

St. Michael

310 S. Wheaton Avenue, Wheaton, IL 60187

December 15, 2024

Most Rev. Ronald Hicks, Bishop Most Rev. Dennis E. Spies, Auxiliary Bishop Rev. Santos 'Sunny' Castillo, Pastor Rev. Jacob Kolawole, Parochial Vicar **Deacon Dan Aderholdt Deacon Dan Simmet**

PARISH OFFICE

(630) 665-2250.....(630) 510-8891 (Fax) www.stmichaelcommunity.org Email: churchoffice@stmichaelcommunity.org

PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS ~ See Page 3

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 prayed after all daily Masses

Holy Days of Obligation

Vigil for Holy Day5:30pm Holy Day6:30am, 8:00am, 12:15pm, 7:00pm

ADORATION CHAPEL
Perpetual Adoration. Access only with a key fob.
Call Parish Office at 630-665-2250 for information.

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

For Baptisms, Wedding and Funeral information, please contact the Parish Office.

CONFESSIONS

Saturday......8:30am ~ 9:30am Or by appointment

PARISH REGISTRATION & BULLETIN

Available at www.stmichaelcommunity.org or call the Parish Office.





Fr. Santos 'Sunny' Castillo - From the pastor's desk

GAUDETE: CELEBRATINGTHE GOD OF JOY

It's the third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Sunday! It means that Christmas, the festival of the Incarnation is drawing very near. While the first two Sundays of Advent have focused on being ready for the Second Coming of Jesus at the *parousia*, this Sunday marks the shift of the Church's focus to the preparation for the coming of Jesus' birthday.

Hence, the very rarely visible liturgical color suddenly shows up – the rose color inserts itself between the purples of the Advent Season to tell the church to rejoice. The rose color tells us to put on the joy of God. And I am always flabbergasted by people who think that God is an enemy of joy, that is, to claim that laughing and smiling is some type of formal irreverence to God. But the fact is, spiritual joy is the fruit of the Holy Spirit. As Pope Francis clarified in one of his general audience messages, "In contrast with fleeting worldly joys, the Spirit grants us a profound and enduring joy born of his presence in our hearts. The joy of God's love not only fills our own lives but also inspires us to share that joy with others. Saint Paul encourages us to 'rejoice in the Lord always' (Phil 4:4)."

Consider what these saints say about spiritual joy:

"God made us for joy. God is joy, and the joy of living reflects the original joy that God felt in creating us." St. Pope John Paul II

"When we are expecting only suffering, the least joy surprises us: Suffering itself becomes the greatest joys when we seek it as a precious treasure." St. Thérèse de Lisieux

"You ask me whether I am in good spirits. How could I not be so? As long as faith gives me strength, I will always be joyful." Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati

"Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter." St. Padre Pio

It is one of the greatest forms of Christian witness to be joyful in the Lord. I mean, really, who wants to be a Christian if the church is full of grouchy, angry, miserable looking and unhappy people? God, who is a joyful God, is a God of joy and wants to share His true and lasting joy to all of creation, especially to us, who are created in His image and likeness. And so, during this Holy Season of Advent and the Joyful Season of Christmas, I invite you, my dear Saint Michael family, to truly connect with Jesus so that IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES, your spirit may draw deeply from the well of divine joy.

Here are some quick ideas for joy in this season:

- 1. Quiet down your mind so that your heart can finally remind you what's important.
- 2. Be reconciled with God and people around you. Joy comes with forgiveness.
- 3. Spend some quality time with people you love. It can be just for 15-minutes for mutual encouragement. Those little doses of connection bring joy.
- 4. Do simple and intentional acts of goodness toward others. Once a day is a good start.
- 5. Pray. Prayer always brings joy in one's soul. Just talk to God in your own words, silently.
- 6. Make a habit of counting your blessings.
- 7. Use time well. Meaningless activities dampen the soul and dulls the heart.
- 8. Go to mass, not only when it's required. Go to mass to give thanks. Gratitude brings joy.
- 9. For the Christmas Season, give more meaningful gifts, like gift of time and gift of service.
- 10. Be excited about the future. Optimism goes a long way in the joy index.

Any other ideas? But in all these things, make sure that every joy points back to the God of joy. This weekend, as we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, let this joyful God be the star and the true reason for this holy and beautiful season that is still unfolding. God bless our Advent Season!

In the joy of the coming King,

Prayer Ministry

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness. (Zep 3:17)

Psalm:

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel. (Is 12:6)

Second Reading:

The Lord is near.

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. (Phil 4:5-6)

Gospel:

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" (Lk 3:10)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
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Observances for the week of December 15, 2024

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Saturday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the

Church

Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent

Parish Office — Holiday Hours Closed

December 23rd — December 26th



<u>Open</u> Friday, 12/27 8:30AM -1:00PM

<u>Open</u> Monday, 12/30 8:30AM -1:00PM

<u>Closed</u> <u>December 31st — J</u>anuary 3rd



MASS INTENTIONS

Mass Offered For Requested By SUNDAY, December 15

7:15AM + Ronald Severino Kathy & Bill Keller

9:00AM St. Michael Parishioners

+ Antonina Bautista Challenger Family 10:45AM + Charlotte McPherson St. Michael Choir

MONDAY, December 16

6:30AM + Salvatore, Angelina & Family

Bernie Tacito

8:00AM + Kim Holm A Friend

TUESDAY, December 17

6:30AM + Joan Paskowski Bill & Peg Matte 8:00AM + Meredith Thomas Mark & Colleen Schmitt

WEDNESDAY, December 18

6:30AM Helen Hunter Deacon Dan & Martha

Aderholdt

8:00AM + Meredith C. Thomas Alicia Drabik + Jacqueline Kunysz Bill & Cory Voller

· sacquemie itanysz

6:30AM + Jack Deshida Bruce & Kathy Dudzik 8:00AM + John F. Drahos Broaddus Family

FRIDAY, December 20

THURSDAY. December 19

6:30AM + George Carr Family 8:00AM + Ashley Kroc Holm Family

SATURDAY, December 21

8:00AM + John Falvey Bill & Donna Ryan

5:00PM + William & Barbara Dixon Marianne & Jim Russell

SUNDAY, December 22

7:15AM + Pina Adamo Family 9:00AM + Wally Kania Kania Family

10:45AM St. Michael Parishioners

+ Arnold Pyle Pyle Family

For the Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Aurora, the Parishioners of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Ashkum, the Parishioners of St. Philip Parish in Addison, and the Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish in Addison, that abundant blessings will be bestowed upon them during this our Diocesan Anniversary Year.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Monday, December 16 ~ Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Aurora

Tuesday, December 17 ~ Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Ashkum

Thursday, December 19 ~ St. Philip Parish, Addison Friday, December 20 ~ St. Joseph Parish, Addison

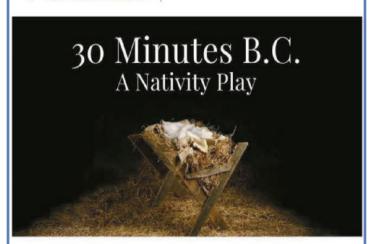
Prayer Ministry

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

Frank Ferri John Lisner Mike Sambo John Adamek Elaine Adamek Matthew Lisner Teresa Fillman Anne Marie Schneider Eleanor Agan Theresa Fogarty Andja Lozancic Teresa Aguilar Dale Foreman George Lozancic Jan Seimetz Charles Baker David Fountain Theresa Lozano Tobias Siennetts Josu Beruete Connor Giles Juan T. Lozano. Jr. Ann Smith Peg Birt Mary Ellen Giner Robert Mucerino Jacek Sowinski Brice Grudzien Steve Blagaich Cathy McGuire Stroner Family Marianne Bluhm Giancarlo Herrera Joanne Metoyer Dominic Thomas Yecenia Boslev Robert Nancy Cindy Tory Andrew Valadka David Brummett Hoppenstedt Mackowiak Kathy Brummett John Hyde James Oliver Carole Weber Frank Cycenas Kathy Keller Joan Peters The Wulffe Althea G. Dades Miki Kern Victoria Holmen Family Maribeth Kerr Eileen Yanan Evan DeBock Peterson DePratt Family Barbara Ray Reynertson Sr. Mary Clarine Lvnn Dennis Krzvzewski Rita Richards Young, SND Lisa Fanucchi Margaret Kuhn Margaret Riggs Greta Zilch Joseph Fenton Barbara Lambke Jon Rilev Carol Ferri Al Liskev Sheryl Rutkowski

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.

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VOCATIONS PRAYER CALENDAR December 15 — December 22

- 12/15 Sr. Patricia Skowronski OSF Sr. Rose Marie Surwilo OSF
- 12/16 Fr. Thomas Logue
- 12/17 Pope Francis
- 12/18 Deacon Joseph Urso
 Deacon Glenn Vanek
 Deacon Joseph Verdico
 Deacon Herbert Waldron



- 12/19 Seminarian Chris Oyoo Otieno
- 12/20 Deacon Randy Waring Deacon Charles Woods Deacon Robert Wallace
- 12/21 Sr. Helen Vahling OSF Sr. Rita Vahling OSF
- 12/22 Seminarian Jonathan Hernandez



Rosary Groups at St. Michael

Join us to pray the rosary after weekday 6:30AM and 8:00AM Masses in the Church.

The Angelus and the Rosary

Every day at Noon, the Angelus and the Rosary are prayed outside in the Mary Grotto. There is no need to sign up, please just show up and pray!

All are welcome, all the time!

The Flame of Love

The Flame of Love is the Immaculate Heart of Mary movement to blind Satan. We meet on Saturday mornings at 7:00AM (before Mass) in the Family Chapel at the west end of the Narthex to say the rosary and special prayers.

Living in the Divine Will

We are a group studying the messages given to 20th century mystic Luisa Piccarreta by our Lord Jesus Christ and His Blessed Mother. We meet every Thursday morning at 10:00AM in Room 308 of the Faith Center. Come study with us!

Around the Parish



St. Michael Catholic Church 2024 Holy Day and Christmas Mass Schedule

The Immaculate Conception

of The Blessed Virgin Mary

Monday, December 9th

Not a Holy Day of Obligation

This Year

Advent Reconciliation
Tuesday - 4:00pm - 5:45pm
Saturday - 8:30am - 9:30am



Christmas Eve Masses
Tuesday, December 24th
NO MORNANG MASSES
NO CONFESSAONS
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)

<u>Christmas Day</u> <u>Wednesday, December 25th</u>

9:00am 10:45am

*Overflow seating in gym for 3pm & 5pm Mass with live-stream viewing

Thursday, December 26th 8:00am Mass Only

Solemnity of Mary
Holy Day of Obligation
Tuesday, December 31st
NO CONTESSHONS
4:00pm (Vigil for Holy Day)
Wednesday, January 1st
9:00am 10:45am

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OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Register online December 20th through January 12th, 2025



Late registrations run through February 2nd, 2025

Around the Parish

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, encouragement,
and comfort from those facing your
common concerns.

Tuesday, January 7th 6:30-8:00PM ~ Faith Center - Room 114.

For more information, please contact Deacon Dan L. Aderholdt at dladerholdt@gmail.com or Hope Keber at HopeK19@comcast.net Prayer Partners

The Meaning of the Eucharist and Adoration

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

All women of the parish are welcome to attend. Kids are welcome, too. We will have some toys available for the children. 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 topic for that month.





Calling all Newly Married and Engaged Catholic Couples!

Join us for fellowship and treats after Mass



Around the Parish

CALLING ALL CATHOLIC TEENS



Something big is happening at St. Mike's!

Help us become the Catholic youth hub for our area.

All middle schoolers, high schoolers and college students are invited to be a part of this transformation.

Your input is needed!

Tell us what you want in a youth group.

Join us January 12, 2025, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. for food, feedback and fun in the St. Michael School gym. Hear from your peers who have led with their faith. Scan the QR code for a quick and easy registration.

Be a part of the change!

Around the Diocese



Bishop Hicks' Column December 2024

Sacred Steps: Exploring Pilgrimages Near and



Have you ever made or wanted to make a pilgrimage to a holy site? Before answering that, let's establish the difference between a vacation and a pilgrimage. A vacation is a leisure trip for a "getaway," usually focused on relaxation, entertainment, and exploration. A Catholic pilgrimage, on the other hand, is a spiritual journey to a sacred site with the purpose of deepening one's faith, seeking divine grace, or fulfilling a religious vow. While vacations prioritize personal enjoyment, pilgrimages emphasize not only some personal enjoyment but also spiritual growth and devotion.

The foundation of a pilgrimage is found throughout both the Old and New Testaments. Examples include Abraham's journey of faith and St. Paul's missionary journeys with and for our Lord. Even the Gospels provide accounts of pilgrimage: each year, Jesus' parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover. In His adult life, Jesus continued this tradition, journeying throughout the Holy Land and ultimately returning to Jerusalem to face His suffering, death, and resurrection.

One of my favorite pilgrimage sites is the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico. Because I worked in Mexico and lived in close proximity to the sanctuary, I have visited many times and have brought friends and family to this holy site. The basilica and grounds are stunning and reflect vibrant cultural expressions of faith and devotion. This inspirational site is where countless people bring their hopes, struggles, and gratitude. Standing before the image of the Virgin, you can palpably feel the love and trust people have placed in her for centuries.

As we approach the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12, I am certain that many of you would love to travel on a pilgrimage to Mexico to visit her. However, because of distance, time, expense, or other constraints, that possibility may be out of reach. Let me offer some ideas for making a more local pilgrimage, particularly to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

This past October, I had the opportunity to join the Knights and Dames of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher. Their investiture Mass took place at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse,

Wisconsin. It is just a short four-hour drive from the Joliet area. Completed in 2008, this Marian shrine invites pilgrims and visitors to an extraordinarily beautiful place of prayer and devotion. With a variety

of chapels and gardens, the 70-acre site evokes similar feelings of love for Our Lady and her Son, Jesus, as I have felt while visiting the shrine in Mexico.

If La Crosse still feels too far to travel, consider "El Cerrito" in Des Plaines, IL. This Sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe includes life-sized statues depicting the apparitions of the Virgin Mary to Saint Juan Diego. These statues are part of a dedicated space within the sanctuary, offering visitors a chance to pray and reflect on this sacred moment.

Perhaps your holiday travels this season unexpectedly bring you close to a shrine. It's convenient to locate various shrines on-line at sites such as

www.catholicshrines.org or www.catholicpilgrimagesites.wordpress.com/sites-by-state.

If you prefer staying closer to home for your pilgrimage, consider doing a Visitation of the Seven Churches in your local community during Holy Week. In this Catholic tradition, pilgrims visit multiple churches on the evening of Holy Thursday to reflect, pray, and meditate on Christ's Passion and sacrifice. It may not be a pilgrimage of long distance, yet it certainly embodies the spiritual journey of faith and devotion.

Several priests in the Diocese of Joliet from time to time offer Catholic pilgrimages to various sacred sites around the world. One priest recently shared with me his motivation for leading pilgrimages: "Pilgrimages provide an opportunity to broaden our horizons as the past comes into contact with the present, and we are changed by this interaction. Every pilgrim is called by Jesus to go on a journey of encounter where He introduces us to our larger family as we meet the saints who wait for us at each holy site."

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, remember that shepherds, kings, and even angels made their pilgrimage to worship and adore our Savior at His birth. As we walk our own journeys of faith and life, may God bless you abundantly as, together, we as a Church continue to make our pilgrimage to our final destination: the heavenly Jerusalem.

Parish Support

Monthly Stewardship Report

	N	ovember 2024	YTD	
Offertory Budget	\$	160,000	\$	759,000
Offertory Actual	\$	180,410	\$	772,776
Total Over (Under)	\$	20,410	\$	13,776
Major Maintenance St. Michael Needy Fund	\$ \$	2,352 4,132	\$ \$	11,373 14,497
Seminarian Endowment Fund	\$	8,389		
Campaign for Human Development	\$	4,065		

LEAD Project Update

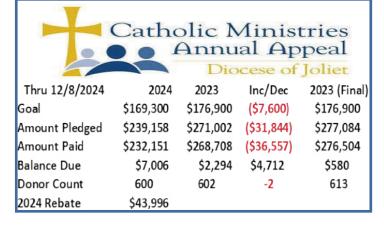
Pledged \$ 1,786,543 **Collected** \$ 1,582,410

Stewards Share

"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." (PHILIPPIANS 4:6)

St. Paul reminds us that God is an abundant God - He is the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. Remember, that we are created in God's image and likeness. We, too, are made to be generous Stewards sharing all of our gifts as well.

Placing our trust in God frees us from being a slave to possessions. It allows us to gratefully and generously share ourselves and our goods with others.





Bulletin Submission Due Dates & Requirements



Upcoming Early Deadline Dates

December 29th Due: Wednesday, December 18th January 5th Due: Wednesday, December 18th January 12th Due: Friday, January 3rd

Send to: communications@stmichaelcommunity.org
Please send content that can be used in a /4 & 1/2 page format, as full-page space is limited. Earlier due dates due to upcoming holidays.



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<u>PARKING</u> — 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.













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 HUMBLY 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.

#GivingTuesday #GiveBack

Thank you! Thank you for your generous support of our #GivingTuesday Mission: Tuition Assistance. With the expiration of Empower Illinois, we have over 20 students whose scholarship dollars have disappeared. Our goal is for them to STAY at St. Michael! With your generous support of our Tuition Assistance Fund, we are closer to covering their costs to ensure they stay for the year and beyond...all the way through the graduation of our youngest. There is still time to donate. Scan the QR code in the flyer shown below or go to WeShare through the church website. Thank you!

In an effort to make a difference for others, all our students across the building were led by our Student Council in a #GiveBack for Giving Tuesday. They spent their day spreading kindness throughout the school and out in the community. Everyone can make a difference...we are so proud of our Lancers for making our world a brighter, kinder, more loving place. Thank you, students and teachers!

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