



St. Michael

CATHOLIC CHURCH

310 S. Wheaton Avenue, Wheaton, IL 60187

March 16, 2025



2ND SUNDAY OF LENT



While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." - Lk 9:34-35



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



Bishop Hicks' Column
March 2025

IF...



The title of this article, **"If,"** is so short that it's easy to overlook — yet few words carry so much weight in the Catholic imagination. These two simple letters hold the potential to launch beautiful dreams or plant seeds of destructive doubt.

On the positive side, the word **"if"** opens possibilities, like saying, *"If I work hard, I can succeed."* It encourages hope and stimulates creativity, like wondering, *"What if we did it this way?"* It motivates action by highlighting the rewards, like a teacher saying to their student, *"If you study, you'll pass the exam."* And it suggests a promising outcome, like me predicting, *"If you are reading this article, you are probably a disciple of Jesus."*

"If" is the kind of word that sparks dreams — *If I trust in God, maybe He will take care of everything.* It invites us to imagine what God could do if only we dared to trust and surrender ourselves to His will. Consider the Gospel of Matthew, where Jesus says, *"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, nothing will be impossible for you"* (Matthew 17:20). That tiny word, **"if,"** encourages us to believe in the miraculous, and to trust that God can work wonders through even the smallest act of faith. It does not demand perfection but presents many hopeful possibilities.

There is, however, another side to **"if"** that can be perilous. When used with doubt or hesitation, **"if"** becomes a stumbling block. During this Lenten season, we are reminded that Jesus was tempted in the desert by Satan with the word **"if"** (Matthew 4):

- *"If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."*
- *"If You are the Son of God, throw yourself down."*
- *"All these I will give you, if you kneel down and worship me."*

Satan's use of **"if"** was not just about testing Jesus' power — it was about trying to plant doubt in Jesus' very identity as the Son of God. That is the same tactic the enemy uses against us today, aiming to make us question who we are in God's eyes. But Jesus bravely resisted these **"if"**-based lies. He knew and fully embraced His identity as the Son of God and remained grounded in His mission, united with His Father and the Holy Spirit.

In moments of trial, we too face the temptation to question God's love or plan: *"If God is good, why am I suffering?"* We are fallible humans; our faith is often tested during challenging times. But our faith calls us to move beyond these doubts, trusting in God's greater purpose even when we do not completely understand.

Just as Satan tempted Jesus to doubt His own identity, we too can be lured into believing a deceitful lie about our identity. But there is **no "if"** about our awe-inspiring identity: we are all made in the image and likeness of God. We are God's beloved sons and daughters. And although we are sinners, Jesus came to forgive us and save us from our sins. We trust that promise. Our faith is founded on that truth.

I have seen too many people accept the lie about their true identity. That lie is often planted subtly through internal narratives like, *I cannot really be God's beloved son or daughter because I am not smart enough, not good enough, not holy enough, not attractive, not athletic, not popular, not likable...* or even worse, *not lovable.* We are bombarded daily with subtle lies about our worth — in social media, in relationships, and even in our own thoughts. But God's truth is unwavering: you are His beloved. There's no **"if"** about it. When we reject that basic lie and live in the light of our identity as a beloved daughter or son of God, we are on the road to true joy and salvation.

I invite you to eliminate any and all doubts about Jesus and yourself. God never says, *I will only love you "if" you are perfect.* God's love and mercy for you are unconditional.

So, as we journey through this Lenten season, let us reject the **"if"** of doubt and embrace the certainty of God's love. Pray for the strength to ignore the negative **"speak"** and to center on the positive truths. With clarity and conviction, we proclaim that Jesus is God. He alone is worthy of our praise, honor, and glory. He is our Savior through His life, suffering, death, and resurrection. He has won the victory over death and offers eternal life to all who believe and follow Him.

You are a beloved child of God. When it comes to God and the divine love freely given to all of us, there is no **"if"** whatsoever!



Blessings and peace to you!

As we begin our Lenten journey, marked by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, I am writing to inform you of two identical pieces of legislation that would legalize assisted suicide in Illinois: SB 9 and HB 1328. Please consider offering your prayers and fasting to help stop this. In addition, take action by writing, calling, or emailing your state elected officials to vote **“NO”** on this legislation. For further information, visit www.ilcatholic.org or call 217-528-9200.

Assisted suicide would make it legal for a physician to prescribe a range of lethal drugs to a person diagnosed with a terminal disease who requests to end his or her life.

It is alarming that in states where suicide is legalized, there are documented cases of people being denied life-saving medical treatment by insurance companies in favor of the much cheaper option of life-ending drugs. The poor and those with disabilities are particularly at risk, as they are the most vulnerable to such abuses. Every major national organization that represents people with disabilities opposes assisted suicide. There is no way to prevent the vulnerable from being coerced or intimidated into ending their lives once assisted suicide is legal.

The American Medical Association (AMA) has summed up the case against assisted suicide well: *“Physician-assisted suicide is fundamentally incompatible with the physician’s role as healer, would be difficult or impossible to control, and would pose serious societal risks.”*

Proponents argue that this legislation will end suffering at the end of life. As Catholics, we agree that no one should needlessly suffer or have to watch a loved one experience unnecessary pain. Fortunately, there are now effective ways to make a person more comfortable at the end of life through palliative care.

Assisted suicide is not the compassionate solution for those who are suffering. Through palliative care, expanded access to mental health care, and stronger family and community support, providers and families are finding better ways to accompany these individuals compassionately — ways that truly reflect the love for and dignity of each human life.

Through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, let us continue to pray for respect and dignity for human life from conception to natural death.

As I remain —

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks

Please visit www.ilcatholic.org/take-action or call 217-528-9200 to find out how to contact your local elected officials and urge them to vote **NO** on SB 9 and HB 1328.

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.



Stations
OF THE CROSS

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

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

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

It was on that occasion that the LORD made a covenant with
Abram, saying: "To your descendants I give the land,
from the Wadi of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates."
(Gn 15:18)

Psalm:

The Lord is my light and my salvation. (Ps 27)

Second Reading:

He will change our lowly body
to conform with his glorified body
by the power that enables him also
to bring all things into subjection to himself. (Phil 3:21)

Gospel:

Jesus took Peter, John, and James
and went up the mountain to pray.
While he was praying his face changed in appearance
and his clothing became dazzling white. (Lk 9:28b-29)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
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Observances for the week of March 16, 2025

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent
Monday: St. Patrick, Bishop [OM]; St. Patrick's Day
Tuesday: St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Wednesday: St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Next Sunday: 3rd 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.

Prayer Ministry

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

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

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 16 — March 23

3/16	Deacon Michael Doyle Deacon Robert Duncan Deacon William Dunn
3/17	Sr. Mary Jo Keane Sr. Teresa Maltby RSM
3/18	Fr. Jerzy Zieba CR Fr. J. Rodolphe Arty CSC
3/19	Fr. Brian Geary Fr. Frank Pusateri
3/20	Fr. Kevin Farrell Fr. Eduardo Flores
3/21	Sr. Alicja Jaszczak Sr. Boguslaw Bladek Sr. Agnieszka Jach MChR
3/22	Fr. Joel Fortier Fr. Daniel Hoehn
3/23	Sr. Wieslawa Jamrozik Sr. Jadwiga Kokolus Sr. Malgorzata Leszczynska MChR



MASS INTENTIONS

Mass Offered For

Requested By

SUNDAY, March 16

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

MONDAY, March 17

6:30AM	+ Phyllis Holmen	Matt & Tasha Rice Family
8:00AM	+ Marie Rezzo	Boken Family

TUESDAY, March 18

6:30AM	+ Bea Hester	Mary Culhane
8:00AM	+ Thomas Sommerdyke	LaBelle Family

WEDNESDAY, March 19

6:30AM	+ Dean & Bezdon Families	Family
8:00AM	+ Joseph Rezzo	Boken Family
	+ John Scala	Carroll Family

THURSDAY, March 20

6:30AM	+ Joe Duckworth	Mavis & Tom Langan
8:00AM	+ Fr. Charles Fanelli	Kania Family

FRIDAY, March 21

6:30AM	+ Jerry Klein	Andrea Quinn
8:00AM	+ Anthony Faut	Ford Family

SATURDAY, March 22

8:00AM	+ Bonnie Kissell	Martha Cressy
5:00PM	St. Michael Parishioners	

SUNDAY, March 23

7:15AM	+ Weber & Gokle Families	Bruce & Kathy Dudzik
9:00AM	Cory & Kathryn Evans	Ann & Charlie Evans
	+ Kevin Anderson	Michael Smith
10:45AM	+ Paul Gauer	Brodhead Family



M. Patricia Kruse

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



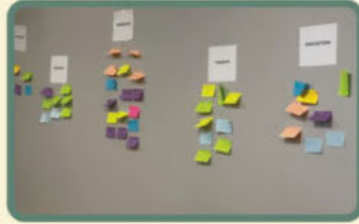
<https://www.williams-kampp.com/obituaries/obituary-listings>



<https://www.hultgrenfh.com>



St. Michael Ministry Vision Meeting



Over 100 parish volunteers from St. Michael's many ministries were in attendance for the Ministry Meeting held on March 8th.

Fr. Sunny used this opportunity to present the vision for St. Michael ministries using an open forum, answering questions and seeking thoughts and suggestions from the group.

*The next Vision Meeting will be held in September.
Watch the bulletin and Flocknote for more information!*

Parish Mission

"The Eucharistic Life"



Chris Bray
Chalice Ministries
Catholic Speaker,
Musician and Author

**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 Parish

Winter/Spring Book Club

FRIDAY, MARCH 28TH
9:30AM - 10:30AM
Faith Center - Room 114

"He Leadeth Me"
by Walter J. Ciszek

We will be discussing Chapters 6, 7 & 8

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

Around the Diocese

COURAGE UNDER FIRE

19TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SATURDAY 29 MARCH 2025
JOIN US AT BENET ACADEMY, 2200 MAPLE AVE., LISLE

START WITH CHRIST

The day begins with Mass
and ends with a spiritual
renewal.

BRING YOUR SONS

And sons, bring your Father.
Build a special bond with a
powerful Father/Son blessing.

WIVES & DAUGHTERS

Support the men in your life
and your parish throughout
the morning in prayer.

COURAGEOUS PRIESTS

Our spiritual leaders will hear
many confessions and heal
countless souls.



Bishop Ronald Hicks
Bishop of Joliet, former
regional director of Nuestros
Pequeños Hermanos, and
USCCB Committee member.



Bart Schuchts
Founder of Church on Fire,
speaker and retreat leader
bringing transformative
encounters with God's love.



Fr. Ryan Adorjan
Parochial Vicar of Visitation
Catholic Church, Elmhurst,
and speaker on faith, culture,
and arts.

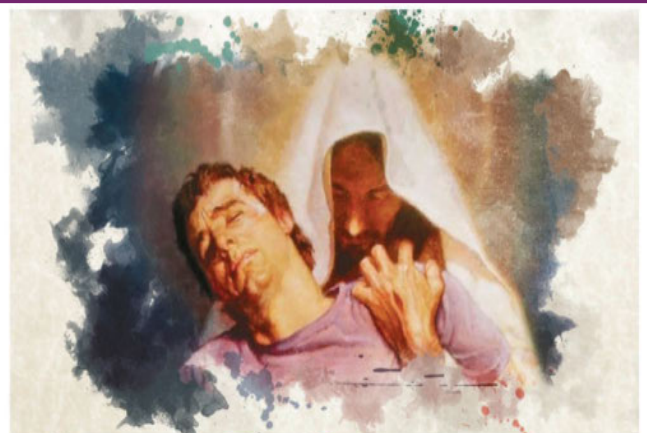


Tim Glemkowski
Executive Director of
Amazing Parish and former
CEO of the National
Eucharistic Congress.



REGISTER @
menofchrist.net/joliet

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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)

Parish Support

Monthly Stewardship Report

As of 3/12/25

March 2025

Offertory Budget	\$ 170,000
Envelopes	23,040
Online	30,947
Offertory Actual	\$ 53,987
Total Over (Under)	< \$ 116,013 >

Grateful Stewardship

"I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession." - GENESIS 15:7

Just as the Lord gave Abraham, Moses, and the Israelites a land to possess, He has also given each of us a home. Whether your home is grand or humble, it is a gift from God. Abraham prepared a great sacrifice to the Lord in gratitude for the home God gave him. How do you show your gratitude to God for the home He has given you? Do you make a Stewards sacrifice of any kind? Do you return any of your finances to God, investing in your eternal home just as you invest in your earthly home?

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Never Miss A Bulletin!!

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



Pledge your gift to the CMAA

If you have already pledged your support to the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA), we sincerely thank you! Let's join together to meet our parish's goal of \$177,100. Each and every gift, regardless of size, truly makes a difference.

If you still plan on making your gift, please prayerfully reflect on how best you can Open your heart to God's goodness in support of those in need throughout our diocese. Pledge envelopes are still available in the church, or you can use the envelope you received in the mail from the diocese. We also welcome online gifts at jolietdioceseappeal.org

Remember, if we raise more than our goal, the diocese will return 70% of the amount over our goal to us to reinvest in our own parish. This is an incredible opportunity and blessing!

Please click the link below to watch Bishop Hick's important message about this year's Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal!

<https://stmichaelcommunity.org>

Thank you for your support!

Bulletin Submission Due Dates & Requirements



** EARLY DEADLINES **

March 30th Due: Friday, March 21st

April 6th Due: Friday March 28th

**April 13th (Palm Sunday): Due Friday, March 28th

**April 20th (Easter): Due Wednesday, April 9th

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.

WE ARE CALLED

Updates from St. Michael Parish School

BEGINNING OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

We celebrated Ash Wednesday at our weekly school liturgy.

Lent is a 40 day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ (taken from USCCB.org).

As we prepare for Christ's death and resurrection, we take time as a school family, parish family, and in our homes to pray together and deepen our faith experience. We enjoy Matthew Kelly as a wonderful Evangelist. On his website, DynamicCatholic.com, you can find many helpful resources, short videos, and other information pertaining to our Catholic Faith. View his Ultimate Lenten Journey: Your Spiritual Pilgrimage to Divine Mercy. We hope you enjoy it!

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.

DONATE TO
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ASSISTANCE
TO SUPPORT
OUR SCHOOL!



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Thank You
To the St. Michael's community and School
for the Support and Patronage.
We're Grateful!

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