

Welcome to St. Michael The Archangel Catholic Community

Christmas Day
December 25, 2025



*"For today in the city of David a savior has been born
for you who is Christ and Lord." Luke 2:14*



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.

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

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Stewardship & Parish Administration

AV Ministry

Cemetery Committee

Parish Gardeners

Stewardship

Parish Life

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Comforting Chefs

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Holy Name Society

Knights of Columbus

Labors of Love

Ministry of Hope & Consolation

Young Adult Ministry

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Senior GEMS

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Rebuilding Hope Mission Team

Wheelchair Ramp Ministry

Respect Life Group

Pastoral Care

CONVENT

Congregation of Mother of Carmel

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219-322-4011

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9:00-4:00 PM MONDAY-FRIDAY

or by appointment

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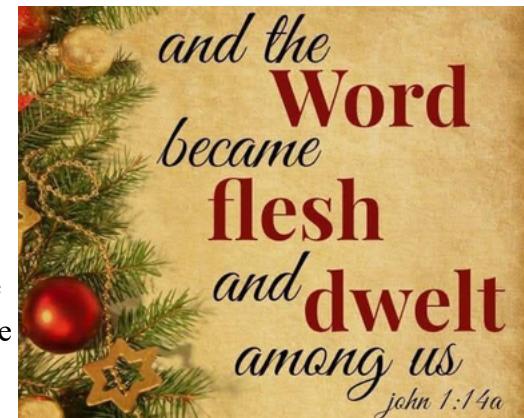
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Rev. Robert Ross.....	Associate Pastor
Deacon Ron Pyle.....	Permanent Deacon
Deacon Gary Wolfe.....	Permanent Deacon

December 25, 2025

Do You Believe in the Real Miracle? As children, it always seemed that Christmas took forever to arrive. Yet, the wait added to the mystery of the season; it was and still is intoxicating. That mystery is exhibited in the bright lights that shine in the darkness, in the relatives seen once or twice a year, that to a child were all at once familiar but mysterious. Even, from a child's eyes, that strange man in a red suit that seemed jolly yet pretty ominous added to, and still does, the mystery. The incense that blesses the manger scene, and in the songs sung only yearly but remembered like they were sung everyday all provide a context that is familiar yet mysterious.



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 — 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 of the birth of a beautiful baby. Babies are indeed miracles but this baby is the highest of miracles. It is this miracle of God intervening directly into human history that King Ahaz in the first reading today politely refuses to believe, it is too much to ask of God, the king feels. Yet even if he is unwilling to believe this of God, God still acts, the prophet tells the king.

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 intervenes. God still comes to you and me daily and it is a miracle not unlike the miracle of His first coming in Bethlehem. The call this final week of Advent is to identify those attitudes I have adopted over the years that have made me skeptical about God's presence and work in my daily life. If I see God at work in the events and people I engage everyday, I will have no doubt that He dwells with me in my flesh because I dwell in His by baptism.

When you become more aware of God's daily presence in your life, its ups and downs, life does become a thanksgiving for this great gift of God's Presence. The world can take on that mystery it once held for us and once again we can gaze upon a manger scene with awe; realizing all the more as we grow from year to year the very audacity of God who loves us so much He sets aside His divinity to live in our humanity with the sole purpose of raising us up to live eternally with Him.

Getting Married? Start Your Married Life Off On the Right Foot. It is at this time of the year that many young people get engaged. Fr. Robert, Deacons Ron and Gary and I are charged with the responsibility to help couples prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage. If you or someone you know (another Catholic) is getting engaged, please remember that you need to contact the parish office no less than six months in advance.

A Catholic looking to get married must be married in a Catholic church witnessed by a Catholic priest or deacon. If one chooses not follow this expectation, the marriage is not sacramentally valid and thus the couple involved cannot go to communion. This is because, as Catholics, we believe that marriage is a sacramental state, not just a civil one.

Thus, it is best to contact the office sooner rather than later. This preparation is bolstered by other married couples in the parish and it takes time. We want to help you have a successful and happy marriage, not just a nice wedding day.



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

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+Shirley & Vern Ballah

+Thomas Campbell

Jacqueline Mrs. Verdeyen

+Clearence Verdeyen & Lottie

+Oakley & Marie Cobler

+Jerry Verdeyen

+Jonn Verdeyen

M/M Robert Vincent

All we love

M/M Robert Volkmann

+M/M Edward Janulis

+M/M William Volkmann

+Paul Volkmann

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+George Vondrak

Mrs. Dianna Voyak

+John M. Voyak Sr.

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M/M Donald Weeks

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+Joseph & Mary Imborski

+Paul & Helen Kurtz

M/M Gilbert Wieser

M/M Craig Wilson

M/M Michael Wisniewski

M/M James Wozniak

Rev. James Wozniak

+Rudolph & Harriett Mamula

+Edward & Mary Ann Wozniak

M/M Kerry Yates

M/M John Zaborske

+Anna Kuzma

+Leone Zaborske

M/M Walter Zdonek

M/M Michael Zvyak



Want to make a difference with your musical gifts? There is no better place to share your talents than in church. No previous musical experience is required to join the choir, only a willingness to train your voice and grow together in learning the songs we sing at St. Michael. Music Ministry is also seeking skilled instrumentalists, including drummers, bass players, trumpet players, and others. If you have questions or are interested in joining, please contact: Danette Lashbrook (219) 322-4505 ext. 8227 or Joe Udani (219) 322-4505 ext. 8239



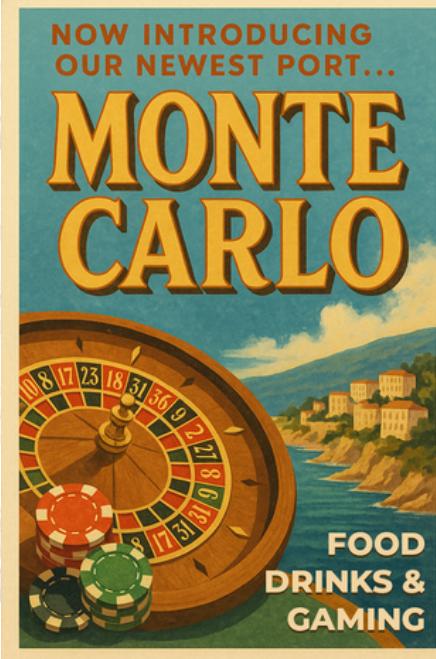
Choir
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
January 4th, 2026 at 3:00pm

*Special Performance by
Father Robert Ross*

The Ship Sets Sail...
April 18th, 2026

The Ports will be Open
for Fun, Food & Drink!

Save the Date!



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school office.

ST. VALENTINE DINNER & DANCE

Saturday, February 14, 2026
St. Patrick Hall - 6pm

Welcoming all couples & adult singles.

Buy Your Tickets Today!
Dinner, Live Music, Cash Bar &
Special Surprises.

\$60 each

Tickets are Limited.
Tickets available thru Feb 4th.
Scan Here to buy your ticket online.
For Cash or Check visit
the Parish Office.



GIFT CAMPAIGN - PHASE I - **COMPLETE!** St. Michael School HVAC Project - **\$360,000 under budget!**

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE GIFT CAMPAIGN!

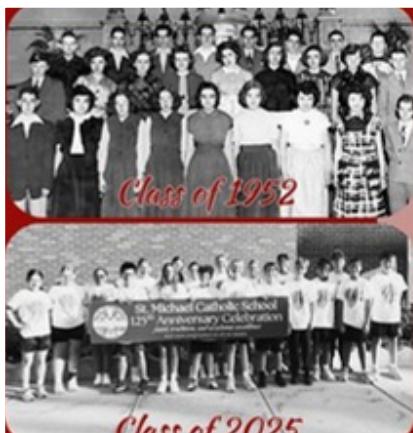
Phase I is complete—thanks to your generosity!

We encourage those who have pledged to continue with your pledge, and for those who have not yet pledged, we need your support to make the *Parish Administrative Building* a reality.

Remain steadfast—our shared commitment will bring the new building to life!



Scan to Donate!



**ENSURING CATHOLIC EDUCATION & FORMATION FOR
GENERATIONS TO COME.**



**ST. MICHAEL
EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

Your Gift, Their Future.

Gifts to the Foundation may be made at any time, in any amount—every contribution, large or small, helps build a lasting legacy.

Questions call the parish office: 219-322-4505.

Scan here to
visit the
website
for more
information.





WIN YOUR SHARE of over \$25,000*!

FACEBOOK
LIVE STREAM DRAWING

08 FEB 2:00 PM

1st Prize \$15,000

2nd Prize \$2,500

3rd Prize \$1,500

*30+ ADDITIONAL CASH PRIZES

**30:1
ODDS!**

\$50 EACH TICKET

HOW TO PURCHASE YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS:

- CALL PARISH OFFICE AT 219-322-4505, EXT 8234 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!

License #: 002572-163832
*Subject to promotion rules.



**Discover the
Difference a Catholic
Education Makes!**



Enroll Today! Call 219-322-4531
or visit stmichaelparish.life/school



2026-2027 OPEN ENROLLMENT

Beginning January 26, 2026

Educating Pre-K - 8th Grade

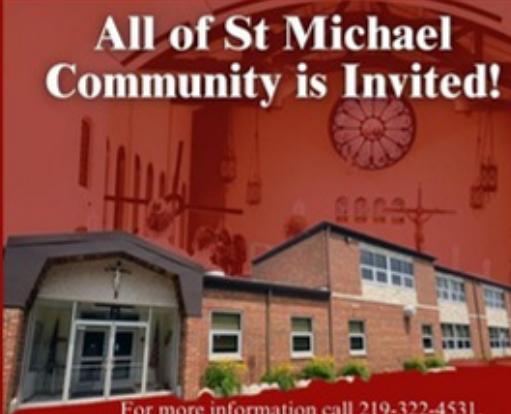
Indiana Choice Scholarship • "A" Rated Academics • Safety First Plan
Small Class Sizes • Family Environment • Full & Half Day Pre-K Program
Science Lab • Technology Driven • Middle School with Rigorous Academics



St. Michael Catholic School
125th Anniversary Celebration
faith, tradition, and academic excellence

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026
Celebratory Mass at
St. Michael Church, 11:30am.

All-Class Reunion Celebration following Mass at school.



For more information call 219-322-4531.

Hospitality Ministry

All Are Welcome! At the Hospitality Ministry, we take pride in doing a good job of welcoming all parishioners with a good morning or afternoon, passing out worship aides and bulletins, and making everyone feel at home. The Hospitality Ministry makes St. Michael Parish a stronger family and welcomes those visiting from other parishes. Contact Rob Olson 219-689-4757 to join.



Altar Servers

If your child is bored in Mass, it is likely because she or he does not understand properly what is happening. You should encourage them to become an altar server, as there is no better way for them to learn about the mass. Young people, from fourth grade through seniors in high school, are encouraged to help the priest, deacon and parishioners pray together. As ministers, altar servers participate in the liturgy, pray and socialize together and give glory to God through service.



Bell Choir

Bell choir practices are Friday evenings from 6-7 PM in the church. Anyone 4th grade and up is welcome. Music knowledge a plus, but not required. Come ring out the Lord's praise! Questions can be directed to Kathleen, (219) 613-4870.



LABORS OF LOVE

Join us in making a difference for those in need as we knit, crochet, and craft items to bring warmth and comfort to others. Bring your own project and work at your own pace while sharing your gifts with a caring community. All skill levels are welcome! Our next gathering will be on January 6 at 10 AM in St. Patrick Hall.



SENIOR GEMS



Anyone 50 and older, church member or not, can come join Senior Gems for fellowship, friendship, and fun. We meet twice a month, on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month, at 10 AM in St. Patrick Hall. Our outings include concerts, plays, theater, and lectures. First on the list, are religious locations with or without other senior groups in the area. Why not come and find out what we are all about?

Call the Parish Office with any questions and to join.



AV Ministry a meaningful way to serve and build new skills.

WE INVITE TEENS, YOUNG ADULTS, AND YOUNG-AT-HEART PARISHIONERS TO CONSIDER JOINING THE ST. MICHAEL AV MINISTRY.

This small but vital ministry helps bring the Word of the Lord to parishioners who cannot attend Mass in person due to health, transportation, or mobility challenges. Through livestreaming and audio support, you help keep our parish family connected—near and far.

★ No experience needed! We'll train you and guide you every step of the way.

Interested contact the Parish Office 219-322-4505.

NIGHT OF LOVE

FEBRUARY 27 -
FEBRUARY 28

Confession at 6pm on Feb. 27



ALL-NIGHT ADORATION

Come and spend sacred time in the Real Presence of our Lord. This annual night of prayer will be a special opportunity for our parish family to come together, uniting our hearts in adoration, worship, and intercession.

Beginning with Mass at 7:45pm on Feb 27
concluding with Mass at 8am on Feb 28.

Radiate Youth Ministry

WHAT AGE & WILL I FEEL WELCOMED?

Radiate is a place where High School teens meet to grow in their faith. It is a continuation of our Confirmation as we grow and mature in our faith and it is a place where we can:

- Express ourselves without being judged
- Feel supported & comfortable
- Deepen our faith
- Meet new friends
- Share our thoughts

WHO CAN COME?

All are welcome! We've had teens from neighboring schools and parishes join us (Lake Central, Crown Point, Munster, Highland, Andrean, Mount Caramel, Marian Catholic).

WHAT DO YOU DO?

As a teen, every year we choose our topics we would like to dive into, such as:

- Sunset & Rosary
- Eucharistic Miracles
- How to discern "what to do with my life?"
- Stress, Social Media & Friendship
- What is prayer? How to do it?
- Who is Mary the Mother of Jesus?
- Music / Games / Snacks
- Guest speakers /Activities such as bonfires, hayrides, pumpkin carving
- Videos / Small & Large Group discussions
- Testimonies / Skits
- Service Projects such as helping the Good Samaritans Food Pantry on Good Friday and Christmas Caroling at a nursing home
- Attend the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis every other year

WHEN DO YOU MEET?

Typically, we meet every other Sunday night from 6-8 PM in St. Patrick Hall.

NOTE: Check out church's bulletin for updated calendar of events and meet ups.

RADIATE CALENDAR: Radiate typically meets on Sunday nights from 6-8 PM in St. Patrick Hall:

Jan 11, 25

Feb 15, 22

March 8, 22

April 19

May 3, 17

June 5- end of year picnic (5-7 PM)





KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

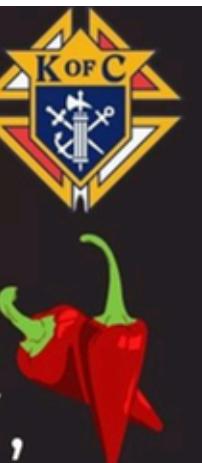


Join Us at the Annual

Chili COOK OFF

**SATURDAY,
JANUARY 31
6:00 - 8:00 PM**

St. Michael Parish Hall



**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

For more information:
CALL/EMAIL DEACON GARY 219-678-1332
GWOLFE@STMICHAELPARISH.LIFE



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 12177 PANCAKES AND FRENCH TOAST STICKS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8
8:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

ADULTS: \$9.00
CHILDREN: (6-12) \$5.00 **DONATIONS SUPPORT**
5 AND UNDER: FREE **WOMEN'S CARE CENTER**



**Knights of Columbus Council
12177**
Saint Michael the Archangel
Parish-Fish Fry

SAVE THE DATE
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27
4 PM TO 7 PM



Have any questions or are Interested in becoming a Knight of Columbus?
Email Grand Knight James Prosopolous at kofcjpsopsma12177@gmail.com

Mother's Group



Thank you for the beautiful gift you give our church by bringing your children to attend mass. Your dedication, even on busy or challenging mornings, reflects a deep and faithful love. Please know that your presence matters, your efforts are seen, and your children are treasured. May God continue to strengthen and bless you.



Questions please reach out to Vanessa Merkle at vmerkle85@gmail.com

Scan this QR code to join & for meeting dates:



Mark Your Calendar

St. Michael Parish Thank You Reception

For Ministry and Parish Volunteers

We Hope to See You!

Monday, December 29th from 6:30 pm
in St. Patrick Hall

Food • Drinks • Fellowship

Questions? Call Parish Office
219-322-4505

Good Samaritans

Feb 8 - Celebrate "Souper Bowl". Donate a can of soup to the food pantry.

April 2 - Annual Holy Thursday Food Drive
at 7 PM Mass.

Bereavement Sessions

Have You Lost a Loved One?

St. Michael Parish offers Bereavement Sessions for those who have lost a loved one. At these sessions, you will be actively listened to and nonjudgmental support will be offered as you grieve the loss of a loved one. Trained ministers are present to assist you by giving you tools that will help you move forward in life.

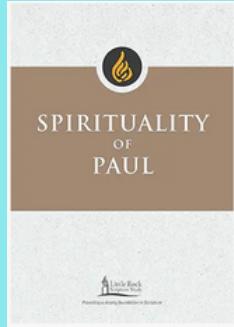
Call 219-322-4505, Ext. 8241 for more information.

Catholic Bible Study

Spring 2026 - The Spirituality of Paul

Dates: All on Tuesday from 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

- January 27 (Intro)
- February 3 (Lesson 1)
- February 10 (Lesson 2)
- February 17 (Lesson 3)
- February 24 (Lesson 4)
- March 3 (Lesson 5)
- March 10 (Lesson 6)
- March 17 (Lesson 7)



You may pay \$20 to order your book (we have to cover shipping) or you can save money and purchase yours through Amazon.

Registration: Weekends of January 10 & 11 and 17 & 18

Call Deacon Ron Pyle (219-742-8263) or

Linda Hansen (219-682-7072) for more information.

St. Michael Parish Festival 2026

NIGHTLY LIVE MUSIC • BEER GARDEN • FOOD TRUCKS • BARS & BELLS • BINGO • GAMING • KID ZONE

Save - the - Date

August 7 & 8