



ST. MICHAEL

Catholic Church

December
1
2019

OUR MISSION

We, the members of St. Michael Parish, are disciples of Jesus Christ. We are a welcoming community in the greater Grand Ledge area, belonging to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lansing. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we nurture our faith and life-long formation through Word and Sacrament. We grow in holiness by faith-sharing, prayer, worship, stewardship, and service. We live by the Gospel, sharing our faith through witness and compassion. We resolve to reach beyond ourselves, dedicated to the spiritual enrichment and needs of each other, our neighbors and the world.



DEAR PARISHIONERS Today we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent. These four weeks of Advent prepare us to recognize the presence of Christ - in the celebration of his birth, in his final coming at the end of time, and in his daily presence in our lives.

Our Alpha and Wild Goose fall program has concluded. It has been a beautiful way for parishioners and guests to grow in faith. I am grateful to our Alpha and Wild Goose Team Leaders: Laura Castner, Thane Belen, Annelie Hogan, Jan Theis, Francis Jacobs, and Jennifer Nelson.

Every year I look forward to the Christmas Craft Show; it is happening this Saturday. I hope you can make it.

Have a Blessed Advent, *James Eisele*



1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

- Mt 24:44

**345 Edwards Street
Grand Ledge, MI 48837**

Parish Office: 517-627-8493
Parish Fax: 517-627-1289
School Office: 517-627-2167

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
Closed for lunch 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

ONLINE

stmichaelgl.org
facebook.com/StMichaelGrandLedge

MASS & RECONCILIATION

Liturgy of the Eucharist:

Saturday Vigil: 4:30pm
Sunday: 8:30am and 11:00am
Weekdays: Tuesday 7:00pm
Wednesday - Friday 9:00am

Reconciliation:

Saturday: Following 4:30pm liturgy
By appointment: Contact the parish office

SACRAMENTS

EUCCHARIST AND MASS

The source and summit of the life of the Catholic. For those interested in preparing to receive the sacrament, please contact Jennifer Nelson, our Coordinator of Child and Family Ministry.

BAPTISM

The gateway to the Christian life. For inquiries about Infant Baptism or the baptism of young children, please contact the parish office. For teens, and adults, please contact Jennifer Nelson, our Coordinator of Child and Family Ministry.

CONFIRMATION

The deepening of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our lives. If you, or your son or daughter, are interested in receiving this sacrament, please contact Anthony Fisher, our Coordinator of Youth Ministry.

RECONCILIATION

Everyone needs the mercy of God. Reconciliation is celebrated every Saturday after the 4:30 pm liturgy in our Reconciliation Room, located at the back of our worship space. Additional special times are scheduled during Advent and Lent. Appointments can also be made by calling the parish office.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

"Are there any who are sick among you? Let them send for the priests of the church, and let the priests pray over them anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord." James 5:14. To receive the sacrament of the sick for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office or Fr. Jim.

MARRIAGE

"The Two Became One," Mark 10:8. If you are interested in beginning marriage preparation, please contact the parish office to schedule a meeting with Fr. Jim.

Our Prayerful Support to the Family & Friends of

Jennie Branscum

born into eternal life November 14.

Margaret Twarozynski

born into eternal life November 17.

May they rest in the peace of Christ.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE

Today: Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14;
Matthew 24:37-44

Next Sunday: Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9;
Matthew 3:1-12

To view Readings for the Day, listen to them, or sign up to receive by email, go to www.usccb.org/bible/readings.



Riley O'Shea and Father Jim at Sacred Heart Seminary before the November 10 Priests/Seminarians Dinner.

Don't Let the Grinch Steal Christmas

December 11 at 7:00pm in the Siena Room

Please join us as Mary Tardif (former Director of both Adult Formation at St. Gerard and of Lay Ministry Formation for the Diocese of Lansing) presents an Advent reflection on the ways Jesus comes to us with a special focus on preparing to meet Jesus today. How do we encounter Jesus in prayer, scripture, community, and sacrament? How do we prepare our hearts?

THANKS to the Alpha/Wild Goose Team!

After three months of planning and getting the word out, and three months of weekly sessions (each with dinner, music, video, and small group discussions), our programs are coming to an end. We have heard great comments about people's experiences over the past few months, and we want to acknowledge the individuals who have worked hard to make it happen. We also had help from many parish staff for setup, equipment, music, and other behind-the-scenes-support. If you participated in Alpha/Wild Goose and you know any of the team/staff, please let them know you appreciate their time and efforts. Thanks to you all!
-Laura Castner

Volunteer Team members: Cary Anderson, Jennifer Anderson, GERALYN Ayers, Patt & Thane Belen, Chris & Eric Dean, Larry Doyle, John & Michalene Elder, Gina Gamble, Ron George, Jan Glassmire, Annelie Hogan, Mike Hull, Carolyn & Francis Jacobs, Heather Klopp, Amy Korte, Kathleen Krancich, Michelle Lawson, Kerry Linder, Nancy Martin, Dick McKeon, Howard Miller, Marie Monroe, Laurie Mooney, Sue Shoemaker, Dave & Kelly Smith, Judy Stoklosa, Jan Theis, Alison Walczak, Molly Woods, and Denise Zakerski - **Student Helpers:** Ryan Bennett, Max Bernard, Ryan Bouck, Ben & Sam Elder, Joey Mooney, Isaiah Thorpe, and Ben Weston

Parish Service Project

Each month we gather to serve at a local community organization to support them in their efforts to serve the community. If you are available to participate, please let Laura Castner know by calling the office or emailing lauracastner@stmichaelgl.org. Thank you to everyone who has been participating in our service projects - we always welcome new faces!

December 14: Homeless Angels, 4:30-7:00pm
Preparing and serving dinner to their residents.

January 18: Ronald McDonald House, 4:00-7:00pm
Preparing dinner for and possibly serving family members of children at the hospital.

SCRIP News for the Holidays

Christmas Orders:

SCRIP special orders for physical cards that are placed and paid for by Monday, December 16, will be available for pick up in the parish office on Friday, December 20 between 3:00-4:00pm. No special orders will be placed again until January 6, 2020.

Parish Office Holiday Hours:

Closed for Christmas,
December 24 and 25

Office closed for New Years,
at noon December 31 and all day January 1

On Hand SCRIP will be available during parish office hours as usual.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Give in Thanksgiving. "The nuns left lasting impressions on me," writes a donor. "I shall always be grateful for my Catholic education." Please join in thanking the thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who worked tirelessly to educate the young and serve those in need. Next week's second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious which helps hundreds of religious communities care for the aging members. Please give generously.



**Christmas Light Recycling
NOV30 - DEC15**

The St. Michael Christmas Light recycling program takes old, broken, and unwanted Christmas light strands and recycles them each holiday season. Please place light strands in the drop box in the main entrance of church. Please only drop off light strands. No garland, tinsel, strand reels, plastic bags, etc.

MATTHEW 25 INITIATIVE

Caring for the poor is part of the mission of St. Michael Parish. One way to make a sign of our commitment to the least of our sisters & brothers is by contributing to charities which serve them in their need.



THIS WEEKEND

4% of our offertory collection and any gifts received in Matthew 25 envelopes will go to:

■ **MOMS Giving Tree - Christmas**
stmichaelgl.org/moms-giving-tree

NEXT WEEKEND

On December 8th, our designated charity will be:

■ **Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo**
1819 Gull Rd, Kalamazoo, MI 49048
Phone: 269-381-9800
ccdok.org

To provide people with compassionate social services in the manner of Jesus Christ in Southwest Michigan. To provide people with compassionate social services in the manner of Jesus Christ in Southwest Michigan.

WEEKLY FINANCIALS

Fiscal year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

■ November 17 ■

Actual Weekly Budget:	\$20,279
This Week's Offertory:	\$
This Week's Children's Offertory:	\$
Average Weekly Electronic Contributions:	\$
BELOW Weekly Budget to Date:	\$
MATTHEW 25 CHARITY:	
4% of Offertory to	\$
Direct Charity Contributions	\$
Total	\$

Sponsor of the Week

MacDowell's
FLOWER SHOP

228 S. Bridge
Grand Ledge Since 1976
627-4176
www.MacDowellsFlowerShop.com



Remember to patronize all of our sponsors and thank them for advertising in our bulletin. They make the bulletin possible at no cost to our parish.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

MON ▪ DEC02

- 10:00am Mary's Matrons - Siena Room
4:30pm K-6 Religious Education & 3-6 yrs Catechesis of the Good Shepherd - School
6:00pm Scout Troop 645 Meeting - Fellowship Hall
6:00pm RCIA - Conference Room
6:00pm Matthew 25 Meeting - Siena Room

TUE ▪ DEC03 *St. Francis Xavier*

- 9:30am Catechesis of the Good Shepherd - School Atrium
9:30am MOMS - Fellowship Hall
1:00pm Rosary - Chapel
6:30pm Individual Reconciliation
7:00pm †**Mass for Billie Wimmer**
by Monica Mary Mouradian
8:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous - Gym

WED ▪ DEC04 *St. John Damascene*

- 9:00am †**Mass for Roger Fox** by Hope Fox
12:00pm Seniors 55+ Luncheon - Offsite
2:15pm Book Club - Siena Room
6:00pm New BeFriender Meeting - Siena Room

THU ▪ DEC05

- 9:00am †**Mass for Thane Belen II**
by Thomas & Laraine Soltysiak
10:00am Galazin Bible Study - Siena Room
6:00pm First Reconciliation Celebration - Church
6:15pm Choir Rehearsal - Fellowship Hall (S)
7:00pm K of C Cookie Assembly - Fellowship Hall (N)

FRI ▪ DEC06 *St. Nicholas*

- 9:00am †**Mass for Alfred Newell** by family

SAT ▪ DEC07 *St. Ambrose*

- 9:00am Craft Show - School & Fellowship Hall
3:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal - Church
4:30pm †**Mass for Rose, Nick, & Jerry Kastner**
by Sharon Beers
5:30pm Individual Reconciliation - Church

SUN ▪ DEC08 *2nd Sunday of Advent*

- 8:30am **Mass for People of the Parish**
10:00am Adult Choir Rehearsal - Church
10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous - Gym
11:00am †**Mass for Rosemary & Harold Peddie and Marilyn Gordon** by Steve & Barb Smith
12:00pm Rosary Chaplets - Chapel
12:00pm Hot Dogs for Hope - Fellowship Hall
12:00pm Children's Choir Rehearsal - Church
6:00pm Youth Group - Siena Room
6:00pm 7-9 Religious Education - School



BEFRIENDER
MINISTRY

A Listening Presence

You are invited!

Information Session
December 4, 2019

6:00pm in the Siena Room

This session will focus on the questions:

What is BeFriender Ministry?

What is its purpose?

What is involved in the training?

Plan on an hour of information with a question and answer period. Light refreshments will be provided. For more information please call the parish office at 627-8493.

Micah 6:8

And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy. And to walk humbly with your God.

From January 5-11, 2020, the Catholic Church will celebrate National Migration Week. The theme for this year's celebration is **Promoting a Church and a World for All**, which reflects the need for Catholics to be inclusive and welcoming to all our brothers and sisters. It is a call for unity to stand in solidarity with and care for those who are excluded and marginalized.

One of the verbs used by Pope Francis to frame our obligation toward migrant populations is:

Welcoming - This means, above all, "offering broader options for migrants and refugees to enter destination countries safely and legally." We must nurture societies that aim as much as possible to include, rather than exclude. A culture of encounter that emphasizes humanity and inherent human dignity best counters anti-immigrant sentiment and welcoming is a vital step in that journey.

Action: Check out the Catholic perspective on the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) immigration policy by going to catholiccharitiesusa.org/dacaarchives.

Prayer: Pray for all Catholics, that God inspire them to act in their local communities to support and protect migrants and to advocate on their behalf.

Source: Migration & Refugee Services/USCCB

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

For information on article submission and due dates please see stmichaelgl.org/bulletins-1



Here's a suggestion for your family meal prayers this week, in the form of intercession and response.

Prayer to Our Loving Creator

Please respond, Loving Creator, hear our prayer.

We pray for your creation, the whole cosmos including our common home, and the intricate balance in every part of every ecosystem that sustains life on Earth.

All: Loving Creator, hear our prayer.

We pray for all of your creatures on Earth, as we are all affected by extreme weather events, rising tides, and the changing climate.

All: Loving Creator, hear our prayer.

We pray for people who risk their lives to defend creation and for all who have lost their lives in the mission of protecting Mother Earth.

All: Loving Creator, hear our prayer.

We pray for the Church, that she may truly model Jesus through the teachings found in Laudato Si' and bring about ecological conversion, changing hearts and minds to lovingly care for creation.

All: Loving Creator, hear our prayer.

We pray for social and ecological justice in our world so that we can right the wrongs that create poverty and degrade our common home.

All: Loving Creator, hear our prayer.

We pray that we will turn away from fossil fuels and choose new investment options, such as renewable energy, and that we will better share the gifts of creation.

All: Loving Creator, hear our prayer.

And for your prayers (invite participants to add their prayers). All: Loving Creator, hear our prayer.

Taken from a Prayer Service for the May 24, 2019 Climate Strikes, on the Lamplighters' Forum website page: <http://www.earthgroaning.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Pre-strike-Prayer-Service.pdf>

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Congratulations to our **Patriot's Pen winners**. A special thanks to our local VFW members for sharing in this special moment with our school. This year's theme: *What makes America great?*

6th Grade - Leah Dinstbier

7th Grade - Max Bernard

8th Grade - Joe McCrackin



Our school donated over 200 lbs of Halloween candy this year for our annual **Treats For Troops** program. The Blue Star Moms came to accept our donation so they can send care packages to our troops overseas.



"KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS" Poster Contest

Hey Kids, this fun-filled art project is for you!! Put on your thinking cap and art shirt to make a poster. Rules/regulations will be handed out in class.

Contest Details

WHO: St. Michael School & Religious Education students (age groups: K-2, 3-5, 6-8)

WHAT: Create your own poster (chalk, crayons, markers, etc.) to "tell the world what you think Christ in Christmas means to you".

WHEN: Deadline is Monday, December 16 at 6:00pm (turn in to teachers).

JUDGING: Wednesday, December 8

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus

Cash Prizes/Certificate (for each age group)

1st: \$25 - 2nd: \$15

Winners will be notified on December 18 and cash prizes distributed by December 20. Certificates will be distributed on December 20 at 9:00am in gym for school kids and January 6 at 4:30pm for Religious Education.



Starting in January - Adult Faith Formation at St. Michael

We've just started a new liturgical year, and we're about to enter into 2020. What will you do with this new year to grow in faith and spirituality? Here are some options through the parish. Does one (or more) of them fit with your personal goals for your faith journey? Sign up online, contact the office, or email to lauracastner@stmichaelgl.org.

Women of the Old Testament: While the men of the Old Testament often garner the most attention, the women of the Old Testament may be even more worthy of our interest because we have to dig deeper to recover their special contribution to the annals of faith. Their stories are remarkable in that they arise from historical eras that limited their options in influencing or changing the flow of history. The women of this study can be bold and decisive, also meek and faithful, but they are always compelled to act in ways that bring about change. God's saving deeds often came through the mind and will of amazing women using limited resources.

When: Thursdays, 10:00am-noon, January 9 - March 5
Where: Siena Room
How much: \$16 - study sets will be available in the parish office or may be picked up at the first class.

Catholic Social Teaching

Faith and Racial Equity: Exploring Power and Privilege (Just Faith Ministries): This is an 8-week module that awakens groups to the economic systems, public policies, cultural norms, and hidden biases that empower some and oppress others. The first half of the module introduces a framework for understanding and recognizing racial disparities in power and privilege. Sessions 5-8 take a deeper dive into specific issues related to power and privilege, including affirmative action, the school-to-prison pipeline, the criminal justice system, and powerful biases in media representation. As with all JustFaith programs, participants will explore how their faith should inform their response to their learning, as well as discern action steps for working toward racial equity in their own communities. Please note that Faith and Racial Equity is not for the faint of heart! The module is designed for participants who are willing to wrestle with hard questions and take an honest look at their own attitudes, assumptions, and choices. However, through spiritual grounding and community-building, participants find support and belonging throughout their journey to personal transformation and social action.

When: Sunday afternoons, 1:30-4:00pm, January 19 - March 15 **Where:** Siena Room **How much:** \$40

The **Called & Gifted™** discernment process has been used since 1993 by over 100,000 lay, ordained, and religious Catholics and other Christians around the world. It is designed to help Christians discern the presence of charisms in their lives. Charisms, or spiritual gifts, are special abilities given to all Christians by the Holy Spirit to give them power both to represent Christ and to be a channel of God's goodness for people. Whether extraordinary or ordinary, all charisms ought to be exercised in the service of God (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2003). **Note: At St. Michael we are offering the workshop in a set of five 2-hour sessions.** Alternatively, you may get the same content in a one-day format through the diocese. Currently planned sessions are February 29 at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Jackson and March 21 at St. Agnes in Fowlerville. You can register for the one-day workshops through the diocese <https://www.dioceseoflansing.org/outreach-ministry/called-and-gifted-workshops> at a cost of \$50 (or \$45 if you register early).

When: Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30pm, January 15 - February 12
Where: Siena Room **How much:** Approximately \$15

Scripture Studies

A Quick Journey through the Bible—An 8-part introduction to the Bible timeline: This study is designed to give each participant a brief overview of salvation history, from Genesis through the resurrection of Christ and the establishment of the Catholic Church. Participants will learn about the need for studying the Bible and how to enter deeper into "His-story" as they begin their study of the Scriptures.

When: Days and times to be determined, based on the availability of small group facilitators.
How much: \$10 - study sets will be available in the parish office or may be picked up at the first class.

Reflections on the Sunday Readings: These small groups will use a variety of resources to help each participant learn about the context for the upcoming readings and reflect on the readings before the weekend. **When:** Days and times to be determined, based on the availability of small group facilitators.

General

Plus, plan for these opportunities in February and March!

Dave Ramsey's
Financial Peace
UNIVERSITY
begins February 12



Playbook on the Our Father
(men's group): begins mid-March

Cemetery Open House

**Please join us at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery
Wednesday, December 4 from 4:00-7:00pm**

We are inviting all our families to join us at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery Open for our Christmas Open House. We are asking each family to bring a special ornament to place on our Memory Tree in memory of your loved ones resting here. We will also be serving refreshments.

**If you would like to hang your ornament, but cannot make it to the Open House, you may stop in anytime on December 4 and after to add your ornament.*

We wish you a Christmas filled with love, comfort, and joy with God's blessings throughout the New Year.



Catholic Women's Club

All Catholic women of the Lansing Diocese are invited to our monthly luncheon is December 12 at the Fireside Grill (6951 Lansing Rd Dimondale). The charity that we are sponsoring this month will be the Mother Theresa House. If you have any questions or would like to make a reservation call Judy Sibal at 517 449-5365 by December 6.



**The Diocese of Lansing Outreach Mass is broadcast every Sunday
on Lansing WLAJ ABC-3 at 6:00 am and 10:00 am.**