

Saint Michael Parish

85 North High Street, Greenville, PA 16125
724-588-9800

Saint Margaret, Parish's Mission Church
701 Denver Street, Jamestown, PA 16134

www.stmichaelgreenville.com
st.michaelchurch@neohio.twcbc.com

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER
10
2023**

**SECOND
SUNDAY OF
ADVENT**

Fr. Brandon Kleckner
Pastor
BKleckner@ERIErcd.org

Ms. Patty Meehan:
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Maintenance Supervisor

Miss Emily Zgonc:
Principal
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 11	Young at Heart meets at 11:30.
Dec. 12	Divine Mercy Chaplet 3 PM.
Monday	Confessions 5-6 PM Advent.
Tues/Thur	Confession 12-1 PM Advent.
Wednesday	Confession 7:30-8:30 PM Advent.
Friday	Confessions 9:45-11 AM Advent.
Saturdays	Confessions 3-4 PM.

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Helen Della Vecchia. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

Teaching Kids to Be Smart About Social Media: There are plenty of good things about social media – but also many risks and things kids and teens should avoid. To help your child find the balance, it's important to talk with your kids about how to use social media wisely. Emphasis to your child that it's important to: 1.) Be nice. Mean behavior is not OK. 2.) Think twice before hitting "enter". Remind them that what they post can be used against them. 3.) Use privacy settings. 4.) Don't "friend" strangers. If you don't know them, don't friend them. 5.) Teach kids not to share anything on social media that they wouldn't want their teachers, college admissions officers, future bosses – and even grandma – to see. For additional resources visit www.eriecd.org/childprotection/.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Weekday Masses Tues–Fri 9AM / First Sat 9AM
Saint Michael Church

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe
Helen & Stephen Bratina (Conrad & Kathy Kost)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Saint Lucy
Tom & Meridith Reda (Family)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

Saint John of the Cross
John & Paul Ceremuga (Nancy Ceremuga)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

George Macko (The Christophers)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

4:30 PM *Saint Michael Church*
Mildred Schwartz (Tom & Shirley Patton)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

7:00 AM *Saint Michael Church*
Joseph Langiotti (Daughters)

9:00 AM *Saint Margaret Mission*
For the People of the Parish

11:00 AM *Saint Michael Church*
Toni McElhinny (Natalie Higbee)

STEWARDSHIP

First Sunday in Advent
\$10,215.36

CSA
Pledged: \$135,375
Paid: \$126,300

*THANK YOU FOR THE GENEROSITY YOU SHOW
TO OUR PARISH*

40 CLUB WINNERS-NOVEMBER 29

\$100– Doug & Susan Uzarski: \$100– Andrew
Lauffer; \$50– Letha McElhaney.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

Christmas Flower Donations deadline is De-
cember 18 at Noon.

SANCTUARY CANDLES

INTENTION & DONOR

Dec 1-15 Judy Kalchthaler (Uncle Benny &
Aunt Bonnie)
Dec 1-15 James & Edith Barbarossa (Ben,
Bonnie & Family)
Dec 1-15 John Potase, Sr. (Saulsbery Family)
St. Margaret
Dec 16-31 Mike Prezioso (Sally Prezioso)
Dec 16-31 Darla Prezioso Hellyer (Sally)
Dec 16-31 John Potase, Sr. (Saulsbery Family)
St. Margaret

Date / Mass	Lector	Cantor	Accompanist	Altar Servers
Dec 16 / 4:30 PM	Tyler Smart	Mary Smart	Sharen & Jerry Seiple	Kyle B., Mason M., Lily T.
Dec 17/ 7:00 AM	Bea DeCiancio	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dec 17/ 9:00 AM	Gabby Saulsbery	Joe Presto	Lisa Demarest	FF Class none scheduled
Dec 17/ 11:00 AM	Robert Woodley	Bob Hutchinson	Kathy Williams	Ava & Sophia M., Maggie L.

A WORD FROM FATHER BRANDON

I think I told this story last year, but, with the Feast this week, I enjoy sharing how Our Lady of Guadalupe became for me a meaningful feast and title of Mary. Growing up and even through seminary, I really had no devotion to Our Lady, nor did anyone ever really show me or teach me. I remember that in Kindergarten, we received plastic rosaries and prayed, I think, a decade, and I didn't pick up a rosary again till my first night in seminary some thirteen years later. Then that rosary (which they gifted us, one blessed by Pope Benedict XVI) was put away in a little keepsake box I have, along with that old plastic one from kindergarten, never to really be prayed with again. (I still have both somewhere, but in my move here last year, I misplaced that small box. I know it's somewhere...maybe one day, when I move out, I'll find it!) It wasn't that I didn't like or think of or know or go to Mary, it was just that that relationship lacked any typical 'Catholic structure'. I remember, especially throughout seminary, thinking that I would really need to get better at this Mary thing before Orders because all these guys are praying, with great devotion, to our Lady, and I simply did not have that in my arsenal, my spiritual repertoire. I simply was neither shown nor taught how to pray and, truly, why bother praying, in that way. My spiritual life might have looked amorphous to most and when I compared it to others, I just felt like I lacked or was insufficient. For as central as prayer and helping others pray has become to my identity over the years, I hardly recognize that old version of Brandon, and yet, at the same time, he seems so familiar. It was not until a year or two into my priesthood that I found my personal connection I had been searching for to Our Lady - and a link I was missing and needing in my spiritual life.

It was the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and I was giving, admittedly, a canned Marian homily because I just didn't have any personal connection to the Feast or had a spiritual intimacy with Her that would have made sense to anyone in the pew. But as I was preaching, something hit me - I just felt this complicated and profound insight giving birth in my mind as I was droning on. After Mass, I spent some time in prayer and it fully gave birth in my heart and mind: Mary is pregnant with The Word in that most beautiful of images of Our Lady, and all she wants is to give birth to Him - She wants to give birth to The Word into the world...and so do I! I found in Her icon emblazoned upon St Juan's tilma a lady who loves being pregnant but would love even more to give birth and have that child of Hers - the Word - run free and wild throughout the world, and I wanted to participate in that birth of The Word into the world. I wanted to be someone that was, too, pregnant with The Word through prayer and study, and then give birth to The Word - Christ - to all hearts, minds, and souls. I saw in Her, me; I saw in Her desire, my desire; I saw in Her, my priesthood. From that day forward, not only Marian devotion and prayer made sense, but I was given a share in Her life and mission. I feel that every aspect of my Priesthood and my Sonship is an extension of Her Motherhood and Daughterhood. One of the greatest experiences of my life was being able to go down to Mexico City (with my sister who is a Spanish teacher) and spending some time at the shrine praying, celebrating Mass, taking in the beauty and the grandeur of the grounds, and just uniting our hearts together in this common mission and desire of just bringing Her Son - Our Saviour and Love - into the world through giving birth to Him in the hearts, minds, and souls of all His beloved. (I would recommend a visit down there to anyone. It's an easy and quick trip to make and the city really is beautiful, *huge*, and safe. The area around the shrine is loud and very busy, but there is a serenity that exists on the grounds of the shrine. It's probably the quickest and easiest trip you can make to a major Marian shrine).

Allow this Season of Advent to engender within your soul an urge to, alongside Our Lady, give birth to Christ into the world. Obviously, not a physical birth (I spoke about this before, and someone after a Mass accused me of saying men can have babies, and I never saw them again...), but a spiritual birth. Let us become pregnant (again, metaphor) with The Word through our prayer, study, and worship, and then desire to birth that Word - Christ - into the lives of others through our sharing of the Gospel, The Truth and The Beauty of our faith which we boldly and joyfully profess!

Love,

Fr. Brandon

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Faith Formation Office hours 9:30AM to 2:30 PM Monday through Thursday.

Scheduled Faith Formation Classes

December 17 Faith Formation Class- K-5th Grades, Edge (6th-8th Grade) & Confirmation (9th & 10th Grade) from 8:45 A.M. to 10:45 A.M. **6th - 8th Grade Parents are asked to attend this Special Edge Session for Advent.**

December 25 The Faith Formation Office would like to wish all our Faith Formation Families a very Merry Christmas this year!

January 1 The Faith Formation Office would like to wish all our Faith Formation Families a very Blessed & Happy New Year!

January 7 Faith Formation Class-K-5th Grades, Edge (6th-8th Grade) & Confirmation (9th & 10th Grade)/ 7th Grade - Saint Papers are due in Edge today! 8th Graders- Sponsor Papers due in Edge today! 9th & 10th Grader's 1st Rough Draft of Bishop Letter is due in class today!

Faith Formation Meetings or Events

December 10 8:45 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.~ 4th & 5th Grade Retreat time includes 11:00 A.M. Mass. Students will sit with their families. Please pick up students at 10:45 A.M. from the Retreat to attend Mass together! Please Drop off & pick up students to the Large Meeting Room of the Church.

ST. MICHAEL PARISH MEN's GROUP

The Men's fellowship group will take a pause for Thanksgiving and Advent. We will recommence the "Into-The-Breach" video series on Thursday January 4, 2024. Have a peaceful, joyful, and prayerful holiday season with your family and friends. If you have never attended a session, please feel welcome to join us next year.

SAINT MICHAEL SCHOOL NEWS



Registration is ALWAYS open for the 2023-2024 School Year! Call for information: 724-588-7050 or scan to visit our website.

RAISERIGHT/SCRIP

Are you shopping this holiday season? Giving a gift card as a gift? Traveling via car or plane? Staying in a hotel? Buying groceries? If you said yes... then you can support Saint Michael School at no additional cost through the RaiseRight program! (formerly known as SCRIP.)

In 1 week, if you spend \$100 in Gas, \$200 on groceries, \$100 on Amazon, \$50 on Chewy.com dogfood and \$75 on dinner at Applebees you raised \$18.20 for the school doing your everyday spending in 1 week!

Sheetz \$100 - 3% back = \$3.00

Walmart \$200 - 2.5% back = \$5.00

Amazon \$100 - 1.7% back = \$1.70

Chewy \$50 - 5% = \$2.50

Applebees \$75 - 8% back = \$6.00

Gift Cards will be available after Masses during the Advent Season. Contact the school office or Trichelle Eddy to order cards marketing@smike1.org or register online at www.raiseright.com using code 8B4A28596285 to register and order cards (digital and physical).

Parents Night Out

Parents of children of St. Michael School and Parish, are you looking for a babysitter to watch your child while you enjoy a date night out, have a few hours to yourself, or shop for your Christmas presents? SMS PTO moms have you covered! Drop your child(ren) off at Lateran Hall on Friday, December 15, from 5-9pm. Children will enjoy supper, activities, and games. Cost is \$20 for one child and \$30 for a family.

ADVENT GIVING PROJECT

The time has arrived for the Annual Advent Giving project (formerly called the Giving Tree project). This is a wonderful time for us to focus on the empty manger and the coming of the Christ child, so let us fill the manger with our gifts to those who could use a hand this year as we prepare for Jesus' birth. We are once again asking for gift cards to Walmart of \$20 to give to the individuals we hope to serve. This has worked very well the past few years and is greatly appreciated by those on the receiving end. There are many people from infant to elderly who can use a little extra help. If you can participate this year, you can drop off your donation of Walmart gift cards to the church office or mail to: St. Michael Church at 85 North High St. Greenville, PA 16125, marked *Advent Giving*. **All donations should be delivered to the church by December 10th.** Thank you to all who make this parish activity a blessing for so many!