

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



*The  
virgin  
shall  
conceive  
and  
bear a  
son*

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



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 18, 2016  
SUMMONED BY GOD**

As Christmas draws near, Advent's scriptures lure us into a world of dreams, signs, wonders, and the miracle of the virgin birth. Too often we allow the great stories of our faith, the ones that are most familiar, simply to wash over us. Today's Gospel account of the events leading up to the birth of the Lord reads like a present-day soap opera. Yet Joseph's courage, even in the midst of what must have been an incredibly confusing time, provides a model for us. Each week, we are summoned by God to embrace the way of goodness and truth through the proclamation of God's holy word. Like Joseph, we are called to do as the Lord commands us. As we stand at the threshold of Christmas, let us have the courage to be open to whatever it is that the Lord will require of us as we celebrate the miracle of Bethlehem.

**TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading** — You will be given this sign: the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:10-14).

**Psalm** — Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory (Psalm 24).

**Second Reading** — God has called us to belong to Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1-7).

**Gospel** — The son born of Mary shall be called Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. He shall be Emmanuel, "God is with us" (Matthew 1:18-24).

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH AT 7:00 PM  
ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THE COMING OF  
CHRIST?**

Forgiveness reminds us that we can truly be at peace only if we allow ourselves to be reconciled, in the Lord Jesus, with the Father and with each other. We have all felt this in our hearts, when we have gone to confession with a soul weighted down and with a little sadness; and when we receive Jesus' forgiveness, we feel at peace and with that peace of soul which is so beautiful, and which only Jesus can give, only Him.

Turn to the Lord for forgiveness. He can give the inner peace that you are looking for.

*"A Year of Mercy with Pope Francis"*

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a;  
Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

**Tuesday:** Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

**Wednesday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a;  
Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

**Thursday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

**Friday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14;  
Lk 1:57-66

**Saturday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29;  
Lk 1:67-79

**Sunday:** Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29;  
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]  
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14;  
Lk 2:1-14  
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7;  
Lk 2:15-20  
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6;  
Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

**Sunday:** Fourth Sunday of Advent  
**Tuesday:** St. Peter Canisius; Winter Solstice  
**Thursday:** St. John of Kanty  
**Friday:** The Vigil of Christmas  
**Saturday:** The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

## HELP OUR SEMINARIANS

At their December meeting, the CCW held a purple elephant fund raiser for our Diocesan Seminarians. There are still items available; just stop by the Gift Shop during their business hours and make a donation that you think is both fair and within your means. Thank you for your support.



### JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS

We just received  
our opening order

from the "Wee Believers", a new vendor, offering huggable animal friends made with sensory textures in vibrant patterns reciting precious songs and prayers.

Also, available for sale is our regular Christmas line, and if in doubt consider purchasing a Gift Card.

**Stop by and browse ...**



### SACRED VESSELS

Our parish is in need of  
new communion cups  
and ciboria.

If you or your family  
would like to be a sponsor and donate  
toward them, please call the parish office: 904-261-  
3472. Thank you.



**"SOUTH PACIFIC CRUISE"  
ABOARD THE SS ST. MICHAEL  
SAVE THE DATE  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH,  
2017**

**AMAZING POLYNESIAN FOOD  
STAR STUDED DINNER ENTERTAINMENT  
AFTER DINNER SHOW FEATURING  
PRINCE PELE'S  
POLYNESIAN REVIEW  
Tickets on Sale 2/1/17  
Reservations Required  
Very Limited Seating  
Buy a Seat or a Table  
Children Welcome  
Captain's Table Available  
Benefitting the St. Michael Religious and Youth  
Formation Programs**



**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE  
ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE  
Tuesday, December 20, 2016—7:00pm**

**CHRISTMAS MASSES  
Saturday, December 24, 2016**

**Christmas Eve Masses**

**4:00pm—Church**

**4:00pm—Hall**

**6:00pm—Church**

**11:00pm—Church**

**Sunday, December 25, 2016**

**Christmas Day Masses**

**8:00am—Church**

**10:00am—Church**

**12:00noon—Church**

**Saturday, December 31, 2016**

**Vigil—Mary, Mother of God**

**5:00pm—Church**

**Sunday, January 1, 2017**

**Mary, Mother of God**

**8:00am—Church**

**10:00am—Church**

**12:00noon—Church**

## ST. MICHAEL MEN'S CLUB ANNUAL RETREAT

The St. Michael's Men's Club is sponsoring its annual retreat at Marywood Retreat Center, St. Johns, Florida from January 20, 21 and 22, 2017. This retreat is open to all the men of our parish.

Our Retreat Master will be Father Jack Rathschmidt, a Capuchin Franciscan Friar from New York.

It is a good time to step away from the everyday life and have a spiritual renewal.

The cost for a private room and meals is \$150.00. The SMMC can discreetly arrange to waive the cost of the retreat for anyone in need of assistance.

**Please contact Charlie Sciarini at 904 491-4978 or  
to reserve a place.**





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

<b>Registered Families 1632</b>	<b>December 11, 2016</b>
<b>Offertory</b>	<b>\$14,453.00</b>
<b>On Line Offertory</b>	<b>3,940.00</b>
<b>Children's Collection</b>	<b>58.41</b>
<b>Debt Reduction</b>	<b>1,226.00</b>
<b>On Line Debt Reduction</b>	<b>265.00</b>
<b>Immaculate Conception</b>	<b>\$2,256.00</b>
<b>Retired Religious</b>	<b>2,872.10</b>

**TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

By now, the first Christmas carols are heard in the home, but usually not yet in church. What is a "carol" anyway? Originally, a carol was any kind of communal song sung at a festival such as a harvest. By the thirteenth century or so, carols were associated with household celebrations. "Carol" comes from the Old French *carula*, meaning a circular dance. Carols weren't for church, since the language of liturgy was Latin and the carols were in the common language. Their characteristic sound comes from medieval chord patterns, and they often have strong refrains for everyone to sing. Even in the churches of the Reformation, carols didn't make it into church services until the 1870s or so, since there was a preference for psalms. Anglicans resisted popular carols; most of our beloved carols came via the Methodists, an offshoot of the Church of England. The Catholic Church generally didn't admit carols to liturgy either, but we didn't make laws against them.

We are told that the beloved carol "Silent Night" comes from Catholic Austria and a harried parish music director. Joseph Mohr, the priest of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf, had written the words in 1816, but offered them to his music director, Franz Gruber, when the church's organ broke. Mohr asked him to write a melody that could be played on guitar as a prelude to Mass. Gruber finished the tune just hours before midnight Mass in 1818. The people were shocked to hear a guitar in church, but were charmed by the sweet lullaby. The church was swept away by a flood in the 1990s and the village later relocated, but the townspeople have set up the "Silent Night Memorial Chapel" at the site. Today the carol is in print in some three hundred languages. How wonderful that the pipe organ broke on that night!



- Sat. Dec. 17 (5pm) Gary Snyder by Johnelle Snyder
- Sun. Dec. 18 (8am) Bill Lauerman by Paul Donovan
- Sun. Dec. 18 (10am) Gary Lee Watson by Church & Jackie Watson
- Sun. Dec. 18 (12noon) Parishioners of St. Michael
- Mon. Dec. 19 (8:30am) Paul Kearns by Bob & Luann Roberts
- Tues. Dec. 20 (6pm) SPECIAL INTENTION for Denise Ziegler by Donna Walters
- Wed. Dec. 21 (8:30am) Mary Lou Vettel by John & Moira Hegarty
- Thurs. Dec.22(8:30am) Tom & Helen Dixon by Dan Hammer
- Fri. Dec. 23 (8:30am) William Hobbs by Brian & Becky Hardy
- Sat.Dec.24(4pm)(Hall) Lily, Grace & Sarah Badger by Mary & Bill Foster**
- Sat. Dec. 24 (4pm) SPECIAL INTENTION for Fr. Jose Kallukalam on his Ordination Anniversary**
- Sat. Dec. 24 (6pm) Stacie Oppert by Joe & Joan Raineri**
- Sat. Dec. 24 (11pm) Frank & Florence Mayer by John & Theresa Megna**
- Sun. Dec. 25 (8am) Frank James Bader by Linda Bader**
- Sun. Dec. 25 (10am) Parishioners of St. Michael**
- Sun. Dec. 25 (12noon) Eileen McKim by Ron McKim**

Please pray for the sick and all requests in our Prayer Request Book. Please pray for the repose of the soul of parishioner, Mike Boyle. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



**"A Charlie Brown Christmas Party"**

**In memory of Fr. Gerry**

All families are invited to attend the Family Christmas party on Sunday, December 18, 2017. It will be held in the Parish Hall from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Join us for our Chili and Hot dog dinner, hayrides, a visit from Santa, s'mores, cookie and ornament decorating and the famous "snow ball eating contest"! For more information, please call the parish office at 261-3472.

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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

Deacon Art Treadwell

## MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass:	5:00 pm
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: Holy Day	6:00 pm 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—7. Sacrament preparation is available for Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation on Sundays from 10:30 am—11:45 am. Call the parish office, 261-3472.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

Walt Edwards: 261-3472

## MUSIC DIRECTOR

Denise Ziegler: 654-3855

## ST. MICHAEL ACADEMY

Pre-K—Grade 8 Principal—Dr. Christopher Hampton  
Call 321-2102 for information  
Email: [smacad@smacad.org](mailto:smacad@smacad.org)  
Website: [www.smacad.org](http://www.smacad.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.