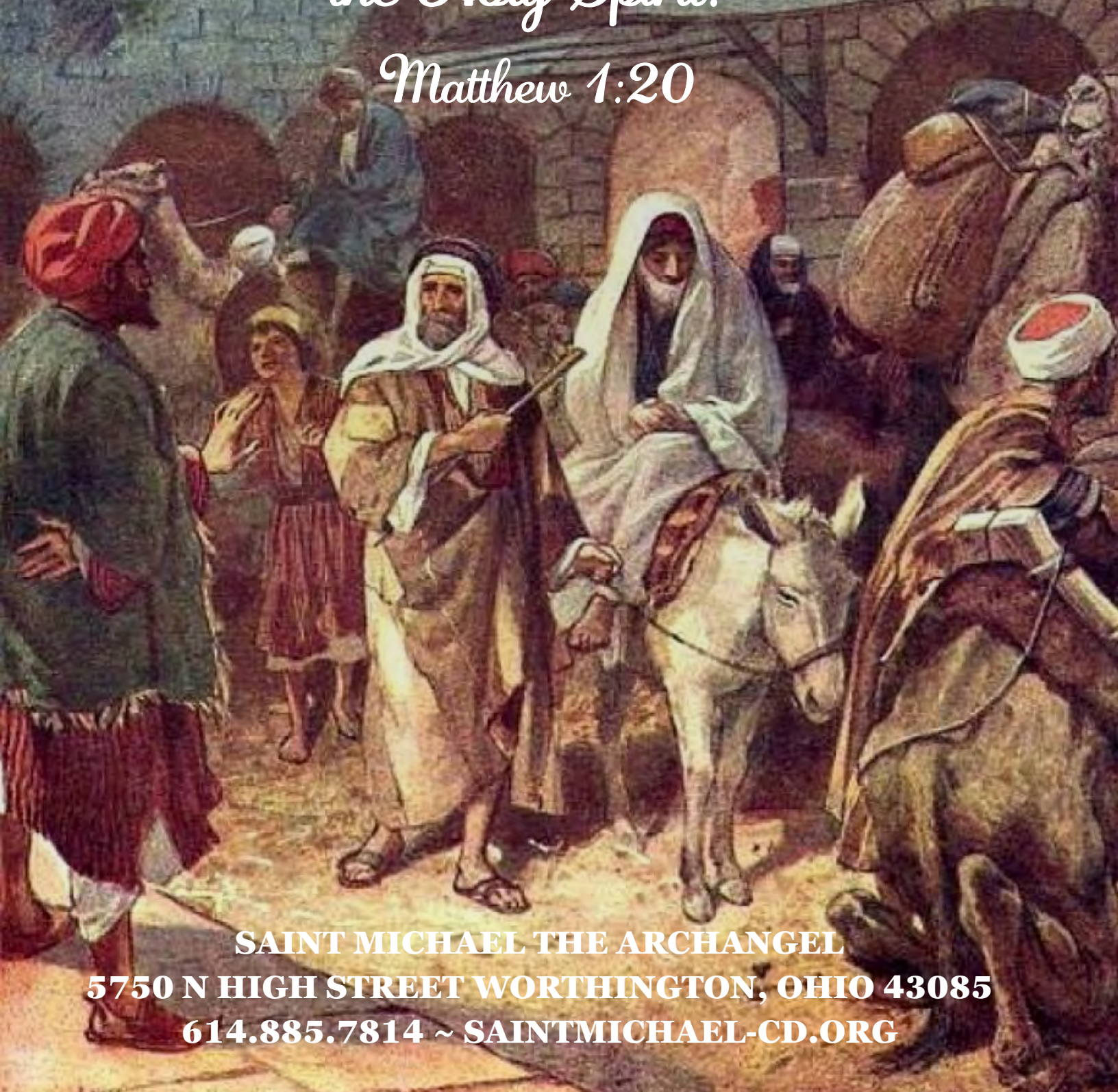


*“Joseph son of David, do not be afraid  
to take Mary home as your wife,  
because what is conceived in her is from  
the Holy Spirit.”*

*Matthew 1:20*



**SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**

**5750 N HIGH STREET WORTHINGTON, OHIO 43085**

**614.885.7814 ~ SAINTMICHAEL-CD.ORG**

# SAINT MICHAEL STAFF DIRECTORY

Website: [saintmichael-cd.org](http://saintmichael-cd.org)  
Parish Office: 614-885-7814

## MINISTERS TO THE PARISH

Pastor: Father Stash Dailey  
Parochial Vicar: Fr. David Johnstone  
Priest in Residence/Diocesan Judicial Vicar:  
Fr. Robert Kitsmiller  
Transitional Deacon: Dcn. Sam Severance  
Permanent Deacons:  
Dcn. John Crerand  
Dcn. Bill Demidovich  
Pastoral Minister: Sr. Riya Mary  
[srriya@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:srriya@saintmichael-cd.org)  
Youth Minister: Jake Asuncion  
[jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org)  
Director of RCIA: Jake Neal  
[jneal@sjchcc.org](mailto:jneal@sjchcc.org)

## PARISH OFFICE

Business Manager: Kris Jesse  
[kjesse@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:kjesse@saintmichael-cd.org)  
Office Manager: Kathy Trafford  
[ktrafford@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:ktrafford@saintmichael-cd.org)  
Receptionist/Secretary: Rhonda Marinelli  
[rmarinelli@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:rmarinelli@saintmichael-cd.org)  
Marketing & Communications:  
Rebecca Lund  
[rlund@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:rlund@saintmichael-cd.org)  
Campus Facility and Safety Director:  
Steve Moore  
[smoore@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:smoore@saintmichael-cd.org)  
Choir Director/Organist: Ron Barrett  
[rbarrett@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:rbarrett@saintmichael-cd.org)

## ST. MICHAEL PARISH SCHOOL

Website: [stmichaelworthington.org](http://stmichaelworthington.org)  
School Office: 614-885-3149

Principal: Sr. Mary Regina, O.P.  
[principal@stmichaelworthington.org](mailto:principal@stmichaelworthington.org)  
Preschool Director: Laura Wells  
[lwells@stmichaelworthington.org](mailto:lwells@stmichaelworthington.org)

## PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

Athletic Association Representative:  
Liz Trolli  
[smaa@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:smaa@saintmichael-cd.org)  
Knights of Columbus Representative:  
Mike LaMorte  
[grandknight@kofc11445.com](mailto:grandknight@kofc11445.com)  
St. Vincent de Paul Society Representative:  
Elaine Miracle  
[svdp@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:svdp@saintmichael-cd.org)

# SAINT MICHAEL INFORMATION CENTER



## ADORATION CHAPEL

There is no better way to spend an hour of your week than in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Consider signing up for Adoration. Our Adoration Chapel offers Eucharistic Exposition each Tuesday from 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. and from 5:00 a.m. Wednesdays until 9:00 p.m. on Friday evening. Adoration is available at all other times with the Blessed Sacrament reposed in the tabernacle. Registration is easy to do from your phone. Visit [StMichael.WeAdoreHim.com](http://StMichael.WeAdoreHim.com) to sign up or use the QR code.



## MASS INTENTIONS

Mass Intentions are currently available to schedule for 2024 & 2025. If you would like to remember a loved one in this way, please scan the QR code to order and pay online or visit the Parish Office. One should never forget the infinite graces that flow from the Sacrifice of the Mass which benefit one's soul, both for the living and the deceased.



## LOW-GLUTEN HOST

If you are in need of a low-gluten host, please scan this QR code for full details.



## NEW MEMBERS

Registering in a parish is a declaration of your desire to be part of a Catholic community and a commitment to the life of the parish family. We are often asked to provide affidavits for parishioner standing. We can only do this if a person is a registered, active, and contributing member in our parish. You can register by scanning the QR code above or by visiting our website at [www.saintmichael-cd.org](http://www.saintmichael-cd.org).

## BULLETIN DEADLINE

To submit a bulletin request, the request must be made no later than 12:00 p.m., Monday. Send bulletin requests to [rlund@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:rlund@saintmichael-cd.org) with "BULLETIN REQUEST" in the subject line with all details and contact person for questions. Early submission deadlines may be required surrounding holidays. All bulletin requests are subject to approval.

## HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

St. Michael's Homebound Ministry is available to bring the Eucharist to the homebound. If you or a loved one within St. Michael Parish boundaries would like someone to bring the Eucharist to you, please reach out to Sr. Riya Mary to coordinate. She can be reached by calling the Parish Office or by emailing [srriya@stmichael-cd.org](mailto:srriya@stmichael-cd.org).



## ONLINE GIVING

St. Michael offers online giving as a convenient tool for you to use. Scan the QR code to learn more or to set up online contributions.

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 22, 2024

## DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, December 21

4:00 p.m. + Jim Fristad (Ron & Julie Winland)

### Sunday, December 22

8:30 a.m. + Pasquale & Cesidio Pizzutti  
(The Pizzutti Family)

10:30 a.m. + Michael Crosbie (The Murray Family)

12:30 p.m. + Josephine Munhall  
(The DeCenzo Family)

5:00 p.m. For the Living & Deceased Members  
of our Parish

### Monday, December 23

6:30 a.m. + Antonio & Donata Tempesta  
(Armando & Liliana Tempesta)

8:15 a.m. + Vera T. Jaketic (Dennis P. Jaketic)

### Tuesday, December 24

6:30 a.m. + Harry & Jeanne Hollern,  
Wilbur & Eunice Meck  
(Chuck & Maureen Meck)

8:15 a.m. + Curtis Westerman (Rita Westerman)

4:00 p.m. + Bill Costello

6:00 p.m. For the Living & Deceased Members  
of our Parish

10:00 p.m. Special Intention of the Heisey Family  
(Rita Connolly)

### Wednesday, December 25

8:30 a.m. Andrew & Ann Krsak (The Krsak Family)

10:30 a.m. + Christopher Pena  
(Juliana O’Leary & Family)

### Thursday, December 26

6:30 a.m. Special Intention of the Stanko &  
Stillian Families

8:15 a.m. + Warren, David & Michael Roberts  
(Carolyn Roberts)

### Friday, December 27

6:30 a.m. Special Intentions of the  
Secular Carmelites OLMDG

8:15 a.m. + Charles Melekian (Lucia)

### Saturday, December 28

8:15 a.m. + Richard Kay (Kevin & Lisa Barlage)

4:00 p.m. Special Intention of Sr. Mary Regina, O.P.

### Sunday, December 29

8:30 a.m. For the Living & Deceased Members  
of our Parish

10:30 a.m. + John P. Crerand (Dcn. John Crerand)

12:30 p.m. + Jerry & Rosemary Mogan (Sue Mogan)

5:00 p.m. Special Intention of Sherry Coons

## PARISH CALENDAR – DECEMBER

<b>SUNDAY, December 22</b>	9:00 a.m. OCIA (UMR) 2:00 p.m. Christmas Decoration (C)
<b>Monday, December 23</b>	6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (U)
<b>Tuesday, December 24</b>	Parish Office Closed Eucharistic Exposition (AC)
<b>Wednesday, December 25</b>	Merry Christmas! Parish Office Closed Eucharistic Exposition (AC)
<b>Thursday, December 26</b>	Parish Office Closed Eucharistic Exposition (AC)
<b>Friday, December 27</b>	Parish Office Closed Eucharistic Exposition (AC)
<b>Saturday, December 28</b>	2:30 p.m. Confessions (C)
<b>SUNDAY, December 29</b>	9:00 a.m. OCIA (UMR)

To view Parish Masses & Ministry Activities in advance,  
please view our Parish Calendar online by visiting:

[www.saintmichael-cd.org/about-us/calendar/](http://www.saintmichael-cd.org/about-us/calendar/)

(U) = Undercroft/Cafeteria, (S) = School, (C) = Church, (G) = Gym, (MH) = Marian Hall, (SL) = School Library, (UMR) = Meeting room on the first floor of the Parish Ministry Center, (LMR) = Meeting room in the basement of the Parish Ministry Center, (AC) = Adoration Chapel, (A) = Atrium

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

### DECEMBER 15, 2024

Envelopes .....	\$	21,542.72
Online Giving .....	\$	12,946.00
<b>Total: .....</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>34,488.72</b>

# FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners of St. Michael,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

So many of our parishioners will be traveling this week and will spend the Lord's Nativity elsewhere so as to be with family so I know it is a bit premature, but MERRY CHRISTMAS!

A sincere word of gratitude to all of the parishioners who have helped to decorate the outside of the church. Most of the outside decorating took place last Sunday and was followed by chili in Marian Hall. While it was a bit wet outside, it was great to see so many children come with their parents to assist.

The days that are upon us are so incredibly special and powerful in their significance and importance, but it does take time and effort to appreciate the beauty of these days. If there is one thing I have heard from nearly everyone, it is the incredible feeling of being rushed and worn out. The Season of Advent and the eventual celebration of the Lord's Nativity is not about buying presents nor even receiving them. It's not about making use of great deals and incredible sales; it's not about decorating. It is about the salvific event of the Father in Heaven sending His Son Jesus to save us. He has been among us since His Incarnation, which we remember on the Solemnity of the Annunciation (March 25th) and His Birth (December 25th) that will make His presence Visible and Audible, and the Presence of God in the Flesh dwelling among us is what makes these days so incredible and powerful.

A popular and powerful image used by some of the greatest preachers of the last century is the threefold manifestation of Jesus among us; the Crib, the Cross, the Eucharist. During this three-year-long Eucharistic Revival perhaps it is good to ask the Father in Heaven to give the grace to see the presence of the newborn King in Bethlehem in the Holy Eucharist before us in the Holy Mass and in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. We have been praying in spoken and sung words throughout Advent, the simple phrase COME LORD JESUS. Well, He has Come! The Lord Jesus has come to us in the Holy Eucharist, the Blessed Sacrament.

The Lord is Near! May we prepare a place for the Lord in our hearts, so that He has a place to lay His head within our Homes this Christmas.

Entrusting each and every one of our parishioners to the glory of the Sacred Heart of Jesus,

Fr Stash Dailey



## Do This in Remembrance of Me; Part 14: Listening to God's Word

As St. Jerome said, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." Without a doubt, St. Jerome understood that the Bible truly is God speaking to his people. That is why it is so important to have readings from the Bible during Mass. Listening to God's Word helps us to learn about and understand who God is and how much He loves us. Also, we learn about ourselves and just how much we need God in our lives. As we continue some reflections on the Liturgy of the Word, we focus this week on the more spiritual aspects of listening to God's Word and receiving it into our hearts.

### Start with Silence

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal reminds us that silence is a very important part of the Mass. Not only are we silent while the readings are read, but there should also be a brief silence after each of the readings. As the Diocese of Peoria's A Study of the Mass teaches, "Even these brief moments allow us to meditate on the marvels and mysteries we just heard... In our world of 'noise,' this silence may seem uncomfortable to us. Yet, this is all the more reason for us to pay close attention to this detail of the sacred Liturgy" (p. 7). Silence is an important means for the faithful to actively participate in the Mass, since it allows the opportunity to really listen with our hearts and take in God's Word.

What if the readings don't make sense to you? Fr. Guy Oury reminds us that "The Word of God is not a document. It is not something of the past that happens to narrate a stage of revelation" (The Mass, p. 62). The Word of God continues to be alive and active ([Hebrews 4:12](#)), seeking us out and helping to draw us nearer to God. That is why it is important for us to do our part during the readings of the Mass by really listening and thinking about the words of Scripture. If God is speaking to his people through the Scriptures, and we are part of God's family, then God is saying something to us through each reading. A great question to ask ourselves is: What is God teaching me here? About himself? About us as his people? About how he asks us to live? These reflections will help us concentrate more on the words and help us understand their meaning, even from a reading about a most unusual topic!

### Allow His Word to Grow Roots

Another way to help us better understand the readings is to recognize that the entire Old Testament is a preparation of God's people (that includes us!) for receiving Jesus. The New Testament is a fulfillment of the Old—all the prophecies, all the expectations—all perfectly fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. One of my favorite meditations is to think about something from the Old Testament and see how it leads to Jesus. In the same way, then, look at something in the New Testament and remember back to its beginnings in the Old Testament. For example, we read in [Isaiah 7:14](#), "Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Emmanuel." For many of us, our mind probably jumps to Mary and Jesus. Some of the connections are very clear, and some are subtler. Spending time reflecting on the readings can not only help us better understand what we hear, but it also helps the Word of God to be truly rooted in our hearts, our thoughts, and our actions. As Charles Belmonte reminds us, Sacred Scripture reveals to us the "truth, both about God and about our own salvation... What we hear during the Liturgy of the Word is truth about God and the narrative of the marvels God performed... Its culmination is the Paschal Mystery of the Death and Resurrection of Christ, which is perpetuated in the Eucharist. Therefore, the central theme of the readings is always Christ... By carefully listening to the Word of God and reflecting on it, we will realize who ... Christ is, what he says and does, what he expects of us, and how we are to go about accomplishing the task he entrusted to us. Gradually, we will enter into the intimacy of God and discover the meaning of our own existence. And, as a consequence, we will get to know how to do—always and in everything—the will of God" (Understanding the Mass, p. 75-76). Now that's a reason to "listen up!"

### For Reflection

1. Recognizing the unique presence of Jesus in the Scriptures, reflect on the Risen Lord's appearance to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus ([Luke 24:13-35](#)). Pay particular attention to what Jesus says about his presence in "all the scriptures," including "Moses and all the prophets" ([Lk. 24:27](#)). Next time you are at Mass, listen to hear how Jesus is present in each part of the Liturgy of the Word.
2. For a brief sample of Old Testament references to Jesus, consider praying with [Deuteronomy 18:15](#), [Psalm 22:1-18](#), or [Isaiah 53](#). Ask the Lord to awaken your awareness of his presence throughout Scripture.





## Do This in Remembrance of Me; Part 15: The First Reading

After spending some time reflecting on the Liturgy of the Word as a whole, this week we begin looking more closely at each part, beginning with the First Reading. We might hear the lector proclaim, “A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, “A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. In the days of Ahaz, king of Judah, son of Jotham, son of Uzziah, Rezin, king of Aram, and Pekah, king of Israel, son of Remaliah...” ([Isaiah 7:1-9](#)). With all these names, which many of us may not even know how to pronounce, we might wonder: Why do we use the Old Testament at Mass, anyway?

### A Witness to God’s Faithfulness

As we said earlier, the First Reading at Mass is generally from the Old Testament. When we hear the stories of the Old Testament, we hear about how God called and began to form his people. If you are familiar with the Old Testament, you know there are times of faithfulness and falling away. There are prophets, judges, and other leaders that help call the people back to faithfulness. There are times where God is clearly directly involved and times where he seems to be more in the background. We learn about God’s faithfulness, even in the midst of our unfaithfulness. I am often struck by that faithfulness of God: we know we don’t deserve it, and yet there he is, consistently loving, forgiving, leading, providing, and protecting, doing all the things that good fathers do for their beloved children. Hopefully, as we hear those words each week, they remind us we can always go to our loving God and Father.

As we reflected before, generally when we talk about the Old Testament, we talk about a preparation. Through Moses, the prophets, and other writers, God was preparing his people (and us) to receive the truth about Jesus—that he truly is the Messiah who came to set us free from sin and death so that we might live with the Father forever. The Old and New Testament work together: the Old prepares for the New, and the New tells us what we’ve been waiting for, namely, Jesus Christ (cf. *Dei Verbum*, no. 15).

### The Family of God

But why do we need all those names? The whole Bible, even parts we don’t understand or that don’t seem helpful, is part of God’s precious word to his people. Charles Belmonte reminds us that, just as every particle of the Body of Christ is precious, so too is every word (and name) of the Bible. Sometimes the readings may seem “obscure” to us because we don’t understand the ancient cultures of the Middle East. Sometimes they just mildly hint at one of the great mysteries of God and their importance can be easily overlooked. Sometimes we stumble over the names or we don’t understand the poetic language. “Nevertheless, we can be sure that if we do our best, the Holy Spirit will give us enough capacity to grasp whatever we may need for our sanctification and mission in life. And even if what we have read [or heard] does not stay in our memory, the Word of God has purified and nourished our souls” (*Understanding the Mass*, p. 85)

We might think that the names aren’t that important, but what they show us is a continuous string of people who are in relationship with God, an ongoing family which the Lord is building over time. Just like we remember the names of our grandparents and great-grandparents because they are part of our family tree, so too do we remember the names of these people who in some way had (and still have) an important part to play in God’s family tree. As the Church teaches, “Christians should accept with veneration these writings which give expression to a lively sense of God, which are a storehouse of sublime teaching on God and of sound wisdom on human life, as well as a wonderful treasury of prayers; in them, too, the mystery of our salvation is present in a hidden way” (*Dei Verbum*, no. 15).

One of my favorite things about the Old Testament is that God teaches us little by little. There is always a story to go with what we hear; there is always a bit-by-bit explanation for what God is trying to tell us. The Old Testament isn’t just strange names and long stories with some songs and poetry mixed in. It is God speaking to us and saying gradually, “Come a little closer... Please get to know me... You will find happiness in me... I want to take care of you... I will send the Messiah to save you... I am your loving Father.”

### For Reflection

1. In light of the insights on the significance of names and genealogy in the Old Testament, revisit Jesus’ genealogy in [Matthew 1:1-17](#) and/or [Luke 3:23-38](#). Recall what you know about any of the persons whose names feature in these genealogies. For any names you do not recognize, pause and invite the Lord to help you see more clearly how he accomplishes his work through men and women throughout salvation history.
2. Do you have a written or visual “family tree” of your own heritage? If not, consider developing one for yourself or with your family. Take time to pray in thanksgiving for God’s presence through your genealogy, and lift up any persons in particular need of healing or mercy.



## AROUND THE PARISH

### *Christmas Mass Schedule*

December 24

4:00pm

6:00pm

10:00pm

December 25

8:30am \*Quiet Mass

10:30am



### **Parish Office Hours**

The Parish Office will be closed on the following dates to allow staff to celebrate the Christmas Holiday with their families.

December 24-27

December 31

January 1

We look forward to serving you in the new year!

### **Early Bulletin Deadlines**

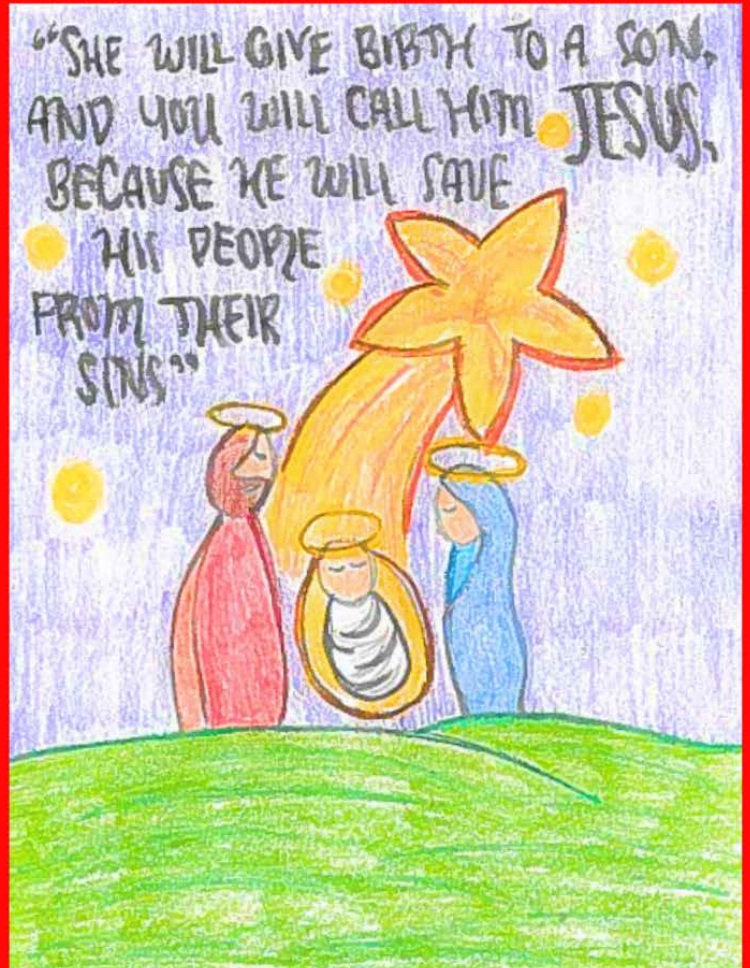
All bulletins through January 5th are completed. For any bulletin requests in the new year, please submit them by 12:00pm each Monday.

### *Christmas Card Contest*

*Grand Champion:*

**Congratulations  
Isabella M.!**

Thank you to all of the artists  
who participated this year!





### EXPERIENCE PIETRA ...

A whole-person fitness class that stretches and strengthens the body while refreshing the soul with prayer and meditation. In one hour, you will feel calmer, stronger, and renewed!

Join our **Pietra classes!** Saturdays from 7:00-8:00 a.m. at St. Michael Church. Contact Maria Elliott at [maria@viribuswellness.com](mailto:maria@viribuswellness.com) for more information or by using the QR code.

### MENS' FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

The Men's Faith & Fellowship will not meet on December 28 or January 4th. We will resume on January 11th. Contact [mensgroup@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:mensgroup@saintmichael-cd.org) with questions.

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Turn your **Required Minimum Distribution** into a **Really Meaningful Donation!** Consider making a qualified Charitable Donation from your IRA to satisfy your 2024 RMD. Make checks payable St. Michael SVDP and mail it to the church office. Your donation is **TAX-FREE** and **TAX-DEDUCTIBLE**. Thank you!



### CONFIRMATION PREPARATION CLASSES

Confirmation Preparation Classes for students in Middle School will begin this winter. If you have a child who is in need of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, please register now using the QR code.

## CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSETS

The Women's Faith & Fellowship Group would like your help donating new or gently used, clean blankets, socks, new or used candles, new hand/toe warmers for the City of Columbus homeless Community. The winter months can be very trying on our homeless community as they often acquire frostbite leading to infections and depend on candles for light and heat. We can use all shapes and sizes of blankets and candles. Donations can be dropped off to boxes in Marian Hall between December 28th and January 5th. Items will be delivered to the Holy Family Catholic Church Soup Kitchen who support over 200 homeless daily.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY!**

# Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

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“What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?” ~Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)

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*The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

***"I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since 'no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord' (Pope Paul VI, Gaudete in Domino). The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms. Now is the time to say to Jesus: 'Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways I have shunned your love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. I need you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace.' How good it feels to come back to him whenever we are lost! Let me say this once more: God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy. Christ, who told us to forgive one another 'seventy times seven' (Mt 18:22) has given us his example: he has forgiven us seventy times seven. Time and time again he bears us on his shoulders. No one can strip us of the dignity bestowed upon us by this boundless and unfailing love. With a tenderness which never disappoints, but is always capable of restoring our joy, he makes it possible for us to lift up our heads and to start anew. Let us not flee from the resurrection of Jesus, let us never give up, come what will. May nothing inspire more than his life, which impels us onwards!" +POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II, THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL, 3***

**Monday, December 23 ~ Fourth Week in the Season of Advent  
Saint John of Kanty, Priest**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 1:57-66** When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward her, and they rejoiced with her. When they came on the eighth day to circumcise the child, they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother said in reply, "No. He will be called John." But they answered her, "There is no one among your relatives who has this name." So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called. He asked for a tablet and wrote, "John is his name," and all were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed, and he spoke blessing God. Then fear came upon all their neighbors, and all these matters were discussed throughout the hill country of Judea. All who heard these things took them to heart, saying, "What, then, will this child be? For surely the hand of the Lord was with him."

**Meditation:** Not much has changed when it comes to naming newborns. The relatives of Zechariah and Elizabeth quibble over what to name their newborn child – many do the same thing in our own time! There is a major difference, though, with regard to this child – this child has been named from above! And Elizabeth is firm in her faith and determined to see that God be glorified through this child. The name "John" means "the Lord is gracious." In the birth of John and in the birth of Jesus the Messiah we see the grace of God breaking forth into a world broken by sin and death and without hope. John's miraculous birth shows the mercy and favor of God in preparing his people for the coming of its Lord and Savior, Christ the Savior, the Son of God.

**Prayer:** Grant, we pray, almighty God, that by the example of the Priest Saint John of Kanty we may advance in knowledge of holy things and by showing compassion to all, may gain forgiveness in your sight. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** When God acts to save us, he graciously fills us with his Holy Spirit and makes our faith "alive" to his promises. The question always comes down to this, though: Do you make your life an offering to God, along with your family, and all that you possess? God wants to fill us with his glory all the days of our lives, from conception, to birth, through every moment of our earthly lives, until our death. As Advent draws to a close and we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord, Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, renew the offering of your life to God, and from your heart give him thanks for his mercy and favor towards you.

## **Tuesday, December 24 ~ Last Day in the Season Advent**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 1:67-69** Zechariah his father, filled with the Holy Spirit, prophesied, saying: "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; for he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hand of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life. You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace."

**Meditation:** Like Zechariah, the Holy Spirit wants to give us vision, joy, and confidence in the knowledge of God's merciful love, protection, and care which he offers us through his Son Jesus Christ. Like John the Baptist, we too are called to prepare the way that leads to Christ. Life is a journey and we are either moving towards the Lord or away from the Lord. The Lord comes to visit us each day with his life-giving Word and Spirit. Those who hunger for the Lord will not be disappointed. He will draw them to himself and show them his love and mercy.

**Prayer:** Come quickly, we pray, Lord Jesus, and do not delay, that those who trust in your compassion may find solace and relief in your coming. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** John the Baptist was born shortly before Mary delivered her son, Jesus. When John was circumcised on the eighth day according to the Jewish rite, his father Zechariah was "filled with the Holy Spirit" and with great joy. Inspired by the Holy Spirit he spoke out a prophetic word and hymn of blessing for the work of redemption which God was about to accomplish in Christ. He foresaw the fulfillment of God's promise to David and his descendants that David's dynasty would endure forever through the coming of the Messianic King (2 Samuel 7:16). This King would establish peace and security for his people. We often think of peace as the absence of trouble. The peace which the Messiah brings cancels the debt of sin and restores our broken relationship with God. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, may each of us renew our relationship with Christ who was sent by God, out of love for us, to redeem us. If we, through our actions, have broken our relationship with God, now is the time to restore it. Begin with the Sacrament of Reconciliation, then the joy of celebrating the birth of He who leads us on our earthly journey along the one path to eternal life – the path of Christ.

## **Wednesday, December 25**

### **Christmas Day ~ The Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-14** In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.



And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

**Meditation:** Following is an excerpt of a sermon from Pope St. Leo the Great: "Dearly beloved, today our Savior is born; let us rejoice. Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life. The fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness. No one is shut out from this joy; all share the same reason for rejoicing. Our Lord, victor over sin and death, finding no man free from sin, came to free us all. Let the saint rejoice as he sees the palm of victory at hand. Let the sinner be glad as he receives the offer of forgiveness. Let the pagan take courage as he is summoned to life. In the fullness of time, chosen in the unfathomable depths of God's wisdom, the Son of God took for himself our common humanity in order to reconcile it with its creator. He came to overthrow the devil, the origin of death, in that very nature by which he had overthrown mankind. And so at the birth of our Lord the angels sing in joy: Glory to God in the highest, and they proclaim peace to men of good will as they see the heavenly Jerusalem being built from all the nations of the world. When the angels on high are so exultant at this marvelous work of God's goodness, what joy should it not bring to the lowly hearts of men? Beloved, let us give thanks to God the Father, through his Son, in the Holy Spirit, because in his great love for us he took pity on us, and when we were dead in our sins he brought us to life with Christ, so that in him we might be a new creation. Let us throw off our old nature and all its ways and, as we have come to birth in Christ, let us renounce the works of the flesh. Christian, remember your dignity, and now that you share in God's own nature, do not return by sin to your former base condition. Bear in mind who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Do not forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of God's kingdom. Through the sacrament of baptism you have become a temple of the Holy Spirit. Do not drive away so great a guest by evil conduct and become again a slave to the devil, for your liberty was bought by the blood of Christ."

**Prayer:** O God, who gladden us year by year as we wait in hope for our redemption grant that, just as we joyfully welcome your Only Begotten Son as our Redeemer, we may also merit to face him confidently when he comes again as our Judge. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** On Christmas Day it remains only for us to find in the Gospel, as we find in all the words of the Holy Gospels, the answer as to what we should do in response to the gift that has been given to us, the song that has fallen on our ears from angelic voices. And the answer is there; the birth of this mystery - of love triumphant in the face of evil - is Christ as He came to life from the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem, and Christ, as we come to life in Him, through the Sacrament we share. Let us pray that our Christmas will be filled with the song of this life, and that our love will conquer all things contrary to Christ, so that we may follow the Son sent by God to redeem us, and do so with love and fidelity to the truths of Christ.

## **Thursday, December 26 ~ Second Day in the Octave of Christmas Saint Stephen, Martyr**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 10:17-22** Jesus said to his disciples: "Beware of men, for they will hand you over to courts and scourge you in their synagogues, and you will be led before governors and kings for my sake as a witness before them and the pagans. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say. You will be given at that moment what you are to say. For it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will hand over brother to death, and the father his child; children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved."

**Meditation:** "You will be hated by all on account of my name," Jesus says in today's gospel. A strange fate indeed for those whose lives are built on truth, love and peace. And yet it is a fate only too sadly confirmed down these many centuries to this very day. Jesus had said that all those who wished to follow him would have to take up their cross and go after him. The servant is no greater than his master. "Whoever loves his own life will lose it; whoever hates his own life in this world will keep it for life eternal. Whoever wants to serve me must follow me, so that my servant will be with me where I am" (John 12:25-26). Stephen clearly is a perfect model of such a Christian disciple.

**Prayer:** Grant, Lord, we pray, that we may imitate what we worship, and so learn to love even our enemies, for we celebrate the heavenly birthday of a man who know how to pray even for his persecutors. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**Contemplation:** There are some today who say "religion divides." When we hear this, today's gospel should come to mind, because so routinely turn their back on God and on his Son, Jesus Christ. By their actions, they are the ones who actually cause division – not those who live their lives in faith of God or his Son Jesus Christ – because by their actions and their lifestyles they freely choose to not follow the laws of God and the teachings of Christ; in doing so they separate themselves from the way, the truth, and the life of Christ. The beauty of this situation, though, is that God always welcomes back those who have sinned, those who have strayed. God sent his Son into this world to teach us right from wrong, to shepherd and guide us, and to lead us on the path to eternal life. With a contrite heart through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we can confess our sins, receive absolution, and get back in Christ's fold. What a great thing to do in the Christmas Season – and any time of the year, for that matter!

## **Friday, December 27 ~ Third Day in the Octave of Christmas Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist**

**Holy Gospel: John 20:1a, 2-8** On the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we do not know where they put him." So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed.

**Meditation:** Today's Gospel describes the scene where Peter and the "beloved disciple" rush to the tomb of Jesus after being told by Mary Magdalene that the body is no longer there. Although the "beloved disciple" got there first, he deferred to Peter who went in first and saw the burial cloths. One of them – the piece that was wrapped around the face – was rolled up in a separate place. When the "beloved disciple" went in, "he saw and he believed" – in other words, he understood the significance of the cloth and he knew that his Lord had risen.

**Prayer:** O God, who through the blessed Apostle John have unlocked for us the secrets of your Word, grant, we pray, that we may grasp with proper understanding what he has so marvelously brought to our ears. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** John in his first epistle testifies: What we have seen, heard, and touched we proclaim as the word of life which existed "from the beginning" (1 John 1:1-4). John bears witness to what has existed from all eternity. This "word of life" is Jesus the word incarnate, whose birth we just celebrated, but also Jesus as the word announced by the prophets and Jesus the word now preached throughout the Christian church for all ages to come. One thing is certain, if Jesus had not risen from the dead and appeared to his disciples, we would never have heard of him. Nothing else could have changed sad and despairing men and women into people radiant with joy and courage. The reality of the resurrection is the central fact of the Christian faith. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Lord gives us "eyes of faith" to know him and the power of his resurrection. The greatest joy we can have is to encounter the living Christ, sent by God into this world to save and redeem us, to teach us how to live our lives, to shepherd and guide us on the path that leads to eternal life. Get to know Christ personally as your Lord, Savior and Redeemer.

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops;  
prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011;

information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of Catholic Culture;

some meditations inspired by Biblical Meditations for Advent and Christmas by Carroll Stuhlmueller, CP.

frlumpe:2024



# Confession Corner

St Michael Church  
Saturday, 2:30-4pm  
Sunday, 8am, 9:45am, 11:45am  
Wednesday, 6:30-7:30pm

St Patrick Church, Dominican Friars  
Monday-Friday 12:15 (following the 11:45am daily Mass)  
till last confession is heard

Holy Family Church, Mercedarian Friars  
Monday-Friday 11:30-12 noon (preceding the daily 12:15 Mass)

St Christopher Church, Pallotine Fathers  
Monday-Friday, 3pm-4pm (preceding the daily 4pm Mass)

St. Thomas More Newman Center  
Monday, 4:30-5:30pm  
Tuesday - Friday, 8:15am till all are heard & 4:30-5:30pm

# WINTER & SPRING MOM'S DAY OUT

Mothers are invited to join our Mother's Day Out Community on Friday's 9:30-11:30am. Over the course of the winter & spring the group of mothers will take turns, staying and caring for the group of children playing in the Upper Meeting Room or dropping off their child(ren) and enjoying some free time. Two mothers will stay each day and there is a cap at 14 children to maintain a less than 1:7 ratio of mother:children. Dates will coincide with St. Michael School Days in session and according to room availability.

January  
Dates:  
1/10  
1/17  
1/24  
1/31

February  
Dates:  
2/7  
2/21  
2/28

March  
Dates:  
3/7  
3/21  
2/28

April  
Dates:  
4/4  
4/11  
4/25

May  
Dates:  
5/2  
5/9  
5/16

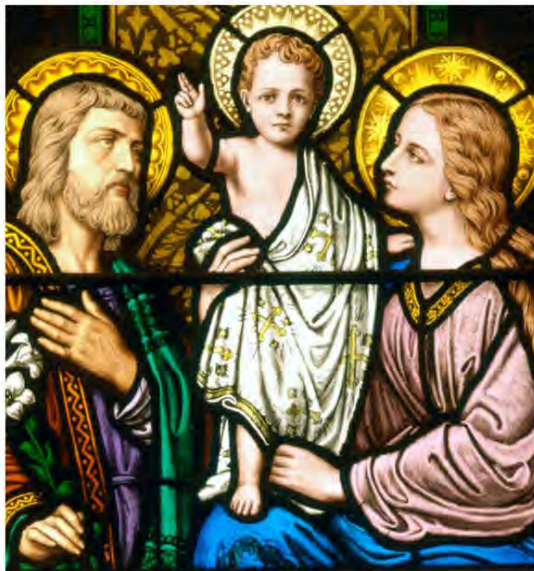
Mothers will sign up to volunteer for 4 dates to stay with the children and are always welcome to stay extra days if they would like to. All volunteers need to be PGC cleared prior to volunteering. Please contact Emily Mauro for questions or to sign up. [emilyfmauro@yahoo.com](mailto:emilyfmauro@yahoo.com)  
614-403-5942



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## Attention All St. Michael Parishioners: CONSECRATE YOUR FAMILY TO THE HOLY FAMILY 12/28 & 29

To help families live out the joy of Christ, Knights of Columbus Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori has composed a prayer through which families will come together to consecrate themselves under the protection of the Holy Family. In this prayer, we ask for the aid or intercession of the perfect son Jesus Christ, Mary the perfect mother, and Joseph who is a model for every father.



### Four suggested steps before praying the Consecration to the Holy Family:

1. Discuss the importance of this consecration as a family and why you are doing it.
2. Each member of your family is strongly encouraged to go to the sacrament of reconciliation.
3. As a family, intentionally choose something to fast from. The fast can be for at least a week. As our physical bodies are drawn to things of the world, it is strongly encouraged that you fast from something that you would normally do or consume. Fasting helps to discipline our minds and hearts to refrain from secular activities and be more focused on God.
4. Prepare for the commitment you are making. Consecration to the Holy Family is not a single event. You have chosen a way of life for your family. You and your family are consciously choosing to be a beacon of light of God's love through his Church.

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- 3 the official tax receipt mailed to you - you'll need it come tax time!
- 4 Enter your donation on **line 15** of the Ohio IT 1040 Schedule of Credits
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- St. Michael Athletic Association Scholarship Endowment Fund



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Wishing you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas from St. Michael School! May your Christmas season be filled with the grace and peace of Christ.

For today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you who is the Messiah and Lord.

Luke 2:11

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