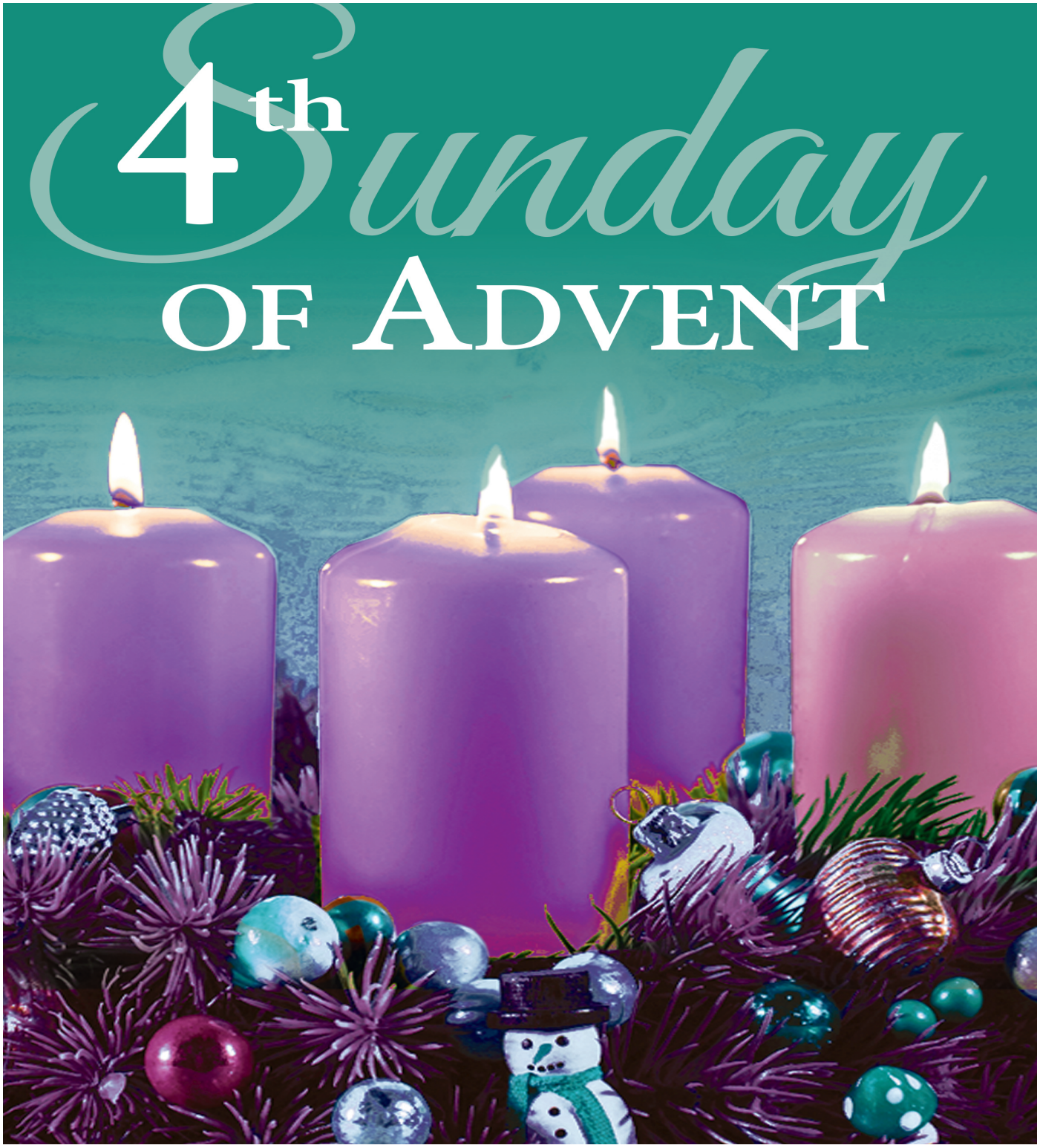
Welcome to the Parish Communities of

ST. MICHAEL & ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST



December 19/20, 2020/ Fourth Sunday of Advent

Disciples on the way

A Short Sunday Reflection from the Pastor

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent and in a few days from now we are going to celebrate the birthday anniversary of our Lord Jesus Christ. The fourth Sunday of Advent gives many valuable lessons. Today's gospel tells us how Mary took part in God's plan to become human. We would have expected the angel to say hail 'Mary', but instead of Mary there is the phrase 'O favored one' which takes the place of the name. Mary becomes the favored one. This the usual way in which God speaks to those whom He calls to assume heavy responsibilities. Mary's role in the drama of salvation became the channel through which we received our salvation. It is an awesome mystery that God took on our human flesh and became like us in every way except sin. Like Mary, we are also invited to give birth to Jesus so that He can continue to be present with us.

The Gospel says, 'She was greatly troubled in her mind at what sort of greeting this might be'. Fear is part of every annunciation narrative in the Old Testament. When man comes closer to God, man always experiences this desire of backing out, this sacred fear. The angel gives assurance and hope that she will bear her son through the power of Holy Spirit, and the power of the Most-High will overshadow her. It is through biblical images and symbols that she understood what she had to understand. Mary is faced with the wonderful theme—the 'cloud' or 'shadow' that is the sign of God's presence. If we read the bible, we will discover this concept in many places. For an example, in the book of Genesis (1;2) the Spirt hovers above the waters at the beginning to give life. Now, a new creation is being worked out in Mary. In the book of Exodus (40;35) the cloud covered the sanctuary with its shadow. It was said that as soon as the cloud overshadowed the tent, 'The Lord's presence filled it,' (Ex. 40:34). It was in the tent that the Ark of the Covenant was kept, and God overshadowed or covered it. Now Mary becomes the dwelling place of the sacred presence. In the shadow of the cloud God was speaking to Moses (Exodus 16;10). Luke's choice of this word is not accidental, but it is deeply symbolic. He compared Mary's body to the tent in which the Ark of the Covenant was kept. He compared Mary's womb in which Jesus will be housed to the Ark of the Covenant in which the tablet of the Ten Commandments was housed. Thus, when God's power overshadows Mary, the Lord's 'presence' filled her. Her obedience is risk-taking when she says, 'Let it be done according to your word.' Her obedience is loving. She loves God and hence trusts in Him and obeys. She kept on saying, 'yes' to God until the end of her earthly life to be the Mother of God. God did not introduce Mary into her motherly role without informing and consulting her beforehand. He respects liberty and responsibility at all levels. Mary is our model, the model of how God chooses to interact with us. What God does is invite our cooperation and then wait for our response. As God did with Mary, God wants for each of us to answer him as to whether he is welcome. Are we able to say as Mary did, 'I am the servant of the Lord.'

Fr. Francis X. Dias

Looking Ahead

Sun., Dec. 20	**Christmas Decorating** Following Masses at St. Michael and St. John
Tue., Dec. 22	**Mass** - 8:30 AM at St. John
Wed., Dec. 23	**Mass** - 8:30 AM at St. Michael
Thurs., Dec. 24	**Christmas Eve Mass** 4:00 PM at St. John 6:00 PM at St. Michael
Fri., Dec. 25	**Christmas Day Mass** 7:30 AM at St. Michael Chapel 8:45 AM at St. Michael Church 10:00 AM at St. John
Sat., Dec. 26	**St. John Finance Council Mtg.** 7:30 AM in the Church Basement

Typhoon Collection

Our prayers go out to those who experienced and continue to experience the devastation of typhoons in the Archdiocese of Caceres in the Philippines. Nine priests from the Archdiocese of Caceres serve our Diocesan parishes. At Bishop Ricken's request, we will have a collection the weekend of Dec. 26/27 to support our brothers and sisters in the Philippines.

Living lives of mercy

Christmas Flower Donations

Thank-you to everyone who donated towards Christmas flowers. Donations were made in memory or honor of:

St. John - Timm Family, Wyent Family, Jeremiah Pockat, Elmer & Kate School, Zwijacz Family, Wrobel Family, Emil & Gladys Vandermause, Brad Gerbers, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gerbers, Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Leininger, Lavonne Weckler, Robert Weckler, Margaret Miller, Roger Miller, Sherry Miller, Bob & Bette Young, Mike Soper, Ray Van De Hei, Ken & Katherine Kasten, Dale Kasten, All Who Died from Covid-19, Edward & Lucille Cisler, Julias & Linda Seefeldt, Anita & Dan Pavlos, Alice & Don Henke, Dick Bundy, Bob Eggers, Felix & William Neta.

St. Michael –Nancy Van Dyn Hoven, Earnest & Mabel Schulz, Ray & Mary Jane Gerndt, Don & Joy Dropp, Fran Verhagen, Terry Schulz, DeCleene & Brickner Families, Jim & Alice Flynn, Harvey Smith, Bill Flynn, Harry & Ivy Smith, Delbert Giese, Emily Poquette, Mary Lou Lubenske, Genevieve Lubenske, Roland Lubenske, Jim Quandt, LaVerne & Norm Kufner, Eugene & Joyce School, Al & Eleanor Beining, Earl & Eunice School, Rolyn Gilligan, Lois & Bernard Gilligan, David Reise, George & Lila Reise, Anna & Bernard Fiebig & Family, Johanna Kelly & Family, Fr. Francis Wavra, Nick & Vivian Tolzman.

St. Michael Parking Lot Mass

Mass is now being streamed through the radio at St. Michael. If you would like to attend Mass but do not wish to enter church, you can tune your radio to 92.5 and listen from where you are parked. During communion a Eucharistic minister will come to the main entrance. If you would like to receive communion please come to the entrance. We ask that you please wear your mask and social distance when you come.

St. Michael Parish Support

Needed Each Week $2170.00
Received December 12/13 ...*see next week's bulletin*

We would like to wish each of you a very blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year. God bless you all.
Fr. Francis X. Dias, Kathy Campshure, Tricia Fischer

Attend Mass from the Safety of the Parking Lot

Mass at St. John can now be streamed through your car radio if you are in the parking lot. Simply tune your radio to 91.9 to listen to Mass. If you would like communion brought out to you following Mass, simply turn on your headlights.

There will be a second collection at St. John this weekend to help defray the cost of heating the church and rectory.

St. John and St. Michael Masses

The following Mass guidelines are currently in place:

- Attendees are required to wear masks.
- Temperatures of attendees will be taken at the door.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at entrances
- Social distancing guidelines will be followed.

At St. Michael, we encourage you to reserve a seat for Mass. You can signup using Flocknote, call (920-842-2580), or email stmikesuring@centurytel.net.

Christmas Eve link
https://stmichael17.flocknote.com/signup/25752
Christmas Morning link
https://stmichael17.flocknote.com/signup/25751

IRS Reminder

Please keep in mind that 2020 contributions must be received or postmarked by Thursday, December 31, 2020 to qualify as a charitable donation for this year.

St. John Parish Support

Needed Each Week..... $1615.00
Received December 12/13...*see next week's bulletin*

MASS INTENTIONS
For the Week of December 21 - 27

St. Michael - Chute Pond

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25
7:30 AM † Susan Marie Moore &
Floyd Arrowood
By Jim Moore & Sue Arrowood

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27
7:30 AM † Henry Ohlfs
By Henry Ohlfs Jr.

St. Michael - Suring

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24
6:00 PM † Open

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25
8:45 AM † Open

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27
8:45 AM † Helen Wanish

St. John - Gillett

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24
4:00 PM † Norbert & Harriet Smits
By Colleen Warrichaiet

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25
10:00 AM † Bradley Gerbers
By Cliff & Mary Gerbers

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26
4:00 PM † Open

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27
10:00 AM † Open

PASTOR….Fr. Francis X. Dias
Email……..frank3xavier@yahoo.com
PHONE……715-383-9788
GILLETT PARISH OFFICE
PHONE……920-855-2542
Email……...stjohnsec@centurytel.net

SURING PARISH OFFICE
PHONE……..920-842-2580
Email……..stmikesuring@centurytel.net

Office Hours

St. John	Monday - Wednesday 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
St. Michael	Monday - Wednesday 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

MINISTERS OF THE MASS

Chute Pond

FRIDAY	**12/25**	**7:30 AM**
Ministers of the Word	Steve Brickner	
SUNDAY	**12/27**	**7:30 AM**
Ministers of the Word	Ellen Brickner	

Suring

THURSDAY	**12/24**	**6:00 PM**
Ministers of the Word	Mike Rupiper	
Hospitality Ministers	Steve School Sheelagh School	
FRIDAY	**12/25**	**8:45 AM**
Ministers of the Word	Lisa Gilligan	
Hospitality Ministers	Edie Schmidt Floyd Schmidt	
SUNDAY	**12/27**	**8:45 AM**
Ministers of the Word	Steve Robillard	
Hospitality Ministers	Phil fischer Jr.	
	Kate Mahoney	

Gillett

THURSDAY	**12/24**	**4:00 PM**
Ministers of the Word	Dorothy Sorensen	
Hospitality Ministers	Colleen Warrichaiet	
	Barb Makoski	
FRIDAY	**12/25**	**10:00 AM**
Ministers of the Word	Lyman Wocking	
Hospitality Ministers	Jamie Young Alex Young	
	Mary Clark	
SATURDAY	**12/26**	**4:00 PM**
Ministers of the Word	Jay Conley	
Hospitality Ministers	Colleen Warrichaiet	
	Barb Makoski Ben Penkivich	
SUNDAY	**12/27**	**10:00 AM**
Ministers of the Word	Sydney Young	
Hospitality Ministers	Jamie Young Alex Young	

Decree

On November 19, Bishop Ricken signed a decree granting dispensation from the obligation to attend Holy Day Masses for Immaculate Conception, Christmas, and Mary, Mother of God (Jan. 1st). The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in effect until further notice.