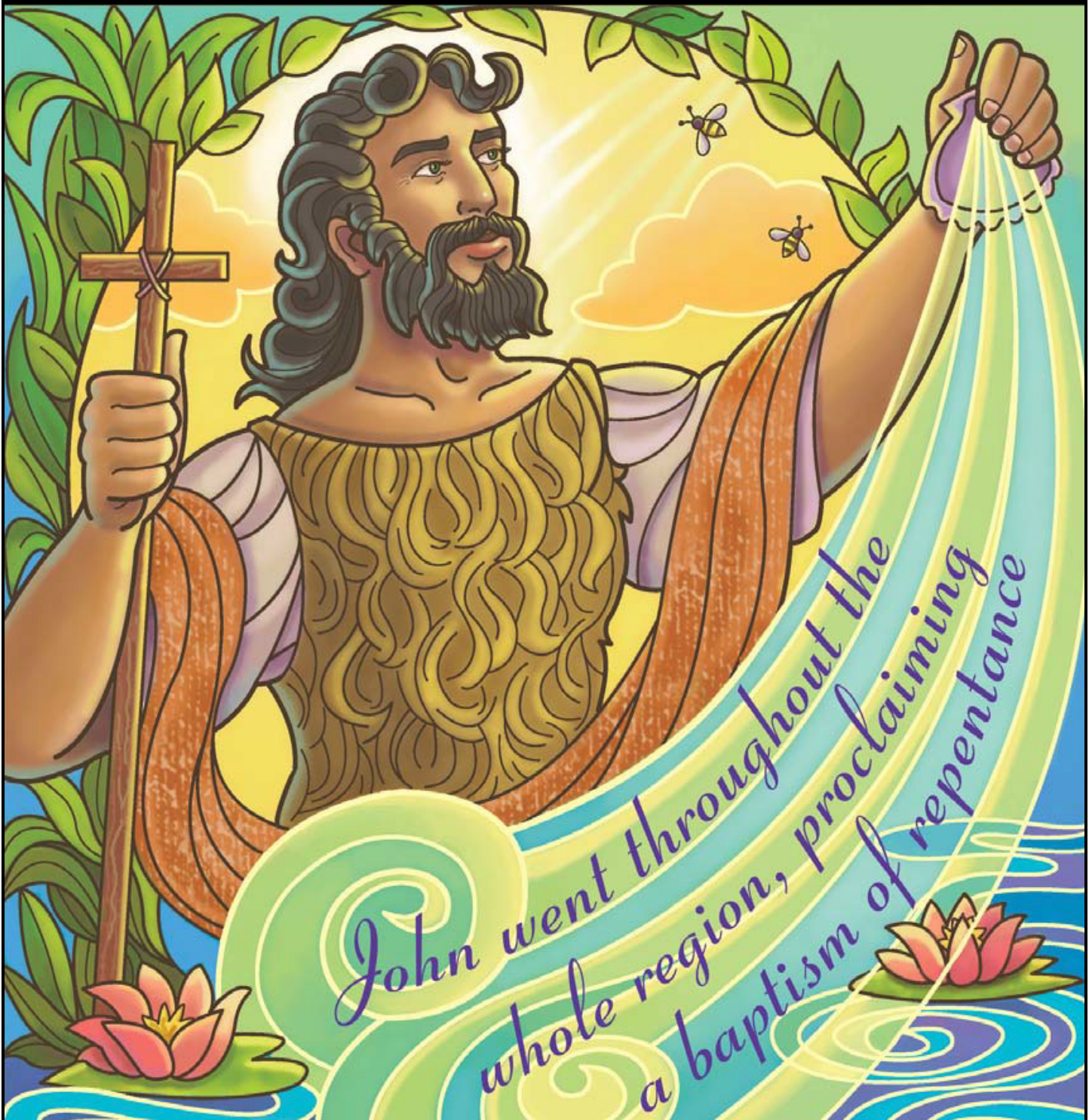


ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH



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



**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 6, 2015
PUT ON JOY**

Today, Baruch speaks of the splendor that lies ahead for the city of Jerusalem and for all of us, regardless of where home is for us. Throw off strife, he tells us, and put on joy. Like a favorite old sweatshirt, joy fits, and how warm it keeps us, even when the winds blow cold.

Paul knows of this joy as he pens his letter to the Philippians, praying that they may grow in their ability to discern what is righteous and good. And Luke speaks to us of John, who was foretold by Isaiah and who sings a similar song—“Prepare the way of the Lord,” for salvation is at hand.

A man ahead of his time, Baruch spent his days joyfully awaiting a distant glory. On this Second Sunday of Advent, Paul and John know that this glory is upon us.

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — Stand on the heights, Jerusalem; see your children rejoicing that they are remembered by God. A merciful and just God leads Israel in joy (**Baruch 5:1-9**).

Psalms — The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy (**Psalms 126**).

Second Reading — May your love increase in knowledge to discern what is valuable that you may be blameless for the day of Christ (**Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11**).

Gospel — John proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All flesh shall see the salvation of God (**Luke 3:1-6**).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

By now, trees are beginning to appear in living rooms throughout the parish. To a complete outsider to our culture, it must seem an odd thing indeed. The “roots” of this custom are in liturgical drama: religious plays performed in the churches and town squares of medieval Europe. The favorite theme for this time of year was the “Paradise Play,” a dramatic history of the human race from the Garden of Eden to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. The language and music varied from place to place, but one feature was always in place: a great tree decorated with apples. As a prop, it provided lots of material for the actors: the temptation, shelter for the manger, and a reminder of the wood of the cross. Soon people began to bring “paradise trees” into their homes, decorating them with gifts and lighted candles.

Many Germans give credit to Martin Luther for transforming the “Paradise Tree” into the evergreen Christmas tree. Walking home on a starry Advent night, he was so awed by the beauty of the night that he hauled a pine tree inside and decorated it with lighted candles. Americans were holdouts. It took until 1856 for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to decriminalize Christmas decorations, the old Puritan dislikes falling before the waves of Irish and German immigrants with traditions firmly in hand!

F Y I

THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT YOUR BULLETIN ARTICLES IS 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO THE PUBLISH DATE. EMAIL TO: smjdean@bellsouth.net.

FOUND

A man’s wedding band was found. If you lost yours, please call the parish office, 904-261-3472.

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. Please call the Parish Office, 904-261-3472. We look forward to sharing with you.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent;
Hanukkah begins
Monday: St. Ambrose;
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
Tuesday: The Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
Wednesday: St. Juan Diego
Friday: St. Damasus I
Saturday: Our Lady of Guadalupe



IDN SIGN UP MEETING

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



ST. MICHAEL BOOK CLUB

The book club will meet on Monday, December 7, 2015, at 4:00PM in the parish office.

Our review will be the response to a letter written by eight-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon to the editor of the New York's Sun, September 21, 1897,

"Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus".

A Copy of this letter will be available at the meeting. Come join us...(call Peggy @904-239-7137 with any questions you may have)



ST. MICHAEL CCW GIFT SHOP

Please note that the balance of our hand-crafted items from the Arts & Crafts Show are available in our Gift Shop.

We now have boxed Christmas cards, Advent items, coloring books, candles, etc. plus our regular items available for your shopping pleasure. Thank you for supporting our Gift Shop. We are open for business on Wednesdays from 10—4pm and before and after all weekend Masses.



RCIA

The Rite of Welcoming is this Sunday at the 10am Mass for our candidates and catechumens who are seeking to become members of our Catholic community. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin their journey to the Easter Sacraments.

The Teaching Mass will be Tuesday, Dec. 15th at 6:00pm and Fr. Jose will explain different parts of the Mass.



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Tuesday, December 15, 2015—7:00 pm (following the 6:00 pm Mass)

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'S MEN'S CLUB RETREAT

St. Michael's Men's Club will be sponsoring their annual retreat to be held from January 15, 2016 to January 17, 2016. The retreat will be held at Marywood Retreat House St. Johns, Florida. The cost for meals and lodging is \$150.00. The retreat is open to all men of St. Michael's Parish. For those men who can not afford the retreat, the SMMC will discretely cover all costs.

Please contact Charlie Sciarini at:

csciarini@gmail.com or 904—491—4978 for further details or to make your reservation.



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

Registered Families 1570 November 22, 2015

Offertory **\$15,418.10**

Children's Collection **56.51**

Campaign for Human Development **1,696.28**

November 29, 2015

Offertory **\$19,708.77**

Children's Collection **23.00**

Additional contributions for the month of November:

St. Michael Offertory: **\$145.00**

St. Michael Social Ministry **1,119.00**

Diocesan Social Appeal **160.00**

Christmas Flowers **45.00**

Diocesan Military Appeal **250.00**

St. Michael Academy **2,622.00**

Expansion **21,087.00**

All Saints **63.00**

Thank you to all who are utilizing our on line giving.

On Line Giving \$3,921.40

**The SECOND COLLECTION next weekend will be for
Support of the Retired Religious.**



**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.



- Sat. Dec. 5 (5pm) John Wright by the Rubio family
- Sat. Dec. 5 (7pm) Spanish Mass
- Sun. Dec. 6 (8am) Parishioners of St. Michael
- Sun. Dec. 6 (10am) Maureen Brands by Al Brands
- Sun. Dec. 6 (12noon) Gloria Goodell by the Goodell family
- Mon. Dec. 7 (8:30am) George Berdes by Tom & Susan Smeeton

- Immaculate Conception Vigil**
- Mon. Dec. 7 (6pm) Jack Flynn by Tom & Susan Smeeton
- Feast of the Immaculate Conception**
- Tues. Dec. 8 (8:30am) Jim Kehler by Marie Kehler
 - Tues. Dec. 8 (6pm) James Pound, Sr. by St. Michael CCW

- Wed. Dec. 9 (8:30am) Joe Fortner by Judy Fortner
- Thurs. Dec. 10 (8:30am) Wyndham Riotte by Frances Riotte
- Fri. Dec. 11 (8:30am) Marie Greek by St. Michael CCW
- 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

Please pray for the sick and all requests in our Prayer Request Book. Please pray for the repose of the souls of Elizabeth 'Betty' Sutton and Jacqueline Bingham. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**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 7:00 pm following the 6:00 pm Mass. There will be several priests available to hear confessions.



**"God has commanded
that every lofty
mountain be made low."
Baruch 5:7**

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.