CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF
ST. MICHAEL & ST. MARY



Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time | November 8, 2026

www.stmichaelandstmarystillwater.org
Clergy Emergency Line 952-259-3795

Fr. Michael Creagan, Pastor
frcreagan@costm.org | 651-439-4400 (x228)

Fr. Sebastian Spencer, Parochial Vicar
frspencer@costm.org | 651-439-4400 (x229)

Fr. Timothy Cloutier, Retired Assistant

Deacon Bertrum Bliss
deaconbliss@costm.org

Deacon David Mead
deaconmead@costm.org

Church of St. Michael
611 South Third Street, Stillwater, MN 55082
info@costm.org | 651-439-4400

Parish Office Hours
Monday - Thursday | 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Friday | 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Holy Mass Times
Monday - Friday | 5:30 PM
Saturday (Vigil) | 4:30 PM
Sunday | 7:30 AM, 9:15 AM, & 11:00 AM

St. Mary's Church
423 South 5th Street, Stillwater, MN 55082
info@costm.org | 651-439-1270

Parish Office Hours
Monday - Thursday | 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Holy Mass Times
Monday - Saturday | 7:30 AM
Sunday | 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM, & 6:00 PM

St. Croix Catholic School
Sr. Augusta, O.P., Principal
sraugusta@stccs.com | 651-439-5581

Sacrament of Penance
Monday - Friday | 5:00 - 5:25 PM (St. Michael's)
Saturday | 8:00 - 8:30 AM (St. Mary's)
Saturday | 3:00 - 4:15 PM (St. Michael's)

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration
Sign up for a regular Holy Hour at St. Michael's at stmichaelstmary.weadorehim.com.
Ms. Samantha Bertrand | *Chapel Coordinator*
sjkbertrand@gmail.com | 612-615-4393

Valley Access Channel 14: Televised Mass
Sundays (9:15 AM Live), Thursdays (7:30 PM) & Fridays (1:30 AM, 7:30 AM, & 1:30 PM)

Safe Environment Coordinator
Jennifer Colburn | jcolburn@costm.org

OCIA (Becoming Catholic)
Jerry Buchman | jbuchman@costm.org

A Word from the Pastor



How Connection in the Parish Can Help to Combat Loneliness

In 2023, the U.S. Surgeon General issued a document on the epidemic of loneliness. More people are reporting struggles with loneliness and isolation. This may or may not come as a surprise as we are supposedly more "connected" on social media. The odd thing about "social media" is that it has allowed our culture to become actually more isolated. It is easier to scroll through social media posts than to actually take time to visit someone in person or call someone on the phone.

The late Pope Francis had a great comment when he once said, "How I would like for us to look less at screens and look each other in the eyes more! Something's wrong if we spend more time on our cell phones than with people."

This epidemic of loneliness and lack of social connectivity has also caused us to become "annoyed" with events such as unexpected visitors. I saw a funny cartoon that was split into two screens. One side depicting the 1960s, showing unexpected guests arriving and the people peering out the window joyfully saying "wonderful Uncle Louie and Aunt Mary are here!" This reminded me of the days when my grandma's sisters might make a surprise visit on a Sunday afternoon, the card games started and everyone had a grand time. The other side of the cartoon screen depicted 2026. As the unexpected guests arrived, the people peered out from the curtains and said, "Maybe if we turn the lights off no one will think we are home." We have become too busy as a society and sometimes avoid social connection.

It is odd that we have more technology that is supposed to offer time-saving conveniences, yet we have less time for other people. This technology has become so addictive that it's easier to spend time alone rather than be with other people.

Life in the parish offers some great remedies to this epidemic. Here are a few:

Adoration - Jesus is waiting to be with us. We are blessed to have had Perpetual Adoration for over 30 years. We are never alone when we place ourselves in His presence. I am also moved when I hear stories of how the regular adorers who share an hour together feel very connected to one another. Even without saying a single word during the holy hour, there is a beautiful connection being together with Jesus.

Volunteering - Parishes across the Archdiocese have reported a challenge in getting volunteers—especially long-term volunteers. Some are very busy and others less willing to commit to more than a "one-time" event. I attended a reflection hosted by our Evangelization Team last week and heard a witness from one of our parishioners who said she met some of her best friends while volunteering in the parish. She described it as a way of life. Working together is a great gift and also has wonderful benefits for social connections. One great story about volunteering is with our Befriender program. We have around 55 Befrienders who bring Communion and visit those in the hospital, care centers and homebound. Many of these from our older generations simply can't get around anymore—yet how beautiful we are able to match them up with a regular visitor. Beautiful friendships have developed with this.

Join an Organization - We have a number of groups that meet regularly in the parishes. I was really happy when our Council of Catholic Women recruited over 45 new members last year. This particular organization is multigenerational. During the Fall meeting I visited the tables of the 'Rosary bands' and met everyone from a group of new moms to a group of women who met in a Rosary band 40 years ago and are great friends. Call the office to learn more about the variety of offerings and groups.

Get to know your neighbor - We should know who is sitting near us. Do you know the names of those who sit in the pew near you? Taking time to visit with someone after Mass, sharing in coffee and donuts, or introducing ourselves to a new person are vital social connections. Think of what a treasure this is for someone who is new to the parish!

We are in a great battle now between embracing a Culture of Life and a Culture of Death. It should be no surprise that a culture that does not value the dignity of the human person should be spiraling into greater loneliness and isolation. What a gift we have with our Catholic Parish to remedy this problem and help to transform our culture.

Blessed Solanus Casey, Pray for us!
Fr. Michael Creagan



The Priest, the Rabbi and the Minister
Sounds like the start of a funny story , but it reflects some of the great friendships made in the military

VETERANS DAY
Special thanks to all of our Veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much for our freedom. With the theme of the bulletin article, I have also reflected on the friendships made in the military. I found great connections and friends for life among those who I have served with. I see this also in many of our venerable Veterans' organizations that help to keep our servicemen and women connected even in later years. The annual Veterans Mass at St. Michael is a great chance to renew and honor many of these connections among our Veterans.

EARLY DEADLINES FOR BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

If you would like to submit something to share in the bulletin, please submit by the following dates:

- November 22 Bulletin: Deadline for submissions is **Thursday, November 12 at 12:00 PM**
- November 29 Bulletin: Deadline for submissions is **Wednesday, November 18 at 12:00 PM**

If you have something you would like to appear in the bulletin, please email Autumn at communication@costm.org.

MERRY MARKET IS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14!

Churches of St. Michael and St. Mary Stillwater MN

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL

611 THIRD STREET SOUTH, STILLWATER, MN 55082

ATTIC TREASURES · CRAFTS/BOUTIQUE · BAKE SALE & BUTTER BRAIDS · CONCESSIONS FEATURING CHICKEN WILD RICE SOUP · CUPCAKE WALK & MORE!

SILENT AUCTION

- Bidding is open now until 10:00 PM on **Friday, November 13.**
- Items will be on display in Rose Hall after all St. Michael's Masses on **Sunday, November 8** so please plan to peruse some of the wonderful items that have been donated to the auction.
- To view and bid online, go to https://32auctions.com/merrymarket2026 or **scan the QR Code**
- Bid winners will be notified automatically via email and items can be picked up at the Merry Market on **Saturday, November 14** during event hours.

SCAN QR CODE FOR ONLINE SILENT AUCTION LIVE NOV 6-13

DONATIONS ARE STILL NEEDED!

- Handmade craft items can be dropped off at the parish office by **Thursday, November 12.**
- Gently used items for Attic Treasures (no furniture, clothing, or electronics, please) can be dropped off at the truck parked in the St. Michael's parking lot beginning on **Monday, November 9**.
- Bake sale items can be dropped off in Rose Hall starting at 10:00 AM on **Friday, November 13**
- **Scan the QR Code to find out how you can help and to see all the event details!**

SCAN QR CODE FOR EVENT DETAILS!

We can't wait to see you there!



A Tradition That Began with a Little Merry Mall!

Patty Hooley, current CCW President, recently had the pleasure of visiting with parishioners Jeannette Kline and Jeannine Hoffbeck, two longtime members of CCW who helped start Merry Market! Not pictured is Vivian Hurley, who also helped start Merry Market with other members of the CCW and St. Gerard Band. Over the years, Merry Market has blossomed into a much-loved community event featuring a silent auction, an entire school gym filled with Attic Treasures, delicious baked goods, homemade crafts, artisan-made gifts, games, and chili and soup served for lunch. Merry Market is also about giving back to our community. Nearly all of the proceeds are returned to our community through grants to local nonprofits, supporting the many organizations and people who make our community stronger. We are grateful to the women who had the vision to begin this tradition and to all those who continue to carry it forward year after year. Merry Market is more than a holiday tradition — it's a tradition of giving back!

Senior Games

Tuesday, November 10, 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM, St. Mary's Great Hall

Calling all Seniors 55+! Join us for fellowship and games (cards and board games) from 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month in St. Mary's Great Hall. Lunch provided on the 2nd Tuesdays. Snacks and refreshments provided on the 4th Tuesdays. For more information, contact Joan Mellor, Pastoral Minister, at jmellor@costm.org or 651-379-1266.
Bring your own favorite games!

Giving Tree of St. Michael's and St. Mary's

Each year, we have assisted many individuals of all ages from our parishes and community through St. Michael's and St. Mary's Giving Tree programs, including those living at or helped by Good Samaritan Home, Estates at Linden and Greely, Stillwater Residence, Hope House, the Catholic Worker Homes, Project Life, and our St. Vincent de Paul Society. If you are facing financial hardship or know an individual or family having a difficult time, please call Mrs. Joan Mellor at St. Michael's (651-439-4400). **Requests for help must be called in by November 16.** All referral information is confidential.



Our pastoral minister, Joan Mellor, with Knights of Columbus. The Knights of Columbus donated 3 large boxes of brand-new coats to Valley Outreach as a part of their Coats for Kids program. Thank you, Knights, and thank you to everyone who donated!



The Memorial Garden for Early Loss Babies fall clean-up was completed by Michelle Harding, Tracy, Joan M., Val, Mary Lou & Art on Oct 28. As an added touch, 200 tulip bulbs were planted and hopefully the Garden will look great for Mother's Day.

Consecration of Immaculate Conception Church in Bwambo Village

Ten parishioners from St. Michael's and St. Mary's went to Tanzania in October to celebrate the opening and consecration of our sister parish's new church in Bwambo. They visited the school and saw the new science and technology program, and the hospital which now provides care for about 250,000 people. They also visited the students whose scholarships are funded by our parishioners. Our parishes' donations and prayers are helping people in Tanzania through worship, education, and health care. The trip strengthened those friendships. Thank you for continuing to support the mission.







St. Michael Cemetery Blessing and Procession

Saturday, November 14 - 7:00 PM, St. Michael's Cemetery (Bayport)

On Saturday evening, November 14, we will be honoring all our parishioners from the Churches of St. Charles, St Mary's, and St. Michael's who have passed. The event will take place at St Michael's Cemetery (700 5th Ave N, Bayport, MN). The Blessing and Procession will start at 7:00 PM and begin at the altar. All are encouraged to bring flashlights for a nighttime procession through the Cemetery as we pray the Rosary for our loved ones who have passed.



Training for NEW Eucharistic Ministers

Tuesday, November 17 - 6:15 PM, St. Michael's Church

Interested in becoming a Eucharistic minister? Join us for training at St. Michael's on Tuesday, November 17, at 6:15 PM. To sign up or learn more, please call Erin at 651-439-4400, or email at elisle@costm.org

Parish Events

Silent Women's Retreat
November 27-28, 2026 - 4:00 PM Friday - 4:00 PM Saturday, Dunrovin Retreat Center
Is rest possible in our be-busy-and-prosper world? Find peace as you take time away to be with our God who loves and knows you. Learn about the seven types of rest needed for a balanced life. Yes, sacred rest is possible! Starts at 4:00 PM on Friday, ends at 4:00 PM on Saturday. $165 suggested donation.

An Advent Day of Prayer
December 3, 2026 - 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM, Dunrovin Retreat Center
Enter into the beauty of Mother Mary's fiat as she birthed our Savior. Lectio Divina, Ignatian meditation, and Eucharistic adoration will help us contemplate the words of Caryll Houselander, author of The Reed of God, "[Mary] had nothing to give [Jesus] but herself." 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM. Free-will offering.



Winter Faith Camp 2027: "As the Stars"
February 12-15, 2027
Join with youth from our parishes and others around the Archdiocese at Trinity Woods for Winter Faith Camp: a four-day retreat filled with faith and fun for high school students. This weekend provides an amazing opportunity to grow in our relationship with our Lord via Mass, Confession, Adoration, breakout sessions, and more! **Registration is now open!**

Scan QR Code to Register

Employment Opportunities
Please visit careers.archspm.org to learn more about joining our team!
Current openings include:

- PT Substitute Teachers at St. Croix Catholic School
- FT Custodian at Churches of St. Michael's & St. Mary's

St. Croix Catholic School

Serving the parishes of St. Michael, St. Mary, and St. Charles | *SCCS Office:* 651-439-5581 | www.stcroixcatholic.org



Lord, Renew Your Church Campaign Update



Lord, Renew Your Church Update:

Fr. Creagan and the campaign team are happy to share that we have surpassed our Lord, Renew Your Church goal at St. Michael and are incredibly close to surpassing the goal at St. Mary. We are deeply grateful to the families who have already stepped forward with such generosity. Their leadership has brought us to this exciting point. But this campaign is not the work of just a few families - it is the work of our entire parish community.

These goals were established by the Archdiocese based on parish offertory, and they do not fully address the scope of needs facing our parishes. After surpassing these goals, 80% of all additional funds raised will return directly to each parish, and that percentage continues to increase as we raise more. With these funds, we can address additional projects and ensure that our parish is well-prepared for future unforeseen needs. The needs we are addressing belong to all of us, and the future we are building is for all of us. To fully meet the needs of our parishes and the greater Church, we need every family to prayerfully consider how they can take part.

Holy Mass Intentions

Monday, November 9
7:30 AM: Daniel Carlton Avery
5:30 PM: †Ray Olsen

Tuesday, November 10
7:30 AM: Souls in Purgatory
5:30 PM: Pat Traver (B)

Wednesday, November 11
7:30 AM: †Bill O'Brien
5:30 PM: †James and Lois Camp

Thursday, November 12
7:30 AM: Cristi Thiesen
5:30 PM: †Marion Koch

Friday, November 13
7:30 AM: Cristi Thiesen
5:30 PM: †Roy Nichols

Saturday, November 14
7:30 AM: The Thiesen Family
4:30 PM: The People of St. Michael's

Sunday, November 15
7:30 AM: †Timothy Ives
8:00 AM: Relatives of the John & Pauline Junker Family (Living & Deceased)
9:15 AM: †Beverly Cunnien
10:30 AM: †Nicholas Anthony Henton
11:00 AM: †James Dalton
6:00 PM: The People of St. Mary's

† (Deceased)
(H) Healing
(A) Anniversary
(B) Birthday
(L&D) Living & Deceased

In Your Charity, Please Pray For:

New Parishioners

Bryan Batterton - St. Mary's Church
Amy & Ryan Napstad, & child Aurora - Church of St. Michael
Marissa Steele & George Hester - St. Mary's Church
Alexandra & Joseph Gannon, & children Gabriel & Joseph - Church of St. Michael
Mindy & Thomas Balzer, & children Sloan, Lighton & Cormac - Church of St. Michael
Max & Johnna Holmgren, & children Luella, Minoux, Juniper, Solveig, & Kindred - Church of St. Michael

(7/1/26 - 11/1/2026)	St. Mary's	St. Michael's
Budgeted Collections	$176,170	$590,622
Actual Collections	$171,626	$592,750
Amount Over / (short)	($4,544)	$2,128
Actual as % of Budgeted Collections	97%	100%

Operating Funds

Weekly collection, EFT payments and gifts used only for operating expenses for Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027. If you give electronically and would like to increase your donation, please call the office.

Donate to the Parishes