Pastoral Council

Pastoral Council members will be available after the Masses on June 8/9, 2024 to hear questions or comments about your St. Michael’s experience.

Bulletin Feature Week #1

June 1/2, 2024

Bulletin Feature Week #2

*What is the Sacred Heart of Jesus?*

In the church, June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which is a symbol of Christ’s divinity and his humanity. The heart of Jesus represents the “divine wellspring of love” and is a symbol of “God’s boundless and passionate love for mankind”. The Solemnity is on the Friday following the second Sunday after Pentecost, usually in June. In 2024, the Solemnity fell on Friday, June 7. Saint John Paul II established the *World Day of Prayer for the* *Sanctification of Priests* to be celebrated on the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. In a letter to Priests explaining why the World Day of Prayer would be on the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus St. John Paul II said: “that the Lord may constantly purify our (priests) hearts and make us less unworthy of the mysteries which we celebrate”.

June 8/9, 2024

Bulletin Feature Week #3

*How did Father’s Day begin?*

As early as 1508, European Catholic nations celebrated fatherhood on St. Joseph’s Day on March 19. Father’s Day began in the United States in 1910 when a woman named Sonora Smart Dodd, in honor of her father, asked her Presbyterian pastor to give a Father’s Day sermon. The pastor delivered the sermon on June 19 in Spokane, WA. Celebrating Father’s Day spread throughout Spokane that year and throughout the nation thereafter. President Johnson issued the first official Father’s Day proclamation to make it the third Sunday of June. President Nixon signed a bill into law making it a nationally recognized holiday. Father’s Day recognizes the contribution of fathers to their families and to society.

June 15/16, 2024

Bulletin Feature Week #4

*What is a Solemnity?*

Solemnities are celebrations of the most important events in the church, e.g. Christmas, Easter, Holy Days of Obligation and Sundays (considered “Little Easters”). All Holy Days of Obligation are Solemnities. However, not all Solemnities are Holy Days of Obligation. In June 2024 there are four Solemnities: Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ (2nd), Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (8t7), Nativity of John the Baptist (24th), and Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles (29th).

June 22/23, 2024

Bulletin Feature Week #5

*Why are there cell towers on the roof of the church?*

St. Michael’s Parish entered into a lease agreement with 5G LLC to have cell towers installed on the roof of the church. The Archdiocese of Denver was involved in the discussions and developing the lease agreement. Three towers were installed in April/May around the church peak. They are painted the same color as the church to blend in. The parish will receive a monthly lease payment for the length of the agreement, which is 10 years.

June 29/30, 2024

Pastoral Council

Pastoral Council members will be available after the Masses on May 11/12, 2024 to hear questions or comments about your St. Michael’s experience.

Bulletin Feature Week #1

May 4/5, 2024

Bulletin Feature Week #2

*How did Mother’s Day begin?*

The modern version has its roots in 17th century England with Mothering Sunday, which was the fourth Sunday in Lent. Originally Mothering Sunday was to honor the Virgin Mary and later included all mothers. The current Mother’s Day was the result of a movement begun in the late 1800s by a woman named Ann Reeves Jarvis. After Ann’s death in 1905, her daughter, Anna Jarvis continued the effort to establish an official day to honor mothers. On May 9, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson announced that Mother’s Day would be the second Sunday of May, beginning the next day, May 10, 1914.

Just as we honor the Mother of Christ on designated days throughout the year, Mother’s Day is a day to honor our earthly mothers.

May 11/12, 2024

Bulletin Feature Week #3

*What is the significance of Pentecost?*

The Solemnity of the Pentecost celebrates the Apostles being filled with the Holy Spirit, which gave them the strength and courage to go out among the people and spread the message of Jesus. Pente means 50th and the Solemnity falls on the 50th day after (including) Easter. The liturgical color is red to signify the presence of the Holy Spirit in the Catholic Community and the Church’s unity in Christ. As the Apostles were transformed by the Holy Spirit, so are we. On Pentecost, Jesus said to the Apostles and now says to us: “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

May 18/19, 2024

Bulletin Feature Week #4

*What is the Mystery of the Holy Trinity?*

In the Catholic Church, a mystery is something that is “hidden in God, which can never be known unless … revealed by God”. A mystery “is inaccessible to reason alone” yet is a central tenet of the Catholic faith. As someone once said: “A mystery is not something you cannot know anything about; it’s something you cannot know enough about.” The Holy Trinity is one of the central mysteries of the faith. This dogma of faith: “There is one God and in this one God there are three Divine Persons; the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God. Yet there are not three Gods” is the object of the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity. Introduced in the ninth century, the feast was inserted into the general calendar of the church in the 14th century by Pope John XXII.

May 25/26, 2024

Bulletin Feature Week #5

, 2024

Pastoral Council

Pastoral Council members will be available after the Masses on April 13/14, 2024 to hear questions or comments about your St. Michael’s experience.

Bulletin Feature Week #1

April 6/7, 2024

Bulletin Feature Week #2

*When will confessions move back into the Confessionals in the Worship Space?*

The meeting rooms where confessions are currently heard are significantly larger than the reconciliation rooms, which provides a less confining feeling for penitents and the priests. Also, with windows in the doors, parents are able to see their child as he/she is in the confessional. Music is played in the hall where penitents wait to cover the voices in confession. The parish clergy will continue to evaluate what best meets the needs of all concerned.

April 13/14, 2024

Bulletin Feature Week #3

*Does St. Michael’s have an Adoration Chapel?*

No. St. Michael’s has a small chapel across from the sacristy, near the overflow space. The chapel is open whenever the church building is open, which is usually daily from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. This chapel is technically not an Adoration Chapel, primarily due to there not being a recessed Monstrance. However, the parish chapel offers an intimate setting for parishioners to pray alone or in a small group, in silence or quietly, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the Chapel’s tabernacle.

April 20/27, 2024

Bulletin Feature Week #4

*Is St. Michael’s on social media?*

Yes. St. Michael’s is on Facebook as StMichaelArchangelAurora and on Instagram as @StMichael.Archangel. On these sites parishioners will find Catholic Content for Feast days, Sunday meditations, inspirations for the week, and more. In addition to Flocknotes, the weekly bulletin, the parish website, and parish tv monitors, these Facebook and Instagram accounts provide opportunities for parishioners to stay connected with St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Parish in Aurora.

April 27/28, 2024

Bulletin Feature Week #5

, 2024

Pastoral Council

Pastoral Council members will be available after the Masses on Marach 9/10, 2024 to hear questions or comments about your St. Michael’s experience.

Bulletin Feature Week #1

March 2/3, 2024

Bulletin Feature Week #2

*What is the Sound Ministry?*

An important part of the Music Ministry, members of the Sound Ministry control the sound for any events in the Worship Space. Appropriate sound management enhances the experience of those in attendance. There is a constant need for additional members of the ministry. No experience is necessary and training is provided. Volunteers may choose which Masses and/or events they work and how often. Parishioners age 14 and up are welcome to volunteer. Any parishioner who would like a new way to serve the Lord, and learn a unique skill, should contact Ken Campion at stmsoundbooth@gmail.com

March 9/10, 2024

Bulletin Feature Week #3

*Why are confessions still heard in the meeting rooms and not the Reconciliation Room?*

The meeting rooms where confessions are currently heard are significantly larger than the reconciliation rooms, which provides a less confining feeling for penitents and the priests. Also, with windows in the doors, parents are able to see their child as he/she is in the confessional. While the meeting rooms are currently preferable reconciliation spaces because of the space and visual accessibility, sometimes voices in confession can be heard. To ensure privacy, music is played in the hall to cover the voices of the penitents and the priests.

March 16/17, 2024

Bulletin Feature Week #4

*What is the proper way to dispose of last year’s palms?*

Next Sunday, April 2, is Palm Sunday.  New, fresh palms will be distributed prior to the Masses.  Every year, Catholics wonder how the dry palms from the previous year should be disposed appropriately.  Simply, blessed palms should be returned to nature.  Last year’s palms may be buried in a place where people don’t walk, such as under a tree.  Or, they may be burned and the ashes spread, perhaps in a garden.

March 23/24, 2024

Bulletin Feature Week #5

*Blessed are you, O Mary, silent witness of Easter! You, O Mother of the Crucified One now risen, who at the hour of pain and death kept the flame of hope burning, teach us also to be, amongst the incongruities of passing time, convinced and joyful witnesses of the eternal message of life and love brought to the world by the Risen Redeemer*

[*Saint John Paul II, 2004*](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/messages/urbi/documents/hf_jp-ii_mes_20040411_easter-urbi.html)

March 30/31, 2024

Pastoral Council

Pastoral Council members will be available after the Masses on February 10/11, 2024 to hear questions or comments about your St. Michael’s experience.

Bulletin Feature Week #1

February 3/4, 2024

Bulletin Feature Week #2

*Why do we put ashes on our forehead on Ash Wednesday?*

Ash Wednesday is a day of prayer, abstinence, fasting, and repentance. Blessed ashes are applied to the forehead in the sign of the cross while words such as “Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return” or “Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel” are said. The ashes and the words remind us of our mortality and our ongoing need for repentance. The ashes also remind us that life is short and our redemption comes through Jesus the Christ.Fr. Tom Margevicius said: “a return to ashes represents my worthlessness without God”. \*

\*Fr. Margevicius is the director of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis’ Office of Worship

February 10/11, 2024

Bulletin Feature Week #3

*What is the meaning of Lent?*

In the early church the period we know as Lent was called by the Latin word “Quadragesima”. As Christianity spread, Quadragesima became Lenz in German. In Old English the word Lencten, which means “Spring time” was used and English Catholics adapted the word to our current “Lent”. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and lasts 40 days (not including Sundays). It is a time of fasting, abstinence, and prayer. Lent helps remind us of the value of repentance. It is an opportune time to reflect on what it means to be a follower of Christ.

February 17/18, 2024

Bulletin Feature Week #4

*Why should I attend St. Michael’s Mission?*

*(March 4, 5th, and 6th at 7 p.m. No morning sessions))*

A mission is an opportunity to reflect on living as a Catholic disciple of Jesus Christ and to renew your faith. The mission leader is Father Michael Pavlakovich. The theme is **Embracing the Eucharist**, in keeping with the Church’s Year of the Eucharistic Revival. Fr. Michael, a priest for 34 years, is a former pastor and is currently Chaplain for UC Health & Children’s Hospital Colorado. Youth and adults are encouraged to attend one or all sessions. There will be a reception in Syrianey Hall following the Wednesday session. Enhance your Lenten journey with Fr. Michael’s wit and wisdom as he encourages us in Embracing the Eucharist.

February 24/25, 2024

Bulletin Feature Week #5

,2024

Pastoral Council

Pastoral Council members will be available after the Masses on January 13/14, 2024 to hear questions or comments about your St. Michael’s experience.

Bulletin Feature Week #1

January 6/7 2024

Bulletin Feature Week #2

*What is Ordinary Time in the church?*

Ordinary Time, meaning ordinaled or numbered, is the time in the liturgical calendar between the Baptism of the Lord to Ash Wednesday and between Pentecost to Advent. 33-34 weeks in total, Ordinary Time provides a “down time” for us to grow and mature in our faith outside the periods of celebration, Christmas and Easter, and the periods of penance, Advent and Lent.

January 13/14, 2024

Bulletin Feature Week #3

 January 23 is a “Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children” as designated in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 373. This day is usually observed on the 22nd, unless, as in 2024, the 22nd falls on a Sunday. The following is a Prayer for life and dignity published on the USCCB.org website:

*Eternal God, creator and sustainer of life, bless us with the courage to defend all life from conception to natural death. Bless us with the strength to respect all peoples from east to west, from north to south, so that we may truly follow the call of Jesus to be neighbor. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

January 20/21, 2024

Bulletin Feature Week #4

*How should a retired Deacon be addressed?*

A retired Deacon should continue to be addressed as Deacon (name).

St. Michael’s has been blessed with many wonderful deacons throughout the years.  The parish currently has four active Permanent Deacons and three who are retired and remain as parishioners.  Deacons Joe, Tony, and Willie are retired from active ministry only, not from the Order of the Diaconate.  While a deacon may be retired from active ministry, he may continue to participate in liturgical celebrations, which Deacon Joe does at St. Michael's weekend Masses.

January 27/28, 2024

Bulletin Feature Week #5

,2024

Pastoral Council

*How does Pope Francis ask us to prepare for the 2025 Jubilee Year?*

To prepare for the 2025 Jubilee Year, Pope Francis has designated 2024 a Year of Prayer. The 2024 Liturgical Year began December 3, 2023, the first Sunday of Advent. This Year of Prayer is not for talking about prayer, but to examine how we pray and to encourage us to deepen our prayer life. Dioceses are requested to promote activities and initiatives that remind the faithful of the “centrality of both individual prayer and community prayer”. A particular focus of the Year of Prayer will be on the *Our Father*, which is an opportunity to go back to the basics of prayer. It has been said that “prayer doesn’t help our relationship with God, prayer is our relationship with God.”

Pastoral Council members will be available after the Masses on December 9/10, 2023 to hear questions or comments about your St. Michael’s experience.

Bulletin Feature Week #1 December 2/3, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #2 December 9/10, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #3 December 16/17, 2023

*What is Gaudete Sunday?*

Celebrated on the third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete (Gau-de-te) Sunday changes the focus of Advent from “The Lord is Coming” to “The Lord is Near”, introducing a lighter mood with a heightened sense of joyful anticipation. On this day the liturgical color is rose, which signifies joy, and the rose candle in the Advent Wreath is lit. Gaudete is Latin meaning rejoice and is taken from Philippians 4:4,5: “Gaudete in Domino semper” or “rejoice in the Lord Always”. Gaudete Sunday dates back to the fourth or fifth century.

Bulletin Feature Week #4 December 23/24, 2023

O Creator God, our world is pregnant with the anticipation of the birth of your son. We are bursting in our preparedness, for the feast of Christmas will soon be here. In this brief moment of quiet, help us to appreciate the Word that comes to dwell with us. Help us to hope in the promise of His way, truth, and life. Help us to join with the angels who sing your praise. Grant us the lasting peace of this great season of joy. We pray in the name of our long-expected Lord. Amen

*The Essential Advent and Christmas Handbook*

Bulletin Feature Week #5 December 30/31,2023

***A Prayer for New Beginnings***

Consult not your fears, but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern not yourself with what you tried and failed in, but what it is still possible to do. Now is the time to put aside past and present setbacks and failures and look with confidence to the new day called tomorrow.

—*Pope John XXIII*

Pastoral Council

Pastoral Council members will be available after the Masses on November 11/12, 2023 to hear questions or comments about your St. Michael’s experience.

Bulletin Feature Week #1

November 4/5, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #2

*Does St. Michael’s offer anything to help hearing impaired parishioners who have difficultly hearing the Mass?*

St. Michael’s has four Church Assistive Devices (ALDs) to help hearing impaired persons participate more fully in Mass. Those who wish to use an ALDS should request one from a Greeter prior to Mass. St. Michael’s ALDs use a single earpiece and have an easy-to-use volume adjustment. After the final song, return the device to a Greeter. ALDs are cleaned and sanitized after each use to be ready for the next person who needs assistance.

November 11/12, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #3

 *How do I celebrate a Catholic Thanksgiving?*

While Thanksgiving is a secular holiday, it has many religious, and Catholic, overtones. Catholics celebrate Thanksgiving every time we attend Mass. The word Eucharist comes from the Greek word Eukharistia, which means thanksgiving. We give thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for the forgiveness of our sins. In gratitude, we find peace and joy. Start Thanksgiving Day by attending Mass, a celebration of thanksgiving, and bring your Thanksgiving bread or wine to be blessed. For additional ways to infuse the secular holiday with our Catholic faith visit: catholicculture.org or catholicexchange.com and search Thanksgiving.

November 18/19, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #4

 *What is the purpose of Advent?*

Advent, which comes from the Latin *adventus* meaning *coming*, has evolved in the Church. Originally a period of anticipation of the Epiphany, when converts were baptized, it was tied with Christmas in the Middle Ages. During Advent the faithful look back in celebration at the fulfilled promise of Christ’s first coming and look forward in anticipation to the yet-to-be fulfilled promise of his second coming. In the ninth century the First Sunday of Advent was designated as the beginning of the Church year.

November 25/26, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #5

,2023

Pastoral Council

Pastoral Council members will be available after the Masses on October 14/15, 2023 to hear questions or comments about your St. Michael’s experience.

Bulletin Feature Week #1

October 7/8, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #2

*What is Respect Life month and what is the new Respect Life ministry?*

October was designated Respect Life Month by the U.S. Bishops in 1972. The month is “dedicated to increasing a greater culture of life…”. St. Michael’s parish is reinvigorating our Respect Life Ministry with a three-fold focus: PRAY for divine guidance, EDUCATE ourselves and others, and ACT as God’s hands and voice. Singles, couples, and families of all ages are invited to participate in any or all ministry activities, which include meeting to pray the Rosary twice a month, a Spiritual Adoption program, collections and/or fundraisers to support moms-in-need, and a Students for Life presentation of a teen/adult Life Apologetics program. See the bulletin, Flocknotes, or monitors for information about the Spiritual Adoption kickoff event on Sunday, September 24 and future events.

October 14/15, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #3

*Why aren’t the songs and prayers and homilies projected on the screens?*

With five different choirs, cantors, and accompanists at Masses each weekend, there are different song “scripts” for each Mass, in addition to last minute changes in song choice, number of verses sung, etc. The organization and collaboration necessary to correctly project music on the screens would be overwhelming and would require a paid, perhaps full time, employee in the sound booth instead of the volunteers St. Michael’s currently is fortunate to have. Churches that project songs usually have only one script per Sunday. Likewise, we have multiple priests offering Masses and delivering homilies each weekend, which presents similar challenges. Word and Song books are available in the pews for worshipers to follow the Mass and participate in worshiping through song and communal prayer. Each priest’s homilies are uploaded to the parish website following the weekend Masses. At all times, the priests, deacons, music Director, and everyone involved in Eucharist celebrations strive to enhance the Mass celebrations while being good stewards of parish resources.

October21/22, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #4

 *Why aren’t there more times for Reconciliation?*

St. Michael’s is a vibrant and active church. The new parish spaces have fulfilled the saying “If you build it, they will come”. With limited space availability and only two priests to minister to the parishioners of this active parish, it is currently not possible to schedule additional, consistent times for reconciliation. Anyone may contact the office to set up a time for personal reconciliation with either priest. St. Michael’s also offers Penance Services with multiple area priests during Lent and Advent. Fr. Terry and Fr. Felipe work to meet the needs of all parishioners within the parameters of time and space availability.

October 28/29, 2023

Pastoral Council

Pastoral Council members will be available after the Masses on September 16/17, 2023 to hear questions or comments about your St. Michael’s experience.

Bulletin Feature Week #1

September 2/3, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #2

*What is the purpose of the Greeter Ministry?*

The primary purpose of the Greeter Ministry is to be the first impression of St. Michael’s for guests and potential new parishioners. That first impression should reflect the caring, faithful, and friendly community St. Michael’s strives to be. Greeters warmly greet arriving parishioners and guests, assist those attending Mass where needed, monitor surroundings for safety and security, and perform or participate in other tasks that help create a positive experience at St. Michael’s. The main requirements for a person volunteering to be a greeter are a warm smile and a desire to serve fellow parishioners and guests. The reward is a warm return smile, a thank you, and/or a former guest becoming a parishioner.

September 9/10, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #3

*What is a Mass Intention and how do I make one?*

A Mass Intention is a “specific offering of a Mass in honor of someone by name at a specific Mass time on a specific date. A Mass intention is traditionally offered as a gift to someone who is grieving a recent loss or celebrating a milestone.” Stpacc.org The practice of offering Masses for others has been custom in the church from as early as circa 200 A.D. To schedule a Mass Intention at St. Michael’s, visit the parish office. Daily and weekend Masses may be “offered”. Masses are currently being scheduled for six or more months in the future. A donation of $10 is typically made per Mass Intention.

September 16/17, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #4

 *How do I have someone who is ill or who has died included in the Prayers of the Faithful?*

Prayers of the Faithful, prayed after the praying of the Creed at Mass, are an act of faith and a plea for God’s intercession in the world. People who are ill, experiencing a difficulty, or are recently deceased may be included in the Prayers of the Faithful. Parishioners may also request inclusion of persons who are celebrating a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion. However, the only occasions specified are illness or recent death. To request a name for inclusion in the Prayers of the Faithful, a parishioner may visit or call the parish office.

September 23/24, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #5

*Why should my child be an Altar Server?*

Altar Servers assist the Priest and the Deacon in the celebration of the Mass. Being an Altar Server leads to a better understanding of what happens during the Mass and the growth of faith. Serving also offers opportunities for developing leadership skills. Most importantly, being an Altar Server introduces the server to a life of service to God and the community. Training for new Altar Servers will be on October 14. Details are in the bulletin and Flocknotes.

Being an Altar Server during Mass is a gift to a child.

September 30/October 1,2023

Pastoral Council

Pastoral Council members will be available after the Masses on August 12/13, 2023 to hear questions or comments about your St. Michael’s experience.

Bulletin Feature Week #1

August 5/6, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #2

*What is the purpose of a ministry fair?*

A ministry fair provides parishioners the opportunity to learn about parish ministries from current members.  It also gives ministries the opportunity to attract new members.  St. Michael’s ministry fair is scheduled for August 19 and 20 after all the Masses.  Ministries will have tables with information in Syrianey Hall.

Parishioners are invited to visit specific ministries in which they are interested, or browse all the ministry tables to see what might interest them.

August 12/13, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #3

*Why should I get involved in ministries at St. Michael’s?*

True spiritual growth happens when we go beyond belonging and become an active participant in our parish. Participants experience face to face interactions with people who have different jobs, education levels, and lifestyles, but share a common faith. In service, God gives us common ground on which to stand. Through that common faith, participants build relationships that challenge and nourish. God gave a great gift in Christ – forgiveness of sins, redemption, and the promise of eternal life. In receiving God’s love and generosity, we’re called to be generous and pass on those graces to others we meet, and invite them to share in the same joy. Luke 12:48 *To whom much is given, much will be required.*

August 19/20, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #4

*What is the Catholic Biblical School and what are they offering at St. Michael’s?*

Founded in 1982 by Sr. Macrina Scott in response to Vatican IIs call for a renewal in the study of Sacred Scripture among the people of God. Its mission is to help people personally encounter the living Christ in Scripture. Beginning in September, the Biblical School four-year program will be offered at St. Michael’s. Through prayer, lectures, small-group discussions, and weekly coursework, the school’s master instructors will guide students through every book of the Bible, within the context of Catholic Tradition. There will be a free information session to learn more about this four-year program on Tuesday, August 29, in the St. Gabriel room. Information is also available at sjvlaydivision.org

August 26/27, 2023

Pastoral Council

Pastoral Council members will be available after the Masses on July 8/9, 2023 to hear questions or comments about your St. Michael’s experience.

*What is VBS?*

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is a fun week for children, grades k-6. Christ centered, VBS supports children’s faith development through stories, games, crafts, and snacks. This year’s theme is *Rocky Railway, Jesus’ Power Pull Us Through.* VBS is the week of July 17 – 21, 2023, 9 a.m. – noon, at a cost of $20 per child.

Registration ends July 10.

Bulletin Feature Week #1 July 1/2, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #2 July 8/9, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #3 July 15/16, 2023

*What is the focus of the church during July?*

In the Catholic Church, July is dedicated to the Most Precious Blood. The Lord’s blood, shed on the cross, purchased our salvation. Through the mystical body, it continues to purify, repair, nourish, and provide renewal for the faithful. This more relaxed month in Ordinary Time provides the opportunity for us to focus on renewal and reminds us that our earthly pilgrimage is a journey.

*Why Mary Magdalene is called the “apostle to the apostles”?*

May Magdalene was very devoted to Jesus and, as one of a group of women, traveled with him on his journeys. Women were not permitted to study with a rabbi in those times, which meant that Mary Magdalene and the other women who traveled with Jesus were breaking with long standing custom. The Gospel of John lists her as one of three women who stood by Jesus ‘cross. Mary Magdalene was the first to go to the empty tomb and ran to tell the apostles. Christ appeared to her and asked her to be the messenger to announce that he had risen from the dead, which she did. Her devotion to Jesus and his apostles is why she is called the “apostle to the apostles”. July 22 is the Memorial of St. Mary Magdalene.

Bulletin Feature Week #4 July 22/23, 2023

Pastoral Council

Pastoral Council members will be available after the Masses on June 10/11, 2023 to hear questions or comments about your St. Michael’s experience.

Bulletin Feature Week #1

June 3/4, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #2

*What is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ?*

Formerly called Corpus Christi, which is Latin for Body of Christ, the name was expanded in the revised Lectionary to more completely reflect Eucharistic theology. It is the commemoration of the sacrament of the Eucharist, how, in the elements of bread and wine, Jesus’ Body and Blood are present. The Mass was edited or composed by St. Thomas Aquinas in 1264 at the request of Pope Urban IV. St. Thomas wrote: “…in order that a remembrance of so great benefits (salvation) may always be with us, He has left us His Body as food and His Blood as drink under appearances of bread and wine.”

June 10/11, 2023

*Why do we think of God as father?*

Calling God “father” is an analogy to the historical role of a father as head and provider of the family. God as father loves us so much, He made us in His image and likeness. While God transcends human fatherhood, the analogy of God as “father” provides an example to which human fathers can aspire. Conversely, the analogy helps us understand the love of God, which is infinitely greater, more faithful, and more total than that of any man.

Bulletin Feature Week #3

June 17/18, 2023

*How are the persons who “bring up the gifts” at Mass chosen?*

All parishioners are invited to volunteer to be gift bearers (bring up the gifts) at a Mass. Gift bearers represent we who offer our lives, (e.g., our sacrifices, worries, joys) to the Lord and place them on the altar. The Lord offers back His self in the Eucharist, transforming us and making us new in Him. Volunteer for this important ministry as a way to be more involved in a Mass or to commemorate a special date, e.g., birthday, anniversary, etc., To volunteer, upon arrival for Mass, let a greeter know that you and any of your present family members are interested in being part of the “gift family” at that Mass. Individuals and families are encouraged to be part of this special time during a Mass. Anyone with questions may contact Marcia Wikoff at 303-337-4223.

Bulletin Feature Week #4

June 24/25, 2023

Solemnity of the Nativity of John

The Baptist

Pastoral Council

Pastoral Council members will be available after the Masses on May 13/14, 2023 to hear questions or comments about your St. Michael’s experience.

Bulletin Feature Week #1

May 6/7, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #2

*Why is May Mary’s month?*

In ancient classic western culture, May was connected with new life. The connection between motherhood and May led to the adoption of May as Mary month, “during which the piety of the faithful is dedicated to Our Blessed Lady”. This custom rose in the1300s and spread throughout the entire church by the end of the 1800s.

May 13/14, 2023

*Why does St. Michael’s own two rectories?*

In 2000 an opportunity arose for St. Michael’s to purchase a second rectory next to the original rectory. Fr. Fox (then Pastor) and the Finance Council, with approval from the Archdiocese of Denver, decided to purchase the second rectory. While having two rectories allows both parish priests to have their own residence, the spare rooms in each are often used to host visiting priests, or priests who need temporary housing. Currently, the parochial vicar of St. Gianna Molla parish is sharing Fr. Felipe’s rectory while St. Gianna Molla works to build their church and rectory. Both rectories are debt-free with combined maintenance costs of less than 2% of the parish annual expense budget. Also, owning the two houses, which have appreciated in value, diversifies parish assets. St. Michael’s has been blessed to have Pastors and parishioners who were able to identify opportunities and the ability to take advantage of those opportunities.

Bulletin Feature Week #3

May 20/21, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #4

*What does the feast of Pentecost mean to Catholics?*

Pope Benedict summarized Pentecost, one of the most important solemnities in the church, as follows: Pentecost “makes us remember and relive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and the other disciples gathered in prayer with the Virgin Mary in the Upper Room (cf. Acts 2:1-11). Jesus, risen and ascended into Heaven, sent his Spirit to the Church so that every Christian might participate in his own divine life and become his valid witness in the world. The Holy Spirit, breaking into history, defeats aridity, opens hearts to hope, stimulates and fosters in us an interior maturity in our relationship with God and with our neighbor.”

May 27/28, 2023

Pastoral Council

Pastoral Council members will NOT be available after the Masses on April 8/9, 2023 due to Easter celebrations.

Bulletin Feature Week #1

April 1/2, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #2

Behold Jesus crucified!

Behold His wounds, received for love of you!

 His whole appearance betokens love:

 His head is bent to kiss you;

 His arms are extended to embrace you;

 His Heart is open to receive you.

 O superabundance of love, Jesus, the Son of God, dies upon the cross that [you] may live and be delivered from everlasting death!

April 8/9, 2023

*How long is the Easter season?*

Easter season, celebrated as a single joyful feast, is 50 days: Easter Sunday through Pentecost Sunday. The first 8 days, Easter Sunday to Divine Mercy Sunday, are the Octave of Easter, celebrated as solemnities (feast days of the highest rank) of the Lord and treated as a continuation of Easter Sunday itself.

Bulletin Feature Week #3

April 15/16, 2023

*Can a kneeler be available during Mass for those that want to kneel to receive Communion?*

The norm established by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is that the Blessed Sacrament should be received while standing (General Instruction of the Roman Missal – GIRM, Chapter IV, #160). That does not preclude a communicant from kneeling to receive, however, the placement of a kneeler would block the path of the vast majority of those who don’t kneel. Wherever a kneeler would be placed, it would have to be moved into place prior to communion and removed after communion. That would create a distraction and disruption to the Mass. However one receives communion, Pope Francis said “Catholics receiving the Eucharist should do so with reverence, whether standing or kneeling…. the essential thing is that one’s mind and heart should be directed to the Lord.”

Bulletin Feature Week #4

April 22/23, 2023

*When was St. Michael’s Preschool founded?*

St. Michael’s Preschool opened its doors in October, 1982, 40 years and 7 months ago. Since its founding, there have been two Directors of the preschool; Carol Pierson until 2000 and Dee Anne Toby, 2000 to present. The preschool offers an age-appropriate curriculum for three, four, and five year olds, based on Catholic teaching and prayers. Children attend either in the morning or in the afternoon, two, three, four, or five days per week. Some attend both mornings and afternoons. The current capacity is 152 seats. The preschool’s 40th anniversary and the 45th anniversary of St. Michael the Archangel parish will be celebrated together in late summer or early fall.

Bulletin Feature Week #5

April 29/30,2023

*What is the Annunciation of the Lord?*

It is the celebration of the angel Gabriel’s appearance to the Virgin Mary to announce that she had been chosen to be the mother of Our Lord. The Solemnity is usually celebrated on March 25, nine months prior to the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas. It is a day to give thanks to and for Mary and her acceptance of God’s will.

Pastoral Council

Pastoral Council members will be available after the Masses on February 11/12, 2023 to hear questions or comments about your St. Michael’s experience

Bulletin Feature Week #1

March 4, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #2

 *When will the new Parish Directory be available?*

The 2023 Parish Pictorial Directory has been sent to the printers and will be available by mid-April. When the delivery date of the directories is confirmed, information on where and when they may be picked up will be publicized in Flocknotes, on the monitors, in the bulletin, etc. Every parishioner and family who were photographed for the directory, will receive a directory.

March 11/12, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #3

*What is Laetare Sunday?*

The 4th Sunday of Lent (March 19 in 2023) is known by the Latin name Laetare (Ley-tahr-ee), which comes from the entrance antiphon of that day’s Mass: “Laetare Jerusalem” or “Rejoice, Jerusalem.”  Laetare Sunday provides hope and encouragement during the penitential season of Lent.  Flowers can decorate the sanctuary, unlike other Lenten Sundays.  The liturgical color for the day is rose (or pink), signifying joy.  Laetare Sunday provides a taste of joy to prepare us for the joy of Easter*.*

March 18/19, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #4

What is the proper way to dispose of last year’s palms?

Next Sunday, April 2, is Palm Sunday.  New, fresh palms will be distributed prior to the Masses.  Every year, Catholics wonder how the dry palms from the previous year should be disposed appropriately.  Simply, blessed palms should be returned to nature.  Last year’s palms may be buried in a place where people don’t walk, such as under a tree.  Or, they may be burned and the ashes spread, perhaps in a garden.

March 25/26, 2023

Pastoral Council

Pastoral Council members will be available after the Masses on February 11/12, 2023 to hear questions or comments about your St. Michael’s experience

Bulletin Feature Week #1

February 4/5, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #2

*What organization receives the food that is donated and put on the shelves near the office?*

Each weekend, a charity receives the non-perishable food donated by parishioners and put on the shelves near the office. The organizations receiving the donations each month are:

1st weekend Aurora Interfaith Task Force

2nd & 5th weekends St. Vincent dePaul

3rd weekend\* Veterans and Active Military families through Buckley Space Force Base

4th weekend Ascension Catholic Parish Food Bank

\*Donations for veterans are also accepted at the monthly pancake breakfast.

February 11/12, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #3

*Why should I attend St. Michael’s Mission?*

*(Attend the Mission February 26 – March 2)*

A mission is an opportunity to reflect on living as a Catholic disciple of Jesus Christ and to renew your faith.  The mission leader is Redemptorist Father Don Willard. The theme is: **Come, Taste and See.**Each evening will have a special theme and symbol. The 2023 mission has been organized by a committee of St. Michael’s parishioners and will include opportunities for some socializing and fellowship after each session. Each evening, Sunday through Thursday, begins at 6:30 pm.  Morning sessions are after the 9 a.m. Mass.

February 18/19, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #4

 *If I can’t attend all the Mission sessions (either morning or evening), should I attend at all?*

Yes. A mission is an opportunity for reflection that can’t always be achieved during Sunday Mass alone. It can help us prepare our minds, hearts, and souls for Easter. This year’s mission will also provide opportunities for fellowship through a shared experience. While attending each session is desired, that is not always possible for parishioners. Attending one, two, three, or four sessions can still provide a profound spiritual boost and “to help one to be reconciled to God and to one another and to fall in love with Jesus all over again!”, which is the goal of the presenter, Fr. Donald Willard.

February 25/26, 2023

Pastoral Council

Pastoral Council members will be available after the Masses on January 14/15, 2023 to hear questions or comments about your St. Michael’s experience

Bulletin Feature Week #1

January 7/8, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #2

*I think I purchased photos from Bettinger Photography. How do I get them?*

Anyone who purchased photos from Bettinger Photography during their session for the Parish Directory, may pick up the photos in the Parish Office. As of January 3, 2023, there were approximately 35 photo orders unclaimed in the office.

The free 5X7 photos for persons who did not make a purchase and the Parish Directory for everyone who participated, will be available in approximately March 2023.

January 14/15, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #3

*Does St. Michael’s have a poor box?*

Yes, in the gathering space against the narrow wall at the entrance to the east hall. The Poor Box was set up in 2016 by St. Michael’s Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVdP) to provide an easy way for parishioners to make a donation to the Society. Money collected in the Poor Box is combined with other SSVdP monies received from various resources including Safeway and Kroger programs, Friends of the Poor Walk and grants. Funds are used to assist individuals and families who are in need of temporary financial assistance for rent, mortgage, utilities, clothing, food, and other items. In the last fiscal year, St. Michael’s SSVdP used $172,075 to assist 268 households, including 205 children. In the present economy, the need is growing faster than donations. SSVdP offers minor home and auto repairs at no charge for those in need and is considering restarting an eldercare program once Covid protocols permit.

January 21/22, 2023

Bulletin Feature Week #4

*Will there be a Lenten Mission this year?*

Yes. The Lenten Mission will be February 26 – March 2, 2023, with morning and evening sessions. The theme will be *Come, Taste and See* and will be presented by a Redemptorist priest. The mission is being organized by a committee of Lay parishioners, with guidance from Formation staff, and will offer activities surrounding the mission presentations. Please put the dates on your calendar and watch all the various parish communication methods for more information.

January 28/29, 2023