

December 8, 2024

2nd Sunday OF ADVENT



A Bridge between the Past, Present & Future

St. Michael Parish

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

www.saintmike.com

Father Frank's Fire

Today we begin the second Sunday of Advent. Two candles flicker on the Advent wreath reminding us that the true Light of the World is coming. Last week's readings were rather dismal, speaking to us about the end of time and the judgment that will come upon the world. This weekend we encounter John the Baptist, the crazy prophet wearing camel's hair and smelling of locusts and wild honey.

John's mission was clear; he was to prepare the way for Jesus by proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Repentance is a hopeful stance – the acknowledgement of our sins and the promise of changing our ways. It is hopeful because God offers us the gift of reconciliation and forgiveness, the opportunity to begin again. There is only one small catch – we must admit that we have sinned. I have noticed that many Catholics no longer have a sense of sin. They figure if they have “not killed” anyone, they are in good with God.

We no longer accept responsibility for our actions or inactions. Instead of saying we are sorry, we spend countless hours trying to justify our actions and prove that we are right. We have all sinned, and we are all in need of forgiveness and reconciliation. How many times have you heard, “I don't believe in confession?” Could this be our pride talking? I guess we know better than Jesus, who gave us this gift. Why are we afraid and why do we refuse to accept this gift of grace? In the Jordan River, the people came to see John the Baptist and publicly acknowledged their sinfulness.

There is no greater way to prepare for the coming of Christ than by going to confession and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If you have been away from the Sacrament for a while – perhaps now is the time to return to experience the joy of God's embrace. I invite you to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent as a way of preparing for the birth of Christ into our hearts and homes.

May we have the courage to acknowledge our sinfulness, to repent for our actions and to receive God's grace and mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As we beg for God's mercy, it is important that we are merciful to one another.

Confessions will be heard on Saturday, Dec. 14 and Saturday, Dec. 21 from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. In addition, there will be two reconciliation services with individual confessions — at 6:15 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 9 and Tuesday, Dec. 10.

The Immaculate Conception

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated on December 8. This year, December 8 is a Sunday. However, according to the Code of Canon Law as well as Liturgical Laws, the Second Sunday of Advent takes precedence over the celebration of the Immaculate Conception. Consequently, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to Monday, Dec. 9.

There is some confusion if the Immaculate Conception, falling on a Monday, is a Holy Day of Obligation. The correct answer is yes, it remains a Holy Day of Obligation. However, many bishops have given their faithful a dispensation from attending Mass this year.

Cardinal Cupich, our Archbishop, issued a decree dated Oct. 22, 2024 that states, “Given the unusual circumstances, I therefore issue this decree granting a dispensation that is in keeping with canon 87, Section 1 of the Code of Canon Law that a ‘diocesan bishop, whenever he judges that it contributes to their spiritual good, is able to dispense the faithful from universal and particular disciplinary laws issued for his territory or his subjects by the supreme authority of the Church.’”



The Cardinal continues, “This decree establishes that the obligation linked to the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, which has been transferred to Monday, December 9, 2024, is hereby suppressed in the Archdiocese of Chicago. No member of the Catholic Faithful is obligated to attend Mass on December 9, 2024.”

In short, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, Dec. 9. This year, the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day but not a Holy Day of Obligation. You are not required to attend Mass. The Blessed Mother is the Patroness of the Archdiocese of Chicago and of the United States under the title of the Immaculate Conception; all are encouraged to attend Mass that day. Our Mass times are 6:30 and 8:00 a.m.

Pilgrimage to Poland and Prague

I was approached last year by a dear friend of mine, Sr. Sue Paweski, who is a Sister of Providence, about hosting with her a pilgrimage to Poland and Prague. We have contracted with Trans World Travel, Inc. to begin the process of planning a 12-day journey to Poland and Prague from Sept. 14 - 25, 2025. This pilgrimage is open to all, but the number of participants will be limited to 27. Brochures and registration forms are available in the Narthex and also on the parish website. I am planning an informational meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025, for those interested.

In Christ, our past, present and future,

Fr. Frank



Advent Reconciliation Services at St. Michael Parish

**This Monday, Dec. 9 and
This 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.

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.



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, Donna Boddy, Keith Thraen Borowski, Kathy Bruss, Vince Candeler, Patricia Chuchla, Eileen Cocco, Aileen Collura, Valentin Corona, Mary DiFilippo, James Dunne, Robert Foster, Diane Gned, 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, Art Morgan, Dennis Noga, Alice Prendergast, Joseph Raftery, 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.

Please Pray For

Those who have died and their families

**Judith Bryjak, sister-in-law of Jacqueline
Mary Ann Johnson, mother of William
Marcelo Montoya
William J. Ryan, III, husband of Barbara
Philip Varnagis, father of Jean Bak**



Readings for the Week Dec. 8, 2024

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6
Monday: *Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12;
Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab;
Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Friday: Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18



Christmas is coming. What an exciting time of year. It is often a time when we come together as families and friends to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Everyone is different and celebrates with different people. Maybe it is grandparents who will come for Christmas, or perhaps a favorite aunt or uncle. I love it when company comes, don't you? I love it, but it also means that there is a lot of work to do. We wouldn't want our company to arrive and find our house in a mess, would we? No way! We have to mop the floors, vacuum the carpet, dust the furniture, clean the bathrooms, make sure the beds are all made, and make sure there aren't any dirty clothes laying around.

In the Gospel today, we read about a man named John who went into the country around the Jordan River preaching and telling people to prepare for the coming of the Lord. When John told people this, he did not mean that they should go home and clean and sweep the floors, or pick up their toys, or even make their beds. He meant that they should prepare their hearts. But how? How do you prepare your heart for the Lord? By repenting of their sins and turning toward God.

The bible tells us Jesus is coming again and, just as in the day of John the Baptist, it is important for us to make sure our hearts are clean and ready for the coming of the Lord. We do that by confessing our sins and asking God to forgive us. If we do that, the Bible tells us He will forgive us and make our hearts clean.

Cleaning a house isn't something you can do one time and forget it. It is something that we must do every day. If we kept our house clean all the time, it would not be such a big job to get ready for company. That same thing is true when it comes to keeping our hearts ready for Jesus' return. We can't ask God to forgive us one time and then go on our merry way. It is something we must do every day. We must spend time each day in prayer, reading the bible, and asking God for forgiveness for those things that keep us from being ready to welcome Jesus' return. Jesus is coming! This is so exciting; but first, there is some heart cleaning that must be done!

Let's Pray: Father, forgive us of the things that we do each day that are not pleasing to you. Make our hearts clean so that we will be ready for the return of Jesus. In His name we pray. Amen.

COMING UP THIS WEEK AT ST. MICHAEL PARISH

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

Monday, Dec. 9

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

- **Advent Reconciliation Service**-6:15 p.m.—Church
- **Apologetics**-7:00 p.m.—Ministry Rooms

Tuesday, Dec. 10

- **Hooks & Needles Prayer Shawl Ministry**—9:00 a.m.—Ministry Room East
- **Advent Reconciliation Service**-6:15 p.m.—Church
- **Evangelization Ministry** -7:00 p.m.—Commons

Wednesday, Dec. 11

- **Bible Study**-7:00 p.m.—Commons

Thursday, Dec. 12

- **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**—Church
3:00 a.m.—Mañanitas/Singing in Spanish to Our Lady
5:00 a.m.—Mass in Spanish
6:45 p.m.—Story of the Apparitions in Spanish
7:00 p.m.—Mass in Spanish
- **St. Michael Parents & Tots Playgroup**-9:15 a.m.—Ministry Room East

Friday, Dec. 13

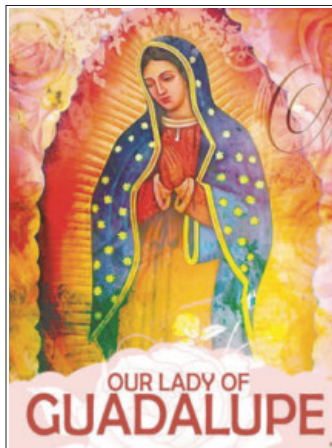
- **Hispanic Bible Study/Estudio Biblico Hispano**-7:00 p.m.—Ministry Room East

Saturday, Dec. 14

- **Men's Scripture Sharing**-7:00 a.m.—Ministry Room West
- **Feeding The Hungry Food Sorting**-8:45 a.m.—Small Gym
- **Pick Up Poinsettia Orders**-9:00-11:00 a.m.-Small Gym
- **Christmas Sharing Tree**-before and after 4:30 p.m.
Mass—Narthex
- **Poinsettia Sale**-after 4:30 p.m. Mass—Narthex

Sunday, Dec. 15

- **Christmas Sharing Tree**-before and after all Masses—Narthex
- **Poinsettia Sale**-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



Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Thursday, Dec. 12 All Are Welcome!

Join us at St. Michael as we honor the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Thursday, Dec. 12. Below highlights the programs and liturgies that will take place in celebration of this feast day:

- 3:00AM –Mañanitas/Singing in Spanish to Our Lady
- 5:00AM – Mass in Spanish
- 6:45PM – Story of the Apparitions in Spanish
- 7:00PM – Mass in Spanish

**SHARE THE GIFT OF FAITH
SHARE THE GIFT OF FAITH
SHARE THE GIFT OF FAITH
SHARE THE GIFT OF FAITH
SHARE THE GIFT OF FAITH**

St. Michael Apologetics Group explores

“IS RAPTURE BIBLICAL?”

This Monday, Dec. 9

7 - 9 p.m. in the Ministry Rooms

The question of what will happen to us at Christ's return has intrigued Christians since the early days of the faith. To gauge its relevance today, simply search for "Rapture" in the catalog of any major bookseller. You'll find thousands of resources discussing the idea of saved Christians being abruptly taken into eternity, leaving the rest of the world bewildered. From a Catholic perspective, however, this doctrine is often misunderstood. To address this confusion, we should ask: On the day of the Rapture, will Christians be departing or arriving? While many evangelicals commonly believe we'll be leaving, St. Paul held a different view. To learn more about this concept, **please join us for the 3rd Session of "Jesus and the End Times."**



Wedding Banns

Madaline Maria Lopez & Mario Andres Sandoval
Dec. 14, 2024



In November we welcomed the following children who were baptized into our faith community...

Lucy Ruth Bondi
Son of Thomas and Rachael

Allison Anne Hodges
Daughter of Mark and Jennifer

Karson Sue Lundquist
Daughter of Zack and Elyse

Bartholomeo Michael Maugeri
Son of Nicholas and Kimberly

Olivia Ann Mikalauskas
Daughter of Brian and Kimberly

Kimberly Anahi Ortiz Palafox
Daughter of Alberto and Lesly

Jose Manuel Trujillo
Son of Jorge and Yessica

Elliana Annmarie Wiktor
Daughter of Marc and Allison

**St. Michael
Mental Health
Awareness Ministry
DECEMBER
PRAYER
GATHERING
Wednesday,
Dec. 18
7:00pm in the Chapel**



St. Dymphna
Patron Saint for
those with Mental Afflictions
Pray for Us

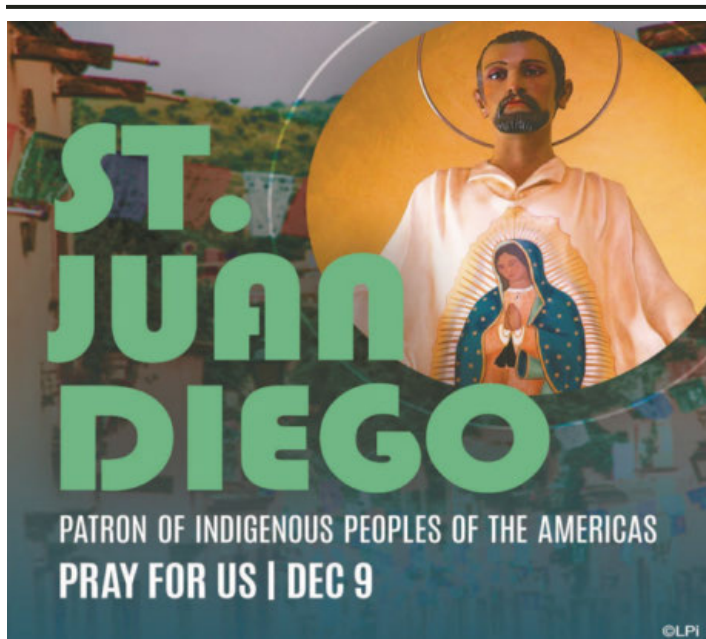
All are welcome to come and pray at our Mental Health Awareness Ministry's monthly gathering on **Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 7:00 p.m.**

For more information, visit <https://saintmike.com/mental-health-ministry/>.



Funerals & Memorials at St. Michael in November 2024

- Violet A. Elli
- Irene Kercinik
- Dorothy Kmiecik
- Albert John Manger
- Richard J. Marvak
- Raymond J. Wagner
- Robert J. Zaker



We welcomed the following new parishioners to our parish in November 2024:

- Riley & Alison Barron
- Nicholas & Jeana Fesh
- David & Margaret Michaels
- Mark & Barbara Sims

**In these uncertain times for our Immigrant Community,
the Priests for Justice for Immigrants, along with Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants (SBI),
have prepared this statement in support of our brothers and sisters.**

November 15, 2024

“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am Your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand!” Isaiah 41:10

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Beloved Immigrants Among Us:

You Are Not Alone!

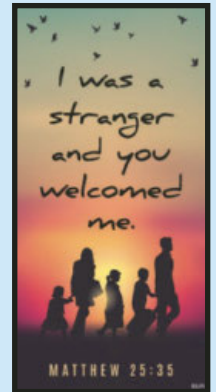
You have added greatly to the multi-colored fabric and deep devotional life of the Catholic Church and other faith traditions in the United States. For this, we thank you!

Amid hardships and discrimination, you are holding firmly to the anchor of faith, family and community, an example of perseverance, courage and resilience to us all. For this, we thank you!

You have come here, often taking great risks, leaving your precious homeland, seeking freedom from violence and poverty, with hope to build a better life for you and your families, a reminder of the great love and sacrifice we believe any parent would be willing to make for their family. For your inspiration, we thank you!

You have called out the best in all of us who claim discipleship in Christ by allowing us to exercise Christ’s mandate to welcome the stranger and care for the widow, orphan and immigrant. For calling out the best in us to care for our sisters and brothers, we thank you!

Therefore, we, the Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants, the Priests for Justice for Immigrants, Immigration Parish Coordinators and parishioners throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago, express our unwavering commitment and resolve to walk with you, in front of you and behind you, to be your strength in prayer and in person as you take the next steps forward. God’s commitment to us is unwavering; God’s love is constant. Know that, with God, we are here for you! We love you! You are not alone!!!



**En estos tiempos inciertos para nuestra comunidad de inmigrantes,
los Sacerdotes por la Justicia para los Inmigrantes, junto con Hermanas y Hermanos de Inmigrantes (SBI),
han preparado esta declaración en apoyo a nuestros hermanos y hermanas.**

15 de noviembre de 2024

“No temas, porque yo estoy contigo, no te inquietes, porque yo soy tu Dios; yo te fortalezco y te ayudo, yo te sostengo con mi mano victoriosa.” Isaías 41, 10

Queridos hermanos y hermanas, amados inmigrantes entre nosotros:

¡No están solos!

Ustedes han contribuido enormemente al tejido multicolor ya la profunda vida devocional de la Iglesia católica y otras tradiciones religiosas en los Estados Unidos. ¡Por esto, les damos las gracias!

En medio de las dificultades y la discriminación, ustedes se aferran firmemente al ancla de la fe, la familia y la comunidad, un ejemplo de perseverancia, valentía y resiliencia para todos nosotros. ¡Por esto, les damos las gracias!

Ustedes han venido aquí, a menudo corriendo grandes riesgos, dejando su preciada tierra natal, buscando liberarse de la violencia y la pobreza, con la esperanza de construir una vida mejor para ustedes y sus familias, un recordatorio del gran amor y sacrificio que creemos que cualquier padre estaría dispuesto a hacer por su familia. ¡Por su inspiración, les damos las gracias!

Ustedes han sacado a relucir lo mejor de todos nosotros, los que afirmamos el discipulado en Cristo al permitirnos ejercer el mandato de Cristo de acoger al extranjero y cuidar de la viuda, el huérfano y el inmigrante. ¡Por sacar a relucir lo mejor de nosotros para cuidar a nuestras hermanas y hermanos, les damos las gracias!

Por lo tanto, nosotros, Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants, Sacerdotes por la Justicia para los Inmigrantes, Coordinadores parroquiales de inmigración y feligreses a lo largo de la Arquidiócesis de Chicago, expresamos nuestro compromiso inquebrantable y nuestra determinación de caminar con ustedes, delante de ustedes y detrás de ustedes, para ser su fortaleza en la oración y en persona mientras dan los próximos pasos hacia adelante. El compromiso de Dios con nosotros es inquebrantable, el amor de Dios es constante. ¡Sepan que, con Dios, estamos aquí para ustedes! ¡Los amamos! ¡No están solos!





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 is now located in the Narthex and on the tree are 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*



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

Please scan
the QR Code
to make a
donation



SCAN ME

**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.



**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!

Taizé Prayer
ADVENT SERVICE OF LIGHT

Taizé Prayer is to help people rest in God by experiencing the depth and simplicity of the Word of God which conveys a sense of PEACE. The repetition of short songs and chants creates a meditative environment that gradually moves prayer from the head to the heart.

Singing, Chanting,
Silent Reflection
Scripture Reading
Prayers of Intercession
Praise

Wednesday,
December 18, 2024
7:00-8:00 pm

ST. ELIZABETH SETON CHURCH
9300 W. 167TH ST., ORLAND HILLS, IL

**Can You Make a Goody Bag or Tie Blanket For God's Elderly Children ?
Bring them to Masses THIS WEEKEND Gifts are Being Delivered on Dec. 11**

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 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?

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.

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.

Please bring your gift bags and blankets to St. Michael Parish before or after any Mass this weekend.

El Espiritu del Padre Frank

Hoy comenzamos el segundo domingo de Adviento. Dos velas parpadean en la corona de Adviento, recordándonos que la verdadera Luz del Mundo está llegando. Las lecturas de la semana pasada fueron bastante deprimentes, hablándonos sobre el fin de los tiempos y el juicio que vendrá sobre el mundo. Este fin de semana nos encontramos con Juan el Bautista, el profeta loco que viste piel de camello y huele a langostas y miel silvestre.

La misión de Juan era clara: preparar el camino para Jesús proclamando un bautismo de arrepentimiento para el perdón de los pecados. El arrepentimiento es una actitud esperanzadora: el reconocimiento de nuestros pecados y la promesa de cambiar nuestro modo de ser. Es esperanzadora porque Dios nos ofrece el don de la reconciliación y el perdón, la oportunidad de empezar de nuevo. Sólo hay un pequeño inconveniente: debemos admitir que hemos pecado. He notado que muchos católicos ya no tienen sentido del pecado. Creen que si “no han matado” a nadie, están bien con Dios.

Ya no aceptamos la responsabilidad por nuestras acciones o nuestras inacciones. En lugar de pedir perdón, pasamos incontables horas tratando de justificar nuestras acciones y demostrar que tenemos razón. Todos hemos pecado y todos necesitamos perdón y reconciliación. ¿Cuántas veces has oído decir: “No creo en la confesión”? ¿Podría ser nuestro orgullo el que habla? Supongo que sabemos más que Jesús, quien nos dio este regalo. ¿Por qué tenemos miedo y por qué nos negamos a aceptar este regalo de gracia? En el río Jordán, la gente vino a ver a Juan el Bautista y reconoció públicamente su pecado.

No hay mejor manera de prepararse para la venida de Cristo que confesarse y recibir el Sacramento de la Reconciliación. Si usted ha estado alejado del Sacramento por un tiempo, tal vez ahora sea el momento de volver a experimentar la alegría del abrazo de Dios. Lo invito a recibir el Sacramento de la Reconciliación durante el Adviento como una forma de prepararse para el nacimiento de Cristo en nuestros corazones y hogares.

Que tengamos el valor de reconocer nuestra pecaminosidad, arrepentirnos de nuestras acciones y recibir la gracia y la misericordia de Dios a través del Sacramento de la Reconciliación. Mientras rogamos por la misericordia de Dios, es importante que seamos misericordiosos unos con otros.

Las confesiones se escucharán el sábado 14 y 21 de diciembre, de 3:00 a 4:00 p.m. Además, habrá dos servicios de reconciliación con confesiones individuales el lunes 9 de diciembre a las 6:15 p.m. y el martes 10 de diciembre a las 6:15 p.m.

La Inmaculada Concepción

La Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción de la Bienaventurada Virgen María se celebra el 8 de diciembre. Este año, el 8 de diciembre es domingo. Sin embargo, según el Código de Derecho Canónico, así como las Leyes Litúrgicas, el Segundo Domingo de Adviento tiene precedencia sobre la celebración de la Inmaculada Concepción. En consecuencia, la Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción se traslada al lunes 9 de diciembre.

Existe cierta confusión sobre la Inmaculada Concepción: al caer en lunes es un Día Santo de Precepto. La respuesta correcta es sí, y sigue siendo un Día Santo de Precepto. Sin embargo, muchos obispos han concedido a sus fieles una dispensa de asistir a Misa este año. El Cardenal Cupich, nuestro Arzobispo, emitió un decreto con fecha del 22 de octubre de 2024, que establece: “Dadas las circunstancias inusuales, emito este decreto otorgando una dispensa que está de acuerdo con el canon 87, Sección 1 del Código de Derecho Canónico, de que un obispo diocesano, siempre que juzgue que contribuye a su bien espiritual, puede dispensar a los fieles de las leyes disciplinarias universales y particulares emitidas para su territorio o sus súbditos por la autoridad suprema de la Iglesia.”

El Cardenal continúa: “Este decreto establece que la obligación vinculada a la Fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepción, que ha sido transferida al lunes 9 de diciembre de 2024, queda suprimida por la presente en la Arquidiócesis de Chicago. Ningún miembro de los fieles católicos está obligado a asistir a la Misa el 9 de diciembre de 2024.”

En resumen, la Iglesia celebra la Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción el lunes 9 de diciembre. Este año, la Inmaculada Concepción es un día sagrado, pero no un día de precepto. No es obligatorio asistir a Misa. La Santísima Madre es la Patrona de la Arquidiócesis de Chicago y de los Estados Unidos bajo el título de la Inmaculada Concepción; se anima a todos a asistir a Misa ese día. Nuestros horarios de misa son a las 6:30 y a las 8:00 a. m.

En Cristo nuestro pasado, presente y futuro,

P. Frank

Ministerio Hispano St Michaels

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 — December 7 to December 15

Saturday 12/7	8:30 AM	Ann Skupien	Feria & Ilagan Families	William Farrell, Sr.
	4:30 PM	Gary Michael	John O'Connor	Fr. Bill Finnegan
Sunday 12/8	7:30 AM	Sr. June Secor	Rev. Paul Burak	Deceased of Krynski Family
	9:30 AM	Paul Krynski	Henry K. Matelski	
		Christine Rael	Fran Hoak	Bob Dain
		Jackie Dain	Albert Roser, Jr.	
<i>Spanish</i> →	11:30 AM	Douglas Lappin	Luci Palumbo	Michael Hanrahan
	1:30 PM	Venancia Sanchez		
Monday 12/9	6:30 AM	People of St. Michael		
	8:00 AM	Julianna Tess	James & Elfrieda Vlaming	Harriett Barabasz
Tuesday 12/10	6:30 AM	Fr. Paul Burak		
	8:00 AM	Brian Lynch		
Wednesday 12/11	6:30 AM	Fr. Leo Lyons		
	8:00 AM	Bobby Reece	Margaret Polo	
Thursday 12/12	6:30 AM	Fr. Bill Finnegan		
	8:00 AM	Mark Zuro	Brian Lynch	
Friday 12/13	6:30 AM	Deacon Jim Janicek		
	8:00 AM	William Schwanbeck	Marion McGreal	Special Intention for Loreta G. Larena
Saturday 12/14	8:30 AM	People of St. Michael		
	4:30 PM	Elizabeth Pieczyrak	James Conlon	Mary Ann Conlon
Sunday 12/15		Joseph Finn	Mark Zuro	
	7:30 AM	James Rabbit	Richard Marvak	Rita Christensen Beintun
	9:30 AM	Helen Johnson	Patricia Nebel	Roman Salvador
		Pat Blumer	Peggy Barrett	
	11:30 AM	Tom Butkus	John Garcia, Jr.	The Kelly Family
<i>Spanish</i> →	1:30 PM	Gente de St. Michael		

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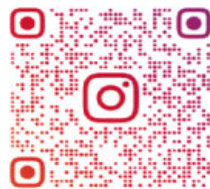
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NOTICE OF EARLY DEADLINES FOR DECEMBER BULLETINS

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

- **Dec. 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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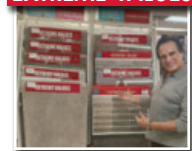
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