I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals.
Luke 3:16
The Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation is held 3pm-4pm on Saturday, 8am on First Saturday, or by appointment. Please contact the secretary, Cindy Barone at the Parish Office if you are interested in any of the following:

- Baptism, Anointing of the Sick, Christian Initiation of Adults,
- joining the parish, bulletin ads or Weddings (six months prior to the desired wedding date).

To arrange a pastoral visit for Homebound Parishioners please contact Kathleen Dieffenbaugher at the Parish Office, Ext 9.

Please contact Cindy at the Parish Office to arrange a pastoral visit for a hospitalized parishioner.

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

Eucharistic Adoration is held Monday 8am-5pm, 6pm-10pm; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8am-5pm Wednesday 10am-5pm; Saturday 8am-noon.

The Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation is held 3pm-4pm on Saturday, 8am on First Saturday, or by appointment. Please contact the secretary, Cindy Barone at the Parish Office if you are interested in any of the following: Baptism, Anointing of the Sick, Christian Initiation of Adults, joining the parish, bulletin ads or Weddings (six months prior to the desired wedding date).

To arrange a pastoral visit for Homebound Parishioners please contact Kathleen Dieffenbaugher at the Parish Office, Ext 9.

Please contact Cindy at the Parish Office to arrange a pastoral visit for a hospitalized parishioner.

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

Eucharistic Adoration is held Monday 8am-5pm, 6pm-10pm; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8am-5pm Wednesday 10am-5pm; Saturday 8am-noon.

Collection & Attendance Data: Dec 8/9, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Collection</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:30pm</td>
<td>302</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30am</td>
<td>106</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>252</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>212</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 872

1st Collection: $12,474.07
2nd Collection: $2,338.25
Miscellaneous: $3,696.18

TOTAL: $18,508.50
Our Weekly Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 15
7:30am  Thomas Hoyt, Sr.
4:30pm  People of the Parish

Sunday, December 16
7:30am  Cindy Coyne
9:00am  Chuck Evans (A)
11:30am Vicki Burns

Monday, December 17
7:30am  Joseph & Kate Mattella
5:30pm  NO MASS
7:00pm  ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Tuesday, December 18
7:30am  Ronald J. Matella

Wednesday, December 19
8:30am  The Kovalski Family
5:30pm  William Thalman

Thursday, December 20
7:30am  Rosella Bugaj (A)

Friday, December 21
7:30am  Kirchner, Coleman & Nau Families

Saturday, December 22
7:30am  Leo Yochum
4:30pm  Maryellen Zoeckler

Sunday, December 23
7:30am  People of the Parish
9:00am  William Medovic
11:30am Rosemary Miller

❖ Signifies person is deceased.

The Sanctuary Candle beside the tabernacle burns this week (December 16th - December 22nd, 2018) in memory of Kerri Gilligan

There will be a Communal Advent Penance Service on December 17th, 2018 at 7:00pm at St. Michael Church.

Please join us!

R C I A
(Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

The parish will continue classes for any adults who want to join the Catholic Church.

Classes will be held on Sunday mornings between the 9am - 11:30am Masses.

Please contact Fr. Smay at msmay@dwc.org or call 304-242-1560, ext 5.

IMPRESSIONABLE
A child’s life is like a piece of paper on which every passerby leaves a mark.
—Ancient Chinese proverb

WITNESSES
Our actions are the best witnesses of our thoughts.
—Anonymous
LITURGICAL MINISTERS

*Multi-week Ministry Schedule is available on St. Mikes’ webpage. **Weekday 7:30am December 17-21, 2018
Altar Servers: STILL NEEDED

Saturday, December 22nd, 4:30pm
Sacristan: Karen Kelly
Lectors: Carole Kliner and Rose Frasnelli
Altar Servers: Thomas Komorowski, Ashlyn Combs, Laken and Ryan Costanzo
EMOHCS: Karen and Jim Kelly, Audrey Dieffenbaugher, Linda McCabe, Andrew Komorowski

Sunday, December 23rd, 7:30am
Sacristan: Gretchen Wilson
Lectors: Shaunna Hershberger and Benjamin Beckett
Altar Servers: Isaac Smith, Ava Hanson
EMOHCS: Gretchen Wilson, Carrie Beckett, Rudy Conti, Kathy Galinski, Joe Roxby

Sunday, December 23rd, 9:00am
Sacristan: Maureen McNabb
Lectors: Margaret Zoeckler and Janice Jones
Altar Servers: Karli Yocum, Ryan Linder, Jack Adams, Luca Benson
EMOHCS: Maureen McNabb, April Stolfer, Denny Snyder, Kerry Przybysz, Rob Krall

Sunday, December 23rd, 11:30am
Sacristan: NEEDED
Lectors: Nathan Schmidt and Nancy Ellen O’Leary
Altar Servers: Isaac, Kendall and Mason Schmitt, Liam White
EMOHCS: Tom Conti and Nancy Conti, Shandi Nodurft, John Moore, Ava Zende

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 the Diocese at 888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880.

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.

Please give to those who have given a lifetime!
retiredreligious.org

To donate:
National Religious Retirement Office
3211 Fourth Street NE
Washington DC 20017-1194
Make check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious.
Or give at your local parish.

Photo: Sister Clare Vandecoevering, SSMO, 88.
©2018 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.
Photographer: Jim Judkis.
Parish School of Religion (PSR)

As our Parish School of Religion moves into its short holiday break, we want to recognize our volunteer catechists for their dedication to our church’s future! These folks devote their Sunday mornings every week to the students in the parish who do not attend Catholic school throughout the week, ensuring that our young people have the opportunity to learn and grow together in their faith journeys. This year’s excellent catechists include Dee and Jimmy Dean, Meagan Kirchner, Diane Coleman, Adriana and Elizabeth Wolf, Isaac Smith, Colleen Ryan Mayrand, Maddie Davin, and Welna Laugeyaro. When you see them around, thank them for their service!

January is a great time to enroll your youngster in PSR if you haven’t done so yet. PSR accepts students from age 4 all the way through 8th grade. Contact Nick Mayrand for more information at nmayrand@dwc.org!

Kim Burge, SMPS Interim Principal
My wish is that the members of St. Michael Parish and St. Michael Parish School continue to foster a relationship conducive to using our time, talent, and treasure to serve God and others. On a personal note, I wish for more time in the day to spend with my children as they are growing up WAY too fast!

Wendy Hinerman, Business Manager
I wish that everyone at St. Michael Parish feels the love and appreciation that we have for them. For me? I’m wishing for a home filled with joy!

—Wendy Hinerman

We’ve all been asked the question and I would wager you’ve asked it, too. What do you want for Christmas? I posed the question at a weekly staff meeting and I thought it would be interesting to share some thoughts from the wish lists:

Father Martin Smay, Associate Pastor
My wish is that everyone who hasn’t been to confession in the last month would make a good confession before the end of the Christmas season (January 13). My personal wish? A Royal Quiet Deluxe manual typewriter.

Cindy Barone, St. Michael Parish Secretary
To continue to create an atmosphere at our parish office that is inviting, welcoming and warm for our incredibly awesome parishioners, and that each and every person, parishioner or visitor, leaves with a smile and a good thought that came from St. Michael Parish that day! My wish is to grow a happy parish with hugs, smiles and prayers.

In my personal life – That my beautiful Mother, who has been a devout Catholic servant of our great God for 97 years, live the December of her life on earth entirely filled with the holy Peace of Jesus Christ, that same Peace that she had instilled in all of our family from the beginning of my life and continues to do so each day. My wish is to become a little bit more like her with every passing year. Blessed!

Kathleen Dieffenbaugher, Stewardship Director
I pray for healing for us all...whether it is from a physical ailment or condition, or an emotional struggle that has caused pain and conflict.

Personally, my wish is to have all three of my kids under the same roof over Christmas break...to hear their noise, to feed their endless appetites and to do their piles of laundry!

Chad Carter, Liturgical Music Director
In my position, I wish for more parishioners to step forward and participate in the choirs and the parish’s music ministry program.

In my personal life, I wish for increased patience and energy to be able to better respond to the curveballs that life sometimes throws your way…maybe a winter vacation too in order to escape the cold and the snow!

Jen Imer, Youth Director
I wish the Youth Room had bright colored bean bag chairs and more ping pong balls.

Personally, I wish to spend Christmas day sitting on the couch with my husband and daughters watching “A Christmas Story” and eating pierogis, enjoying our tree and each other’s company!

Joe Bourgo, Maintenance
I wish that people would have greater respect for one another and our buildings and property.

Personally, I wish and pray that my wife, Sharon, and I will have good health and enjoy a long life together.
The parish is looking for families to volunteer to act as greeters for the Christmas masses. We are hoping to have smiling faces at every entrance to the church to welcome parishioners and visitors. There will be a worship aid to hand out to everyone.

In addition, we are also recruiting people that are willing to act as crossing guards for each of the Christmas masses. You will be provided with safety vests, light wands and stop signs. This has been a very well-received service to our parishioners when we have been able to provide it in the past. Please consider helping to make it safer to cross National Road!

We still need volunteers for the following Masses:
Dec. 24th at 7:00pm, and 10:00pm
Dec. 25th at 10:00am

Please contact Kathleen in the Parish Office if you can volunteer for either of these ministries! It is a great way to get involved with the parish community for the holidays!
On the Value of Eucharistic Adoration

Our Catholic Faith teaches us that in the consecrated host Jesus is present – body, blood, soul, and divinity – under the appearance of bread. Our Lord abides there so that even after Mass, He remains fully present. Among all the devotions, after that of receiving the sacraments, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament holds first place. This devotion is most pleasing to God and most useful for gaining that strength which is necessary to continue our pilgrim journey to heaven. In heaven we will dwell in the presence of God and what better way to express our heart’s desire to go to heaven than by dwelling in the Eucharistic Presence here on earth? God reserves for those who visit Him in the Blessed Sacrament special graces. Many Saints were converted or made far more fervent in their love of God while making a visit to the Blessed Sacrament. While I’m no Saint, allow me to share one story of time I spent in Eucharistic Adoration.

Growing up both of my parents worked – my father as a teacher and my mother part-time as a registered nurse. Because of this, during the school year I ended up spending a lot of time with my grandparents, who had signed up for an hour a week of Eucharistic Adoration. If I was with them on their scheduled day, they took me with them. Those times remain etched in my memory, time spent in profound and reverent silence before our Lord as a 4 or 5 year old boy. I think it was in those quiet hours in the Eucharistic Presence of our Lord that God was working silently and unfettered in the pure and innocent heart of a little boy, sewing seeds of a future priestly vocation.

I ask you to consider, for your own sanctification and that of the whole world, spending some time before the Blessed Sacrament to prepare spiritually for the celebration of the birth of our Lord.

God love you and may these remaining days of Advent be a fruitful time of preparation for you!

—Fr. Martin Smay

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Years ago, the trick question on religion quizzes would be to name all the liturgical colors, or the colors of the vestments worn at Mass. Rose is a color seldom seen, used at most two days a year. Today, “Gaudete Sunday,” is one of those days. The name of the day is drawn from an opening verse in the old Latin Mass texts: Gaudete is Latin for “Rejoice!” This year’s Gospel certainly reflects that mood as Elizabeth feels her infant within her leaping for joy at the presence of Mary. Mary’s visit to her aged cousin is an act of compassion between women, as two kinswomen who are bearing children into the world share their joy.

Some churches retain the custom of having the priest wear rose vestments today, and many will use a rose candle in the Advent wreath. Violet is the official color for Advent and Lent, but many parishes employ different hues for each season, trying to keep them distinct. In medieval times, dye was costly, and poor parishes used unornamented plain cloth for vestments. Dyes were expensive and some colors, particularly purple, difficult to achieve. In England, purple dye was made from mollusks, yielding at best a deep indigo or blue and not the desired violet.

Thus, the color of Advent in the British Isles has long been a deep blue, reminding many people of Mary’s presence at the heart of the Advent mystery. That theology is largely unplanned: it’s all because of the clams!

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

REJOICE!

Today has traditionally been called “Gaudete Sunday.” The Latin tag is derived from Paul’s appeal in the second reading to “rejoice always in the Lord,” and the Latin Mass text based on that reading. The irony and paradox of this Christian joy is underlined by the fact that Paul wrote those words in prison. But from there he could see the progress of God’s work.

Is it obvious to us? We feel that this is not the time for joy when there is so much suffering and moral evil. It is interesting, then, that the first reading is from the prophet Zephaniah, who is almost exclusively concerned with gloomy visions of Judgment Day. Today the Church selects the only optimistic text in Zephaniah, in which the prophet has been touched by the spirit of joy.

This, we are assured on all sides, is “the season of joy.” Let us recapture that feeling of joy in our lives and reflect it to those who are joyless.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.
For over 35 years Wheeling Hospital’s Family Medicine Program has provided an amazing program annually for nearly 200 preschool students from Ohio and Belmont counties.

The Well Doll Clinic familiarizes children with physician and hospital environments so they are less anxious when they have to visit the doctor or are admitted to the hospital. Children are invited to bring their favorite doll or stuffed animal to the hospital.

Wheeling Hospital’s Well Doll Clinic

For over 35 years Wheeling Hospital’s Family Medicine Program has provided an amazing program annually for nearly 200 preschool students from Ohio and Belmont counties.

The Well Doll Clinic familiarizes children with physician and hospital environments so they are less anxious when they have to visit the doctor or are admitted to the hospital. Children are invited to bring their favorite doll or stuffed animal to the hospital.

Wheeling Hospital’s Well Doll Clinic
GRANDPARENT’S DAY
Thank you to all of the grandparents that joined us for 6th-8th GPD on December 5th. The school cafeteria was packed wall-to-wall for a Grandparent’s Day Pancake Breakfast. The breakfast was prepared by volunteers and served by the grandchildren! A special thank you to Kathleen Dieffenbaugher for her help with this event, Jim Wright of James Carl Photography for providing the photo booth and the Parent Association for providing their help as well as the beverages.

Grandparent’s Day Pancake Breakfast

Important Dates For The 2018-2019 School Year

♦ December 24th - January 2, 2019: Christmas Break
♦ April 15th - April 22nd: Easter Break
♦ May 24th: Kindergarten Graduation
♦ May 29th: 8th Grade Graduation
♦ May 31st: Last Day of School/Picnic

Special thanks to our hot lunch volunteers for the month of December:


We really couldn’t do it without you!
St. Michael Parish has an opening for the position of **Rectory Housekeeper**.

Duties include:
- Dusting and polishing furniture and fixtures
- Cleaning and sanitizing bathrooms
- Making beds and changing linens
- Vacuuming and cleaning carpets and rugs
- Laundry and ironing

The candidate must be reliable, trustworthy and respectful of confidentiality.

The position is part-time, approximately 8-12 hours per week.
If you are interested, please contact Wendy Hinerman at whinerman@stmikesparish.org.

---

**ST. PAUL, PRAY FOR THE BISHOPS THAT THEY MAY BE FEARLESS IN CONFRONTING OTHER BISHOPS.**

**ST. AUGUSTINE, PRAY FOR TRUE REPENTANCE AND TRANSPARENCY.**

**OUR LADY OF SORROWS, PRAY FOR US.**

**HAIL MARY, FULL OF GRACE, THE LORD IS WITH THEE. BLESSED ARE YOU AMONG WOMEN AND BLESSED IS THE FRUIT OF YOUR WOMB JESUS.**

HOLY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, PRAY FOR US SINNERS NOW AND AT THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH, AMEN.

---

**PEACE ON EARTH AND GOODWILL TO MEN**

**THE SERRA CLUB OF WHEELING**

Cordially invites you to attend the

**NANCY & JACK O’LEARY CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON WITH OUR SEMINARIANS**

12 noon, Friday, Dec. 21
Catholic Charities Center
2000 Main Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

RSVP by December 17 to Chris Freeman. Cell: (304) 281-7951 (text or voice), email: chris.freeman@raymondjames.com

Please join us in welcoming our seminarians home for their Christmas break. Guests are welcome! No charge for Serrans; a $10 donation (payable at the door) is suggested for each guest.

*This luncheon is presented through a generous donation from Nancy Ellen Rice O’Leary in memory of her dear husband, Jack.*

---

**YOUTH SERVICES SYSTEM OF WHEELING** is in desperate need of men’s warm clothing. Donations will be accepted at their location on 15th Street downtown.

**ATTENTION LECTORS!!**
The 2019 Lector Workbooks are available for pick-up in the sacristy OR the Parish Office. Please take the time to pick one up! Thank you for your ministry!

---

St. Michael Parish is in need of volunteers at the 18th Street Center for the first and third Sundays of the month from November thru March. We need people to work 8-11am and 11am-2pm. We will be serving breakfast and lunch. If anyone is able to do this please contact Jacqueline Kaniecki at 304-242-9289. It is a rewarding way to serve our parish and help the community. Thank you!
December/January 2018
December 17th—Advent Penance Service 7pm
December 20th — Decorate Church 6pm
December 24th — Christmas Mass at 4pm, 7pm and 10pm
December 25th—Merry Christmas! Mass at 10am
December 26th—Mass at 9am only
December 31st—Vigil Mass at 5:30pm

January 1st, 2109 - Mass at 10am

A.J. Bucon, a teacher at CCHS and parishioner of St. Michael, is proud to announce the release of his first book, *My Corner of the World, Life Lessons from the Classroom*. The personally autographed book is currently available on Amazon.com in both paperback and Kindle format, and in the Parish Office at $15.00 per book. For each book sold, $5.00 will be donated to the St. Michael Youth Group. Purchase a copy today!!

Third Sunday of Advent
December 16, 2018
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear. — Zephaniah 3:15b

Rosary Nights

“THERE IS NO PROBLEM, I TELL YOU, NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT IT IS, THAT WE CANNOT SOLVE BY THE PRAYER OF THE HOLY ROSARY.”
- SISTER LUCIA OF FATIMA

All are welcome to attend an evening devoted to our Blessed Virgin Mary in praying the rosary.

Please call Gretchen or Denny Wilson at 304.281.2813 or 304.280.1451

ATTENTION
All Youth Group Members!
Upcoming 2019 Meetings at the Angelus Center

Jan. 6th—5th and 6th grade meeting 6-7:30pm
Jan. 7th—3rd and 4th grade meeting after school until 4:30pm
Jan. 13th—7th and 8th grade meeting 6-7:30PM
Pro Life Corner

Five Times President Trump Has Worked to Defund the Planned Parenthood Abortion Business

Planned Parenthood is the largest abortion business in America, aborting approximately 320,000 unborn babies every year. Its 2016 annual report showed a record income of $1.46 billion, with about half a billion dollars coming from taxpayers. President Donald Trump and his administration have worked to defund Planned Parenthood and other abortion businesses in numerous ways during the past two years.

- President Trump signed the Mexico City policy in one of his first acts as president. The pro-life policy prohibits American tax dollars to groups that promote or provide abortions overseas.
- In Spring 2017, the Trump administration stopped funding a United Nations agency, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) linked to forced and coerced abortions. The Trump administration redirected the funds to the U.S. Agency for International Development, which provides medical care to families across the world.
- In February, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services introduced a new Title X grant application that prioritizes sexual risk avoidance strategies, including abstinence, and the introduction of natural family planning in addition to artificial contraception. The move could defund Planned Parenthood of up to $60 million in tax dollars annually, but it currently is on hold because of a lawsuit filed by Planned Parenthood.
- In 2017, the Trump administration announced plans to cut millions of dollars in grants to Planned Parenthood through the failed Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program. However, Planned Parenthood also is suing to block the cuts.
- In January, President Trump signed an executive order so states have more latitude and control over taxpayer funds to Planned Parenthood and other abortion groups. Both WV & Alabama used this opportunity to restrict federal funding of elective abortions.

IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS:
Northern Panhandle Gabriel Project: 304-639-5039
Birthright International: Helpline: 1.800.550.4900
Aim Women’s Center (Steubenville, OH): (740) 283-3636
Wellspring Pregnancy Center (Moundsville, WV): (304) 810-0292
Post Abortion Support
Rachel’s Vineyard: 877 HOPE 4 ME (877-467-3463)
Silent No More: 888-735-3448
From the WLP Vault comes the Bible Story of Christmas featuring 8 Classic Christmas Carols and a reading of the Gospel of Luke 2: 4-20 by Bing Crosby! Also available on vinyl.

800-566-6150

Visit WLPmusic.com to purchase your copy - CD $10.00

DO YOU HAVE SALES EXPERIENCE? ARE YOU WELL NETWORKED IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY? J.S. PALUCH COMPANY NATIONAL PUBLISHER OF CHURCH BULLETINS

- Full & Part Time Positions Available with Excellent Earning Potential!
- Medical Benefits, 401K, Life & AD&D Insurance Available
- Excellent Commission Compensation Program

Interested? Call Kay Leane 1.800.621.5197 x2823 or Email Resume to RECRUITING@JSPALUCH.COM

www.jspaluch.com

If You Live Alone You Need MDMedAlert!

Protecting Seniors Nationwide

$29.95/Mo. billed quarterly
- One Free Month
- No Long-Term Contract
- Price Guarantee
- Easy Set Installation

Call Today! Toll Free 1.877.801.8608

Get this weekly bulletin delivered by email - for FREE!

Sign up here:

CatholicCruisesAndTours.com

Brian or Sally, coordinators
860.399.1785
www.CatholicCruisesAndTours.com

MDMedAlert®

Safe-Guarding America's Seniors Nationwide

CALL: 800.809.3352

www@pytest.com

Recently Installed at
- Multi Family
- Government
- Senior Living

EASY Set-up, NO Contract
24/7 365 Monitoring in the USA

www.pareeinsurance.com

“The best combination of price, protection & service”