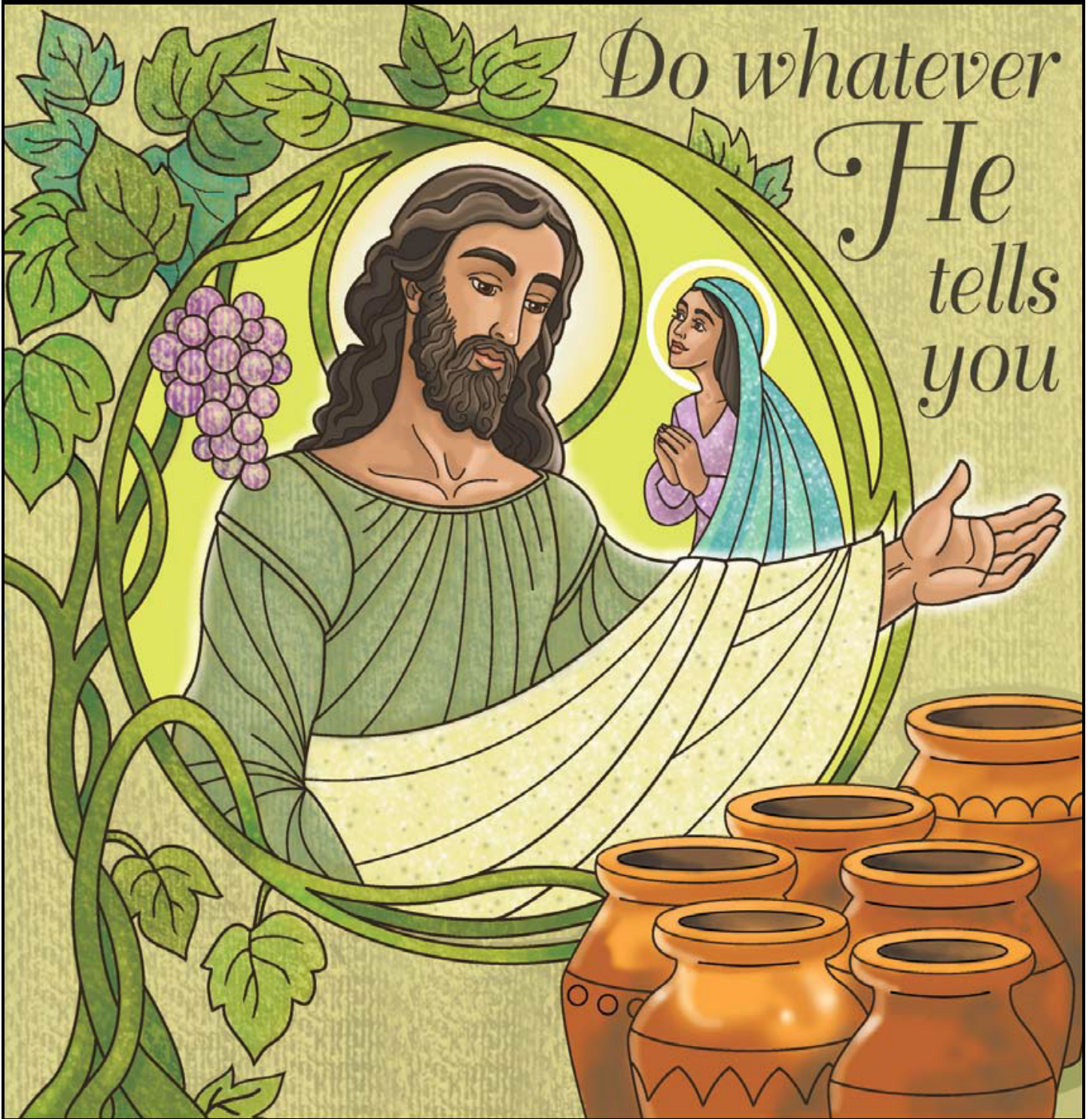
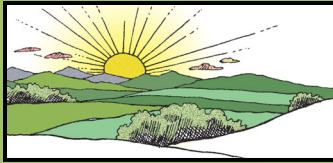


ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Do whatever
He
tells
you*



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



**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JANUARY 17, 2016
SURPRISES**

Life is full of surprises, some pleasant, some not. The scriptures are filled with stories of God’s surprises cropping up when they are least expected: younger children obtaining the inheritance; the lowliest being seated highest up; an itinerant preacher, killed like a criminal, exalted to eternal, heavenly glory.

Anybody who has planned a wedding or similar event knows that they are filled with opportunities for surprises. For the bridegroom in today’s Gospel story, who has no direct contact with Jesus, the pleasant surprise came because somebody else paid attention and had faith in Jesus.

We may think that the point of today’s familiar story of the wedding at Cana is that when we have faith in Jesus, our lives will be pleasantly changed. A Christian, however, needs to have a broader perspective and realize that to have faith in Christ means that somebody’s life—not necessarily our own—will be surprised for the better.

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — As a bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so God rejoices in the chosen Zion and Jerusalem (**Isaiah 62:1-5**).

Psalms — Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations (**Psalms 96**).

Second Reading — All the varied gifts and talents found in the Christian community are products of the same Spirit (**1 Corinthians 12:4-11**).

Gospel — At a wedding festival in Cana, Jesus changes water into wine at his mother’s request (**John 2:1-11**).

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Although our tradition carries a long memory of marriage as a sacrament, it may surprise you to learn that for nearly eleven centuries, there was no single wedding ceremony approved for use in the Church. While we have evidence of priests blessing marriages as early as the second century, in the early period church leaders relied on civil authorities to manage marriage for everyone in society. In most cases, society yielded its authority to sanction marriage to the male heads of households.

From ancient times, marriage had been a family affair, managed by the father of the family, who acted as priest and guardian of family tradition. Each head wanted to keep the family gods alive, and so he would arrange for brides for his sons, paying a “bride price” as compensation for the loss of a skilled household worker. As creepy as that sounds, it was a step up from the kidnapping practice of earlier years. Even after the kidnapping raids stopped, the customs remained. Every wedding contained the ritualized kidnapping of the bride, the husband abducting his bride from the festivities, carrying her over the threshold to prevent her father’s gods from following her into her new religion. There, he fed her a piece of “sacred cake,” initiating her into a new way of life. It’s fascinating to see how customs endure, long after we have completely rejected the values and attitudes they originally expressed!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** 1 Sm 15:16-23; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 3; Mk 2:18-22
- Tuesday:** 1 Sm 16:1-13; Ps 89:20-22, 27-28; Mk 2:23-28
- Wednesday:** 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10; Mk 3:1-6
- Thursday:** 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Ps 56:2-3, 9-13; Mk 3:7-12
- Friday:** 1 Sm 24:3-21; Ps 57:2-4, 6, 11; Mk 3:13-19, *or any of a number of readings for the Day of Prayer*
- Saturday:** 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Ps 80:2-3, 5-7; Mk 3:20-21
- Sunday:** Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; Ps 19:8-10, 15; 1 Cor 12:12-30 [12-14, 27]; Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

NEW BEGINNINGS

All widows are invited to meet at the Beach Diner this Sunday, January 17th at 1:00pm to socialize and share friendship and a meal together. No reservations necessary—we welcome you!

YOUR BEST

Give to the world the best you have and the best will come back to you.

—Anonymous

**ONE FAITH,
One family**

**Joyfully Sharing Our Gifts
in Mercy with others**

2016 Bishop's Annual Stewardship Appeal

The Bishop's Annual Stewardship Appeal is now underway. You will soon receive a mailing asking for your family support and participation. Please prayerfully consider a pledge to the Appeal using the response card mailed to you or by completing a Commitment Envelope at Mass the weekend of January 30 - 31.

Our theme, "one Faith, One Family" invites each of us to be a part of this appeal through our gifts and our prayers. Your contributions to your parish and our Diocese serve as a sign of gratitude not only for God's answers to prayers, but also as a sign of recognition that all that we are, and all that we have, are gifts given to us by God.

Please prayerfully respond to the Appeal and consider making a pledge that is planned, and proportionate. Thank you in advance for your support.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday:** Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day;
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins
- Tuesday:** Julian Calendar Theophany (Epiphany)
- Wednesday:** St. Fabian; St. Sebastian
- Thursday:** St. Agnes
- Friday:** Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
- Saturday:** St. Vincent; St. Marianne Cope;
Blessed Virgin Mary

ADULT CONFIRMATION COURSE

If you are an adult Catholic who has received the Sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist, but has not yet been Confirmed, we will be offering 6 weekly classes, starting in February to prepare you for Confirmation at the Basilica/ Cathedral in St. Augustine this spring. Please call the Parish Office: 904-261-3472 no later than February 1st. The time of class will be determined by the availability of participants.

**SCHEDULING MEETINGS/EVENTS ON THE
PARISH CALENDAR**

Please contact the Parish Office to schedule your meetings times. Fortunately, there are more parishioners getting involved in various newly formed groups during this Year of Renewal at St. Michael. Even if you've had a monthly date and time, please confirm them by calling the office: 904-261-3472 and for any special events also.



BAPTISM CLASS

If you have a child/children to be baptized, you must attend a Baptism Class. The class will be held on the last Thursday of the month—January 28, 2016 at 6:30pm in the Parish Office, 505 Broome Street. Please call Donna Shripka: 770-377-0116 or the parish office: 904-261-3472 if you plan to attend.



K of C FREE THROW

The annual Knights of Columbus Free Throw tournament for Nassau County boys and girls, ages 9-14, will be held this year on Sunday, January 24 from noon to 4P.M. To facilitate participation in this year's county wide competition, contestants can choose between two locations to shoot their free throws. On the island, they can go to the McArthur Family YMCA gym, 1915 Citrona Drive in Fernandina Beach or, if it is more convenient, they can compete off the island at the Nassau County Boys and Girls Club gym facility located at 942259 Old Nassauville Road in Fernandina Beach.

Boys and girls will compete in their respective age divisions and all contestants will be recognized for their participation in the event.

There is no entry fee but parents or guardians must provide proof of age and written consent to compete.

For entry forms or information, contact Tom Sintes at 277-4007 or Jeff Rotatori at 261-0202. As a convenience, entry forms will also be available at the tournament locations.

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.