounds His birth. But, we all need His mercy, not in some general philosophical way, but in a very real concrete way.

Penance services:

St. Michael, Schererville – Monday, December 15 at 10:30 AM – 8 priests available

St. Mary, Crown Point – Tuesday, December 16 at 7:00 PM

St. Michael, Schererville – Wednesday, December 17 at 7:00 PM – 11 priests available

Marriage Preparation. It is at this time of the year and in the month ahead that many young people get engaged. If you or someone (another Catholic) is getting engaged, please remember that you need to contact the parish office no less than six months in advance.

Fr. Robert, Deacons Ron and Gary and I are charged with the responsibility to help couples prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage. Thus, it is best to contact the office sooner rather than later. The preparation period is at least six months, so it is best to contact us nine months from the wedding date. This preparation is bolstered by other married couples in the parish and it takes time. Time that cannot be made up. The whole of six months is needed. We want to help you have a successful and happy marriage, not just a nice wedding day.

In your Christmas generosity don't forget your Parish. The ability to be generous to our family and friends is God's gift to us. Let not your gift giving fall short when it comes to God who has given us so many gifts, including Himself.

Eucharistic Adoration

"Jesus has made Himself the Bread of Life to give us life. Night and day, He is there. If you really want to grow in love, come back to the Eucharist, come back to that adoration."

- St Teresa of Calcutta



**Come and Spend Time with the Lord—Wednesdays,
1:00 - 4:00 PM in the Chapel. There will be no Eucharistic
Adoration on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.**

In the Gathering Space, there are "ornaments" for you to take and decorate. Please purchase some items to donate to our ministries and other local charities. Return the items with your ornament by December 21.



Art & Environment will be setting up the Nativity and Christmas trees on Tuesday, December 16 at 6:00 PM. All are welcome to join to help our church look beautiful for the season of Christmas.



St. Michael Parish Family, we invite you to join us in daily prayer. A spiritual journey, to enlighten our hearts throughout this Christmas season.

December 7 - 24

We begin with a Novena (December 7 - 15) to **Our Blessed Lady of the Immaculate Conception and in honor of her heavenly apparition at Guadalupe**. As we pray together, we open our hearts to the Mother who comes to us with tenderness, protection, and unfailing love.

Daily Prayers beginning **December 7** will arrive in your EMAIL, guiding you through this special Novena. If you prefer, a hard copy of the prayers will be available in the Gathering Space this weekend. We look forward to praying with you. Questions, please call the parish office at 219-322-4505.

Peace and Social Justice Commission

PRAY FOR THE SICK; LIFE IS PRECIOUS

Rina Testolin, Leo Paratore, Bob Gabor, Tim & Helen Hazard, Emelia Williams, Shirley Centanni, Jill Blesha, Jennifer Jones, Phyllis Leyba, 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.

For Those Who Have Died...

Mildred Wydrinski

Life has changed, not ended.

Respect Life Feast of the Holy Family Mass Cards and Breakfast with St. Nicholas and Baby Jesus

Respect Life Christmas cards are being sold in the GS after all Masses until Dec. 14, which is Coffee and Donuts Sunday and Breakfast with St. Nicholas and Baby Jesus. Cards will be sold for \$2 a piece or 10 for \$15. Buying a card gets the recipient entered into our Book of Intentions. These names will be prayed for at the Mass of the Feast of the Holy Family on Dec. 28 and all throughout the year. Forms will be available to enter the names of those you are sending cards to, and they can be dropped off in the GS during the month of December. Join us to have your child's picture taken with Baby Jesus and St. Nicholas on Dec. 14. You can either take your own picture for a Good Will offering or for \$5 we can take the picture for you, which will include a festive picture frame. Hope to see you there!



Good Samaritans



Can we help?

The Good Samaritans are offering a limited number of our annual Christmas Dinner Baskets to Parishioners in need of assistance.

Please contact our voice mail at 219-322-4505 extension 8250 and leave a message with your name and contact number by December 15. A ministry member will return your call to explain distribution details. We are here to assist our St. Michael Parish Family.

“Help trim our tree, help trim our tree
How lovely are thy branches.”

“May the Holy Family bless you in a deep abiding way, with special joy and gladness of that first bright Christmas Day”

In that spirit, your cards help decorate our trees and your donations will allow our ministry to continue to do the work that is asked of us. We wish you and those you love Christmas peace and God’s blessings for good health. The Good Samaritans thank you for your generous hearts.

Education and Formation

RADIATE: St. Michael's High School Youth Group Invites all Teens!



Radiate's annual Oplatki fundraiser is happening before and after all Masses the weekends of December 13/14 and 20/21 in the Gathering Space. Oplatki are thin wafers that are shared as a Christmas tradition, particularly in Poland and Eastern Europe, but all are welcome to enjoy this beautiful tradition. It symbolizes peace and unity among family and friends as they break a piece and share it with the others, exchanging heartfelt blessings.



Fri, Dec 19: SERVICE PROJECT: Caroling at Great Lakes Healthcare Center Nursing Home. Arrive at 4:30 PM
(Address: 2300 Great Lakes Dr, Dyer – right behind Dairy Queen)

Afterwards, we will celebrate our Radiate CHRISTMAS PARTY in St. Patrick Hall from 6-8 PM. Don't miss out on faith-filled fun! To join Radiate or ask questions, contact Mrs. Jeannine Quigley 219-775-5356.

Don't Forget Your Strack & Van Til Receipts!

Every receipt—big or small—makes a difference! When you turn in your Strack & Van Til receipts, our school earns funds that help us purchase school supplies, playground equipment and more for next year.

As you shop for your Christmas groceries or pick up items for Good Samaritans, please remember to save your receipts and send them in to the school or place in the towers In church. Your simple act of saving a receipt truly helps our students.

Thank you so much for your support!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Saint Michael the Archangel Parish

Knights of Columbus Council 12177

1 E. Wilhelm-Schererville, Indiana 46375

Thursday, December 18, 2025 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Sign up online: <https://www.redcross.org/give-blood.html>

Or scan QR code.

The American Red Cross's mission is to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors. This is accomplished through activities such as providing disaster relief, supplying life-saving blood, training individuals in life-saving skills, and offering emergency assistance to military families.



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HOW TO PURCHASE YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS:

- CALL PARISH OFFICE AT 219-322-4505, WITH DEBIT CARD.
- REQUEST A TICKET ON OUR WEBSITE AT STMICHAELPARISH.LIFE
- IN PERSON AT PARISH OFFICE - M-F, 9-4 PM, CASH, CHECK OR CARD (M-TH).

SCAN HERE TO
REQUEST A TICKET!

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*Subject to promotion rules.



Jubilee Pilgrimage 2025

Pilgrims were able to see Pope Leo XIV up close in Vatican City at St. Peter's Square. Pictured is Parishioner Rich Hamernik and Father Marty by the popemobile.



Pilgrims celebrating Mass at St. Clair Basilica, a rare privilege. The Basilica is dedicated to Saint Clare of Assisi and contains her remains. St. Clare was a follower of Saint Francis of Assisi and the founder of the Order of Poor Ladies; now known as the Order of Saint Clare.

Pilgrims preparing to enter San Damiano, where St. Francis composed his famous poem "Laudato si," also known as "Brother Sun." We know it best through the hymn "All Creatures of Our God and King." Unfortunately, people are not permitted to take pictures inside San Damiano, as it is preserved as a place of prayer and historical reflection dating back to the 12th century.



Pilgrims enjoying a beautiful Sunday afternoon on the Amalfi coast.



New Parishioner Welcome Dinner January 16, 2026

FOR MEMBERS WHO REGISTERED APRIL 2025 THROUGH OCTOBER 2025

WATCH YOUR MAILBOX FOR A PERSONAL INVITATION

ENJOY AN EVENING OF GREAT FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP WITH OUR PRIESTS AND FELLOW PARISH FAMILY MEMBERS

NO HIDDEN AGENDA

SENIOR GEMS

Senior Gems and Labors of Love will hold their annual Christmas party at Carrabba's restaurant in Schererville on Dec. 16 at 11:30 AM. Don't forget about the Frank Sinatra concert this Sunday at 3:00 PM at Visual Arts in Munster. Come join the fun.



LABORS OF LOVE

There will be no general meeting of Labors of Love Ministry on December 16. Please join us for our next meeting on January 6, 2026 at 10 AM in St. Patrick Hall.



Coffee and Donuts with St. Nick after all Sunday Masses this weekend in St. Patrick Hall.



Blood Pressure, Glucose, and Oxygen Screenings available next weekend after 5:00 PM, 7:30 AM, and 9:30 AM Masses in the cloak room.

St. Michael Jubilee Pilgrimage 2025





Cookie Walk

Sat., December 20, 2025

10 a.m. – 12 Noon

(Doors open at 10 a.m. sharp!)

**Descent of the Holy Spirit Church Hall
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Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



SATURDAY	DECEMBER 13	THURSDAY	DECEMBER 18
5:00 PM	+ Tom Kudzia	7:00 AM	+ Walter Zdonek
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 14 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT	FRIDAY	DECEMBER 19
7:30 AM	+ Kristin and John Finley + Monica Drzewiecki + Mela Castel	7:00 AM	+ Deceased Members of the Elliot Family
9:30 AM	St. Michael Parish	SATURDAY	DECEMBER 20
11:30 AM	+ Delores Wright	8:00 AM	+ Daniel Kuzma
MONDAY	DECEMBER 15	2:00 PM	Mrdak and Hansen Wedding
7:00 AM	Laura and Gordon Selin	5:00 PM	+ Elizabeth Oberman
TUESDAY	DECEMBER 16	SUNDAY	DECEMBER 21 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT
7:00 AM	+ Gerald and John Verdeyen + Janet Ivkovich	7:30 AM	St. Michael Parish
WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 17	9:30 AM	+ Henry Lyza
7:00 AM	+ Deacon Jack Krol	11:30 AM	+ Chester Bashorski + Geraldine Bruno
8:55 AM	+ Sharon and Dave Kras		Marybeth Burczyk
+ indicates deceased			

Reflections...

The Word

(Readings for December 21, 2025, 4th Sunday in Advent)

I. Isaiah 7:10-14

The Lord offered Ahaz a sign. Ahaz answered, "I will not ask! I will not tempt the Lord!" Nevertheless, the Lord gave a sign: "The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel."

II. Romans 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

Paul told the Romans he was called to be an apostle and set apart to proclaim the Gospel of God about Christ Jesus. He said to them, "We have received the grace of apostleship" that we may spread the name and bring to faith all those called to belong to Jesus Christ.

III. Matthew 1:18-24

Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they wed, Mary became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph decided to break the engagement. He changed his mind when an angel in a dream told him to receive Mary as his wife.

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Our weekly parish bulletin is created and managed right here in our parish office. The advertising proceeds directly support our parish. When you're in need of services for your home, please consider supporting the businesses that make our bulletin possible—and don't forget to mention that you saw their ad here!

To advertise in our bulletin, call Elizabeth Munoz, Communications Director at 219-334-8042.



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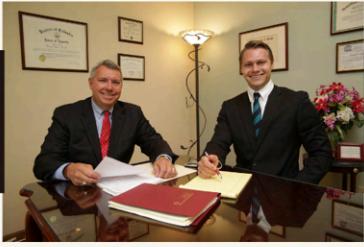
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