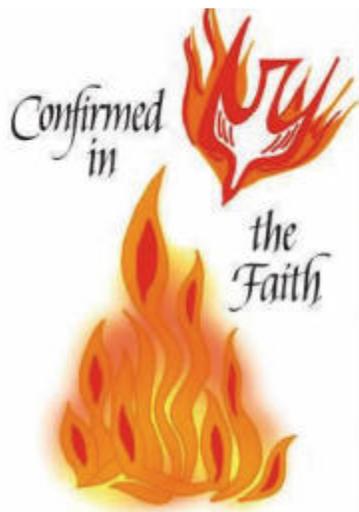


# *the* MESSENGER

ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
40501 Hayes Road · Sterling Heights, Michigan 48313

MISSION STATEMENT: St. Michael Catholic Community strives to be a welcoming parish where people come together to worship, learn and grow in faith. Through our actions, we demonstrate our beliefs in fellowship, service and generous tithing of time, talent and treasure while empowering people to take a more active role in the mission of the church. We care for one another and receive comfort and support in our own times of need. All are encouraged to participate in the journey to live by Christ's example and build the kingdom of God by sharing His word with those we meet.

*Last week 28 young men and women of the parish (listed below) received the Sacrament of Confirmation. This was a joyous time for them as well as for our parish! Fr. Mike, as well as all pastors of the archdiocese, was given special permission to administer this sacrament due to Covid.*



*Jenna Accetta  
Lukas Chrominski  
Ava Chryczyk  
Gianna Courterier  
Brandon Cummings  
Andrew Curcuru  
Carlos Diaz-Hernandez  
Justin Gjinaj  
Julia Graham  
Alexandra Guerrero  
Kennedi Hankins  
Carmina Hernandez  
Alyssa Jansen  
Julia Johnson*

*Matthew Kopich  
Austin Lenz  
Vincenzo Lucci  
Tyler Murphy  
Brayden Reinowski  
Anthony Sabatini  
Chloe Sidote  
Andrew Simon  
Olivia Swartz  
Sara Swartz  
Katelyn Tharrett  
Bryce Valin  
Nolan Viviano  
Joseph Youanes*

---

*Advent Reconciliation Service*  
*Tuesday, December 15 11 o'clock am*  
*Live-streaming on Facebook*

# Advent Schedule

With the entire world contending with the Covid 19 pandemic, our theme or focus for this Advent is simple: Hope, Joy, Peace, Love. Simple, but we feel it says it all for this year.

## **Reconciliation service planned for December 15<sup>th</sup> at 11am**

This will be live-streamed. There will be no individual confessions at this service as we have in the past, but general absolution will be given. Anyone wishing an in-person/private confession is asked to call the Parish Office and schedule a time with Fr. Mike or Fr. Tim.

## **Mass times for Christmas Eve**

*please note the revised times, different from years past*

2:00pm

3:30pm

5:00pm

6:30pm

8:00pm

9:30pm (midnight Mass)

## **Mass times for Christmas Day**

9:00am

11:00am



Regarding Mass times for Christmas: Masses will be simple but meaningful. For this year, all Mass times are changed, be sure and review the schedule above.

There will be a pre-recorded Christmas Mass on our website and Facebook page that will be available for viewing starting at noon on Christmas Eve.

There will be no formal or separate Children's Mass and no Christmas pageant or play as we have done in the past.

Our goal is to add to the number of Masses so people can attend safely. We thought about keeping our "normal" Christmas Mass schedule and issuing tickets; instead we opted to add more Masses. Our maximum number in the church is approximately 160 to 180 people and about 30 to 40 people in the Social Hall based on AOD, CDC, and Michigan Department of Health guidelines. There will be a new process for going to Communion that will be shared before each Mass as well as detailed in the Messenger and on our website and Facebook page.

**REMEMBER, YOU ARE DISPENSED FROM ATTENDING MASS THROUGH ASH WEDNESDAY 2021. PLEASE KEEP YOURSELF SAFE!**

Continuing our discussion on the topic of forgiveness, I would like to refer to a gentleman who made a career out of teaching people the art of forgiveness, Stanford University's Professor Fred Luskin. As he's outlined in his book Forgive for Good, Luskin says the process of coming to forgiveness occurs with the formation of a grievance story. In short, something happens to us that we didn't want to happen and rather than dismissing it, we begin to dwell on it, analyze it, pick it apart in our mind as if nothing else mattered. Luskin uses a catchy term for these ruminations. He says we rent too much space in our head to them.



I am certain we have met folks who wage complaints against someone—a parent, an ex-spouse, a sibling—and can retell their grievance with a freshness and vibrancy as though it happened yesterday. When pushed on the matter, you learn that it happened five years ago or longer. The perpetrator may have long since moved on or forgotten the incident...or long since died, but the event in the mind of the victim is preserved, kept fresh even though it is part of the past.

The challenge of coming to forgiveness is to defocus our attention on the perpetrator and to refocus our attention on us. Why do we allow the past to impact us? Why can't we let go? Why does this singular event or series of events that cause us untold heartache continue to create such havoc in our lives? Why do we allow it to take up so much space inside of our heads? In part we need to understand that no one controls our feelings; we alone have the freedom and the ability to put value on people's words and actions and respond to them at will. No one forces us to feel the way we do. We basically choose to feel/act/react to an action or event according to our will. No one gives us a feeling or makes us feel one way or the other.

This, of course, is a key aspect in forgiveness—and quite honestly, all of counseling. We can and often times do have strong feelings overtake our thinking, but we are always in control of our cognitive process (with the possible exception of brain dysfunction). Coming to that singular realization helps us to move forward. With the proper coaching, we can move through the thicket of our troublesome emotions and come to a place of freedom and peace.

# Claudia

Confirmation continued from page 1



I'm sure you've heard the phrase *It takes a village...* Well, it has certainly taken a huge village to support and encourage those who were confirmed. There are a whole slew of people I'd like to acknowledge who were instrumental in faith-sharing, guiding students, and making the day so wonderful.

- ✧ **Parents:** Thank you for sharing your children with us and trusting us to help you pass on the faith.
- ✧ **Sponsors:** Thank you for being role models for the Confirmandi and sharing your faith with them.
- ✧ Thank you to our catechists: Lydia Piazza, Debbie Bradford, Kristine Pina, and Virginia Chadwick and our aide, Elizabeth Manuszak. Your dedication to and love for our students is awe-inspiring.
- ✧ Thank you to Kathy Chadick who keeps me organized and supports so many aspects of our FLT program. You are *amazing* and *awesome!*
- ✧ Thank you to Barb Kozlowski for being our sacristan; you always have everything in perfect order!
- ✧ Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for providing each Confirmandi with a Bible!
- ✧ Thank you to Don Daher and all the vocalists who shared their talents with us. The music enhanced our celebration.
- ✧ Thank you Fr. Mike and Fr. Tim for celebrating with us and helping to prepare the students for the sacrament. We appreciate your presence to the kids and their families.
- ✧ Finally, thank you to the parish staff who helped with so many of the behind the scenes things: décor, set-ups for various events, prayer and encouragement. It truly does take a village to make this memorable for our young people.



## *A special note to the Confirmandi:*

*As we've told you throughout your formation...Confirmation is not graduation. We hope and pray that you will continue to grow, develop, and mature in your faith. We are confident that the Holy Spirit will inspire you on your journey to becoming joyful, missionary disciples. Remember...you are not the church of the future; you are the church right now! Own your faith, practice it, and be open to the Spirit acting in you and through you in ways that you can never imagine!*



Claudia

DIRECTOR, RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
YOUTH MINISTER

Often times, during the season of Advent, we sing *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*. It is a song that almost certainly all of us know and could probably sing in our sleep. If you look at the beginning of each verse, you will notice that they begin with "O Come..." and then a title for the Messiah (i.e. O come, thou Key of David). These seven verses are called "O Antiphons" and they cover a special period of preparation from December 17 through December 23, with December 24 being the vigil of Christmas.

Below is a series of prayers for each day during this time period. In the stillness of your heart, offer a prayer each day. Please note that credit is given to the author at the end of the text.

### **December 17**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel.*

O Come Lord Jesus Christ, for we have need of you.

We are a people living in darkness; we cannot see your light.

We need to listen to your teachings; we cannot hear your voice.

We hope to follow where you lead us, we cannot find our way.

We try to understand your purpose for us; we cannot bear your truth.

Come be our wisdom, be our path to knowledge, lighten our darkness, Lord.

### **December 18**

*O Come thou Wisdom from on high.*

O Come Lord Jesus Christ, for we have need of you.

We are a people tempted to bigotry and hatred, we find it hard to change our ways.

We do not love our neighbors, we cannot love ourselves.

We are afraid of truth and justice; we do not keep your laws.

We place our faith above all others, we cannot share your love.

Come be our Law, give us strength to serve you, lighten our darkness, Lord.

### **December 19**

*O Come, O Come thou Lord of might.*

O Come Lord Jesus Christ, for we have need of you.

We are a people addicted to power, we cannot stop ourselves.

We are a war-infested world, we cannot tell the truth.

We value money more than life; we will not feed our poor.

We are afraid to walk our streets, we kill ourselves with drugs.

Come be our shepherd, be our saving power, lighten our darkness, Lord.

*Wisdom, Holy Word of God!  
Adonai, Sacred Lord of Ancient Israel!  
Flower of Jesse's Stem!  
Key of David, Royal Power of Israel!  
Radiant Dawn, Sun of Justice!  
King of All the Nations,  
Keystone of the Mighty Arch of Humankind!  
Emmanuel, Desire of the Nations,  
Savior of All People!*

### **December 20**

*O Come, thou rod of Jesse's stem.*

O Come Lord Jesus Christ, for we have need of you.

We cannot see the future, we live in hopelessness.

We cannot find the way, Lord, we live in misery.

We cannot trust each other, we live in loneliness.

We cannot pray for mercy, for we have lost our faith.

Come be our leader, be our Lamb of God, lighten our darkness, Lord.

## **December 21**

*O Come, thou Key of David, come.*

O Come Lord Jesus Christ, for we have need of you.

Our dead have touched us all, and we are dying too.

Our trees are brown and barren, Lord, tell us of the Spring.

Our lives are tense and futile, Lord, make your meaning plain.

Our hearts are cold and empty, Lord; fill them with your joy.

Come be our Savior, be our Risen King, lighten our darkness, Lord.

**(Author: Anne Katherine Grieb)**

## **December 22**

*O Come, thou Day-spring from on high.*

Your word is near, O Lord our God, your grace is near.

Come to us, then, with mildness and power.

Do not let us be deaf to you, but make us receptive and open to Jesus Christ your son,

Who will come to look for us and save us today and every day?

## **December 23**

O Come, Desire of Nations.

How many times, God, have we been told that you are no stranger,

remote from those who call upon you in prayer! O let us see, God,

and know in our lives now that those words are true.

Give us faith and give us the joy of recognizing Jesus Christ in our midst.

**(Author: Huub Oosterhuis)**

## **December 24**

As the Christ-child comes among us, Let us pray or the children of this world.

For infants who are not held in love.

For children who are abused physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

For children who live in shelters throughout our nation and world.

For children who live in substandard housing, who live on the streets, and in war-torn nations.

For children who are hurting throughout our world and for children who mourn the loss of their childhood.

For the child found in the hearts of the elderly.

For those who wait for human touch and for those who cry silent tears of loneliness.

For those who hunger to hear your word and for those who must choose between going hungry or going to the pharmacy.

For those who have separated themselves from their families and for those whose families have forgotten their elders.

We pray for the elders who still dream the dream of a world where the city streets are filled with God's children playing — God's world of peace.

Let us pray for the child within ourselves — the child who struggles to live out a calling to follow Christ.

**(Author: Debi Tyree)**

You'll find the Mass schedule in this bulletin on a separate sheet (page 2) so you can plan your holiday. Remember, we are still dispensed by the Archbishop from attending Mass; **don't come if you are not confident or are in fear of getting the Covid 19 virus. While we'd like nothing better than to see as many as possible at Mass, we don't want you attending if you are in the at-risk category or are just not confident or ready to return to Church.** We'll be here when you are ready to come back. Don't feel like "it's Christmas, I have to attend." That's admirable but these are different times and we are facing a situation that we've not faced in our lifetimes. **Your first priority is to take care of yourself and be safe.** We will be streaming a pre-recorded Christmas Mass that will be available on our website and Facebook page all day on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We will also be offering an Advent Reconciliation service on Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am; our plan at this time is to offer it live in the church and to live-stream it as well.

So are all your Christmas decorations up? We've got the tree up and I put some Christmas lights outside but not as much as I've done in the past. Not depressed or anything like that, just wanted to do like we are our Masses... simple and meaningful. That seems to be the theme most people are following although some have really done it up. Have you noticed our Crèche? We can thank our Knights of Columbus for that. They not only built it but maintain it, set it up, and tear it down. The idea to put it out closer to Hayes was Fr. Mike's; his focus was that people are in need of the message of Jesus coming, that pandemic or not, Jesus is and always has been with us and in this time of stress and challenge, we need to come to Him and accept Him in our lives. Our hope is that it brings hope and confidence to all people that see it as they pass by.

What are your plans with the family for

Christmas and New Year's Eve? Ours are not yet formulated, but right now it looks like whatever we do it will be simple just like our Thanksgiving celebration was. Hey, thinking of Thanksgiving, didn't they do a nice job on the virtual parade? I'm so glad they did that. I had a nice time watching it. Now, what followed the Lions game is a different story.

This year for Advent you may have noticed that we are dedicating the candle on our wreath each week to a specific mantra or theme. The first week was HOPE, the second week was PEACE, the third JOY and the final one LOVE. These four words really describe what we are waiting for in Advent as these are the things Jesus brings to us if we just let him. Ever wonder how Advent came about? Well, on the website "*Catholic Answers*," *Advent begins on the Sunday closest to the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle*

## This That from Deacon Franz

*(November 30). The celebration of Advent has evolved in the spiritual life of the Church. The historical origins of Advent are hard to determine with great precision. In its earliest form, beginning in France, Advent was a period of preparation for the Feast of the Epiphany, a day when converts were baptized; so the Advent preparation was very similar to Lent with an emphasis on prayer and fasting which lasted three weeks and later was expanded to 40 days. In 380, the local Council of Saragossa, Spain, established a three-week fast before Epiphany. Inspired by the Lenten regulations, the local Council of Macon, France, in 581 designated that from November 11 (the Feast of St. Martin of Tours) until Christmas, fasting would be required on Monday, Wednesday, and*

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Deacon Franz *continued*

Friday. Eventually, similar practices spread to England. In Rome, the Advent preparation did not appear until the sixth century, and was viewed as a preparation for Christmas with less of a penitential bent. The Church gradually formalized the celebration of Advent as a period of spiritual preparation for Christmas. The Gelasian Sacramentary, traditionally attributed to Pope St. Gelasius I (d. 496), was the first to provide Advent liturgies for five Sundays. Later, Pope St. Gregory I (d. 604) enhanced these liturgies composing prayers, antiphons, readings, and responses. Pope St. Gregory VII (d. 1095) later reduced the number of Sundays in Advent to four. Finally, about the ninth century, the Church designated the first Sunday of Advent as the beginning of the Church year. Despite the “sketchy” history behind Advent, the importance of this season remains to focus on the coming of our Lord. (The word Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning “coming.”) The Catechism stresses the two-fold meaning of this “coming”: “When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior’s first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for His second coming” (#524). Therefore, on one hand, the faithful reflect back and are encouraged to celebrate the anniversary of the Lord’s first coming into this world. We ponder again the great mystery of the incarnation when our Lord humbled Himself, taking on our humanity, and entered our time and space to free us from sin. On the other hand, we recall in the Creed that our Lord will come again to judge the living and the dead and that we must be ready to meet Him. A good, pious way to help us in our Advent preparation has been the use of the Advent wreath. (Interestingly, the use of the Advent wreath was borrowed from the German Lutherans

in the early 1500s.) The wreath is a circle, which has no beginning or end: So we call to mind how our lives, here and now, participate in the eternity of God’s plan of salvation and how we hope to share eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven. The wreath is made of fresh plant material, because Christ came to give us new life through His passion, death, and resurrection. Three candles are purple, symbolizing penance, preparation, and sacrifice; the pink candle symbolizes the same but highlights the third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, when we rejoice because our preparation is now half-way finished. The light represents Christ, who entered this world to scatter the darkness of evil and show us the way of righteousness. The progression of lighting candles shows our increasing readiness to meet our Lord. Each family ought to have an Advent wreath, light it at dinner time, and say prayers. This tradition will help each family keep its focus on the true meaning of Christmas. In all, during Advent we strive to fulfill the opening prayer for the Mass of the First Sunday of Advent: “Father in Heaven... increase our longing for Christ our Savior and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of His coming may find us rejoicing in His presence and welcoming the light of His truth.”

God Bless,  
Deacon Franz

## *We Are a Pilgrim People: Stories of Immigration*

*Strangers No Longer is a Catholic organization in Southeast Michigan that supports immigrant communities and advocates for their humane and compassionate treatment. We believe that these people have stories that are important for us and that echo our own family stories of immigration. After all, we are primarily a nation of immigrants and Jesus, the foundation of our faith, was a refugee. Advent is a perfect time to reflect on Jesus' migration story, and to begin to share our own. St. Michael's Circle of Support for Strangers No Longer is proud to initiate our We Are A Pilgrim People series this weekend with Deacon Franz. You will see Stranger No Longer members write about their families' immigration stories in future articles.*

It was the early 1950's in Stuttgart, Germany and like thousands of western Europeans after WWII, my family was seeking a better life in a country or region that was not ravaged by war every 15 to 20 years that were usually fueled by centuries old ethnic hatreds and stereotyping. My family consisted of my dad, Franz Sr., my mom, Helene, and my older brother, Peter. My dad and his family were originally from a German community called Deutsch Mokra located in Czechoslovakia. A common practice at the time was to offer free land and the opportunity to maintain your German citizenship even in a foreign country, they were farmers; it was a kind of homesteading process. My mom was originally from the former Yugoslavia in a German community in Banat called Molidorf. Pretty much the same process as my dad's family, they were also farmers. The people living in both areas were called "Volks Deutsche." At the outbreak of the war, my dad was drafted into the German Army and was a CB (member of a Construction Brigade), eventually ending up on the Russian Front. As the war progressed, my dad's family became refugees and fled back to Germany as they were evicted and their assets seized by the advancing Russians; they were given 24 hours to leave with whatever they could carry, nothing more. My mom's family shared pretty much the same fate by the same advancing Russians and also fled back to Germany. They were all lucky to get out with their lives.

My mom and dad met in Stuttgart after the war. My dad worked at Mercedes Benz and my mom had a job at the Kodak factory assembling cameras. We lived in housing provided by Mercedes for their workers....we were lucky as most of Germany, really most of Europe lay in ruins. My brother was born in 1950 and yours truly came along in 1954. In 1957, my parents made the decision to move out of Germany and immigrate to the United States. There was a

waiting period as the United States would only allow so many German nationals to immigrate per year under a quota system and the waiting list was long. While still on the waiting list, they made the decision to immigrate to Canada as they had no quota system and were welcoming one and all. Even though we first immigrated to Canada, they stayed on the waiting list for immigration into the United States. The Canadian process was that my dad had to come over by himself first while my mom, brother and I stayed behind in Germany. My dad had to prove to the Canadian authorities that he could find a job (found work as a carpenter) and had a place to live and could support a family before the rest of the family could legally immigrate. My dad was able to satisfy those requirements and in mid-1958 we immigrated to Windsor, Canada, coming over on a 20,000 ton converted WWII "mini aircraft carrier" called the "Seven Seas"; I was 4, my brother was 8. We landed in the port of Montreal where my dad picked us up. In those days, you paid ½ your fair when you left the port in Germany and the other ½ was due when you landed at your destination. My mom only had enough to pay for the departure....at the port in Montreal, my Dad had to throw his wallet to my Mom on the deck of the ship with the necessary funds to get us off the ship. We travelled to our new home in Windsor, actually Riverside via train. My parents like to tell the story that I grabbed onto my dad at the dock and all the way to Riverside on the train I sat on his lap holding on to him tightly...screaming loudly if anyone tried to dislodge me.

We continued the process of wanting to immigrate to the United States. Being German, both my parents went through an intense vetting process that took a couple more years, but finally on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1961 the moving van picked up our belongings and we piled into the car and immigrated to the United States, entering the

*(Continued on page 10)*

# Deacon Franz's Immigration Story continued

country via the Detroit/Windsor Tunnel; we were all issued "green cards". I remember the customs agents going through our belongings in the trunk of the car and doing a very intense inspection of the insides of the moving van. The agents were business like, but friendly, making some jokes with my brother and I. They confiscated my mom's flower plants but that's about it. Later we arrived at our first residence in the United States on Wexford street in Roseville. My dad found work as a carpenter with Keller Construction and my mom soon found work in a small automotive spring company on Groesbeck called Midway Springs. My brother and I were enrolled in public school at Alumni Memorial School, just down the street. My parents wanted to enroll us in the Catholic school at Sacred Heart but they were full up, no room.

As far as discrimination, I really didn't experience it personally just yet, but I could hear my parents talking at night when my brother and I were in bed (you know how kids have bionic ears) and discussing incidents at work, being called "dirty German or Kraut, and why didn't you stay, you're not welcome here," and being ignored and shunned. But they persevered. My mom and dad both understood that hostility, as this was only 16 years after the end of WWII. I personally experienced it in 1962...funny how I remember the year. I was in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and we were asked to give a short talk to the rest of the class on our family, where we were born, what our parents did for a living, etc. I was thrilled to talk about my family, how we travelled from Germany to Canada and then to the United States. After I gave my talk, nothing seemed amiss and after school I walked home with my friends as I always did. After dinner that night I went down the street, over my friend's house and called him out to play....you remember how we didn't knock on doors or ring door bells, we stood at the back door and called out their name. My friend came to the door and said 'I can't play with you any more or be your friend because you're a Nazi.' I didn't know what he was talking about. I went home and told my parents. My mom and dad sat down with both my brother and me and explained what that was all about, it turns out my brother was experiencing some of the same things but never said anything. My parents told us that was bound to happen and to just walk away if someone started to harass us about our German heritage. Easier said than done; for the

next couple of weeks I came home from school depressed, and at times was sent home early for fighting. I couldn't walk away from the insults (you know how little boys are) and was getting into fights daily. The most hurtful was that week on the playground one of the kids that was previously my friend would not let me play baseball with them. He said that "My dad says the only good German is a dead German" and of course that led to a fight. To this day this incident still puts a lump in my throat and I get emotional just thinking about it. My parents finally went to the school and had a discussion with the principal and my teacher. The next day in class, the teacher (I remember her well, Mrs. Martin) did talk about how all of our families were at one time immigrants, and asked all the kids to talk to their parents about their own family's path to the United States. It seemed to open the doors for me and while I still had some push back, for the most part I was able to get back to being a little boy going to school with his friends.

My mom and dad loved this country and in 1967 we, as a family, became naturalized American citizens. At the time, you had to have residence in the United States for 7 years, not committed any crimes, and pass a citizenship test that included questions about the government, American history, and proving you could read and write English. I have fond memories of my brother and I sitting at the kitchen table with my parents many evenings preparing them for the test. I still remember my dad attaching an American flag to the antenna of our car (1964 Mercury). As we walked out of the courthouse after the swearing in ceremony; he was so proud to be an American; from that day on, my parents never missed an election, local or national. It was a privilege both my parents held dear.

My parents have both passed away, and I often think of the courage it took for them to immigrate to a foreign country with basically two suitcases and two kids in tow. They realized the American dream, but it did not come without some difficulties and heartaches. Because of them, my brother Pete and I also have realized the American Dream. I sincerely hope and pray that current peoples wanting to immigrate to this great country also have the opportunity to achieve that dream.

St. Michael  
Strangers No  
Longer

Are you committed to treating our immigrant brothers and sisters with dignity and compassion? Are you interested in learning more about the state of immigration policy and enforcement in our area? Then you may be interested in joining St. Michael's Circle of Support for *Strangers No Longer*.

We will be holding a virtual meeting on Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

All are welcome. If you are new to *Strangers No Longer* and would like to attend on December 15<sup>th</sup>, please email Julie Watanabe at [juliewatanabe2@gmail.com](mailto:juliewatanabe2@gmail.com) to get the passcode information for the meeting.

If you would like more information, please visit the St. Michael Circle of Support website:

<https://stmichaelcc.org/organizations/strangers-no-longer/>

# MASS Intentions

Because of our publisher's early cut off dates, the deadline for Mass intentions for the upcoming holiday season are as follows:

## FOR CHRISTMAS INTENTIONS

Please contact the Parish Office no later than Monday, December 7.

## FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY INTENTIONS

Please contact the Parish Office no later than Monday, December 14

The number for the Parish Office is 247-0020 or you can email your intentions to [parish@stmichaelcc.org](mailto:parish@stmichaelcc.org).

Thank you.

## SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Your Christmas Offering is a special bonus to St. Michael Parish.

By archdiocesan policy, Christmas Offerings are exempt from the regular 7% archdiocesan tax. This means that Christmas Offerings are worth 7% more to the parish than the same offering made on any other day.

If you are considering a special donation to the parish at the end of the calendar year, please include it in your Christmas Offerings.

Thank you for your spirit of Stewardship.

May God bless you all during this upcoming Christmas season!





The Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus is known as the Patriotic Degree in order to support our troops and veterans in a variety of ways. With that in mind, our Knights of Columbus will be collecting gently used winter coats for our veterans. All coats or jackets must be clean and can be brought to the Gathering Area on the weekends of January 9/10 and January 16/17.

All coats will be given directly to the veterans to use during our coldest months in Michigan.

Please remember our active servicemen and women as they give up so much for our freedom especially at this time of year.

~ Sir Knight Brad Nevedal and Sir Knight Curt Best



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# THIS WEEKEND!!

## Annual Youth Group

## Poinsettia Sale

December 12—3pm-6pm

December 13—after all

Liturgies



# December 19/20

## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Text: LM with refrain; 'O' Antiphons, Latin, 9th cent.; verses 1, 3–6 para. in *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Cologne, 1710; tr. by John M. Neale, 1818–1866; verses 2, 7 tr. fr. *The Hymnal* 1940, alt.  
Music: Chant, Mode I; Processionale, French, 15th cent.; adapt. by Thomas Helmore, 1811–1890.

## Forever I Will Sing

Psalm response from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.  
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## Hail Mary, Gentle Woman

Text: Based on Luke 1:28, 42. Text and music © 1975, 1978, Carey Landry. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

## Emmanuel

Text: Refrain, Steve Angrisano; verses based on 'O' Antiphons. Music and refrain text © 2004, Steve Angrisano. Published by OCP. All rights reserved

### Verse 3

O come, O come, Thou Lord of  
might,  
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the law,  
In cloud and majesty and awe.

### Refrain

Forever I will sing the goodness of  
the Lord,  
The goodness of the Lord.

### Introduction

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is  
with you.  
Blessed are you among women  
and blest is the fruit of your womb,  
Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now  
and at the hour of death. Amen.

### Refrain

Gentle woman, quiet light,  
morning star, so strong and bright,  
gentle Mother, peaceful dove,  
teach us wisdom; teach us love.

### Refrain

Come, come, Emmanuel!  
Son of God, appear.  
Heaven and earth, rejoice!  
Salvation is drawing near.

### Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

### Verse 1

You were chosen by the Father;  
you were chosen for the Son.  
You were chosen from all women  
and for woman, shining one.  
*(to refrain)*

### Verse 2

Blessed are you among women,  
blest in turn all women, too.  
Blessed they with peaceful spirits.  
Blessed they with gentle hearts.  
*(to refrain)*

### Verse 4

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of humankind;  
Make all our sad divisions cease,  
And be for us the King of Peace.

# Mass Schedule for December 19/20

	<b>President</b>	<b>Commentator</b>	<b>Lectors</b>	<b>E.M. Captains</b>
4:30pm	Fr. Mike Deacon Franz	<i>Ann McKenzie</i>	Nancy Smith Laura Parker	Linda Borek
8:00am	Fr. Mike Deacon Franz	<i>Barb Knapp</i>	Elizabeth Manuszak Brandon Manuszak	Debbie Kuskowski
9:45am	Fr. Tim	<i>Dillon Johnson</i>	Sherrill Cronin Maria Sobie	
11:30am	Fr. Tim	<i>Kathy Best</i>	Donald Harris Larry Carrico	Pat Bedner

Lois Dulinski  
Robert Lantzy  
Rosaria Minaudo

Mary Bailey  
DeMarco Family  
Kevin Lohmeier  
Sr. Marie Roy  
Wagner Family

Bob Jansen  
Helen Kish

Henry Charbenau  
Sandra Charbenau  
Ida Esposito  
Lorraine Gonko  
Lynn Monro  
Marty Stefani  
Pauline Stefani  
Raymond Tucci  
Mike Zaglaniczny

Rosa DiCicco  
Donald Gasko  
Connie Gillette  
Mary Jo Hadsall  
Ted Kucab  
Dorothy Miner

Jessica Barnes  
Len Borek  
Christina Davis  
David Gall  
Jane Gall  
Jonathan Gall  
Darryll Mech  
Albert Walter

Email the Parish Office at [parish@stmichaelcc.org](mailto:parish@stmichaelcc.org) to add or remove a name from the Prayer List.  
Names will remain on the list for 4 weeks.



# Mass Intentions

## Saturday, December 12

**4:30pm** John and Jane Watrobski requested by family  
Mildred Albrecht 24th Anniversary requested by daughter, Mary Ann  
Fernando Fornelli requested by Jose and Kathy Reyes  
Eileen Cicone Birthday Remembrance requested by the Fitzgerald Family  
Elena Tilley requested by Laura and Dave  
Sara Marks requested by Laura and Dave

## Sunday, December 13

**8:00am** Linda and Sophia Popa requested by Norman Popa  
Ken McDonald 1st Anniversary requested by family  
Frank Podsiadlik requested by the Kosmas Family

Special Intention for Rocco LaTorre requested by Fred and Barb Knapp

**9:45am** Alice McLellan 36th Anniversary requested by Bob and Pat Mitchell  
Alex Gorman requested by the MCREST Facilitators  
William Starrs requested by Sharon Roush

**11:30am** Ruth Connell requested by Jerry and Sue Hund  
Catherine Voss requested by the Mattei Family  
Kevlar Azar requested by Florence Dargurz  
John Wierzbicki 8 Month Anniversary requested by sister

## Monday, December 14

**9:30am** Larry L. Wells requested by Larry Wells

Special Intentions for Fr. Jim Bjorum, Fr. Domenic Scotto, Sharon and Mark Wells and John Cunningham requested by Larry Wells

## Tuesday, December 15

**9:30am** Pat Sauberan requested by mom

## Wednesday, December 16

**9:30am**

## Thursday, December 17

**9:30am** The Deceased of Resurrection Cemetery

## Friday, December 18

**9:30am**

## Saturday, December 19

**4:30pm** Philip Szuba requested by Carol Szuba  
Frank Szuba requested by Carol Szuba  
Fernando Fornelli requested by John Kaminski

## Sunday, December 20

**8:00am** Betty and Robert Waddell Jr. requested by daughter  
Waddell and Piechocinski Families requested by family  
Vera, Lucy, Muriel, Barb Z. Sophie, Bereth, Cleo and Mrs. S. requested by a friend  
Dolores Gorin requested by family  
Linda and Sophia Popa requested by Norman Popa  
Nancy and Joseph Grewe 50th Anniversary requested by family  
Arnold Kern requested by Paul and Linda Sienkiewicz  
John Swalec requested by Paul and Linda Sienkiewicz

**9:45am**

**11:30am**

*Rest in Peace*

*We extend our prayers and sympathy to the families of*

*Roger Biernet Sr.*

*Veronica Cornett*

*Marlene Glaeser*

*Victoria LaMarre*

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FAX: 586-247-4081  
WEBSITE: WWW.STMICHAELCC.ORG  
EMAIL: PARISH@STMICHAELCC.ORG

## MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAYS: 4:30PM  
SUNDAYS:  
8:00AM, 9:45AM, 11:30AM  
WEEKDAYS: 9:30AM

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY-FRIDAY —9AM-2PM  
SATURDAY—3PM-6PM  
SUNDAY—9AM-1PM

## PRIVATE CONFESSIONS

SATURDAYS 3:00PM, OR BY APPT.

## BAPTISM

SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH  
CALL FOR APPOINTMENT

## MARRIAGE

ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE MADE AT  
LEAST SIX MONTHS IN ADVANCE OF THE  
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**FELICIA ALLEN**  
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**ELIZABETH MANUSZAK YOUTH REP**

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**RICK LOPEZ**

**KEITH MCKENZIE**  
**TONY PECORARO**  
**CHRISTY PUDYK**  
**KEVIN SEBASTIAN**

## Evangelization Committee

**ROBERT MURPHY**

**FR. MICHAEL QUAINÉ**

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**HEAD USHERS**  
**KEITH MCKENZIE AND LARRY JORDON**  
4:30PM

**BERNARD MARTIN**  
8:00AM

**ELIO PARENTI & NORM PURZYCKI**  
9:45AM

**PETER EPSHA**  
11:30AM

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**Sunday:** Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

**Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32

**Wednesday:** Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23

**Thursday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17

**Friday:** Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25

**Saturday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25

**Next Sunday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Scripture Readings

# Stewardship Thoughts

## Third Sunday of Advent

The theme of “Rejoicing in the Lord” links today’s Scripture passages. In Isaiah’s prophecy he declares, *The spirit of the Lord is upon me ... I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul.* In today’s Gospel from St. John, John the Baptist witnesses to the Light that is Jesus; that through Christ, all people may believe. The evangelist St. Paul, in his First Letter to the Thessalonians, encourages them, and us, to *rejoice always, never cease praying, render constant thanks; such is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.* How do we, as the Lord’s disciples, respond in thanksgiving for this tremendous gift: our life in Christ Jesus? Before retiring to

sleep each night, take a few moments to acknowledge in prayerful gratitude to the Lord five blessings bestowed upon you this day.



## Knights of Columbus

### Council 13799

[www.kofc13799.com](http://www.kofc13799.com)



Meeting/Activity/Event	Date	Time	Location
Ham/Kielbasa Pick-Up	Friday, December 18		Curbside
Charity Poker	February 18-21 March 15-18 Nov. 15/18, 2021		TBD Cicarelli's Cicarelli's

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