



The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus.”

MATTHEW 1:20–21



Close Enough!

MIGUEL DULICK

I t is the fourth Sunday of Advent. When Christmas is this close, one takes that final leap. Isaiah is centuries from Christmas, but he cannot wait! He sees the “sign” as clear as day: “the young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son” (Isaiah 7:14). And how about that Son! None other than “Emmanuel” himself—God-With-Us! Paul, too, is bursting at the seams! Inspired by what he calls “the obedience of faith” (Romans 5), he is excited to see the gospel thriving even among the Gentiles. For him, the “Spirit of holiness” is a gift offered to all—Christmas every day, you might say.

Speaking of “obedience of faith,” Joseph is the perfect example. The word “obey” comes from the same root as “to hear,” and Joseph has almost supernatural ears! Matthew, the former tax collector, tells “how the birth of Jesus Christ came about” in today’s gospel reading like a bookkeeper—the Holy Spirit in Column A, Joseph in Column B, with Mary in the middle. But when an angel whispers to Joseph at night, his dream comes true: “he took his wife into his home.” Everything is set for Emmanuel!

So, the Bible is brimming with Christmas, that is, “God-With-Us,” from end to end. And when a virgin can conceive, are any of us exempt from “birthing” Jesus in our midst? Even when a “happy holiday” seems impossible in the midst of war or violence or poverty, when our ears hear only silence, let’s sing Christmas carols every day! ●



SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
AUTHOR
MIGUEL
DULICK

Reflect

How am I at listening? Can I find new insights in old stories that I think I know so well?

ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

411 N. Missouri St., West Memphis, AR 72301

Mass Times

- **Saturday Vigil:** 5:00 p.m.
- **Sunday:** 10:30 a.m.

Pastor: Fr. Gilbert Tairo, CSSp

Church Office

410 Pine St., West Memphis, AR

Phone: 870-733-1212

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 899, West Memphis,
AR 72303

Email: westmemphiscatholic@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Secretary: Gladys Hampton

St. Michael's Catholic School

Email: smcswm@sbcglobal.net

Website: stmichaelwm.com

Facebook: facebook.com/wmsmcs/

Principal: Michael Beauregard, Ed.D.

Grades: PreK3 & PreK4, K, 1st, 2nd, 4th

405 N. Missouri St., West Memphis, AR 72301

Phone: 870-735-1730

SACRED HEART– Crawfordsville, AR

Mission Church

216 S. Main St., Crawfordsville, AR

- **Sunday Mass:** 8:30 a.m.

Parish Religious Education (PRE)

Director: Libby Burroughs

PRE Classes: **Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. (Grades K–12)**

Financial Council Members

Joanne Smith
Ken Thomas

Shelley Pugh
Ginger Wilkinson

Phillip Wray
Donna McAlister
Kevin Meyers

Parish Council Members

Mary Jane Flowers (President)
Ross Hensley (Vice President)
Margaret Henson (Secretary)
Andy Horton

Bill Buckley
Beth Aureli
Joanne Smith
Carol Burdison

Jo Zachary
Lisa Schafer
Tony Bell
Claude Hunt



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

ST MICHAEL

TUESDAY: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

SATURDAY: 4:00 - 5:00 PM

SACRED HEART

FRIDAY: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

*"COME ADORE THE LORD TRULY PRESENT IN THE
MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT"*

MASS SCHEDULE



DEC 24

WEDNESDAY 5:00PM

CHRISTMAS EVE

Children's Mass

St Michael

7:00PM

CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass

Sacred Heart

10:00PM

CHRISTMAS EVE

"Midnight Mass"

St Michael

DEC 25 ●

THURSDAY 10:30AM

CHRISTMAS DAY

Holy Day of Obligation

St Michael

DEC 31

WEDNESDAY 7:00PM &
10:00 PM

NEW YEAR'S EVE

7:00 pm- Sacred Heart

10:00 pm- St Michael

JAN 1 ●

THURSDAY 10:30AM

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Holy Day of Obligation

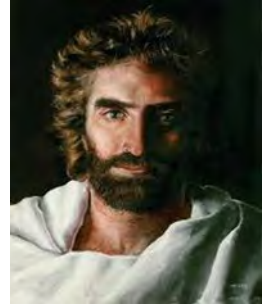
St Michael

Cursillo

An Encounter with Christ

A method to find, form, and sustain lay leadership for Christ and His Church. Cursillo (pronounced Cur-see-yo) is a movement of the Church that promotes Catholic ideals, fellowship, and spiritual growth in daily living. It provides an opportunity to deepen your Catholic faith and to experience the love of God within a supportive and prayerful community.

The Cursillo method offers those who have the potential to influence others a personal encounter with Christ and the tools to strengthen, support, and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ by evangelizing their daily environments.



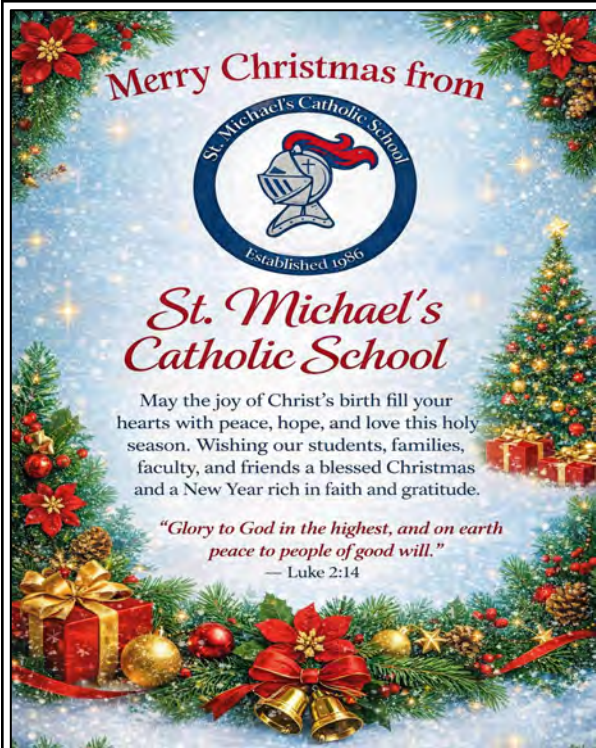
Cursillo Weekends

Men's Weekend: January 29 – February 1, 2026

Women's Weekend: February 26 – March 1, 2026

Call the church office for more information or to register







CLERGY WELFARE FUND

The collection at all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will be for the Clergy Welfare Fund. This fund provides retirement and health care benefits to retired and infirm priests around our diocese.

Our priests spend every day of their adult lives as humble and devoted servants, doing God's work and serving us until age or infirmity calls them to retirement. Your contributions to the Clergy Welfare Fund make our priests' retirement possible.

100% of donations for this special collection will remain within our diocese.

Please share with our priests the generosity that they continue to share with us.



FONDO DE BIENESTAR DEL CLERO

La colecta en todas las Misas de Nochebuena y del Día de Navidad será para el Fondo de Bienestar del Clero. Este fondo provee beneficios de jubilación y atención médica para los sacerdotes retirados y enfermos de nuestra diócesis.

Nuestros sacerdotes pasan todos los días de su vida adulta como siervos humildes y dedicados, haciendo la obra de Dios y sirviendonos hasta que la edad o la enfermedad los llama a la jubilación. Sus contribuciones al Fondo de Bienestar del Clero hacen posible la jubilación de nuestros sacerdotes.

El 100% de las donaciones de esta colecta especial permanecerá dentro de nuestra diócesis.

Cursillo

Un Encuentro con Cristo

Un método para encontrar, formar y sostener el liderazgo laico para Cristo y su Iglesia. El Cursillo (pronunciado Cur-si-yo) es un movimiento de la Iglesia que promueve los ideales católicos, la comunión y el crecimiento espiritual en la vida diaria. Brinda la oportunidad de profundizar la fe católica y experimentar el amor de Dios en una comunidad de apoyo y oración.



El método del Cursillo ofrece a quienes tienen el potencial de influir en otros un encuentro personal con Cristo y las herramientas para fortalecer, apoyar y difundir el Evangelio de Jesucristo evangelizando su entorno cotidiano.

Fines de semana del Cursillo

Fin de semana de hombres: 29 de Enero - 1 de Febrero de 2026

Fin de semana de mujeres: 26 de Febrero - 1 de Marzo de 2026

Llame a la oficina de la iglesia para obtener más información o para inscribirse.

SPAGHETTI SAUCE



FOR SALE
\$20 A QUART
PROCEEDS GO TO
**ST. MICHAEL'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**



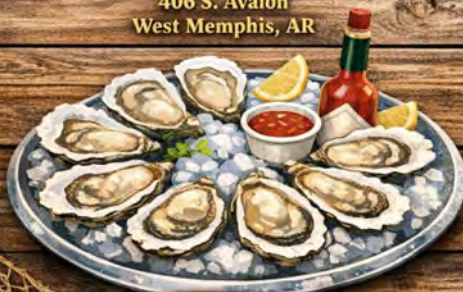
Knights of Columbus — 52nd Annual — **OYSTER SUPPER**

February 4, 2026

4:30 PM — 8:00 PM

VFW Post 5225

406 S. Avalon
West Memphis, AR



\$50 Per Ticket

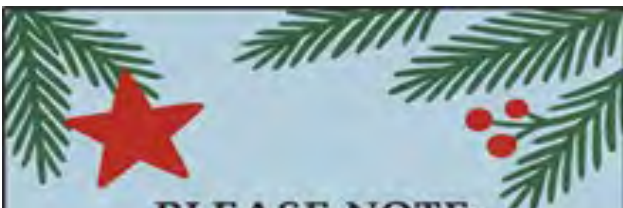
Tickets available at the church and school offices.
For more information, contact Tony Bell.

Merry Christmas

FROM

St. Michael's & Sacred Heart

Wishing You Joy, Peace & the Blessings of Christ's Light!



PLEASE NOTE:
**THE CHURCH
OFFICE WILL
BE CLOSED**

**DECEMBER 24-26
AND DECEMBER
31-JANUARY 2**

WE WISH EVERYONE A
BLESSED CHRISTMAS
AND NEW YEAR



Donations for
poinsettias and
Christmas trees
are appreciated.

You may donate in memory
or in honor of a loved one.

Envelopes are available
in the vestibule

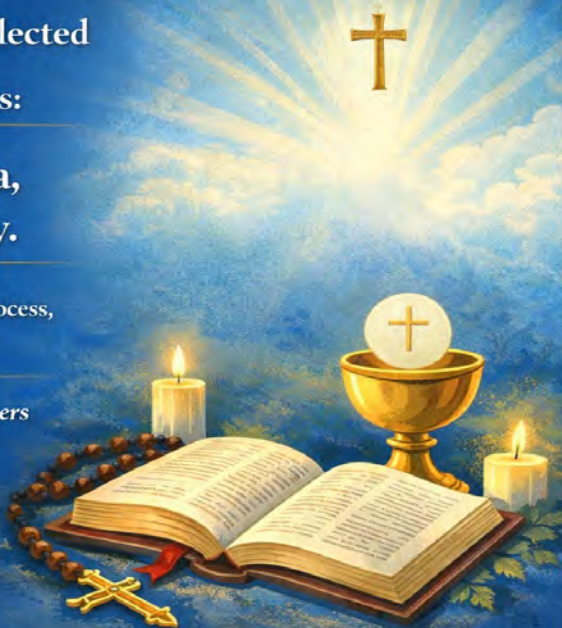


Congratulations to our newly elected
Parish Council members:

**Patsy Fletcher, Ricardo Ledezma,
Tim Marconi, and Lauren Wray.**

Thank you to all who participated in the nomination process,
especially those who agreed to serve.

We also extend our sincere gratitude to outgoing members
Bill Buckley, Carol Burdison, Ross Hensley,
and Andy Horton *for their faithful service to the parish.*



WE HAVE NEW GAMES!!



Bingo is played in the school cafeteria on Tuesdays at 7pm. Doors open at 6pm.

Scan for the latest Bingo Information

We now have two Jackpots for \$1,000 currently at 48 & 55 numbers called Raffle is up to \$ 1,550



The Catholic Diocese of Little Rock is committed to protecting children and young people. If you are aware of abuse or have been abused by Clerics, Church volunteers, or Church workers, please contact the State of Arkansas Hotline for Crimes against Children at 1-800-482-5964 and the Chancellor for Canonical Affairs, Dcn. Matthew A. Glover, (501) 664-0340 ext. 361. For pastoral assistance please contact the Victim Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of Little Rock: Laura Gottsponer at (501) 664-0340, ext. 425. Diocese of Little Rock, 2500 N. Tyler Street, Little Rock, AR 72207.



La Diócesis Católica de Little Rock está comprometida a proteger a los niños y jóvenes. Si usted está enterado de algún abuso o ha sido abusado por Clérigos, voluntarios, funcionarios de la Iglesia, por favor comuníquese a la Línea de Ayuda del Estado de Arkansas para Crímenes contra Niños al (800) 482-5964 y con el Canciller para Asuntos Canónicos, Diác. Matthew A. Glover (501) 664-0340, ext. 361. Para asistencia pastoral, por favor comuníquese con la Coordinadora de Asistencia para Víctimas de la Diócesis de Little Rock Laura Gottsponer (501) 664-0340, ext. 425. Diócesis de Little Rock, 2500 N. Tyler Street, Little Rock, AR 72207.



	December 27, 2025	December 28, 2025
Lector	Sandy Goldsby Williford	Becky Rushing
Linens	Mary Lou Hall	
Communion	Dorothy Foster	Beth Aureli
	Clara Bolden	Patsy Fletcher
	Suzy McAuley	Bert Jenkins



Parish Organizations

- ❖ Infant of Prague Guild: meetings are held quarterly in the school cafeteria. Watch here for announcements.
- ❖ Knights of Columbus business meeting 1st Sundays at 7:00 P.M.
- ❖ Finance Council meeting Thursday, Jan. 15th at 5:00 pm.
- ❖ Parish Council meeting Thursday, Jan. 15th at 6:15 pm.
- ❖ 1st Sunday Sacred Heart Brunch January 4th, after Mass
- ❖ 2nd Sunday St. Michael Brunch January 11th, after Mass - Guild



LITURGY SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Saturday	December	20	4:00 pm 5:00 pm	Adoration Virginia & Bill Forman†
Sunday	December	21	8:30 am 10:30 am	Hilda Phillips Dolores Goche†
Monday	December	22	NO MASS	
Tuesday	December	23	6:00 pm	James McGinnis†
Wednesday	December	24	5:00 pm 10:00 pm	William & Genevieve Hundhausen† William Hundhausen†
Thursday	December	25	10:30 am	Jean Hillencamp†
Friday	December	26	8:00 am	St Michael's Parishioners
Saturday	December	27	4:00 pm 5:00 pm	Adoration Bess Jenkins†
Sunday	December	28	8:30 am 10:30 am	Christy Marconi Frances McGinnis†



REMEMBER IN PRAYER



Carla Sanderson, Kathleen Alparo, Baby Arabella, Pat Hooper, Ward Roberts, Melanie Beyer, Fairley Vega, Olivia Vega, Richard Gunter, Steve Marasco, Illuminata Wilhelmi, Nancy Ellis Hays, Cathy Stockbridge, Theresa Black, Mary Ann Tyrone, Donald Turlich, Vickey Stanford, John Baioni, Carol Burdison, Mary Margaret Riley, Will Hutcherson, Mandi Tacker, Matthew Bain, Edna Alpuente, Joan McCarty, Jane Rice, Neil Sponer, Peggy Mengarelli, Tracey Tyrone Cox, Grace Pulliam, Alaina Goldsby, Nancy Jackson, Janet Long, Danny Foster, Jim Pugh, Jose Cantu, Balthasar Arellano, Joe Alvarez, Jay Guiltner, Scott Goldsmith, Ruben Saldivar, Joanna Kim, Mayson Hall, Walter Smith, Freddy Crabtree, Richard Batkey, Leroy England, Gloria Anderson, Cindy Dabbs, Juan Perez, Jr., Lillie Clark, Eric Densford, Joan White, Tina Imboden, Kay Loney, Johnny McMullin, Victims of War and Violence in our country and throughout the world, especially in the Ukraine. All persons serving in our Military, The Seminarians of the Diocese of Little Rock, and the Religious Men and Women of Arkansas.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION:

December 14, 2025 St. Michael \$4,022.00

Sacred Heart \$762.00

Dear Padre,

I went to confession, and then, months later, my priest was removed for alcoholism and theft. Is my confession still worthy?

Your confession is not dependent on the worthiness or the unworthiness of the priest. Your confession is made to Jesus; the priest is a witness who pronounces the words of absolution that Jesus intended in the sacrament. "From the moment that a sacrament is celebrated in accordance with the intention of the Church, the power of Christ and his Spirit acts in and through it, independently of the personal holiness of the minister" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1128).

The question of the efficacy of the sacrament and the unworthiness of the minister who performs the sacrament in the name of the Church is not new. During the time of persecution, in the early centuries of the Church, some people, including priests and bishops, avoided martyrdom by offering the required oblation to Caesar. Later, they repented and returned to the Christian community, a community that included the surviving family and friends of the men and women who were martyred. The question was asked, and with some animated energy, "How could these ministers who sinned to save their own lives now represent the Church?" The answer, arrived at with patience and discernment, is that the minister is only the representative of the sacrament, not the source of the sacrament. Jesus is faithful, even when his ministers have been unfaithful. ●



IGNACIO

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



I think it is important for all of us to learn how to listen more, to enter into dialogue. First and foremost, with the Lord: always listen to the word of God. Then also listen

to others, to know how to build bridges, to know how to listen without judging, not closing the doors [and] thinking that we have all the truth and no one else can tell us anything.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 11, 2025

Monday

December 22
Advent Weekday
1 Sm 1:24–28
Lk 1:46–56

Tuesday

December 23
Advent Weekday
Mal 3:1–4, 23–24
Lk 1:57–66

Wednesday

December 24
Advent Weekday
2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16
Lk 1:67–79

Thursday

December 25
The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Is 52:7–10
Heb 1:1–6
Jn 1:1–18 or 1:1–5, 9–14

Friday

December 26
St. Stephen, the First Martyr
Acts 6:8–10;
7:54–59
Mt 10:17–22

Saturday

December 27
St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
1 Jn 1:1–4
Jn 20:1a, 2–8

Sunday

December 28
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14
Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17
Mt 2:13–15, 19–23

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about ***Dear Padre***.