



Advent

PREPARING THE WAY

A Bridge between the Past, Present & Future

*1st Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2024*

St. Michael Parish

14327 Highland Ave., Orland Park, IL 60462 / 708-349-0903

www.saintmike.com

Father Frank's Fire

The days are becoming shorter and the nights longer and darker. Darkness, cold and chill are around us. December reminds us that we are approaching the dawning of a new year. There are emotions of anticipation and apprehension. Many are excited about what the New Year will hold for them – a time of hope and endless possibilities. This can be seen as a time of new beginnings, and it can be an opportunity to start with a clean slate.

The world is facing difficult times. There is conflict among the nations. Political, religious, racial and family divisions among people seem to be widening. These tensions often lead to fear and apprehension. Many wonder what is going to happen to our cherished way of life. Educational costs continue to rise, and college graduates are having difficulty finding employment and are burdened by their student loans. We wonder if we will ever be able to retire and enjoy our “golden” years. There is so much built up fear and frustration that people are no longer smiling; they are complaining about everything and everyone. Social media provides a platform for trash talking all forms of authority and others who may disagree with their particular point of view. Where has simple courtesy and kindness gone? Where has all of the joy gone? And yet, in the midst of the world's darkness and fear, there is a glimmer of light, a flickering flame that brings hope and comfort to those who patiently await the fulfillment of God's promises.



Advent marks a time of new beginning, for it is the beginning of the Church's Liturgical Year. Like the outdoors, the Church also darkens, except for the gentle glow of the candles from the Advent wreath. The vestments change from green to violet. Our liturgies will be simpler, the Gloria is omitted, and the music and prayers reflect the world's longing for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ – the Savior of the world. We wait patiently in joyful hope for Jesus, the true Light of the world, and yet we are uneasy, because we know that when we encounter Jesus we have to change.

Advent seems to mirror the world's emotions of joyful anticipation and fearful apprehension. The scriptures speak to us about the promises of salvation being fulfilled, while there is an urgent message to turn away from sin. It is clear that before we can encounter the Babe of Bethlehem, we must first encounter John the Baptist who calls us to repentance and conversion.

The scriptures help us to understand that Advent is a bridge between the past, present and future. In the first reading, Jeremiah reminds us "*the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill my promise.*" We are invited to remain awake and prepare for the return of Christ. In the gospel, Jesus reminds us, "*Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.*" Yes, the challenge is clear – we should not be asleep but be fully alert and prepared for when Jesus returns in his glory.

Advent reminds us of the patient waiting of our ancestors in faith – our past. Their hopes were fulfilled in the birth of Christ. However, Advent is not simply a time of preparation for Christmas. Advent should find us watching and waiting to see the presence of Jesus in our midst. We are aware that God's Kingdom is not fully here. There are threats to God's Kingdom everywhere; it seems as if nations, neighborhoods and families are wounded, broken and in need of healing. There is crime, poverty, injustice, oppression, intolerance, sickness and death. This is our present. Therefore, we too, wait patiently and expectantly for the coming of our Savior – the true Light of the world – Christ the Lord. This is our future. Advent is the bridge between the past, present and future.

Please do not let this Advent pass by without preparing your soul for Christmas. The scriptures call us to repentance so that we can be children of the Light. We are called as individuals and, as a community of faith, to be light for those who live in darkness, and to be a beacon of hope for those who live in despair. We trust that Jesus will come again to fulfill our deepest longings. Let Jesus enter your hearts and homes this Christmas. Advent is indeed a special season because it reminds us that, as God's people, we are to keep the light of faith shining into eternity. We are a constant reminder that God has not abandoned us, but is here among us brightening our world with his presence and peace.

The Gospel of Luke

The Scripture readings used at Sunday Mass are divided up into three cycles – A, B and C. Since the beginning of Advent 2023, we have been in Cycle B and the majority of the gospel readings were from Mark. Today we begin a new Cycle – Cycle C – and most of the gospel readings will be taken from Luke. Luke's audience was most likely non-Jewish Greek-speaking Christians. Luke's account is primarily a historical perspective of salvation history. God's plan for salvation was fulfilled during the life of Jesus and that Jesus fulfilled the promises of the Old Testament. Since Luke is writing to a non-Jewish audience, his focus becomes how salvation is extended to all people and that there is a universal call to discipleship — a call that is still present today.

Luke makes it clear that he is not an eyewitness to the ministry of Jesus. His writing is clearly dependent upon the traditions and eyewitness testimony of the first disciples. Throughout Luke's gospel, it is evident that he was not familiar with the Jewish practices, nor with the territory at the time when Jesus lived. This has led many scripture scholars to conclude that Luke was not Jewish, and he was writing to a Gentile Christian audience that did not live in Palestine. St. Luke the Evangelist – pray for us!

Retirement Fund for the Religious

Next weekend, the annual Retirement Fund for the Religious will take place. This fund has provided much-needed assistance to religious men and women who have spent their lives serving our Church and our world. They've ministered in our schools, hospitals, parishes and charitable agencies, asking for little in return. They did not invest in pension plans, but in people, in service and in the future of the Church they served. We have all benefited from the sacrifices of the religious sisters, brothers and priests.

Like many Americans, religious communities face the monumental challenge of funding eldercare. Currently the average annual cost of care for women and men religious past age 70 is nearly \$60,000 per person. Skilled care averages \$90,000. The total cost of care for senior religious in the United States has exceeded \$1 billion annually for each of the past 16 years. Can you help those that have helped us? Next week we will have an opportunity to help ease their financial burden and to simply say thank you.

Last year, the people of the Archdiocese of Chicago contributed over \$1 million dollars to this fund. Envelopes were included in your monthly packets and will be available in the Church. Thank you for your continued generosity.

In Christ, our past, present and future,

Fr. Frank



**Advent Reconciliation Services
at St. Michael Parish
Monday, Dec. 9 and Tuesday, Dec. 10
at 6:15 p.m. in the Church**

St. Michael Parish will offer two Advent Reconciliation Services. Each will begin with a brief prayer service followed by individual confessions. Please join us for this time to receive God's comfort, mercy and forgiveness.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



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Chicago, IL 60611-2030
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archchicago.org

November 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

On the Second Sunday of Advent, parishes throughout our Archdiocese will participate in the Retirement Fund for Religious collection, an annual appeal that benefits nearly 24,000 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests nationwide.

I am grateful for the significant influence that women and men religious, both past and present, have had on our individual faith journeys. Their faithful and devoted service has impacted our archdiocese, inspiring and guiding us as we continue to grow in faith.

We are called to recognize that most senior vowed religious worked many years for little pay, leaving their religious communities with a shortage of retirement savings. Rising healthcare costs and decreased income compound the challenge to meet day-to-day needs for aging members, including their medical expenses, nursing assistance and other necessities.

Your generous contributions to the Retirement Fund for Religious provide vital financial support, enabling religious communities to care for their aging members.

I am aware that you are frequently asked to support many worthy causes. I invite you to contribute what you can at masses the weekend of December 7-8. Most importantly, please keep all our men and women religious in your prayers. Rest assured that they are praying for you.

May God's abundant blessings be upon you and your loved ones during this Holy Season of Advent. With kind regards I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Archbishop of Chicago



Please Pray For The Sick

We continue to remember the sick, the infirm, and all those recommended to our prayers; and especially the following, that they may experience the healing and power of Christ:

**Jennifer Bailey, John Baker, Dorothy Basta,
John Basta, Bernie Bittner, John Blouin,
Keith Thraen Borowski, Kathy Bruss,
Vince Candelero, Patricia Chuchla, Eileen Cocco,
Aileen Collura, Valentin Corona, Mary DiFilippo,
James Dunne, Robert Foster, Diane Gneda,
Dolores Gobely, Jack Handley, Carole Holding,
Lisa Johnston, Tom Johnston, Rose Kessen,
Celeste Koszut, Joan Krasneck, Sylvia Krepton,
Robert Levinthal, Mark Lunn, Fr. Robert Mair,
Tom Mallon, Lizette Masters, Bill Marich,
Rich McCasland, Donna Micun, Patricia Minogue,
Marcelo Montoya, Art Morgan, Dennis Noga,
Alice Prendergast, Debbie Rogers, AJ Rother,
Maria Rzonca, Cara Scanlon, Joseph Skeen,
Jennie Vaccarell, Mary Pat Walsh,
Aleksandra Waresiak, Donna Wilczek,
Lawrence Wojcik**
and those injured in service to their country.



Readings for the Week Dec. 1, 2024

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16; 1 Thes 3:12—4:2;
Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
Monday: Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a,
6-8
Next Sunday: Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6



Today marks the first week of Advent, which means it is the start of a new season for our church! We celebrate Christmas in four weeks. Each week in Advent, we light a candle on the Advent wreath. When we reach Christmas day, all of our candles should be lit in honor of Jesus being born!

Look around your church and see if there is an Advent wreath hanging. Some of them have only four candles and others have five. You also can make a wreath for your own home. You can draw a wreath on paper, hang it up on a wall and color in the candles as each week goes by. It's a fun way to prepare for the holidays. It can also help you be mindful of the true meaning of Christmas.

The season of Advent is a time where we can change our ways for the better. We must prepare ourselves for Jesus' birthday – Christmas Day! People were lost before Jesus was born. They believed in God but they didn't understand Him because he seemed too big to understand. When Jesus came, He set an example of what God's love is like for us and showed us how to behave, love and forgive.

I think sometimes we forget the meaning of Christmas. We are so busy focusing on buying presents for our loved ones or what we want for ourselves. Sometimes the focus becomes decorating the house so that we get into the Christmas spirit. All of these things are good to do, but it is very important to be ready for Jesus in mind and in spirit.

I know when I was little, I was always on my best behavior during Advent because I knew it was going to mean presents or coal under the tree for me on Christmas Day. However, as I got older, I found that continuing to be good even after Christmas felt just as good as it did during Advent. I learned that being loving and caring towards those that I loved was the best present I could give myself and others. Being good during Advent is wonderful but continuing to be well-behaved after Advent is most important. Use this time during Advent to change for the better. Let us use this time of Advent to be watchful of our actions. And...let's be like Jesus.

Let's pray: Dear Jesus, I promise to always be on alert with my actions. I love you and want to be like you. Amen.

Hey, Kids! "Lamb Of God" Gift Basket Raffle

Advent is here and we are giving away a "Lamb of God" gift basket to any young person from 2- to 22-years old. All you have to do is submit your response to the following: **"I feel the presence of God during Advent when I ..."**

To enter: Go to the "Hey, Kids!" table in the Narthex, write your response on the paper provided, along with your name and phone number, and drop it into the box or basket. The winner will be selected on the 3rd Sunday of Advent. Your phone number will not be shared but, if you win, your name will be highlighted in the bulletin. Good luck!

COMING UP THIS WEEK AT ST. MICHAEL PARISH

Saturday, Nov. 30

- **Men's Scripture Sharing**-7:00 a.m.—Ministry Room West
- **Feeding The Hungry Food Sorting**-8:45 a.m.—Small Gym
- **Christmas Sharing Tree**-before and after 4:30 p.m.
Mass—Narthex
- **Parish Hospitality Hours**-after 4:30 p.m. Mass—MPR

Sunday, Dec. 1

- **Christmas Sharing Tree**-before and after all Masses—Narthex
- **Parish Hospitality Hours**-after all Masses—MPR
- **Feast of St. Nicholas Celebration**-before, during and after 9:30 a.m. Mass—MPR
- **Young Peoples Liturgy of the Word (YPLW)**-during 9:30 a.m. Mass—Church and Chapel
- **Hispanic Young Peoples Liturgy of the Word/Liturgia de la Palabra de los Jóvenes (YPLW)**-durante la Misa de la 1:30 p.m.—Ministry Rooms

Monday, Dec. 2

- **Women in Faith English & Spanish**-6:30 p.m.—Commons

Tuesday, Dec. 3

- **Holy Hour with Rosary & Benediction**-7:00 p.m.—Church

Wednesday, Dec. 4

- **Bible Study**-7:00 p.m.—Commons

Thursday, Dec. 5

- **St. Michael Parents & Tots Playgroup**-9:15 a.m.—Ministry Room East

Friday, Dec. 6

- **Hispanic Bible Study/Estudio Bíblico Hispano**-7:00 p.m.—Ministry Room East

Saturday, Dec. 7

- **Men's Scripture Sharing**-7:00 a.m.—Ministry Room West
- **Feeding The Hungry Food Sorting**-8:45 a.m.—Small Gym
- **Christmas Sharing Tree**-before and after 4:30 p.m.
Mass—Narthex

Sunday, Dec. 8

- **Christmas Sharing Tree**-before and after all Masses—Narthex
- **Young Peoples Liturgy of the Word (YPLW)**-during 9:30 a.m. Mass—Church and Chapel
- **Hispanic Young Peoples Liturgy of the Word/Liturgia de la Palabra de los Jóvenes (YPLW)**-durante la Misa de la 1:30 p.m.—Ministry Rooms



All Are Invited to Help Us Prepare a Manger for the Baby Jesus

When God sent His Son upon the earth, Mary and Joseph did their part. Now God asks us **“How will you prepare for the birth of Jesus?”**

Please help us build a bed for Jesus in the Narthex. Let Jesus know how you are preparing for his birth. Do you pray more or donate your time and talents? Please write your Advent plan on the paper strips provided in the Narthex so we can use them to help build a soft, cozy bed for Jesus.

ST. MICHAEL ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKLET AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX THIS WEEKEND

The annual St. Michael Advent Reflection Booklet will be available for pick up in the Narthex this weekend after Masses. Designed to guide us through the Advent Season, the booklet contains a reflection on the Scriptures of the Day written by a St. Michael parishioner or staff member. We especially thank Sarah Huie and Yolanda Trujillo for coordinating this annual project for our parish, as well as our many parishioners for their contributions. Also available are reflection booklets titled *“Becoming Pilgrims of Hope: Advent 2024 Daily Reflections, Practices & Prayers.”*

Both of these booklets are great resources for individual prayer, family sharing and small faith sharing groups, and we invite you to use one or both in your homes this Advent.
Disponible en Español!



Wedding Banns

Madalíne María López & Mario Andrés Sandoval
Dec. 14, 2024



PLEASE JOIN US FOR PARISH HOSPITALITY

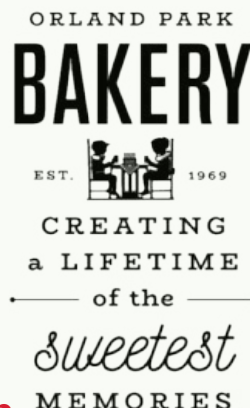
THIS WEEKEND—Nov. 30 & Dec. 1

All Are Welcome To Join Us In The MPR After All Masses To Start the Advent Season In Fellowship

Orland Park Bakery will be providing baked goods and snacks, and the St. Michael Worship Ministries will be hosting and serving.

We'd greatly appreciate your donations of baked goods, as well as other items such as cheese and crackers, veggies and dip, mini sandwiches and fruit. If you can contribute items for our Hospitality Weekend, please contact one of the Hospitality Committee Co-Chairs: Ellie Olson: ero1958@yahoo.com or 708-699-7224; and Sara O'Brien: sarajob1003@gmail.com or 585-414-5005. Thank you!

Reminder: St. Nicholas will visit with the children following the 9:30 a.m. Mass



FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS THIS SUNDAY, DEC. 1 AT THE 9:30 A.M. MASS

All children are invited to celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas at our 9:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Dec. 1st. Arrive at church by 9:25 a.m. Go into the MPR and place your shoes along the wall. Then go into Church in your stocking feet to celebrate Mass with your family. When it's time for Young People's Liturgy of the Word (YPLW), St. Nicholas will lead you to the Chapel.

After Mass ends, children and their families should return to the MPR to check for a treat in their shoes and take photos with St. Nicholas. Stay to enjoy hospitality in the MPR hosted by our Worship Ministries.

St. Nicholas, patron saint of children, pray for us, that we will always be generous and share with others. Amen!



Parents & Tots Gratitude Tree

With Thanksgiving approaching, the St. Michael Parents & Tots Play Group Ministry paused at a recent gathering to recognize the blessings in their

lives. They wrote down on paper leaves all the things they are grateful for and placed them on tree branches in a vase to create a beautiful "Gratitude Tree." Be sure to check it out the next time you're in the parish office.

**Thank you,
Parents & Tots,
for sharing your
gratitude and joy
with us!**





As we approach the beautiful season of Christmas, we delight once again in our ability to bring joy to others through gift giving. Every year at this time, a spirit of excitement and generosity permeate our Narthex, as people choose ornaments from the Sharing Tree. We are a blessed people, and we bless others with our goodness.

The Christmas Sharing Tree will be located in the Narthex beginning Saturday, Nov. 30. On the tree will be numerous Christmas ornament tags with specific gift information for a person in need. We invite you to:

- ♥ Select an ornament from the Sharing Tree.
- ♥ Buy the gift requested on the tag.
- ♥ Some tags have several choices.
- ♥ You may choose what to give.
- ♥ Please include gift receipts if appropriate.
- ♥ Do not wrap the gift unless specified on the tag.
- ♥ TAPE THE TAG securely to the outside of the gift.
- ♥ If you are giving a gift card, please place it in the collection basket or turn it in to the Parish Office.

**All gifts must be returned the weekend of Dec. 14 & 15.
They will be delivered on Monday, Dec. 16.**

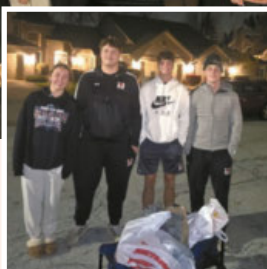
This year you will notice that there are many gift cards on the tree. We realize this isn't as much fun for you if you want to purchase a gift, but the children who receive the card do something they do not often have the opportunity to do – buy something they would really like to have for themselves. We are told that they get very excited to be able to choose from a number of their wishes.

May God fill your hearts and home with joy this Christmas Season. Thank you for your generosity and goodness.

St. Michael Social Concerns Ministry

THANK YOU ST. MICHAEL QUEST GROUPS!

A special thank you goes out to St. Michael's QUEST groups who partnered with our St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) Society this Thanksgiving. St. Michael high school students shopped for and donated items for Thanksgiving dinner food baskets that our SVdP gave to families in need in our community. Visit our website to see more photos from our teens Thanksgiving festivities.





Dear Parents/Guardians,

To honor the special people at St. Michael School, the School Advisory Board has once again organized the "SMS Staff Christmas Donation". Our teachers and staff have been dedicated to educating and supporting our children all year. Our parents and their children are grateful for the continued opportunity to attend such a vibrant school while balancing the demands of everyday life, and in this effort, realize it truly does take a village to educate our children. Simply put, we could not foster the safe, caring learning environment of St. Michael School without the efforts of all of these people working together.

As a measure of our gratitude, the School Advisory Board is asking for our families to make a monetary donation in lieu of classroom gifts this year. Your donation will be pooled and distributed to our outstanding teachers, aides, office staff and maintenance staff. Last year, there was an overwhelming response from our wonderful SMS and broader parish families – we are hopeful for the same this year as well!

We are beginning the process earlier this year in order to give our families the maximum amount of time to participate. We are asking for you to consider making a donation in gratitude for our faculty and staff at Christmas. Please send your checks made out to "St. Michael School" in an envelope marked "SMS Christmas Donation" to the school office no later than December 12, 2024.

With thanks for your consideration,
St. Michael School Advisory Board

Donate Here →



"Generous persons will prosper;
those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed."
Proverbs 11:25



Christ of the Breadlines by Fritz Eichenberg

CATHOLIC CHARITIES DAYBREAK CENTER SHEPHERD'S TABLE

On the first Saturday of every month a group of 8th graders & high school students from our parish prepare and serve lunch at the Shepherd's Table Soup Kitchen in Joliet. We will be going on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 8:00am until 1:00pm. If you are a teen and would like to lend a hand, please email Therese Hansen to register at hansentherese12@gmail.com. You need to email your name and phone number; Therese will contact you.

We leave from St. Michael's parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Deadline for sign up is this Wednesday, Dec. 4. Transportation will be provided.



CAN YOU HELP WITH SHEPHERD'S TABLE ?

Our teens will be making a pork roast lunch at the Soup Kitchen this month. Please donate russet potatoes, cans of corn, pork gravy, rolls, lettuce, tomatoes, red onions, cucumbers, balsamic vinegar, olive oil, Italian seasoning packets, cans of chicken noodle and tomato soup, butter, fresh fruit, homemade desserts and liters of pop, Monetary donations are greatly appreciated.

Please place your donations in the Narthex kitchen on Thursday, Dec. 5 and Friday, Dec. 6 from 8:00am to 8:30pm.



THANKING YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

St. Michael Youth Ministry

POINSETTIA ORDER PICK UP

Saturday, Dec. 14th
9am to 11am
Small Gym (brown doors)
on Highland Ave.



Poinsettia Sale After Masses Dec. 14 & 15

There will be extra poinsettias for sale at all Masses on Saturday, Dec. 14 & Sunday, Dec. 15 for \$10 and \$20.

*Thank you for your support of
St. Michael Youth Ministry.*



Oplatki
Christmas
Wafers

Now Available in the Parish Office

Oplatki, the thin wafers with four beautiful Christmas images stamped into them, are available in the Parish Office for a free will donation. The Parish Office is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A Polish tradition, Oplatki is typically shared amongst families right before the Christmas Eve meal and shadows the Eucharistic meal that Catholics share at each Mass.

Can You Make a Goody Bag or Tie Blanket For God's Elderly Children ?

As we approach the holiday season, our parish Religious Education Program is asking parishioners to consider making a fleece tie blanket and/or a gift bag for God's elderly children residing at two local nursing homes. It is an honor and blessing to spread Christmas cheer and love to those lacking so much and to the beautiful residents and patients at Harmony and Avantara nursing care centers. **Can you help our parish's Religious Education Program reach our goal to gift 150 blankets and 150 goody bags this year?**

Goody Bags — Can you contribute a gift bag that contains a pair of non-skid slipper socks, a word search book, a packaged snack or bag of candy, body wash and shampoo, and a card with an uplifting message? **Please bring your gift bag to our church before or after any Mass next weekend — Dec. 7 & 8 — as we will deliver them on Dec. 11th.**

Making a Tie Blanket is an Easy, Fun Family Project — Visit YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/> and search "Make a Tie Blanket from Fleece" to view many helpful videos. Making a blanket takes between 30 minutes and an hour, and all the craft stores in the area sell a variety of fleece products. Please gift wrap each blanket and indicate if the blanket is best for a male, female or either. **Please bring your blanket to our church before or after any Mass the weekend of Dec. 7 & 8, as we will deliver them on Dec. 11th.**

After you've created a blanket or gift bag, pray over it, asking God to bless whomever will receive it. Thank you so much for your time and consideration! May God bless you as He blesses the elderly who deserve our love and care.



St. Michael School

 Celebrating our 75th Anniversary
St. Michael School presents

WM PHOENIX OPEN

February 3-9, 2025

Raffle

\$75 PER TICKET
ONLY 500 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD

WINNING TICKETS WILL BE PICKED ON DECEMBER 4, 2024
via Instagram Live Stream

Purchase Here



<p>1ST PRIZE</p> <p>16th Hole Skybox Tickets for 2.6.2025 General Admission Tickets on 2.8.2025 Travel Credit valued at \$3,000 through Travel Agent Susan Glover</p>	<p>2ND PRIZE</p> <p>XGolf Party Package + \$500 Donated By </p>	<p>3RD PRIZE</p> <p>Round of Golf for 4 at Crystal Tree Donated By Kickert Family</p>
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Question Contact:
goltraffie@saintmike.org

All federal, state and local income taxes are the sole responsibility of the individual winners.

El Espiritu del Padre Frank

Los días son cada vez más cortos y las noches más largas y oscuras. La oscuridad y el frío nos rodean. Diciembre nos recuerda que nos estamos acercando al amanecer de un nuevo año. Hay emociones de anticipación y aprensión. Muchos están entusiasmados por lo que el Año Nuevo les deparará: un tiempo de esperanza y posibilidades infinitas. Esto puede verse como un tiempo de nuevos comienzos y puede ser una oportunidad para empezar de cero.

El mundo se enfrenta a tiempos difíciles. Hay conflictos entre las naciones. Las divisiones políticas, religiosas, raciales y familiares entre las personas parecen estar ampliándose. Estas tensiones a menudo conducen al miedo y la aprensión. Muchos se preguntan qué va a pasar con nuestra preciada forma de vida. Los costos de la educación siguen aumentando y los graduados universitarios tienen dificultades para encontrar empleo y están agobiados por sus préstamos estudiantiles. Nos preguntamos si alguna vez podremos jubilarnos y disfrutar de nuestros años “dorados.” Hay tanto miedo y frustración acumulados que la gente ya no sonríe; se queja de todo y de todos. Las redes sociales brindan una plataforma para hablar mal de todas las formas de autoridad y de otras personas que pueden estar en desacuerdo con su punto de vista particular. ¿Dónde se han ido la simple cortesía y la amabilidad? ¿Dónde se ha ido toda la alegría? Y, sin embargo, en medio de la oscuridad y el miedo del mundo, hay un destello de luz, una llama parpadeante que brinda esperanza y consuelo a quienes esperan pacientemente el cumplimiento de las promesas de Dios.



El Adviento marca un tiempo de nuevo comienzo, ya que es el comienzo del Año Litúrgico de la Iglesia. Al igual que el exterior, la Iglesia también se oscurece, a excepción del suave resplandor de las velas de la corona de Adviento. Las vestimentas cambian de verde a violeta. Nuestras liturgias serán más sencillas, se omite el Gloria, y la música y las oraciones reflejan el anhelo del mundo por la venida del Señor Jesucristo, el Salvador del mundo. Esperamos pacientemente con gozosa esperanza a Jesús, la verdadera Luz del mundo, y sin embargo estamos inquietos porque sabemos que cuando nos encontramos con Jesús, tenemos que cambiar.

El Adviento parece reflejar las emociones del mundo, de alegre anticipación y aprehensión temerosa. Las Escrituras nos hablan de las promesas de salvación que se están cumpliendo, mientras que hay un mensaje urgente de alejarnos del pecado. Está claro que antes de poder encontrarnos con el Niño de Belén, primero debemos encontrarnos con Juan el Bautista, quien nos llama al arrepentimiento y la conversión.

Las Sagradas Escrituras nos ayudan a entender que el Adviento es un puente entre el pasado, el presente y el futuro. En la primera lectura, Jeremías nos recuerda que *“vienen días, dice el Señor, en que cumpliré mi promesa.”* Se nos invita a permanecer despiertos y prepararnos para el regreso de Cristo. En el Evangelio, Jesús nos recuerda: *“Estén atentos en todo momento y oren para que tengan la fuerza para escapar de las tribulaciones que son inminentes y presentarse ante el Hijo del Hombre.”* Sí, el desafío es claro: no debemos estar dormidos, sino completamente alertas y preparados para cuando Jesús regrese en su gloria.

El Adviento nos recuerda la paciencia con la que nuestros antepasados esperaron en la fe, nuestro pasado. Sus esperanzas se cumplieron con el nacimiento de Cristo. Sin embargo, el Adviento no es simplemente un tiempo de preparación para la Navidad. El Adviento debería encontrarnos observando y esperando ver la presencia de Jesús en medio de nosotros. Somos conscientes de que el Reino de Dios no está completamente aquí. En todas partes hay amenazas al Reino de Dios; parece que las naciones, los barrios y las familias están heridos, destrozados y necesitan sanación. Hay crimen, pobreza, injusticia, opresión, intolerancia, enfermedad y muerte. Este es nuestro presente. Por lo tanto, nosotros también esperamos, pacientemente y con expectación, la venida de nuestro Salvador, la verdadera Luz del mundo, Cristo el Señor. Este es nuestro futuro. El Adviento es el puente entre el pasado, el presente y el futuro.

Por favor, no dejen pasar este Adviento sin preparar su alma para la Navidad. Las Escrituras nos llaman al arrepentimiento para que seamos hijos de la Luz. Estamos llamados, como individuos y como comunidad de fe, a ser luz para los que viven en la oscuridad y faro de esperanza para los que viven en la desesperación. Confiamos en que Jesús vendrá de nuevo para cumplir nuestros anhelos más profundos. Dejad que Jesús entre en vuestros corazones y hogares esta Navidad. El Adviento es, sin duda, una temporada especial porque nos recuerda que, como pueblo de Dios, debemos mantener la luz de la fe brillando en la eternidad. Somos un recordatorio constante de que Dios no nos ha abandonado, sino que está aquí entre nosotros, iluminando nuestro mundo con su presencia y su paz.

El Evangelio de Lucas

Las lecturas de las Sagradas Escrituras que se utilizan en la misa dominical se dividen en tres ciclos: A, B y C. Desde el comienzo del Adviento de 2023, hemos estado en el Ciclo B, y la mayoría de las lecturas del Evangelio fueron de Marcos. Hoy comenzamos un nuevo Ciclo, el Ciclo C, y la mayoría de las lecturas del Evangelio serán de Lucas. La audiencia de Lucas probablemente eran cristianos no judíos de habla griega. El relato de Lucas es principalmente una perspectiva histórica de la historia de la salvación. El plan de Dios para la salvación se cumplió durante la vida de Jesús, y Jesús cumplió las promesas del Antiguo Testamento. Dado que Lucas está escribiendo a una audiencia no judía, su enfoque se centra en cómo se extiende la salvación a todas las personas y en que existe un llamado universal al discipulado y un llamado que todavía está presente hoy.

Lucas deja en claro que no es un testigo ocular del ministerio de Jesús. Su escritura depende claramente de las tradiciones y el testimonio de los primeros discípulos. A lo largo del evangelio de Lucas, es evidente que no estaba familiarizado con las prácticas judías ni con el territorio en la época en que vivió Jesús. Esto ha llevado a muchos estudiosos de las Escrituras a concluir que Lucas no era judío y que estaba escribiendo a un público gentil, es decir, cristiano, que no vivía en Palestina. San Lucas Evangelista: ¡ruega por nosotros!

Fondo de Jubilación para Religiosos

El próximo fin de semana se tratará el Fondo de Jubilación anual para los Religiosos. Este fondo ha proporcionado una ayuda muy necesaria a los hombres y mujeres religiosos que han dedicado su vida al servicio de nuestra Iglesia y de nuestro mundo. Han trabajado en nuestras escuelas, hospitales, parroquias y organismos de beneficencia, pidiendo poco a cambio. No han invertido en planes de pensiones, sino en las personas, en el servicio y en el futuro de la Iglesia a la que han servido. Todos nos hemos beneficiado de los sacrificios de las hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes religiosos.

Al igual que muchos estadounidenses, las comunidades religiosas se enfrentan al monumental desafío de financiar la atención a los ancianos. Actualmente, el costo anual promedio de la atención para mujeres y hombres religiosos mayores de 70 años es de casi \$60,000 por persona. La atención especializada cuesta en promedio \$90,000. El coste total de la atención a los religiosos mayores en los Estados Unidos ha superado 1 millón de dólares anuales durante cada uno de los últimos 16 años. ¿Puede ayudar a quienes nos han ayudado? La semana que viene tendremos la oportunidad de ayudar a aliviar su carga financiera y simplemente decirles gracias.

El año pasado, la gente de la Arquidiócesis de Chicago contribuyó con más de un millón de dólares a este fondo. Se incluyeron sobres en sus paquetes mensuales y estarán disponibles en la Iglesia. Gracias por su continua generosidad.

En Cristo, Nuestro Pasado, Presente y Futuro,

P. Frank

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Noviembre de 2024

Estimados amigos en Cristo:

Durante el segundo domingo de Adviento, las parroquias de toda nuestra Arquidiócesis participarán en la colecta para el Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos, una campaña anual que beneficia a casi 24,000 hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes de orden religiosa de la tercera edad a nivel nacional.

Estoy agradecido por la importante influencia que mujeres y hombres religiosos, tanto en el pasado como en el presente, han tenido en nuestro camino de fe individual. Su servicio fiel y devoto ha impactado a nuestra arquidiócesis, inspirándonos y guiándonos mientras seguimos creciendo en la fe.

Somos llamados a reconocer que la mayoría de las personas con votos religiosos de la tercera edad trabajaron muchos años por poco dinero, lo que resultó en una escasez de ahorros para la jubilación al dejar sus comunidades religiosas. Los crecientes costos del cuidado de la salud y la disminución de los ingresos agravan el desafío de satisfacer las necesidades diarias de los miembros de edad avanzada, incluyendo sus gastos médicos, asistencia de enfermería y otras necesidades.

Sus contribuciones generosas al Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos proporcionan un apoyo financiero vital, que permite a las comunidades religiosas cuidar de sus miembros de edad avanzada.

Soy consciente de que con frecuencia se les pide que apoyen muchas causas valiosas. Los invito a contribuir lo que puedan en las misas del fin de semana del 7 y 8 de diciembre. Lo más importante, por favor mantengan a todos nuestros hombres y mujeres religiosos en sus oraciones. Tengan la seguridad de que ellos están orando por ustedes.

Que las abundantes bendiciones de Dios estén sobre ustedes y sus seres queridos durante esta Santa Temporada de Adviento. Con saludos cordiales permanezco,

Sinceramente suyo en Cristo,


Arzobispo de Chicago

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NOVENA DE GUADALUPE DICIEMBRE 3 AL 12, 2023

Te invitamos a participar con FE y DEVOCION a Nuestra Novena y festividades de Guadalupe. Guarda las fechas y ofrece esta novena en Acción de Gracias por las bendiciones recibidas. Tendremos todos los dias la Santa Misa (con sacerdotes invitados) y Novena. (Rosario 30 Min antes de Misa).



- Diciembre 3 - 7:00 pm
- Diciembre 4 - 7:00 pm - Confesiones 6:00 pm
- Diciembre 5 - 7:00 pm
- Diciembre 6 - 7:00 pm
- Diciembre 7 - 7:00 pm
- Diciembre 8 - 1:30 pm
- Diciembre 9 - 7:00 pm
- Diciembre 10 - 7:00 pm
- Diciembre 11 - 7:00 pm



En honor a la Fiesta de la Virgen de Guadalupe y a nuestra preciosa herencia. Te invito a que el 12 vengas a la Iglesia con el traje tipico de tu pueblo.

DICIEMBRE 12
Mañanitas 3:00 am con Mariachi
Santa Misa 5:00 am
Apariciones 6:45pm
Santa Misa 7:00 pm
(Mariachi después de Misa y Convivio)

Misa De Navidad Miercoles 1:30 PM



Posada de Navidad

La posada este año será el dia Sábado 21 de Diciembre a las 6:00 PM. Se les pide traer comida pra compartir.

Gracias





Masses for the Week — November 30 to December 8

Saturday 11/30	8:30 AM	People of St. Michael Parish		
	4:30 PM	Arlene Trunk Tunney & Gallagher Families	John Micun Nieves & Bayani Sanchez	Michael Woodlock
Sunday 12/1	7:30 AM	Alice Dzurisin	Tony & Mary Alou Angelo	
	9:30 AM	Edmundo Ilagan Wences Laavengco	Robert Dain Paul Krynski & Deceased of Krynski Family	Bertha Viramontes
	11:30 AM	Tom Skupien	John Garcia, Jr.	Efigenia Mantilla
	<i>Spanish</i> → 1:30 PM	Gente de St. Michael		
Monday 12/2	6:30 AM	Deceased of St. Michael		
	8:00 AM	Philip Caputo	Randy Burse	
Tuesday 12/3	6:30 AM	Fr. Bill Finnegan		
	8:00 AM	Richard Raffin	Marge Wittman	
Wednesday 12/4	6:30 AM	Sr. Marietta Umlor		
	8:00 AM	Jim Middendorf	Special Intention for John P. Daley	Richard Marvak
Thursday 12/5	6:30 AM	Fr. Paul Burak		
	8:00 AM	Aley Kalladan	Fr. Joseph & Family Souls in Purgatory	Randy Burse
Friday 12/6	6:30 AM	Deacon Jim Janicek		
	8:00 AM	Daniel Hiter	Marge Wittman	
Saturday 12/7	8:30 AM	Ann Skupien	Feria & Ilagan Families	William Farrell, Sr.
	4:30 PM	Gary Michael Sr. June Secor	John O'Connor Rev. Paul Burak	Fr. Bill Finnegan
Sunday 12/8	7:30 AM	Paul Krynski	Henry K. Matelski	Deceased of Krynski Family
	9:30 AM	Christine Rael Jackie Dain	Fran Hoak Albert Roser, Jr.	Bob Dain
	11:30 AM	Douglas Lappin	Luci Palumbo	Michael Hanrahan
	<i>Spanish</i> → 1:30 PM	Gente de St. Michael		

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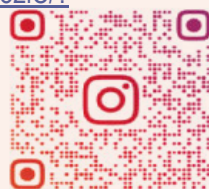
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St. Michael Moms Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/yEQfMPvV4pac82iC/?>

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NOTICE OF EARLY DEADLINES FOR DECEMBER BULLETINS

Thank you for meeting our November early bulletin deadlines. Below are the early bulletin deadlines for December and early January.

- **Dec. 15 bulletin content** is due **Monday, Dec. 2**
- **Dec. 22 bulletin content** is due **Monday, Dec. 9**
- **Dec. 29 bulletin content** is due **Monday, Dec. 16**
- **Jan. 5 bulletin content** is due **Friday, Dec. 20**

Questions?

Please contact Bulletin Editor Kathy Guarino at bulletineditor@saintmike.com.

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Sunday Masses:

Saturday Evening: 4:30 p.m.
Sunday: 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.,
1:30 p.m. (Spanish)

Weekday Masses:

Monday - Friday 6:30 and 8:00 a.m.
Saturdays 8:30 a.m.

Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary

Monday through Friday after the 8:00 a.m. Mass and
Saturday after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

First Saturday Devotions in reparation to the
Immaculate Heart of Mary with the Rosary and
Divine Mercy chaplet after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

**Recorded Masses for Sundays and Daily Prayer
Service** can be viewed at www.saintmike.com.

Adoration Chapel is open

Monday-Thursday 7:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Fridays 7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., 1:45 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Saturdays 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Confessions: Every Saturday -- 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Confesiones: 2do y cuarto sabado del mes 3:00 -
4:00 p.m.

Holy Hour with Benediction is being celebrated
twice a month on Tuesdays at either 3:30 p.m. or
7:00 p.m. in Church. Please visit the website for
dates and times.

**To Schedule Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals or
Memorial Masses,** call the parish office at
708-349-0903.

Religious Education Office Hours:

Weeks of Dec 2, 9 & 16 - Mon, Tues 1-7pm; Wed 1-6pm;
Thurs 5-8pm

Our Religious Education Coordinator is Kelly
Martinez (email: kmartinez@saintmike.com).
Emails will be answered in a timely manner.

Parish Office Hours:

Monday to Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
*Please note that during the school year the Church
Building is closed every Friday from 12:00 - 1:45 p.m.*
You may leave a voicemail at any time at
708-349-0903 or email contact@saintmike.com
with questions or to request information.

NEED HELP?

St. Vincent de Paul Society provides emergency
food assistance and guidance in satisfying utility
bills. **Call 708-349-0903, ext. 669; San Vicente de
Paul en Español — 708-349-0903, ext. 506.**

PARISH OFFICE
14327 Highland Avenue
Orland Park, IL 60462
708-349-0903

www.saintmike.com

Facebook: **St. Michael Parish-Orland Park**

Rev. Frank A. Kurucz, Pastor 873-4611

Rev. Geoffrey Andama, Associate Pastor 873-4612

Rev. Daniel Villalobos, Associate Pastor 873-4613

Pat Chuchla, Pastoral Associate 873-4652
Worship Ministries

pchuchla@saintmike.com

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Rose Koch, Youth Ministry 349-0903
ext. 650
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Paty Renteria, Hispanic Ministry 349-0903
ext. 619
prenteria@saintmike.com

DEACONS Tom Bartholomew (retired)
Tony and Eileen Cocco
Colin and Sarah Huie
Michael and Donna McDonough
Abel and Yolanda Trujillo

Normal Bulletin Deadline:

Friday at 9 a.m. a week before the bulletin
date. Please e-mail articles,
in **Word** or **Publisher** format, to
bulletineditor@saintmike.com.



Mother's Room—

St. Michael Parish is
pleased to provide a mothers room for nursing
mothers during Mass times. Anyone interested
in using this room should see a greeter for
assistance. This room is made possible by our loving
parish, and the St. Mike's Moms & Women in Faith
groups.