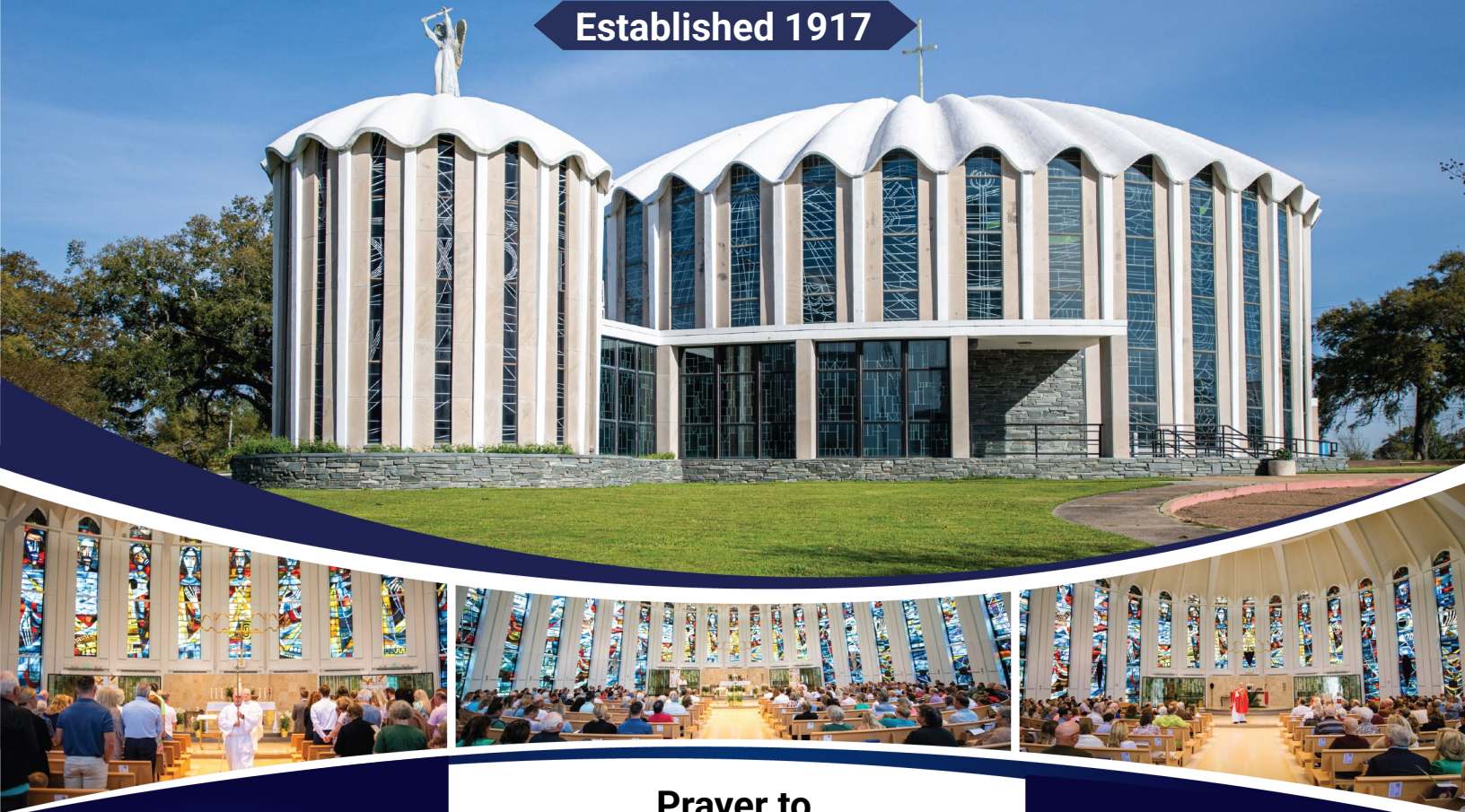


St. Michael Catholic Church

Weekend of September 28 & 29, 2024

Established 1917



Confessions

Saturday 4 - 4:30 pm
or by appointment

Office Hours

Tuesday—Thursday
8:30 - 2:30 pm
or as posted

Prayer to

St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Mass Schedule

Weekends
Saturday 5 pm
Sunday 10 am

Weekdays
Tuesday - Friday 8 am



venmo



Monsignor Dominick Fullam, Pastor

Robert Wescovich Jr., Deacon | Jessica Gollott, Administrative Assistant

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🔗 MyParish (select St. Michael)

📘 facebook.com/Stmichaelbiloxi

📷 Instagram.com/stmichaelbiloxims

More Than A Rumor of Angels by Rozann Lee

“Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls.”

This prayer, a staple of devotion for the Church faithful during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, was composed Pope Leo XIII in 1886. Tradition holds that Pope Leo XIII was granted an explicit vision of Satan and his minions, a vision that laid bare the depth of evil in its purest form. After this horrifying apparition, the Pope immediately retired to his quarters and composed a longer version of the prayer cited above, a spirited plea for the intercession of the archangel whose very name rebukes Satan’s grasp at divinity, “*Who is like God?*” St. Michael the Archangel.

Today is the Feast of St. Michael and two of his archangel companions, Gabriel and Raphael. The scriptural appearances of these purely spiritual beings are characterized by the earth-shattering *descent* from another mysterious realm that effects a responding *ascent* from ours. The exercise of their status as messengers from the Divine mark pivotal turning points in salvation history, especially on display in the interplay between Gabriel and Mary that led to her beautiful *fiat*. Mary’s saving “yes,” prompted by Gabriel’s annunciation, allowed the Divine Word to become flesh in the great event of the Incarnation. Divinity and humanity collided, and this mysterious messenger known as Gabriel was the bridge between these two worlds.

Our recognition of the archangels as spirits who periodically break into our reality, who form the “stratia” of God— a spiritual army whose heavenly power is exercised in an indescribable realm far beyond our own, implies the reality of their opponent.

The prayer inspired by an other-worldly vision and uttered first by Pope Leo XIII takes seriously the ironic power of vacuity—the life-sucking, empty, and gruesome dimension of the obstinate denial to participate in goodness. Satan, our tradition holds, is the embodiment of this ruinous choice. However, the infectious, luring power of Satan’s choice lies in its ability to masquerade as something good; his conversion technique is successful to the degree to which it remains hidden and offers a false “desirable.”

C.S. Lewis often alludes to the idea that if we ever truly *saw* evil—in its unabashed ugliness—we would be so completely reviled and repulsed that we would never choose it. Instead, however, the master of deceit convinces us, as he convinced Eve in that primeval garden, that his choice is the better, more desirable, even more beautiful one. He sneakily rides on God’s coattails, and our lukewarm desire to have our apple and eat it, too, allows the ugliness of evil to remain in costume... a harmless, anthropomorphic snake, a “red man with a pitchfork and goatlike horns,” a creeping, relativistic morality that allows the individual to reign supreme with his/her claim to the ultimate “knowledge of good and evil.”

Not so for Pope Leo XIII. Not so for St. Michael the Archangel and the heavenly host. They saw. They encountered. For them, the true face of evil was known and this awful face served as a catalyst for heroic mission. On this Feast of the Archangels, how are we—the unconsciously deceived—to join the battle? If seeing evil is key to fighting it, how are we to train our eyes and form our vision?

Here is an idea: recently, in a review of the *CATHOLICISM* series, a commenter made the casual assessment that Bishop Barron, in the way he identifies *both* elements of goodness and well-intentioned deviations from truth on display in the broken vessels of humanity, “just won’t give the devil a foothold.” He claims for God the goodness that properly belongs to his nature.

He takes from the devil's clutches all of his ammunition, transforms that which evil intends to use for its own purposes (for further deceit, for greater despair) and sanctifies it for God by identifying its goodness or deviation thereof. In the form of the great evangelization, he seeks to uncover and uphold the truth and align it with Truth, itself.

This offhand commentary pinpointed what it is that we *have*... and how we can fight. We cannot always see the stark wickedness of Satan, but we can, if we commit to constantly transforming and re-aligning our vision through prayer, be drawn into the vision of the enticing goodness of God. Then, encounter by encounter, person by person, opportunity by glorious opportunity, we can reclaim creation for God and creatively snatch this foothold from Satan.

And, we have a whole stratia behind us in the battle.

*Sts. Michael, Gabriel, & Raphael,
pray for us!*



Mass for the Intentions Week

Sat, September 28: +Lauren E. Hayes

Sun, September 29: For the People

Tue, October 1: +Richard & Mary Alice Desporte

Wed, October 2: +Wayne Kopszywa

Thu, October 3: +Beatrice Davis Tisdale

Fri, October 4: +Brenda Mareno

**HEAVENLY KING, LORD JESUS CHRIST,
You have given us Archangels to assist us
during our pilgrimage on earth.**

SAINT MICHAEL (which means "who is like God") is our Protector; I ask him to come to my aid, fight for all my loved ones, and protect us from danger.

SAINT GABRIEL (which means "Strength of God") is a Messenger of the Good News; I ask him to help me clearly hear Your voice and to teach me the truth.

SAINT RAPHAEL (which means "Divine Healer") is the Healing angel; I ask him to take my need for healing and that of everyone I know, lift it up to Your throne of grace and deliver back to us the gift of recovery.

**Help us, O LORD, to realize more fully the
reality of the archangels and their desire to
serve us. Holy angels, pray for us. Amen.**

In Our Parish

October 15: OCIA begins. If you or someone you know is interested in gaining a deeper understanding of our faith please refer to the registration form on the parish website.

In Our Diocese

September 22: East Biloxi Life Teen, 6:40pm-8pm, Nativity Sacred Heart Center

September 27: Healing Mass for Couples, Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church, Pass Christian, 6pm

September 29: East Biloxi Life Teen, 6:40pm-8pm, Nativity Sacred Heart Center

October 5/6: St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church Fall Bazaar, 10am-8pm/11am-6pm, 3521 19th Street, Gulfport.

October 7: East Biloxi Life Teen, Service Saturday, 8am Mass in Nativity Cathedral, breakfast, service until 12noon.

November 9: 3rd Annual Bishop's Gala, Beau Rivage Magnolia Ballroom, purchase tickets online;

catholiccharitiesofsouthms.org

Collections Sept 21 & 22, 2024
\$5866.30

Next Week's Second Collection is for
St. Michale's Building Fund

**In Loving Memory
of Lusk, Baker, McCaleb,
Ryan & Aken Families**



In Memory of Kathy Theriot

11/27/45-12/28/20

*We love you a bushel and a
peck and a hug around the
neck. You are forever in our
hearts.*

Love, Bubba and your family



In loving memory of

Nicolas & Loyce Hire

Oct 2, 1921-Mar 9, 2021

Feb 10, 1933-Oct 7, 2022

Together in Heaven



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Did you ever notice how often the angels are referred to during Mass? We commonly meet them in the Confiteor ("I ask blessed Mary, every virgin, all the angels and saints"), prefaces ("with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven"), the Roman Canon ("we pray that your angel may take this sacrifice"), and Eucharistic Prayer IV ("countless hosts of angels stand before you to do your will"). This week angels abound as we celebrate Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael and will honor the Guardian Angels on October 2.

September 29 was originally the feast day for Michael alone. Gabriel and Raphael joined him in the 1969 reform of the Church calendar. The celebration of the Guardian Angels has been observed since the sixteenth century in Spain. Pope Clement X assigned the feast to the first free day after St. Michael's in 1670, and there it has remained. Take some time this week to reflect on these, God's messengers and our protectors, and maybe even celebrate with a little angel food cake!

—Rev. James Field



**In Loving Memory of
Berniece Louise Garner**

Dec. 8 1932–Dec. 22, 2022

*Truly an example of Amazing
Grace.*

Always in our hearts

*Stanley "Rook" Kopszywa Sr, Lola Broussard Derouen,
Victoria "Tori" Felsher, Rogers "Poochie" Broussard,
Aldo & Anna Caprari, Evorise Boudreaux Broussard
& Cyrus A. Broussard*



Though the years may pass, your
laughter, kindness, and warmth re-
main with us, lighting our way. You
are missed and forever in our hearts.

+Tori Felsher

Nov 13, 1982–Sept 24, 2005



myParish



The App for Catholic Life Every Day™

**Have you downloaded this app yet? It's a one stop
shop for real time information about St. Michael
via your cell phone. Consider downloading today
and select our Parish after opening.**



St. Michael's Ministry

Please print clearly. Return to the collection basket or to the front office. There is no deadline to sign up for a ministry.

Name(s): _____ # _____ email: _____

Please encourage one another to serve our Lord in these small ways.

You might only be on the schedule 1-2 times a month depending on how many step up.

Thank you for fulfilling your vocation as lay members.

Put a mark in the boxes to select. Which Mass do you predominantly attend?

☐ Saturday 5pm

☐ Sunday 10am

LITURGY

☐ **Altar Server:**

Children and teens who serve on the Altar during Mass. Altar Servers assist the bishop, priest and deacon in carrying the crucifix, carrying items to the altar, and ringing the bells during the Consecration. (Grade 3 and above but must have received First Communion). Please list names/ages of members willing to serve, and if they have never served before so we can plan our training schedule.

☐ **Altar Society:**

Washes, dries and irons linens used during the Mass, works with cleaning teams to clean the church, cleans holy water fonts, etc.

☐ **Choir Member:**

Sings with the Choir during Sat/Sun Masses and during special Parish and Diocesan celebrations.

☐ **Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist:**

Assists the priest in distributing Holy Communion during Mass. (Must have received Confirmation) Please list the names of members willing to serve and if you have never served before so we can plan a training schedule.

☐ **Lector:**

Reads the Announcements before Mass, the Mass Readings, and the Prayers of the Faithful.

☐ **Usher/Greeter:**

Greets Mass attendees at the doors in the vestibule, assists in seating attendees when seats are limited, passes around the collection plates during Mass, and passes out bulletins after Mass at exits.

☐ **Vacation Bible School:**

Volunteers needed for a week-long summer program that serves the children of the local Biloxi parishes each year. Please list names/ages of those willing to serve so we can make sure everyone gets the necessary training to work with children.

☐ **Youth Ministry/Life Teen:**

Ministry for the youth of the East Biloxi Youth group. This consists of youth here at St. Michael's, Nativity, Blessed Seelos, Our Mother of Sorrow, and parish. St. Michael's will be hosting for our youth soon and would love your help.

PARISH LIFE

☐ **Bereavement Committee:**

Provides drinks and desserts, sets up, serves food, and cleans up at funeral receptions.

☐ **Church Grounds Maintenance:**

Volunteers willing to help keep up the lawn and surrounding areas of the church.

☐ **Fund Raising:**

Plan fund-raising projects to support the parish.

☐ **Men's Prayer Group:**

Men's group that meets Monday nights at 7pm.

☐ **Women's Prayer Group:**

Women's group that meets Monday nights at 7pm.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

☐ **Knights of Columbus:**

Meets the second Tuesday of each month. Serves our parish and community as needed.

☐ **St. Vincent de Paul Society:**

Meetings are the first Wednesday of every other month at 8:45am in church conference room. Volunteers are needed to serve at the pantry every Wednesday 10am – 11am in the church office foyer. This organization assists the needy with donations of food and financial assistance.