

WEEKLY CALENDAR MV=Saint Mary GB=Saint MichaelSATURDAY, January 3

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike *
 4:00pm- Reconciliation @ GB Church
 5:00pm- Mass *Mary Rose Herman+* @ GB Church

SUNDAY, January 4

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike *
 8:00 am- Reconciliation @ MV Church
 9:00 am- Mass *For the People of our Parishes*
 @ MV Church
 10:00 am- Faith Formation Classes @ MV*
 11:00am- Mass *Margaret De Stazio, Charles and*
Elsie Nuhfer+ @ GB Church

MONDAY, January 5

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike *

TUESDAY, January 6

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike *
 5:00pm- Mass *Dee Herman+, John Bricker+*
 @ GB Church
 6:00 pm- Millions of Monicas @ GB Church

WEDNESDAY, January 7

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike *
 5:00 pm- Mass *Fr. James Risacher+*
 @ MV Church
 6:30pm- Faith Formation Classes @ GB
 7:00 pm- Young Adult Study
 @ MV Parish Office Building

THURSDAY, January 8

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike *
 9:00 am- Mass *Fr. Nicholas Cassia+* @
 GB Church

FRIDAY, January 9

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike *
 8:30 am - Mass *Jane Wonderly+*
 @ MV Church

SATURDAY, January 10

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike *
 4:00pm- Reconciliation @ GB Church
 5:00pm- Mass *Sue Kaemming+*
 @ GB Church

SUNDAY, January 11

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike *
 8:00 am- Reconciliation @ MV Church
 9:00 am- Mass *Ray, June, and Ken Baker+,*
Charlie Conrad+, Joe and Rita Hoffman
 @ MV Church
 11:00am- Mass *For the People of Our Parishes*
 @ GB Church*

MONDAY, January 12

7:00 am- Morning Prayer with Dcn Mike *

*= when on Facebook live
 Facebook: Saint Mary and Saint Michael Catholic Parishes
 Help keep in touch with us.
 Text MVGB to 84576 (to get on Flocknote)

Financial StewardshipSaint Mary Dec. 21-28, 2025

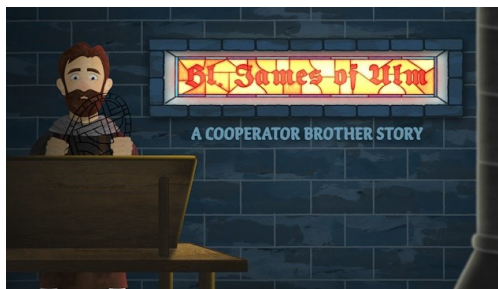
| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Sunday | \$8184.00 |
| Loose | \$712.00 |
| Christmas | \$11,105.00 |
| Loose Christmas | \$402.00 |
| Retired Rel. | \$175.00 |
| Imm. Conception | \$20.00 |

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| ACA goal | \$14,519.86 |
| Pledged so far | \$19,613.14 |

Saint Michael Dec. 20-28, 2025

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Sunday | \$6676.48 |
| Loose | \$461.00 |
| Christmas | \$8420.00 |
| Loose Christmas | \$736.00 |
| Cemetery | \$105.00 |
| Holy Day | \$45.00 |
| Retired Religious | \$80.00 |
| Food Pantry | \$220.00 |

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| ACA goal | \$12,575.53 |
| Pledged so far | \$14,467.54 |



FORMED
pick of the week:
Blessed James of Ulm

Blessed James of Ulm was a 15th-century Dominican cooperator brother renowned for his exquisite stained-glass work, which he learned from his father and perfected in religious life. Known for his humility,

obedience, and charity, James produced masterpieces of sacred art and performed numerous works of mercy, with several miracles attributed to him. He died in 1491 and was later beatified, remembered as both a holy friar and a master craftsman of stained glass.

Haven't subscribed to FORMED yet? There is no cost to you! Visit formed.org/ signup, sign in through a parish, put 43431 as your zip code, find St. Mary and St. Michael, and register with your name and an email address, then check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED today!



If you or someone you know is facing a pregnancy and needs some help, please contact Heartbeat Hope Medical Fremont, Tiffin or Fostoria at 419-334-9079. Heartbeat provides physical, emotional, and spiritual assistance in a warm and caring environment that is judgment free. Please reach out and help support Heartbeat's good work, and to pray for all Pregnancy Centers.

New Year's Blessing

O God of ancient blessing, your servant Mary pondered in her heart the treasured words spoken about her Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Bless us as we gather in his name, and prepare our hearts to receive his Spirit, that our tongues may confess him Lord, every day of this new year, and for ever and ever. Amen
-Blessings and Prayers for the Home and Family

Contact information for Saint Mary (MV) and Saint Michael (GB)

Pastor: Monsignor Tad Oxley (MV,GB) woxley@toledodiocese.org
Pastoral Associate: Deacon Mike Dazley (MV,GB) mdazley@stmaryandstmichael.org
Director of Faith Formation: Patti Wasserman (MV,GB)
pwasserman@stmaryandstmichael.org
Liturgical Coordinator: Kathy Otermat (MV, GB) kotermat@stmaryandstmichael.org
Parish Manager: Terri Reinhart (MV) treinhart@stmaryandstmichael.org
Parish Secretary: Cindy Hammer (GB) chammer@stmaryandstmichael.org
Bookkeeper: Nancy Patterson (GB) npatterson@stmaryandstmichael.org
Prayer Chain: Eileen Foes 419-638-4244
Senior Status Deacons: Deacon George Miller, Deacon Rene Gonzalez
MV Office Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. 10:30am-2:30pm 419-638-3042
GB Office Hours: Tues.10.00am-2:00pm, Wed.1:00-2:30pm, Fri. 10:00am- 2:00pm
 419-637-2255

Saint *Mary*  Saint *Michael*
MILLERSVILLE GIBSONBURG

Saint Mary Catholic Church
865 State Route 635, Helena, Ohio 43435
419-638-3042 treinhart@stmaryandstmichael.org

Saint Michael Catholic Church
317 East Madison Street, Gibsonburg, Ohio 43431
Mailing Address: 312 East Yeasting Street, Gibsonburg, Ohio 43431
419-637-2255 chammer@stmaryandstmichael.org

stMaryandStMichael.org
Facebook: Saint Mary and Saint Michael Catholic Parishes

January 4, 2025
The Epiphany of Lord

Connected as the Body of Christ,
we reverence the presence of God in each person
and nurture disciples at every age,
to live the Gospel with Christian charity and zeal.

Dear Friends,

Blessings to each of you in our new calendar year of 2026!!!
May it be one of rich graces, good health, and of course
growth in discipleship.

This past Wednesday and Thursday of this week as you
know we celebrated the Holy Day of Obligation of the
Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God. Mary is so close to
you and wants to be even closer. How may she come closer
to you in 2026- praying the Holy Rosary a little more and
with more love than in 2025!

Pope Saint John Paul II was a huge promoter of the Holy
Rosary, as his birth mother Emilia died when he was only a
little boy, of nine years of age in Poland, he needed to turn
to his spiritual mother for help and support. She is always
there to help us, we just need to call out her name. She
wants to help us in our struggle with sin, in our grief, in our
loneliness, in our sickness. She wants to be close to us and
come more into our hearts.

The Year 2003 was the Holy Year of the Rosary when Saint
JP II was Pope and he asked us to pray the Rosary with
more love, yes it is repetitious he said, but pray it with more
love. He also encouraged families to pray the rosary with
children.

How can each of us pray the Rosary with more love in 2026?
Maybe we can start by praying just a decade at the end
when other are praying in Church before Mass? The
primary intention of the Rosary is for peace, maybe trying
the rosary will bring us more peace? Maybe there will be
more peace in the world if we pray it? Maybe we will feel
less lonely and more loved!

May Mary and Jesus bless each of you!

Rev. Msgr Father Walter Tad R. Oxley
Pastor

Please participate in our Parish Survey

Whether you join us every Sunday or
haven't visited in awhile, we want to hear
from you! Your perspective is vital to our
parish life. We invite you to share your
insightful feedback to help us improve
our Worship and Parish Services.



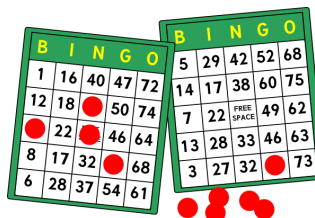
Ways to Participate: Scan the QR code, visit
stmaryandstmichael.org and click the link to the survey
at the top of the page, or pick up a paper copy in the
back of either churches. The survey will be open from
December 20th through January 4th, online. Paper
copies can be returned to the designated boxes in the
back of each church, by January 4th at the end of
Mass.

*Thank you for taking the time to give us your honest
evaluation so that we can continue to improve and find
new ways to serve you.* All survey submissions are
anonymous unless you freely choose to include your
name or contact information.



**"Grieving with Great
Hope"**, a 5-part video
series exploring the grief
journey from a Catholic
perspective, will be held
at Saint Mary's on
consecutive Sundays
starting at 5 pm from

January 25 - February 22 in the parish office building. Each
session will begin with supper (provided), a video, and then
some time to discuss the video. Transportation to/from each
session is available, if needed. To sign up or for further
information, please contact Kathy Otermat or Deacon Mike.



**Bakery Bingo and Pizza Party
is Sunday, January 18th,
6:00 pm at Saint Mary's hall.**

There is a fee per card to play
all night. Buy pizza by the slice
and pop to raise more funds.
50/50 tickets will also be

available. Baked goods are prizes, and everyone is invited
to bring their favorite treats to fill the prize table. Proceeds
go to the "Water for Life" Program. Invite your family and
friends and come for a night of fun!



Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Friday, January 9, 6:00pm at MV Church
Prayer for the Foundation for Priests

Mass Assistants If you would like to serve in any of these ministries, please contact Kathy Otermat at kotermat@stmaryandstmichael.org

Thank you to all that serve in these ministries!

Saint Michael– Saturday, Jan. 10, 5:00pm

Ambassador Jerry Wasserman
Servers Levi and Daxton Reno
Lector Deb Dazley
EMOHC Hank Reineck, Gerry Williams
Norma Vela

Saint Mary– Sunday, Jan. 11, 9:00 am

Rosary Kathy Otermat and Liz Leathhead
Servers Lucas Moffett, Charlie Shearn
Lector Jeanine Van der Laar
Communion Lucas Hammer, Harold and Eileen Foos,
Larry and Sue Kosakowski
Ambassadors Jeff and Erin Foos
Count Dave and Mary Gutschalk
Clean Anita Moffett

Saint Michael– Sunday, Jan. 11, 11:00 am

Ambassadors Dave Estep Family
Servers Andrew Spieldenner, Bronco Knight
Lector Erin Estep
EMOHC Natalie Liskai, Maria Porteous,
Dee Jones

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

Baptism - Please contact Dcn. Mike for information and to schedule. Parents and Godparents, are required to attend this class, which includes an orientation to the Sacrament. **The next class is January 18 at Saint Michael Parish Center, 12:30pm.**

Confirmation - The normative time for Confirmation in the Diocese of Toledo is eighth grade. Please contact Patti Wasserman for more information.

Reconciliation - A priest is available after Tuesday Mass at Saint Michael and after Friday Mass at Saint Mary. Saturdays at 4:00pm at Saint Michael, and Sundays at 8:00am at Saint Mary.

Anointing of the Sick - Please contact Fr. Tad if you or a family member are critically ill, preparing for surgery, or are of advanced age and in need of this Sacrament. In case of an emergency outside of office hours, please press '8' when prompted by the automated phone system. This sacrament can be received many times throughout one's life, and is not reserved for end of life only.

Matrimony - Please contact either parish office at least six months before you hope to marry, and know that a wedding date cannot be set until a couple's freedom to marry has been determined in consultation with Fr. Tad or Dcn. Mike. Annulments, when necessary, may require 18-36 months to resolve.

Holy Orders - Please contact Fr. Tad, or Dcn. Mike if you feel the Lord may be inviting you to a vocation to the priesthood, the diaconate, or religious life.

Holy Communion for the Homebound - Please contact either parish office if you are unable to come to Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion in your home or care facility.

Home Eucharistic Ministry Do you know of home bound parishioners who would appreciate a Eucharistic visit? Would you be interested in being part of our home Eucharistic Ministry? Please contact Terri Reinhart for Saint Mary's or Cindy Hammer for Saint Michael's.



Please remember in prayer:

Terri Parks, Phil Hammer, Diane Schuh, Rick Kaemming, Jean Obenauer, Elane Reiter, Phil Harris, Carol Miller, John Brindley, Melinda Sandwisch, Rene and Mary Lou Gonzalez, Mary Reineck, Patti Kreilick, Nate Liskai, Rene Gonzalez Jr., Rae Lyn Hoepf, Theresa Aldrich, Andy Rich, Eileen Foos, Diane Goebel, Rosie Neeb, Christi Holman, and all our loved ones in care facilities, or staying at home. If you have a prayer request for members of either of our parishes, please email the name to be listed (make sure you have the consent of the person first) to mmparishoffice@gmail.com. Each name will be listed for two months. If you would like your name or the name of your loved one listed longer, kindly message the Saint Mary Parish Office to leave on or take off.



2026 Pennies from Heaven tickets are available at both parishes if you would like to purchase tickets contact either office, and have a chance to win \$200 monthly, and 3 special drawings of \$500, for 2026.



Potluck Potlucks returning, January 11th after 11:00 a.m. Mass at Saint Michael parish hall. Come join us for fellowship and food. Please bring a dish to share. Blessings and Happy New Year from the potluck committee.

* All future potlucks have been moved to the 2nd Sunday of each month for 2026.

The Diocese of Toledo is in compliance with the articles of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (Charter) of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Every year, the Diocese dutifully submits the necessary documentation required by the USCCB for a diocese to be in compliance.

Every three years an on-site audit is conducted, when not only all necessary documentation is dutifully submitted, but in addition, Pastoral Center, parish and diocesan school employees are interviewed concerning practices and protocols related to creating and maintaining a safe environment for our children and youth.

The last 3-year audit was conducted in September 2024 and all audited Articles within the Charter were found to be compliant. The next on-site audit will be conducted in 2027.

The Diocese of Toledo remains committed to ensuring the protection of children and providing a safe environment for all young people. If you have any knowledge of abuse that has been committed by a cleric, or any personnel of the Catholic Church, you are urged to report the abuse to your local police department, Children Services, and the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at (419) 214-4880 or by mail at 1933 Spielbusch Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43604.



project rachel

Peace starts here

Are you or someone you know hurting from a past abortion? Contact Project Rachel for confidential help in starting your healing journey. God's mercy is abundant and waiting for you.

419-260-5811 – kpakka@toledodiocese.org – www.hopeafterabortion.com

Family Catechesis



Saint Mary Parish
Preschool – 8th Grade
Sunday, January 4th
From 10:15 -11:15am

Saint Michael Parish
Preschool–8th Grade
Wednesday, January 7th
From 6:30-7:45pm



How to Chalk Your Doors for Epiphany Sunday



SAVE THE DATE!!

FOR ALL CONFIRMATION PREP YOUTH

This is the first of two retreats that all 7th and 8th grade students need to attend. We will gather at 2:00pm at Saint Michael Parish Center on Saturday January 24th. The afternoon will be a time of prayer and reflection led by the “Hard As Nails” Missionaries from Columbus Ohio. We ask families to join us for Mass at 5:00pm followed by supper and a final talk by the missionaries. Our parishes will provide pulled pork and shredded chicken, tableware and drinks. We ask families to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Kitchen help is welcomed as well. Any questions or concerns please contact Patti Wasserman.



Saint Mary
MILLERSVILLE
Saint Michael
GIBSONBURG

FOR ALL
7th-8th
GRADE YOUTH

A CONFIRMATION RETREAT

JANUARY 24, 2026

RETREAT: 2:00-4:30PM

MASS: 5:00PM (PARENTS JOIN US)

FOLLOWED BY DINNER AND CLOSING



HARD AS NAILS MINISTRY

The Church has a custom of blessing homes on the Feast of the Epiphany and the week following. Family and friends gather to ask God’s blessing on their homes and those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, and our joys and sorrows.

A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk blessed during the Epiphany liturgy and write above the home’s entryway: 20 + C + M + B + 26. The letters C, M, and B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*: “May Christ bless this house.” The “+” signs represent the cross, and 2026 is the year.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR BLESSING YOUR HOME

Using the blessed chalk, mark the lintel of your front door or front porch step as follows: 20 + C + M + B + 26 while saying, *The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God’s Son who became human two thousand twenty-five years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.*

Then offer the following prayer:

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of Your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of Your love and grant that we may manifest Your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of You guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

At times, God has commanded His people to mark their doors. The Israelites marked their doors with the lamb’s blood on the night of the Passover. A similar command was given with the Shema Yisrael:

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart...and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates” (Deuteronomy 6: 4-6, 9).

“Chalking the door” is a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God’s blessing of our lives and home. With time the chalk will fade. As it does, we let the meaning of the symbols written sink into the depths of our heart and be manifest in our words and actions.

This article and instructions are courtesy of St. Patrick Church, Columbus.



The winning Pennies From Heaven ticket sellers from Saint Michael Faith Formation classes are 1st place: \$25 amazon gift card-Bryleigh Reyna and her name in the drawing, 2nd Place: \$15 Walmart gift card-Konner & Kolten Hoffman, and 3rd Place: \$10 Walmart gift card-Sydney Aldrich

Thank you to the three families that sold tickets. Pennies From Heaven is a fundraiser for Saint Michael Parish and goes into the general fund to help pay for things like heat, electricity, and snow removal etc.



Our 243 Fun, Full and Personalized Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes packed by parishioners are on their way to children in Honduras and Ecuador! Thank you to everyone whose heart and hands made this possible! Now it is time to start collecting items again. For January, look for the clearance aisles and you may find a variety of toys, clothes, Christmas books, stuffed animals etc. The best find last year were flip flops at the Dollar Tree for a penny a piece, that was 106 pairs for \$1.14!!