

WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
AUGUST 23, 2026

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

UPON THIS ROCK.

— MATTHEW 16:18 —



SATURDAY LITURGY

Vigil: 5:00 PM

SUNDAY LITURGY

7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 AM

Livestream 5:00 PM and 9:30 AM

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

219-322-4508.

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

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

SCHOOL OFFICE

16 W. Wilhelm St., Schererville

(219)322-4531/FAX (219)322-1710

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mwacnik@smswarriors.org

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krapacz@stmichaelparish.life

Director of Religious Education

Mrs. Kimberley Hoogeveen

khoogeveen@stmichaelparish.life

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1 E. Wilhelm St, Schererville

(219) 322-4505/FAX (219) 322-4508

9:00-4:00 PM MONDAY-FRIDAY

or by appointment

www.stmichaelparish.life

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pastor@stmichaelparish.life

Associate Pastor

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frzacharyg@stmichaelparish.life

Permanent Deacon

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deaconron@stmichaelparish.life

Permanent Deacon/Scholarship & Grant Coordinator

Deacon Gary Wolfe ext. 8222

gwolfe@stmichaelparish.life

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Deacon Ron Pyle.....Permanent Deacon

Deacon Gary Wolfe.....Permanent Deacon

Binding & Loosening. Getting the keys to the family car for the first time is a rite of passage. In order to be given the keys to the family car you have had to demonstrate some measure of responsibility and good judgement. It has been suggested that this rite of passage should be commemorated in some quasi-sacramental fashion. Perhaps it should because the act of receiving keys, as a sign of authority of responsibility, has deep biblical roots.

In the time of the prophet Isaiah, as is today, receiving the keys is a very practical reality. Isaiah speaks of the rejection of Shebna, steward of the King's treasury which includes the food, stores of grain, etc. Shebna is fired because he has misused his position, he has forgotten whom he is charged to serve. Thus, the keys to his realm will be removed and given to another, to Eliakim. It wasn't simply that he used his office to engage in fraudulent behavior, he forgot who raised him to such a position. In his willful forgetfulness he ignored his responsibility to care for those under his aegis.

When Peter responds to Jesus' question: "Who do people say I am?" he is able to offer the revelation that He is the Son of God. He was able to do this not because he is smarter than the rest, but because he is open to God's will/revelation. Notice what Jesus says after Peter speaks, He says: "Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father." In other words, "You didn't figure this out Peter, but you were open to God showing this to you."

Then Peter is entrusted with the keys, the authority to open or shut, to bind or loosen. This authority is given to him as a responsibility to always be open to the will/revelation of God. Not only does this authority given to Peter affect earthly reality, but also heavenly reality. Indeed, Jesus says that whatever is bound on earth is bound in heaven and whatever is loosed on earth is loosed in heaven. How extraordinary!



When Jesus gives this to Peter He gives it to the Church, of which Peter is a symbol. This power to bind and loosen, to set disciplines and rules, and the authority to dispense, when necessary from such disciplines, rests in the successors of Peter, the bishops in union with the Bishop of Rome, the Pope.

We witness this authority when the priest, who is given the ability by his Bishop, forgives sins in the name of the Church and God. We also experience this authority when the Bishop issues a dispensation from the statutes of the Church, like the Sunday obligation to attend Mass which happened in recent memory during the height of COVID.

This authority rests on the necessary obedience to God's will. The Pope cannot legislate something that would be contrary to God's will as revealed in Jesus Christ. Though one can be dispensed from attending Mass, our Sunday obligation, a Bishop cannot dispense from keeping Sunday as the Lord's Day, because that is a law of God, revealed in the Scripture. This means that we must still honor the Lord's Day with some prayer, good works, and refraining from unnecessary work. You or I cannot dispense ourselves either. That is the power and responsibility of the one who holds the Keys, the successors to Peter and the apostles, the Bishops.

The Keys to the Kingdom are not magic, they are a responsibility Christ gives to His Church, to be exercised by his Shepherds, the Bishops. It is given in order that the Church can judge the signs of the times in the light of the Gospel and so adjust its disciplines in order to accomplish the ultimate goal which is to lead us all in holiness to the Father's Kingdom.

Eucharistic Adoration

"Every Holy Hour we make so pleases the Heart of Jesus that it is recorded in Heaven and retold for all eternity!" - Mother Teresa
Wednesdays, 1 - 4 PM in the Chapel.



St. Michael Ministries

Have you considered joining a ministry at St. Michael Parish? There are over 32 ministries where you can use your time, talent, and treasure in the Name of Jesus.



Ministry Profile

Meet Tom!



Tom Molnar

Lector Ministry

Tom Molnar never imagined he would one day proclaim God's Word before a congregation. As a shy young man, speaking in front of a class made him incredibly nervous. Everything changed when a high school English teacher encouraged him to take part in a school play. That experience gave him the confidence to stand before others and eventually led him to serve as a lector—first at St. James Parish and now at St. Michael Parish.

Tom is the first to admit he isn't a polished speaker, but he has learned that being a lector isn't about perfection. By reading the Scriptures aloud at home and preparing carefully, he is able to proclaim God's Word with confidence and meaning. For Tom, it is an honor to serve such a welcoming parish family.

His message to anyone considering the Lector Ministry is simple: don't let fear hold you back. You don't need to be a professional speaker—just someone willing to share God's Word with others. Read slowly, speak clearly, and let the message shine through. Tom believes you may discover, just as he did, that serving as a lector is a rewarding way to grow in faith while helping others hear the voice of God.

Marian Devotions

Join us for a night of prayer that will leave you feeling calm, refreshed and ready for a peaceful night's sleep. The next Marian Devotion is Sunday, August 23 at 7:45 PM at Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine.

Bell Choir Sign Ups

Bell choir practices are Friday evenings beginning September 11 from 6:00 - 7:00 PM in the church. Anyone 4th grade and up are welcome to join. Music knowledge is a plus, but not required. The Bell Choir embellishes the Music Ministry at the Christmas Concert, Easter, and many weekend masses, as well as playing solos of their own. Questions about joining can be directed to Kathleen at 219-613-4870.



DIOCESE OF GARY CURSILLO

The Cursillo experience is a powerful three-day journey that helps illuminate your path and deepens your faith, offering a lifelong walk with Jesus through community, prayer and purpose.

Women's Weekend: September 10-13, 2026, at Camp Lawrence in Valparaiso. Contact Carol Slager, 219-765-8600, for more information. Or go to <https://www.cursillo.org/>.



Catholic Bible Study: The Gospel of Mark

Have you always wanted to learn about the Sacred Scriptures, but you didn't know where to start?
Join Catholic Bible Study! This year we will be studying the Gospel of Mark.

Registration: AFTER the 5:00 PM, 7:30 & 9:30 AM Masses and BEFORE 11:30 AM Mass the weekends of September 5 & 6 and September 12 & 13. Sign up for one or both sessions!

Dates: September 28 – November 9, 2026 for Part 1
February 8 – March 8, 2027 for Part 2

Time: Monday nights 7:00 - 8:15 PM

Place: St. Patrick's Hall

Cost: \$20 per session if we order books for you -OR- you can order your own book through Amazon or Little Rock Scripture. (www.littlerockscripture.org).

For more information call Linda Hansen 219-682-7072 or Deacon Ron Pyle 219-742-8263.



Rachel's Vineyard Retreat - September 25-27

Healing the pain of abortion, one weekend at a time.

Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place to renew, rebuild, and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer you a supportive, confidential, and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release, and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal, and healing.

For confidential registration, call or email:

219-552-2944 or nwinrv@outlook.com

For more information, go to www.helpafterabortion.net

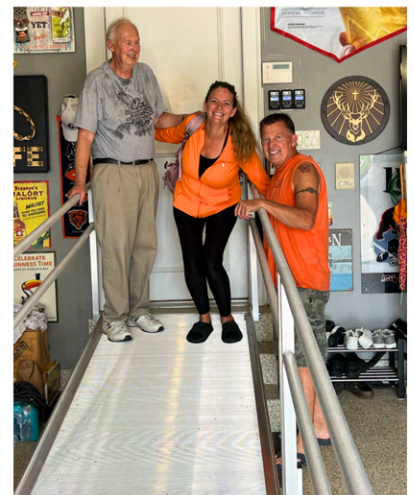
Peace and Social Justice Commission

Wheel Chair Ramp Ministry

The St. Michael Wheelchair Ramp Ministry installed its 120th ramp.

This installation was for Timothy Lacken of Dyer. He is currently under care for complications from ALS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. This was a referral from Rebuilding Hope leader, Mike Macki. Pictured on the ramp is Timothy (right), his wife Jennifer and Jim Koeling (left).

If you would like to participate in this ministry in any way please contact the St. Michael parish office at 219-322-4505. If you know anyone who may benefit from our services please have them contact Catholic Charities via email at outreach@catholic-charities.org or call 219-886-3549 and ask for Daniela Ocanas.



PRAY FOR THE SICK; LIFE IS PRECIOUS

Shannon Gallas, *Mary Jo Rymarczyk*, Shirley Lopatkiewicz, *Joan Hamnik*, *Karla Lesko*, *Allen Girnus*, Rhonda Kelly, Lynn Fesenmyer, *Audrey Weber*, *Carol Good*, *Katherine Cullinane*, *Geraldine Heintz*, *Rina Testolin*, *Timothy Bunchek*, *Tom Swanson*, *Leo Paratore*, Donna Saber, *Ken Anderson*, Ruth Sarros, *"Mick" Adamsom*, *Marlene Townsend*, Charlie Bandera, Joan Hamnik, *George Ristich*, *Helen Kwaitkowski*, Krista Bane, Gerry Scheub, *Tom Matz*, *Andy Manahan*, Jennifer Engel, 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 the Pray for the Sick List. St. Michael parishioners are in bold, italic print.

Education and Formation

Did You Know...? Faith Formation Starts in 1st Grade!

Children 6–7 years old are enthusiastic to learn, enjoy stories, games, and are eager to connect with their peers. We create an environment that builds a warm welcoming spirit, allowing room for learning and spiritual growth. The office will now be open: Tuesday ~ Thursday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

CALL THE FAITH FORMATION OFFICE TODAY AT 219-322-3077 TO REGISTER YOUR 1st GRADER FOR 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR!

Parish Life

A Time of Gratitude and Welcome

The parish extends its sincere gratitude to *Loretta DePrez* for her dedicated service as Head Sacristan since 2019. Her faithful ministry and commitment have been a blessing to St. Michael Parish.

The parish is also pleased to welcome *Rob Olson* as the new Head Sacristan. Rob has faithfully served as Coordinator of the Hospitality Ministers since 2020, and his experience and dedication will be a great asset in this new role.

Stepping into the role of Coordinator of the Hospitality Ministers is *Jared Carroll*. The parish is grateful for his willingness to serve in this important ministry.

Please join in thanking Loretta, Rob, and Jared for their generous service, and keep them in your prayers as they begin this transition.



SENIOR GEMS

Our next meeting is August 25 at 10:00 AM in the SPH. Come join the fun at our game day.



CHAIR YOGA

Chair Yoga will meet on August 28 at 8:00 AM in the St. Amand Room. Please call Ursula at 219-741-3276 to register.



LABORS OF LOVE

Our next gathering will be on September 1 from 10:00 AM -12:00 PM in SPH.



CENTERING PRAYER

Centering Prayer will meet on August 24 at 6:00 PM in the SW Room.

MINISTRY IN ACTION: COMFORTING CHEFS

Many thanks to our Comforting Chefs for your dedication and kindness in working the funeral luncheon during last week's storms. The chefs worked without power and by candlelight to serve our parish family. We are so grateful, your support means so much.

Comforting Chefs supports our grieving parish families who choose to have a luncheon in St. Patrick Hall following their loved one's funeral Mass. We prepare and serve a welcoming meal that allows them time to focus on prayers and sharing memories of their loved ones with family and friends.

We are so very thankful to all parishioners who continue to graciously donate bakery goods and sides for our funeral luncheons. All those interested in joining or donating to our ministry can call the Parish Office (219) 322-4505, ext. 8220.



Thank You to Our Parish Cleanup Volunteers

A huge thank you is owed to everyone who came out to help after the storm that passed through our Parish. All who generously gave their time helped clean up and restore our beautiful parish grounds. There were many hardworking volunteers that are not pictured!



Disaster Relief Fund Get Help : Give Hope



Recent severe weather events have left many of our Northwest Indiana neighbors facing significant challenges. As the Body of Christ, we are called to walk alongside our neighbors in times of need. Through the Disaster Relief Fund, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Gary is providing direct assistance to residents as they recover and rebuild. If you or someone you know needs help, we're here. If you would like to help our neighbors who are struggling in the aftermath of the storms, please consider a gift to the Catholic Charities Disaster Relief Fund. 100% of gifts to the Disaster Relief Fund go directly to local residents recovering from the storms. Visit our website catholic-charities.org or scan the QR code.

FINDING

Hope & Healing

A CONFIDENTIAL POST-ABORTION
BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN

He heals the
brokenhearted
and binds up
their wounds.

— Psalm 147:3 —

Have you experienced an abortion and found that feelings of grief, regret, shame, anger, sadness, or loss still linger?

You are not alone.

No matter how much time has passed, healing is possible. Join us for a compassionate, Christ-centered Bible study designed to help women find hope, forgiveness, peace, and restoration through God's love.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

-  A safe and confidential environment
-  Compassionate support from women who understand
-  Biblical guidance for healing and restoration
-  Freedom from guilt and shame through God's grace
-  Encouragement, prayer, and fellowship



Diocese of Gary

Beginning SEPTEMBER 2026

WHEN: **Sept. 3, 6:30-8:00 PM**

WHERE: **St. Teresa, Valparaiso**

DURATION: **Every Thursday, Ending Nov. 19**

COST: **Free, but will need to purchase workbook, \$16**



ALL INQUIRIES ARE KEPT
STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

To Register or Learn More

 CONTACT: **Registration Required Contact Debbie at**

 PHONE/TEXT: **219-840-0496**

 EMAIL: **drevor60@gmail.com**



You are not defined by your past.
You are loved by God.

Healing is possible.



YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.

Whether your abortion was recent or many years ago, there is hope. This study is a place to share, listen, heal, and discover the freedom and grace that God offers.

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DIOCESE OF GARY

Rachel's Vineyard

*Healing the pain of abortion –
one weekend at a time.*

Northwest Indiana Retreat - 2026

September 25-27

Confidential registration

219-552-2944 or nwinrv@outlook.com

www.helpafterabortion.net

Diocese of Gary Black Tie | White Collar Gala

Friday, September 18 from 6:00 to 10:30 PM

6:00 PM - Open Bar and Appetizers | 7:00 PM - Dinner and Program.

Live and Silent Auction, Music and Dancing until 10:30 PM. \$100 per person. Priests, Religious and Deacons attend free of charge. To register, go to the Diocese of Gary Website. For more information, please contact JoAnne Rosenow at 219-769-9292 or email jrosenow@dcgary.org.



Stewardship

Stewardship in Action

Who do you say that Jesus is? Be open to having that conversation with a stranger.

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.



Sunday August 16, 2026

Adult Collection - \$11,817.00

Children's Collection - \$20.55

Loose Collection - \$444.33

EFT's - \$2,811.91

Total Weekly Offering

\$15,093.79

Vietnamese Mass

\$1,673.00

Thank you for your generosity!

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STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

GS-Gathering Space

SPH-St. Patrick Hall

SUNDAY AUGUST 23

OCIA, 9:30 AM, SE and SW Rooms

Marian Devotions, 7:45 PM, Cemetery

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

MONDAY AUGUST 24

Centering Prayer, 6:00 PM, SW Room

Marriage Ministries, 6:00 PM, St. Amand Room

Liturgy Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM, SE Room

TUESDAY AUGUST 25

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotion, After 7:00 AM Mass, Chapel

Senior Gems Games Day, 10:00 AM, SPH

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 26

Eucharistic Adoration, 1:00 - 4:00 PM, Chapel

THURSDAY AUGUST 27

Comforting Chefs, 9:00 AM, SE Room

K of C Rosary, 6:00 PM, Chapel

K of C Business Meeting, 6:30 PM, St. Amand Room

FRIDAY AUGUST 28

Chair Yoga, 8:00 AM, St. Amand Room

SATURDAY AUGUST 29

Confession, 3:30 - 4:30 PM, Chapel

Finance Council Meeting, 9:00 AM, SE Room

SUNDAY AUGUST 30

OCIA, 9:30 AM, SE and SW Rooms

K of C Corporate Communion Mass, 11:30 AM, Church

Mass Intentions and Readings

SATURDAY AUGUST 22 4:00 PM ✚ Greg Mis	THURSDAY AUGUST 27 7:00 AM ✚ All Souls
SUNDAY AUGUST 23 TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 7:30 AM ✚ Jill Margala 9:30 AM St. Michael Parish 11:30 AM ✚ Norma Dobrzynski ✚ Departed Souls in the Congregation of the Mother of Carmel	FRIDAY AUGUST 28 7:00 AM ✚ Deacon Jack Krol SATURDAY AUGUST 29 8:00 AM ✚ Distel Merle 5:00 PM ✚ Rene Prenizny SUNDAY AUGUST 30 TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 7:30 AM Cheryl and Gary Diamond 9:30 AM ✚ Catherine Hawkins ✚ Pat Logue ✚ Andrew Panega 11:30 AM St. Michael Parish ✚ indicates deceased
MONDAY AUGUST 24 7:00 AM ✚ Mildred Wydrinski	
TUESDAY AUGUST 25 7:00 AM ✚ John Boyle ✚ Julia Drabik	
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 26 7:00 AM ✚ Raymond Pawlicki 8:55 AM ✚ Paul Van Sickle	

Reflections...

The Word

(Readings for August 30, 2026, Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time)

- | | | |
|------|------------------|--|
| I. | Jeremiah 20:7-9 | Jeremiah only reluctantly spoke God's prophetic word. He tried to hold back, but the word burned like fire in his heart. |
| II. | Romans 12:1-2 | Paul urged the Romans to offer their bodies to God as a living sacrifice and not to conform to this age but to be transformed by God. |
| III. | Matthew 16:21-27 | Jesus said, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. |



Prayer to St. Michael

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; may God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



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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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Parishioner &
SMS Mom

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