



St. Michael Catholic Church

Sunday Mass - 8 am

Wednesday Mass - 7 pm (no 5 pm Mass this week)

Alvin Petricka † and Cassie Maxson †

Confessions -

Second Wednesday of the month after Mass

Fourth Sunday of the month after Mass

Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

Mathew 15: 29-37: The disciples collected seven loaves of bread and a few fish, but what was left at the end was exponential: seven baskets of leftovers, a basket for each loaf that was given. This is a wonderful demonstration of God's superabundant providence. We give him what little we have and he gives it back to us in a much greater way. We sometimes resist giving God what we have because we think it is not enough. We hesitate even though we can recall the times when God has provided for us, often over and above what we needed. Why do we hold back?

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." The multiplication of the loaves is an example of how Jesus came to share his abundant life with each one of us. Jesus came to give us eternal life, but also to give us a full, rich life of freedom in him here and now. This is the abundant life of which he spoke. By coming to the faith and "abiding," or living, in Christ (John 15:4), we have a share in God's divine life of grace. We can imagine ourselves there on the mountain sitting with Jesus, passing around the basket full of fish and bread. Like King David in today's psalm, we look around and see all the good things that God has given us and exclaim, "my cup overflows" (Psalm 23:5).

When we pay attention to the meals or feasts in the Gospels, many of them point to the Eucharist. In the multiplication of the loaves, Jesus blessed the bread, broke it, and gave it to the people. Notice that the bread was specifically broken, which indicates dying. This is key to how it was multiplied. Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:24). The bread that was blessed, broken, and given is a biblical "type" of Eucharist. These are the same words that Matthew used to describe how Jesus instituted the Eucharist (Matthew 26:26). This is how the disciples on the road to Emmaus finally recognized him after his Resurrection: "When he was at table with them, he took the bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight" (Luke 24:30-31). The Eucharist communicates Christ's life, which is both abundant and eternal. One way to remain in Christ and receive life, both abundantly in this life and eternally, is to receive the Eucharist: "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him" (John 6:56).

God bless,
Fr. Cory Rohlfing

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Welcome to all those visiting us today. We invite everyone to continue to celebrate Mass with us at St. Michael's. Please let the parish office know if we can be of assistance to you.

CONTRIBUTIONS

November 28, 2021

Adult Envelopes: \$ 1650.00
Loose Plate: \$ 91.00

Saints of the week

December 6 - St. Nicholas
December 7 - St. Ambrose
December 9 - St. Juan Diego
December 11 - St. Damasus I

Divine Mercy Mass schedule:

Sunday - 8 am, 10 am,
12 pm (Spanish), 5 PM
Monday - 5:30 pm
Tuesday - 8:30 am
Wednesday - 8:30 am IC
10:30 am IC
Thursday - 8:30 am
Friday - 8:30 am
Saturday - 8:30 am, 4 pm

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

December 8 - Holy Day Mass 7:00 pm

Reader: Lou Breimhurst
Ushers: Keith Schrader & Marv Donkers
Servers: Jett Smith & Ryan LaCanne

December 12

Reader: Penelope Parrish
Ushers: Bruce & Laura Chmelik
Servers: Mark Mund & Greyson Overholt

December 19

Reader: Bruce Chmelik
Ushers: Tim LaCanne & Tom Coffman
Servers: Serenity Overholt & Izzy Chmelik

December money counters:

Pam Hegseth & Terry LaCanne

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

December 8 - Parish Reconciliation 5:30-7:00 pm
Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Holy Day Mass 7:00 pm

December 12 - Faith Formation Christmas Program
9:00 am
Breakfast Sunday: Women

December 15 - Live Nativity 6:00-7:30 pm

December 24 - Christmas Eve Mass 4:00 pm

December 25 - Christmas Day Mass 8:00 am

We pray for all our parishioners, families and friends who are in need of physical or spiritual healing, especially, Anne Haynes, Bryce Young, Don Graunke, Marian Spindler, Donna Hollund, and Mike "Mac" McDonald.

We pray for those in the Armed forces, especially Sergio Jr & Angela Rodriguez, Zury Hoaglund, and Zane Hoaglund.

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Holy Day Mass - Wednesday at 7 pm
*There will be NO 5 pm Mass on Wednesday this week***

The Immaculate Conception means that Mary, whose conception was brought about the normal way, was conceived without original sin or its stain—that's what "immaculate" means: without stain. The essence of original sin consists in the deprivation of sanctifying grace, and its stain is a corrupt nature. Mary was preserved from these defects by God's grace; from the first instant of her existence she was in the state of sanctifying grace and was free from the corrupt nature original sin brings.

Divine Mercy Holy Day Mass Schedule:

Tuesday, December 7 - Vigil Mass at 7 pm

Wednesday, December 8 - Masses at 7 am, 8:30 am (IC), 10:30 am (IC), 7:30 pm (Spanish)

Parish Reconciliation

Wednesday, December 8

5:30-7:00 pm

Not only does it [the Sacrament of Penance] free us from our sins but it also challenges us to have the same kind of compassion and forgiveness for those who sin against us. We are liberated to be forgivers. We obtain new insight into the words of the Prayer of St. Francis: "It is in pardoning that we are pardoned."

Our Faith Formation students will present a Christmas program on Sunday, December 12 after Mass. All are invited to stay and support our students and enjoy the performance. Breakfast will be served in the parish hall after the Christmas program.

Live Nativity

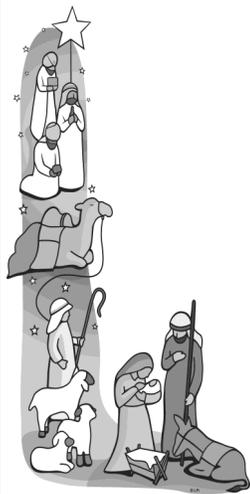
Wednesday, December 15

6:00 - 7:30 pm

Please help us spread the joy of the birth of Jesus at the Live Nativity!

Help is needed: people in costumes to participate in the Live Nativity outside
set-up help at 5:30 pm
clean-up help at 7:30 pm
workers in the kitchen to help serve

Sign-up sheets are available on the youth bulletin board. Thank you!



Goodhue County Christmas Project has again come to St. Michael's to provide Christmas gifts for the children and a food card for the family holiday meal. The county staff screen all requests for help and parents provide the children's sizes. The church will provide the food card for the family's holiday food needs.

Please sign up on the atrium bulletin board to provide a gift for one of the three boys in the family we are helping. All gifts need to be brought to church by Sunday, December 19 or before.

All questions can be addressed to the parish office for Dee Callstrom at 789-4663.

Parking Lot Campaign

We ask that you continue to prayerfully discern if you can contribute to this campaign.

Current amount in fund: \$33,700.00.

Can you spare a little bit of your time and your talents to help at St. Michael's? **We are in need of ushers, lectors, and money counters.** These volunteer opportunities require very little time commitment, but would be a tremendous help and service to the church. Ushers and money counters do need to complete a background check and code of conduct online. Contact the office for more information.

Give in gratitude. A donor to the Retirement Fund for Religious writes, "I still remember the lessons the sisters gave us and how they instilled in us the love of our faith." Show your thanks for the prayerful service of elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Your gift to next week's second collection helps provide care, medicine, and more. Please be generous.

Community Events/News

•Light Up A Life - Your gift of \$5 will light up a bulb on the hospice memory tree in honor of your friend or loved one. Donation forms are available on the table in the atrium. Names are displayed in the *Light Up A Life* memorial book displayed in the hospital lobby. Proceeds will benefit hospice patients and families in the Faribault area. All are also invited to the outdoor tree lighting ceremony on Monday, December 6 at 7 pm at District One Hospital Surgery Center. Refreshments will be served.

