



**ST. MICHAEL'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

EST. 1872

**GRAND FORKS,
NORTH DAKOTA**

PARISH MISSION

St. Michael's Parish is a welcoming community of Catholic Christians, rich in tradition.

We are inspired by the Holy Spirit and guided by the Word of God.

We exist as a visible witness of Christ through worshiping, educating, evangelizing and serving.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The lobby doors are open to pick-up/drop off. Please call ahead or email to place a Scrip order!. (lori_stmikes@yahoo.com)

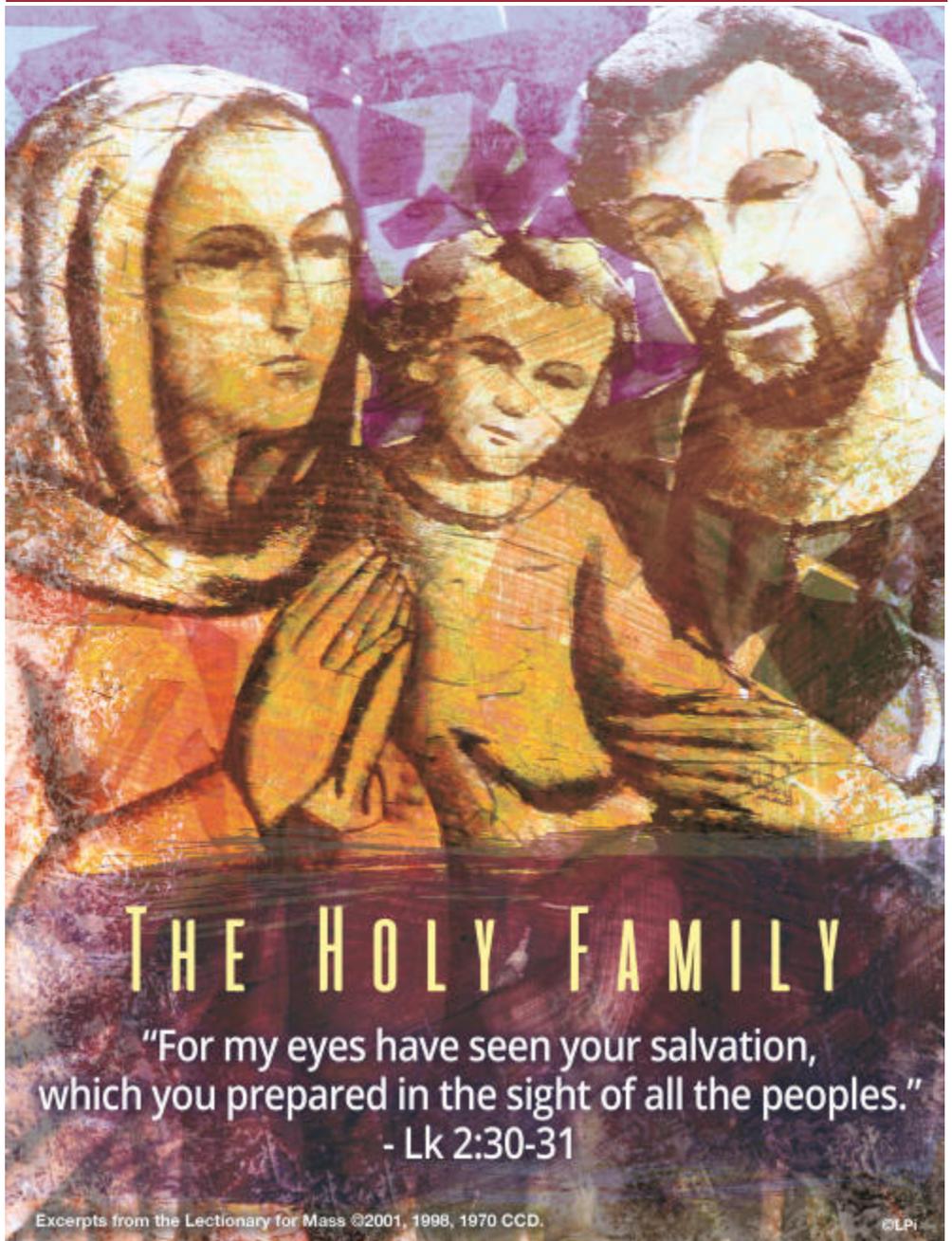
Office Hours

Monday-Thursday:

8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Fridays: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

December 27, 2020



Church Information

Mailing Address:

418 N. 6th St.
Grand Forks, ND 58203

Physical Address:

524 5th Ave. N.
Grand Forks, ND 58203

Telephone:

(701) 772-2624 | Parish Office
(701) 772-2282 | Religious Ed. Office
(701) 772-1822 | School Office

Email:

parishoffice@stmichaelsgf.com
bulletin@stmichaelsgf.com
For bulletin announcements Deadline Mondays,
1:00 pm

Clergy:

Fr. Gerard Braun (Pastor)
Fr. Jered Grossman
Deacon: John Bredemeier

www.stmichaelschurchgf.com



Giving Tree

Thanks to all who volunteered to pack boxes, sort gifts, etc for the annual Giving Tree.

Thank you to all who purchased items to help needy families in our parish, the Northlands Rescue Mission, the Grand Forks Women's Pregnancy Center, the St. Gianna's Maternity Home and St. Michael's Jail Ministry. God bless you for your stewardship!



Catholic Extension Calendars Available

The Catholic Extension Calendars are now available at the Church Entrances. We ask to keep it to one per household.

Thank you Dakota Fire Protection and Lunseth Plumbing & Heating for sponsoring this year's calendars!



St. Michael's received a Memorial gift on behalf of Lillian Wild, a full set of priest and Deacon vestments for Mass. We are most grateful for this gift on behalf of Lillian, a longtime parishioner of St. Michael's who passed away last year.

Peace in Christ,
Fr. Gerard Braun

Thank You

Thank you to the following that volunteered to do the Altar and Sacristy monthly cleaning in the past year: Judy Carter, Karen Bowles, St Therese's Circle, Darlene Hager, Cadence Youngberg, Marge Bina, Laurie Thorsen, September Woolever, Lana Huderle, Rita Myers, Marilyn Wocken, Bernie Leddige and May Fuka.

Memorial Donations St. Michael's Church

In Memory of Marc Pringle and Lester Pringle
given by: Shaaron Pringle

In Memory of Dewey Garceau given by:
Gary & Sharon Nelson, James & Rosemary Finck

In Memory of William Teske given by:
Cecilia Teske

In Memory of John Nikle given by:
Joe Simon, Sue Simon, Joan Carter

Directions for Attending Mass

CDC requirements in place. Limited capacity.

Be prepared to attend another Mass if the church becomes full.

- Please wear a mask at all times
- Families may sit together.
- Observe 6 feet distancing.
- Please do not congregate in the entrances or on the steps outside the church.
- If you are ill, please plan on viewing the Mass via live stream.

Mary, Mother of God

Holy Day of Obligation

Vigil on Thursday, December 31: 5:15 pm

Friday, January 1: 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am

Parish Office Holiday Hours

Closed: Friday, January 1st.

Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.



The Amazing Prayer Shawl

Do you have a loved one whom is very ill, someone who feels alone, or someone whose hope is wavering? The Amazing Prayer Shawl is a gift of love and prayers from our faith sharing community for those who receive it.

Prayer Angels commit to prayer as they fulfill their part in the construction of the blanket. The process involves shopping for material, coordinating fleece fabric, cutting, sewing or tying of the shawl and tagging it. After the shawls are complete, they are blessed by a Priest. Those who are to receive the shawls are held in prayer. These beautiful acts truly transform the shawl into a **“Prayer Shawl”**, whose very threads become interwoven with pleas for healing on behalf of the recipient. Each shawl bears a tag that reads, *“Wrapped in Prayers”*.

The Prayer Shawl symbolizes the Love of God as it surrounds the recipient. It brings comfort to the suffering and peace to the fearful. When one sees and touches these shawls, they know they are not alonethey are covered in prayer and that there are many who do care about them.

God has used this beautiful ministry, not only to touch the lives of countless people who have received the Prayer Shawl while they are going through extremely difficult times in their lives, but the lives of those involved in the ministry as well.

We would be very blessed to have people give of their time, talents, and treasures, in making Prayer Shawls possible. **We are looking for volunteers to assist in making Prayer Shawls and or donating funds to make them. A meeting time and place for a teaching session would be set up for those who are interested.** These shawls can be made as a group project if people prefer or they can be made at home by individuals. The fleece material would need to be 58 inches long which is a little more than 1 1/2 yards. **Please contact Carol Rerick @ 701-740-5143 if interested in this worthy project.** Please leave a voicemail with your name, phone number , and Email address if I am unable to take your call. Please see picture on next page!

PASTOR'S NOTES

Praising God at our Christmas Liturgies.

On behalf of St. Michaels parishioners, we offer our thanks and appreciation to all who participated in our Christmas liturgies, and those who served us. Thanks to our decoration volunteers who provided a beautiful Christmas setting for our celebrations. We thank our Choir for their wonderful choral music, our Organists and Cantors for the sacred music you shared with us. We thank our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Proclaimers, Greeters, and Altar Servers. And we thank our children and parents who assisted with the Christmas Eve Posada. It was delightful.

We also want to thank the many who work behind the scenes to help clean up our church each week, the parish volunteers and women of the Altar Society who organize our church cleaning. Thank you all for the gifts of your ministry to St. Michaels.

Thank you for the Christmas Memorials.

We are blessed to celebrate our Sacred Liturgies surrounded by the glowing warmth of a beautiful Christmas environment. We thank those who offered Christmas Flower Memorials on behalf of their loved ones this year. Your gifts helped provide for a beautiful Christmas environment in which to celebrate our Lord's Birth. May our Lord bless your loved ones whom you honored through your memorials.

Christmas—the Feast of the Holy Family.

We continue to celebrate the birth of our Savior as we remember the Feast of the Holy Family this weekend.

The COVID pandemic has shut down so many of our activities this year, but I hope and pray that the additional time we spent in our homes has helped to bring about a greater bond of love and care for one another within our families.

Merry Christmas.

On behalf of Fr. Grossman, Msgr. Pilon, Deacon Bredemeier, Sara Dudley-our school principal, and our entire Parish and School staff, we wish you a Holy and Joyful Christmas Season. May you know the peace of Christ the Prince of Peace.

Thank you again kindness to us.

Thanks for your Christmas greetings, treats, cards and gifts. Your kindness and generosity are a blessing to us and I pray we may serve you faithfully in the New Year.

Mary the “God Bearer.”

This Friday on January 1 we celebrate the Feast of Mary the Mother God. It was at the Council of Ephesus in 431 A.D. that the Church spoke of Mary's unique role as the one to give birth to the God-Man. The Council gave Mary the title of “Theotokos,” the “God Bearer.”

As we continue to celebrate Christmas, may the prayers of our Holy Mother help to renew hearts and friendships, heal wounds and open the doors of peace as we honor and give praise to Jesus Christ, the Son of God who is God's love incarnate.

Thank you for your financial support to your parish.

Jesus asked us, “*Who is the greater: the one seated at table or the one who serves? Is it not the one seated at table? I am among you as the one who serves.*” Luke 22:27

God's humble service to us began as a child, as one of us. He continued to love and serve us, to the point of offering His life on the Cross. *As followers of Christ Jesus, thank you for your gifts to St. Michael's this past year!*

The economic challenges precipitated by the COVID pandemic have impacted many of our people. Yet, it has been especially heartwarming to see so many continue to offer their donations to help support St. Michael parish ministries.

God bless you for your generosity of soul. God bless you for believing in a larger world than our own back yards. God bless you for caring. Thank you again for your kindness. We will be sending out individual financial giving statements towards the middle of January.

All City Christmas Eve Dinner in a COVID year.

The COVID virus affected our capacity to host the annual Christmas Eve Dinner this year, a tradition that began at St. Michaels back in the 1970's. Sadly, we were not able to host the meal in our parish this year.

However, Sue Shirek, the Director of the Northlands Rescue Mission, graciously offered to prepare the meal and serve it out of the Mission.

Continued ----->

PASTOR'S NOTES

We are most grateful to Sue and her wonderful staff who prepared the Christmas meal, and all our parish volunteers who assisted with its distribution and delivery to families in need.

Wishing you a Happy New year!

On behalf of Fr. Grossman, Msgr Pilon, Deacon Bredemeier, our school principal Sara Dudley, and our parish and school staff, we wish you a Holy and Joyous Christmas. May you know the love and peace of Christ Jesus, the Prince of Peace, and may you draw ever closer to Him who is the hope of all the world. Amen.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr Gerard Braun



Memorial gift on behalf of Lillian Wild.

PARISHIONERS!
PLEASE SIGN UP TODAY!

5

WE  TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU!



TEXT
MichaelGF
TO 84576

OR CONNECT WITH US ONLINE AT

stmichaelgf.flocknote.com

Rosaries as Decorations

Question: I've seen people hang rosaries over the rear-view mirrors in their cars and a few of them wear them around their necks. Is it OK to do that?

Answer:

The practice of hanging a rosary or a religious medal off of the rearview mirror of one's car is a fairly popular custom across many cultures. While there is no particular rule approving or condemning this practice, we should also be mindful of the respect and reverence due to religious objects and devotional items (i.e. sacramentals).

An important point to consider would be the reason why one chooses to place a rosary or religious medal in our cars. Is it a reminder of the protection and intercession of Mary and the saints? Does it encourage us to be mindful of God's presence, even in such a mundane task as driving? Is it an outward expression of our more private devotions?

One advantage of having a rosary or religious medal in our cars is that it can also serve as a reminder to pray when we travel, asking for protection for ourselves and for other motorists or commuters. Certainly, invoking the protection and prayers of the saints is a wonderful practice for families, helping to reinforce our belief in the communion of saints and the care and concern we owe to one another.

End of year donations

A New Year is right around the corner. Of course every New Year brings the challenge of taxes. For those of you who itemize and are looking for ways to reduce your obligation to Uncle Sam now is the time to act.

Did you know that you can benefit from gifts of **cash, stock, and even tangible personal property** to the church. (Please check with your tax professional to see how each of these gifts will benefit you.)

By law, contributions must be applied to the year in which they are received. The only exception would be when a check is mailed, it is applied to the year the envelope is postmarked, even if it is received in the next calendar year.

If you wish to claim your charitable contributions for income tax purposes, then you must relinquish control of the funds before it is technically a contribution. Therefore, if you have not mailed your contribution by year-end, no matter what date is on the check, you haven't really given up control (per the IRS).

Additionally the IRS states that a mailed contribution **must have been postmarked on or before December 31st** which proves that control was given up by the end of the year.

If you wish to get credit for your donation in 2020, please drop off at the parish office by **Thursday, December 31st, 4:00 pm** or in the collection at the **5:15 pm Mass on December 31, 2020. If mailed, make sure your donation is postmarked by December 31, 2020.**

We hope this information helps clear up any confusion

Men's Club "Month of Money" Winners

Congratulations to:

Dec. 21: Sue Rodgers #053

Dec. 22: Amy DeWitt #289

Dec. 23: Pat Swangler #448

Dec. 24: Tim Shea #312

Dec. 25: Brenda Gjelsness (\$500) #375

Dec. 26: Shawn Coleman #314

Dec. 27: Trisha MacKenzie #402

Mass Livestream links available on our website
Stmichaelschurhgf.com

Everyday Stewardship

The Gift of Family

What a year it has been! How will we speak of these times a decade from now? As time goes by, our impressions of this past year will certainly change. How we feel today about dealing with a killer virus and all the chaos surrounding that is still fresh for all. I would assume that most of us right now are also holding those we love a little closer and hugging them a little harder. Hopefully, even if the fears and concerns of 2020 dissipate in the future, the way we feel toward our family should never leave us.

Stewardship is certainly about everything. God has given us so much, great and small, profound and common. One of the greatest gifts that all have received is family. Families take all shapes and sizes and some look very different than others. For some, family is a caretaker or temporary guardian. For others it is a friend when everyone else seems to have vanished. The bottom line is that, to quote a song from many years ago, "people need people."

When God gave the world His only Son, the Incarnation did not come on a cloud or with a flash of light. He was born into a family. Jesus understood the gift of family all his life. Do you think that if having a family wasn't important God would have still included this in the plan of salvation?

As this year draws to a close, remember your stewardship many days begins and ends with the people closest to you. Don't misuse or take for granted this precious gift. God gives us gifts on purpose, even to His only begotten Son.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi

Bulletin Announcements

Deadline Mondays, 1:00 pm

Email: bulletin@stmichaelsgf.com

LITURGICAL ROLES

Saturday & Sunday, January 2 & 3rd
Schedule not available due to early press time.
Please see the website to view the schedule.



SCRIP GIFT CARDS

We Are Still Selling Scrip Gift Cards!

Thank you to all who continue to buy Scrip for their purchases. Please read below for instructions.

How to Purchase

Please email (preferred) or call us first to place your order so we can make sure we have everything in stock.

We will place your order in the lobby of the Parish Office for you to pick up! Leave your payment in the drop box. Easy peasy!
Thank you!

Prefer Email: lori_stmikes@yahoo.com
Phone: (701) 772-2624



MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 28

7:15 am Int. of Richard & Kathy Moch
5:15 pm Int. of Dianne Schultz

Tuesday, December 29

7:15 am †Lowell Schweigert
9:30 am Mass at Valley Eldercare on Columbia
5:15 pm †Bill Schmisek

Wednesday, December 30

7:15 am †Vernon & Jamie Ellenson
5:15 pm †Verdeen Leddige

Thursday, December 31

7:15 am †Travis & Stacey Williams
5:15 pm Int. of Steve Schultz

Friday, January 1

7:30 am †Sharon Bredemeier
9:00 am Int. of Nancy Bushaw
11:00 am For the People

Saturday, January 2

7:15 am Int. of Children of Mary Dietz
5:00 pm †Conner Sander

Sunday, January 3

7:30 am Int. of Con & Clara Dietz
9:00 am †Marvin & Connie Heil
11:00 am †Jack Foley
5:00 pm For the People

Tuesday Adoration @ St. Michael's

You are invited by our Lord to come before Him in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesdays. Those who are not able to attend Mass on Sunday will find a wide-open church and a wonderful time to sit with our Lord and open your heart to Him in prayer.

Each week on Tuesdays, 8:00 am—9:00 pm

Please check our Master Calendar, available on our website, to see if a funeral or another event has been scheduled.

<https://www.stmichaelschurchgf.com/parish-calendar>

Also, if interested in signing up for a weekly commitment, please do so at the following website:

<https://adorationpro.org/michaelnd> - click on "Weekly Commitment" and choose a time.

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