Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.

— 1 Thessalonians 5:16

17 December 2017: 3rd Sunday of Advent
ST. MICHAEL PARISH STAFF

Rev. Msgr. Joseph L. Peterson, Pastor
stmikes@stmikesparish.org

Rev. William K. Matheny, Jr., Associate Pastor
wmatheny@dwc.org

Wendy Hinerman, Business Manager
whinerman@stmikesparish.org

Kathleen Dieffenbaugher, Stewardship Director
kathleen@stmikesparish.org

Cindy Barone, Secretary
secretary@stmikesparish.org

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

Nick Mayrand, Catechesis Coordinator
mayrand.nick@outlook.com

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

Jamie Kovalski, SMPS Principal
mrskovalski@smpswv.org

Shandi Nodurft, Advancement
mrsnodurf@smpswv.org

Michelle Patterson, SMPS Bookkeeper
mrspatterson@smpswv.org

Diane Fahey, SMPS Secretary
mrsfahey@smpswv.org

Michelle Koval, SMPS Receptionist
mrskoval@smpswv.org

PARISH SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

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

PARISH COUNCILS & COMMITTEES

Pastoral Council - Leslie Kosanovic, President
Stewardship Council - Louis Volpe, President
Buildings & Grounds - Denny Wilson, Chairperson
Finance Council - Brann Altmeyer, Interim President

ST. MICHAEL PARISH SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD

Danielle Doerr - President

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent

Thursday: St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins

Saturday: St. John of Kanty

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

Please contact the secretary at the Parish Office if you are interested in any of the following: Baptism, Matrimony (six months prior to the desired wedding date), Anointing of the Sick, Christian Initiation of Adults, or joining the parish.

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

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

Collection & Attendance Data: Dec. 9/10 2017

4:30pm—302 7:30am—96
9:00am—205 11:30am—230

TOTAL—833

1st Collection: $14,166.33
2nd Collection: $2,384.00
(School Support)
Religious Retirement Collection: $2,065.00
Miscellaneous: $3,922.69

TOTAL: $22,538.02
MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 16
7:30am  †Recently Deceased
4:30pm  †Chuck Evans

Sunday, December 17
7:30am  †Bill Medovic
9:00am  †John Michael Pinto
11:30am People of the Parish

Monday, December 18
7:30am  †Lauren Decker
5:30pm  †Deceased Members of John & Donna Clark Family

Tuesday, December 19
7:30am  †Angela & Donald Edelen

Wednesday, December 20
8:30am  †Lena Kirsegessner
5:30pm  †Rosella Bugai

Thursday, December 21
7:30am  †Mary Ellen Zoeckler

Friday, December 22
7:30am  †William Thalman

Saturday, December 23
7:30am  †Lucille Rapp
4:30pm  †Kirchner-Coleman-Nau Families

Sunday, December 24
9:00am  People of the Parish
4:00pm  Parish Youth
7:00pm  Commemorative Mass Association
12 Midnight Deceased Loved Ones

The Sanctuary Candle beside the tabernacle burns this week (Dec. 17-23) in memory of:

Jess Ciripompa

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES
Would your family like to come forward and light the candles on the Advent wreath during one of our weekend Masses? If so, please sign up at this link:
http://signup.com/go/aiQQMsq

REJOICE
Isaiah proclaims truly good news to us! God’s coming brings not sadness, guilt, fear, wrath, or condemnation. No, God’s coming is a source of comfort and joy. Saying it once is not enough, for today’s readings are full of joy. Mary’s Magnificat substitutes for our psalm today, and our second reading encourages us to rejoice, to give thanks and praise. This is the root meaning of the Greek word for eucharist. We are urged to rejoice and give thanks, because the coming of the Lord brings joy, healing, liberty, release, vindication. It makes the very earth spring up with new life! Good tidings!

TODAY’S READINGS
First Reading — As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will God make justice spring up before all the nations (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).
Second Reading — Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).
Gospel — I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord (John 1:6-8, 19-28).

The English translation of the Psalm

Catholic 2017
Sharing Appeal

“Give your Hands to Serve and your Hearts to Love”
Thank you to the 144 parishioners who have brought us to 79% of our goal, BUT we need more of you to respond to this appeal which supports programs that benefit parishes throughout the diocese (including our own parish!) Please consider making a gift today at this link: www.dwc.org/CSA

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**Dec. 18-20 Weekday 7:30am Altar Server:** Schmitt Family

**Saturday, December 23, 4:30pm**
- **Sacristan:** Joe Bourgo
- **Lector:** Carole Kliner
- **Altar Servers:** Joey/Alex Carter, Amelia Mandel
- **EMOHCS:** Joe Bourgo, Lucille Otte, Jen Carter, Marianne Blair, Donna Clark

**Sunday, December 24, 9:00am**
- **Sacristan:** Phil Emmerth
- **Lector:** Meredith Dailer
- **Altar Servers:** John Emmerth, Owen Mullin, Laken/Ryan Costanzo
- **EMOHCS:** Phil Emmerth, Marybeth Emmerth, Emily Emmerth, Rob Krall, Jennifer Decker

**PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NOT A 7:30am or 11:30am MASS ON DECEMBER 24!!**

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**Journey of the Chalice schedule:**
- In the month of December the chalice will transfer at the 7:30am Mass.
  - **12/17:** Tami & Rich Smith
  - **12/24:** Cathy & Quenton Northcraft
  - **12/31:** Janet Kelly

The purpose of the Journey of the Chalice program is to encourage families to pray and promote vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. Praying for vocations is the most powerful way to support vocations. When we pray for vocations, we lift up to our Father those men and women whom He is calling to follow Him in a special way.

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**WAYS I CAN MAKE MY PARISH BETTER**

**Support the parish financially**
We know how expensive it is to run our own home. Parishes face even higher costs—and depend on parishioners to help meet them. Take a serious look at the money you give to your parish each week. Do you increase your contributions each year as the cost of living rises? Giving to the Church is more than just a financial obligation. Once we recognize that everything we have is a gift from God, we see that giving generously to continue God's work in the parish is an essential part of our spirituality.

"Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap." (Luke 6:38)

- Fr. Bill Matheny

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**St. Michael Parish Warmly Welcomes Any Guests or Visitors Who Are Joining Us for Mass. If You Are New to the Area and Looking for a Parish Home, We Kindly Invite You to Join Our Parish. Please Visit Our Website or Contact the Parish Office for Registration Information. If You Are Traveling Through Wheeling, We Are Happy to Have You with Us. Please Know That You Are Always Welcome and Be Assured of Our Prayers for Your Safe Travel Home.**

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**Decorate the Church**
Come help to decorate and clean the Lord’s House for Christmas!

**Thursday, December 21 @ 6pm**
We need help putting up trees, arranging flowers, cleaning pews and getting everything in tip-top shape for our Christmas celebrations. Won’t you please give a couple hours of your time to help us?
The PSR students wrapped up 2017 with a visit to our neighbors at Welty Home. The students enjoyed getting to know a group of Welty residents and delivered the Christmas cards that they crafted last week. We plan to continue to build on these new relationships as we move into 2018.

PSR will break for the next two weeks and resume again on Sunday, January 7th. Calendars for the winter and spring were sent home with students this weekend and have been emailed to the PSR list. If you are not receiving those emails, please contact Nick Mayrand at nmayrand@dwc.org so he can ensure you receive future communications.
A message from St. Nicholas
Delivered on December 6, 2017 For All to Consider:

My dear children of God, I embrace you and extol you to not be afraid of this life or of eternity. The first thing you should do each morning is wash you face and pray as Jesus taught us. Next, do your work and provide for your family. Each night, pray alone or together, thanking God for another day of health and productivity. Every Sunday, go to Church and worship God together with your parish family.

Follow your country’s Christian customs and do not take extreme delight in secular things. Take good care of your earthly body, but put the things of earth aside for a time each day, turning your face to heaven, so that the Lord may be a real and important part of your time here on earth.

All good deeds that you do for each other here, especially those done in secret, will be received in eternity. When death finds you, you will be able to take those deeds with you — not riches nor earthly glory nor material possessions — and your good deeds and your adherence to the message of Christ shall be your mantle in heaven.

So, do good deeds every day as much as you can, and never stay away from your Church family. Always forgive those who do you harm or who seek to harm you; do no lie or do harm, not even to your enemies.

Let there be love and caring between you and your sisters and brothers throughout the earth. And in this Advent season, remember the tremendous impact that the simple birth of a child in Bethlehem has had on human history.

As we have been inspired by St. Nicholas’ generosity and the care that he gave to others who were in need, the Parish extends its thanks and gratitude to all who generously responded to our recent outreach project through the Angel Trees. Your kindness allowed us to provide hundreds of gift items to Wheeling Health Right, Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center, Children’s Home of Wheeling, August Levy Center, Women’s Abuse Shelter (YWCA), Harmony House, Wheeling Freeze and Crittenton Services.
WHO WANTS TO BE A "HEAVENLY" MILLIONAIRE?

**PRAYER AND DEVOTION**
This month is traditionally associated with prayer for the dead:
A. March  
B. May  
C. October  
D. November

Last week’s answer: According to tradition, the rosary was revealed to Saint Dominic

**PRO-LIFE CORNER**

**Thousands pray Rosary around Ireland's coast**

THOUSANDS of people joined to say the Rosary around the coast on Sunday, Nov. 26, 2017 as Ireland was encircled in prayer. More than 300 locations were involved.

"Rosary on the Coast" was organized to pray "for the protection of life, from conception to natural death, and for the preservation and increase in faith in Ireland," said the organizers, who thanked "Christ our King, and the Most Immaculate Heart of Mary, Queen of Ireland for all the graces and blessings."

It follows a similar initiative in Poland when a chain of more than a million people encircled its borders as they prayed for the "preservation of the faith and for the unborn" in the country.

**National News:**

**Pro-Life 15-Year-Old Punched in Face**

Purity Thomas is a member of Students for Life of America, in Roanoke, Virginia. On Saturday, she was praying and speaking to women in hopes of changing their hearts and saving their children from abortion near a Planned Parenthood abortion facility. Suddenly, a bystander walked up threateningly to Purity, and punched her in the face. The incident was caught on tape. ([https://townhall.com/tipsheet/timothymeads/2017/12/03/15yearold-prolifer-punched-in-face-outside-planned-parenthood-n2417454](https://townhall.com/tipsheet/timothymeads/2017/12/03/15yearold-prolifer-punched-in-face-outside-planned-parenthood-n2417454))

“It’s horrific that a minor expressing love for pregnant women was targeted for violence,” said Kristan Hawkins, president of Students for Life of America, in the press release. “But this is not an isolated incident. Across the country we are witnessing a rise in the number of incidents of vandalism and violence against peaceful pro-life speech.”

**IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS**

**Pregnant & Need Help:**
Northern Panhandle Gabriel Project: 304-639-5039
Birthright International: Helpline: 800.550.4900
Aim Women’s Center (Steubenville, OH): (740) 283-3636
Rachel’s Vineyard: 877 HOPE 4 ME (877-467-3463)
Silent No More: 888-735-3448

Please contact the Parish Office with changes in rank or to add someone to the list. Thanks to ALL who have served or are currently serving!
SMPS celebrated Grandparents’ Day on Wednesday, December 6th for 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Grandparents walked through their grandchild’s classroom and then attended the 8:30 AM school mass. After mass everyone proceeded to the Angelus Center for a presentation by the children. Everyone got to spend time together and create a candy cane wreath. They also enjoyed cookies, hot chocolate and lemonade. It was such a wonderful time had by all!

Chances are if you attended St. Mike’s anytime within the last 19 years this beautiful women has touched your life in one way or another. Mrs. Judy joined our staff 19 years ago as a paraprofessional in the 2nd grade with Sheila Maloney and Donna Szymanski. She then was a 1st grade paraprofessional with Mary Smoulder and then finally with Paula Foster in the TK classroom.

Mrs. Judy and her husband Tom have 2 daughters, Kara and Kayla as well as her fur-baby Brie.

On Friday the faculty and staff had a surprise going away party to celebrate Judy’s years with us. We will all truly miss Mrs. Judy’s beautiful hand-made cards, her sweet ever-present smile, her happy spirit and her warm hugs.

She is moving on to have a more flexible schedule to be with her family.

We wish Mrs. Judy the best and truly hope that this isn’t goodbye but that we will see you again soon!
December 18th-20th: 7th & 8th Grade Exams
December 21st-January 2nd: Christmas Break

JANUARY

January 3rd: School Resumes
January 11th: Parent Association Meeting, School Cafeteria, 6 pm. All are welcome!
January 15th: No School MLK Day

St. Michael Parish School would like to introduce our new TK paraprofessional Mrs. Rose Zende. Rose is the daughter of John and Esther Anderson. She is from Steubenville, OH. Rose attended St. Peter’s Elementary School and Steubenville Catholic High School. She received her degree in English Literature and Art History from St. Francis University of Loretta, PA. Rose and her husband Kurt have 5 children. Ava and Alaina are at CCHS, Faith, Sara and Zach are all students at SMPS. Rose has been an active parent at SMPS for many years. We are thrilled to have her as an “official” member of our St. Michael Parish School Family!

Special thanks to this week’s hot lunch volunteers: Missy Tiu, Beth Schmidt, Julie Blake, Tina Brothers, Kathy Blatt, Jen Decker, Susie Nelson, Terry Murphy, Janet Kelly, Jessica Frangos, Susie Nau and McKenzie Keane

MEET MRS. ROSE ZENDE
ST. MICHAEL PARISH SCHOOL
TK PARAPROFESSIONAL

SMPS TEACHER WISH LIST
PK: Gift card for Amazon to order religious stickers based on the letter of the week.
TK: Paper cutter, dress-up clothes and dolls (They were destroyed in the flood.)
2nd: Several sets of small alphabet letters for spelling and phonics.
Advent Evening of Music & Prayer
Featuring
WV Composer & Musician
Mr. Stephen Pishner

Sunday, December 17 @ 6:30pm
St. Michael Church
1225 National Rd., Wheeling, WV

During this free evening concert of music, composer and liturgical musician Stephen Pishner, will lead us in various Advent musical selections and offer reflections on the significance of this season of preparation.

Stephen is the Director of Music & Liturgy at All Saints Parish in Bridgeport, WV, and has liturgical music published through GIA Publications, Inc.

He has recently released a CD entitled, Songs of Grace for the Soul.
Congratulations to all of our student athletes and family members associated with the CCHS Football Team. You made our Parish and all of us proud as you won the class A State Championship. Way to go Knights!!

Congratulations to the more than a dozen young parishioners who participated in Wheeling Park High School's Festival of Sound Concerts. You did a tremendous job and your talent gives us hope for a bright future of music in our world!

Our Handbell Choir represented the parish well as they played in the lobby of Wesbanco Arena prior to the Symphony on Ice Concert on December 5! We can still use more ringers...anyone interested???
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.

Christmas Kindness in Advent:
During the Season of Advent, all of us are encouraged to do a little act of kindness for someone in our families, a friend, a co-worker, etc. This act could be a simple note, a card, some candy, or a small gift — anything to let the person know that they are special to you.

“What Are You Doing New Year’s Eve?”
How About Dessert & A Movie?
December 31, 2017   6:45-9:30 PM
The Angelus Center (A&B)
Space is limited
Please RSVP to Launa_post@yahoo.com
or call 724-484-7538 by 12/20/17

Sponsored by the St. Michael Christian Life Fellowship
From the creators of “God is Not Dead”
We present, “Do You Believe?”
A dozen different souls – all moving in different directions, all longing for something more.
As their lives unexpectedly intersect, they each are about to discover there is power in the Cross of Christ….even if they don’t yet believe it. More than a movie, it’s a question we all must answer in our lifetimes: DO YOU BELIEVE?

Need a Christmas Gift for someone — consider enrolling their family in the CMA:
Commemorative Mass Association

The CMA is a special program which allows our parishioners and friends to remember their loved ones in a beautiful way. A total of 18 Masses will be celebrated for the repose of the souls of those inscribed in the Parish Commemorative Mass Association throughout the year of enrollment. The cost to enroll is $50. The bulletin will regularly list the names of those enrolled in the CMA.

At the time of enrollment, you will receive a beautiful leatherette-type folder (as seen above) describing the Commemorative Mass Association along with a listing of the Masses to be celebrated. Please contact the Parish Office with any questions or to enroll someone in the CMA.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES, FRANCE
Fr. John Beckley, SM, the chaplain at Good Shepherd Nursing Home, Wheeling, will be participating in a pilgrimage to Lourdes from July 2-11, 2018. It is sponsored by the National Rosary Pilgrimage and the Lourdes Bureau of the Marist Fathers in Boston. If you would like to consider making this pilgrimage, an itinerary is available at the parish office or by contacting Fr. Beckley (johnbmarist@aol.com)

Marriage Preparation for Engaged Couples
A New One-Day Retreat
Saturday, January 13th, 2018
8:30a.m.-8:00p.m.
St. Michael Parish
1225 Nacionl Rd.
Wheeling, WV
St. Michael Parish | $40 per person (includes materials and 3 meals)
Register and pay online at: WVMarriage.org/RegisterPFCCM
Advanced registration required. No registration accepted day of event.

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