

ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER 23, 2018



Reflection

Take some extra time with this passage today and remember the true spirit of Christmas.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. . . . and of his kingdom there will be no end.:

Luke 1:31-33

The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Mass on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 13th this year). During the season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him. . . including the fact that he was born to die for us, so that we might have life in him.



Christmas Masses Schedule  
Christmas Eve

4:00 pm - church

4:00 pm - hall

6:00 pm - hall

11:00 pm church

Christmas Day

8:00 am

10:00 am

12:00 noon



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Fr. Jose Kallukalam, Pastor

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 23, 2018

### MEMORIES AND DREAMS

Throughout our lives, we retain the language and habits of our native region and family of origin. Should we return to our home after a long absence, we quickly revert to its familiar speech and practices. Our deep memory is reflected in old stories and words and speech patterns. This familiarity runs like an underground river and accompanies us wherever we go.

Not only do we remember, we are incorporated into and made part of a greater memory. In remembering and recollecting, we are in turn gathered up and re-collected

Today we remember Mary, a small figure travelling the country roads to visit Elizabeth. All the great pronouncements and dreams of the prophets point to this time when the Lord's words to Mary would be gathered and fulfilled. The memories of her people are alive in her, and memories of her nourish our own living faith.

### 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Advent is a season of preparation in hope for the feast of Christmas, the sacred day on which we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. Christmas is a singularity unique day in the history of the cosmos because on that day the incarnate Son of God, Jesus Christ, was born from the Virgin Mary in the little town of Bethlehem (**a name which means "house of bread"**) and laid in a humble manger.

On that day, Mary gives birth to the long awaited Messiah-King, the Redeemer who arrived unexpectedly and unknown to the world, yet who will give the greatest possible gift to the world in giving himself, in offering his sacred humanity on a Roman cross in order to put death to death. The New Adam, Jesus Christ, will restore what the first Adam lost through sin. The Christ Child will redeem humankind and re-create those who have faith in him.

Laid in a manger in Bethlehem, the **"house of bread,"** the Christ Child will soon offer himself as the Bread of Life (**Jn 6:35**), the sacrament of Eucharist which is the gift of Christ himself (**see Jn 6**), in order for humankind to have life in abundance (**Jn 10:10**).

Advent is a time of waiting and preparation. It is a time of longing in hope for the Child who will open the way from earth to heaven by the power of the cross. It is a time of expectation and thankfulness. It is a season in which we reflect on the riches and love of Christ; a love more powerful than death; a love that goes all the way for the sake of eternal life. Advent is a season of yearning for Emmanuel, **"God with us,"** who is the realization of every human hope.

### Faith and Traditions

#### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

In ancient pagan Rome, these days in mid-December were a time for general slacking off at work and far too much rejoicing. The period of leisure after the harvest and a whole cluster of pagan festivals were a force for the church to reckon with. The Saturnalia, breaking out on December 17, was a time of high living and loose morals. Christians were advised by their bishops to drop out of the mayhem and do some serious fasting. A famous church council at Saragossa in Spain made a season of fasting mandatory from December 17 to December 23, exactly coinciding with the Saturnalia. The bishops at that time were perhaps less concerned with preparing for Christmas than with resisting the kind of loose living going on.

Modern times have restored a bit of the Saturnalia spirit to our culture, so that a general period of partying with a vague connection to religion is now upon us. How does a Christian keep balance? The practice of charity by remembering the poor in our gift giving, of hospitality in finding a place at our holiday tables for the poor and lonely, and of daily prayer in the home and at church are great helps. Although Advent is not a penitential season like Lent, it is a time for making room in our lives for what matters most.

## Liturgical Schedule (Intentions)

Sat.	Dec. 22	5:00	Mary Zumbar by Bill & Patsy Flynn
Sun.	Dec. 23	8:00	Parishioners of St. Michael
Sun.	Dec. 23	10:00	Donald Noe by the Springer family
Sun.	Dec. 23	12:00	Anna Maria Bader by Linda Bader
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Dec. 24</b>		<b>4:00 (church) Lilly, Sarah, and Grace Badger by Mary Foster</b>
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Dec. 24</b>		<b>4:00 (hall) Christina Bader by Linda Bader</b>
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Dec. 24</b>	<b>6:00</b>	<b>Alice Pisani by Amanda &amp; Francesco Borghese</b>
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Dec. 24</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>Venita Newsome by the Newsome family</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Dec. 25</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Bill Larrabee by Rita Larrabee</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Dec. 25</b>	<b>10:00</b>	<b>Gary L. Watson by Chuck &amp; Jackie Watson</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Dec. 25</b>	<b>12:00</b>	<b>Jane Kayser by Paul Kayser</b>
Wed.	Dec. 26	8:30	James & Frank Bader by Linda Bader
Thurs.	Dec. 27	8:30	Kathleen Maley by the Maley family
Fri.	Dec. 28	8:30	Julie May by St. Michael's Women's Guild
Sat.	Dec. 29	5:00	Joe Reamer by Sue Reigler
Sun.	Dec. 30	8:00	50th Wedding Anniversary for Paul & Valerie Gosnell
Sun.	Dec. 30	10:00	Parishioners of St. Michael
Sun.	Dec. 30	12:00	Laura Galiano by Susan Depres
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Dec. 31</b>	<b>8:30</b>	<b>Gheorghe Mircea Aron by Mark &amp; Julie Eby</b>
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Dec. 31</b>	<b>6:00</b>	<b>Betty Porterfield by Deacon Art &amp; Janet Treadwell</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Jan. 1</b>	<b>8:30</b>	<b>Norma Bell Dimond by Tony &amp; Denise</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Jan. 1</b>	<b>6:00</b>	<b>Trish Decowski Brown by Pat Decowski</b>

## Daily Readings

### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** – From Bethlehem-Ephrathah shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel (**Micah 5:1-4a**).

**Psalm** – Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (**Psalm 80**).

**Second Reading** – We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Christ once for all (**Hebrews 10:5-10**).

**Gospel** – Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken by the Lord would be fulfilled (**Luke 1:39-45**).

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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

**Tuesday:** 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]

**Wednesday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59;

Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17;

Mt 10:17-22

**Thursday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12;

Jn 20:1a, 2-8

**Friday:** 1 Jn 1:5 – 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8;

Mt 2:13-18

**Saturday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6;

Lk 2:22-35

**Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28;

Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10;

Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or

1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Sunday:** Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Monday:** Vigil of Christmas

**Tuesday:** Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

**Wednesday:** St. Stephen; First Day of Kwanzaa

**Thursday:** St. John

**Friday:** The Holy Innocents

**Saturday:** Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; St. Thomas Becket

## Coming Events

### CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

4:00 pm Mass (church)  
4:00 pm Mass (hall)  
6:00 pm Mass (church)  
11:00 pm Mass (church)

### CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

8:00 am Mass  
10:00 am Mass  
12:00 noon Mass

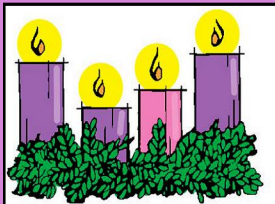
The music prelude before the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses will begin 1/2 hour prior to Mass.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY,  
MOTHER OF GOD  
(Holy Day of Obligation)  
Monday, December 31, 2018  
Vigil Mass  
6:00 pm

Tuesday, January 1, 2019  
Feast Day Masses  
8:30 am  
6:00 pm

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY,  
AND JOSEPH  
Saturday, December 29, 2018  
5:00 Mass

Sunday, December 30, 2018  
8:00 Mass  
10:00 Mass  
12:00 Mass



THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED  
DEC. 24th 25th, AND 26th.

HAVE A WONDERFUL AND BLESSED  
CHRISTMAS.

## Ministry & Organization News and Announcements

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

The St. Michael's Men's Club will be sponsoring its annual retreat at Marywood Retreat Center, St. John's, Florida from January 25 to January 27, 2019.

Our Retreat Master is Father Jack Rathschmidt, a Capuchin Franciscan Friar. The retreat is open to all men of the Parish.

The cost of the retreat is \$175 for SMMC members and \$200 for non members which includes lodging and meals.

In the event someone can not afford the cost of the retreat the SMMC can assist.

This is an opportunity to put the stresses of everyday life aside and concentrate on ones spiritual life.

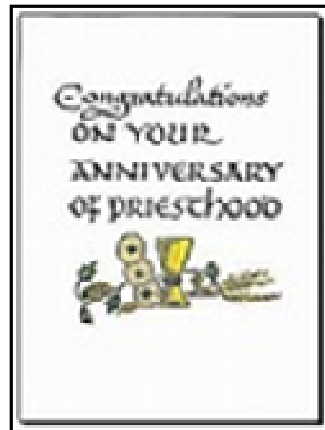
We have reserved 20 rooms at Marywood.

Please contact Charlie Sciarini of the SMMC at 904 491-4978 or [csciarini@gmail.com](mailto:csciarini@gmail.com) to make a reservation.

### TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday morning Bible Study will resume on Jan. 8th at 10 am in the green offices building next to the parking lot.

The Colledgeville commentary booklets on First and Second Corinthians can be purchased at the Book Loft on Center St. All interested are welcome to attend. Please call Pam at 321-0744 with any questions.



**Congratulations**  
**Fr. Jose**  
**on the anniversary of**  
**your ordination to the**  
**priesthood on**  
**December 23rd.**

**May God continue to**  
**bless you.**

*Financial update*

**Sunday, December 16, 2018**

**Registered Families 1565**

Offertory \$  
 On Line Giving \$  
 Children's Collection \$  
 Debt Reduction \$  
 On Line Debt Reduction \$

Amounts not available at the time of early  
 bulletin submission.

**2017 Q4 DEBT AND REPAYMENT AMOUNT**  
**(As of June 30, 2017)**

Existing Debt/Notes Payable \$1,481,712.00  
 4th Quarter Repayment \$-164,057.00  
 (From "Debt Reduction" Donations)  
 =====  
 Remaining Debt \$1,317,655.00

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VISIT

[WWW.STMICHAELSCATHOLIC.COM](http://WWW.STMICHAELSCATHOLIC.COM)

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING AN  
 EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF THE  
 EUCHARIST?**

The next training is scheduled for Saturday,  
 January 5, 2019 at 9:30am in church. You must  
 be a member of St. Michael Parish, 16 years of  
 age and confirmed. If you are married, you  
 must be in a sacramental marriage.

Please call the parish office, 904-261-3472 for  
 any questions and to register for the training.

It is highly recommended that present minis-  
 ters attend the training also.

*Ministry Schedule*

Saturday, December 22, 2018	5:00 Mass Fenn Ushers Southwick, Walsh Extraordinary Ministers Fuller, Elwell's, Lucey, Pulsinelli, Walker, Walters Altar Servers Ella Schoening, Tia Schoening Brady Massey
Sunday, December 23, 2018	8:00 Mass Lector Maliwouski Ushers Sechler, Yepdes Extraordinary Ministers Dalton's, Pulsinelli, Oden, Riegler, Walters Altar Servers Balsamo, Pulsinelli
Sunday, December 23, 2018	10:00 Mass Lector Bustabad Ushers Holmes, Schweitzer Extraordinary Ministers Deacon Art, Coleman, Maddox, Svela, Tufaro, White Altar Servers Brooklyn Doratio, Kendall Doratio, Quinton Thomson-Davoli
Sunday, December 23, 2018	12:00 Mass Lector Mason Ushers Kebert, Miller's Extraordinary Ministers Avakian, Hippler, Mason, Pitts, Potochnik, Tasso, Trocino Altar Servers Michael Evatt, Logan Morse, Will Robinson
Saturday, December 29, 2018	5:00 Mass Lector Griffiths Ushers Tonti's Extraordinary Ministers Brooke, Cantin, Dexter, Gosnell's Altar Servers Charlotte Rebscher Mario Tedeschi, Emma Venerdi
Sunday, December 30, 2018	8:00 Mass Lector Layman Ushers Gowins, Lunt Extraordinary Ministers Dean, Eby, Valezquez', Altar Servers Oden, White
Sunday, December 30, 2018	10:00 Mass Lector Fulford Ushers Billings, Jetko Extraordinary Ministers Anderson, Balsamo's, Turner, J. Murphy, M. Schweitzer, Seabrooke Altar Servers Emma Godek, Jessica Tita, Phillip Tita
Sunday, December 30, 2018	12:00 Mass Lector J. Quinn Ushers Clarke, Oberholtzer Extraordinary Ministers Deacon Art, Amos, Caserta, Finnigan, Howard, Mason, Stoner Altar Servers Lilly Logsdon, Devon Coyle, Gianna Coyle

**FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS**

On Friday, Dec. 28th, at the 8:30 Mass, there will be  
 candles available to light before Mass in remem-  
 brance of a lost a child to abortion, miscarriage or  
 death. Also, pregnant mothers can receive a special  
 blessing after Mass.

OUR PARISH IN ACTION  
ST. MICHAEL ACADEMY'S 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF REOPENING THE ACADEMY  
DECEMBER 7, 2018  
PICTURES OF THE GALA



**DOMINICAN SISTERS  
WHO GAVE  
LEADERSHIP TO THE ACADEMY**



## Parish Directory

### Pastor

Fr. Jose Kallukalam

### Deacon

Deacon Art Treadwell

### Weekday Masses

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:30 am

Tuesday: 6:00 pm

### Weekend Masses

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 noon

### Confessions:

Saturday: 4:00 – 4:45 pm or by appointment

### Parish Pastoral Council

Mr. Jake Gosa, Chairman

### Parish Finance Council

Mr. Jan Smith, Chairman

### Parish Staff

Jeanne Dean, Secretary- [jdean@stmichaelscatholic.com](mailto:jdean@stmichaelscatholic.com)

Lori Kennedy, Director Religious Formation

Walt Edwards, Business Manager

Patty O'Neill, Bookkeeper

Denise Ziegler, Director of Music

### Parish Office Hours

Monday – 12noon – 4pm

Tuesday – Friday – 9am – 4pm

### Parish Phone

(904)261-3472

### Emergency Phone

(904)277-6566

### Parish Fax

(904)321-1901

### Parish Website Address

[www.stmichaelscatholic.com](http://www.stmichaelscatholic.com)

### Religious Formation

Adults – Sunday – 9am – 9:45am - Parish Hall

1st Grade – 7th Grade – 9:am – 9:45am

St. Michael Academy

### Children's Liturgy of the Word

3 year olds – 7 year olds – during 10am Mass

### St. Michael Academy

Dr. Chris Hampton, Principal

### Academy Phone

(904)321-2102

### Academy Website Address

[www.smacad.org](http://www.smacad.org)

## Parish Information

### Would You Like to Join St. Michael Parish?

To join St. Michael Catholic Church and to register your email address, to receive parish information and updates, please chose one of the following:

#### Register Online –

[www.stmichaelscatholic.com](http://www.stmichaelscatholic.com)

#### By Phone -

(904)261-3472

#### In Person -

505 Broome Street., Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

### Ministry to Sick & Homebound

Please contact the Parish Office by email or by phone to arrange a visit from a Priest or Extraordinary Minister.

### Baptism

Please contact the Parish Office by phone to arrange for a Baptism and requirements.

### Matrimony

Couples seeking information on marriage preparation and available date should contact the Parish Office by email or by phone to meet with a priest at least eight months prior to the wedding date.

### R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Persons interested in learning more about the Catholic faith are encouraged to contact the Parish Office by email or by phone for more information on our RCIA process.

### Religious Formation

Persons interested in Adult, Youth or Young Adult formation programs should contact the Director of Religious Formation by phone or email at [lkennedy@stmichaelscatholic.com](mailto:lkennedy@stmichaelscatholic.com).