

ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Weekend of December 17 & 18, 2022

Established 1917



Photo: Chase Sekul



PRAYER TO SAINT 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.

LOVE

Monsignor Dominick Fullam, Pastor

Robert Wescovich Jr., Deacon

William Shaidnagle, Deacon

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App Store: MyParish (select St Michael)

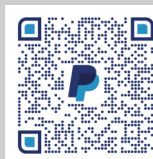
Facebook: facebook.com/Stmichaelbiloxi

Mass Schedule:

Weekdays
Tues-Fri 8am

Weekends
Saturday 5pm
Sunday 10am

Use your cell
phone camera to
link to St. Mi-
chael for online
donations



Confessions:

Saturday 4-4:30 pm or by Appointment

Office hours: Tues-Thurs
8:30am-3pm

4th Sunday of Advent Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:18-24

An angel appears to Joseph, directing him to take Mary as his wife and telling him that the child she will bear will be called Emmanuel.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about" (Matthew 1:18).

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. (The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke).

We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes.

The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "Yahweh saves." He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: "... The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us]."

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

See: <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/>

**Next Week's Second Collection is for
Christmas**

Ministry News

St. Michael Saint Vincent de Paul

SVDP is holding a food drive for the month of December to restock the food pantry. Your gift of non perishable food can be left in the vestibule collection boxes or brought to the St. Michael office. Thank you!

St. Michael Fund Raising Team

St. Michael Fundraising Team would like to thank everyone who purchased a Christmas ornament this year. We have completely sold out! Be on the lookout for next year's design beginning in November 2023!

Religious Education

Life Teen and Edge groups, consisting of youth in grades 6-12 from Blessed Seelos, Nativity, Our Mother of Sorrows, and St. Michael parishes, meet in the Sacred Heart Center. Upcoming youth events:

Christmas Program Practice Schedule

Monday, December 19th 6:00 Christmas Program Performance/5:30 Call/ Saint Michael & Tuesday, December 20th 6:00 Christmas Program Performance/5:30 Call/ Seelos

Angel Tree

All Angel tree gifts are due this weekend! Please do not wrap gifts. Please bring them to church in a garbage bag with the tag chosen attached. If you have any questions, please call Cherie Prentiss at 228-365-4017.



One silent night, out over the white-chalked hills of Bethlehem, came a gentle cry. The great ones of the earth did not hear it, for they could not understand how an Infant could be greater than a man. At the Christ Child's birth, only two groups of people heard the cry: the Shepherds, who know they know nothing, and the Wise Men, those who know they do not know everything. The very simple, the very learned ...Never the man who thinks that he knows everything. -Fulton J. Sheen

**Altar Flowers
are in Memory of
Velma Baker**

**Collections December 10 & 11, 2022
\$5482.00**

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sat, Dec 17 +Velma Baker

Sun, Dec 18 For the People

Thurs, Dec 22 Ron & Anne McClellan

Fri, Dec 23 +Katie Lynn Pizzetta

UPCOMING
Events

In Our Parish

December 18: Angel Tree Gifts Need to be returned

December 19: Christmas Program, The Nativity Story
6pm-Reception following at the FLC-All welcome

December 24: Christmas Eve Masses 4pm & 6pm

December 25: Christmas Day Mass 10am

Sundays: 4pm LifeTeen

Mondays: 7pm Men's Prayer Group

Tuesdays: 7pm RCIA

Wednesdays: 10-11am SVDP Food Pantry

Wednesdays: 5:30 CCD



Limited Edition St. Michael 2022 Christmas Ornaments are SOLD OUT! Start planning for next year's ornament design contest! Ornaments are made by local people like you!

In Our Diocese

January 26-The Role of Beauty in the Spiritual Life 7pm
Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church, Free and all welcome

January 27-28-Sacred Music Workshop \$40 Registration
required by January 13 Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic
Church Email workshop@classicalartsfoundation for more
information.

May 3-14, 2023- Holy Land Trip, Fr. Joe Dilettuso is
very excited to announce this tour to Israel. It will be a 12
day customized pilgrimage to the Holy Land, the cost is
approximately \$5699 per person (double occupancy.) Con-
tact Heidi Clark 228 388-4429 heiditravel66@gmail.com

Lay Leanings

By Deacon Mike Stewart

We finally fell to the temptation. Having visited this massive shopping mecca with our daughter, the gravity finally sucked us in, and we were like fallen trees in a forest of flesh pressing on flesh.

Many of us know the draw of the large membership-only shopping clubs; massive buildings that can only be likened to a Disney World for adults. Almost from the time you enter, the lure of wants

over needs hits you like a Mike Tyson punch. Judging from our expenses since we've joined, wants are winning by a landslide.

Waiting in line to check out, I marveled at the hordes of people with large carts bloated full to the brim; some even had a second cart to handle the overflow. It occurred to me how that image strangely mirrors many of our lives. As if life itself isn't full enough, many of us just continue to put more and more into our 'carts'. And just like many of us don't have pantries big enough to store all that we cram into our shopping carts, we often lack the capacity to put any more into our lives.

I talked recently to a clearly exhausted mom of young children. She has a very challenging career in a large organization; she volunteers at her children's school; and yet, she was frustrated because the dance, gymnastics, soccer, and swimming programs she enrolled her children in would not coordinate to allow time to make lunches for the following day.

It strikes me how many times in the Gospels, Jesus references numbers and amounts. The woman with the lost coin; the shepherd who leaves the 99 sheep to go and find the one who wandered away; the 10 lepers cured by Jesus, but only one returns in gratitude. In the ancient world, ten was an image of 'wholeness'. Anything less than whole is simply a fraction. And yet it seems that in our time, we've confused 'wholeness' with 'fullness'. Being whole is a witness to contentment; being satisfied with what God has given us, and living a life where needs and wants are never confused. Jesus came to call us to wholeness. Fullness, on the other hand, is allowing our wants to take control of our lives, as having more, being more can somehow bring us happiness, contentment, and fulfillment. Judging from the reality of many of our lives, fullness is simply the undersized pantry of our lives.


This is the stuff of Advent; where we are challenged to never put so much into our lives that we leave no room for God. Time to take inventory of our pantries; how are you doing? Let's pray about that.

Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. John 1:16


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

King of glory, cause our nation to arise and shine. Help us to see the light in dark places and to turn bad things that are causing us to fail as a nation into things that glorify your name. Let your glory Lord rise upon us that other nations may know that you are a true living God, and it's only you that we trust. In Jesus' name, we believe and pray, Amen.




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

In memory of
Velma Demet Baker 

12/17/43 - 10/23/21

Loved beyond words,
Happy Heavenly Birthday



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.





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Happy Birthday
Susan Pizzetta
From your fellow
Singing Nuns!
Love,
Cynthia & Diana




In loving memory of
Nicolas & Loyce Hire 

Oct 2, 1921-Mar 9, 2021
Feb 10, 1933-Oct 7, 2022
Together in Heaven



In remembrance of
Peter Kuluz Sr. 

Feb 6, 1935-Dec 29, 2014
Never far from our thoughts



In Loving Memory
Noah Demet
12/2/1905 - 12/13/1962




In Loving Memory
Bernice Broussard Sonje
12/1/1920 - 2/12/2006




TAGS FOR LIFE
The Diocese of Biloxi Pro Life Ministry is proud to announce our very own Pro Life Billboard license plate!
The sale of these plates will help support the Pro Life Ministry. You may purchase the plate by downloading an application on the Diocesan website at biloxidiocese.org or scanning the code below.