



St. Michael

CATHOLIC CHURCH

310 S. Wheaton Avenue, Wheaton, IL 60187

December 17, 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

Email: churchoffice@stmichaelcommunity.org

Hours

Monday - Thursday8:30 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 Sunday5:00pm

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

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

Saturday.....8:00am

Rosary prayed after all daily Masses

Holy Days of Obligation

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

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

12:15pm, 7:00pm

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Please see page 6

ADORATION CHAPEL

Perpetual Adoration

Open 24-hours daily.

Access only with a key fob.

Call Parish Office at 630-665-2250

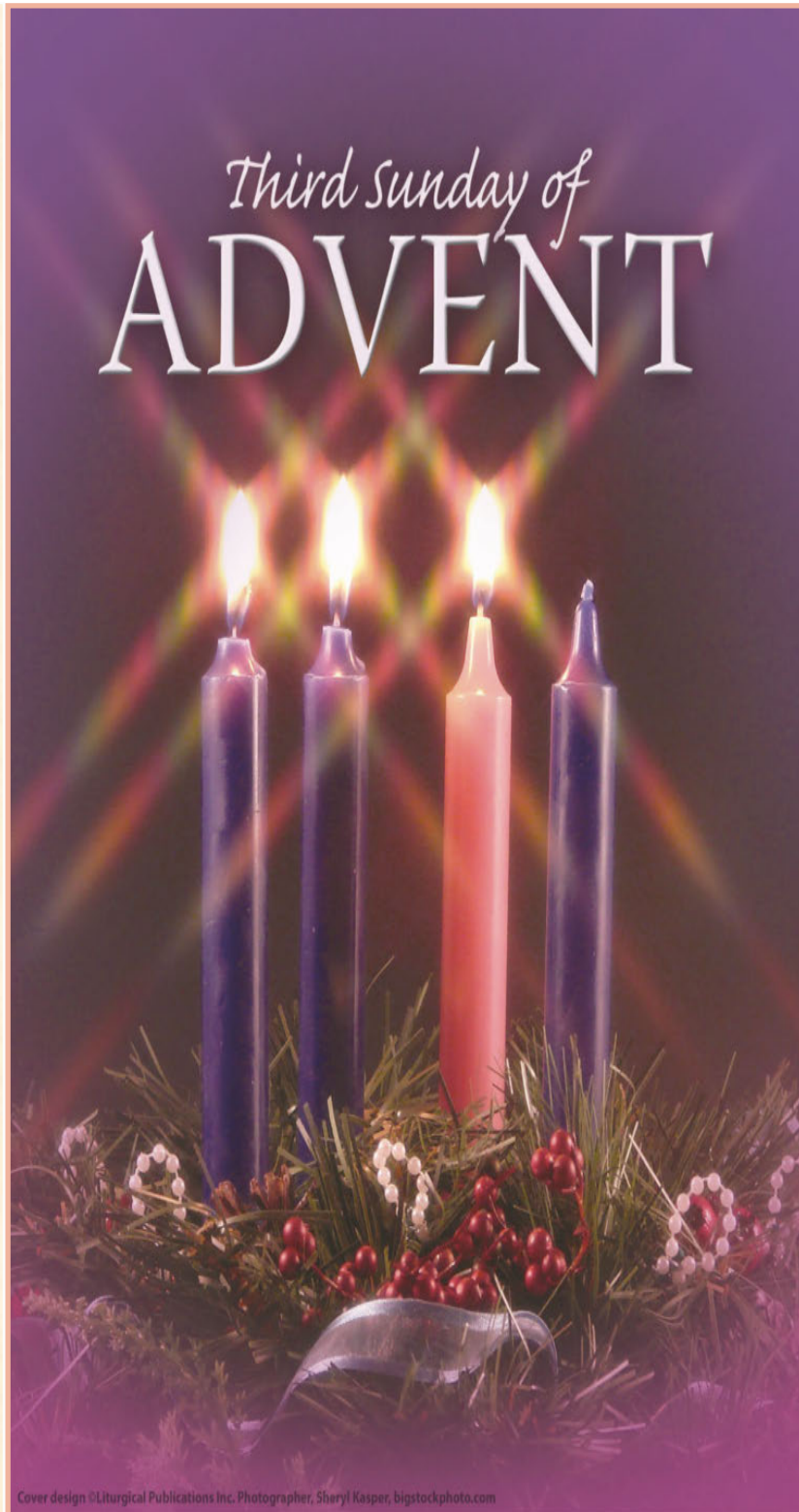
to obtain a key fob.

CONFESSIONS

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

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

Or by appointment



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The following reflection is from Pope Benedict:

The Third Sunday in the Season of Advent, is called "Gaudete Sunday": "rejoice", because the Entrance Antiphon of Holy Mass takes up St Paul's words in the Letter to the Philippians where it says:

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice". And immediately after he explains the reason, because "The Lord is at hand" (Phil 4: 4-5). This is the reason for joy. But what does "the Lord is at hand" mean? In what sense must we understand this "closeness" of God? The Apostle Paul, writing to the Christians of Philippi, is evidently thinking of Christ's return and invites them to rejoice because it is certain. Yet, St Paul in his Letter to the Thessalonians, warns that no one can know the moment of the Lord's coming (cf. 1 Thes 5: 1-2) and puts people on guard against any kind of alarmism, as if Christ's return were imminent (cf. 2 Thes 2: 1-2). Thus the Church, illumined by the Holy Spirit, already at that time understood increasingly better that God's "closeness" is not a question of space and time but rather of love: love brings people together!

This coming Christmas will remind us of this fundamental truth of our faith and in front of the manger we shall be able to savor Christian joy contemplating in the newborn Jesus the Face of God who made himself close to us out of love."

Advent Wreath

What is the story behind the Advent wreath?

Each season in the liturgical calendar comes with its own local and regional rituals. During the Advent season, wreathes adorn church sanctuaries and family dining room tables. You may have said Advent wreath prayers in childhood or taken a turn lighting the candles. The Advent wreath is full of symbolism about Christ and his coming at Christmas. The wreath is made of evergreen boughs, reminding us that the life of grace doesn't falter with the changing seasons. It always remains fresh and new. Similarly, a circular wreath reminds us of the eternal, never-ending nature of God's love.

Candles remind us that Christ is the light of the world, the One who "shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." We use four candles to represent each week of Advent. Traditionally they come in the liturgical colors of the season. Purple has historically represented penance and sacrifice. We see the same color for the season of Lent. On the third Sunday of Advent, however, we light a rose color. The priest will wear rose vestments at Mass. This is Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* means "rejoice" in Latin. On the third Sunday of Advent, we're roughly halfway through the season. The Church chooses the midpoint to remind us to celebrate in the midst of our anticipation! Whatever the color and whatever the day, the Advent wreath is a beautiful practice to focus our attention on Christ's coming at Christmas.



Prayer Ministry

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

I rejoice heartily in the LORD,
in my God is the joy of my soul. (Is 61:10)

Psalm:

My soul rejoices in my God. (Is 61:10b)

Second Reading:

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy
and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body,
be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord
Jesus Christ. (1 Thes 5:23)

Gospel:

"I baptize with water;
but there is one among you whom you do not
recognize,
the one who is coming after me,
whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."
(Jn 1:23)

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 December 17, 2023

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Thursday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Saturday: St. John of Kanty, Priest

Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve

VOCATIONS PRAYER CALENDAR December 17 — December 24

- 12/17 **Pope Francis**
- 12/18 Deacon Joseph Urso
Deacon Glenn Vanek
Deacon Joseph Verdico
Deacon Herbert Waldron
Deacon Robert Wallace
- 12/19 Deacon Randy Waring
Deacon Douglas Wells
Deacon Charles Woods
- 12/20 Sr. Janet Tucci OSF
- 12/21 Sr. Helen Vahling OSF
Sr. Rita Vahling OSF
- 12/22 Seminarian Jonathan Hernandez
Seminarian Colin McGarel
- 12/23 Deacon Gary Wooley
Deacon Duane Wozek
- 12/24 Deacon Ronald Yurcus
Deacon Robert Ziomek



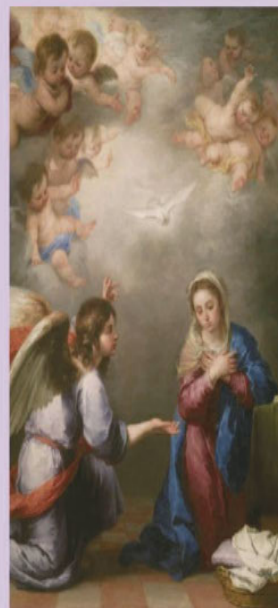
Adoration Chapel Perpetual Adoration



All parishioners are invited to visit the Adoration chapel anytime day or night. Entrance fobs are available at the Parish Office during regular business hours. If you would like to sign up for an hour of perpetual adoration, please visit <https://forms.gle/kLaN1KLioZYG42F1A> or scan the QR Code.



May God continue to bless you.



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



Lorraine Aldworth

Ellen Callahan

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass Offered For

Requested By

SUNDAY, December 17

7:15AM	St. Michael Parishioners	
9:00AM	+ Sophie Zurawski	Zurawski Family
10:45AM	+ James Gruhlke	Hughes Family

MONDAY, December 18

6:30AM	Íñaki Beruete	Family
8:00AM	+ Michael Kammes	John Kammes

TUESDAY, December 19

6:30AM	Fr. John Carroll	Joyce Gagnon
8:00AM	+ Mary Napoli	Mike & Katie Doerries

WEDNESDAY, December 20

6:30AM	Frankie Martino	Anne Leslie
8:00AM	+ Ashley Kroc	Holm Family

THURSDAY, December 21

6:30AM	+ Salvatore, Angelina & Bernie Tacito	Family
8:00AM	+ Dr. Thomas J. Kurey	Hengesbaugh Family

FRIDAY, December 22

6:30AM	Katherine Herrera	Joyce Gagnon
8:00AM	+ Wally Kania	Kania Family

SATURDAY, December 23

8:00AM	+ Francis Gentile	Family
5:00PM	+ John Sgarbossa	Drabik Family

SUNDAY, December 24—Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:15AM	+ George Carr	Anonymous
9:00AM	St. Michael Parishioners	
	+ Rogelio I. Pasetes	Lito Linda Family

Vigil Masses for Christmas

St. Michael Church

3:00PM	+ Mary & Denise Piombo	Mario, Loretta & Carla
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St. Francis (Slant Dome Gym)

3:15PM	+ Luke Schilling	Family
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St. Michael Church

5:00PM	+ Madeline Glynn	Meghan Lenzi
10:00PM	+ Claire Nelson	Family

Monday, December 25th—Christmas Day

9:00AM	+ William Dixon	Alcantara Family
10:45AM	+ Victoria Shea	Fisher Family

Around the Parish

January

Tuesday, January 2nd, 6:30-8:00PM, Faith Center

ST. MICHAEL'S GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Compassionate support for those experiencing a loss. Join us as we pray, journey through scripture, reflect and share.

Contacts: Deacon Dan Aderholdt, dladerholdt@gmail.com or Hope Keber, HopeK19@comcast.net.

Sunday, January 7th, 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.

Wednesday, January 10th, 9:30-10:30AM, Faith Center

WOMEN'S FAITH GROUP — Preschool Playdate

Join us for a Preschool Playdate! The Women's Faith Group will host a playdate on the second floor of the Faith Center. No playdates on 12/28/23 or 1/3/24.

Thursday, January 11th, 9:30-11:00AM, Faith Center, Room 114

WOMEN'S FAITH GROUP — Prayer Partners

All women of the parish are welcome to attend as we pray the rosary and discuss meaningful faith-based topics. Kids are welcome! For additional information, sign up on Flocknotes or email Gina Carroll at sjsginacarroll@yahoo.com

Sunday, January 14th, 7:30PM, in the Church

ST. MICHAEL CHURCH CONCERT SERIES — "A Musical World of Adventure" - Featuring Rose Armbrust-Griffin, Viola and Kyle Orth, Piano

Join us!! This concert is FREE. A freewill offering will be received.



Donut Sunday

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH

AFTER 9:00AM & 10:45AM MASSES

IN THE PARISH CENTER

SPONSORED BY THE ST. MICHAEL HOLY NAME SOCIETY

The poster features a stack of colorful donuts in the center, surrounded by decorative plus signs. The text is arranged in a circular and rectangular layout around the donuts.



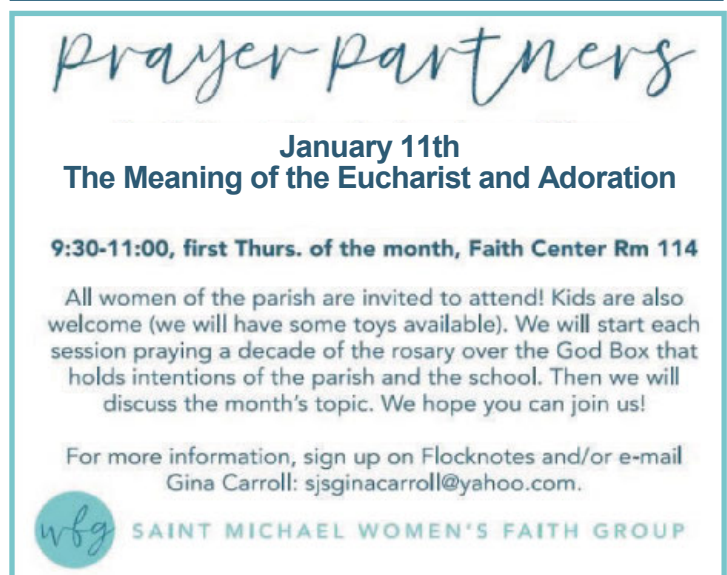
Weekly Playdate

WEDNESDAYS, 9:00 - 10:30AM
January 10, 2024
(No playdates 12/28/23 or 1/3/24)
1ST FLOOR OF THE FAITH CENTER
317 W. WILLOW AVENUE

The Women's Faith Group invites you to join us at our weekly play date! We welcome all parish and school parents with kids from newborn babies through kindergarten age. Feel free to come for the whole time or just stop by for a bit to say "Hi". There will be crafts, music and fellowship.

SAINT MICHAEL WOMEN'S FAITH GROUP

The poster has a light blue background with a white border. The title 'Weekly Playdate' is written in a large, cursive font at the top. Below it, the schedule and location are listed in bold, uppercase letters. A paragraph of text describes the event, and the group's name is at the bottom with a small 'wfg' logo.



Prayer Partners

January 11th
The Meaning of the Eucharist and Adoration

9:30-11:00, first Thurs. of the month, Faith Center Rm 114

All women of the parish are invited to attend! Kids are also welcome (we will have some toys available). We will start each session praying a decade of the rosary over the God Box that holds intentions of the parish and the school. Then we will discuss the month's topic. We hope you can join us!

For more information, sign up on Flocknotes and/or e-mail Gina Carroll: sjsginacarroll@yahoo.com.

SAINT MICHAEL WOMEN'S FAITH GROUP

The poster has a light blue background with a white border. The title 'Prayer Partners' is written in a large, cursive font at the top. Below it, the date and topic are listed in bold, uppercase letters. A paragraph of text describes the event, and the group's name is at the bottom with a small 'wfg' logo.



St. Michael's Grief Support Group

In grief, the one person you'd like to talk to, is no longer here for you.

Please consider attending the St. Michael's Grief Support Group meeting, to receive support, comfort and encouragement from those facing your common concerns.

Meetings will be held the first Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is on Tuesday, January 2nd, 6:30-8:00PM in the Faith Center - Room 114.

For more information, contact Deacon Dan L. Aderholdt at dladerholdt@gmail.com

The poster has a light blue background with a white border. The title 'St. Michael's Grief Support Group' is written in a large, cursive font at the top. Below it, a quote is written in italics. A paragraph of text describes the group, and the meeting details are listed in bold, uppercase letters. The contact information is at the bottom in bold, uppercase letters.

Around the Parish



St. Michael Catholic Church Christmas Mass Schedule

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Saturday, December 23rd
(Fulfills Sunday Mass Obligation)
5:00pm (Vigil)

Sunday, December 24th
7:15am 9:00am

Christmas Eve Masses
Sunday, December 24th
3:00pm—St. Michael Church*
3:15pm—St. Francis High School
(Slant Dome Gym)

5:00pm—St. Michael Church
10:00pm—St. Michael Church
(Choir Prelude Begins at 9:30pm)
*Overflow seating in gym for 3:00pm

Christmas Day
Monday, December 25th
9:00am 10:45am

Tuesday, December 26th
8:00am Mass Only
No Confessions

GREAT MUSIC IN A GREAT SPACE:

*St. Michael Church Concert Series
proudly presents*



“A Musical World of Adventure”

**Rose Armbrust Griffin, Viola
Kyle Orth, Piano**

**Sunday, January 14
4:00 p.m.**

This concert is FREE.

A freewill offering will be received.

St. Michael Religious Education Pizza & Service Night



A.R.F. - Animal Rescue Foundation

Our thanks to our 80 teens who came together to gather donations for the Animal Rescue Foundation. They made over 70 upcycled dog toys for the foster animals and 10 cards for the human volunteers.

Catholic Heart Workcamp

Going back to Louisville - June 9-14, 2024!



Join us for
**CATHOLIC HEART
WORKCAMP!**

Teens are invited to spend a life-changing week serving the poor with 300 other high schoolers from around the United States during the summer of 2024. Rising freshmen through graduating high school seniors, and adult chaperones from St. Michael will travel to Louisville, KY to do simple home repair, and assist in child care organizations, senior citizen apartment complexes, and homeless shelters.

Camp will be open to anyone currently in 8th grade or older.

St. Michael has already secured a limited number of spots and sign up begins December 1st! For more information, visit <https://heartworkcamp.com>



ST. PEREGRINE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Monthly Sessions

Next Session: 01/08/2024



St. Elizabeth Seton
2220 Lisson Rd,
Naperville, IL
7:00pm - 9:00pm

"When you are in trouble, turn to prayer and ask God for help. He will never abandon you." St. Peregrine

The journey through a struggle with cancer can be lonely and painful – let's help each other make it manageable. This group is intended to provide a place where we can support each other and engage the patron saint of cancer patients, St. Peregrine.

The conversations will be led by Rebecca Hamilton, LCSW and Deacon Gerard, a cancer survivor. The only fee is \$20 for the book we will use. Registration is not mandatory but we encourage folks to let us know they will be attending so we have enough material for everyone: StPeregrineGroup@gmail.com

They may also contact Deacon Gerard with questions at: FunDeacon@yahoo.com



Bishop Hicks' Column

December 2023

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL AND SYNODALITY, TOGETHER



ARE YOU A CUBS FAN? OR ARE YOU A WHITE SOX FAN? If you have any roots in Chicagoland, you instinctively understand that you must declare one or the other. It is common practice to choose one team — one is never a fan of both!

During these past two years, throughout our country and within the Catholic Church, that same principle seems to have been applied to the National Eucharistic Revival and the Synod on Synodality. As you know, the Eucharistic Revival is a three-year initiative of the Church to enkindle a living relationship with Jesus Christ in the holy Eucharist. The Synod on Synodality is an international, multiyear undertaking during which Catholics give feedback and deeply listen to each other — so, as a Church, we can all discern together where the Holy Spirit is leading us.

Curiously, many people seem to be taking sides; they are in favor of one, but not the other.

The week before Thanksgiving, I joined over 250 bishops in Baltimore for a week of meetings hosted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. We began the meetings with prayer, adoration, benediction, and Mass. The first address to the assembly was given by Cardinal Christophe Pierre, the Papal Nuncio. When it comes to the Eucharistic Revival and the Synod, he encouraged us to move away from an “either/or” approach, and to instead embrace and promote both. The special connections between the Eucharistic Revival and the Synod prevailed through our week of meetings.

At one point, Cardinal Pierre beautifully reflected on the road to Emmaus story from the Gospel of Luke (24: 13–35). Along their journey, the disciples debated their theological points of view while Jesus listened to them. “Listening, corresponds to the humble style of God,” said the cardinal, quoting Pope Francis. “God loves humanity: that is why he addresses his word to them, and why he ‘inclines his ear’ to listen to them.”

You see, *listening* is essential for a synodal Church because it is a dimension of love. Through this Emmaus moment, Jesus accompanies, listens, and discerns with His disciples. Then, their hearts were set on fire because they recognized His true presence in the Eucharist. After this Eucharistic encounter, they go

back to the other disciples and proclaim that Jesus is alive and — with missionary zeal — are committed to sharing the risen Christ with the world.

Cardinal Pierre concluded his presentation with these moving insights: “Our people need us to be adventurers for the Lord. They need us to be united with one another. They need to see how our diversity, harmonized, displays the beauty of the Church and of the Catholic faith. They need to be reminded that salvation comes not from one idea or another, but through a shared encounter with the living person of Jesus, who is love.”

Most of us can agree we are a stronger Church when we both listen *and* keep the Eucharist as our source and summit. Let’s look for ways to stay united with each other and with Christ.

From the onset, I announced that the Diocese of Joliet was going to participate in both the National Eucharistic Revival and the Synod on Synodality. Walking in numerous Eucharistic processions and attending many talks about the Eucharist, I am proud of how robustly our clergy and parishioners have promoted and embraced this Eucharistic Revival. I look forward to participating in our continued celebrations of the Eucharist in the Diocese of Joliet, and will joyfully attend the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis in July 2024. That event will launch us into the next phase of the revival by enthusiastically taking the Eucharistic Lord into the world and putting our faith into action as missionary disciples.

At the same time, I am also proud of how we have participated in the Synod on Synodality. For over six months, groups gathered throughout every deanery of our diocese to listen intently to each other. The themes from these listening sessions were gathered and compiled into a report sent to Rome. The first half of the synod concluded in the Vatican this October. With faithful hope, we await the next steps for the second half next October.

As a baseball fan, I am fiercely loyal to my team, while politely ignoring the other. Gratefully, that’s not what our Church does when it comes to the National Eucharistic Revival and the Synod on Synodality. Like you, I love Jesus so much — especially in the Eucharist — *and* at the same time — through Him, with Him, and in Him — I desire a *listening* Church that calls us to be on mission! With faith and trust in God, I look forward to walking on this all-connected journey with you ahead.

DIOCESE OF JOLIET



Parish Support

Stewardship Report

As of 12/18/23

December Offertory Budget	\$170,000
November Envelopes	\$ 48,990
November Online Giving	\$ 40,127
Total	\$ 89,117
Total Over (Under)	< \$ 80,883 >

3rd Sunday of Advent

“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18

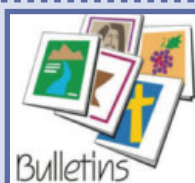
This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. “Rejoice always” means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need.

“Pray constantly” means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. “Give thanks in all circumstances” means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.



Thru 12/10/23	2023	2022	Inc/Dec	2022 (Final)
Goal	\$176,900	\$171,600	\$5,300	\$171,600
Amount Pledged	\$270,732	\$253,682	\$17,050	\$267,594
Amount Paid	\$268,388	\$247,578	\$20,810	\$263,709
Balance Due	\$2,344	\$6,104	(\$3,760)	\$3,885
Donor Count	601	611	-10	626
2023 Rebate	\$64,042			

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.



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Sign up to have our weekly parish bulletin emailed to you at www.parishesonline.com



Donating Made Easier!

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

or scan 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.



EARLY Bulletin Submission Deadline & Requirements



January 7th Bulletin Deadline:
Wednesday, December 20th

Email:

communications@stmichaelcommunity.org

Please send content that can be used in a 1/4 & 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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone #: _____

_____ New Parishioner _____ Returning to Parish

New Parishioner Form On Website
Please complete and return to Parish Office.

_____ Interested in becoming Catholic
_____ New Address _____

WE ARE CALLED

Updates from Principal Ferguson & St. Michael Parish School

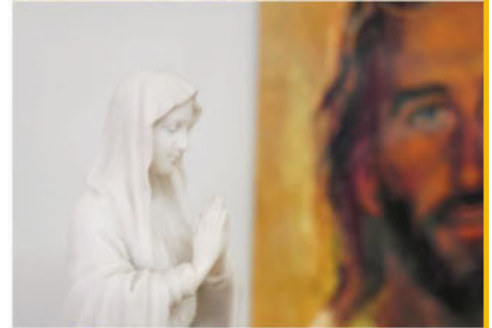
BELIEVE.
EXCEL.
RESPECT.
SERVE.
LEAD.

A HOLY SEASON

The quiet (and sometimes less quiet) anticipation of Advent fills this special time of year for all of us at school! Just a quick look around our halls and classrooms shows how we await the birth of our Lord. Every classroom has it's own prayer table, set for the season. We feel grateful and blessed to prepare together this Advent.



"Advent is a time of waiting for our Lord, who will visit us all in our own hearts. The Lord is coming! Let us wait for him!" says Pope Francis. May we all journey together toward Bethlehem, drawn by the light of Jesus, with joyful hope of peace on earth.



JOIN US IN PRAYER

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, DEFEND US IN BATTLE. BE OUR DEFENSE AGAINST THE WICKEDNESS AND SNARES OF THE DEVIL. MAY GOD REBUKE HIM, WE HUMBL Y PRAY, AND DO THOU, O PRINCE OF THE HEAVENLY HOSTS, BY THE POWER OF GOD THRUST INTO HELL SATAN AND ALL THE EVIL SPIRITS WHO PROWL ABOUT THE WORLD SEEKING THE RUIN OF SOULS. AMEN.



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