

# ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

201 North 4th Street, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034  
[www.stmichaelscatholic.com](http://www.stmichaelscatholic.com)

**MARCH 23, 2025**

## CLERGY

PASTOR

Rev. Eric Stelzer

Deacon

Rev. Mr. Brian Campbell

## PARISH OFFICE

Mon – Fri 9.00am – 4.00pm

Phone (904) 261-3472

Emergency (904) 277-6566

## MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil -5.00pm

Sunday -8.00am

Sunday -10.00am

Sunday -12.00pm

## DAILY MASS

Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri - 8.30am

Tues -6.00pm

## CONFESSION

Sat 3.30pm – 4.30pm  
or by appointment.

## ADORATION

Thur 9.00am – 9.30am

1st Thur 9.00am– 8.00pm

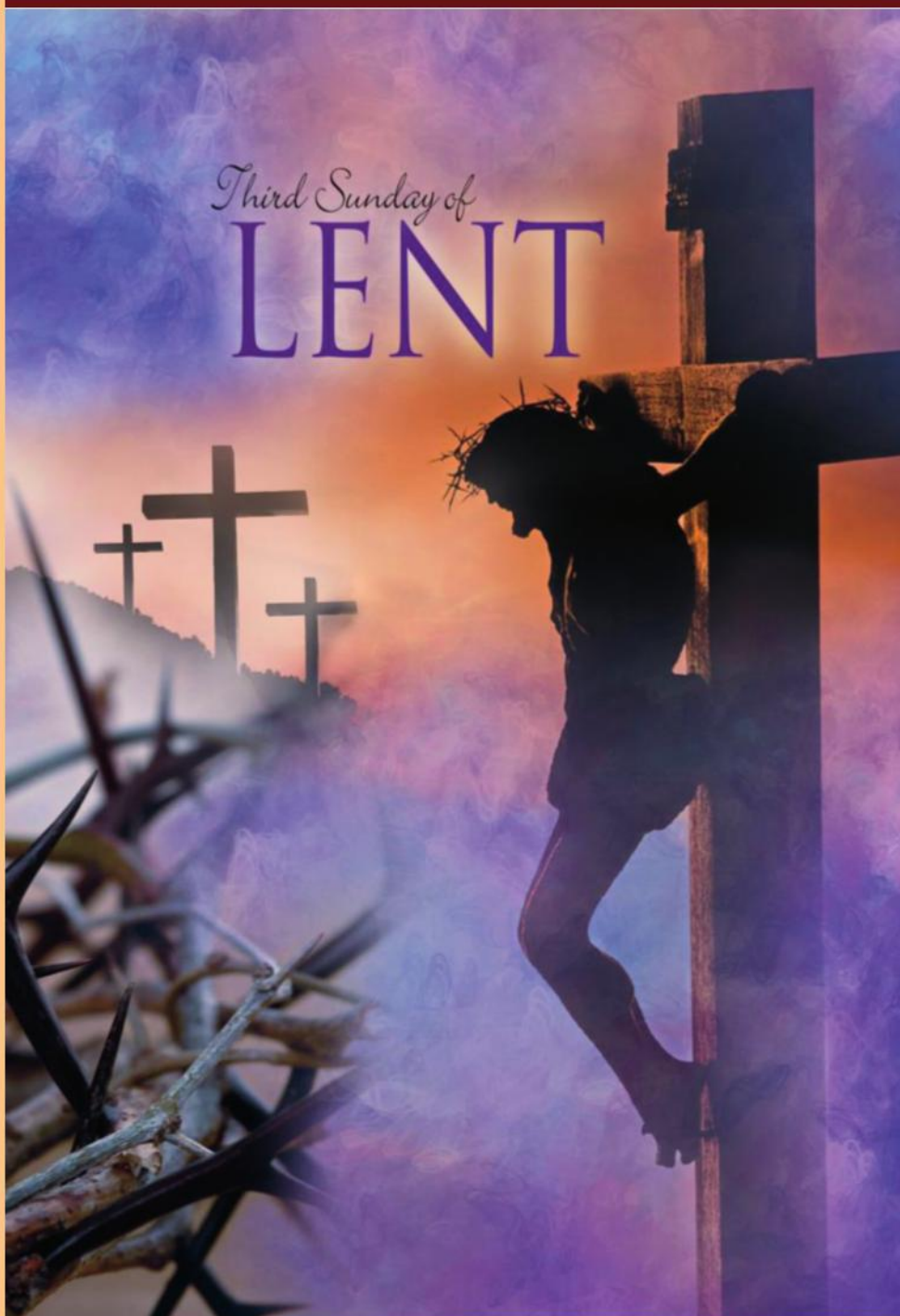
## SAINT MICHAEL ACADEMY

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

(904) 321-2102

Principal

Ms. Tricey Godfrey



## LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

### The Draw of the Youth to Tradition

One interesting trend that I have been taking note of recently has been the draw of the youth to tradition. I'm seeing it in college campuses as more and more young people are receiving Holy Communion on the tongue, wearing chapel veils, and attending Masses with Latin and chant. I've read articles showing the droves of young men who are entering traditional and ritual Churches such as the Orthodox Churches. I see it in Catholic poll studies which show 85% of men being ordained as priests today in the US describe themselves as "theologically conservative/orthodox" (not to be confused with politically conservative).

At some point or another, many of us have asked ourselves the question, "How do we keep the youth going to Church?" For several decades, a prevailing mentality has been to become the most "up to date" Church. "What the youth want..." we can say, "...are contemporary music styles, a softening of difficult Church teachings, and a departure from odd customs such as fasting before Mass and abstaining from meat on Fridays." The irony may be that in our well-intended efforts to be more accommodating for the youth, we may have been departing from what they actually long for: tradition, ritual, mystery, orthodoxy (right belief), and orthopraxy (right practice).

We are a Church that rejoices in the traditions handed onto us. I think of St Paul as he describes the tradition of the Eucharist in 1 Cor 11: 22-23: "For I received from the Lord what I also *handed on (tradetur... tradition)* to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'" In my own family, I relish the faith traditions my mom and dad handed on to me in the Jesse Tree, Dia de Los Reyes, and giving up difficult things during Lent such as video games (particularly hard for a teenager, I may say!). All of us have traditions that we return to year after year in our own families because of the memories, connection, and faith they offer.

Our traditions enrich us. They bring us into the lives of our ancestors in faith. They fill our hearts with goodness through our participation in our Catholic heritage. And at the same time, they propel us to the freshness and missionary spirit called for by the fathers of the Second Vatican Council. For by discovering our roots, we recognize that our Church from the very beginning has been- in the streets, on the margins, with the outcast and suffering, active and fully alive, and always looking for the lost and abandoned to bring back into the love of the Christian family.

Perhaps one way we can respond to this question of keeping the youth in the Church is not to run away from our traditions, but to lean into and embrace them: praying the family Rosary on car rides; introducing your children and grandchildren to classic Christian literature, music, and art; passing on traditions like the Jesse Tree or Lenten mouse.

I sense that as our world constantly changes to accept the next "new thing", and styles and technology alter every week, that this hunger for tradition is only going to increase. I am thankful to be part of a community whose traditions are so rich that they lead us all the way to Christ himself.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Fr Eric Stelzer

1. <https://nypost.com/2024/12/03/us-news/young-men-are-converting-to-orthodox-christianity-in-droves/>

2. <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/255935/major-survey-finds-conservative-and-orthodox-priests-on-the-rise-varying-levels-of-trust-in-bishops>

Our Parish Walk Invitation Continues...

## *Walk with One*

IDENTIFY...PRAY...CONNECT...INVITE



**Parish Mission on Monday, April 7th & Tuesday April 8th  
6:00pm Mass Each Evening, Mission Presentation Follows.**

*There will be no morning Mass on Monday and Tuesday.*

**Lenten Penance Service on Wednesday April 9th,  
*No evening Mass.***

### 2025 PARISH MISSION LEADER



**JON LEONETTI** is a nationally recognized Catholic speaker, best-selling author, and radio host known for inspiring audiences with a message of lasting fulfillment in Jesus Christ. Through his keynote presentations and parish missions, Jon reaches thousands of Catholics each year, guiding them to embrace the freedom and joy found in Christ's life and love.

Jon's message has been featured on leading Catholic platforms where he helps Catholics from all walks of life deepen their love for God and grow in faith.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**For the Week of March 23, 2025**

**Sunday**

**Third Sunday of Lent**

Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15; Ps 103: 1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9

Scrutiny Readings: Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Rm 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42 or Jn 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

**Monday**

2 Kings 5:1-15ab; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30

**Tuesday Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord**

Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

**Wednesday**

Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19

**Thursday**

Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Lk 11:14-23

**Friday**

Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17; Mk 12:28-34

**Saturday**

Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab; Lk 18:9-14

**Sunday**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

Jos 5:9a, 10-12; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Scrutiny Readings: 1 Sam 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41 or Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38





## Annunciation of the Lord

The feast of the Annunciation, now recognized as a solemnity, was first celebrated in the fourth or fifth century. Its central focus is the Incarnation: God has become one of us. From all eternity God had decided that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity should become human. Now, as Luke 1:26-38 tells us, the decision is being realized. The God-Man embraces all humanity, indeed all creation, to bring it to God in one great act of love. Because human beings have rejected God, Jesus will accept a life of suffering and an agonizing death: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13).

Mary has an important role to play in God's plan. From all eternity, God destined her to be the mother of Jesus and closely related to him in the creation and redemption of the world. We could say that God's decrees of creation and redemption are joined in the decree of Incarnation. Because Mary is God's instrument in the Incarnation, she has a role to play with Jesus in creation and redemption. It is a God-given role. It is God's grace from beginning to end. Mary becomes the eminent figure she is only by God's grace. She is the empty space where God could act. Everything she is she owes to the Trinity.

Mary is the virgin-mother who fulfills Isaiah 7:14 in a way that Isaiah could not have imagined. She is united with her son in carrying out the will of God (Psalm 40:8-9; Hebrews 10:7-9; Luke 1:38).

Together with Jesus, the privileged and graced Mary is the link between heaven and earth. She is the human being who best, after Jesus, exemplifies the possibilities of human existence. She received into her lowliness the infinite love of God. She shows how an ordinary human being can reflect God in the ordinary circumstances of life. She exemplifies what the Church and every member of the Church is meant to become. She is the ultimate product of the creative and redemptive power of God. She manifests what the Incarnation is meant to accomplish for all of us.

Join us for the Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent at 6pm



Fish dinners are available in the Parish Hall at 6:30pm every Friday. Cost is \$12.00. Eat in or Take Out is available. All are welcome.

## LOSS OF A SPOUSE

### Grieving the death of a Spouse? (fiance or life partner)

Your life has changed forever. The daily emotions and challenges can seem so hard to bear. Find help at a Loss of a Spouse seminar. You'll hear: practical advice from others who have been there, what to expect in your grief, how to cope with life without your spouse, and why it won't always hurt this much.

The seminar will be held at:

St. Peter Claver building  
303 Calhoun St, Fernandina Beach

Sunday April 6th from 2 pm to 4 pm

The program & workbooks are FREE  
donations to support this ministry are greatly appreciated

In order to reserve your spot at this event register at [GriefShare.org](http://GriefShare.org), select "Find a Group" & sign up with your email or email [tmm2697@gmail.com](mailto:tmm2697@gmail.com)



## INTERFAITH LENTEN NOONTIME SERVICES

*March 12th - April 9th*

MARCH 12TH | FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
*Rev. Tiffany Gulama*

MARCH 19TH | ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL  
*Rev. Dr. Mark Charles*

MARCH 26TH | ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC  
*Rev. Granardo Felix*

APRIL 2ND | MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST  
*Rev. Eric Stelzer*

APRIL 9TH | TRINITY UNITED METHODIST  
*Rev. Rachel McElwee*



**Pastors at the Interfaith  
Lenten Services**

### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE HOLY THURSDAY

April 17, 7:00 pm - Mass followed with an hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

### GOOD FRIDAY

April 18, 3:00 pm Reading of the Passion, Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion.  
7:00 pm Stations of the Cross.  
The Good Friday Collection helps Christians in the Holy Land.

### HOLY SATURDAY EASTER VIGIL

April 19, 8:30 pm Easter Vigil Mass

### EASTER SUNDAY

April 20 8:00 am Mass—10:00 am Mass  
—12:00 noon Mass.  
Easter day Masses are held out doors between the church and school. Please bring a chair.

FORMED

To gain access to all of FORMED's content, follow these simple steps:

Go to <https://signup.formed.org/>  
Enter our parish's zip code  
Enter your name and your email address

That's it! You're in. Now you can get the free FORMED app for your phone by searching FORMED Catholic in your app store.

*faith*  
**Formation**



ST.  
MICHAEL'S,  
FAITH  
FORMATION

### FAMILY CATECHESIS- 2ND GRADE SACRAMENTAL PREP CLASSES

ACCOMPANYING EACH OTHER ON A FAITH JOURNEY

2025 Sacrament Preparation Dates -  
Classes held at St. Michael's Academy  
Allowable Absences: 1 from each section

All classes are on Wednesdays from 6pm - 7:30pm in SMA  
Attendees: Faith Formation, Homeschoolers, SMA

#### First Holy Communion Class Dates:

Parents and Children (One excused absence with prior notification)

Wednesday, March 26th, 6:00pm - 7:30pm  
Wednesday, April 2nd  
Wednesday, April 9th  
Wednesday, April 16th  
Wednesday, April 30th  
Wednesday, May 7th

#### Note to Parents:

- Bring the textbook with you every week, Received, Your Journey to First Communion and Receiving Jesus, My Guide to the Mass
- Family reference Receiving Jesus, My Guide to the Mass (ON LOAN and will be returned at First Communion). This guide will help explain the parts of the Mass and will be a tool for the parents to help educate their children.
- Bring a water bottle for a drink. Pizza provided.

LISA SALA, DRE  
LSALA@STMICHAELSCATHOLIC.COM  
PARISH OFFICE 904-261-3472



### OFFERTORY March 16

Offertory	\$ 34,081.82
Offertory Online	\$ 9,793.58
Children's Collection	\$ 148.00
Debt Reduction	\$ 20,928.00
Debt Online	\$ 634.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 65,585.90</b>
<b>Diocesan Loan Balance</b>	<b>\$ 1,421,787.13</b>

### NEEDED AMOUNT

**\$ 29,670.00 per week**

**WELCOME  
TO WORSHIP**  
GOD OFFERS THE GIFT OF GRACE FOR ALL

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 do so in person, on our website, or by phone!

**ONLINE GIVING IS SO EASY  
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**SIGN UP TODAY!**

**VISIT**

**WWW.STMICHAELSCATHOLIC.COM**

**time to  
UPDATE**



Already a parishioner? Have you moved, changed phone numbers or email? Contact the parish office so we can stay up-to-date!



### **OCIA INVITATION TO THE CATHOLIC FAITH**

If you are interested in becoming Catholic or are a baptized Catholic seeking First Eucharist and Confirmation, You may register on our website or by calling the office at 261-3472.



### Catholic Resource Center

If you are looking for sacramentals like medals, Prayer cards, Holy water bottles and much more, visit St. Michael's Catholic Resource Center – located in the “Green House” behind the church. We are open Saturdays: 4-5 p.m., Sundays: 9-10 a.m. and 11 a.m.-noon, and weekdays by appointment by calling (904) 261-3472.

### BAPTISM

### Baptism Classes - Reborn

We have moved to a new program that delves deeper into how the Sacrament of Baptism features in God's plan for salvation. Both parents and godparents will attend two in-person sessions and one at home session. We meet on the second and fourth Thursday of the month in the Green House. If you wish to attend, please call the Parish Office to register, 904-261-3472.



Let us keep in our prayers all the intentions written in our Church's Prayer Request Book. May we remember the sick and those who have passed away, especially our parishioners. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace through the mercy of God.

### FROM THE DIOCESE HOW TO REPORT ABUSE

The Diocese of St. Augustine treats all allegations of sexual misconduct seriously and deals with all allegations in a prompt, confidential, and thorough manner. To Report Abuse, call the police or the Department of Children and Families at (800) 962-2873. Or call the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at (904) 208-6979 or email [inquiries@dosafll.com](mailto:inquiries@dosafll.com). To report abuse by a bishop (800) 276-1562 or visit [www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org)



**MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>Saturday</b> <b>Mar 22</b>	<b>5.00pm</b>	<b>+ James Devereaux</b> <b>Michael &amp; Darlene Donahue</b>
<b>Sunday</b> <b>Mar 23</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>St. Michael's Parishioners</b>
	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>+ Pearl &amp; Lowell Cooper</b> <b>By Carol Cooper</b>
	<b>12.00pm</b>	<b>+ David Coyle</b> <b>By Sally &amp; Dave Coyle</b>
<b>Monday</b> <b>Mar 24</b>	<b>8.30am</b>	<b>+Virginia Rees</b> <b>By Megan Elam</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>Mar 25</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>+Ed &amp; Inez Hallman</b> <b>By Zaberer family</b>
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>Mar 26</b>	<b>8.30am</b>	<b>+Margaret Krohn</b> <b>By Carol Cooper</b>
<b>Thursday</b> <b>Mar 27</b>	<b>8.30am</b>	<b>+Lorraine Iorio</b> <b>By Sherry Gold</b>
<b>Friday</b> <b>Mar 28</b>	<b>8.30am</b>	<b>+Frankie William Adams</b> <b>By Luke &amp; Natalie, John &amp; Susan, Ryan &amp; Toni Adams, Sarah &amp; Hans Allen</b>
<b>Saturday</b> <b>Mar 29</b>	<b>5.00pm</b>	<b>+Casimiras &amp; Apolonija Tirva</b> <b>By Tirva family</b>
<b>Sunday</b> <b>Mar 30</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>St. Michael's Parishioners</b>
	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>+Graziella Calcagno</b> <b>By Marcia Williver</b>
	<b>12.00pm</b>	<b>+Madeline &amp; Dominick</b> <b>By Donna Aginsky</b>

**REQUEST FOR THE HOLY EUCHARIST AND VISITATION**

You may know a parishioner who is a relative or friend who due to illness, accident, or recovering from a medical procedure, is unable to attend Mass. Whether short or long term, these faithful need not be deprived of their place of prayer and reception of Holy Communion.

St. Michael's Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers to the Homebound represent our Parish in visitation to Baptist Nassau Hospital, the local nursing/assisted living facilities, and private homes. Anointing of the sick or Visitation requests should be directed to the Parish Office at 261-3472.

**Eucharistic Adoration**

every Thursday 9:00 -9:30

First Thursday of the every Month

9.00 -8.00pm after the 8:30 Mass.

*In His Presence, find peace and Grace*



Did you know your parish can accept gifts from your donor-advised fund?

- Support your parish by naming them as beneficiary of your DAF.
- Open a Catholic Foundation DAF, where your gifts are invested with Catholic values, or transfer your existing DAF to a Catholic Foundation DAF.

Contact Kelly C. Wood to get started!  
kwood@dosaf.com, 904-208-6931

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**Saint Michael's Catholic Church**  
**Parish Office • (904) 261-3472**  
**www.stmichaelscatholic.com**

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**Abbie Johnson, Director Of Youth Ministry**

youth@stmichaelscatholic.com

**Denise Ziegler, Director of Music**

musicatmichaels@gmail.com

**Peggy Clark, Bookkeeper**



**COURSON & STAM, LLC**  
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JOIN US FOR  
**SUNDAY BRUNCH!**  
 9AM-3PM



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 (904) 491-1781  
 Parishioner Email:  
 kate@kathrynknee.com



**Benjamin Diller, DDS**  
 Family Dentist  
 p: (904) 261-0851  
 1200 South 14th Street  
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