

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 22, 2024

Fourth 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

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Thanks to Those Who Shared Their Time & Talent

Thank you to everyone who have helped us keeping our buildings clean!. Thanks to Juan and Juana Family for cleaning the church last week, Church Cleaners week of 12/23 to 12/27 To Felipe y Maria Jose Family.



MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Please pray for the sick members and friends of this parish, especially: Henry Adam, Matt Adams, Dcn Rene Amaya, Brenda Badertscher, 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 Edwads, Russell Edwards, Jennifer Ebelhar, Sr., Marty Eisten, Jesus Manuel Francisco, David Ferriell, 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 Utle, 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



LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Micah foretells that the one who is to rule over Israel shall come forth from Bethlehem-Ephrathah. In the second reading, the author writes that Christ came to do God's will and by that will *we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.* In the Gospel, Mary travels to visit her cousin Elizabeth and at the sound of Mary's voice, the infant in Elizabeth's womb *leaped for joy.*

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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

Dec 28 Sacristan: Jenny Jenn
Dec 29 Sacristan: Charles Buchanan
EM Mary Jane Watkins
Lector Matthew Duncan
Altar Server Voluntary

TODAY'S READINGS

Reading I: [Mi 5:1-4a](#)
Responsorial Psalm: [80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19.](#)
Reading II: [Heb 10:5-10](#)
Gospel: [Lk 1:39-45](#)

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

21 Sat Advent Weekday violet [Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church] Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45 (197)
22 SUN FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT violet Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45 (12) Pss IV
23 Mon Advent Weekday violet [Saint John of Kanty, Priest] Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66 (199)
24 Tue Advent Weekday violet Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79 (200) 44
25 Wed THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (*Christmas*) white Solemnity [Holyday of Obligation] Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 (13) Night: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 (14) Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 (15) Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14 (16) Pss Prop
26 Thu Saint Stephen, The First Martyr red Feast Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22 (696) Pss Prop
27 Fri Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist white Feast 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8 (697) Pss Prop

WORD OF LIFE

“O Blessed Mother, at the angel’s word you went in haste to the aid of your cousin Elizabeth. Although pregnant yourself, you placed her needs before your own. By your example of radical solidarity, teach us to reverence and protect those in need, without conditions or expectations. . . Obtain for us the grace to bring Christ to any expectant mother who is alone and afraid.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities Prayer for Radical Solidarity (www.respectlife.org/prayer-for-radical-solidarity)

Thank You For Your Generosity

Sunday Offering 12/15/2024	\$ 2,360.20
Weekly Goal	\$ 2,317.23
Year-to-date Total 24 of 52 Sundays	\$ 51,366.37
Budget YTD	\$ 55,613.52
Over/Under Collection	\$ -4,247.15



IV SUNDAY OF ADVENT THE SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN

We are at the fourth Sunday of Advent. Which means that Christmas is very close and it is time to reflect on who we are about to receive. We all say aloud that we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior. But the night of the birth and the day of Christmas, the most forgotten one is Jesus Christ.

When we get to these December dates my mind is brought back to something that happened in Acteal, Chiapas where I was a pastor. On December 22, 1997 (this year marks the 27th anniversary) the paramilitary came to a small chapel where brothers and sisters, and boys and girls were fasting and praying about the situation of oppression and injustice that the communities were suffering, and were asking for peace and an end to the violence that they were living.

The paramilitaries killed 45 people: 16 of them were children, 20 women and 9 men. Of the 20 women, 7 of them were pregnant. The paramilitaries used guns, machetes, knives and clubs to do this atrocity. Only 650 feet away on both sides there were Military Checkpoint Control. On the highway, there were several state police patrols **and they say don't hear nothing. The bodies were taken to the morgue and brought back on December 24th, and the big question was: How to celebrate Christmas with happiness and joy? The 45 brothers and sisters are buried together and a chapel that has been built over their graves. Taking advantage of the uneven terrain, another open church has been built over it. In that chapel year after year that barbarity is commemorated by asking God for the resurrection of those brothers and sister.**

My reflection will be based on the Gospel that we read this Sunday, but also taking into consideration the context of the Gospel of Saint Luke. Among the many aspects we can find in these three hymns, I have chosen one that appears in all three hymns and I think it is the main one: That Jesus is – as his name indicates – **the Savior**. “**He has raised up for us a mighty Savior...**” says Zachariah. (Lk 1:69) “My soul proclaims the

greatness of the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God, **my Savior” sings Mary. (Lk1:46-47)** And finally, the **elder Simeon sings gratefully: “Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled: my own eyes have seen the salvation.” (Lk 2:29-30)** Is Jesus really the Savior as these hymns say? For 20 centuries of Christian history we have believed so.

On Christmas, Hispanics give a kiss to the baby Jesus as a sign of love and adoration. Once Time an American priest saw this sign and made the following reflection: this is exactly what we do on Good Friday. We cannot understand baby Jesus if he is not united with the Cross and resurrection, which is the same as salvation. Is the same, we cannot understand the Cross and resurrection without the birth.

The best Christmas for those brothers and sisters of ours in Acteal was that one, because their hope bore fruit and they could contemplate the Savior. Amidst the pain these brothers and sisters celebrated the birth, not just of Christ, but also of their brothers and sisters, sons and daughters and elders who reached glory in the resurrection.

Our Christmas this year should be: renew our faith and hope in eternal salvation. Our best gift that we can give Jesus Christ should be to live mercy and charity. May each of us receive love and joy, because the child comes to save us. Amen.

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>



Here's What's Happening:



Mass Intentions
December 21-29

SPANISH MATRIMONY

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

YOUTH GROUP

Returning till 1/10, after Christmas break at 5pm.

RELIGIOUS CLASSES!

*(1st Communion, Candidates to Confirmation)
RCIA, candidates meet on Sat between masses.
Returning, till next year 1/8/2025*

BIBLE STUDY

Returning at beginning of January 2025.

Sat.	English	5pm	Lydea Dickens Howard
4th wk. advent	Akateco	7:30pm	†Fr. Ed Bradley
Sun.	English	10am	†Bern Tooley
	Spanish	12pm	Parishioners
Mon.	English	9am	Bernie Mattingly
Tues. Christmas	English Eve	5pm	† Vicky Buchanan
	Spanish	7pm	George Murphy
Wed. Christmas	Bilingual Day	12pm	Monsignor Bernard Powers
Thurs	Spanish	7pm	60th wedding Anniversary Carmen and Daryl Periard
Sat.	English	5pm	Parishioners
	Akateco	7:30pm	† Steven Welder
Sun.	English	10am	† Margaret Pountain
	Spanish	12pm	† Emma Lou Marrett

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

12/23 Ángel Francisco Juan,
Juan Francisco Manuel

12/24 Paul Seman, Nusbely Lucas

12/25 Rosicelda Lopez, Pascual Manuel

12/26 Juan Carlos Apolinar López



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

12/23/72 Greg & Lea Ann Sugg

The 12/23 at 9:30 am the Church will be decorated, in case you have time and come to help us.

Pope at Angelus: Open your hearts to God's love, show kindness to all

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, Pope Francis encourages us to open our hearts to God's loving kindness and to respond to His call to be gentle, respectful, and caring for others.

Welcoming pilgrims and visitors to Saint Peter's Square for the midday Angelus on the eve of Christmas, Pope Francis offered **reflections on the Gospel** reading for today's Fourth Sunday of Advent, which recounts the scene of the Annunciation as the Angel tells Mary she will conceive Jesus and "the power of the Most High will overshadow you."

Shade that shelters

Focusing on the importance of the word "shadow," the Pope explained how the Holy Land has so many sunny days per year with intense summer heat, and how shade can offer relief and protection, whether provided by a passing cloud, a tree, or a tent. The shade that is created is "a gift that refreshes," the Pope remarked, and is frequently mentioned in the Bible. " "

The angel describes how the Holy Spirit descends upon Mary, and that this is god's way of acting: God always acts as a gentle love that embraces, that fertilizes, that protects, without doing violence, without infringing freedom. "

Kindness that protects

The shadow symbolizes the kindness of God, the Pope explained, where God offers Mary - and even us today - Himself as a refuge, a shelter under His shadow. "This is how God's fruitful love operates," he noted, and something we can experience in ways with "gentle and respectful, caring for others with kindness" shown to family, friends, and those we meet in life.

"This is how God loves, and He calls us to do the same: welcoming, protecting, and respecting others."

Caring for others

The Pope added we need to remember everyone, especially the marginalized and those who are far from experiencing the joy of Christmas during these days, and hoped that we may all remember and reflect: **"the kindness of God."**

Opening our hearts

In conclusion, the Pope recommended that at this time of Christmas Eve we look at our own lives and how to open our hearts to God's kindness, gentleness, and meekness, "drawing near to His forgiveness, to the Eucharist." Then he suggested we reach out to lonely or needy people we might know, offering ourselves as "a refreshing shadow, a comforting friend."

"May Mary help us to be open and welcoming to the presence of God, who with meekness comes to save us."

www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2023-12/pope-at-angelus-open-your-hearts-to-god-s-love-show-kindness.html