



# St. Michael

CATHOLIC CHURCH

310 S. Wheaton Avenue, Wheaton, IL 60187

September 3, 2023

**Most Rev. Ronald Hicks, Bishop**

**Rev. Daniel E. Hoehn, Pastor**

**Rev. Jacob Kolawole, Parochial Vicar**

**Deacon Dan Aderholdt**

**Deacon Dan Simmet**

**PARISH OFFICE**

(630) 665-2250 (630) 510-8891 (Fax)

Website [www.stmichaelcommunity.org](http://www.stmichaelcommunity.org)

Email: [churchoffice@stmichaelcommunity.org](mailto:churchoffice@stmichaelcommunity.org)

**Hours**

Monday - Thursday .....8:30 am ~ 4:30 pm

Friday.....8:30 am ~ 1:00 pm

**SCHOOL OFFICE**

(630) 665-1454.....(630) 690-1491 (Fax)

314 W. Willow Ave, Wheaton

**FAITH CENTER**

**Religious Education Office**

(630) 682-3650.....(630) 690-3324 (Fax)

317 W. Willow Ave, Wheaton

**MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday Vigil for Sunday .....5:00pm

Sunday.....7:15am, 9:00am, 10:45am

Monday-Friday.....6:30am, 8:00am

Saturday.....8:00am

Rosary recited after all daily Masses

**Holy Days of Obligation**

Vigil for Holy Day.....5:30pm

Holy Day.....6:30am, 8:00am

12:15pm, 7:00pm

**ADORATION CHAPEL**

Open Daily .....4:00am ~ 10:00pm

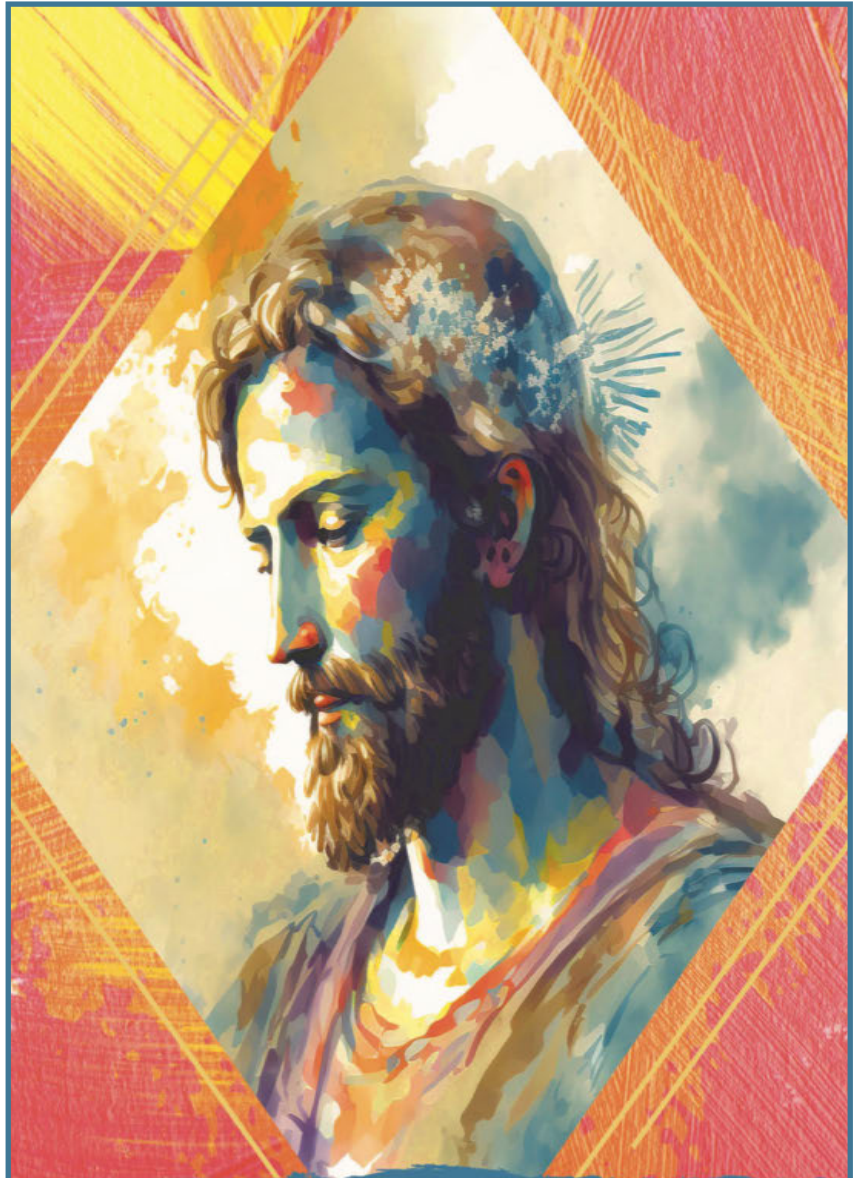
Access only with a key fob. Call Parish Office at 630-665-2250 to obtain a key fob.

**CONFESSIONS**

Tuesday.....4:00pm ~ 5:45pm

Saturday.....8:30am ~ 9:30am

Or by appointment



## 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father’s glory, and then he will repay all according to his conduct.” - Mt 16:26-27



The following is a reflection from Pope Francis on the Gospel reading for today:

“Today’s Gospel passage (cf. Mt 16:21-27) is the continuation of last Sunday’s, which highlighted the profession of faith of Peter, the “rock” upon which Jesus wishes to build his Church. Today, in stark contrast, Matthew shows us the reaction of the same Peter when Jesus reveals to his disciples that He will have to suffer, be killed, and rise again (cf. 21). Peter takes the Teacher aside and reproaches Him because this — he says — cannot happen to Him, to Christ. But Jesus, in turn, rebukes Peter with harsh words: “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me; for you are not on the side of God, but of men” (v. 23). A moment before, the Apostle had been blessed by the Father, because he had received that revelation from Him; he was a solid “rock” so that Jesus could build His community upon him; and immediately afterwards he becomes an obstacle, a rock but not for building, a stumbling block on the Messiah’s path. Jesus knows well that Peter and the others still have a long way to go to become his Apostles!

At that point, the Teacher turns to all those who were following Him, clearly presenting them the path to follow: “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me” (v. 24). Always, today too, the temptation is that of wanting to follow a Christ without the cross; like Peter: “No, no Lord! This shall never happen”. But Jesus reminds us that his way is the way of love, and that there is no true love without self-sacrifice. We are called to not let ourselves be absorbed by the vision of this world, but to be ever more aware of the need and

of the effort for us Christians to walk against the current and uphill.

Jesus completes his proposal with words that express a great and ever valid wisdom, because they challenge the egocentric mentality and behavior. He exhorts: “Whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it (v. 25). This paradox contains the golden rule that God inscribed in the human nature created in Christ: the rule that only love gives meaning and happiness to life. To spend one’s own talents, one’s energy and one’s time only to save, protect and fulfil oneself, in reality leads to losing oneself, i.e. to a sad and barren existence. Instead let us live for the Lord and base our life on love, as Jesus did: we will be able to savor authentic joy, and our life will not be barren; it will be fruitful.

In the Eucharistic celebration we relive the mystery of the Cross; we not only remember, but we commemorate the redeeming Sacrifice in which the Son of God completely loses Himself so as to be received anew by the Father and thus find us again, we who were lost, together with all creatures. Each time we take part in the Holy Mass, the love of the crucified and Risen Christ is conveyed to us as food and drink, so that we may follow Him on the daily path, in concrete service to our brothers and sisters.

May Mary Most Holy, who followed Jesus up to Calvary, accompany us too and help us not to be afraid of the cross, but with Jesus nailed [to it], not a cross without Jesus, the Cross with Jesus, which is the cross of suffering for love of God and of our brothers and sisters, because this suffering, by the grace of Christ, bears the fruit of resurrection.”



# Prayer Ministry

## Weekly Prayer

### Sunday's Readings

#### First Reading:

Whenever I speak, I must cry out,  
violence and outrage is my message;  
the word of the LORD has brought me  
derision and reproach all the day. (Jer 20:8)

#### Psalm:

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God. (Ps 63)

#### Second Reading:

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God,  
to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,  
holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.  
(Rom 12:1)

#### Gospel:

"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."  
(Mt 16:24-25)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

### Observances for the week of September 3, 2023

- Sunday:** 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday:** Labor Day
- Friday:** The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Saturday:** St. Peter Claver, Priest
- Next Sunday:** 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time; Grandparents' Day

### POPE FRANCIS' AUGUST PRAYER INTENTION

For People Living on the Margins

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

### VOCATIONS PRAYER CALENDAR September 3 — September 10

- 9/3 Sr. Maria Brizuela OSF  
Sr. Gloria Therese Cabrera OSF  
Sr. Lois Ann Cline OSF
- 9/4 Fr. Dennis Paul  
Fr. Thomas Paul
- 9/5 Sr. Patricia Dailey OSF  
Sr. Mary-Lynn Danaher OSF
- 9/6 Fr. Michael Pawlowicz  
Fr. Michael Pennock
- 9/7 Sr. Sandra Duma OSF  
Sr. M. Dominic Dybel OSF  
Sr. M. Margaret Anne Floto OSF
- 9/8 Deacon Rigoberto Padilla  
Deacon Thomas Paluch  
Deacon Lindsey Parsons  
Deacon Leonard Penkala  
Deacon Michael Perkins
- 9/9 Sr. Mary Therese Forst OSF  
Sr. M. Debrah Funfsinn OSF
- 9/10 Sr. Mary Elizabeth Imler OSF  
Sr. Norma Janssen OSF  
Sr. Olive Kabaguma OSF



### PRAY THE ANGELUS AND THE ROSARY

Join your fellow parishioners each day at noon in the Marian Grotto to pray the Angelus and Rosary to honor our Blessed Mother.

Feel free to bring a chair, if needed. In inclement weather, the group meets in the Church. All are welcome.



# Prayer Ministry

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

John Adamek	Dale Foreman	Victoria Holmen
Elaine Adamek	David Fountain	Peterson
Eleanor Agan	Connor Giles	Vicki Piccolo
Dan Bates	Brice Grudzien	Tony Pisciotto, Sr.
Josu Beruete	Giancarlo Herrera	Ray Reynertson
Peg Birt	Robert	Rita Richards
Steve Blagaich	Hoppenstedt	Margaret Riggs
Marianne Bluhm	Dawn Jacobsen	Sheryl Rutkowski
Yecenia Bosley	Miki Kern	Mike Sambo
Brandon "Bubba" Brewster	Barbara Krzyzewski	Steve Schultz
David Brummett	Margaret Kuhn	Anne Marie
Kathy Brummett	Al Liskey	Schneider
Michael B. Calamia	Andja Lozancic	Tobias Siennetts
Althea G. Dades	George Lozancic	Ann Smith
DePratt Family	Theresa Lozano	Stroner Family
Jack Dshida	Juan T. Lozano, Jr.	Dominic Thomas
Joe Duckworth	Wilma Mabilangan	Andrew Valadka
Carol Ferri	Robert Mucerino	Carole Weber
Frank Ferri	Cathy McGuire	The Wulffe Family
Teresa Fillman	Joanne Metoyer	Sr. Mary Clarine
Theresa Fogarty	Nancy Mackowiak	Young, SND
	Joan Peters	Greta Zilch

To inform us of an illness or hospitalization of a parishioner or family member, call the Parish Office at (630) 665-2250 to add or remove a name. Due to privacy laws and family preferences, the names of the sick and the deceased can only be published in the bulletin with specific consent and request of the patient or their immediate family.

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Mass Offered For

### Requested By

#### SUNDAY, September 3

7:15AM	+ Brian Hanslik	Philip & Maribeth Spittler
9:00AM	St. Michael Parishioners	
10:45AM	+ Pearl Owczarek	Mary Abel

#### MONDAY, September 4 — Labor Day

#### No 6:30AM Mass

8:00AM For the Sanctification of Human Labor

#### TUESDAY, September 5

6:30AM	+ Alfred & Doris Borter	Family
8:00AM	+ Dr. Michael I. Hussey	Christian & Mary Bautista

#### WEDNESDAY, September 6

630AM	+ John Gleason	Jake & Peggy Gleason
8:00AM	+ Carmella & Dan DeLeo	Judy Augustine
	+ Michelle Redfern	Michael & Carla Scalzo

#### THURSDAY, September 7

6:30AM	+ Philip Melovitz	Jeff & Ellen Dolan
8:00AM	+ Pat Kearney	Kathy & Bill Keller

#### FRIDAY, September 8

6:30AM	Ryan David Leslie	Anne Leslie
8:00AM	+ Sophie Zurawski	Zurawski Family

#### SATURDAY, September 9

8:00AM	+ Charles Maskeri	Kania Family
5:00PM	+ Herb Wehling	David & Joan Coghlan

#### SUNDAY, September 10

7:15AM	+ Michael Vallero	Family
9:00AM	Robert & Kathleen Zierk	Don Aldrich Family
	Family—living and deceased	
10:45AM	St. Michael Parishioners	
10:45AM	+ Pearl Owczarek	Mary Abel

Michael J. May  
 Carl Pesce  
 Carol M. Mapes  
 Raymond W. Morrill  
 Charles A. Puleo  
 Margaret S. Pratt

*Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them, and may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

For information regarding recently departed parishioners and others, please consider subscribing to email notifications from local funeral homes.



<https://www.williams-kampp.com/obituaries/obituary-listings>



<https://www.hultgrenfh.com>


# Around the Parish

*St. Michael  
Women's Faith Group*

**Fall Book Club**

*"An Introduction  
to the Devout Life"*  
By St. Francis de Sales

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH**  
9:30AM to 11:00AM  
Faith Center  
Introduction & Part One,  
Chapters 1-4



**Religious Education**  
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH**  
**Supply Day**

FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO COME TO THE PARISH CENTER (SCHOOL LUNCHROOM) ANYTIME BETWEEN 8:30-10:30 AM TO PICK THEIR CHILD(REN)'S CLASS MATERIALS, MEET THE RE STAFF, AND VISIT THE CLASSROOMS IN THE SCHOOL AND FAITH CENTER.



**Donut Sunday**

ST. MICHAEL HOLY NAME SOCIETY

**Sunday, September 10th**  
**in the Parish Center**



**ATTENTION MEN BOWLERS**

St. Michael's Holy Name Bowling League is looking for men interested in bowling on Monday nights with fellow members of our parish.

We will begin this season on September 11th at Bowlero on North Avenue in Glendale Heights, starting at 7:30 p.m.

If you like to bowl, at any skill level, come join the FUN!

Call Bill Keller at 708-602-6972.



**St. Michael Prayer Shawl Ministry**

We are a ministry of women who come together to knit or crochet prayer shawls to be blessed and then distributed to anyone who needs the comfort of God. All levels of stitchers are welcome.

**Welcome Back Fall Meeting**  
Saturday, September 16th  
9:00 - 10:30 a.m. in the Bridal Room  
Come make new friends or visit with old friends.  
We will be serving coffee and sweets



*Save the Date!*

St. Michael Women's Faith Group  
**Fall Kick-Off Meeting**  
Wednesday,  
September 20th  
Faith Center  
7:00PM

All women of St. Michael parish are welcome to attend!



# Around the Parish

## St. Michael Music Ministry Needs You!

Have you ever sung in a choir? Did you sing, but gave that up to raise a family? Are you new to the parish and want to get involved? Were you a Cantor at a previous church, but haven't jumped in at St. Michael, yet. Do you like to sing and have fun doing it?



St. Michael Music Ministry is actively recruiting new members and it may just be the place for you.

St. Michael Music Ministry has openings for Choir Members, Cantors, and Handbell players, and now is a good time to get involved. While the commitment is ongoing, big projects in the year ahead include the popular Lessons & Carols, uniting with area choirs. Music Ministry plays an important role in our parish's liturgical life. An exciting year is ahead! Don't be shy; get involved.

Handbell and Choir rehearsals begin, Wednesday, September 13 and Thursday September 14 respectively.

For more information, call Christopher Orf, St. Michael Director of Liturgy & Music at 630-462-5005 or email him at [saintmikemusic@yahoo.com](mailto:saintmikemusic@yahoo.com)

Come, let us make a joyful noise unto the Lord!



**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023**  
St. Michael Catholic Church  
Faith Center  
317 W. Willow Avenue, Wheaton  
7:00PM

Join us and hear Mary Kate Zander, Executive Director of Illinois Right to Life discuss:

- the growing trend of abortion tourism in Illinois and the greater Midwest;
- changes to Illinois laws and public policy that have opened the floodgates for more abortion travel;
- where women seeking abortions are coming from and how they're making the trip;
- risks to women's health that are uniquely associated with abortion tourism;
- what's being done by Illinois' pro-life movement to change the tide on abortion travel

To register for this FREE event, contact Vince Heaton at 630-235-3448 or [vheaton2@gmail.com](mailto:vheaton2@gmail.com)

**Wheaton Knights of Columbus  
Our Council 2601  
Continues the Tootsie Roll  
Intellectual Disability Drive 2023**



The Knights are back in force to support the effort to raise funds for Intellectual Disabilities. These children in need do not go away. They still need your help and support.

The Wheaton Knights of Columbus Council 2601 ask that you continue to make your donation to the Tootsie Roll Intellectual Disability Drive 2023 by:

Sending in a check to "Wheaton Knights 2601" at P.O. Box 525 Wheaton IL 60189



Or email:

[WheatonKnights2601@gmail.com](mailto:WheatonKnights2601@gmail.com)

A Knight will email you back to make arrangements to pick up a gracious donation.

Or, conveniently scan the QR code on this announcement and make a donation on our official fundraising page.



If you are an adult and would like to assist with our collection drive September 15th-17th, please contact us via the contact info above.

Thank you so much for your support this year. Maybe we will see you around town!

## A WORK OF MERCY

Sponsored by St. Michael Church in partnership with local Christian churches and National Life Chain

## CHAIN-FOR-LIFE

ecumenical + prayerful + silent

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7TH  
10:45 TO NOON**

520 E. Roosevelt Rd., Wheaton  
(Compass Church Parking Lot)

Signs will be provided

Questions? Contact Vince Heaton at [vheaton2@gmail.com](mailto:vheaton2@gmail.com)

# Around the Parish



Eucharist  
Beginning week of 9/18  
Tuesday mornings  
9:30 - 11:00am  
Thursday evenings  
7:00 - 8:30pm



The Case for Jesus  
Beginning week of 9/18  
Monday evenings  
7:00 - 8:30pm  
Wednesday mornings  
9:30 - 11:00am



Mary  
Beginning on 9/22  
Women's Faith Group  
Friday mornings  
9:30 - 11:00am



## Adult Faith Formation Bible Studies ~ Fall 2023 Faith Center

To Register, scan the QR code  
or contact Colleen Brodhead at  
[cbrodhead@stmichaelcommunity.org](mailto:cbrodhead@stmichaelcommunity.org)  
or 630-462-5043



Come with us! **Join Youth Ministry**

September 10th  
Apple Orchard  
Outing

Apple Cider  
Slushies,  
Cinnamon  
Donuts, & more!

RSVP to [jzapf@stmichaelcommunity.org](mailto:jzapf@stmichaelcommunity.org)

A green-themed flyer for youth ministry. It features a large red apple graphic with the text 'Come with us! Join Youth Ministry'. Below this is a group photo of youth ministry members. At the bottom, it says 'September 10th Apple Orchard Outing' and 'Apple Cider Slushies, Cinnamon Donuts, & more!'. The RSVP information is 'RSVP to jzapf@stmichaelcommunity.org'.

## ARE YOU CALLED TO TEACH RE?

Religious Ed Still Needs Volunteers!

say YES here!



while we teach, we learn too

[stmichaelcommunity.org/religious-ed](http://stmichaelcommunity.org/religious-ed)

## Around the Parish

SEPTEMBER

**Friday, September 8th, 9:30-11:00AM, Faith Center**  
**WOMEN'S FAITH GROUP BOOK CLUB** — Join us as we read *"An Introduction to the Devout Life"*, by St. Francis de Sales. We'll be discussing the Introduction and Part One, Chapters 1-4. All are welcome!

**Saturday, September 9th, 8:30AM-10:30AM Parish Center**  
**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION—Supply Day!** — Families are invited to pick up their child(ren)'s class materials, meet the RE staff, and visit the classrooms in the school and Faith Center.

**Sunday, September 10th**  
**ST. MICHAEL YOUTH UNITED — Apple Orchard**  
Come with us and enjoy a day of apple picking, apple cider, slushies, cinnamon donuts & more! RSVP to [jzapf@stmichaelcommunity.org](mailto:jzapf@stmichaelcommunity.org)

**Sunday, September 10th, after 9:00 & 10:45AM Masses, Parish Center**  
**DONUT SUNDAY** — Please join us downstairs in the Parish Center after the 9:00 and 10:45am, Masses for FREE donuts, coffee, juice, milk and fellowship. A service of the Holy Name Society of St. Michael Parish.

**Monday, September 11th, 7:30PM, Monday Nights, Bowlero Bowling Center, North Avenue, Glendale Heights**  
**ST. MICHAEL HOLY NAME SOCIETY — Men's Bowling**  
Beginning Monday, 9/11, bowl with fellow parish members. If you like to bowl, at any skill level, come join the FUN! Questions? Contact Bill Keller, 708-602-6972.

**Weekend of September 15th - 17th**  
**WHEATON KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Council 2601 — Tootsie Roll Drive 2023** — Help raise funds and support children with Intellectual Disabilities. Make a donation by check, scan a QR code on Page 6, and look for us around town!

**Saturday, September 16th, 9:00-10:30AM, Bridal Room**  
**PRAYER SHAWL GROUP** — Welcome Back Fall Meeting! Come by and see what we're all about! Skill level is beginner crochet/knitter & up! Questions? Contact Barb Loiacono at [bal5@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bal5@sbcglobal.net)

**Beginning the week of September 18th, Faith Center**  
**ADULT FAITH FORMATION** — Please go to Page 7 for details and registration information regarding three upcoming Bible Study opportunities. Questions? Colleen Brodhead at [cbrodhead@stmichaelcommunity.org](mailto:cbrodhead@stmichaelcommunity.org)

**Wednesday, September 20th, 7:00PM, Faith Center**  
**ST. MICHAEL WOMEN'S FAITH GROUP**  
**Fall Kick Off Meeting** — All women of St. Michael parish are invited to join us! Details to follow!

## Around the Diocese

To Honor the Gravesites of our Unborn Brothers and Sisters

**National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children** Saturday Sept. 9, 2023

On Saturday, September 9, pro-life Americans will honor the memory of the more than 60 million unborn victims of abortion during the National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children.

Solemn prayer services will be held simultaneously at gravesites around the country where abortion victims have been buried, as well as at many other memorial sites dedicated in their honor.

Join us for the National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children and ensure that our unborn brothers and sisters will not be forgotten.

**Memorial Service for Victims of Abortion**

*Date & Time*  
Saturday, September 9, 2023 at 1 PM

*Location*  
Resurrection Cemetery (SE corner)  
200 W. Romeo Rd., Romeoville, IL  
Gather at Garden of the Angels

*Special Details*  
Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks, bishop of the Diocese of Joliet, will preside. Speakers include Rest in His Arms founder Susan Schulenberg and Laura Reyes, who will give her touching testimony.

*Local Contact*  
Don Hrdlicka, (630) 415-6603  
[pharmdon@hotmail.com](mailto:pharmdon@hotmail.com)

Copyright © 2023 National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children, a joint project of Citizens for a Pro-Life Society and the Pro-Life Action League.

For more information on this event, visit [NationalDayOfRemembrance.org](http://NationalDayOfRemembrance.org)



No matter how much you're hurting

# No Marriage is Beyond Hope

RETROUVAILLE OF JOLIET ILLINOIS

There is a light at the end of the tunnel.

#blessedinRETROspect  
#RetrouvailleJoliet

Retrouvaille is a program designed for married couples who are struggling. Retrouvaille helps couples learn to communicate on a deeper level, and has helped thousands of couples return to a healthy, God-centered marriage.

>>> Our next weekend will be held September 8th - 10th, 2023 <<<

For information please contact:  
**Retrouvaille of Joliet - 1-815-246-2080**



# Parish Support

## Stewardship Report

As of 8/28/23

July Offertory Budget \$144,000

July Envelopes \$ 73,399

Online Giving \$ 58,188

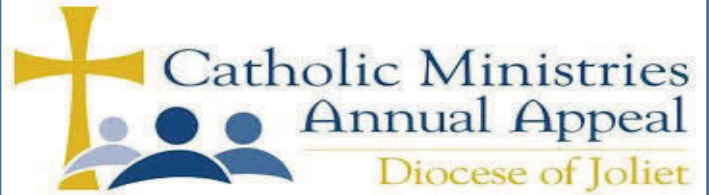
Total \$131,587

Total Over (Under) < \$ 12,413 >

### 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

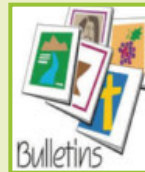
*"What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?"-Matthew 16:26*

St. Francis of Assisi said, "Remember, you are what you are in the eyes of God, and nothing else." We often forget this stewardship wisdom when we spend all of our time, talent and treasure to gain more of the world's riches. We need to set our priorities based on God's values and not the values of the material world.



Thru 8/27/23	2023	2022	Inc/Dec	2022 (Final)
Goal	\$176,900	\$171,600	\$5,300	\$171,600
Amount Pledged	\$255,938	\$240,091	\$15,847	\$267,594
Amount Paid	\$236,971	\$217,601	\$19,370	\$263,709
Balance Due	\$18,967	\$22,490	(\$3,523)	\$3,885
Donor Count	575	583	-8	626
2023 Rebate	\$42,050			

**PARKING** In an effort to accommodate our seniors and members with special needs, we ask you to refrain from parking in the main parking lot adjacent to the church/school and the parish office parking lot during Church services.



### Never Miss A Bulletin!!

Sign up to have our weekly parish bulletin emailed to you at [www.parishesonline.com](http://www.parishesonline.com)



### Donating Made Easier!

Enroll in WeShare on our website at

<https://www.stmichaelcommunity.org/donate>

or by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera. Tap on the pop up link which will bring you to our website for one-time or recurring online donations to St. Michael Parish.



### Bulletin Submission Deadline & Requirements

September 17th Bulletin Deadline: Friday, September 8th



Send items to:

[communications@stmichaelcommunity.org](mailto:communications@stmichaelcommunity.org)

Please send content that can be used in a 1/4 and 1/2 page format, as full-page space availability is limited. Earlier printing deadlines occur before holidays.

## St. Michael Parish

So that we might better serve your needs, please fill out this form and drop it in the collection basket or mail it to us at:

310 S. Wheaton Avenue, Wheaton IL 60187

[www.stmichaelcommunity.org](http://www.stmichaelcommunity.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
New Parishioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Returning to Parish

New Parishioner Form On Website

Please complete and return to Parish Office.

\_\_\_\_\_  
New Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Interested in becoming Catholic

## Statute of Limitations on Forgiveness

A statute of limitations is a law that sets the maximum amount of time that a party may initiate legal proceedings from the date of an alleged offense. It varies from state to state, from three years to ten. If you believe you have been mistreated by a company in Illinois, let's say, you have ten years from the time of the offense to begin legal proceedings.

My coined phrase, "statute of limitations on forgiveness" works slightly differently. It differs not state by state but person by person. It's the amount of time we refuse to forgive an offense. It can last anywhere from a few seconds to a lifetime. It depends on the nature of the offense and how deeply it wounds us.

I've forgiven some offenses on the spot. A friend inadvertently makes an unfair remark about me and immediately apologizes.

But there have been other remarks that the statute of limitations on forgiveness took decades to expire. In my seminary days, a friend made a sarcastic remark about me in front of other friends, and I was deeply hurt by it. Never told him so, but I also didn't let it go, not for many, many years.

The grudges we hold on to most firmly are generally grounded in injustice. What the person said or did to us was, in fact, really wrong/rude/unfair/hurtful/immoral/unjust. And thus we nurture the wound, picking at the scab whenever we think of the incident, causing it to bleed afresh. In many cases, we never bother to tell the offender what the offense was. And if we have told him or her, we refuse to talk with the offender to initiate reconciliation. Our statute of limitations on forgiveness is very much in effect.

Jesus in an uncomfortable example here. It isn't that he just forgives immediately *after* the offense. He actually forgives in the midst of the offense,

while the greatest of all injustices (killing an innocent man, murdering God even) is underway: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." Jesus has no statute of limitations whatsoever on his forgiveness.

Some age old practical advice to foster forgiveness includes making a decision to not retaliate, get even, punish, or wish ill on the offender. It also includes praying for the offender that God would bless him or her—this practice has been especially helpful for me. When it comes to serious offenses, it might involve talking to/confronting the offender—not to retaliate but to seek reconciliation. It certainly includes bringing up our resentments in the confessional!

And the most practical way forward? Participate in the Mass. There is no better place to become increasingly aware that God's forgiveness is immediate and ongoing. This reality is made present and real again and again at every Mass, especially when the priest repeats the words, "This is my body, *given* for you."

Christ gives us himself, of course, for the forgiveness of our sins. We may refuse to accept this forgiveness by not acknowledging our sin, by not repenting, and thus the forgiveness is lost on us, to our grave misfortune. But from God's side, there is no statute of limitations on forgiveness.

On the cross "God was in Christ," St. Paul says, "reconciling the world to himself, not counting our sins against us." One wonderful aspect of St. Michael's architecture is the huge crucifix that greets us every time we enter the sanctuary. It is a powerful symbol of God's mercy that becomes real for us again and again in the Eucharist.

*Mark Galli is a member of St. Michael Parish. This is part of an ongoing series for the Eucharistic Revival.*



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