

"Proclaim Christ: Encounter Him in Word, Sacrament and Service."  
First Foundation August 15, 1559 ~ Canonically Established May 10, 1781 ~ Basilica Elevation December 28, 2011

Basilica  
of  
ST. MICHAEL  
*the Archangel*

PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

MASS SCHEDULE

Sundays 9:00 am & 11:00 am  
Mon.—Fri. 12:10 pm

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Mon.—Fri. 11:00 am—11:45 am

ADORATION / EUCHARISTIC EXPOSITION

Mon.—Fri. 11:00 am—12:00 pm

OFFICE HOURS

Mon.—Wed., Fri.  
9:00 am—2:00 pm

Very Rev. T. Joseph Fowler, J.C.L.

Rector/Pastor

rector@stmichael.ptdiocese.org

Dennis Wren

Administrative Assistant to the Rector

office@stmichael.ptdiocese.org

Deacon Steve Wulf

deacon@stmichael.ptdiocese.org

6

APRIL

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

**The Catholic Caboose**

21 North Palafox Street

850.438.4985

stmichaelbasilica.com





FROM FR. JOE

## 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT April 6, 2025

*My dear friends,* on this 5th Sunday of Lent a long observed custom begins of draping our crosses and statues in dark cloths until the Easter celebration begins. The covering of our statuary is a stark reminder that, without the Lord and all of the good graces that come from Him, our life would be bleak indeed! One of the presentations that I have offered in the past to people considering becoming Catholic focuses on what the world would be like without Christianity or the Church. Can you imagine?!

We can never escape the fact that every person on earth, comprising the membership of the Church, is a sinner. In that sense, we have to take the good with the bad. But how often do we consider the tremendous good that we receive simply by having the Church? It is Jesus who gives us the Church. The Church is not a man-made institution that we have to begrudgingly accommodate in order to make things work. She is a Divine Institution and as the Body of Christ, she has Christ as her head.

Take a moment and consider what life would be like without the Church: no saints to admire, no prayers being offered, no sacred places or sanctuaries, no choirs, or hymns, no Christmas or Easter celebrations, no community or solidarity; we would not have the comfort of a funeral nor the joy of a wedding... so much would be lost. Veiling our crosses and statues serves to remind us of how empty our life would be without Jesus and the Church He has given us. May these cloths lead us to deeper and more sincere gratitude to God for the gifts of grace we receive from Him.

### BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- 4/6: Karen Longhurst
- 4/7: Suzanne Carter
- 4/8: Philip Pfeiffer, Cate Priestley
- 4/9: Richard Clark, Maureen Menton,  
Maggie Helton, Frazier Dady
- 4/10: Noelle Dorvault
- 4/11: Van Tran
- 4/12: George McCracken

### Stewardship of Treasure for March 30, 2025

In-Church Offering:	\$6,112.00
Online Offering:	\$3,665.79
Total Offertory:	<b>\$9,777.79</b>

### Stewardship of CSA as of March 31, 2025

Pledged:	\$112,792
Given:	\$79,000
Families Participating:	<b>102</b>

"May the Lord reward your generosity with abundant blessings."

God bless you all.

*Fr. Joe Fowler*

Fr. Joe Fowler  
Rector & Pastor

### ON THE BULLETIN COVER...



#### The Bob and Kayty Pappas Story

The story goes, a Methodist marries a Catholic and they live happily ever after at the Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel. As with any story, it's not that simple.

Listen to their story of faith on the website!

[www.stmichaelbasilica.com](http://www.stmichaelbasilica.com)

### OPEN DATES FOR EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

April 27th, May 4th, 18th & 25th, June 1st

Contact **Louise Seitz**: 850-780-0410

The Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee is committed to healing the hurting hearts of sexual abuse victims and has established Victims Assistance Coordinators who are experienced and trained counselors and are available to help persons who have been sexually abused by a priest, deacon, or other church personnel in Northwest Florida. The Coordinator for the program in the Pensacola/Ft. Walton Beach area is Dr. Louis Makarowski; he may be reached at 850-477-7181.





# the Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH???

Please visit the Basilica's website at ([stmichaelbasilica.com](http://stmichaelbasilica.com)) There you will find "Becoming Catholic" under the "Membership" menu for additional information about Catholicism, or to sign-up for classes.



## A NEW WAY TO PRAY

A 4-Part Lecture  
"Pilgrims of Prayer"

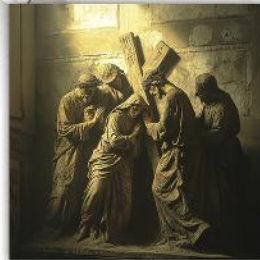
Presented by Fr. Joseph Fowler

**CONCLUDES**  
**APRIL 9 @ 6PM**  
**INSIDE THE BASILICA**

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday, April 11 @ 1:00pm

An emotional journey with Jesus  
as he made his way to Calvary.



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS "FISH FRY DINNER"

**\$15 PER PLATE**  
**APRIL 11: 5-6:30PM**  
(or until fish is gone)  
**PARISH HALL**



## SODALITY SOCK DRIVE



**1,200** pairs of white socks needed  
for the homeless in our area in support  
of the ALFRED-WASHBURN CENTER during Lent.  
**Drop-Off basket located in vestibule.**  
**\*White Athletic Socks**

Our teams include...

Bereavement . Honoring Life . Military Outreach  
Outreach to the Poor . Parishioners at Home . Prison Ministry

## THE BASILICA BULLETIN

Jimmy Andrews  
[media@stmichaelpdiocese.com](mailto:media@stmichaelpdiocese.com)

Liturgies & Mass Intentions for  
the **Week of April 6, 2025**

### SUNDAY

9AM

John David Louy †

11AM

For the People of the Basilica

### MONDAY

The Corrao Family

### TUESDAY

Margaret Boone Baldwin †

### WEDNESDAY

Mary Lee Rothwell Corr †

### THURSDAY

Charles Morgan †

### FRIDAY

Mike McCracken

This Week @ the Basilica

4/6: Sun: Coffee Hour 10am

4/9: Wed: Women's Study Group 9:00am

Pilgrims of Prayer Series: Part 4 of 4; 6pm

4/11: Fri: Stations of the Cross 1-2pm

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry 5-6:30pm



Please consider donating **Basilica Altar Flowers** in  
honor of, or in memory of, loved ones.

Contact Louise Seitz: [lseitz@panhandle.rr.com](mailto:lseitz@panhandle.rr.com)  
or call 850-780-0410 (no texts).

Flowers can be paid online using the QR code.



Online Giving

[stmichaelbasilica.com](http://stmichaelbasilica.com)







**BASILICA of ST. MICHAEL**  
**the ARCHANGEL**  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 8589  
PENSACOLA FLORIDA



*Presents*

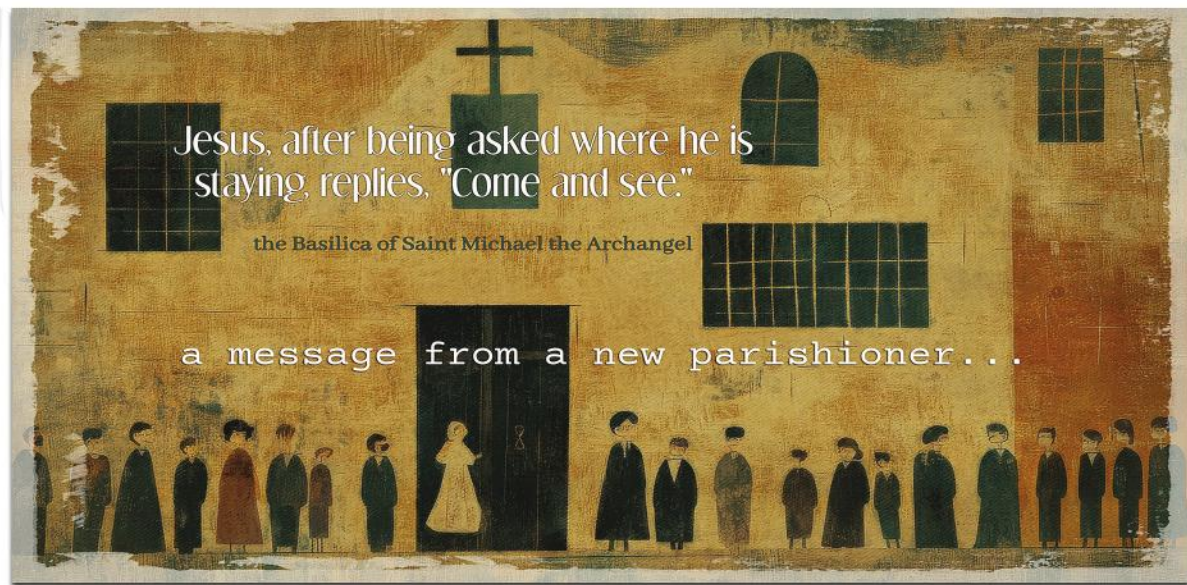
**ST MICHAEL'S KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
 **WORLD FAMOUS** 



**APRIL 11TH 2025 • 5:00 PM - 6:30PM**  
*Or Until the Fish is Gone!*

**SERVED AT: THE PARISH HALL**  
**1 WEST CHASE ST., PENSACOLA FL**  
*Take Out Available!*





I walked out 40 years ago. Turned my back. It's not like I haven't spent time in church or searched for a different way. I've done all that. I've gone to other churches, searched aimlessly, seeking a way that would solve my problems, ease my pain, and bring me peace. That word PEACE was so elusive, for so very long - for 40 years.

Through that time the tears came without warning, like a wellspring, long forgotten, and buried deep. So deep that I could almost forget the pain was still there. I hid. I hid from myself, from the pain, the failures in my life, and the longing. As we do, I went on living, but not truly alive. I married, had children, worked diligently toward the future. Divorced. Rebuilding... rebuilding... rebuilding. And then, falling again, failing, and climbing back up. Raising my children, fighting for their lives, their futures, their hopes, their dreams. Was I a good mother? Am I a good mother? I would ask myself this, over, and over, and over.

I named her Grace. I was 21 years old. I was alone. Her father left. My family was ashamed. My mother blamed me. I hid, again. At times I'd wished I could take both of our lives. So, I gave my daughter up for adoption and for a better life than I could provide. I thought our lives were worth nothing. How wrong I was 37 years later.

When the phone rang, it was like any other day. But it was the most important day of my life. My sister was on the other end of the phone. "23 and me," she said. "Grace is looking for you," she said. "She has some questions."

"Anything," I answered, "anything she wants to know, tell her."

Grace came back into my life right before Christmas of 2023. Three days later, I took this photo of what appears to me to be a cross next to the moon outside my window where I sat. It was the first sign.

Her adoptive mother had named her Christine, but my Grace came back into my life without judgement of me. She needed for herself and my two granddaughters, Grace and Nora, who are now six years old. She came back into my life as a brilliant shining beacon of light, hope, and joy, bringing back with her, all that I had given away years ago.



This past December (2024) was the first time I was able to spend the Christmas season with all three of my children, and it was the first time that Christine met her brother and sister, Leo and Ali. Once everyone went their own way, I went to Midnight Mass at the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel. I listened to Father Fowler explain that sometimes you don't have to say anything. Making the simple sign of the cross is enough for others to see God at work in your life.

I have since become a parishioner and renewed my faith in Christ. The 40 years of mistakes and drifting have melted away and have been replaced by God's infinite love for ALL OF US. We are one united family through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As if I needed more proof, today's 9AM homily was about the Prodigal Son returning home and not being able to see what is right in front of you. I can now see the brilliance of God's Grace in my life. He has affirmed my faith and rewarded me in ways that I cannot even express or explain. He has made all the wrongs right and forgiven me for every transgression. I am in the right place.

Ann  
a new parishioner



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*Friday's  
for Life*

A series of 4 lectures honoring  
life within the Christian faith

~ Lectures within Holy Hour and Mass ~

**11:00 AM (HOLY HOUR)**

**12:10 PM (MASS)**



Lecture Topic:  
**"Christ Alive in Us"**

**Dr. Dave Snyder**  
First Baptist Church of Pensacola

**April 4**



Lecture Topic:  
**"That They May Have Life"**

**Fr. Ray Herard**  
CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTER ~ UWF

**August 22**



Lecture Topic:  
**"Building a Culture of Life"**

**BISHOP BILL WACK**  
Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee

**June 13**



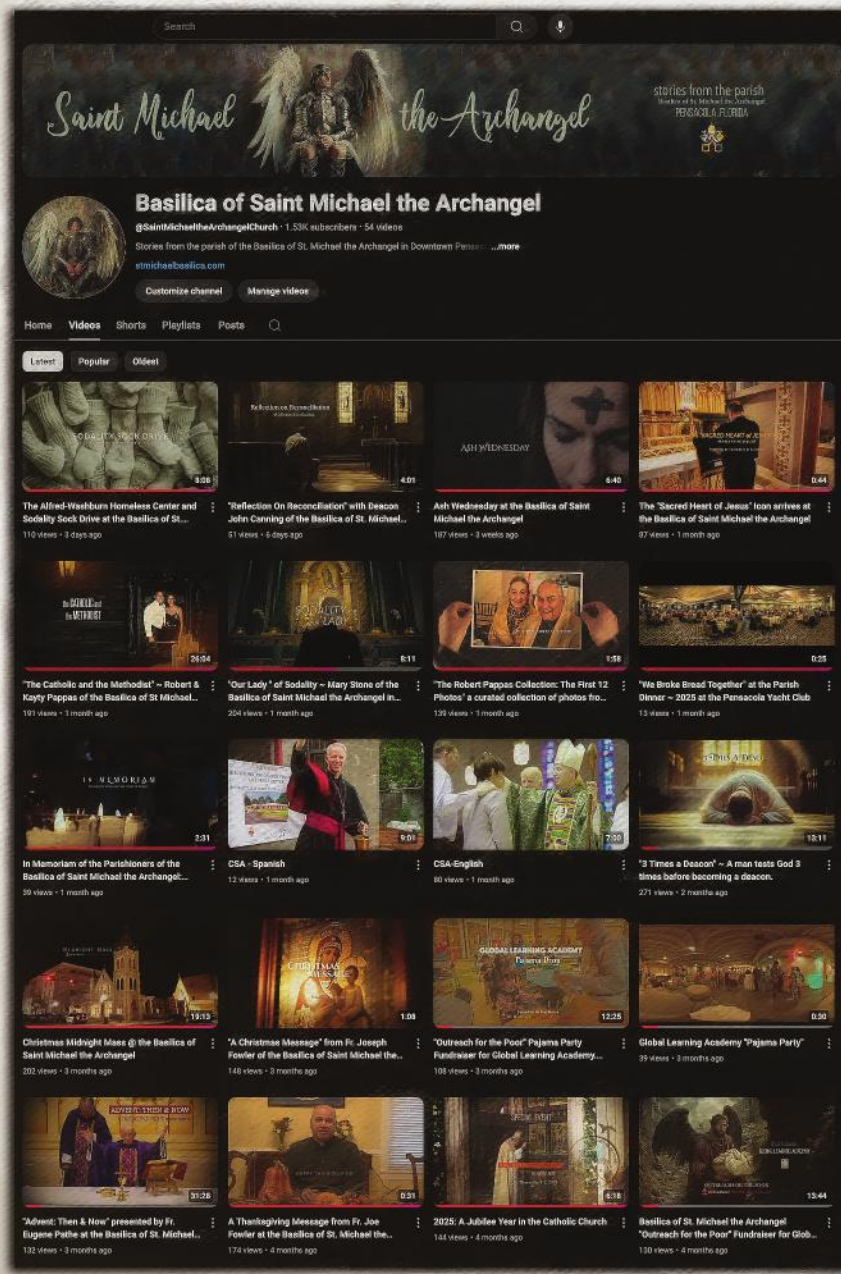
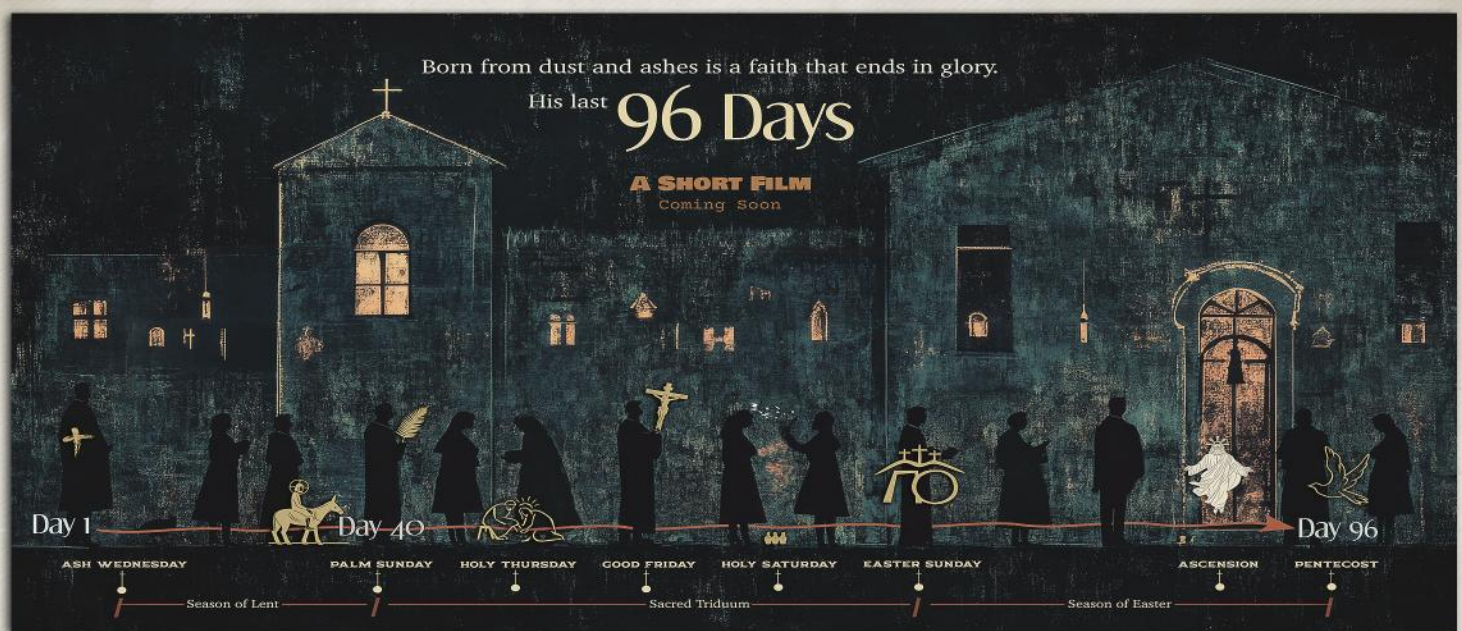
Lecture Topic:  
**"Sacred Life in Sacred Scripture"**

**Msgr. Stephen Bosso**  
FORMER RECTOR ~ ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SEMINARY

**December 5**







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(493 views)

“Pathe to Priesthood”  
(340 views)

“3 Times a Deacon”  
(271 views)

“All Souls Day”  
(232 views)

“The Silver Rose Prayer Service”  
(227 views)

“Christmas Midnight Mass”  
(202 views)

“Our Lady of Sodality~Mary Stone”  
(204 views)

“How Enoch and Mom Go to School”  
(190 views)

“The Catholic and the Methodist”  
(191 views)

“Ash Wednesday”  
(187)

“Sodality Sock Drive”  
(122 views)





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