



# St. Michael

CATHOLIC CHURCH

310 S. Wheaton Avenue, Wheaton, IL 60187

January 5, 2025



\* THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD \*

BEHOLD, MAGI  
FROM THE EAST.



*Fr. Santos 'Sunny' Castillo* — FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

## MUSINGS ON THE EPIPHANY STORY

The arrival of the wise men from the East marks the completion of the Christmas tableau. Now, all the characters of the story are in the scene, and the Christmas story reaches its happy conclusion. It is time to gaze and silently think at what the scene tells us, what each of the characters symbolize to us. How does this nativity scene inspire us in our Christianity?

Let me share some of mine...

Since it's the Epiphany, I want to begin with THE THREE MAGI. In his last year's Epiphany homily, Pope Francis talked about the three symbolic actions of the Magi this way: their eyes are raised to the heavens, their feet are journeying on the earth, and their hearts are bowed in adoration. These three dispositions are great insights for all of us. We need to look up and seek the higher things, to aim for eternal, heavenly truths and virtues. At the same time, we remain fixed on the ground and live out as witness in this world the higher heavenly things that we discover on the way. Our faith is meant to be lived in this earthly pilgrimage, and every Christian is called to be present in the world. All these are always and forevermore motivated to praise the Lord and glorify Him, just like the Magi adored God on the way until they saw the Christ Child and adored Him with their gifts.

The LITTLE BABY JESUS is always a source of delight at what God has done. This is the plot twist of the history of salvation. Who would have had the divine genius to think about the idea that God is born to us as a child? But God, in His Infinite Wisdom, deems it most fitting to His plan that the Son must be born into the world to redeem the world and bring it back to the arms of His Father. This redemptive work of the Child unfolds from the manger. How wonderful indeed. Whenever I see a little baby, I have this sense of curiosity as to what God might have planned for his/her future. As I gaze upon the Baby Jesus in the manger, I am delighted by the privilege that we, people of faith, know the ending, and understand what this Child would accomplish by being born into this world.

I look at the SHEPHERDS and I am reminded of an experience I had in Bethlehem back in 2022. We just finished visiting the Shepherds' Field where we prayed and sang Christmas songs when I saw a young boy dressed in a shepherd's costume carrying a little lamb. I was so delighted by the little boy, he looked like a vision from God, and my heart felt this great joy and gratitude, as if God was telling me, reminding me, of His enduring love. The shepherds that first heard the proclamation of the angels were the lowly nobodies of those times. They were simple folks who prepared the lambs for the big feast in Jerusalem. They did the dirty work. They did the hard part of the Feast of Passover to make sure that the lambs are unblemished. Then here they are, in this scene, the lowly ones, for whom Jesus was born. He chose their company. This tells us how God is close to the humble and the lowly, because God Himself is a God of humility.

Finally, I just want to pay attention to JOSEPH, the quiet man who simply was told to obey and go along with the plan. All of this was not his idea, but he lovingly succumbed and embraced the role of foster father to the Little Child. Great sacrifice was going to be asked of him, including uprooting himself from Nazareth to eventually escape to Egypt, just to make sure that the child and his mother were safe. What a man! He may have simply desired to live quietly by marrying Mary, but he had no idea that he would play such a crucial role in the story of salvation. He was to be the steward of the great sign of heaven: a virgin would bear a son and He will be called Emmanuel, i.e., God-with-us. And he did it with graciousness and true love not only for Mary but also for the Child Jesus.

There are many things to see and think about in the Nativity Scene. As we come to the final days of Christmas, I thank God for having been given the opportunity to celebrate this one with you. God is good, and Christmas is beautiful. Let's carry its spirit for the rest of this new year. And so before we put away our Christmas decorations, let me say to you one final time this year: MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR! God bless us all.

With gratitude for what has been,

Fr. Sunny Castillo

# Prayer Ministry

## Weekly Prayer

### Sunday's Readings

#### First Reading:

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1)

#### Psalm:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)

#### Second Reading:

It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. (Eph 3:5-6)

#### Gospel:

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." (Mt 2:2)

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 January 5, 2025

- Sunday:** The Epiphany of the Lord
- Monday:** St. André Bessette, Religious
- Tuesday:** St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest
- Wednesday:**
- Thursday:**
- Friday:**
- Saturday:**
- Next Sunday:** The Baptism of the Lord

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Mass Offered For

### Requested By

#### SUNDAY, January 5

- |          |                                    |  |
|----------|------------------------------------|--|
| 7:15AM   | St. Michael Parishioners           |  |
| 9:00AM   | + Vinnie Nedrow<br>+ James Russell | Jim & Marie Jensen<br>Jen Hickey &<br>Rosary Group |
| 10:45AM+ | Steve Schultz                      | Laurie Winter                                      |

#### MONDAY, January 6

- |        |                        |                           |
|--------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 6:30AM | + Carmella & Dan DeLeo | Judy Augustine            |
| 8:00AM | + Thomas Sommerdyke    | Mark & Colleen<br>Schmitt |

#### TUESDAY, January 7

- |        |                    |                                  |
|--------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| 6:30AM | + Shirley Cosgrove | Katie Creed<br>Family            |
| 8:00AM | + Don Carani       | Chalifoux &<br>Johnston Families |

#### WEDNESDAY, January 8

- |        |                                     |                                 |
|--------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 6:30AM | Family Tree<br>Generational Healing | S.M.S.A.B.                      |
| 8:00AM | + Kathleen Pichler<br>+ Ron Nilsson | Sharon Thiese<br>Nilsson Family |

#### THURSDAY, January 9

- |        |                   |                     |
|--------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 6:30AM | + Patrick Kraft   | Cabral Kraft Family |
| 8:00AM | + Meredith Thomas | Scharnagle Family   |

#### FRIDAY, January 10

- |        |                      |                    |
|--------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 6:30AM | + Margaret Mary Barz | Bill & Cory Voller |
| 8:00AM | + Walter Kania       | Kania Family       |

#### SATURDAY, January 11

- |        |                 |                |
|--------|-----------------|----------------|
| 8:00AM | + Joseph Labita | Boken Family   |
| 5:00PM | + James Russell | LaBelle Family |

#### SUNDAY, January 12

- |          |  |                             |
|----------|--|-----------------------------|
| 7:15AM   | + Jerry LaGrow                             | Patty Schreiber             |
| 9:00AM   | St. Michael Parishioners<br>+ Tom Ferguson | Family                      |
| 10:45AM+ | Steve Schultz                              | St. Michael Parish<br>Staff |

*"Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May all the souls of the faithfully departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen."*



### 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!

# Prayer Ministry

**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)  
 310 S. Wheaton Avenue (Door #8)  
 Wheaton, IL 60187

**Website:** www.stmichaelcommunity.org  
**Email:** churchoffice@stmichaelcommunity.org  
**Bulletin Submissions:**  
 communications@stmichaelcommunity.org

Monday - Thursday.....8:30am ~ 4:30pm  
 Friday.....8:30am ~ 1:00pm

## 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 Day .....5:30pm  
 Holy Day.....6:30am, 8:00am, 12:15pm, 7:00pm

## ADORATION CHAPEL

Perpetual Adoration. Access only with a key fob.  
 Call Parish Office for more information.

## SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

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

## CONFESSIONS

Tuesday.....4:00pm ~ 5:45pm  
 Saturday.....8:30am ~ 9:30am  
 Or by appointment

## PARISH REGISTRATION & BULLETIN

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

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

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

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.

## VOCATIONS PRAYER CALENDAR January 5 — January 12

- 1/5 Fr. Ryan Adorjan  
Fr. James Antiporek
- 1/6 Deacon Rodger Accardi  
**Deacon Daniel Aderholdt**  
Deacon Ciro Afeltra  
Deacon Albert Agurkis  
Deacon Mark Armamentos
- 1/7 Vocations Office
- 1/8 Fr. Tomy Chellakandathil C.M.I.  
Fr. Jose Kadukunnel C.M.I.
- 1/9 Fr. Joseph Kappilumakkal Mathai C.M.I.  
Fr. Thomas Theneth C.M.I.
- 1/10 Sr. Camino Fernandez  
Sr. Mary Grace Kuppe  
Sr. Carmen Miravalles  
Sr. Mary Villar OSA
- 1/11 Fr. Vernon Arseneau  
Fr. Lee Bacchi
- 1/12 Fr. Raed Bader  
Fr. Jared Rutnicki



# Around the Parish



**Donut Sunday**  
ST. MICHAEL HOLY NAME SOCIETY

**Sunday, January 5th**  
**after 9:00AM & 10:45AM Masses**  
**in the Parish Center**

*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](mailto:dladerholdt@gmail.com) or Hope Keber at [HopeK19@comcast.net](mailto: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.

 We hope you can join us!  
SAINT MICHAEL  
WOMEN'S FAITH GROUP

**Steubenville-Joliet**  
**Catholic Youth Conference**  
June 27-29, 2025  
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June 27-29, 2025

Join us with  
Fr. Mike Schmitz



Scan here to learn more:  


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For more information, scan the QR Code or go to  
[www.stmichaelcommunity.org/outreach](http://www.stmichaelcommunity.org/outreach)

**Newly Married & Engaged Catholics**



Calling all Newly Married and Engaged Catholic Couples!

Join us for fellowship and treats after Mass

January 11th after 5pm mass  
Come in at the Parish Life Center  
@ St. Petronille in Glen Ellyn

# BE FORMED

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**SEASON 10  
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

Register online December 20th  
through January 12th, 2025

EXPERIENCE PRAYER,  
SCRIPTURE,  
THE SACRAMENTS,  
COMMUNITY,  
AND THE TEACHINGS & TRADITIONS  
OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH



Late registrations run  
through February 2nd, 2025

**Come & See!**

**Sunday, January 12th after the 10:45AM Mass  
in the Parish Center**



**Celebrate  
Catholic Schools  
January 26 - February 1**

**Open House  
& Mass**

**Wednesday, January 29  
8:00am**

## **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 January 2025

*From Jubilee to Jubilee: A Path of Celebration and Renewal*



A year ago, we launched the 75th Jubilee for the Diocese of Joliet. Gallantly, we announced we did not want this milestone to be a “one and done” event. Instead, we committed ourselves to a yearlong commemoration to remember our past, celebrate our present, and look to the future with hope.

Not only did we accomplish our goal, but we also did it exceptionally well. Throughout 2024, we spent the year catechizing, evangelizing, and putting our faith into action with podcasts, blogs, calendars, banners, interviews, special prayers, intentions, psalms, a curriculum for our schools and religious education programs, service projects, a speaker series, regional Masses, and participation in the Eucharistic Revival. We kicked off our Jubilee celebration in December 2023 with an all-Diocese mass and the unveiling and blessing of a new statue of our patron saint, Saint Francis Xavier, at the front entrance of our pastoral center. We concluded our Jubilee celebration this past December with an all-Diocese mass and a beautiful commemorative book. By all accounts, our yearlong Jubilee celebration was beautiful, well-organized, creative, faith-filled, uplifting, and robust.

With great faith and trust in the Lord, we now take our next steps into year 76 and beyond, following in the footsteps of Christ as Missionary Disciples. I have been asked, “Bishop, do we need to wait 25 years to celebrate another Jubilee?” Here’s the good news: while our local diocesan Jubilee has concluded, a new universal Jubilee has just begun.

Pope Francis has gifted our worldwide Church by declaring a Jubilee year titled *Spes Non Confundit*, which in English means “Hope Does Not Disappoint.” It began with the opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome on Christmas Eve, 2024 and will end on January 6, 2026.

The theme of this universal Church Jubilee is *Pilgrims of Hope*, promoting peacebuilding in a world threatened by war, terrorism, poverty, and climate change. Our world needs true hope more than ever, and the Holy Father wisely recognizes that. He said, “Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring.”

During this Jubilee year, we are invited to make a pilgrimage to Rome to visit holy sites, perform pious works, and seek opportunities for reconciliation, indulgences, and other ways to strengthen and revive our faith. If you plan to travel to Rome during this Jubilee year, please consult the *U.S. Visitors to the Vatican* website at [www.pnac.org/visitorsoffice/about-the-visitors-office/](http://www.pnac.org/visitorsoffice/about-the-visitors-office/), which provides information to help you plan your pilgrimage for a truly prayerful experience.

While the Pope is excited about visitors to Rome during this special year, he also understands that, realistically, most people are not able to travel to the city of the Apostles Peter and Paul. Therefore, he encourages us all to celebrate in our local churches and communities.

In solidarity with the universal Jubilee year, we will be offering the following Masses here in the Diocese of Joliet:

- **Jubilee Mass for Deacons:** February 22, 2025, 11:00 a.m., Cathedral
- **Jubilee Mass for Persons with Disabilities:** June 1, 2025, 12:30 p.m., Cathedral
- **Jubilee Mass for Priests:** September 16, 2025 (for priests only during Convocation)
- **Jubilee Mass for Grandparents:** October 4, 2025, 11:00 a.m., Cathedral
- **Jubilee Mass for Consecrated Life:** October 5, 2025, 10:00 a.m., Blanchette Catholic Center (Invitation Only)
- **Jubilee Mass for Catechists:** October 19, 2025, 2:00 p.m., Cathedral

Pope Francis has asked that the Jubilee of 2025 be a “great symphony of prayer” throughout the world. Just as we prayed our beautiful 75th anniversary prayer for the Diocese of Joliet throughout 2024, let us now join the Holy Father in praying the Jubilee year of Hope prayer:

Father in heaven,  
may the *faith* you have gifted us in  
your son Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of *charity*  
kindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us, the blessed *hope*  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
into diligent cultivators of the evangelical seeds  
that make humanity and the cosmos rise  
unto the confident expectation  
of the new heavens and the new earth,  
when with the powers of Evil overcome,  
your glory shall be manifested eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,  
the yearning for heavenly treasures  
and pour over all the earth  
the joy and peace  
of our Redeemer.

To you God blessed in eternity,  
be praise and glory for ever and ever.  
Amen.



# Parish Support



In this season of growth and renewal, we're offered a moment to consider the seeds we wish to sow for the future. Spring is a time for spiritual milestones—marked by significant moments such as First Communions and Mother's and Father's Day—and reminds us of our deep roots in faith.

To honor these roots and the cloud of witnesses who have come before us, St. Michael Church invites you to engage in thoughtful estate/will planning with this free resource.

Catholic stewards strive to always live in the light and pass on our values and valuables to the next generation. By including a gift in your will to St. Michael Church, you'll support the future of our ministries and plant deep roots of faith in our community.

May you find guidance and peace in looking to the future, and know you are always surrounded by God's infinite love.

## Plant roots through your plan

By including a bequest in your will this spring, you can create a legacy that supports our parish and ministries for years to come.

Scan the QR code or visit [FreeWill.com/DioceseofJoliet](http://FreeWill.com/DioceseofJoliet) to use a free will-writing tool to get started.



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## Bulletin Submission Due Dates & Requirements



January 19th Due: Friday, January 10th  
January 26th Due: Friday, January 17th

Send to: [communications@stmichaelcommunity.org](mailto:communications@stmichaelcommunity.org)  
Please send content that can be used in a 1/4 & 1/2 page format, as full-page space is limited.

## Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal

Diocese of Joliet

Thru 12/15/2024	2024	2023	Inc/Dec	2023 (Final)
Goal	\$169,300	\$176,900	(\$7,600)	\$176,900
Amount Pledged	\$242,425	\$271,434	(\$31,844)	\$277,084
Amount Paid	\$236,044	\$269,255	(\$36,557)	\$276,504
Balance Due	\$6,381	\$2,179	\$4,202	\$580
Donor Count	604	603	1	613
2024 Rebate	\$46,721			



### Never Miss A Bulletin!!

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

**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.



## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

New Parishioner  Returning to Parish

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

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Mark Schmitt, Parishioner

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