

Welcome to St. Michael Catholic Church

Parish Mission Statement

St. Michael's Catholic Church, a people of diverse cultures and backgrounds, are brought together by God through the Gospel and the teachings of the Church. Our mission is to make disciples of Christ through:

- Prayer and frequent celebration of the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist.
- Sharing our faith and educating others about the Church.
- Living a life of continual conversion.
- Providing our children a strong Catholic upbringing.
- Giving comfort to those in need.
- Stewardship of our time, talent and treasure.
- Acting as the living presence of Christ in our world, building community and welcoming all.
- Empowering one another to share the Gospel through our words and by our actions.



We're glad to have you!

If you're new, welcome to the St. Michael's Parish Family!
If you haven't been here in awhile, welcome back!

St. Michael's is a small, close-knit parish family, always open to new & returning members.

There's no formal "registration" process; once you come here we consider you part of the family!

Check us out!

Shoot us a text, email or give us a call! Or visit us online at: www.smseebree.org, www.facebook.com/smseebree

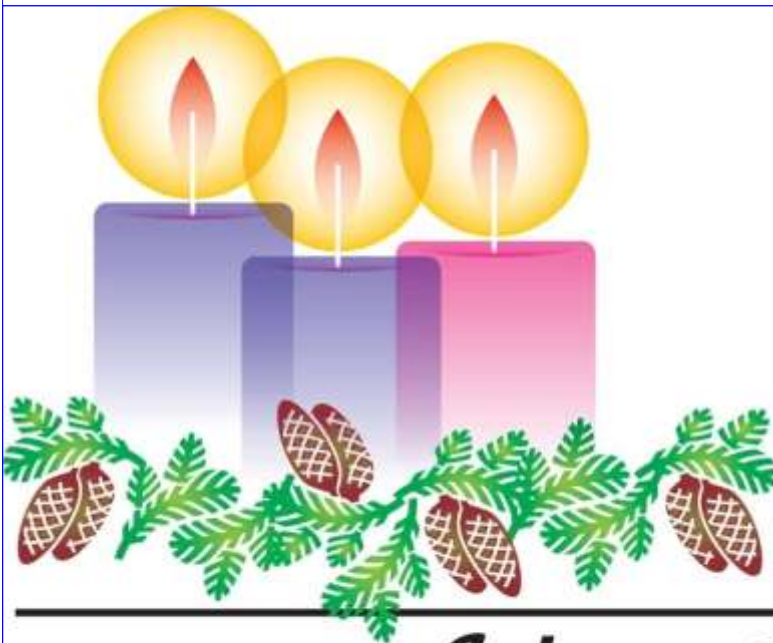
Mass Intentions Available

If you would like to have a mass said for a loved one (living or deceased) you can put an envelope with the intention and date requested. In the collection or in the mail (the *suggested* donation per mass is \$5)

Parish Council Members

Connie Caldwell, Jim Hurtte, Devin Gibson, Jenny Glenn, Randy Thompson, Mila Mendoza, Kattia Angulo.

December 15, 2024



THIRD SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Pastor: Fr. Carmelo Jimenez | (270) 881-7737 | frcarmelo@smseebree.org | fax: 855-631-0319

Deacon: Baltazar Rafael | (270) 748-0527

Pastoral Associate: Kattia Angulo | katjun75@yahoo.com

RCIA Coordinator: José Vanegas

Bookkeeper: April Dickens

PO Box 705 — 57 Watkins Sebree Rd. Sebree KY 42455 — Phone: 270-835-2584 — Fax: 855-631-0319



Thanks to Those Who Shared Their Time & Talent

Thank you to everyone who have helped us keeping our buildings clean!. Thanks to Dcn. Baltazar Family for cleaning the church last week, Church Cleaners week of 12/16 to 12/20 To Juan & Juana Lopez Family.



MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Please pray for the sick members and friends of this parish, especially: Henry Adam, Matt Adams, Dcn Rene Amaya, Christa Bennett, Tyler Blandford, Tony Bess, Bobby Blanford, Cindy Bloodworth, Sabrina Blue, Charles Buchanan, William Buckman, Crystal Childress, Bonny Clark, Fany Cordon, Scott Coffman, Donna Dacy, Jim & Nelly Daughterly, Leo Dickens, Shane Dickens, Rosie Edwards, Russell Edwards, Jennifer Ebelhar, Sr., Marty Eisten, Jesus Manuel Francisco, David Feriell, Anna Filbert, Keith Harpole, Jaime Harris, Dan Hawkins, Katelyn Hensley, Peggy Howell, Dora Jimenez, Donnie & Kathy Jones, Keith Kenney, Richard Kolodey, Roger & Debbie Lloyd, Pam McGraw, Brea Meadows, Jeff Meredith, Charlotte Moore, Zoey Nash, Carmen & Daryl Periard, Cenia J. Quintanilla, Pam Raleigh, Ruby Sparks, Annie Spillman, Veronica Spink, Burnetta Springfield, Lea Sugg, Vickie Tichenor, Gary & Nadine Trogden, Lynda Trogden, Dusty Utley, Richard Vowels, Doris Vowels, Johnny Wahl, Carter Wilkerson, Tony Whitledge, Tom Yancy

To make a prayer request, give an update, take someone off the list or sign up to receive urgent prayer requests visit

www.smseebree.org



The Lord rejoices over us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Zephaniah foretells the restoration of Jerusalem when the King of Israel, the Lord, will be in their midst. Paul instructs the Philippians to rejoice in the Lord always, for *the Lord is near*. In the Gospel, John the Baptist prepares the way for Jesus by baptizing and preaching the Good News.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Dec 14 Sacristan: Connie Caldwell
Dec 15 Sacristan: Charles Buchanan
EM Mary Jane Hawkins
Lector Bobby Blanford
Altar Server Voluntary

Dec 21 Sacristan: Connie Caldwell
Dec 22 Sacristan: KoC
EM KoC
Lector KoC
Altar Server Voluntary

TODAY'S READINGS

Reading I: [Zep 3:14-18a](#)
Responsorial Psalm: [Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6.](#)
Reading II: [Phil 4:4-7](#)
Gospel: [Lk 3:10-18](#)

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- 14 Sat Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church white Memorial Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13 (186)
- 15 SUN THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT violet or rose Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18 (9) Pss III
- 16 Mon Advent Weekday violet Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27 (187)
- 17 Tue Advent Weekday violet Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17 (193)
- 18 Wed Advent Weekday violet Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25 (194)
- 19 Thu Advent Weekday violet Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25 (195)
- 20 Fri Advent Weekday violet Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38 (196)

WORD OF LIFE

“O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free.”

USCCB, “Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita”

Thank You For Your Generosity

Sunday Offering 12/08/2024	\$ 2,190.31
Weekly Goal	\$ 2,317.23
Year-to-date Total 23 of 52 Sundays	\$ 49,001.17
Budget YTD	\$ 53,296.29
Over/Under Collection	\$ -4,295.12



III SUNDAY OF ADVENT THE JOY OF THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Just like every year, the third Sunday of Advent is distinguished by the announcement of joy. A joy which does not come from passing things, but rather from the saving presence of God among his people.

The prophet Zephaniah announces to the people: **“The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior, Who will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, Who will sing joyfully because of you.” (Zep 3:17) God walks with his people in their pilgrimage through history. His presence is salvific, a presence always in favor of his people. That is why true joy comes to men. It is the joy of help in an opportune time and the presence of a powerful someone who cares about what happens to us. God is present but he also wants to arouse in each person the search. He respects human dignity, respects our responsibility but he invites us with insistence to an encounter with him. Using a very human form the prophet affirms: “He will rejoice over you with gladness,” he loves you and he rejoices as at a festival. In waiting for the glorious return of the Lord, the Church should proclaim that the Lord continues to be in the midst of his people to care for them on their way.**

We celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In preparation for that feast we met for 9 nights in different houses, praying and reflecting on divine intervention through Mary of Guadalupe. One day before the novena began, I learned that 11 people were kidnapped, including one of my brothers. I thought it would be a simple matter of negotiation. The days passed and even going to Mexico with the bishop was joyful, but worried about the situation with my brother. On the night of December 11, he was released and arrived home around 2am on December 12th, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Knowing **that one night doesn't sleep because of the feast, the first thing he did was to go to the church to thank the great intercessor. Thus, what the prophet Zephaniah said is confirmed: “The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior, Who will rejoice over you with gladness.”**

“I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” (Lk 3:16) John the Baptist

never performed miracles; he limited himself to preaching, denouncing, exhorting and turning **everyone's eyes toward the weak as the essential condition of receiving the Messiah.** These were unequivocal signs of the true Messiah. So the people deduced the possibility that John was the Messiah. But John, honored and truthful, clarifies the situation and brings the people out of their error: he is not the Messiah. However, another One will appear soon. This is the greatness of John that he is not the center. He knew how to cling to the mission he had been given. This is a lesson for our world today and human relationships in our society today.

The readings speak to us about the happiness and joy that never ends because it comes from above, from the interior peace that comes from knowing that we did things well. From the tranquility of knowing that the condemnation of sin has been abolished by the presence of God among us. The joy of knowing that the Messiah is coming to save us. The joy that Christ lives, and that you and I have done what he has asked. This is the joy that cannot be bought. That joy of hope knowing that we will have the same end as Christ, eternal life.

May the presence of Christ among us, fill us with joy. May doing the acts of mercy increase our joy. May this joy remain always in our hearts.

Fr. Carmelo Jimenez

Compelling Preaching

This year I, Fr. Carmelo Jimenez, taking part in a program coordinated by non-profit organization called Catholic Extension, which assists our diocese each year with critical funding needs. This programs, called the *Compelling Preaching Initiative*, provides a way for me to get feedback submitted via your smart phone to understand how I, as a pastor am doing and how my homilies are connecting with you. My goal es to learn how I can better engage with all of you though my preaching and ultimately become a better pastor.

In the bulletin, in the pews and at the exists this week, you notice that there is a QR code labeled for fr. Carmelo. Over the next several weeks, I will be asking you all to scan this code with your smartphone during or after Mass to complete short survey. All you have to do is open your camera, aim it at the QR code, and tap the link that pops up. If we receive enough responses each week to help me, the initiative will provide \$1,000 for St. Michael.

The survey should only take a few minutes after Mass each week and is completely anonymous.

Thank you in advance for your feedback

[http://preachingsurvey.org/
FrCarmelo](http://preachingsurvey.org/FrCarmelo)



Here's What's Happening:

SPANISH MATRIMONY

Meeting Tuesday **01/28/25 at 7:30pm**

YOUTH GROUP

Meeting, 12/13 at 5:00pm. And then a break till next year

RELIGIOUS CLASSES!

Next class 12/18 from 5:30pm to 7pm

(1st Communion, Candidates to Confirmation)

RCLA, candidates meet on Sat between masses.

Then till next year 1/8/2025

BIBLE STUDY

Returning at beginning of January 2025.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

12/14 María Juan Andrés,
Rosa Quintanilla, James (Jim) Hurtte.

12/15 Carlos Nevárez,
Manuel Gaspar Francisco

12/16 Miguel José Pérez,
Mateo Paniagua Bustamante

12/18 Juanita Juan Pascual

12/20 Javier Alonzo

Mass Intentions

Dec. 14-22

Sat.	English	5pm	†Mike Whitfield
3rd wk. advent	Akateco	7:30pm	†Bern Tooley
Sun.	English	10am	Parishioners
	Spanish	12pm	† Emma Lou Marrett
Mon.	English	6pm	†Bill Tucker
Tues.	English	9am	†Bern Tooley
Wed.	Spanish	12pm	† Emma Lou Marrett
Thurs	Spanish	7pm	† Emma Lou Marrett
Sat.	English	5pm	Lydea Dickens Howard
4th wk. advent	Akateco	7:30pm	†Fr. Ed Bradley
Sun.	English	10am	†Bern Tooley
	Spanish	12pm	Parishioners

Advent Wreath:

The third candle of our Advent wreath. Week after week, lighting the four candles of the wreath should *signify our gradual preparation to receive the light of Christmas.*



Pope Francis: Advent offers us a time to know the Lord in new ways

Pope Francis focuses his Advent reflections on how we, like John the Baptist, can renew our understanding of who the Lord is and be surprised by God's mercy and tenderness. He also blesses the nativity figurines of the baby Jesus brought by children and their families. Pope Francis welcomed the many pilgrims for the midday Angelus on this Third Sunday of Advent, in particular families with their children, who brought little statuettes of the Child Jesus to be blessed on this day, a tradition Saint Pope Paul VI started over fifty years ago.

Before imparting his apostolic blessing, the Pope Francis offered **his reflections** on the Sunday Gospel when today we read about John the Baptist who while in prison sends his disciples to ask Jesus if He really is the Messiah. John the Baptist learns that Jesus is indeed the Christ, who with words and gestures of compassion towards all and with loving mercy heals the sick, restores sight to the blind, raises the dead, and preaches good news to the poor, just as the prophets foretold.

Overcoming doubt

The Pope observed how today's Gospel notes that John is in prison, and more than a physical place, we can imagine the inner confine that the Baptist is experiencing, where there can be darkness, unknowing and difficulty seeing clearly. The Pope said in John's case, it is as if he is no longer able to see in Jesus the awaited Messiah, and out of doubt sends his disciples to verify it. Spiritual growth This appears rather surprising to us, the Pope pointed out, since John had baptized Jesus in the Jordan and told his disciples He is the Lamb of God.

“But this means that even the greatest believer goes through the tunnel of doubt. And this is not a bad thing; on the contrary, sometimes it is essential for spiritual growth: it helps us understand that God is always greater than we imagine Him to be.”

Open minds

We need to always be open to surprise about how God works and how His actions are different from how we would presume they would be, exceeding our needs and expectations, the Pope emphasized. So we need to seek the Lord always, keep our eyes open, and be changed by Him. Recalling the work of theologian Henri de Lubac, he said that God needs to be rediscovered in a series of stages, sometimes with the idea that we may be losing Him. Like John the Baptist, may we too rediscover Him, also by opening our minds and not letting our ideas and mindsets limit our understanding.