



St. Michael Catholic Church Mission of St. Dominic

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3rd Sunday of Advent

Gaudete Sunday: December 17th, 2023

Reflection by St. Michael's Parishioner,
Sherry Fila

When I was first invited to go to Adoration, I went out of a sense of obligation to worship my Lord and Savior and to thank Him for the gift of Salvation. But I was reminded that God needs nothing from me. Rather it is I who need everything from Him. One day at Adoration, I was struggling with what I should do for the love of Jesus. I wanted to make a sacrifice, but in my human weakness, I didn't want to make too big of a sacrifice. Therein was the struggle: sacrifice or selfishness. In the middle of my Holy Hour, a clear thought surfaced: "My daughter, give Me anything you want and I will bless it." It was such a tender and paternal inspiration. Every week, I bring my worries, distractions, and brokenness to Adoration. When I leave, I still have those worries, distractions, and brokenness, but more importantly, I feel beloved by Jesus having rested in His tender gaze.

Every visit is an opportunity to reestablish my relationship with Jesus...to know and love Him more. One of my favorite spiritual exercises as I pray before the Blessed Sacrament is to imagine Jesus on Christmas night. I meditate on the Holy Family, the angels, the shepherds, the light and sounds, picturing myself in the middle of it all. In my imaginings, Mary silently places her Son in my arms to hold, a dramatic reminder that He was born for me. For us all! The precious and perfect Christmas gift. Then, with great intention, I try to transition my thoughts to Calvary and His equally precious death. Once again, I meditate on His mother, Mary Magdalene, St. John, the fierce soldiers and angry crowd. Likewise, in my thoughts, Mary gestures that He is dying to save me. Save us all! The perfect sacrifice for our eternal salvation. As I look at the golden monstrance and see Jesus concealed in mystery, these images help me to adore Him.

St. Faustina said: "A Holy Hour before the Most Blessed Sacrament so pleases the Heart of Jesus, that every man, woman and child on earth receives a new effect from God's goodness." I keep this in mind while I pray for my family, our parish, our Church and the world. When I become overwhelmed with worries about the state of the world, this quote renews my hope and trust in Jesus' promises.

Lastly, I have the special opportunity to attend weekly Holy Hour with the children on Mondays from 11:00 to 12:00 and regular Holy Hour on Wednesdays. As you might imagine, there are some big differences. The youngest children often run up the main aisle to see Jesus surrounded by the golden magnificence of the monstrance. Although we try to remind the children to be quiet and reverent, I sincerely believe that Jesus is most pleased by their eagerness and chatter. After all, that is how God created them, with extra energy, spirit, and wonder. He wants to love them, just as He wants to love you. You don't have to run up the aisle, but come to Adoration and let yourself be loved.



4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Mass Schedule

IMPORTANT: We must all attend Mass **TWICE** next weekend; once for the 4th Sunday of Advent, and once for Christmas. There is not a "two for one" option!

Masses for the 4th Sunday of Advent

December 23rd: 5 PM

December 24th: **NO 8 AM Mass**

10 AM Mass - St. Dominic's

11:30 AM - St. Michael's

Masses for Christmas

December 24th: 5 PM – St. Michael's

7 PM – St. Dominic's

December 25th: 12 AM Midnight **Candlelight** Mass with instrumental carols starting at 11:40 PM – St. Michael's

10 AM – St. Michael's

Also, remember to make a good confession to clean out the stable of your heart to welcome Christ this Christmas!

Confession Times at St. Michael's

Wednesdays: 7-8 PM

Saturdays: 4-4:45 PM

Sundays: 7:30-7:45 AM

May God bless you and your families as you prepare for the Divine Infant this Christmas.

December 17th, After 11:30 Mass:

Blessing of the Playsets and Car-oling

Remember that this Gaudete Sunday, we have two exciting events occurring after 11:30 Mass:

- Blessing of the playsets, with hot chocolate and popcorn for all!
- Carpool caroling to the homebound; lunch will be provided in the hall. We will leave around 1:30 PM.

Daily Gospel Readings for this Week



Monday – Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday – Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday – Lk 1:26-38

Thursday – Lk 1:39-45

Friday – Lk 1:46-56



Shalom/Peace Advent: Word Studies

The Bible Project

"Peace" is a very common word in English, that means different things to different people. It's also a very important word in the Bible that refers not only to the absence of conflict but also to the presence of something else. In this video, we'll explore the core meaning of biblical peace and how it all leads to Jesus.

There are three other videos included in this Advent Bible Word study. These are studies on hope (yakhall), love (agape), and joy (chara).

The Bible Project is a nonprofit group dedicated to spreading the Word of God. Through dynamic and engaging videos, they aim to present the story of the Bible as a unified whole leading to and culminating in Jesus Christ.

ADVENT

Crockpots and Compline – Once More!

This Advent, the parish will be hosting **Tuesday evening suppers (Dec. 19 remaining)** at the hall from 6:30 – 7:30 PM prior to praying Compline (Night Prayer) together at the Church at 7:45 - 8 PM. An email will be sent out asking parishioners to RSVP by the Friday this week so we can give the volunteer chefs a headcount. You can also RSVP by calling the office and speaking to a staff member. The office number is (240)681-3551. We are also in need of four volunteer chefs this week to bring crockpot dishes to share.

Please note: If you didn't RSVP for this coming Tuesday, Dec. 19, you may still join us! We hope to see you there.



Note on Christmas Week Schedule Changes:

December 25: Christmas day Mass at 10 AM,
Office closed; no Adoration

December 26-29: Daily Mass as usual,
Office closed; no Adoration

January 1: Feast of Mary Mother of God, Mass at 9 AM
Office closed; no Adoration

January 2-5: No daily Mass
Office open; Adoration as usual

Mass Times

Saturday: 5:00 PM St. Michael
Sunday: 8:00 AM & 11:30 AM St. Michael
10:00 AM St. Dominic

Tues - Fri 8:00 AM, 1st Fri 7:30 PM,
First Sat 9:00 AM, all at St. Michael

Confession Times

Sunday: 7:30 AM
Wednesday: 7:00 PM
Saturday: 4:00 PM

Daily Adoration

Visit our [website](#) for the full schedule



Please PRAY for our SICK

(Please notify us if you or your family member should be removed)

Brenda Baden-Ritter, Joe Bauer, Joanne Butler, Gavin Birl, Arlene Bloom, Arlene Bonds, Grayson Bowling, Madison Brady, Flossie Brown, James Brown, John Brown, Jr., Lynn Brown, Thomas Canavan, Ann Canter, Larry Canter, Sr., Richard Canter, Sr., Charlene Cardwell, Tom Cardwell, Andrew Catterton, Joyce Chambers, Thomas Chambers, Christine Clontz, Mary Connick, Terri Cox, Stacey Danielson, Judy Dement, Diane DiSandro, Leo Dixon, Marysa Dixon, Shaun Donnelly, Kathy Fisher, Rosemary Flum, Foley Family, Gloria Foley, Bert Hall-Foxwell, Mike Frisby, Jerry Frisby, Don Gardiner, Gerald Gray, Glenn Hale, Mabel Hamilton, Barbara Harding, Randy Herriott, Larry Horton, Crystal Johnson, Kathy Johnson, Margaret Kramer, Wanda Langley, Betty Lindsay, Adam Lumpkins, Jackie Markam, Mike & Elaine Mohun, John Martone II, Teddy Miller, Neal Myers, Ralph & Regina Nasatka, Fannie Newman, Thomas Pancamo, Yvette Parker, Carolyn Parson, Lena Pettit, Joyce Pickeral, Donald Prather, Michael Proctor, Betty Proctor, Gary Reinhardt, Marsha Reinhardt, Shawn Reinhardt, Paul Richards, Ann Bowie Rice, Lorrie Riess, Bonnie Robertson, Dawn Russo, Mary Savoy, Garrett Sawall, Sylvia Scott, Thomas Scott, Jr., Blanche Simms, Dee Smith, Dave Spadaro, Suzanne Stuart, Robin, Patricia & Thomas Stuart, Fr. Larry Swink, George Thomas, Bernard Torreyson, Cecelia Turner, Doug Walker, Raymond Washington, Jackie Weaver, Joseph & Patricia Welch, Jim Williams, Ken Wilson, Terry Wilson, Cheryl Young, Dean R. Young, Lewis Young, and Theodore Young.

Jesus, Divine Mercy, heal and console us! Jesus, I trust in You!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	12/16/23	5:00 PM	Evelyn "Nancy" Hedrick +
Sunday	12/17/23	8:00 AM	Stuart Family
Sunday	12/17/23	10:00 AM	Parishioners
Sunday	12/17/23	11:30 AM	Finn Cusick +
Tuesday	12/19/23	8:00 AM	Anonymous Benefactor
Wed	12/20/23	8:00 AM	Margret Davis +
Thursday	12/21/23	8:00 AM	Foley Family
Friday	12/22/23	8:00 AM	Jimmy Goldsmith

YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS - Dec. 10, 2023

St. Michael	Offertory Collection	\$ 5467.00
St. Dominic	Offertory Collection	\$ 882.00

May God reward your generosity!