

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.



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT FEBRUARY 22, 2026



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.smsebree.org,
www.facebook.com/smsebree

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

Devin Gibson (Chairperson), Kattia Angulo,
Connie Caldwell,
Jenny Glenn, Jim Hurtte, Mila Mendoza,
Randy Thompson, Dcn. Baltazar Rafael

Pastor: Fr. Carmelo Jimenez | (270) 881-7737 | Carmelo.jimenez@pastoral.org |

Deacon: Baltazar Rafael | (270) 748-0527

Pastoral Associate: Jenny Glenn | jennystmichaels@yahoo.com | (270) 577-0610

OCIA Coordinator: Jose Vanegas

Bookkeeper: April Dickens

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

February 22, 2026 First Sunday of Lent

THANKS!

- **Juan & Juana Lopez** for cleaning the church last week.
- Church Cleaners for the week of 02/22 to 02/28 is: **Maria Herrera Quintanilla**
- Blanca and family for cleaning the hall
- **Kim Bullock** for counting last week. Money counter for this week is: Alyssa



MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Please pray for the sick members and friends of this parish, especially: Henry Adam, Dcn Rene Amaya, Christal Bennett, Tyler Blandford, Tony Bess, Bobby & Susie Blandford, Cindy

Bloodworth, Sabrina Blue, Charles Buchanan, William Buckman, Crystal Childress, Fany Cordon, Scott Coffman, Donna Dacy, Jim & Nelly Daughterly, Leo Dickens, Shane Dickens, Rosie Edwads, Russell Edwards, Jennifer Ebelhar, Marty Eisten, David Ferriell, Anna Filbert, Peggy Gaddis, Jaime Harris, Dan Hawkins, Katelyn Hensley, Peggy Howell, Dora Jimenez, Donnie & Kathy Jones, Keith Kenney, Kevin King, Roger & Debbie Lloyd, Tom McCarty, Pam McGraw, Brea Meadows, Jeff Meredith, Charlotte Moore, Zoey Nash, Darryl Periard, Cenia J. Quintanilla, Pam Raleigh, Mackenzie Skinner, Ruby Sparks, Jack Spillman, Veronica Spink, Burnetta Springfield, Vickie Tichenor, Gary & Nadine Trogden, Lynda Trogden, Dusty Utley, Richard Vowels, Cathy Robertson, Doris Vowels, Carter Wilkerson, Tony Whitledge

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 WORDS OF THE POPES

After receiving the “investiture” as Messiah — “Anointed” with the Holy Spirit at the baptism in the Jordan — Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Spirit himself to be tempted by the devil. At the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus had to unmask himself and reject the false images of the Messiah which the tempter was suggesting to him. Yet these temptations are also false images of man that threaten to ensnare our conscience, in the guise of suitable, effective and even good proposals. (...) The tempter is cunning. He does not directly impel us towards evil but rather towards a false good, making us believe that the true realities are power and everything that satisfies our primary needs. In this way God becomes secondary, he is reduced to a means; in short, he becomes unreal, he no longer counts, he disappears. Ultimately, in temptation faith is at stake because God is at stake. At the crucial moments in life but also, as can be seen at every moment, we stand at a crossroads: do we want to follow our own ego or God? (...) As St Augustine teaches, Jesus took the temptations from us to give us his victory (cf. Enarr. in Psalmos, 60, 3: pl 36, 724). Therefore let us not be afraid either of facing the battle against the spirit of evil: the important thing is to fight it with him, with Christ, the Conqueror.

(Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus, 17 February 2013)

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

This weekend

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sat 02/21 | <u>Sacristan:</u> Connie Caldwell |
| Sun 02/22 | <u>Sacristan:</u> K of C |
| EM | K of C |
| EM | K of C |
| Lector | K of C |
| Altar Server | K of C |

Next Weekend

| | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sat 02/28 | <u>Sacristan:</u> Gracia Alvey |
| Sun 03/01 | <u>Sacristan:</u> Charles Buchanan |
| EM | Mary Jane Hawkins |
| EM | Janie Tanner |
| Lector | Gregg Sugg |
| Altar Server | Volunteer |

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

21 Sat Saturday after Ash Wednesday violet [Saint Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church] Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32 (222)

22 SUN FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT violet Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11 (22) Pss I

23 Mon Lenten Weekday violet [Saint Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr] Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Mt 25:31-46 (224)

24 Tue Lenten Weekday violet Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15 (225)

25 Wed Lenten Weekday violet Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32 (226)

26 Thu Lenten Weekday violet Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12 (227)

27 Fri Lenten Weekday violet [Saint Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church] Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26 (228)

Safe Environment

To report suspected abuse, contact the Cabinet for Health and Family Services by calling their Child/Adult Abuse Hotline at their toll-free number 877-KYSAFE1 (877-597-2331) or by visiting [their website](#). You may also contact your local [Commonwealth Attorney](#). To report abuse, current or past, to the diocese, by anyone acting in the name of the Church, please call our pastoral assistance coordinator, Scott Ingram, at 270-852-8380 (English) and Miguel Quintanilla, 270-880-8360 (Spanish).

Thank You For Your Generosity

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Sunday Offering 02/15/2026 | \$ 2,007.00 |
| Weekly Goal | \$ 2,350.00 |
| Year-to-date Total 33 of 52 Sundays | \$ 72,846.50 |
| Budget YTD | \$ 77,550.00 |
| Over/Under Collection | \$ -4,703.50 |



I SUNDAY OF LENT WITH GOD I CAN DO ALL THINGS

Last Wednesday, when we received the ashes on our foreheads, we began the Lenten season and many of us heard the phrase: "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." And the first reading today tells us: "The LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being." (Gen 2: 7) The author of Genesis wants to describe man in such a way that we can see the finite: the matter or the dust of the earth, and the infinite: the breath of life that God puts in the human being.

"Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and placed there the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made various trees grow that were delightful to look at and good for food, with the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." (Gen 2: 8- 9)

The man and woman are the image of God, they must act according to that image, reflecting the way God acts. God has made everything as a gift for humanity. Man is a gift for woman and woman for man, equal in dignity. The gift is a sign that expresses the goodwill and love of its maker. They are made for communion. The great thing about the gift is that it is a free decision of the one who gave himself. It is an expression of the interiority of God Himself. God in his being love, is compelled to create, and all creation becomes gift for his favorite creature, for man and woman.

"But the serpent said to the woman: 'You certainly will not die! No, God knows well that the moment you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods who know what is good and what is evil.'" (Gen 3: 4-5) To eat the fruit of the tree of good and evil is a way of living without limits, where nothing limits us. Absolute autonomy includes the rejection of God, and living in His image and likeness. Evil is enchanting, although it soon leaves behind anguish and desolation. However, often human beings are not happy with the life they received or with the likeness offered, so they stop being who they are to try to become someone they are not.

"In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so, through one righteous act, acquittal and life came to all." (Rom. 5: 18) In Christ, nothing is lost. Because we have the firm promise of grace, guaranteed by Jesus's life. He gave himself in the name of God the Creator, to conquer the situation of original sin that we all find ourselves in at birth.

Each evangelist, in their respective liturgical year, offers us his version of Jesus' temptation, like Adam and Eve in paradise. Temptations that the people of Israel had in the desert: hunger and the answer was the Manna, thirst and the answer was the waters of Massah, and the adoration of the golden calf. In Jesus' temptations, we should also see Jesus as a man, as a person, just like us, who overcomes them with his own human choices, by putting himself in the hands of God. Jesus' rejection of all that was offered to him is not a humiliating victory; it was the only way he could truly remain united to God and all men. Jesus, the Son of God, while in the radical role of the incarnation, does not even dream of being God or having his power. But humanity does try to be God, emperors or not, they have wanted to be worshiped; but the truth is that they never became gods, they were still men and they were alone forever.

Let us reflect on the meaning of the divine sonship, which does not eliminate anything from the human condition. Man lives not only by bread, because it is God who infuses life into each person and we live for Him and in Him. Let us ask God to give us the strength necessary to reject sin and live the plan of life He had when He made us. Amen.

Fr. Carmelo Jimenez

TODAY'S READINGS

Reading I: [Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7](#)

Responsorial Psalm: [Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17](#)

Reading II: [Romans 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19](#)

Gospel: [Matthew 4:1-11](#)

Youth & Young Adult

Youth2000: The 29th YOUTH 2000 Retreat will take place March 13-15, 2026 at Brescia University. The YOUTH 2000 Retreat is a weekend experience that includes talks, music, the celebration of the Mass, fellowship, and panel discussions.

If you want to attend please speak to Jenny or Juana. We need your completed registration form by the 28th.

Young Adult Group: first meeting is March 1st, at 3pm in the parish hall.

THIS WEEK'S TASK

Rather than giving up something for Lent, the Church invites us to increase our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. In what way will I increase my prayer life?

In what way will I empty myself physically (through fasting and abstinence) to make room for God?

In what way will I increase my life of charity?

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Reading I: [Genesis 12:1-4a](#)

Responsorial Psalm: [Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22.](#)

Reading II: [2 Timothy 1:8b-10](#)

Gospel: [Matthew 17:1-9](#)

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING

- Tuesday: Bible Study at 10:00,
 - Youth Group at 5:30
 - Wednesday: Faith Formation at 5:30 & RCIA at 6:00
 - Thursday: Knights meeting at 6:30
 - Friday: Stations of the Cross at 6:00
- ### LOOKING AHEAD
- March 6th following Stations for the Cross, Kof C fish fry
 - March 18th at 6:00 Lent Penance Service
 - March 27th following Stations for the Cross, Kof C fish fry

Around the Diocese

Follow the Ursuline Sisters for Lenten Meditations

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph (Maple Mount, Ky.) are offering a new Lent series on their website and social media that began on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18, titled "Lenten Meditations." To help us observe this important faith journey, the Sisters are sharing some of their favorite quotes, thoughts, and scripture. They also posted a Lent calendar. You can follow the Ursuline Sisters on Facebook to see the Lent posts: www.facebook.com/ursulinesmsj. The posts will also be added day by day to their website: www.ursulinesmsj.org/lenten-meditations/

The Temptation of Jesus

R P J L D S T E M P T E D B K
 P Q G R H P W E G H J S V W J
 V Y O N N H V X W D E A W F E
 M L Y R N R F E E N S T S D W
 V O A G E X B O W X U A D B O
 S B U S K S B O E D S N Y T R
 O P D N I I B I U E O C M A S
 F I L S T S N C W V V L O Z H
 I A M E L A Z G K I D B M L I
 B Q S E N A I D D L I W U R P
 L R G T D D R N E O L P W F N
 H N E L I O O E S N M E D S X
 A C R A W N B R E V G S L F C
 J O F U D Y G E R T E M P L E
 W H H U N G R Y T S T O N E S

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|----------|---------|----------|----------|---------|
| WORD | BOW | STONES | BREAD | FASTING |
| WORSHIP | TEMPTED | SERVE | DESERT | SATAN |
| LORD | ANGELS | WORLD | SPLENDOR | TEMPLE |
| MOUNTAIN | HUNGRY | KINGDOMS | DEVIL | JESUS |

Mass Intention

| | | | |
|------------|---------|--------|--|
| Sat. 02/21 | English | 5pm | Parishioners |
| | Akateco | 7:30pm | Political Leaders of our Country |
| Sun. 02/22 | English | 10am | Chester Ervin, Jr. |
| | Spanish | 12pm | Luis Miguel Barco Martinez |
| Mon. 02/23 | English | 9am | Living & Deceased of Richard & Rita Stiff's Family |
| Tues. 2/24 | English | 9am | Chester Ervin Jr. |
| Wed. 02/25 | Spanish | 12pm | Gerald Ray Hood |
| Thu. 02/26 | Spanish | 7pm | Luis Miguel Barco Martinez |
| Sat. 02/28 | English | 5pm | Rose Mary & Steve Kenney |
| | Akateco | 7:30pm | Parishioners |
| Sun. 03/01 | English | 10am | Chester Ervin, Jr. |
| | Spanish | 12pm | Concepcion Mena Pera |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 2/22 Wally Murphy, Maria Ceron
- 2/23 Jose Perez Fancisco
- 2/24 Noah Russell
- 2/26 James Russell
- 2/27 Luisa Miguel



Pope's Lenten message 2026: Abstain from harsh words and rash judgement

"In order to practice fasting in accordance with its evangelical character and avoid the temptation that leads to pride, it must be lived in faith and humility. It must be grounded in communion with the Lord, because "those who are unable to nourish themselves with the word of God do not fast properly." [3] As a visible sign of our inner commitment to turn away from sin and evil with the help of grace, fasting must also include other forms of self-denial aimed at helping us to acquire a more sober lifestyle, since "austerity alone makes the Christian life strong and authentic."

In this regard, I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace.

Dear friends, let us ask for the grace of a Lent that leads us to greater attentiveness to God and to the least among us. Let us ask for the strength that comes from the type of fasting that also extends to our use of language, so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a greater space for the voice of others. Let us strive to make our communities places where the cry of those who suffer finds welcome, and listening opens paths towards liberation, making us ready and eager to contribute to building a civilization of love.

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2026/02/13/260213d.html>

