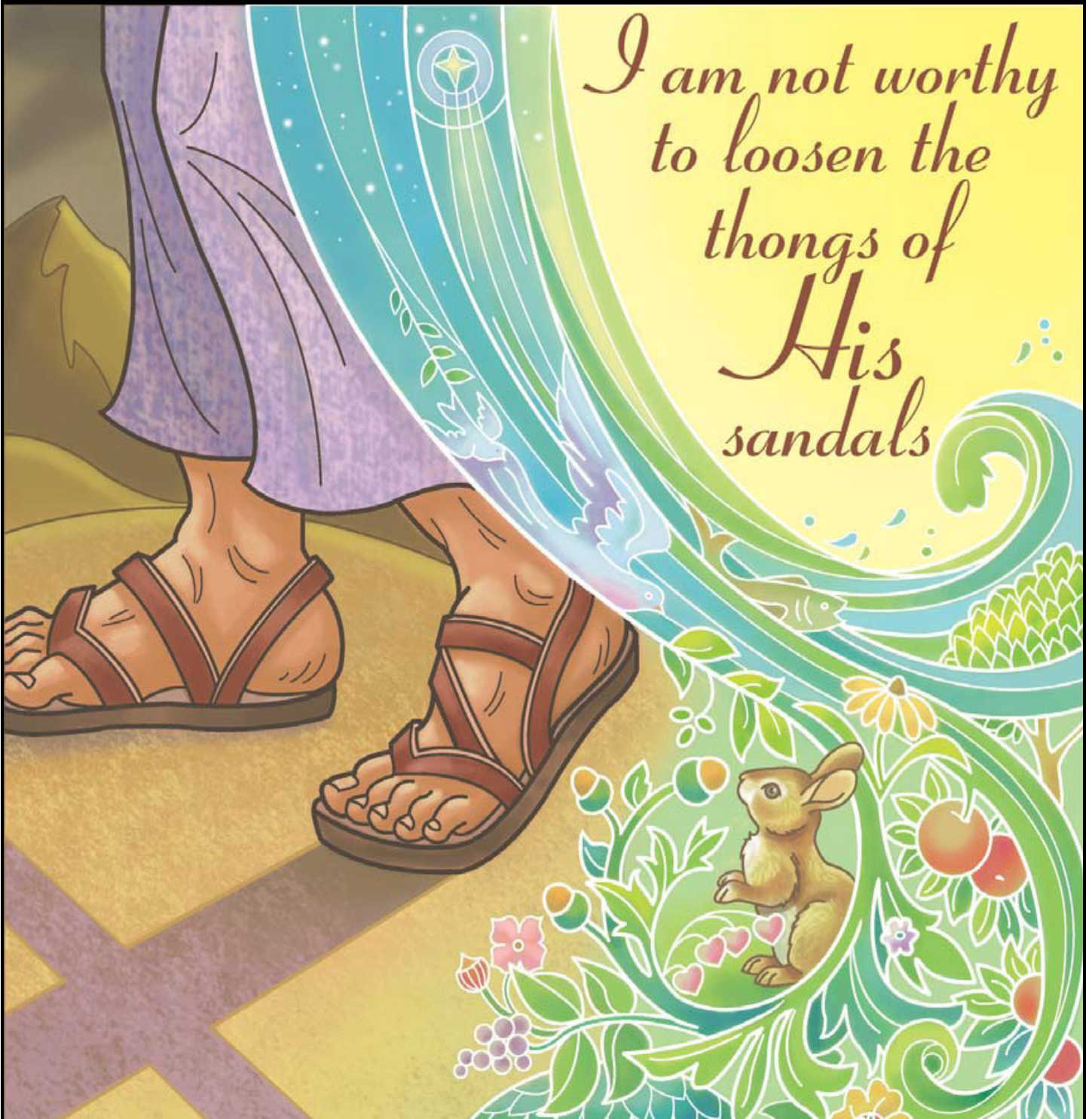
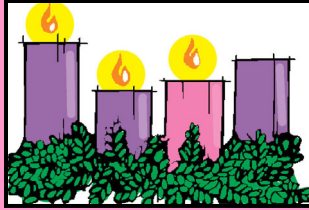


ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

*I am not worthy
to loosen the
thongs of
His
sandals*



*P.O. Box 6310 Fernandina Beach, FL 32035 corner of North Fourth & Broome Streets
904-261-3472*



**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 13, 2015
CELEBRATE**

This Sunday, God rejoices and sings because of us. We read in Zephaniah today that God “will sing joyfully because of you, / as one sings at festivals” (Zephaniah 3:18). We know plenty about singing at festivals. Already our ears are ringing with the songs and carols that anticipate the Christmas season.

Paul reminds us of the source of our own double rejoicing: God is the mighty savior who is in our midst (in Zephaniah’s words). Because this is so, says Paul, we can rejoice and be at ease. We don’t have to worry, for God’s peace will stand guard over our hearts and minds.

A medieval carol depicts Christmas as “my dancing day” and urges us to enter into the dance. Why all the merrymaking? Because “the Lord is near,” as Paul reminds us (Philippians 4:5). He then points to another reason for the dancing: the dawn of the promise of peace, the peace beyond all understanding, that is now within our grasp.

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — Shout for joy! Sing joyfully! Be glad and exult! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior (**Zephaniah 3:14-18a**).

Psalms — Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel (**Isaiah 12**).

Second Reading — Rejoice! The Lord is near. Make your requests known to God (**Philippians 4:4-7**).

Gospel — John tells his hearers to share their possessions with the needy; be honest; do not threaten or accuse others falsely (**Luke 3:10-18**).

END OF THE YEAR GIVING

As another year has almost concluded and as the Christmas holidays approach we begin to reflect on the many blessings that God has bestowed on us and our families. The end of the year also provides an opportunity to thank God for these blessings by bestowing a major gift to St. Michael Catholic Church. Besides thanking God for His generosity towards us, some people do this in order to take advantage of income tax deductions, capital gains savings or other financial benefits. There are many ways to make such a contribution. The two easiest ways are a donation of cash (usually in the form of a check) or of appreciated stock or other investments.

Please consider St. Michael Catholic Church as a worthy recipient of your end-of-the-year giving. Contact the Parish Office at (904) 261-3472. **All gifts must be dated by December 31, 2015.**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

Friday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE
“Prepare ye the way of the Lord”**

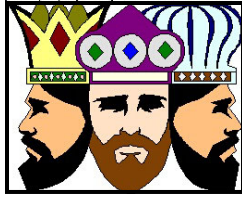
You are invited to participate in St. Michael’s Advent Penance Service on Tuesday, December 15th at 7:00pm (following the 6:00pm Mass.) Several priests will be available to hear confessions.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent
Monday: St. John of the Cross



**“With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation.”
Isaiah 12:3**



Lord, every nation on earth will
adore you...

**Christmas Epiphany Pageant
and Festival of Nations
International Pot Luck**
January 3, 2016—5:00pm

Come and join us as we reenact the Nativity through music and pageantry. Celebrate Epiphany with all the cherished customs from the cultures that make up our parish family.

We welcome your participation! Here are ways you can share your heritage with us:

FOR THE PAGEANT IN THE CHURCH:

Procession of Gifts: We need Gift bearers (singles, families, children) to bring up a symbolic gift during the pageant that represents your families cultural Christmas traditions.

call/email: Denise Ziegler
904-654-3855 musicatmichaels@gmail.com

**FOR THE FESTIVAL OF NATIONS AND
INTERNATIONAL POT LUCK IN THE HALL:**

Admission: 1 small dish to share

Dinner: Everyone is invited to bring a food dish reflecting his/her cultural background to share at the festival.

Showcase your heritage: Create a booth on your heritage. We would love to have a variety of countries represented. Families, friends, & ministries can work together on a booth. Booth items can be pictures, music, clothing, books, etc.

Children: We will have a flag decorating contest and are looking for children who would like to dance, sing, or play a musical Instrument reflecting different ethnic groups.



Sign up sheets for food, booths, and performers will be at the back of the church, Dec.12-13 & 19-20, or on our website,
www.stmichaelscatholic.com.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

**FESTIVAL OF NATIONS
INTERNATIONAL POT LUCK**

Please stop by the sign up table after Mass to choose how you would like to participate in our International Festival immediately following the Epiphany Pageant on January 3, 2016.

CCW MEETING

The next CCW meeting will be held this Monday, December 14th. **Please note: the meeting will begin at 6:30pm followed by Christmas festivities and refreshments.** Be sure to bring a wrapped gift under a \$5.00 value for a fun Christmas Gift Exchange game. All ladies of our parish are invited!

**POPE FRANCIS HAS DECLARED A HOLY YEAR
MERCY
DECEMBER 8, 2015—NOVEMBER 20, 2016**

Corporal Works of Mercy

- To Feed the Hungry
- To Give Drink o the Thirsty
- To Clothe the Naked
- To Shelter the Homeless
- To Care for the Sick
- To Visit the Imprisoned
- To bury the Dead.

Spiritual Works of Mercy

- To Convert Sinners
- To Instruct the Ignorant
- To Advise he Doubtful
- To Comfort the Sorrowful
- To Bear Wrongs Patiently
- To Forgive Injuries
- To Pray or the Living and the Dead.

IDN SIGN UP MEETING

IDN signup meeting for Jan, Feb, March will be held on Thursday, December 17th at 7:00 in the **parish office** at 505 Broome Street. Please bring your favorite Christmas beverage, snack or appetizer to share. All are welcome to join this wonderful ministry. Please call: Steve White at 206-6128 for questions. **Note: change of venue.**

RENEWAL RETREAT

If you are on the Renewal Team or involved in a Liturgical Ministry, it's not too late to R.S.V.P. to attend the Retreat which will be on Saturday, December 19th from 9:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Please call the Parish Office, 904-261-3472. We look forward to sharing with you.



**GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR
GENEROUS OFFERING!**

Registered Families 1570 December 6, 2015
Offertory \$16,794.84
Children's Collection 31.00
**The SECOND COLLECTION this weekend is for
Support of the Retired Religious.**



- Sat. Dec. 12 (5pm) Willis Larrabee by Rita Larrabee**
- Sat. Dec. 12 (7pm) Spanish Mass**
- Sun. Dec. 13 (8am) Parishioners of St. Michael**
- Sun. Dec. 13 (10am) Gaston Desnoyers by Al Desnoyers & Choir**
- Sun. Dec. 13 (12noon) Pearl Cooper by Don & Peggy Cooper**
- Mon. Dec. 14 (8:30am) Harvey William Miller by Nancy Ryan**
- Tues. Dec. 15 (6pm) Luigi Bresciani by Tom Moody**
- Wed. Dec. 16 (8:30am) SPECIAL INTENTION of Penka Klauer by Katie Rewa**
- Thurs. Dec. 17 (8:30am) SPECIAL INTENTION of the Respect Life Ministry**
- Fri. Dec. 18 (8:30am) James Leo Mooney by family**
- Sat. Dec. 19 (5pm) Jack Flynn by Tom & Mary Atkinson**
- Sat. Dec. 19 (7pm) Spanish Mass**
- Sun. Dec. 20 (8am) SPECIAL INTENTION of Lori Kennedy by Katie Rewa**
- Sun. Dec. 20 (10am) Anne Hammer by Tom & Vicki Paisley**
- Sun. Dec. 20 (12noon) Parishioners of St. Michael's**
Please pray for the sick and all requests in our Prayer Request Book. Please pray for the repose of the souls of Curtis Stoner, father of Elizabeth Stoner and George Reid, husband of Maggie. May they rest in peace.



**ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE OF
ELECTRONIC GIVING**

St. Michael Catholic Church wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

Direct Debit Giving is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account.

Credit & Debit Card Giving lets you make offerings automatically on a pre-determined schedule using a credit or debit card.

Online Giving lets you go to www.stmichaelscatholic.com at any time to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history.

As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. Authorization forms and additional information are available from the church office.

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

Thanks to all who donated to this year's Baby Bottle Campaign. Together, with your help, the Respect Life Committee was able to generate a total of over \$5,400 exceeding last year's results by some \$800. Your continuing support is much appreciated. Thank you!

ADVENT TAIZE' PRAYER SERVICE

What is your gift to Jesus? The St. Michael Taize' ensemble is celebrating our 7th year of service and we invite you to attend a 30 minute musical service that includes simple chants sung repeatedly, a time of blessed silent and reflection, a scripture reading and prayers of praise and intercessions. Amidst the rush to prepare for Christmas, don't forget to prepare your heart for the birth of Jesus; the true gift and spirit of Christmas. Feel free to take a break from the hustle and bustle of the season and meet our Lord and feel the power of His Love in communal song and prayer.



**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE
CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES
Thursday, December 24, 2015**

- 4:00 p.m.—Church**
- 4:00 p.m.—Hall**
- 6:00 p.m.—Church**
- 11:00 p.m.—Church**

**CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES
Friday, December 25, 2015**

- 8:00 a.m.—Church**
- 10:00 a.m.—Church**
- !2:00 noon—Church**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE
VIGIL OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

**Thursday, December 31, 2015
6:00 p.m.—Church**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY
MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

**Friday, January 1, 2016
8:30 a.m.—Church
6:00 p.m.—Church**

ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Corner of North Fourth & Broome Streets P.O. Box 6310 Fernandina Beach, FL 32035
Parish Office - 505 Broome Street - Phone - 904-261-3472 Fax - 321-1901 Email: smjdean@bellsouth.net
ALL EMERGENCIES: 904-277-6566 Website: www.stmichaelscatholic.com



Rev. Jose Kallukalam, Pastor
Visiting Priest: Rev. Gerard O'Shea
Deacon Art Treadwell

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Masses: 5:00 pm
7:00 pm (Spanish Mass)

Sunday Masses- 8:00 am—10:00 am—12:00 noon

Confessions:
Saturday: 4:00-4:45 pm or by appointment

Daily Masses: 8:30 am Mon., Wed., Thurs., & Fri.
6:00 pm Tues.

Holy Days Vigil: 6:00 pm
Holy Day 8:30 am & 6:00 pm

MINISTRY TO SICK & HOMEBOUND

Weekly visits and monthly Communion Services are held at Savannah Grand, Quality Health Care and Jane Adams House. Visits by Priest or Extraordinary Minister can be arranged by calling 261-3472.

MATRIMONY

Marriage preparation for couples who wish to be married in a Catholic ceremony must meet with their parish priest at least eight months prior to the wedding date.

R.C.I.A.

For those seeking to learn more about the Catholic faith, call 261-3472.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Classes are available for grades 1—8. Sacrament preparation is available for Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. Call the parish office, 261-3472.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Walt Edwards: 491-0180

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Denise Ziegler: 654-3855

ST. MICHAEL ACADEMY

Pre-K—Grade 8 Principal—Jackie Stewart
Call 321-2102 for information
Email: smacad@smacad.org
Website: www.stmichaels-academy.org



St. Michael Catholic Church Mission Statement
We are the body of Christ at St. Michael's Parish, called to: Gather for Worship, Celebrate the Paschal Mysteries, Preach the Gospel, Minister to Others, Be Witnesses to the World.