December 15th, 2019,  
3rd Sunday of Advent 

Photo credit Janet Boyle
St. Michael Parish Mission Statement:
In the tradition of St. Michael the Archangel, Guardian of all, we are a Roman Catholic community called to bear witness to Christ through sacrament, stewardship, worship, and proclamation of the Gospel.

**ST. MICHAEL PARISH STAFF**

Rev. Carlos L. Melocoton Jr., Administrator  
cmelocton@dwc.org

Rev. Martin J. Smay, Associate Pastor  
msmay@dwc.org

Wendy F. Hinerman, Business Manager  
whinerman@stmikesparish.org

Kathleen Dieffenbaugher, Stewardship Director  
kathleen@stmikesparish.org

Cindy R. Barone, Secretary/Admin  
secretary@stmikesparish.org

Mark and Amy Phillips, Parish Catechesis Coordinators  
mark.anthony.phillips@gmail.com

Chad Carter, Liturgical Music Director, Organist  
ccarter@dwc.org

Jenny Imer, Youth Director  
jimer@stmikesparish.org

**PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION**

*Our Parish Office is across the street from the church*

Parish Office: 304.242.1560
Parish Fax: 304.243.5710
Clergy Residence: 304.243.5454
Website: www.stmikesparish.org
Email: stmikes@stmikesparish.org
Facebook: St. Michael Parish - Wheeling, "Almost Heaven" West Virginia

**ST. MICHAEL PARISH SCHOOL STAFF**

Kim Burge, Interim Principal mrsburge@smpswv.org
Shandi Nodurō, Advancement mrsnодurо@smpswv.org
Michelle Patterson, SMPS Bookkeeper mrs patterson@smpswv.org
Lisa Mullin, SMPS Secretary mrs mullin@smpswv.org
Michelle Koval, SMPS Receptionist mrs koval@smpswv.org

**PARISH SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD**

Tami Magruder - President

**PARISH SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION**

School Office: 304.242.3966  Fax: 304.214.6578
Website: www.smpswv.org
Facebook: The.Official.Site.of.SMPS

**PARISH COUNCILS & COMMITTEES**

Pastoral Council - Leslie Kosanovic, Chairperson
Stewardship Council - Janet Boyle, Chairperson
Buildings & Grounds - Denny Wilson, Chairperson
Finance Council - Tom Galinski, Chairperson
Personnel Council - John Moore, Chairperson

**The Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation** is held 3pm-4pm on Saturday, 8am on First Saturday, or by appointment.

**Eucharistic Adoration** is held Monday 8am-5pm, 6pm-10pm; Tuesday, Thursday, Wednesday 10am-5pm; in the Adoration Chapel. Adoration on First Fridays of the month from 8am Friday until 7am Saturday in the main church. Please contact Cindy Barone at the Parish Office if you are interested in Baptism, Anointing of the Sick, Christian Initiation of Adults, joining the parish, bulletin announcements, a pastoral visit for homebound or hospitalized parishioners, or Weddings (six months prior to the desired wedding date).

*Your Parish Office is open 8am until 4pm Monday-Thursday and 8am until noon each Friday.*

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Friday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Saturday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Sunday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent
Monday: Las Posadas begins
Saturday: St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins

**CANDLE OF PEACE**

*This candle burns in spirit with everyone whose trust was betrayed by the Church that we love. We pray for the grace to forgive and to act with justice. Grant that all who have been harmed may find peace.*

— Isaiah 35:10a
Our third annual St. Nick @ Nite was a wonderful celebration of YOU, our dear parishioners and an opportunity to say thank you for your stewardship! The Angelus Center was illuminated by candy cane pole lights along the memorial brick sidewalk and our inside decorations included a tree in the lobby with ornaments made by SMPS students and a huge candy cane archway when you entered the multipurpose room. And, who would have guessed that twinkle lights could be strung from basketball hoops!?

St. Nick brought candy canes for everyone at the dinner and asked us to help him distribute three additional gifts. We recognized Jeanie Yahnke for her thirty-six years of service at St. Michael Parish and School. There was a loud round of applause when Jeanie was introduced. We greatly appreciate her devotion and dedication and congratulate her on her recent retirement. Another round of applause was for Jen Imer who received a gift from St. Nick in appreciation for her commitment to our youth. The final presentation was a check for one thousand dollars, payable to Catholic Charities West Virginia, to jump start their annual Christmas collection.

In addition to thanking our wonderful stewards, please allow me to give an extra shout-out to a few people who helped to make everything joyous and magical.

St. Nick - for joyfully greeting our happy parishioners
Launa Post - your creative spirit made wonderful centerpieces for every table
Jim Wright and James Carl Photography – the photo booth was a big hit!
Charlie Schlegel and Ye Olde Alpha – delicious food!
Christian Mothers / Christian Women – we loved the dozens and dozens of cookies!
St. Michael Bell Choir and Pat Plunkett- you really set the tone for a special event!
Hannah Dieffenbaugher - thank you for sharing your angelic voice!
Janet Boyle – so grateful to have a staff photographer!
Father Carlos and Father Martin – thank you for hosting!
Kathleen Dieffenbaugher - Nailed it!

—Wendy F. Hinerman
Multi-week Ministry Schedule is available on St. Mikes’ webpage.

**Weekday Mass 7:30am Altar Servers:**
- December 16 - Lydia McConnaughy
- December 17 - Lydia McConnaughy
- December 19 - Lydia McConnaughy
- December 20 - Sam & Liam Shinn

**Office of Safe Environment:**
To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800.352.6513.

To report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact one of the Bishop’s designees at 888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Sister Ellen Dunn, ext. 264; Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; Fr. Dennis Schuelkens, ext. 270 or call the Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504.

**Children’s Liturgy of the Word**
is held each Sunday during 9am Mass. All 3 year olds through 1st graders are welcome to attend. The presider will call the children up to the front of the church after the opening prayer, before the First Reading.

**YOUTH GROUP PARTY!**
The 7th and 8th Grade Christmas Party will be on December 15th, 2019 from 6pm to 7:30pm at the Angelus Center.

The High School Christmas Party will be Saturday, January 4th, 2020 at 9pm for an all night lock-in until 7am.

**Parish School of Religion Holiday Schedule**
12/22  No PSR, Christmas Break
12/29  No PSR, Christmas Break
1/5    PSR Resumes
Jesus is the reason for the season.

Photos by Janet Boyle
Christmas Appeal Bulletin Announcement

3rd Sunday of Advent / December 14-15, 2019

Catholic Charities WV needs your help! Today, our Gospel reading reminds us that the proof about Jesus is in his miracles. At Catholic Charities WV, we see miracles happen with clients every day! We provide caring and compassionate services to people in need, and we work toward lasting and meaningful change. Donate at www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org, or during the second collection at any Christmas Mass. We’re waiting in joyful hope: 10 Days Until Christmas!

Who We Are

Also known as the 18th Street Center, Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center is a comprehensive community social service center in Wheeling, (Ohio County) established in 1969. Our mission is to witness to the love God has for all persons through action and services to people in need.

How We Help

- The Center is open Monday through Saturday from 7:30 to 5:00
- Breakfast 9:00 am and Dinner 4:30 pm.
- Laundry: Open 5 days per week. Detergents provided. Hours are from 9:30am – 2:00pm.
- Showers: Available by request. Toiletries provided.
- Telephone: Local Calls; long distance by request.
- Children’s Services: Diapers.

Other Available Services

- Case Management: Assistance on the path to self-sufficiency.
- Food Pantry: Every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30 to 1:00
- SNAP Enrollment: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program enrollment assistance.
- Utilities: Financial help to prevent services from being terminated. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays. Call to schedule an appointment.
- Cleaning Supplies: Every Wednesday from 1:00 to 2:30
- Eye Care: Provided by Lens Crafters, Anwar and the Lion’s Club.
- Delivered Meals for the Homebound: available six days a week. Home assessment required.
- Help Obtaining Official Documents: Drivers Licenses, State ID Cards, birth certificates, etc.
- Hospitality House: Transitional housing for families.

Call us at 304-232-7157.
Thank you for your Stewardship!!

Photo credit Janet Boyle
Important Dates For The 2019-2020 School Year

♦ December 19th: PK4 Christmas Program @ 9:00 am & 1:00 pm
♦ December 20th: Noon Dismissal
♦ Dec. 21st - Jan. 5th: Christmas Break
♦ April 4th - April 14th: Easter Break
♦ May 29, 2020: Last Day of School/Picnic

Did You Know?
Did you know that our starting teacher salary at St. Michael Parish School is only 63.33% of the salary of a teacher working for Ohio County Public Schools? Did you know that we have a Teacher Fund that was established in 2012 to create an endowment to help supplement teacher salaries in the future? If you wish to contribute to the Teacher Fund please contact Advancement Coordinator, Shandi Nodurft at mrsnodurft@smpswv.org.

We Wish A Fond Farewell...
We wish a very fond farewell to Mrs. Chelsea-LaRue-Smith as she and her husband Dan welcome their first baby this February. Mrs. LaRue-Smith has worked with our theatre program, our middle school, and our lunchtime literature club. We thank her for the knowledge and guidance she has shared with our students over the past few years and wish her all the best with her new budle of joy!

We welcome Mr. Thomas Olivier as a permanent substitute teacher for Mrs. LaRue-Smith’s classroom following Christmas break. Mr. Olivier was born and raised in Normandy, France. He came to the United States in 1992 and became a naturalized citizen in 2017. He has his Master’s in Education from the Liberty University in VA. He and his wife Venessa have 3 children, 2 of which are 8th graders at SMPS. Please join us in welcoming Thomas to our SMPS family.

Congratulations to our Awesome Authors
Congratulations to 6th graders Eli Sancomb, Luke Wear, Nino Jerrome, Jaelyn Vunderink, Matthew Criniti, Bridget Zoeckler, Liam Shinn, as well as our 5th graders Cecilia Sweeney, Kaila Blatt, Lauryn Blatt, Annabella Blatt. Thank you for being such a positive representation our school!

Advent is a time for caring and sharing!
Our 8th graders drew and delivered Christmas wreaths for their friends at Elmhurst.

Did you know that when you shop for the holidays at smile.amazon.com/ch/55-0359761, AmazonSmile donates to St. Michael Church and School?

#1 holiday hack: When you buy your gifts at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates.
Special Thank Yous!
To Lawrence and Victoria Wright for their gifts in loving memory of Mr. Jim Bordas and Dr. Joe Gabis.
To Dorothy Winiesdorffer for her gift in loving memory of Cathy Abraham.

Thank you to two anonymous families for their very generous gifts to our staff and faculty Christmas party as well as Mike Duplaga of Generations for the SMPS party rate!

Thank you to Melissa and Matt Mansuetto for their very generous gift and support of our school!

Thank you to an anonymous donor for the donation of a brand new overhead projector for the school.

“There is nothing more beautiful than someone who goes out of their way to make life beautiful for others.”
— Mandy Hale
Thank you to a few special volunteers for taking 7/8 grade students to YSS in early December. They had a great time and got so much accomplished. Kids hung clothes, marked sizes, and filled bins of clothes at the free store. We are blessed and thankful for all we have! We plan to do this on another half day in February. You are welcome to join us!

West Virginia History
Mrs. Wolf’s 8th grade West Virginia History class has been studying our state’s 55 counties. They have been using the On the Road in West Virginia: Our 55 Counties videos on Youtube that were produced by Wayne Worth and Johnnaston Kimble. The students had a wonderful opportunity to meet with the producers and ask questions about their experiences traveling our great state. They travel to about 10 schools a year and it was exciting to find out that St. Michael Parish School was the first private school in the state they have visited with their presentation. Thank you Wayne and Johnnaston for visiting us and sharing your stories of the people of our state!
Mission: In the tradition of St. Michael, the Archangel, Guardian of all, we are a Roman Catholic Community called to bear witness to Christ through sacrament, stewardship, worship and proclamation of the Gospel.

As a Parish Pastoral Council, it is our honor to serve all those in our parish and to take a moment to look back on our work of 2019:

We want to thank all those that joined together, in your homes, on April 10th at 7:00 to pray for Reconciliation, Hope and Healing in our church and throughout our Diocese. We continue to pray for all.

We want to thank all 51 of you (and the Youth Group Members) that joined us on Good Friday for the Living Stations, as we walked throughout our community. It was a wonderful and moving experience.

We want to lift up the names of the 63 NEW parishioners that are on the Welcome Bulletin Board – this began in the late winter and continued throughout 2019. We are so humbled that you chose to be a part of the St. Michael Family.

We want to bring attention to the wonderful opportunity that the series of Discovering Christ, Following Christ and Sharing Christ was to so many in our parish community. It was a program series that was filled with prayer, fellowship and shared reflections.

On November 20th, the council members packed and sent 21 packages to our college students. The packages were shipped and contain “lots of goodies”, as well as a prayer. We want to remind them, that even though they are away, they are always near in our hearts. Our council does this twice a year, prior to finals week.

Through our Pastoral Outreach Committee, we stay aware of the many prayer opportunities that are active throughout our parish. We support and continue to pray for the strength of each individual in our parish.

We had many donut socials throughout 2019 (the first one in April). These socials are a wonderful way to simply gather and enjoy one another in fellowship and conversation.

A notebook is now available for all prayer intentions in the back of the Church.

We remind and invite all to the Advent Lessons and Carols, to take place Monday, Dec. 16th at 7:00.

We want to thank you for your continued ideas and support.

Prayers for a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year,
St. Michael Parish Pastoral Council
December 2019

16 - Lessons & Carols 7pm
17 - Communal Penance Service 7pm
23 - Church Decorating for Christmas 10am
24 - Christmas Eve Masses @ 4pm, 7pm, 10pm
25 - Christmas Mass @ 10am
26 - 7:30am Mass
31 - Holy Day Vigil - 5:30pm

January 2020

1 - Feast of Mary, Mother of God - 10am Mass
3 - First Friday 24-hour Adoration
16 - Chillin’ with Carlos, Casual Cocktails

“Discipleship and Drafts”

Young adults between the ages of 18–39 are invited to Generations Restaurant in Wheeling on Thursday, January 2, 2020, starting at 7:00 p.m. This is an evening of friendship and dialogue, to enjoy a brew and grow in the path of discipleship with the Lord in a casual setting. Our guest speaker for the evening is Bishop Mark Brennan.

St. Michael Parish

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

December 16, 2019
7:00pm

Join the Pastoral Council, Parish Choir, Handbell Choir, and Music Ministers in a festive celebration of Advent Lessons and Carols.

This evening service combines seven scripture readings (Genesis, Isaiah, Baruch, Gospel of Luke, Gospel of Matthew) with various Advent carols foretelling the Birth of Christ and his second coming.

The service will conclude with a candlelight procession to the outdoor nativity scene where we will bless the crèche and officially light it for the first time this season. Please plan to join us for this event. What a wonderful way to prepare for the upcoming Christmas Season which will only be one week away.
Please pray for these men and women serving and those who have served our country in the military, and for their families:

- Petty Officer First Class Eric J Auber, US Navy
- Staff Sergeant Robert Michael Baker, US Marine Corps
- Major Jeremy Deguzman, US Air Force
- Sergeant Anthony DiBias, US Army
- Technical Sergeant Andrew G. Futey, US Air Force
- Specialist Matthew Graney, US Army
- Lieutenant Andrew Klug, US Navy
- Captain Zach Lehman, US Marine Corps
- Capt. Michael Neuman, US Army
- Major Christopher Nodurft, US Marine Corps
- Seaman First Class Cody Patterson, US Navy
- Specialist Seth Sleime, US Army
- Warrant Officer 1 (W01) Christopher Snyder
- Sergeant Major Stephen Spohn, US Army
- Sergeant First Class Wendy Spohn, US Army
- Lieutenant Colonel Aaron P Tillman, US Air Force
- Airman First Class Taylor Wilkinson, US Air Force
- Senior Airman Sierra E. McKenna, US Air Force
- PFC Jacob Ulevich, US Army

God Bless Our Military!

Eucharistic Adoration Schedule in Inclement Weather

In the event that Ohio County Schools are cancelled, then Adoration is cancelled. School delays don’t affect Adoration hours.

Changes to Eucharistic Adoration Schedule

- Beginning this month, there will no longer be Saturday Eucharistic Adoration. We will have 24-hour Adoration on the First Friday of the month beginning at 8am.

- Monday thru Friday Eucharistic Adoration will now be in the Adoration Chapel (except for the First Fridays).

- Please note that Thursday Adoration is in the Adoration Chapel and Jesus is always present in the tabernacle of the main church.

Baby Saved from Abortion Goes on to become a Football Star

By Cerith Gardiner (Aleteia.org/2019/12/07/)

“…In the middle of a recent football game, Gus Johnson, an announcer for FOX sports, revealed how [the star] running back for Ohio State, J.K. Dobbins, was only on the team thanks to a courageous decision made by his mom 20 years ago.

During the game between the Ohio State Buckeyes and the Michigan Wolverines, Johnson explained to the millions of viewers that Dobbins’ mom Mya became pregnant when she was 18 years old, as reported in Live Action. Like many pregnant teens who find themselves in this position, “she went to the doctor because she was thinking about aborting the baby, but changed her mind,” he shared with the viewers…”

“…While Mya might call her son a ‘miracle baby,’ perhaps the real miracle lies in the path that God laid down for Mya and her son, and for other pregnant young women who might be making similar life and death decisions…”

We Are Catholic
WE ARE PRO-LIFE

Kindly note that the area of the parking lot beside the church alongside of the Blessed Mother statue is marked a RESTRICTED AREA AND A NO PARKING ZONE.
Thank you for your cooperation.