

WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

December 21, 2025



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary
your wife into your home." - Mt 1:20



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

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 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.

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Altar Servers

Art & Environment

Cross Bearers

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Hospitality

Lectors

Liturgy Committee

Music Ministry

Centering Prayer Ministry

OCIA

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Education & Formation Commission

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Baptismal Preparation

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Marriage Preparation

Radiate

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AV Ministry

Cemetery Committee

Parish Gardeners

Stewardship

Parish Life

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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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9:00-4:00 PM MONDAY-FRIDAY

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www.stmichaelparish.life

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Rev. Robert Ross.....Associate Pastor
Deacon Ron Pyle.....Permanent Deacon
Deacon Gary Wolfe.....Permanent Deacon

Gifts that keep giving! The feast for which we have been preparing is almost here. Americans are very good at preparing to celebrate something, whether it is the 4th of July, Halloween, or our birthday. We do well with the concept of a “one” day celebration, but feasts like Christmas or Easter are longer than one day. Rather, we pre-empt the feast by celebrating before it is really here. This leads to “feast burnout.” By the time 9:00 PM rolls around on Christmas day, we are exhausted and “over it.” How sad! The Christmas Feast has so much more to offer than tinsel and presents under the tree.



The great events of Christmas are too important to be celebrated for just one day. Indeed, the mysteries that are celebrated in the seasons of Christmas or Easter are presented to us as a series of connected feasts. What begins in the cold darkness of Christmas Eve is a gift, for both you and me, that keeps on giving during the several weeks that follow December 25. Don't give into “feast burnout.” Fight back by keeping the tree lights off for a day or two before Christmas eve. Lighting the tree after a few days of darkness is one way to certainly usher in the Light of the World.

The Christmas schedule you received last week purposefully goes beyond January 1. The schedule shows us that the feast of Christmas can more accurately be called the Feasts of Christmas. The deep mystery of God becoming a human being is celebrated in many different ways to help us more fully understand and appreciate how awesome this event is for us and the world.

Opening up the biggest package under the tree and leaving the smaller ones untouched is unthinkable. No! We open all the presents we are given. The same holds true when it comes to the “reason for the season.” The gift of God living among us, Emmanuel, is wrapped up in several presents. We open the first gift on Christmas day, but unless you and I unwrap the other gifts presented to us in the days and weeks to follow, it is nearly impossible to appreciate all our preparation. Advent is preparation not for one day, but for a season of gifts that keep coming to us. Like the song says, “On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me.... ”

Let us pray that our Advent preparations open our hearts and minds to God's gifts throughout the whole season of Christmas.

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.



That the Art & Environment Ministry will be setting up fresh Christmas plants on Tuesday, December 23 at 9:00 AM. All are welcome to come and help decorate the church for 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

Geraldine Heintz, Susan Stern, Rina Testolin, Leo Paratore,

Michelle Lamb, Tim & Helen Hazard, Emelia Williams, Shirley Centanni,

Jill Plesha, Jennifer Jones, Phyllis Leyba, Sherry Lazzaro, Pat Matz, Pam Bane, 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...

Carolyn Sojka

Rev. Michael Hoffman

Bob Hamnik

Life has changed, not ended.

St. Michael Livestream Schedule Update

Please note the following upcoming livestream schedule for St. Michael Parish:

• December 24/25

- Lessons & Carols at 11:00 PM
- Midnight Mass to follow

• December 28

- Livestream Mass at 7:30 AM

• January 4

- Livestream returns to the regular 9:30 AM Mass

Thank you for helping us stay connected as a parish family.

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE AV MINISTRY? NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY—TRAINING IS PROVIDED.
PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE AT 219-322-4505 TO LEARN MORE.

Good Samaritans

“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.



Thank You for Helping to Put Christ Back in Christmas!



The Respect Life Ministry would like to thank all of you who purchased Christmas cards this year. Your support was overwhelming as always. Also, the purchase of the cards offer recipients' intentions at the Mass on the Feast of the Holy and throughout the year. We also want to thank all of you who attended the Breakfast with Baby Jesus and St. Nicholas. We were so glad to see you all taking advantage of the photo op, having your family pictures taken with Baby Jesus and St. Nicholas. Congratulations to the lucky families who were the winner of our drawing of the Giraffe stuffed animal and 'count the ornaments in the container in order' to win handmade ornaments. We had a winner at all three Masses. We really appreciate your support as it will continue to allow us to assist the organizations that help to protect life.

A special thank you to the Knights of Columbus (especially to Fritz Priller for playing the role of St. Nicholas and those Knights who assisted us at the breakfast), the Crossbearer Ministry, and all of you who assisted us at the Breakfast with Baby Jesus and St. Nicholas. We would also like to thank Robert Hansen for providing the camera/printer set up. Our ministry may only consist of a small number of 'actual' members but there are many parishioners who will always step up to make our events successful and to them we are extremely grateful. As always, thank you for your support and God Bless You.





ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL WARRIOR OF THE WEEK KINGA KRZYSTOFIAK

Hi! My name is Kinga Krzystofiak, I started attending St. Mike's in 8th grade. I wish I started sooner. I made so many amazing friendships. I'm planning on going to Lake Central or Andean High School. I started figure skating outside of school. I have also been playing violin for a few years now. I am in a group called American Heritage Girls, where we learn new things and talk about God.

One thing that makes SMS so special is how everyone is so friendly. When I first joined this school, I was nervous, but on the first day, my classmates welcomed me. I immediately felt at home, and I never felt left out or unwelcomed here. SMS changed my life and made me like school.

If I could give any advice to the younger students it would be don't overthink things, and it's okay if you make a mistake. You should also live life being happy. SMS helped me to prepare for my confirmation and be closer with God.

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



Oplatki Sales This Weekend

Radiate's annual Oplatki fundraiser is happening before and after all Masses this weekend in the Gathering Space. Oplatki can also be purchased in the Parish Office. 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.



Radiate had some winter fun making snowmen and then warmed up with hot chocolate.

Don't miss out on faith-filled fun! To join Radiate or ask questions, contact Mrs. Jeannine Quigley 219-775-5356.

Parish Life

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Looking for a young adult community with Catholic values?

Young adults ages 18 to 35 strive to build friendships, encourage each other to live our faith, and support each other in prayer. Text or call AnnMarie Hemmerling for more info and to join our GroupMe! 219-798-3248





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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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New Parishioner Welcome Dinner January 16, 2026

FOR MEMBERS WHO
REGISTERED APRIL 2025
THROUGH OCTOBER 2025

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PERSONAL INVITATION

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

NO HIDDEN AGENDA

LABORS OF LOVE

Join us for our next meeting on January 6, 2026 at
10 AM in St. Patrick Hall.



**Blood Pressure, Glucose, and Oxygen
Screenings available this weekend after
5:00 PM, 7:30 AM, and 9:30 AM Masses
in the East Cloak Room.**



SENIOR GEMS

Senior Gems had a wonderful time at the Frank Sinatra Concert last Sunday. Our next meeting will be Jan. 13, 2026 at 10 AM in the SE Room. This will be our planning session for the next few months. Our BINGO white elephant party is scheduled for February 10. Come join the fun.



EMBRACE!

*Retreat for married
and engaged couples*

FEATURING:

Chris and Linda
Padgett

Cost: \$120 per couple



Saturday, Feb. 14
9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.



St. Paul Catholic Church

1855 Harrison Blvd,
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**Bring your bible, your
journal, and get ready
for some fun!**

Retreat includes:

- Interactive talks
- Personal time for couples' reflection and discussion
- Continental breakfast and catered lunch
- Adoration with a special blessing for the couples



Diocese of Gary
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**Learn more
and register:**
[dcgary.org/
couples-retreat](https://dcgary.org/couples-retreat)



Stewardship in Action

Invite family or a friend to join you to attend Mass for Christmas, especially someone who hasn't been to Mass in a while. Let them know how much it means to you to have them attend with you.

-submitted by Conchita Bryner

Stewardship is...



"Faithful Giving, Blessings Abound – Thank you for Your Support." To make online giving easier, please scan the QR code to donate.

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.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"
Matthew 6:21

December 14, 2025

Adult Collection - \$20,101.00

Children's Collection - \$43.25

Loose Collection - \$793.00

EFT's - \$3,115.19

Total Weekly Offering

\$24,052.44

Thank you for your generosity!

Weekly Schedule

GS-Gathering Space

SPH-St. Patrick Hall

SUNDAY DECEMBER 21

Radiate Oplatki Sales, Before and After All Masses, GS
Blood Pressure Screening, After 7:30 AM and 9:30 AM
Masses, East Cloak Room
OCIA, 9:30 AM–12:00 PM, SE and SW Rooms

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

MONDAY DECEMBER 22

No events

TUESDAY DECEMBER 23

Art and Environment Decor Set Up, 9:00 AM, Church

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 24

Parish Office Closes, 12:00 PM
Christmas Vigil Mass, 5:00 PM, Church
Lessons and Carols, 11:00 PM, Church

THURSDAY DECEMBER 25

Parish Office Closed
Midnight Mass, 12:00 AM, Church
Christmas Day Mass, 7:30 AM, Church
Christmas Day Mass, 9:30 AM, Church
Christmas Day Bilingual Mass, 11:30 AM, Church

FRIDAY DECEMBER 26

Parish Office Closed

SATURDAY DECEMBER 27

Confessions, 3:30-4:30 PM, Chapel
K of C Prayer Card Sales, Before and After Mass, GS

SUNDAY DECEMBER 28

K of C Prayer Card Sales, Before and After Mass, GS





Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



SATURDAY	DECEMBER 20	FRIDAY	DECEMBER 26
5:00 PM	+ Tom Kudzia	7:00 AM	+ Deceased Members of Drabik Family
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 21	SATURDAY	DECEMBER 27
	4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8:00 AM	+ Maragaret Kulig Charlene Soy
7:30 AM	St. Michael Parish	5:00 PM	Respect Life Christmas Cards Donations
9:30 AM	+ Henry Lyza	SUNDAY	DECEMBER 28 THE HOLY FAMILY
11:30 AM	+ Chester Bashorski + Geraldine Bruno Marybeth Burczyk		OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
MONDAY	DECEMBER 22	7:30 AM	+ Father Berg + Fr. Patrick Connolly + Fr. Biegel
7:00 AM	+ Helen Frantz, 20 Yr. Anniversary	9:30 AM	+ Ted and Marie Tokarski
TUESDAY	DECEMBER 23	11:30 AM	St. Michael Parish Marybeth Burczyk
7:00 AM	+ Pat Christenson		+ indicates deceased
WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE		
7:00 AM	+ Carol Henson		
8:55 AM	+ All Souls		
THURSDAY	DECEMBER 25 NATIVITY OF OUR LORD		
7:30 AM	+ All Souls		
9:30 AM	+ All Souls		
11:30 AM	+ All Souls		

The Word

(Readings for December 28th, 2025, The Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph)

Reflections...

- I. Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
People who revere their father will live a long life; they who obey their father bring comfort to their mother. Kindness to a parent will take lasting root.
- II. Colossians 3:12-21
The church at Colossae heard, "Put on...heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." Bear with one another. Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you. The author wrote, be thankful and "let the word of Christ dwell in you richly."
- III. Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
Joseph was told in a dream to take the child and his mother to Egypt. In that way the prophecy would be fulfilled: "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When they returned they settled in Nazareth to fulfill another prophecy: "He shall be called a Nazorean."

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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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