

WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

March 8, 2026

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

IF TODAY
YOU HEAR

his voice.

HARDEN

NOT YOUR

Hearts.

Psalms 95





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

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesdays

1:30-4:00 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

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

Weaving the Fabric of Our Lives. Everyday we are confronted with choices. The sum of our choices creates the fabric of our lives. That fabric is a complex weave of joys and sorrows, blessings and crosses. Over the next three Sundays we will hear about three familiar encounters Jesus has with three very different people. Each encounter reveals the fabric of the lives of those involved. Each encounter also involves the fabric of your life, and mine too.

The first of these stories is the encounter of Jesus with a certain woman at a communal well in the burning heat of the midday sun. The location of the well is telling; it happens in a region of the Holy Land that is occupied by Samaritans. These people were seen by their Jewish cousins as heretics, not really Jewish. Consequentially, they were to be avoided. But, their territory was a convenient short cut to Jerusalem. That is one reason why Jesus is there.

Jesus, as usual, does not follow all the norms of society when dealing with people He shouldn't be hanging around with. Jesus is like that with us. He doesn't follow the rules. He encounters us and speaks to us when we least expect, and when we would rather be left alone. Like the woman at the well, He asks of us things we sidestep with excuses. Things you or I might consider too painful or disturbing to talk about. Things we consider our "crosses." But, it is these crosses that Jesus wants to unveil for us.

Often we are confused and unable to understand why we carry one cross or another. Jesus wants to remove the veil, and enable us to realize that our many crosses are self made. That does not mean they are unimportant or a product of our imagination. Your crosses and mine are quite real, but their origin is often found in our willfulness and/or neglect. We are weak, but we often act as if we are strong. We impress our will on our relationships with other people, objects and desires. We, many times, find ourselves at odds with God's Will for us, and like the woman at the well, we make excuses and put up self-defensive arguments. "You ask me, a Samaritan woman for a drink? How can your water be more important than the water from this well. Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain but, your people say Jerusalem is the place to worship." However, Jesus is persistent with us as He is with the woman at the well.

Jesus finally trims His way through her excuses, the confused fabric that she has woven, and gets to the heart of the matter. "Go call your husband and come back." She answers in an evasive way, "I have no husband." Jesus cannot be deceived, "You are right for you have had five husbands, and the one you now live with is not your husband." He does not say this to embarrass her but to pull the veil away. The reason she is alone at the well in the heat of the midday, when no one else would be there, is because she carries the cross of being the village pariah, the despised outcast. Her feisty repartee with Jesus is her defensive wall which prevents her from finding a new way to belong to the community, to God's community.

Indeed, His removing of the woman's blinders helps her to unravel the suffocating fabric of her life that she has woven. It enables her to realize that she has a chance to be free of her cross. She goes and tells the same people who would not give her the time of day, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Christ?" She seemed different to her fellow villagers, and so they came and saw and listened to Jesus and in inviting Him to stay with them "many more began to believe." They believed that they too could be joined to God and no longer be the pariah, the outcasts of Israel.

Our willingness to look at the cross we carry, not as something foisted upon us, but as something of our own making. As "innocent" as that making might seem, it opens us up to how Jesus can help us make our cross a sign of witness, not victimhood. Certainly, the cross carried by many who long for loved ones to return to regular Sunday worship is not something anyone chooses in a direct way. Yet, many indirect choices often lead to unwanted consequences. In carrying this cross, Jesus invites you or me to look deeper. To see that it challenges us to carry the real cross, the proclamation of the Gospel, which can very well mean being rejected like Jesus. But, still with gentleness, you and I need to remind our loved ones often that returning to the Lord's Table will strengthen them as we share, with them, how it strengthens us. Like the Samaritan woman, seeing our part in our cross enables us to then see how Jesus' cross can redeem ours and this can set us free.

This act of self-examination is at the heart of Lent. Understanding that my/your cross finds its origins in my/your choices over time is not to embarrass you or me. It is to help both you and me to own it and then offer it to Jesus; for Jesus to nail it to His cross. This is the task of reworking the fabric you and I weave by our choices. The tools of Lent we use, sacrifice, almsgiving and prayer can, when used with sincerity, open us up to God's will and allows our loving Father to weave with us the fabric of our lives.

Eucharistic Adoration



“The more we receive the Eucharist, the more we become like Jesus, so that on this earth we will have a foretaste of heaven”

- Saint Carlos Acutis

**Come and Spend Time with the Lord
Wednesday, 1:30 - 4:00 PM in the Chapel.**

Stations of the Cross Ministries

Friday, March 13, at 7:30 PM

Altar Servers, Art & Environment,
Cross Bearers, Extraordinary
Ministers of Holy Communion,
Hospitality, and Lectors



From Your Sacristan's Desk

Reminder: During Lent, we do not display flowers in the church, as the worship space is meant to remain simple and reverent throughout this penitential season.



Please do not remove card from display.

COMMUNAL LENTEN PROJECT 2026 TOGETHER, WE ARE STRONGER IN PRAYER.

- Choose & Commit from the Lenten Display located in the Gathering Space.

Select a fellow parishioner's intention(s) and commit to an Act(s) of Sacrifice, Prayer or Almsgiving you can comfortably and faithfully do.

- Share Your Act(s) of Sacrifice, Prayer or Almsgiving - Submit your Weekly Action through the parish form (scan the QR CODE) or visit our website at stmichaelparish.life.



Scan Here
for a quick entry form.

Rite of Election

On February 22, Chandler Daigre signed the Book of the Elect with his sponsor at St. Michael Church. Family and parishioners continued supporting him with prayers and love as he celebrated the Rite of Election with Bishop McClory at the Cathedral of the Holy Angels in Gary. Chandler is beginning the final preparations for his Easter Vigil Baptism.



St. Michael Resurrection Choir

St. Michael Parish is forming a Resurrection Choir to sing for funerals. Members will be notified by email when a funeral is scheduled, and those who are available will come to sing and respond to the prayers of the Mass. The family chooses music from what is already known here at St. Michael, so there is no rehearsal for this choir. No prior choir experience is needed, only a willing heart. Funerals at St. Michael Parish are usually at 10:30 AM. If you are interested, please call Danette Lashbrook at 219-322-4505 ext. 8227 with your name and phone number. Thank you for your willingness to be the voice of God for families at this difficult time.



Mark Your Calendar

Experience the Living Stations of the Cross
Presented by the
St. Michael School
8th Graders, Wednesday,
April 1 at 6:30 PM
in the Church.

Peace and Social Justice Commission

PRAY FOR THE SICK; LIFE IS PRECIOUS

Jim Morehouse, *Dave Andrews*, Sandra Walker, *Tom Matz*, *Pamela Matonovick*, Shirley Miller, *Carol Clark*, Lynn Fesenmyer, *Pat Moore*, *Marlene Townsend*, Dennis Walker, *Carole Schiessle*, *Sherry Lazzaro*, Michael Young, *Susan Stern*, *Rina Testolin*, *Geraldine Heint*, *Leo Paratore*, Sherrie Marrotta, *Tim & Helen Hazard*, Karen Velgos, *Kimberly Hoogeveen*, Emelia Williams, Jennifer Engle, *Shirley Centanni*, Jill Plesha, *Jennifer Jones*, Phyllis Leyba, *Pat Matz*, *Pam Bane*, Krista Bane, *Dave and Jo Brown*, Nicole Villanueva, Rose Ilgin, *Ken Anderson*, Ruth Marie Sarros, *George Ristich*, Soledad Salinas, Joan Hamnik, *Tim Bunchek*, Joe Kruzan, *Tom Boney*, *Michelle Lamb*, 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.*

WHAT A SUPER RESPONSE!

The Good Samaritans wish to thank our Parish family for their overwhelming and generous response to our "Souper Bowl" appeal. You have filled our shelves, which will provide those in need with a warm meal. We appreciate your support of our Ministry and less fortunate neighbors. You are our St. Michael Champions! For your kind sharing, we sincerely thank you and wish you God's richest blessings!

Education and Formation



ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL WARRIOR OF THE WEEK ANTHONY HOPKINS

My name is Tony Hopkins, and I have been at St. Michael's since 5th grade. That means this is my 4th year at this school. During my time at St. Michael's, I grew in faith and had a lot of fun here. I also plan on attending Andean for high school. While I was here, I also participated in some clubs and sports. When I was in 6th grade, I participated in chess club, cross country, and track.

What makes St. Michael's special is that it is a smaller school than most other schools. This has given me the chance to get to know almost everybody in my class, and I have built strong friendships with people. St. Michael's also does service hours which encourages people to help others without expecting anything in return.

My advice to younger students at St. Michael's is to always finish and turn in assignments on time. Just one missing assignment could potentially ruin your grades for the rest of the quarter. I also recommend not procrastinating on assignments. Waiting until the last minute on assignments could cause assignments to be missing, late, or incomplete.

Being at St. Michael's helped me grow as a disciple of Jesus because I didn't even believe in God before coming here. There is also religion as a subject which helped me learn about the Catholic faith. Since St. Michael's is a small school, I got to know people in my class more. This helped me become a better friend than I was before. St. Michael's also helped me be a better family member. I started to help my mom and my grandparents at home without being asked to.

Even though I will be moving on to high school, St. Michael's School will always hold a special place in my heart.

ALL ABOARD

Passport to Our Heritage 26

Food • Drinks • Monte Carlo • Silent Auction



Saturday, April 18 | 6PM–Midnight
St. Michael School Gym | 21+

INTERESTED IN BECOMING
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RENEE SCEARCE.

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

All High Schoolers are invited to come to Radiate! We have a lot of fun with each other and it's a great place of support as you journey through life becoming closer to Jesus. We can't wait to meet you!

Our next gathering is Sunday, March 8: "BALANCING LIFE WITH FAITH" Night.

Meet in St Patrick Hall 6-8 PM.



**OPEN TO ALL 8th GRADERS &
ALL HIGH SCHOOLERS:**

Our next CHOIR PRACTICE will be held
5-6 PM in the church on Sunday, March 22.

After practice, come "RADIATE" with us
6-8 PM in SPH! We will sing in the choir on
Sun, March 29 at the 11:30 AM Mass. Please
come at 11:00 AM to warm up.

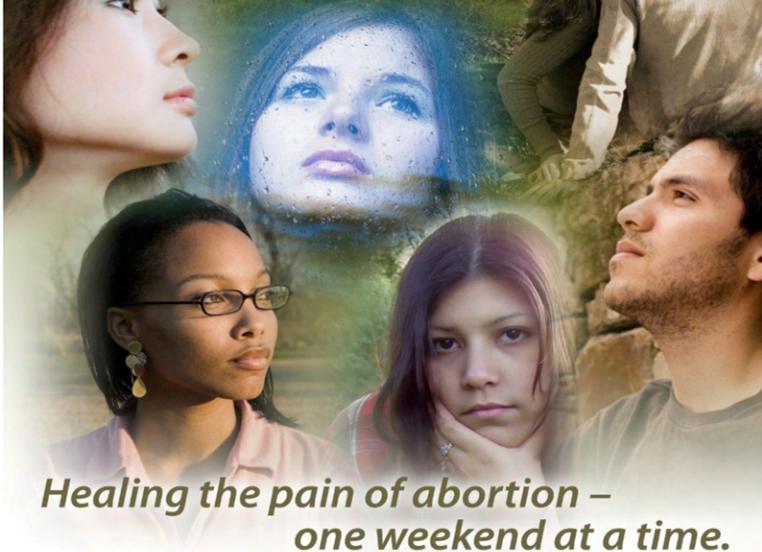
Parish Life

Your Gifts, Expertise and Enthusiasm Are Needed!

For our parish to function well, your gifts and talents are needed. We are seeking members for six important councils and committees: the Parish Pastoral Council, Finance Council, St. Michael School Advisory Committee, Home and School Committee, Sports Advisory Committee, and Faith Formation Advisory

Committee. There are no nominations or elections. Members are chosen through a process of DISCERNMENT, just as the Apostles chose those who would help them. The discernment process is simple and even enjoyable. Interested parishioners attend two Wednesday evenings, **March 11 and March 18**, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. Participation in both evenings are required. Interested? Please call Deacon Gary at 219-322-4505, ext. 8222, or email gwolfe@stmichaelparish.life to reserve your place. Reservations help ensure we have enough materials for everyone. Sessions will be held in St. Patrick Hall.

Rachel's Vineyard



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

Northwest Indiana Retreats for 2026

April 17-19 and September 25-27

Confidential registration

219-552-2944 or nwinrv@outlook.com

www.helpafterabortion.net

CENTERING PRAYER

The next Centering Prayer Meeting will be on Monday, March 9 at 6:00 PM in the SW Room.

SENIOR GEMS

Join us for our next meeting on Mar 10, at 10 AM in the SE Room for fun and friendship.

CHAIR YOGA

Join Us for Chair Yoga, March 13 at 8 AM in the St. Amand Room. Call Ursula 219-741-3276 to register.

LABORS OF LOVE

Our next gathering will be on Tuesday March 17, 10:00 PM - 12:00 PM, in SPH

BLOOD DRIVE



Knights of Columbus Blood Drive
Thursday, March 12, 12-5 PM,
in St. Patrick Hall



Knights of Columbus Family of the Month Award

Sue Cohen has been a parishioner at St. Michael since 1977. Sue volunteered for the Good Samaritans food pantry in 2007. As of 2017, Sue currently organizes and oversees the Good Samaritans ministry. The Good Samaritans provide food and monetary assistance to those who are in need in our parish and community. On behalf of the St. Michael Knights of Columbus, we want to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for Sue's dedication and commitment to serving others with the Family of the Month Award!

Next Weekend After Mass



Coffee and Donuts after all Sunday Masses in St. Patrick Hall.



New Member Registration Sunday after 7:30 AM and 9:30 AM Masses in St. Patrick Hall.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

Haifa
Tiberias
Nazareth
Bethlehem
Jerusalem

Hosted by
FR. MARTIN DOBRZYNSKI
and
FR. GREGORY BIM-MERLE

10 DAYS: OCTOBER 27 - NOVEMBER 5, 2026



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St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church
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Tel: (219) 322-4505 ext. 8233
Email: fmartyd@stmichaelparish.life

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NAWAS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, INC.

Renewing the Heart of the Servant

Renovando el Corazón del Servidor



SUNDAY, MARCH 15

4-7 p.m.

Pastoral Center

9292 Broadway

Merrillville, IN 46410

Retreat Leader:

Rev. Cesar Cajetan Arras, CR,
Order of Clerics Regular

A spiritual retreat to uplift and rejuvenate a ministry leader's heart and soul.

Un encuentro espiritual para elevar y renovar el corazón y el alma de un líder ministerial.

Bilingual retreat with potluck dinner to follow.

El retiro será bilingüe y habrá una cena comunitaria para compartir.



Diocese of Gary
dcgary.org

Register
Inscríbase

dcgary.org/renew





Leadership Formation Opportunities

March 2026

Events are open to all!

March 4 - March 25: *Catechism Series on Prayer*
6:30 - 8 p.m., Pastoral Center, Merrillville

March 15: *Renewing the Heart of the Servant*
4 - 7 p.m., Pastoral Center, Merrillville

¡También en español!

March 21: *Faith and Politics*
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Pastoral Center, Merrillville

¡También en español!

March 24: *Accompaniment 101 (Listen, Teach, Send)* 6 - 8 p.m., Pastoral Center, Merrillville

March 28: *La enseñanza y predicación de nuestra fe* 7 p.m., St. Margaret Mary, Hammond

Only in Spanish!

For more information and to register visit:
dcgary.org/leadership

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Stewardship in Action

Invite a friend to join you at
Stations of the Cross.



"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.



March 1, 2026

Adult Collection - \$17,203.00
Children's Collection - \$44.00
Loose Collection - \$481.00
EFT's - \$3,102.69

**Total Weekly Offering
\$20,830.69**

**Vietnamese Mass
\$2,029.00**

Thank you for your generosity!



PARISH GARDENERS

The Parish Gardening Ministry will be
holding a seed sale after all the Masses the
weekend of March 14/15 in the Gathering
Space. They will be offering a wide variety
of flower, vegetable and herb seeds.
Additionally, some seed starting supplies
will be available to get those seeds started
off right. All seed packets are only \$1, cash
only. Start planning your garden now!

Weekly Schedule

GS-Gathering Space

SPH-St. Patrick Hall

SUNDAY MARCH 8

OCIA, 9:30 AM, SE and SW Rooms
Faith Formation Sunday Class, 9:30 AM, SMS and Gym
"Do This in Memory of Me" Mass, 11:30 AM, Church
Radiate, 6:00 PM, SPH

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

MONDAY MARCH 9

Centering Prayer, 6:00 PM, SW Room
Adult Education Program, 7:00 PM, SPH
125th Anniversary Committee Meeting, 7:00, SE Room

TUESDAY MARCH 10

Senior Gems, 10:00 AM, SE Room
Faith Formation, 6:00 PM, SMS and Gym
Catholic Bible Study, 7:00 PM, SPH

WEDNESDAY MARCH 11

Eucharistic Adoration, 1:30 - 4:00 PM, Chapel
Children's Choir, 3:30 PM, SMS Library
Faith Formation, 6:00 PM, SMS and Gym
Discernment I, 7:00 PM, SPH

THURSDAY MARCH 12

K of C Blood Drive, 12:00 PM, SPH
Music Ministry Practice, 7:00 PM, Church
Unbound, 7:00 PM, SPH Room

FRIDAY MARCH 13

Chair Yoga, 8:00 AM, St. Amand Room
Respect Life Meeting, 1:30 PM, SE Room
Stations of the Cross, 12:00 PM and 7:30 PM, Church
OCIA, 5:00 PM, SPH
Bell Choir Practice, 6:00 PM, Church
Radiate Volleyball, 6:30 PM, Gym

SATURDAY MARCH 14

OCIA, 8:00 AM, SPH
Confessions, 3:30-4:30 PM, Chapel
Gardening Ministry Seed Sale, After 5:00 PM Mass, GS

SUNDAY MARCH 15

Coffee and Donuts, After All Masses, SPH
Gardening Ministry Seed Sale, After All Masses, GS
New Member Registration, After 7:30 and 9:30 AM
Masses, SPH
OCIA, 9:30 AM, SE and SW Rooms
Pilgrimage Meeting, 1:30 PM, SPH
Vietnamese Confessions and Mass. 5:00 PM, Church



Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



SATURDAY	MARCH 7	THURSDAY	MARCH 12
5:00 PM	✚ Walter Zdonek	7:00 AM	✚ All Souls
SUNDAY	MARCH 8 3RD SUNDAY OF	FRIDAY	MARCH 13
	LENT	7:00 AM	✚ Maria Elia Alvarez
7:30 AM	St. Michael Parish	SATURDAY	MARCH 14
9:30 AM	✚ Mela Castel	8:00 AM	✚ Victoria Klekot ✚ Dolores Redman, 11 th Anniversary
11:30 AM	✚ Joe Hapak ✚ Gene Wydrinski ✚ Charles Bielef	5:00 PM	✚ Jim E. Doppler
MONDAY	MARCH 9	SUNDAY	MARCH 15 4TH SUNDAY OF
7:00 AM	✚ Paul Van Sickle		LENT
TUESDAY	MARCH 10	7:30 AM	✚ Philip Mullaney
7:00 AM	For an End to Abortion on Demand and a Conversion of Heart for Those Who Provide Abortions	9:30 AM	St. Michael Parish
WEDNESDAY	MARCH 11	11:30 AM	✚ Elizabeth Oberman ✚ Richard A. Benak, Sr. ✚ Charles Bielefeld
7:00 AM	✚ All Souls		✚ indicates deceased
8:55 AM	✚ Norma Dobrzynski		

The Word

(Readings for March 15, 2026, Fourth Sunday of Lent)

Reflections...

- I. 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a The Lord sent Samuel to Bethlehem to the house of Jesse, where Samuel was to anoint the new king of Israel. After Jesse presented each of his sons, the Lord instructed Samuel to anoint the youngest, David.
- II. Ephesians 5:8-14 Live as children of light in goodness, justice and truth. "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."
- III. John 9:1-41 Jesus cured a man born blind. The Pharisees became upset because He did this on the Sabbath. After the Pharisees rejected the man's story, he met Jesus again. Jesus, "Son of Man," explained how the blind will see but those who hold on to sin will remain in darkness.

OUR GENEROUS ADVERTISERS

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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O ST. JOSEPH, DO ASSIST ME BY YOUR POWERFUL INTERCESSION, AND OBTAIN FOR ME FROM YOUR DIVINE SON ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD. SO THAT, HAVING ENGAGED HERE BELOW YOUR HEAVENLY POWER, I MAY OFFER MY THANKSGIVING AND HOMAGE TO THE MOST LOVING OF FATHERS.

O ST. JOSEPH, I NEVER WEARY OF CONTEMPLATING YOU, AND JESUS ASLEEP IN YOUR ARMS; I DARE NOT APPROACH WHILE HE REPOSES NEAR YOUR HEART. PRESS HIM CLOSE IN MY NAME AND KISS HIS FINE HEAD FOR ME AND ASK HIM TO RETURN THE KISS WHEN I DRAW MY DYING BREATH. ST. JOSEPH, PATRON OF DEPARTING SOULS, PRAY FOR ME. AMEN.

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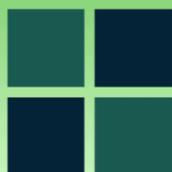


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