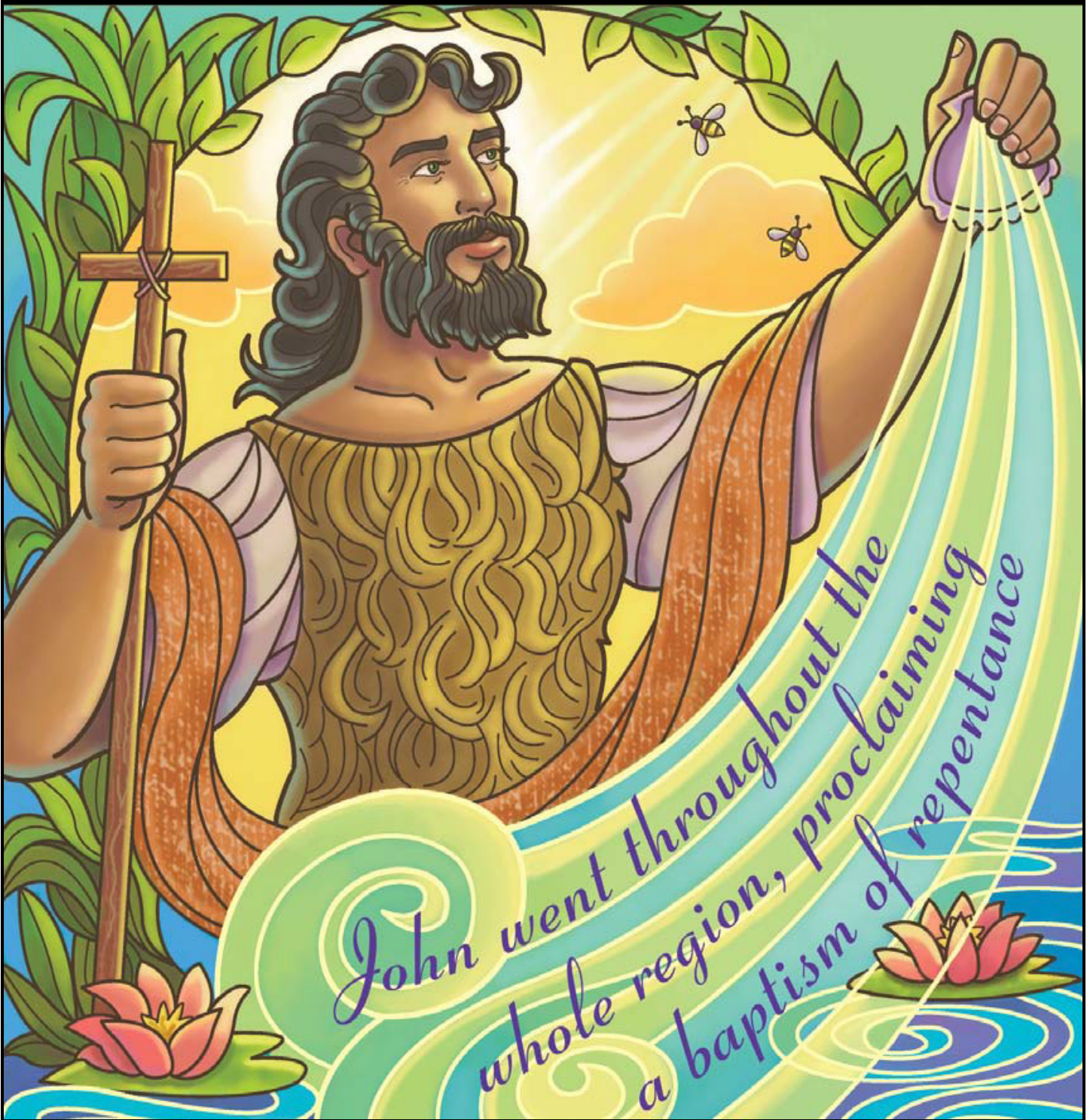


# ***ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH***



*John went throughout the  
whole region, proclaiming  
a baptism of repentance*

*P.O. Box 6310 Fernandina Beach, FL 32035 corner of North Fourth & Broome Streets  
904-261-3472*



**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 6, 2015  
PUT ON JOY**

Today, Baruch speaks of the splendor that lies ahead for the city of Jerusalem and for all of us, regardless of where home is for us. Throw off strife, he tells us, and put on joy. Like a favorite old sweatshirt, joy fits, and how warm it keeps us, even when the winds blow cold.

Paul knows of this joy as he pens his letter to the Philippians, praying that they may grow in their ability to discern what is righteous and good. And Luke speaks to us of John, who was foretold by Isaiah and who sings a similar song—“Prepare the way of the Lord,” for salvation is at hand.

A man ahead of his time, Baruch spent his days joyfully awaiting a distant glory. On this Second Sunday of Advent, Paul and John know that this glory is upon us.

**TODAY’S READINGS**

**First Reading** — Stand on the heights, Jerusalem; see your children rejoicing that they are remembered by God. A merciful and just God leads Israel in joy (**Baruch 5:1-9**).

**Psalms** — The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy (**Psalms 126**).

**Second Reading** — May your love increase in knowledge to discern what is valuable that you may be blameless for the day of Christ (**Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11**).

**Gospel** — John proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All flesh shall see the salvation of God (**Luke 3:1-6**).

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday:** Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 5:17-26

**Tuesday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

**Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30

**Thursday:** Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

**Friday:** Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19

**Saturday:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712

**Sunday:** Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

**TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

By now, trees are beginning to appear in living rooms throughout the parish. To a complete outsider to our culture, it must seem an odd thing indeed. The “roots” of this custom are in liturgical drama: religious plays performed in the churches and town squares of medieval Europe. The favorite theme for this time of year was the “Paradise Play,” a dramatic history of the human race from the Garden of Eden to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. The language and music varied from place to place, but one feature was always in place: a great tree decorated with apples. As a prop, it provided lots of material for the actors: the temptation, shelter for the manger, and a reminder of the wood of the cross. Soon people began to bring “paradise trees” into their homes, decorating them with gifts and lighted candles.

Many Germans give credit to Martin Luther for transforming the “Paradise Tree” into the evergreen Christmas tree. Walking home on a starry Advent night, he was so awed by the beauty of the night that he hauled a pine tree inside and decorated it with lighted candles. Americans were holdouts. It took until 1856 for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to decriminalize Christmas decorations, the old Puritan dislikes falling before the waves of Irish and German immigrants with traditions firmly in hand!

**F Y I**

**THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT YOUR BULLETIN ARTICLES IS 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO THE PUBLISH DATE. EMAIL TO: smjdean@bellsouth.net.**

**FOUND**

A man’s wedding band was found. If you lost yours, please call the parish office, 904-261-3472.

**RENEWAL RETREAT**

If you are on the Renewal Team or involved in a Liturgical Ministry, it’s not too late to R.S.V.P. to attend the Retreat which will be on Saturday, December 19th from 9:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m. Please call the Parish Office, 904-261-3472. We look forward to sharing with you.

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Sunday:** Second Sunday of Advent;  
Hanukkah begins  
**Monday:** St. Ambrose;  
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day  
**Tuesday:** The Immaculate Conception of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary  
**Wednesday:** St. Juan Diego  
**Friday:** St. Damasus I  
**Saturday:** Our Lady of Guadalupe



## IDN SIGN UP MEETING

IDN signup meeting for Jan, Feb, March will be held on Thursday, December 17th at 7:00 in the parish hall. Please bring your favorite Christmas beverage snack or appetizer to share. All are welcome to join this wonderful ministry. Call Steve White at 206-6128 for questions.



## ST. MICHAEL BOOK CLUB

The book club will meet on Monday, December 7, 2015, at 4:00PM in the parish office.

Our review will be the response to a letter written by eight-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon to the editor of the New York's Sun, September 21, 1897,

**"Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus".**

A Copy of this letter will be available at the meeting. Come join us...(call Peggy @904-239-7137 with any questions you may have)



## ST. MICHAEL CCW GIFT SHOP

Please note that the balance of our hand-crafted items from the Arts & Crafts Show are available in our Gift Shop.

We now have boxed Christmas cards, Advent items, coloring books, candles, etc. plus our regular items available for your shopping pleasure. Thank you for supporting our Gift Shop. We are open for business on Wednesdays from 10—4pm and before and after all weekend Masses.



## RCIA

The Rite of Welcoming is this Sunday at the 10am Mass for our candidates and catechumens who are seeking to become members of our Catholic community. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin their journey to the Easter Sacraments.

**The Teaching Mass will be Tuesday, Dec. 15th at 6:00pm and Fr. Jose will explain different parts of the Mass.**



## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

### ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

**Tuesday, December 15, 2015—7:00 pm (following the 6:00 pm Mass)**

### CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

**Thursday, December 24, 2015**

**4:00 p.m.—Church**

**4:00 p.m.—Hall**

**6:00 p.m.—Church**

**11:00 p.m.—Church**

### CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

**Friday, December 25, 2015**

**8:00 a.m.—Church**

**10:00 a.m.—Church**

**!2:00 noon—Church**

### NEW YEAR'S EVE

### VIGIL OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

**Thursday, December 31, 2015**

**6:00 p.m.—Church**

### NEW YEAR'S DAY

### MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

**Friday, January 1, 2016**

**8:30 a.m.—Church**

**6:00 p.m.—Church**

## ST. MICHAEL'S MEN'S CLUB RETREAT

St. Michael's Men's Club will be sponsoring their annual retreat to be held from January 15, 2016 to January 17, 2016. The retreat will be held at Marywood Retreat House St. Johns, Florida. The cost for meals and lodging is \$150.00. The retreat is open to all men of St. Michael's Parish. For those men who can not afford the retreat, the SMMC will discretely cover all costs.

**Please contact Charlie Sciarini at:**

**csciarini@gmail.com or 904—491—4978 for further details or to make your reservation.**



**GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS OFFERING!**

**Registered Families 1570      November 22, 2015**

Offertory      \$15,418.10

Children's Collection      56.51

Campaign for Human Development      1,696.28

**November 29, 2015**

Offertory      \$19,708.77

Children's Collection      23.00

**Additional contributions for the month of November:**

St. Michael Offertory:      \$145.00

St. Michael Social Ministry      1,119.00

Diocesan Social Appeal      160.00

Christmas Flowers      45.00

Diocesan Military Appeal      250.00

St. Michael Academy      2,622.00

Expansion      21,087.00

All Saints      63.00

**Thank you to all who are utilizing our on line giving.**

**On Line Giving      \$3,921.40**

**The SECOND COLLECTION next weekend will be for Support of the Retired Religious.**



**ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE OF ELECTRONIC GIVING**

St. Michael Catholic Church wants to remind you that we

offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

Direct Debit Giving is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account.

Credit & Debit Card Giving lets you make offerings automatically on a pre-determined schedule using a credit or debit card.

Online Giving lets you go to [www.stmichaelscatholic.com](http://www.stmichaelscatholic.com) at any time to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history.

As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. Authorization forms and additional information are available from the church office.



- Sat. Dec. 5 (5pm)      John Wright by the Rubio family
- Sat. Dec. 5 (7pm)      Spanish Mass
- Sun. Dec. 6 (8am)      Parishioners of St. Michael
- Sun. Dec. 6 (10am)      Maureen Brands by Al Brands
- Sun. Dec. 6 (12noon)      Gloria Goodell by the Goodell family
- Mon. Dec. 7 (8:30am)      George Berdes by Tom & Susan Smeeton

- Immaculate Conception Vigil**
- Mon. Dec. 7 (6pm)      Jack Flynn by Tom & Susan Smeeton
- Feast of the Immaculate Conception**
- Tues. Dec. 8 (8:30am)      Jim Kehler by Marie Kehler
  - Tues. Dec. 8 (6pm)      James Pound, Sr. by St. Michael CCW

- Wed. Dec. 9 (8:30am)      Joe Fortner by Judy Fortner
- Thurs. Dec. 10 (8:30am)      Wyndham Riotte by Frances Riotte
- Fri. Dec. 11 (8:30am)      Marie Greek by St. Michael CCW
- Sat. Dec. 12 (5pm)      Willis Larrabee by Rita Larrabee
- Sat. Dec. 12 (7pm)      Spanish Mass
- Sun. Dec. 13 (8am)      Parishioners of St. Michael
- Sun. Dec. 13 (10am)      Gaston Desnoyers by Al Desnoyers & Choir
- Sun. Dec. 13 (12noon)      Pearl Cooper by Don & Peggy Cooper

Please pray for the sick and all requests in our Prayer Request Book. Please pray for the repose of the souls of Elizabeth 'Betty' Sutton and Jacqueline Bingham. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE**  
**"Prepare ye the way of the Lord"**

**You are invited to participate in St. Michael's Advent Penance Service on Tuesday, December 15th at 7:00 pm following the 6:00 pm Mass. There will be several priests available to hear confessions.**



**"God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low."  
Baruch 5:7**

# ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Corner of North Fourth & Broome Streets P.O. Box 6310 Fernandina Beach, FL 32035  
Parish Office - 505 Broome Street - Phone - 904-261-3472 Fax - 321-1901 Email: [smjdean@bellsouth.net](mailto:smjdean@bellsouth.net)  
ALL EMERGENCIES: 904-277-6566 Website: [www.stmichaelscatholic.com](http://www.stmichaelscatholic.com)



**Rev. Jose Kallukalam, Pastor**  
**Visiting Priest: Rev. Gerard O'Shea**  
**Deacon Art Treadwell**

## MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Masses: 5:00 pm  
7:00 pm (Spanish Mass)

Sunday Masses- 8:00 am—10:00 am—12:00 noon

Confessions:  
Saturday: 4:00-4:45 pm or by appointment

Daily Masses: 8:30 am Mon., Wed., Thurs., & Fri.  
6:00 pm Tues.

Holy Days Vigil: 6:00 pm  
Holy Day 8:30 am & 6:00 pm

## MINISTRY TO SICK & HOMEBOUND

Weekly visits and monthly Communion Services are held at Savannah Grand, Quality Health Care and Jane Adams House. Visits by Priest or Extraordinary Minister can be arranged by calling 261-3472.

## MATRIMONY

Marriage preparation for couples who wish to be married in a Catholic ceremony must meet with their parish priest at least eight months prior to the wedding date.

## R.C.I.A.

For those seeking to learn more about the Catholic faith, call 261-3472.

## RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Classes are available for grades 1—8. Sacrament preparation is available for Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. Call the parish office, 261-3472.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

Walt Edwards: 491-0180

## MUSIC DIRECTOR

Denise Ziegler: 654-3855

## ST. MICHAEL ACADEMY

Pre-K—Grade 8 Principal—Jackie Stewart  
Call 321-2102 for information  
Email: [smacad@smacad.org](mailto:smacad@smacad.org)  
Website: [www.stmichaels-academy.org](http://www.stmichaels-academy.org)



*St. Michael Catholic Church Mission Statement*  
We are the body of Christ at St. Michael's Parish, called to: Gather for Worship, Celebrate the Paschal Mysteries, Preach the Gospel, Minister to Others, Be Witnesses to the World.