



St. Michael's

CATHOLIC CHURCH

11/28/2021

First Sunday of Advent

Readings for the week of November 28, 2021

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

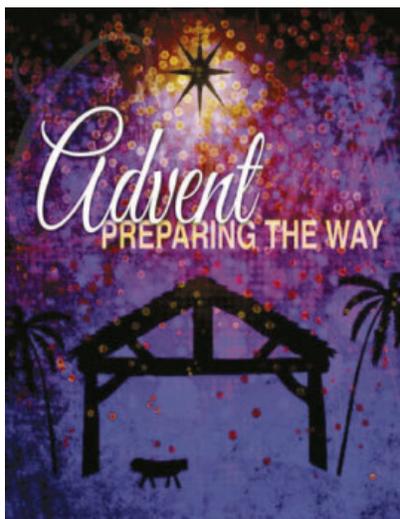
Preparing the Manger

Where do you fall in the "Christmas-songs-in-November" debate — do you like them, tolerate them, or outright hate them? There's no theological problem with Christmas songs in November outside of worship, even if it's not everyone's cup of tea. But there is a problem with getting so caught up in the baggage of the season — the trimmings, the gifts, the celebrations, all of which are marvelous in their own way — that you forget to prepare the manger.

Every good Catholic knows that Lent is a penitential season. It's hard to miss that point — Lent doesn't even have any fun songs you can groove to on the radio. We are pretty good at recognizing that Lent calls us to examine ourselves. To deny ourselves. To give of ourselves. And most of all, Lent calls us to prepare, as a good steward does, for the return of our master.

It's harder for us to remember that with Advent, but Advent is just as much of an opportunity for penance, preparation, and reconciliation to God — and just as much reason, too. The very name of the season — "advent" — encourages us to focus on what is coming, not what is already here. Be on guard, the readings tell us today, "so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and (the coming of the Lord) catch you unexpectedly, like a trap."

So let us not forget — our master's advent is upon us. And let us ask ourselves: how can we prepare the manger?



Church Address **Mailing Address**
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Harlan, IA 51537 Harlan, IA 51537

Hours: **Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30 pm**

Phone: **755-5244**

Fax: **755-2604**

Website:

www.stmichaelparish.com

Parish Hall/Kitchen:

755-5744

Pastor

Fr. Clement Owusu

755-5244

Email: oagustine668@gmail.com

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Rev. Mr. Jim DeBlauw

712-755-5244

Director of Faith Formation

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712-755-5366

*Email: dre@stmichaelparish.com

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Shelby County Catholic School

Principal Ann Andersen

712-755-5634

www.shelcocath.pvt.k12.ia.us

Hispanic Outreach Minister

Sr. Joyce Blum, FSPA

712-489-2426

Email: sisterjblum@fmctc.com

St. Peter's in Defiance
Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 am
Saturday 4:00 pm
St. Joseph's in Earling
Wednesday & Friday 8:00 am
Sunday 9:00 am

MASS INTENTIONS for the Week of November 29, 2021

Monday, November 29, No Mass
 Tuesday, November 30, 8:15 am Mass for Steve & Sharon Finken & Family
 Wednesday, December 1, 8:15 am School Mass for a Special Intention
 Family Formation 6:30 pm Rosman Parish Center
 Thursday, December 2, 12:00 Noon Mass for the Leonard & Joyce Graeve Family
 6:30 pm Devotional Discussion in Parish Office Meeting Room
 Friday, December 3, 8:15 am Mass in memory of Otto & Dean Klein & Irene Buckley
 - - - First Friday Adoration with 12:00 noon Benediction
 10:00 am Devotional Discussion in Parish Office Meeting Room
 Saturday, December 4, 5:00 pm Mass for the people of St. Michael's
 Sunday, December 5, 9:30 am Mass in memory of Harold & Monica Kleffman and Jim Poepfel
 1:00 pm Advent Healing/Reconciliation Service at St. Michael's
 4:00 pm Advent Healing/Reconciliation Service at St. Peters

Please note

new email addresses on front page

Reminder: Next week is Food Pantry Collection

Where to Watch

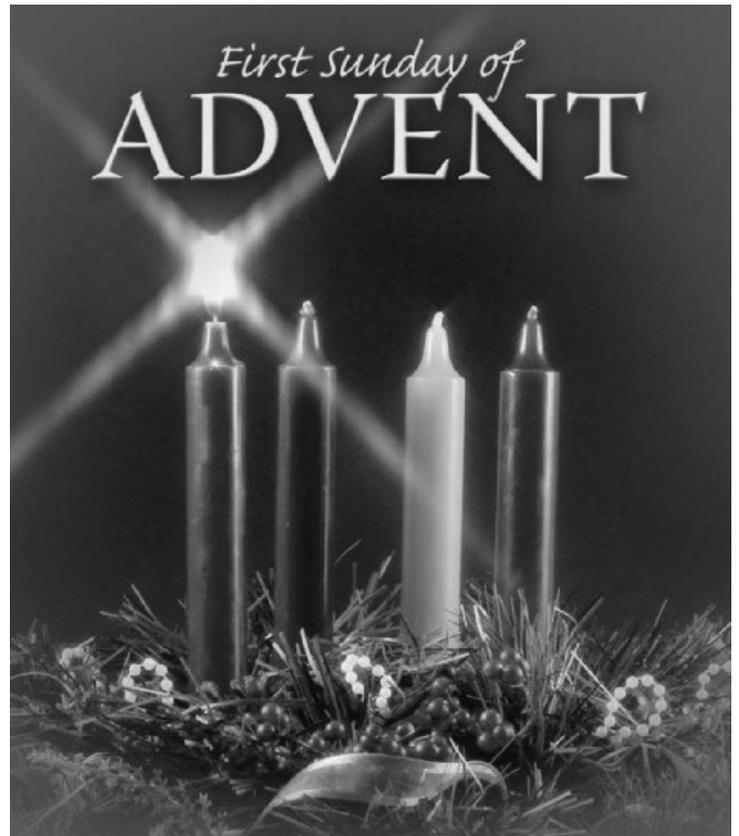
St. Michael's Mass is televised on cable TV (HMU Channel 15 at 4:00 pm on Sunday & Wednesday, on Mediacom Channel 18 at 4:00 pm on Monday, and on FMCTC Channel 48 at 4:00 pm on Sunday.)

Mass is also available as **livestream** or on demand on Harlan Knights of Columbus channel on YouTube at:
<https://tinyurl.com/y4ax6z3g>

St. Michael's 9:30 AM Sunday Mass is **livestreamed** on Facebook:
St. Michael's Catholic Church - Harlan, IA

Ministry Schedule

Dec 4-5	Saturday 5:00	Sunday 9:30
Lector	Marcus Gross, Jr.	Beth Klein
Eucharistic Ministers	Mary Tepe (T) Roger Bissen Dea Ann Bissen	Pam Gubbels (T) Brian Gubbels Virginia Kruse
Servers	Ellie Gross Joseph Gross	Foxx Argotsinger Tonya Goeser Tyler Harms
Musicians Cantors	K. Kohorst & P. Bogler	Nancy Osborn
Ushers	Gene Gross Don Stowe Alice Kenkel Volunteer Needed	Dale Swanson Tom Murtaugh Maxine Kwapiszeki Brenda Grewe



The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is typically made of evergreen branches which symbolize eternity, God's eternal love and mercy for us. The Advent wreath containing the four candles, three violet, one rose, and sometimes one white, symbolizes prayer, penance, anticipation, preparation, longing, and hope of the Lord's first coming into the world, and his second coming to judge the living and the dead. Violet represents royalty, repentance, and fasting. Rose, used on Gaudete Sunday (Latin for joy), represents abundant joy and is lit on the third Sunday when Advent is half over. White (Christ candle) is lit on Christmas eve & symbolizes light and purity.

Remember the Sick

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Gary Kenkel | Becca (Kloewer) Fawkes |
| Charlotte Leinen | Olivia Fawkes |
| Tami Rueschenberg | Dawson Fawkes |
| Jennifer Anderson | Ethel Defenbaugh |
| Gay Burgod | Tyler Bruck |
| Fr. Glen Wilwerding | Denny Stolz |
| Carol Thompson | Harry Kloewer |
| Theresa Kranz | |

Sacrament Information

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

4:00 P.M. Saturday or by Appointment

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Is celebrated by request. Notify the office.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Contact the office to set a date

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Wedding dates are set after initial interview with Father Clement



Welcome back Sunday Saints!!!
St. Michael's is so blessed to be able to offer it's children this gift. Call the office if you want to help with this ministry, 755-5366.

Lector Workbooks

The lector workbooks for the new year are in the sacristy. Lectors, please pick up your book and cross your name off the list, so we know that you have your book. Thank you!



**Check out the
NEW KIOSK
in back of Church for
some wonderful
Christmas Gifts!**



CONGRATULATIONS

Shelby Co Catholic School Raffle Winners

- \$50 Phil Gubbels**
- \$50 Henry Schaben**
- \$100 Ella Schaben**
- Big Winner - Danielle Mages \$6,165**



Gift Card Collection for West Central/SCCO 11/13-12/5

Place in Collection Plate or drop off at Parish Office
Teens (Kohl's, Target, Bath & Body Works, Walmart, 5 Below)
Families (Hy-Vee/Fareway)

Advent Devotional Discussions

Gather in Parish Office Meeting Rm, bring Devotional
Thursday's at 6:30 PM Dec 2, 9 & 16 and/or
Friday's at 10 AM Dec 3, 10 & 17

Diocesan Advent Opportunity

Hope in the Midst of the Storm Join Catholics from around the diocese in an online Advent retreat. We'll intertwine prayer, find inspiration from Pope Francis, allow time for silent reflection and build community. This is a three-week online retreat that is not about adding one more thing to your holiday schedule. It's designed to help you find space to draw you deep into the season that is in need of solace and hope. Join us Dec. 3, 10 and 17 either at 2 p.m. or 7 p.m. Email jgaffney@dmdioocese.org for more information or to receive the Zoom link.

Below is the link to sign up for Best Advent Ever
<https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent.html>

CHRISTMAS CAROLS @ ST. MICHAEL'S

Monday, Dec 13 at 6:30-7:30pm ALL are welcome
Carols will be led by St. Michael's Musicians & singers from our Defenders Youth Group.
Fri., Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 5 & 9 pm, Fr. Clement
Sat., Dec. 25 Christmas Day 9 am, Fr. Wayne
Sun., Dec 26 Holy Family 9:30 am, Fr. Mark Urey

IN MEMORIAM

Jim Kohles of our parish
Estella Quinn, Mother-in-law of Linda Quinn @
grandmother of Kara Koesters of our parish
Shirley Schaben, niece of Charlie Schaben, Janice Schmitz @
Gladys Rau of our parish

To the thoughtful parishioners of St. Michael's,
Thank you for the many get well cards as I have been recovering from my left knee replacement surgery. I am pleased to share that the surgery went smooth and safe. The pain has been minimal and tolerable. According to my therapist, I'm ahead of schedule on my recovery. Thank you again for your cards & prayers and I hope you all had a very Happy Thanksgiving!
Most gratefully yours, Father John Frost

Catholic Daughters of Earling

On Thursday, December 9, at 6:45 pm we will meet in the Earling Parish Hall for a short business meeting. Following the meeting we will have our Christmas party, prepare Christmas cards for special people, and enjoy festive Christmas activities. Please bring a wrapped ornament for the gift exchange.

Some Question answered from our 'Town Hall' Meetings

Question: What does this cost and who is responsible for the cost?
Answer: The KCs will handle all costs associated with a license and insurance so that there is no cost to the parish. It will actually save the parish money by not having to rent a facility for our annual dinner and auction.

Question: How does licensing work?
Answer: The KCs apply for a beer only license in length long enough for the approximate 2 month window for the fish fry Fridays and a 5 day license for the annual dinner/auction. As part of the license process, proof of insurance is required before the license is approved.

Question: What events are going to be held if this is approved?
Answer: The KCs are only asking for permission for the 6 fish fry events and the annual auction/dinner. The KCs have no desire to work at and serve for other events such as weddings.

Question: Does this mean it is set in stone forever?
Answer: The KCs are willing to adapt and see how it goes. If the KCs don't feel it is working well or if the parish does not feel it is working well it can be changed in the future.

St. Michael's Mission Statement

We, the people of St. Michael's Catholic Parish, are many parts, but one body. As a community of believers in Jesus Christ and inspired by the Holy Spirit, we celebrate the sacraments, are challenged by Sacred Scripture and Roman Catholic Tradition, share of ourselves in service to others, and strive to promote the dignity of all human life and justice for all, as we continue toward the eternal glory of God's kingdom.



FORMED

SEE INSERT

KIOSK

CHECK IT OUT IN THE VESTIBULE

THANKS!

Much gratitude to all those involved in giving these amazing gifts to our parish!

Family Formation Encounter

12/1 6:30-7:45 K-6

Rosman Parish Hall

Defenders Youth Group (DYG)

12/8 6:30-8:00 Jr High 7-8th

Parish Office Meeting Room

12/15 6:30-8:00 Confirmation

Rosman Parish Hall

12/22 6:30-8:00 Sr High 11-12th

Parish Office Meeting Room

****REMEMBER—ATTENDANCE IS VITAL AS WE CAN ONLY MEET ONCE A MONTH****

FF & DYG youth & families, please join us for the **Devotional Discussion**

Thursdays Dec. 2, 9 & 16 at 6:30 pm

Fridays Dec. 3, 10 & 17 at 10 am

Parish Office Meeting Rm. Look forward to seeing you there!

GIFT IDEA FOR THE YOUTH IN YOUR LIFE!?!?



**SUMMER 2022
REGISTRATION OPENS
11/12 @ NOON!**

PANORA, IA

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**EARLY BIRD
PRICING THROUGH
DEC 31ST!**



"My son was full of joy when I picked him up. He learned so much while he was there about faith. He brings it up all the time, even months later."

-Kellie Soper, mom of Ted

LIMITLESS UNPLUGGED ADVENTURE AWAITS AT OUR ACTIVITIES ZONE!

GOSPEL MEDITATION - 1st Sunday of Advent

Staying awake can often be a challenge, especially when we are exhausted. Life's demands have a way of zapping every last bit of energy out of us. When we are tired it affects us not only physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. All of our senses are dulled and diminished. We can overlook details, become disinterested, lethargic and apathetic, and detached. Getting sufficient physical rest only helps so much. We need to be rejuvenated, refreshed, and reenergized in other ways. If we are psychologically exhausted, we need to understand what is draining our emotions and taxing our relationships. If we are spiritually tired, we need to find the necessary "shot in the arm" to put us back in touch with God. Unfortunately, exhaustion is seldom limited to just one part of who we are. When we lack energy and zeal it is usually the case that everything suffers. We not only are affected physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. In short, when we run out of gas the engine stops.

And yet, our Lord's directive is clear, "Be vigilant at all times." Even Jesus knew what "the anxieties of daily life" can do to us. One day pours into another and time quickly flies by. Any one of us can take a moment and reflect on how many wonderful, creative opportunities we miss because there is always so much "stuff" to do and so little time to do it. Usually these are missed moments of love, and if we are missing love encounters we are also missing God. Sleepwalking through life, we check the boxes next to our list of "must and have to dos" and justify it all by convincing ourselves that tomorrow is another day and there'll be more time. It may surprise us, but tomorrow is here, and time is running out. While we may like to believe that we have an "eternity" of time to do all those things that require the focus, energy, and desire we do not currently have, we don't. We're on a limited ride and time is short.

Jesus is also clear on another point. "That day [will] catch you by surprise like a trap." If we are going to be judged on love and so easily justify not having all that much time to do so, then it seems we must shift focus a bit. St. Teresa of Calcutta tells us, "We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas-time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another." Getting to this place doesn't "just happen." It requires vigilance and discipline both with a knowledge of what is really of importance and what really needs to be the focus of our energy and time. Pray, starting now and not tomorrow, that we can stay alert, be strengthened in our faith, and prepared for whatever will come. Don't miss another opportunity to love.



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