The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
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
cmelocoton@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@smspswv.org
Shandi NodurŌ, Advancement mrsnodurŌ@smspswv.org
Michelle Patterson, SMPS Bookkeeper mrsmpatterson@smspswv.org
Lisa Mullin, SMPS Secretary mrsnullin@smspswv.org
Michelle Koval, SMPS Receptionist mrskoval@smspswv.org

ST. MICHAEL PARISH SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD

Tami Magruder - President

PARISH SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

School Office: 304.242.3966 Fax: 304.214.6578
Website: www.smpswv.org

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

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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: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bede, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712
Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent
Monday: Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tuesday: International Human Rights Day
Wednesday: St. Damasus I
Thursday: Our Lady of Guadalupe
Friday: St. Lucy
Saturday: St. John of the Cross

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.

The Sanctuary Candle beside the tabernacle burns this week in memory of Robert G. Mueller

May he rest in peace Lord, and may Eternal Light shine upon him.
One cold morning, I stood outside scraping my windshield, side windows and back window. I thought that I was ready to drive to the office when I realized that the side view mirrors had a heavy coating of frost. I got out of my car to finish the job. As I trudged out to the side, I was surprised to see someone drive up the street with only a small porthole scraped in the windshield. I had to question how well and how safely the car could be navigated without a clear view of all directions. The driver couldn’t see the big picture.

I think it’s important to be able to look at the big picture. As we celebrate the season of Advent, I am reminded of the little saying my children were taught when they attended St. Michael Parish School: “Advent is a time to wait, not quite time to celebrate”. As we wait, our church has scheduled a few opportunities for you to reflect upon the “whole picture” as you watch and wait for the coming of our King.

This weekend, on December 8th, we invite you to a special Advent Retreat. Four Franciscan Sisters of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother will be here at St. Michael Parish. Sister Agnes Therese Davis will lead an afternoon of Adoration, Reflection and Evening Prayer. The topic for the afternoon is “Waiting for Jesus with Mary”. The retreat is scheduled for 1pm-4pm. You’ll find more details on page 11 of this bulletin.

On Monday, December 16, our Pastoral Council and Music Ministers will present Advent Lessons & Carols. The event begins at 7pm in the church and we will spend approximately one-hour listening to select readings and music. Following the reflections, our bell choir will lead a candlelight procession out of the church and onto the front lawn where we will bless the outdoor crèche and light the trees.

We join our friends in Elm Grove for a Communal Advent Penance Service. On Tuesday, December 17, the 7pm service be at St. Vincent de Paul Church. The sacrament of Reconciliation is a good way to prepare for the joy of Christmas with a clean heart.

I feel certain that your schedule seems crowded with all of the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season. But, please take time to look at the big picture. What is the reason for the season?

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

Weekday Mass 7:30am Altar Servers:

December 9—NEEDED
December 10—NEEDED
December 12—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.

Weekend Data for November 23/24, 2019

Attendance Data:
4:30pm — 217
9:00am — 240
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 803

Collection Data:
1st Collection: $7866.00
2nd Collection: $1951.00
Miscellaneous: $910.00
DWC Campaign for Human Development: $856.00
Online: $441.50
Total: $12,390.50
*Catholic Sharing Appeal this week: $366.00

Weekend Data for November 30/December 1, 2019

Attendance Data:
4:30pm — 191
9:00am — 275
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 798

Collection Data:
1st Collection: $8,112.41
2nd Collection: $2,184.00
Miscellaneous: $1,334.00
Online: $2,133.60
Total: $13,764.01
*Catholic Sharing Appeal this week: $2,450.00

*All money donated to the Catholic Sharing Appeal from now until January 31, 2020 will be returned back to the parish 100% - without any diocesan taxes. Simply put - every penny contributed to the Catholic Sharing Appeal will be used for St. Michael Parish! All end of the year donations to St. Michael Parish will be processed through the Catholic Sharing Appeal.
Stewards in the Spotlight

The Confraternity of Christian Mothers and Christian Women, more commonly known to us as the “Christian Mothers” have been a part of St. Michael Parish for 118 years! An international confraternity that is recognized by the Vatican, it was formed in France in the 1800’s when mothers were concerned about the anti-Christian attitudes that were influencing their children. Their solution was to gather together to pray and support one another.

The Christian Mothers of St. Michael Parish are a very active group of women that come together with one goal. Their mission is to aid Catholic women, with or without children, in becoming aware of their dignity and responsibility, so that they may give example to a Christian way of life in their sphere of influence. This mission is evident in their programming and outreach.

The Christian Mothers and Christian Women have a large variety of outreach programs. These include Homebound Ministry, Funeral Luncheons, St. Monica’s Circle and Rosary Prayer Group, to name a few. In addition, these women are involved in bible studies, they provide baked goods at a moment’s notice for parish and school events and they distribute rosaries to the parish once per year.

The St. Michael’s Christian Mothers are also well known for their many service projects to support the church, the school and the larger community. Some of the funds raised from these projects enable the organization to host well-known speakers to educate us on various aspects of parenting as Catholics in today’s society.

The Christian Mothers meet from September through May and are always happy to have new members. If you are interested in obtaining more information, please contact Kerry Przybysz @ kbprzybysz@gmail.com OR Sandy Pell @ sip145@comcast.net.

—Kathleen Dieffenbaugher
Stewardship Director
2nd Sunday of Advent / December 7-8, 2019

Support Catholic Charities WV today! Our readings remind us that God can speak to us through the most unlikely people. At Catholic Charities, we see Jesus in everyone we meet! 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: 17 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.

Founded in 1969, the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center is a comprehensive social service center located in Wheeling that serves individuals and families in Ohio, Marshall, and Belmont (OH) counties. The Center runs several anti-hunger programs, including a food pantry, meals served on-site, and meals delivered to shut-ins throughout Wheeling. The Center also provides assistance to those facing utility shut-offs, as well as help obtaining official documents like birth certificates and state IDs. The Center offers a Case Management program in which families work with staff to identify barriers or obstacles on the path to greater self-sufficiency, and then set goals and action steps to work toward overcoming those barriers. Call us at 304-232-7157.

How We Help

Serve Children - More than 25% of West Virginia’s children live below the poverty line. Through the Child Care Resource Center, Child Care Food Program, Birth to Three, and Mentoring programs, we serve these voiceless children and invest in our future.

Assist the Elderly - Our Homemakers and Case Managers work together to provide many different services to the elderly and home-bound in our neighborhoods. Healthcare, transportation, and a simple ear to listen or shoulder to cry on can make a world of difference to an older person.

Providing Food - Catholic Charities West Virginia offers several programs which help our community members to feed their families full, healthy meals. We have food pantries in every region, two sites for hot meals, a mobile food pantry, as well as delivered meals for the homebound of the Upper Ohio Valley.

Community Outreach - We have 21 Outreach offices across the state which offer numerous personal services to their residents, including Utility Assistance, Parenting Skills Classes, Thrift Stores, and healthy food pantries.
Come one, come all to the St. Joseph Retreat Center!!

Renew Yourself with Drumming: With Rhythm Comes Balance; with Balance Comes Peace

Scientists are now finding measurable positive immune system changes following one-hour group drumming sessions. Learn the art of drumming to help release tension and anxiety, exercise the body, and communicate with a power beyond words.

No musical experience necessary.

Jennifer Hezoucky, Facilitator.

Drumming Date - 6:30 p.m. St. Joseph Retreat Center, Monday, December 16

Please RSVP by calling Anna Marie @ 304-233-8424 x112 or emailing atroiani@csjoseph.org

Parish School of Religion Holiday Schedule

12/22  No PSR, Christmas Break
12/29  No PSR, Christmas Break
1/5    PSR Resumes

ROSARY FOR THE SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

We stand with all who have suffered abuse and failed to receive justice. Please join us as we recite a Rosary for healing and courage in our Diocese.

Sunday, December 8, 2019
11:30 AM Outside St Joseph’s Cathedral, 1300 Eoff St., Wheeling, WV.

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.

St. Michael CM/CW will be having our Christmas dinner on Wednesday, December 11 at 6:30 in the Angelus Center. It will be catered by the Alpha and the cost will be $15. Please send your check to Kathy Galinski at 202 Shawnee Road, Wheeling. We will also have a $10 gift exchange. Merry Christmas to all!!

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Please RSVP by calling Anna Marie @ 304-233-8424 x112 or emailing atroiani@csjoseph.org

Please contact us if you are interested in joining me to start a community of young adults, ready and active to serve your Parish Community.

Please join us in the Parish Office, the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6pm, starting January 16th, 2020.

We will have a meal to share!

CONTACT ME—FR. CARLOS

304.242.1560
EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS
Submitted by Shandi Nodurft

2019 Craft Fair
SMPS would like to thank our Parent Association and especially the coordinator, Mrs. Johnna Hutnik for the hard work and dedication in organizing another fantastic Christmas craft fair.

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

Important Dates For The 2019-2020 School Year
♦ December 11th: Grandparent’s Day 5th-8th grades
♦ 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

Congratulations to Kaylee Reinbeau
Congratulations to Kaylee Reinbeau, a 2016 SMPS alumnus, as she continues on from Wheeling Central Catholic High School to pursue a higher education at Bucknell University and be a part of their women’s basketball program. She signed her NLI last week! Our prayers are with you as you prepare for this new chapter in your life!

We wish a fond farewell to art teacher Mrs. Amy Thalman. We will miss you dearly. Please know that you will be in our thoughts and prayers as you begin your next journey!

First Reconciliation
Our second grade students prayerfully prepared for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation that they received on Nov. 20th. Please keep these youngsters in your prayers as they continue their faith journey and prepare for First Communion in the spring.
**Special Thank Yous!**

Thank you to Fr. Jeremiah McSweeney and Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Conti for their very generous gifts to this year’s Angel Walk;

to the Ancient Order of Hibernians and to Mr. Jordan Chilensky for their generous donations towards the purchase of a mobile Chromebook cart for our middle school;

to Andrea McGinley and Nick Schott for their generous donation to our School Fund;

to Doug and Sandy Pell and Charline Dofka for their gifts in loving memory of Cathy Abraham;

to Rick and Debby Carbone in loving memory of Paul Francis Volpe.

**SMPS WINS 1st place!**

Congratulations to the Forensics team on their win this week! Our forensic team, lead by Mrs. Marcy Hartzell, had an impressive showing at this year’s fall Forensic Tournament held at OLP! St. Mike’s came away with FIRST place overall, and the ONLY PERFECT SCORE of the day was awarded to Taylor Andrews! Way to go team and congratulations to all!

**Let’s Dine Together!**

This year we are partnering with Quaker Steak & Lube for our gift card fundraiser. St. Mike’s will receive 20% of all gift card sales! These gift cards make great Christmas gifts for yourself and your loved ones. An added bonus is you can also use them at the Dine to Donate night on January 30th.

**Christmas Concert**

SMPS Department of Music would like to help get you into the Christmas spirit by inviting you to join us for our inaugural Christmas concert on December 12th at 6 pm. The concert will take place at St. Michael Parish Church and will feature SMPS TK-4th grades choir and band.

Special thanks to our hot lunch volunteers for the month of November: Sue Simpson, Janet Kelly, Karen Yocum, Theresa Rodak, Karen Schmitt, Jennie Adams, Jenn Robinson, Larry Teufel, Jim Kelly, Jessica Frangos, Jen Komorowski, Terry Murphy, Nora McGee, Jenn Shinn, Larry & Tina Brothers, Rhonda & Kevin Kaufman, Kathy Blatt, Nicole McConnaughy, Tina Greer, Megan Phillips, Suzanne Nelson, Cheryl Sayre, Christina Buch, Sarah Kilpatrick, Tami Smith, Stacey Parker, Rosie Sprowls, Rachel Conkle, McKenzie Keane and Jen Decker.
The 5th and 6th Grade Christmas Party will be on December 8th, 2019 from 6pm to 7:30pm at the Angelus Center.

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 Christmas Party until 7am.

Mrs. Imer’s Youth Group would like to thank our awesome parishioners for their support of all Youth Group endeavors throughout the entire year!

St. Michael Parish is grateful to all of our parishioners for your generous outpouring of gifts for our Angel Tree project. Thanks to you, we are able to provide a little bit of Christmas joy to (8) local charities as well as some families and individuals in our community that need a little bit of extra support.

In addition, special thanks go out to Mrs. Tammy Miller and Mrs. Jenny Imer who spend many hours of their time overseeing this project. With a little help from our Youth Group, the trees are tagged, gifts are collected and donations are sorted and delivered in time for the Christmas celebration.

We are proud of this annual project that demonstrates the wonderful stewardship of our Parish!

—Kathleen Dieffenbaugher
Stewardship Director

Second Sunday of Advent December 8, 2019

The earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea. — Isaiah 11:9
**Advent Retreat**

**Waiting for Jesus with Mary**

**St. Michael Parish Invites You!!!**

December 8, 2019 from 1– 4pm

Adoration, Reflection Talk, and Evening Prayer in Our Church With Sr. Agnes Therese Davis.

1:00-1:40 pm Welcome and First Presentation
1:40-2:00 pm Guided Prayer
2:00-2:15 pm Break
2:15 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament
2:20-2:50 pm Second Presentation
3:00 pm Rosary with meditations/Scriptural Rosary
3:30 pm Evening Prayer and Benediction/Reposition

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**December 2019**

8 - Advent Retreat, Waiting for Jesus with Mary - 1pm until 4pm
9 - Personnel Committee Meeting 2:30pm
9 - Stewardship Committee Meeting 4:30pm
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

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**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 creche 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!

Pro-abortion Media is Lying about Pennsylvania’s Fetal Remains Act
By Casey Fiano-Chesser


“The Final Disposition of Fetal Remains Act’ passed the Pennsylvania House of Representatives earlier this month with bipartisan support… It merely requires that hospitals either bury or cremate fetal remains, or return them to the parents upon request… the bill’s author wanted it to be a choice families could make after suffering a loss which so many find devastating, as well as ensure that human remains are disposed of respectfully, and with dignity.”

“…At Business Insider, Julia Naftulin penned a screed declaring the bill to be an unscientific joke, which mandates death certificates for ‘fertilized eggs’… She also makes an assumption that women who experience early miscarriages will also be forced to first obtain death certificates, and then show proof that they have either paid to bury or cremate the remains…”

“…A similar law was passed in Indiana, and [it] was upheld by the Supreme Court as constitutional…. None of these hysterical claims about policing pregnant women’s bodies, with pro-life officials banging on doors to demand death certificates for very early miscarriages, have come to pass in Indiana. It likely won’t happen in Pennsylvania, either…”

If it SNOWS...

December is right around the corner and that means Old Man Winter is here! In the event of snow, WE DO NOT CANCEL MASS. We do however, need help with our property to keep it safe for our parishioners.

In the event of a snowfall, we are deeply appreciative of anyone who arrives with shovel in hand! No special invitations are issued, but be assured that we are grateful for our snow stewards!

Also, we would ask that if you are able-bodied, please park at the Angelus Center when you come to the church during the week or weekends so that the infirmed and elderly can park closer to the church during these cold winter months.

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.

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.