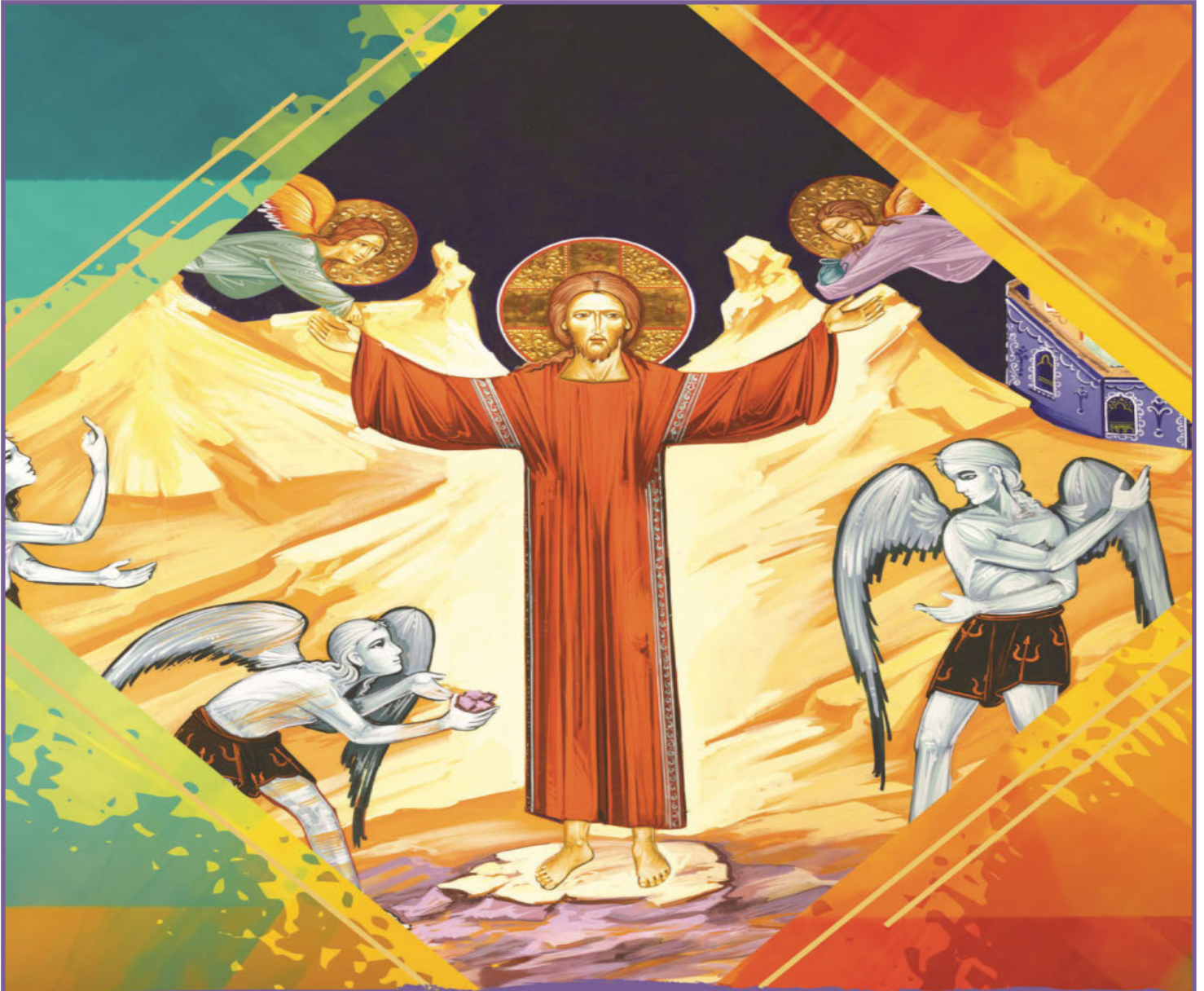


St. Michael

CATHOLIC CHURCH

310 S. Wheaton Avenue, Wheaton, IL 60187

March 9, 2025



1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

“Him alone shall you serve.”
- Lk 4:8



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

EMBRACING LENT IN PRAYER, FASTING AND ALMSGIVING

A Blessed Lenten Season, my dear St. Michael parish family! Every year, we journey this special season beginning with Ash Wednesday and concluding with the Holy Triduum. When we look back at the many times we have observed this season, can we say that it has helped us become better followers of Jesus? Has Lent ever really made a difference in our Christianity?

Whatever your answer is, this year's Lent offers us another opportunity to embrace the solemn devotions and practices of the season. And as we have heard the Gospel message on Ash Wednesday, there are indeed three areas that we can focus on: prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Through prayer, we seek the presence of God more intimately, allowing Him to shape our hearts. This season particularly invites us to traditional devotions like the Stations of the Cross, which we pray here at St. Michael every Friday at 7:00 PM. We also are invited to pray our sorrow for our sins through penitential prayers like the seven penitential psalms found in the Bible: Psalm 6, Psalm 32, Psalm 38, Psalm 51, Psalm 102, Psalm 130 and Psalm 143. Penitential psalms make fitting prayers for the repentant sinner during the season of Lent. There are many other prayer forms that are used during this season, including the meditation on the Seven Last Words of Jesus Christ, the reading of the Passion, and most of all, the celebration of the holy mass focusing on the spiritual themes of the season.

Through fasting, we discipline our desires, reminding ourselves that man does not live by bread alone but by every word from the mouth of God. Abstaining from meat on Fridays is a way of sacrifice. Although it is not required by the church anymore, it is encouraged that those who are able, should fast on Fridays as well. But there are many other observances of sacrifices, including the usual tradition of "giving up something for Lent" which when taken seriously can really teach us the value of self-control, of making a sacrificial offering to God for the atonement of sin, and to focus on spiritual virtues and habits of holiness.

Through almsgiving, we extend His mercy to those in need, embodying His love in the world. At the heart of almsgiving is the focus on generosity of spirit, which is done "*in imitatio Dei*" – that is, in the spirit of God's generosity for humanity by giving us His Son to redeem the world. We become like God through our acts of almsgiving, of generosity toward others especially the poor and the needy. I appreciate the fact that it is in the beginning of the Lenten Season that we launch the Diocesan Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal, because that is indeed an opportunity to extend our generosity to others, through the ministry of the Catholic Church of Joliet. We impact so many areas of giving by giving support to this one diocesan cause. In other ways of looking, almsgiving is also expressed through random acts of kindness, the giving of our goodness, loving hearts, good will towards others. These are equally if not even more meaningful ways of imitating God's action during lent.

As we enter this sacred season of Lent, let us not treat it as mere tradition but as a divine invitation to renewal. Lent is a time of grace, a season to turn our hearts back to God with greater fervor, humility, and love. It is a journey of repentance, reflection, and transformation—a time to strip away distractions and fix our gaze upon Christ, who gave Himself for our salvation.

Let this be a season where we die to sin and rise to new life. Let us not grow weary but embrace these forty days with purpose, knowing that beyond the cross lies the victory of the Resurrection. Christ calls us to walk with Him — will we answer? Now is the time for renewal. Now is the time for conversion. Let us walk in faith together here at saint Michael during this holy season.

With my Lenten devotion,

Fr. Sunny Castillo

Prayer Ministry

Most Rev. Ronald Hicks, Bishop
Most Rev. Dennis E. Spies, Auxiliary Bishop
Rev. Santos 'Sunny' Castillo, Pastor
Rev. Jacob Kolawole, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Anthony Taschetta (Retired)
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 Avenue, Wheaton

FAITH CENTER

Religious Education Office

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

317 W. Willow Avenue, 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.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

'We cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers,
and he heard our cry.' (Dt 26:7)

Psalm:

Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble. (Ps 91)

Second Reading:

For, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and
believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,
you will be saved. (Rom 10:9)

Gospel:


Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan
and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days,
to be tempted by the devil. (Lk 4:1-2)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
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Observances for the week of March 9, 2025

Sunday: 1st Sunday of Lent; Daylight Saving Time begins

Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent



LENTEN DISCIPLINES OF FASTING & ABSTINENCE

Catholics in good health ages 18 to 59 are required to fast and
to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fasting consists of eating only one meal, with the possibility
of two smaller snacks that do not add up to a single full meal.

Catholics age 14 and older are to abstain from meat on all
Fridays in Lent.



Spring forward Sunday, March 9th

Fridays in Lent 7:00AM & 7:00PM



Also available anytime
on our YouTube channel,
'St. Michael Wheaton',
or the St. Michael Church
website at:

www.stmichaelcommunity.org

Prayer Ministry

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

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

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 March 9 — March 16

- 3/9 Deacon Joseph Cuzzzone
Deacon Donald Cyr
Deacon Joseph Dalpiaz
- 3/10 Deacon Daniel Danahey
Deacon Daniel Defino
Deacon Steven DeSitter
- 3/11 Fr. Gerald Watt CR
Fr. Marion Wroblewski CR
- 3/12 Fr. James Dvorscak
- 3/13 Sr. Cindy Langlois
Sr. Frances McCarron
Sr. Barbara Nelson IBVM
- 3/14 Sr. Julie Stapleton
Sr. Mary Lou Wicislo IBVM
- 3/15 Fr. Stephen Eickhoff
Fr. Herbert Essig
- 3/16 Deacon Michael Doyle
Deacon Robert Duncan
Deacon William Dunn



MASS INTENTIONS

Mass Offered For

Requested By

SUNDAY, March 9

7:15AM	+ Anton Dschida	Bruce & Kathy Dudzik
9:00AM	St. Michael Parishioners Cindy Tory	Nancy Hughes
10:45AM	+ Penny Butler	Pierce - Bible Study Group

MONDAY, March 10

6:30AM	+ LaVern Gardner	Anita Elbe
8:00AM	+ Steve Schultz	Jim & Mary Beth Theiss

TUESDAY, March 11

6:30AM	+ Jack Quinn	Family
8:00AM	+ Phyllis Holmen	Hauke Family

WEDNESDAY, March 12

6:30AM	+ Gregory Devane	Bill & Peg Matte
8:00AM	+ Geri Nowakowski + Ron Kaiser	Gryniewicz Family Jim & Laura Kaiser

THURSDAY, March 13

6:30AM	+ Karen Glenn	Pachi Tomasa
8:00AM	+ Luke Benedict Harkins	Wednesday Rosary Group

FRIDAY, March 14

6:30AM	+ Pennamma Chettiath	Sunny Chettiath
8:00AM	+ Mary Beck	Mike & Donna Thomas

SATURDAY, March 15

8:00AM	+ John Edward Kaindl	The Wiebkings
5:00PM	+ Mary Louise Beck	Niece Martha

SUNDAY, March 16

7:15AM	Paxton Rice	Family
9:00AM	+ Theresa Allen + Brett Holte	Barbara Todd Draths Family
10:45AM	St. Michael Parishioners	



Lori Promenschenkel
(Sister of Lisa Jost)

Dennis Hagedorn

Gary Saccomanno

Around the Parish

Winter/Spring Book Club

FRIDAY, MARCH 14TH
9:30AM - 10:30AM
Faith Center - Room 114

"He Leadeth Me"
by Walter J. Ciszek

We will be discussing Chapters 3, 4 & 5

Join us as we read and discuss
All are welcome!



SAINT MICHAEL
WOMEN'S FAITH GROUP

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, April 1st
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

St. Michael Prayer Shawl Ministry



Upcoming Meeting: Saturday, March 15th
9:00 - 10:30 a.m. in the Bridal Room

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.

Adult Faith Formation Bible Studies Winter 2025



Video & Discussion
A Lent to Remember
Sunday evenings
6:30pm - 8:00 pm
March 9, March 16,
March 30 & April 6

Scan the QR Code to register or contact
Colleen Brodhead at
cbrodhead@stmichaelcommunity.org or
(630) 462-5043 for more information



BROTHERS IN CHRIST

Saturday Mornings - 7:00AM - 8:00AM

310 S. Wheaton Avenue - Conference Room - Use Door #8 Entrance



The men's faith sharing group, Brothers in Christ, provides Catholic men with a forum to study the Bible together, to compare experiences striving to lead a faithful Catholic life, and to encourage one another to continue to grow in the Catholic faith. We are faithful to Church teachings, respectful of each other, welcoming of participants from different rites, apostolic movements, and other Catholic organizations, and require confidentiality to encourage participation.



ST. MICHAEL PARISH

Personal Care Items Drive to benefit local food pantries

Shampoo	Lotion	Q-Tips
Conditioner	Hand Sanitizer	Disposable Razors
Deodorant	Socks	Socks
Bar Soap	Menstrual Care	Nail Clippers
Body Wash	Shaving Cream	Sunscreen
Toothpaste	Body Wipes	Brushes & Combs
Toothbrushes	Lip Balm	Facial Tissues

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of St. Michael Parish



Around the Parish

Loving

St. Michael Women's Faith Group
presents a Lenten Brunch

Listening

to the Lord & Yourself

Saturday, March 15th

8:00am Mass (optional)

9:00am Brunch & Presentation

All adult women
(single & married, all ages & stages)
are invited to participate!
Tickets are \$25. RSVP at
www.stmichaelcommunity.org



Parish Mission



Chris Bray
Chalice Ministries
Catholic Speaker,
Musician and Author

"The Eucharistic Life"

**Sunday, March 23rd &
Monday, March 24th
6:30PM ~ St. Michael Church**

Join us for an invigorating, joyous and deeply Eucharistic two-night mission as we listen and learn to encounter Christ more deeply and empower ourselves to share and live the faith with others. Both evenings, Chris will give a lively talk and perform his music.
All ages are welcome!

Faith Formation

Youth Ministry

**Join us for the Fr. Sunny's First
Youth and Young Adult Mass at St. Michael!
Sunday, March 23 at 4:30 p.m.
Mass, Dinner & Parish Mission**

Father Sunny will celebrate a teaching Mass that will feature contemporary praise and worship music from St. Michael's very own teen band. Afterward, join us for dinner in the parish center followed by our Parish Mission with Chris Bray.

Engaging Music! Dynamic Speaking! Boldly Catholic!

With multiple awards and numerous #1 Christian songs, Chris Bray presents to tens of thousands each year at hundreds of events that have included World Youth Day, Steubenville Conferences, National Catholic Youth Conferences and more. Chris is coming to St. Mike's for a not to be missed experience sure to super-charge your faith as we move through Lent.

**Scan the QR code to RSVP! Questions?
Contact Judith Zapf at jzapf@stmichaelcommunity.org**



**Catholic Heart Workcamp
June 15-20, 2025
Montague, MI**

**Ready to commit to a weeklong
Mission Adventure?**

Open to all current 8th-12th grade students.



**For more information, scan the QR Code
or go to
www.stmichaelcommunity.org/outreach**

**Steubenville-Joliet Catholic
Youth Conference
June 27-29, 2025
One Weekend. Eternal Impact.**

**Steubenville Youth Conferences are where
teens experience a life-changing encounter
with Christ and leave as transformed
disciple-makers.**

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

**Join us with
Fr. Mike Schmitz**



Around the Diocese



Serra Club of DuPage County

*Fostering and Promoting
Vocations in the Priesthood
and Religious Life*

Monday, March 10 ~ 6:00PM
St. James the Apostle
480 S. Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn



Guest Speaker:
Fr. Sunny Castillo
Pastor at St. Michael,
Singer, Actor, Poet & Blogger

Fr. Sunny was ordained a priest on June 5, 2004, only the second Filipino to be ordained for the Diocese of Joliet, and is currently the pastor at Saint Michael Church in Wheaton, IL. Prior to this, he was given the charge of consolidating three parishes in Kankakee where he also served as pastor - Saint Teresa, Saint Martin, and Saint Rose. In July 2017, he became the founding pastor of St. John Paul II Parish also in Kankakee. Prior to these pastorate assignments, he served as parochial vicar at Saint Mary Immaculate in Plainfield, Saint Michael in Wheaton and Saint Dominic in Bolingbrook. He was also appointed by Bishop Ronald Hicks as the Coordinator of Ongoing Formation of Priests in the Joliet Diocese starting in August of 2022.

Dinner Meeting Details

6:00 pm - Rosary

6:20 pm - Mass

7:00 pm - Fellowship

7:15 pm - Dinner & Welcome

7:45 pm - Meeting Begins

8:00 pm - Guest Speaker

Please RSVP to Joyce Bauer, mrsbb25@gmail.com



Lenten Confessions *for the* West DuPage Deanery

All 16 Parishes of the West DuPage Deanery are sharing in
TWO special days of Confessions with multiple priests

ALL DAY from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM

on Friday, April 4, 2025 at Divine Mercy Parish, Lombard

and also

on Friday, April 11, 2025 at St. Mark Parish, Wheaton

Our Deanery priests will be assisting in this Holy Time of grace. We invite you all to take advantage of this opportunity for the Sacrament of Confession.

"When you approach the confessional, know this, that I Myself am waiting there for you. I am only hidden by the priest, but I Myself act in your soul."

(Our Lord to St. Faustina)

JUBILEE YEAR 2025 MARCH CELEBRATIONS



On March 8-9, our Holy Father will be remembering in prayer and celebrating with Voluntary Workers. We remember all our parish volunteers and ask for God's blessings to be upon them as they come forward to serve others, in our community and in organizations beyond our parish, city, state and country. When you see volunteers that you know, express your gratitude to them for their willingness to step forward to be of service to others.

Parish Support

Monthly Stewardship Report

	Feb 2025	YTD
Offertory Budget	\$ 155,000	\$1,287,000
Offertory Actual	\$ 149,897	\$1,313,621
Total Over (Under)	< \$ 5,103 >	\$ 26,621
Major Maintenance	\$ 1,162	\$ 18,825
St. Michael Needy Fund	\$ 2,674	\$ 24,509

LEAD Project Update

Pledged	\$ 1,786,543
Collected	\$ 1,690,222

Stewards Blessed

"I have now brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, O Lord, have given to me." - DEUTERONOMY 26:10

This line from the Old Testament offers two challenges. First, do you give to God from your "first fruits" - the first and best that you have to offer? Or do you give from what you have leftover? Second, do you realize that everything you have and that everything you are has been given to you by God? We aren't owners of anything, we are merely Stewards of God's gifts. Pray for a grateful and generous heart, every day, in all circumstances.



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Scan the QR code with your phone's camera and tap on the pop up link which will bring you to our website for one-time or recurring online donations or go to our website at



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



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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.



The 2025 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal has begun!

As the Diocese of Joliet launches the 2025 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA), we are humbly asking all parishioners to pledge their support for this important effort, as together we can make a profound difference.

This year's CMAA theme is *Open your heart to God's goodness*. Through our support, we ensure that the mission and ministries of Christ's Church are available to everyone. Together, we can help provide safe shelter for the homeless, feed the physical and social needs of those who are hungry, inspire those discerning a life of vocation, and aid in the education of our next generation of Catholics. Our parish could not accomplish all of this on its own. As a diocese working together, we can do so much more.

Our parish goal for the 2025 CMAA is \$177,100, and 70% of any amount we raise over our goal will be returned to us and used fruitfully within our own parish. Please review the materials you receive in the mail from the Diocese of Joliet this month and prayerfully reflect on your gift to this year's annual appeal.

If you do not receive a CMAA mailing, please contact the parish office.

Thank you!

Bulletin Submission Due Dates & Requirements



March 23rd Due: Friday, March 14th
March 30th Due: Friday, March 21st

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

Mark your calendar!

St. Mike's



FISH FRY

MARCH 14

APRIL 11

5 - 7 P M

"Don't cook! Come to the fish fry!"

FISH PLATE

CHEESE PIZZA PLATE

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