

| MASS INTENTIONS | |
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| Sat, Dec 6..... | For the people |
| Sun, Dec 7..... | +Berniece Louise Garner |
| Mon, Dec 8..... | The Immaculate Conception, Mass at 12 noon |
| Tue, Dec 9..... | +Ava King & +Ronald Lechner, Jr. |
| Wed, Dec 10..... | +Thomas Skrmetti |
| Thu, Dec 11..... | +Adam, +Annabelle, +Anthony, & Tony Kozlowski |
| Fri, Dec 12..... | +Ursula Skrmetti |

IN OUR PARISH

OCIA Dec 9 at 7pm: This week’s theme is “God *forms*: Introduction to Christian Morality.

CHRISTMAS PLAY : Dec 21 at Blessed Seelos—3pm and Dec 22 at St. Michael—6pm. You are invited to enjoy a beautiful retelling of the birth of our Lord.

ENVELOPES: 2026 Collection envelopes will be in the vestibule. Please find your name on the list and the coordinating box from your previous year and initial that you have picked them up. If you want to get a box for the first time, please print neatly on the blank line of t he list next to the box number you grab. Any that are not claimed will be up available for redistribution the first week of January.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER ENVELOPES: Please put your “Christmas Flower” envelopes in the collection with your loved ones names on them. We appreciate your contribution toward the flowers for our church at Christmas. Envelopes can be picked up in the back.

2026 YEARLY CALENDARS are available in the vestibule. Your support is always accepted.

EAST BILOXI YOUTH:
-Service Saturday—Dec 6 at the Greenbriar Nursing Center from 9:00-11:00am.
-Christmas Caroling—date and location TBA
-Youth Mass 5:30pm followed by Christmas Party Pot luck, 6:40-8:00pm.

SVDP: The pantry will be closed on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve and will reopen the following Wednesday, January 7.

| PREVIOUS WEEK’S COLLECTION BASKETS | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Nov 29 & 30..... | \$5988.00 |
| UPCOMING 2ND COLLECTIONS | |
| Dec 6 & 7..... | Altar Society |

| MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Mon Dec 8 | Gn 3:9-15, 20, Eph 1:3-6, 11-12, Lk 1:26-38 |
| Tues Dec 9 | Is 40:1-11, Mt 18:12-14 |
| Wed Dec 10 | Is 40:25-31, Mt 11:28-30 |
| Thu Dec 11 | Is 41:13-20, Mt 11:11-15 |
| Fri Dec 12 | Zec 2:14-17, Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47 |

MINISTRIES: God is calling YOU. Can you answer the call? We are in need of Ushers, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Altar Servers, Greeters! Prayerfully consider God’s calling to serve your St. Michael Family. Call 228.435.5578 or email stmichaelccbiloxi@gmail.com

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY The SVDP provides a food pantry each Wednesday from 10—11 am. We value your time and your donations! Your continued support helps to ensure SVdP is able to provide support for those in need. There is a basket in the vestibule for non parish-able donations.

CARD MINISTRY Sends out inspirational cards monthly to homebound parishioners and friends. Stamps are always needed. Drop off in the church office or contact Cynthia Powell.

STELLA MARIS EXPLORERS homeschool ministry serving catholic children grades PK3-12th with a Thursday morning program in the FLC. If you're interested in dropping in for a club meeting or to get more information, please visit our website (StellaMarisExplorers.com).

OCIA The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults is an invitation for adults to explore their interests, or to enhance their knowledge in the Roman Catholic Church. The O.C.I.A. lays out a process in which men and women are guided and cared for as they awaken in faith and are gradually introduced to the Catholic way of life. We will begin OCIA classes again in the Fall. Participants will meet weekly for nine months in the Family Life Center. Questions, contact Deacon Wescovich at 228-860-1575.



Christmas Flowers

Envelopes can be picked up from the back.

Please print your loved ones’ names clearly in the space provided. Return your envelope in the collection basket or to the church office. We appreciate your contribution toward the flowers for our church at Christmas.

Second Sunday of Advent, Year A

First Reading
Isaiah 11:1-10
A descendent of Jesse will usher in a time of peace.

Responsorial Psalm
Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17
The Messiah will bring justice and peace to the nations.

Second Reading
Romans 15:4-9
Both Jews and Gentiles glorify God for the salvation found in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading
Matthew 3:1-12
John the Baptist appears in Judea preaching a message of repentance.

Background on the Gospel Reading
In this week's Gospel Reading and next week's, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. In this week's Gospel, Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist. John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. In fact, the description of John found in this reading is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). In this reading, John directs a particularly pointed call to repentance to the Pharisees and Sadducees, parties within the Jewish community of the first century. John marks the conversion of those who seek him out with a baptism of repentance. Other groups in this period are thought to have practiced ritual washings for similar purposes, and John's baptism may have been related to the practices of the Essenes, a Jewish sect of the first century. John's baptism can be understood as an anticipation of Christian baptism. In this passage, John himself alludes to the difference between his baptism and the one yet to come: “I am baptizing you with water, for repentance . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” (Matthew 3:11). In this reading, John makes very clear that his relationship to the Messiah yet to come (Jesus) is one of service and subservience: “. . . the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals” (Matthew 3:11). In the context of Matthew's Gospel, today's passage is followed by Jesus' baptism by John, an event that is attested to in all four of the Gospels and appears to have been the start of Jesus' public ministry. John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by our repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord.

Sunday Connection | Loyola Press

SECOND Sunday OF ADVENT

'PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD.'

The second Sunday symbolizes the virtue of PEACE. The second purple candle that is lit on this day is known as the “Bethlehem Candle”. Reflecting on the journey of Mary and St. Joseph to Bethlehem during the weeks leading up to the first Christmas is a good way to remain in a spirit of humble reflection and penance.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Dec 8— The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mother—Mass at 12 noon**
- Dec 22—Christmas Play 6pm**
- Dec 24—Christmas Eve Masses at 4pm and 6pm**
- Dec 25—Christmas Day Mass at 10am**
- Jan 1— The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God—Mass at 9am**

THE FLOWER INTENTIONS ARE IN HONOR OF OUR BELOVED ST. MICHAEL PARISHIONERS