



# St. Michael Catholic Church

311 West High Street  
Hicksville, Ohio 43526  
419-542-8202



2021

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

### HOLY DAY Masses

(No Mon. morning Mass Blakeslee)  
Tues., Dec. 7, 7pm - Edgerton  
Wed., Dec. 8, 6:30am - Blakeslee  
Wed., Dec. 8, 8:30am - Edgerton  
Wed., Dec. 8, 12:00pm - Hicksville  
Wed., Dec. 8, 7:00pm - Edgerton  
Wed., Dec. 8, 7:00pm - Hicksville

### St. Mary School Program—

Fri., Dec. 10, 1pm and 7pm

## CHRISTMAS MASSES

(No Friday morning Mass)  
Fri., Dec. 24, 4pm - Blakeslee  
Fri., Dec. 24, 4pm - Hicksville—  
Nativity Play at 3:45pm  
Fri., Dec. 24, 6pm - Edgerton  
Fri., Dec. 24, 10pm - Edgerton  
Sat., Dec. 25, 9:00am - Hicksville  
Weekend (Holy Family Sun.)  
Masses  
Sat., Dec. 25, 6:00pm - Blakeslee  
Sun., Dec. 26, 8:30am - Edgerton  
Sun., Dec. 26, 10:30am - Hicksville  
(no Mon., Dec. 27 morning Mass—  
Blakeslee; no Tues., Dec. 28 evening  
Mass—Edgerton)

## SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, MASSES

(no Fri, Dec. 31 morning Mass)  
Fri., Dec. 31, 4pm - Blakeslee  
Fri., Dec. 31, 4pm - Hicksville  
Sat., Jan. 1, 2022,  
9am - Edgerton  
Weekend (Sunday) Masses  
Sat., Jan. 1, 4pm - Hicksville  
Sat., Jan. 1, 6pm - Blakeslee  
Sun., Jan. 2, 2022,  
8:30am - Edgerton  
Sun., Jan. 2, 2022,  
10:30am - Hicksville

## CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER - December, 2021

Fax: 419-542-9513  
saintmichaelhicksville@gmail.com  
Website: Saintmichaelhicksville.org  
Church/Hall Kitchen/CCD House: 419-542-8714  
Physical Address of the Church: 100 Antwerp Drive

## Letter from Fr. Dan Borgelt

### *He Will Bring You Good News of Great Joy*

We once again approach the seasons of Advent and Christmas. This is a busy time of the year for many people. It is an extremely important time in the church year. We take the weeks of Advent to prepare for the coming of the Lord. The Prophet Isaiah, John the Baptist and other people of old tell about the eager longing of the people for the coming of the Messiah. We celebrate this glorious event at Christmas.

I have been a part of the Christmas celebration now for 56 years. It still remains a special time for me. At times Christmas brings me back to lovely childhood memories of sneaking out of bed early to see what Santa brought. I also remember fondly gatherings with family at Grandma and Grandpa's house. And of course, I remember going to church to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Perhaps I am overly sentimental, but I still really enjoy the sacred seasons of Advent and Christmas. There is something very moving about hearing the invitation to rejoice because God will make straight the paths and level the hills, so that we can easily make our way to meet Jesus. I also find inspiring the many Christmas programs, decorations, music and family traditions that try to capture a bit of the beauty of this Season.

In one of the Gospels for Christmas we hear the angel declare, "I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord" (Luke 2:10-11).

Hopefully all of us receive this news of great joy. The world is not perfect. There are many challenges and trials that we face. Yet, we celebrate the news of great joy. Jesus was born into our world! He invites us in many ways to welcome Him into our lives and promises to bless us with His everlasting gift of peace.

Be assured of my prayers for all of you during this holy and sacred season. May our celebration of the birth of Christ renew your hope and fill you with joy!

Peace and many blessings!

*Fr. Dan Borgelt*

### **Opportunities for Reconciliation**

#### **PARISH ADVENT**

#### **RECONCILIATION SERVICE**

**Sun., Dec. 12, 2pm - St. Michael, Hicksville**

**DAYS OF GRACE: Dec. 14th, 17th, & 20th**

There will be a "Day of Grace" at each church. On these days, I will be available for individual confession on the even numbered hours of the day

**(10am, 12 noon, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm)**

**The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Upon those who lived in a land of gloom a light has shone.**

**Isaiah 9:1**

**Mark Your Calendars!  
You're not going to want to miss this!**

Fri., Nov. 26– 9am  
Advent Decorating

Sun., November 28–  
FIRST SUN. OF ADVENT

Thurs., December 9 -  
Community Meal

Sun., Dec. 12–Bambinelli Sunday

Sun., Dec. 12–2pm  
PENANCE SERVICE for  
Hicksville, Edgerton, & Blakeslee

Tues., Dec. 14– Edgerton  
Day of Grace

Fri., Dec. 17– Hicksville  
DAY OF GRACE

Sun., Dec. 19– after  
10:30am Mass  
Christmas Decorating

Mon., Dec. 20– Blakeslee  
Day of Grace

Wed., December 29 -  
MOVIE NIGHT! Doors  
open at 5:30pm - Movie  
starts at 6pm

Tues., Feb. 1, 2022,  
7:30pm Next  
LITURGY COMMITTEE  
MTG in Office Conference  
Room. Everyone is welcome!

WEEKLY:  
Every Sunday -  
8:30am  
Confirmation Class

10:30am  
SUNDAY MASS

(3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday) Franciscans

Every Monday -  
6:30pm Prayer Group  
in front of the Tabernacle

(2<sup>nd</sup> Monday) 7:00pm  
Altar Rosary Society

Every Tuesday -  
6:30pm RCIA–What  
Does the Church Teach?  
in Ofc Conf. Rm.

(2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday) 7:00pm  
Knights of Columbus  
Meeting

Every Wednesday -  
7:30am Confessions  
8:30am DAILY MASS  
6:30-7:45pm CCD

Every Thursday -  
8:00am-7:00pm  
Eucharistic Adoration -  
*Come spend some time with  
Jesus in the church.*

7:00pm Holy Hour in the  
Church, ending with Bene-  
diction

(2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday) 4:00-6:00pm  
Community Meal

Every Friday -  
7:30am Confessions  
8:30am DAILY MASS

(ODD MONTHS) Every Saturday  
3:00pm Confessions  
4:00pm MASS



**How to Connect with Us:**

Website:  
[Saintmichaelhicksville.org](http://Saintmichaelhicksville.org)  
Facebook Page:  
**St Michael Catholic Church-  
Hicksville**  
YouTube Channel:  
**St. Michael Hicksville**  
Email:  
[saintmichaelhicksville@gmail.com](mailto:saintmichaelhicksville@gmail.com)  
Phone: Office 419-542-8202  
Text: 419-487-0495 Jan Kaylor  
419-487-2652 Susie  
Smalley

Bulletin – printed weekly and available:  
Printed hardcopies when you come to Mass  
Printed hardcopies in carport wall box  
Website: [Saintmichaelhicksville.org](http://Saintmichaelhicksville.org)  
Facebook:  
**St Michael Catholic Church-Hicksville**  
Emailed weekly:  
email us at  
[saintmichaelhicksville@gmail.com](mailto:saintmichaelhicksville@gmail.com)



Advent and Christmas Decorating  
Mark your Calender!



Advent Decorating  
Friday, Nov 26, 9am



Christmas Deorating  
Sunday, Dec 19  
after the 10:30am  
Mass

Please come and help!



**St. Michael  
Community Supper**

**Thursday, Dec. 9, 5 - 6pm**  
St. Michael Parish will again host  
the **Community Meal for Carry Out.**  
Delivery at 4:30pm  
Drive-thru Carry out, 5 - 6pm

*Merry Christmas!*



**Advent Penance Service**

Sunday, December 12, 2pm  
St Michael Catholic Church, Hicksville

All are Welcome!  
Please join us!



**DAYS OF GRACE**

Father will be in the Confessional  
at the top of the hour:  
10am, Noon, 2pm, 4pm, and 6pm

He will stay until all who are there gets Reconciliation OR  
if no one is there, until about 15 minutes after the hour.

**Tuesday, December 14, Edgerton**  
**Friday, December 17, Hicksville**  
**Monday, December 20, Blakeslee**

**Ask for a sign  
from the Lord,  
your God; let  
it be deep as  
Sheol, or high  
as the sky!"**  
**But Ahaz  
answered, "I  
will not ask! I  
will not tempt  
the Lord!"**  
**Then he said:  
Listen, house  
of David! It is  
not enough  
that you  
weary human  
beings? Must  
you also  
weary my  
God?**  
**Therefore the  
Lord Himself  
will give you a  
sign; the  
young woman,  
pregnant and  
about to bear  
a Son, shall  
name Him  
Emmanuel.**

**Isaiah 7:11-14**



### BAMBINELLI SUNDAY



A celebration that occurs on the  
3rd Sunday of advent in Rome  
and other places. In Rome  
children come to St Peter's  
Square with the Baby Jesus  
figures from their family nativity  
to be blessed by the Pope.  
Bring Baby Jesus to Mass on  
Sunday, Dec 12, and Father will  
bless your Baby Jesus.

**Christmas Masses**

Fri., Dec. 24, 4pm, Blakeslee  
Fri., Dec. 24, 4pm, Hicksville  
Fri., Dec. 24, 6pm, Edgerton  
Fri., Dec. 24, 10pm, Edgerton  
Sat., Dec. 25, 9am, Hicksville

**Sunday Masses**

Sat., Dec. 25, 6pm, Blakeslee  
Sun., Dec. 26, 8:30am, Edgerton  
Sun., Dec. 26, 10:30am, Hicksville



St. Michael Catholic Church  
presents  
"The Trouble With Angels"  
Wednesday, December 29th  
Doors Open at 5:30pm  
Movies Starts at 6:00pm

Bring your blankets, comfy chairs, get comfortable!  
Free Admission! Free Drinks, Candy  
Popcorn & Hot Dogs



### Amazing Parish Leadership Team

#### What Does Our “Amazing Parish Leadership Team” Do?

I would be very surprised if there weren't people in the pews who are saying, “I didn't even know we had an “Amazing Parish”. This article is an attempt to inform everyone of who is on the team and what our goals are.

First of all, the current members are Father Dan, Deacon Rod Conkle, Dale Gallup, Susie Smalley and Diane Collins. In March of 2017, Fr. Dan, Dale and Susie were joined by Deb Schroeder and Mark Gerschutz from St. Mary's on a trip to Atlanta, Georgia. This was totally endorsed by the Diocese of Toledo. In fact, over twenty parishes were represented from our Diocese and some one hundred fifty from around the country. Bishop Daniel Thomas also traveled with us and blessed us by concelebrating the Mass.

Our purpose, above all, is to support Fr. Dan. This is **not** to take away from the functions of the Finance Council, the Pastoral Council or the Liturgy Committee. We are members of the Parish who are to be the eyes and ears for Father and thus to

assist him in making decisions for the benefit of all. Each team member must be accountable to the team in being open and honest, willing to accept criticism and able to engage in fruitful conflict. The areas of greatest concern are: The Sunday Experience - Message, Music, Hospitality; Evangelization and Discipleship - Using the story of your life to spark a conversation about Jesus; and Vision - Having a purpose and plan for the Parish, providing clarity.

The Amazing Parish Leadership Team needs you! We are actively seeking a dedicated family/group/person to take charge of Parish Social Activities. The monthly family movies we have been showing in the Gym are something we would like to see continue and even grow. Perhaps you are willing to coordinate these events with future Square Dances that were so much fun prior to Covid! Or perhaps you are itching to get going on a new activity... We need you to help us to promote a cohesive atmosphere in which FAITH CAN BE FUN!



**Dale Gallup,**  
one of our Parish's Key  
Volunteers—we have many!

He said to me,  
... I [am] the  
Alpha and the  
Omega, the  
beginning and  
the end. To the  
thirsty I will  
give a gift from  
the spring of  
life-giving  
water.

Revelations  
21:6

### 2021 Parish Pictorial Directory

After many glitches the Anniversary edition of our church directory draft has been sent in to the publisher. You will see that the directory has four sections. The first section shows the basics of our Parish right now, the second is the celebration with Bishop Thomas, the third is a fantastic account of our Parish history in part told by present and past members written by Jim Battershell, and the fourth includes the family photos. I hope and pray that everyone will enjoy the final product.

This directory has come together through the cooperation of this wonderful Parish. A great big thanks to everyone who got their picture taken, it laid the ground work to pro-

ceed. There are too many to thank for helping, but I will mention a few. I cannot thank Alice Breidenbaugh enough for getting last minute helpers for the table and kudos to those who manned the table. Shari Hedge did a awesome job putting together the beautiful celebration pages. The history pages, which took Jim Battershell 4 years to compile, was phenomenal. Susie Smalley tied up the loose ends and sent it to the publisher. We do not have a estimated time of arrival of the finished product. I have always felt that our Parish is more like a family. I consider myself blessed to be a part of it. Thank you!  
Roxie Timbrook



## PASTORAL COUNCIL from Fr. Dan Borgelt

The By-laws of St. Michael Pastoral Council explain the purpose of the Pastoral Council by stating, "The Pastoral Council will use the talents of dedicated council members for open dialogue and pastoral planning to advise and assist in fostering the mission, vitality and activities of the parish." At the meetings we review the variety of groups and activities that are part of the Parish. We keep making efforts to proceed with the gym restroom renovations. We also are looking at a Parish fundraiser. At the November 11 meeting we talked about having a meal and silent auction on Super Bowl Sunday.

This year, with the help of Andrew Reinhart, the Parish Life Coordinator and head of the Intentional Planning and Evangelization Office of the Diocese, we are focusing on developing a statement defining the mission of St. Michael Parish. Along with this mission or "sacred purpose" statement, we will also develop a strategic plan that will help guide the efforts of the Parish over the next 3-5 years. We have discussed ideas about **Why Do We Exist?** and **How Do We Behave?** This has brought about insightful conversations. We still have work to do. We hope this effort will help us all identify a bit more of what it means to be a member of St. Michael Parish and to develop plans for how we can continue to reach out to our members and nurture the Christian faith of many.

Please feel free to offer your thoughts to any of the Council Members. Council Members are:

Russell Pierce, Carolyn Gallup, Ted Laker, Vicki Art, Cody Sanders, Diane Collins, and Joshua Vowles.

Also offer a special prayer for us as we undertake this important work. In all things, may we be directed to do the work of Christ.

## Extraordinary Ministers Needed—Adopt-a-Shut-In

A big THANK YOU to those who have committed to bring the Eucharist to our home-bound parishioners. Deacon Rod coordinated our Extraordinary Ministers and with those who have contacted us about being homebound. God always has a Plan, and He knows how to bring together those who are ready to do His Work and those who are in need. Our Adopt-a-Shut-in program has one trained Extraordinary Minister taking responsibility for one (person or home) to bring Communion, visit, assess needs, etc. Thanks to Deacon Rod for initiating this program, and THANK YOU to the Extraordinary Ministers who make this program possible. If you are or know of someone in need, please contact Deacon Rod at 419-542-6473. Please consider joining this program. We need more Extraordinary Ministers!

## Meet Fr. Dan's Advisory Teams: Pastoral Council:

Russ Pierce, Chairperson	Carolyn Gallup
Cody Sanders, Vice Chairperson	Ted Laker
Diane Collins, Secretary	Josh Vowles
Vicki Art	

## Finance Council:

Gabe Inkrott, Chairperson	Brad Laker
Mike Meyer, Vice Chairperson	Leesa Battershell
Linda Thiel, Secretary	

## Amazing Parish Leadership Team:

Deacon Rod Conkle  
Dale Gallup  
Diane Collins  
Susie Smalley

Now I am sending  
My messenger—  
he will prepare  
the way before  
Me; and the Lord  
Whom you seek  
will come  
suddenly to His  
temple; The  
messenger of the  
covenant Whom  
you desire—see,  
He is coming!  
Says the Lord of  
Hosts.  
Malachi 3:1





### YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

As we come to the end of the Year of St. Joseph, consider making a pilgrimage to a St. Joseph Church around the Diocese... including our own sister Parish's chapel St. Joseph Chapel in Blakeslee.

# What can you do at home?

## Check out FORMED.org

The Diocese announced in Spring, 2020, that through a generous donation, **FORMED IS FREE FOR TWO YEARS.** Please take advantage of this great Catholic Treasury now while we still have it at no cost to the Parish.

## Have you gotten on FORMED on your phone, computer or TV?

Over 4,000 titles to choose from to watch.

What are you interested in?

- Catholic Studies
- Movies
- Great Talks
- Kids' Programs

## Do you need help with getting registered and finding what you want?

1. visit [FORMED.org](http://FORMED.org)
  - [Use St. Michael, Hicksville/St. Mary, Edgerton to log in]
  2. Click Sign In
  3. Enter your email
  4. Click the link in your email
  5. You're in! No more passwords!
- You can download the app.

If you still have trouble, contact the Parish Office, and we can help.

Let us know what Series are you watching?

- The Search
- Forgiven
- Lectio – different Lectio series
- The Presence
- Children's movies or series
- Beloved
- Other Series

## Parishioners are talking about the Program

**THE SEARCH**, which leads people to the deepest questions of the human heart, exploring the meaning and purpose of life with visually stunning and intellectually stimulating approach. As an evangelization series hosted by Chris Stefanick, **THE SEARCH** guides viewers through a crescendo of 7 episodes examining life and death, sorrow and happiness, and science and Faith. Astrophysicists, psychologists, astronauts, neuroscientists, professors, athletes, and the beauty of the cosmos all point to one big conclusion: Jesus Christ and The Catholic Church—Augustine Institute



Through video and discussion we explore some fundamental faith issues, such as:  
Why a God? Who is Jesus? Am I saved?  
Why a Church? All are welcome! Or watch The Search series on FORMED.

### Catechism of the Catholic Church—

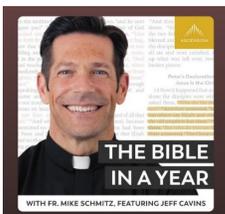
Do you or your family have a Catechism book? If not, our Deacons have been determined to get one in every home. Let us know if you need one.



## THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

The Bishop's Conference in September focused on "The Domestic Church". We are a **church at home**. The last couple years has been hard on the Church. With churches closed part of the time and parishioners' concerns keeping so many at home, "church" has become something redefined. Especially in the days of no public Masses, the Domestic Church really shown through. We watched the Mass livestreamed. We prayed. We watched EWTN TV. We listened to Catholic CDs. We were the church at home. Actually, parents have always been our children's first teachers. In the beginning, we teach our babies The *Sign of the Cross* and teach them to pray before meals and at bedtime. We told them Bible stories like Noah and the Flood and Jonah and the Whale. We help our kids with their CCD homework. We teach our kids to go to God when times are difficult. At the Bishop's Conference we discovered new ways to educate and catechize not only our children but ourselves as well. We hope to present more ideas to enhance your Domestic Church. Ideas for what you can do at home...

**BEST ADVENT EVER!** There are things that draw you toward the light. And there are things that draw you into the darkness. So much of the world wants to draw you into the darkness of worry, fear, procrastination, negative self-talk, toxic relationships...the list goes on. This Advent, discover and choose the things that draw you to the light! Get inspiring daily video reflections sent straight to your email inbox—for free. Taken from Matthew Kelly's life-changing new book, *Life Is Messy*, each reflection will help you infuse your life with prayer, reading, authentic love of self, genuine friendship, beautiful kindness and so much more! And when Christmas arrives, you'll be ready to share the light you've gathered along the way! Best Advent Ever is all about choosing, day by day, the things that draw us toward the light. To deepen your experience and infuse your life with prayer, reading, encouragement and hope, add these life-changing companion resources: go to [www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent.html](http://www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent.html)



**YOU CAN START THE BIBLE IN A YEAR PODCAST** on your phone or computer any time. In **The Bible in a Year** podcast, Fr. Mike Schmitz walks you through the entire Bible in 365 episodes, providing commentary, reflection, and prayer along the way. Unlike any other Bible podcast, Ascension's Bible in a Year podcast follows a reading plan inspired by The Great Adventure Bible Timeline, a ground-breaking approach to understanding salvation history developed by renowned Catholic Bible scholar **Jeff Cavins**. You can listen at your own pace – start it at any time.



**All Bible in a Year Episodes - Ascension Press Media** [media.ascensionpress.com/podcast/all-bible-in-a-year-episodes/](http://media.ascensionpress.com/podcast/all-bible-in-a-year-episodes/) **YOU CAN BEGIN AT ANY TIME!** There was a commercial once that said, "What will you tell God if He asked you why you didn't read His Book?" **20 minutes a day**, and you'll be reading HIS BOOK!

## The Tradition of Advent Candles

The word ADVENT comes from the Latin word ADVENTUS (pronounced ad-vent-oos) meaning arrival. It is the four-week period leading up to Christmas. The four candles remind us that we are preparing for the coming of the CHRIST CHILD, Who is the Light of the world. Each candle reminds us of the virtues Jesus desires for the entire world.



## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT HOPE

The first candle symbolizes the hope that Christ's birth brings us. We pray for an outpouring of hope in our homes, families, and hearts. Lord, help us prepare our hearts by being open to the Light of Christ in others.



**CHRIST CUPBOARD HAS ASKED SAINT MICHAEL PARISH TO COLLECT OATMEAL AND PANCAKE MIX FOR 120 FAMILY'S THIS YEAR.**

It does not matter if you contribute boxes of flavored packets, quick one-minute oats or other varieties. There will be a box/basket at each entrance for you to put your donation in by December 10th. .

**Two hour shifts are offered on Fridays. A weekly commitment would be great.**

Christ's Cupboard Ministries Christ Cupboard is also in desperate need of volunteers on Thursdays 10 a.m. - noon when the food truck arrives and Fridays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. to help people with their groceries.



If Hicksville schools are cancelled, CCD is automatically cancelled UNLESS the school is cancelled because of fog. If school is cancelled because of fog, CCD will still be in session.

**SNOW or INCLEMENT WEATHER--**

On Wednesdays, if Hicksville schools are cancelled, CCD is cancelled. If bad weather hits during the day on Wednesday, check St. Michael's Facebook page St Michael Catholic Church-Hicksville for details.

On Thursdays, if the weather is bad enough for Hicksville schools to delay, Eucharistic Adoration will begin at noon. If the weather is so bad that Hicksville schools cancel for the day, Eucharistic Adoration is also cancelled.

If inclement weather occurs on the weekend, the normal practice is that if the priest can get here, we will have Mass for any who can get to the church. However, DO NOT TAKE ANY RISKS in getting to the church. Please be safe!



**And coming to her the angel Gabriel said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you."  
  
Luke 1:28**

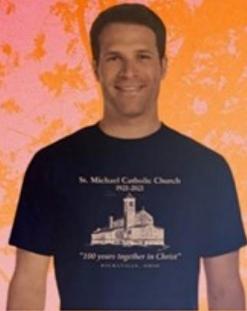
# HELP WANTED! YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOUR HELP!

#s indicate current volunteers on the Ministry Schedule

- Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at Mass {20}
  - Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion to the Homebound Lector (Reader at Mass) {10}
  - Altar Server {13}
  - Greeter {13}
  - Gift Bearer {16}
  - Member of Music Ministry
  - CCD Teacher
  - CCD Assistant Teacher
  - CCD Substitute Teacher
- If you're interested in helping, please contact the Office.

**If you missed ordering a St. Michael Anniversary t-shirt, you have another chance!**

**We need an order of at least 24 shirts for the discount prices!**




**To Order, call Jan Kaylor at 419-487-0495 or saintmichaelhicksville@gmail.com**

Would you like to receive a daily email with Deacon Rod's Morning Prayer, Mass, Saint of the day and other reflections?

**St. Michael Catholic Church**

Send us an email and we will get you on the list!!

saintmichaelhicksville@gmail.com

Also, Holy Hour, Deacon Rod's Landscape/Prayer Walk

Get it all in one email everyday!

**Now this is the message that we heard from Him and proclaim to you: God is LIGHT, and in Him there is no darkness.**

**1 John 1:5**



**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
LOVE**

The second candle symbolizes the love that comes from intimacy with Jesus. Lord Jesus, help us prepare our hearts for Your coming by loving others as You love us. Let us be astounded by Your closeness to us and allow love to expand within our homes.



**Growing God's Way Update**

Thanks to the Lord's blessings and the contributions of many churches and adults, the Growing God's Way after-school Bible program has gotten off to a terrific start! We continue to welcome new students each week. There are currently 75 or so kids enjoying a quick snack and energetic song period before each Monday lesson. The kindergarten group has just started and boy, are they excited! They are so much fun to be around. You may know some of the adults from our parish who are involved – Julie Siebenaler, Kayla Vetter and Lisa Slattery are teachers, Dale Gallup is a volun-

teer in the classroom with Beth Mendez driving children home afterwards. (All staff and volunteers are required to have Background Checks completed.) Be sure to thank them for helping our local youth to learn about Jesus and His mercy. Deacon Rod Conkle and Carolyn Gallup are still on the GGW Board of Directors since Dale Gallup has stepped down to be in the classroom. The lessons are simple yet direct from the Bible. All grade levels receive the same lesson, with age-appropriate changes of course. It is interesting to me to see the creativity of

various teachers at work! The students are happy to search for the passage of the week in a Bible that they will take home at the end of the year. Please continue to pray for them all as we continue this year and hope to expand a grade or two for next year.

Dale Gallup  
**Growing God's Way**  
Teachers / Aides / Volunteers:

- Julie Siebenaler
- Kayla Vetter
- Dale Gallup
- Lisa Slattery

- Bus:** Beth Mendez  
**Board Members:**  
Deacon Rod Conkle  
Carolyn Gallup  
Dale Gallup





DEACON  
JOE TIMBROOK,  
*SENIOR STATUS*

DEACON  
JOHN KROMER,  
*SENIOR STATUS*



**While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn Son. She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.  
Luke 6-7**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

As we celebrate this Christmas time, many with the sense of loss of loved ones who will not be with us this Christmas and others a sense of depression from this loss of a loved one or for other reasons. We sometimes forget that the ones we loved are still with us in spirit, and that our Lord Jesus Christ is always with us to lift us up in our times of trial and sense of loss. Taking all of this into account we must always remember that our loved ones, who have gone home, we pray, are at peace with Christ. This is the main consolation, and it is our unending hope that each of us carry on to someday be with Jesus in the appointed time.

I speak about this, because I know what depression is and know many suffer with this affliction especially this time of the year. I want to make sure that each of you know that you are not alone, and that Jesus is always with you in this time. So now we gather to celebrate the joy of Christmas, and I pray each of you feel supported and cared for by Mother Church.

I pray everyone feels the love of Jesus Christ in their lives. I have great Hope in Christ that His love will carry each of us through whatever is going on in our lives.

**Always remember that we are in the world but not of the world.** This is important especially now in this time with all the pressure on our Christian Faith. We must Follow Jesus unreservedly and with the innocent trust the newborn Christ brought into the world with His birth. I love Christmas time, because it forces me to remember to trust in God's loving plan for each of us.

I have a favorite song that I sing to myself and sometimes to others when moved by the Spirit. The short version is "All will be well, all will be well, all manner of things will be well." Please remember that Jesus loves you more that you can currently understand, and He is always with you. Have a Blessed and Merry Christmas! Always remember we go to church to give thanks and worship our loving God.

God Bless, Deacon Joe

Children have waited so long for this: Santa Clause and reindeer, for presents under the tree to be finally unwrapped, for candy and treats. Maybe, out of the corner of their eyes, they were also waiting for Jesus to be born and placed on His Bed of straw. So many wonderful things happen on this day, even that seems possible.

As we get older we lose the fascination that children have for this day, and we begin to see that the promise of "Peace on earth" is still just a wish.

Pope Paul VI said "If you want peace, work for justice".

Dare to hope for the God-begotten in this world. Resolve to become God-begotten yourself, born again to the gifts that only the Spirit can bring.



Merry Christmas and peace to all.

Deacon John



# DEACON ROD CONKLE

From the Deacon's Desk

Merry Christmas!!!!

What does that really mean? Is it a greeting to announce Christmas, or is it a statement to make us aware of the Joys that are brought to us by the coming of the Lord. God made us in the likeness of love and then gave us the most precious gift, Jesus, to maintain that love.

Many trials have been presented to us this year, and it is with the fortitude of God and the love of Jesus that we were able to persevere. Did you persevere or grow? If you just persevered, it is now time to grow. Jesus came into this world to make it a better place; it is up to us to help keep Jesus alive and to help Jesus make this world a better place. Jesus did not come to the world to give us physical presents or gifts but to give us His Presence and the Gift of Love. If you want to do something special for someone, show them love and invite them to prayer to enjoy the real presence of Christ.

Remember when you are receiving the Eucharist, Jesus is alive and giving us the true miracle of life at Christmas time and always. The Eucharist unites us with Christ, the living, and the dead. Don't waste this gift by separation from those you love, your friends, or your neighbors.

Help bring Christ back into Christmas and the world. Our Church family has Suffered, and it is up to us to unite and invite. Tell the ones who have left our Church you love them and miss sharing Christ with them. Jesus accepts all and does not pick sides. Let us do as Jesus and walk down the middle and pull everyone in from the left and the right side. Do not let issues become circumstances of separation but reasons to let God intervene and fix us. We are all imperfect but granted God's perfect Love.

It has truly been a joy to serve you all as Deacon. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and may the Joy of Christ live forever with you and your family. May you all grow and prosper In Christ, Through Christ, and for Christ. God Bless and Merry Christmas

Deacon Rod Conkle

## *Bishop Thomas' Preferred Version of the PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL – Beginning in Advent, we will use this version after each Mass.*

*Saint Michael, the  
Archangel, defend us  
in battle. Be our  
protection against  
the wickedness and  
snares of the devil.  
May God rebuke  
him, we humbly  
pray; And do thou,  
O Prince of the  
heavenly host, by  
the divine power of  
God cast into hell  
Satan and all the  
other evil spirits  
who wander through  
the world seeking  
the ruin of souls.  
Amen*



### THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT **JOY**

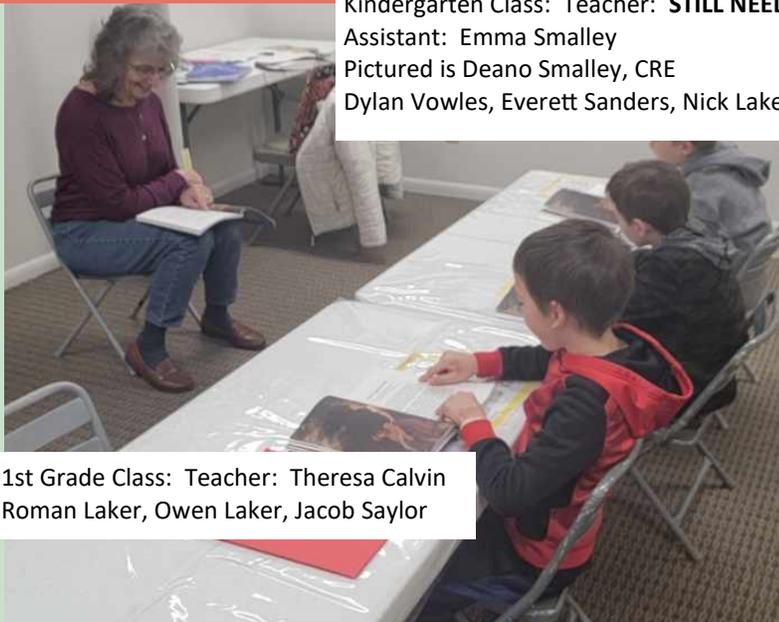
The third candle symbolizes the joy that comes with Christ in our lives. Lord, we thank You for the joy You bring us. Allow our lives to truly be joyful and simple. Help us to be receptive to the freedom You desire for us.



**We're back at CCD,  
and it's alive and  
well!  
Thank you to our  
awesome**



Kindergarten Class: Teacher: **STILL NEEDED!!!**  
Assistant: Emma Smalley  
Pictured is Deano Smalley, CRE  
Dylan Vowles, Everett Sanders, Nick Laker, Eve Laker



1st Grade Class: Teacher: Theresa Calvin  
Roman Laker, Owen Laker, Jacob Saylor



2nd Grade Class: Teacher: Jim Gears  
Raelyn Vetter, Shelby Inkrott, Luke Laker, Michael  
Firestine in back, Vinny Schooley, Brixton Yoder

4th Grade Class: Teacher: Lindsey Thiel—  
pictured is sub Teacher Melissa Sanders  
Harmony Wermer, Kayla Wonderly, Ellie Laker,  
Dawson Keeley, Ryan Vowles, Cory Laker



3rd Grade Class: Teachers: Sage Repp & Anna Smalley  
Josie & Joselyn Laker, Chloe Laker, Kendra Vetter



5th Grade Class: Teacher: Eric Art  
Nolan Inkrott, Tytus Sanders, Melody Wermer, Gianna Laker, Abigail Washler

**Be strong & steadfast; have  
no fear or dread of them,  
for it is the Lord your God,  
Who marches with you; He  
will never fail you or  
forsake you.**

**Deuteronomy 31:6**

# YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

December 5, 7-9pm at the church

December 19, 6-8pm at Mazur's house  
Potluck and gift (if you want) exchange

2022

March 14

Spring Break March 20-28

March 28

April 10

April 24



6th Grade Class: Teacher: Joni Slattery  
Jonah Laker, Curtis Wonderly, Zachery Laker, Dasen Wermer, Alora Stevenson, Katherine Green



7th Grade Class: Teacher: Krista Inkrott  
Back Table: Audrey Crites, Emily Laker, Mika Inkrott  
Front Table: Xavier Miller, Olivia Vowles, Braylon Sanders



High School Class: Teacher: Lisa Laker  
George Green, Jude Smalley, Joey Greer, Collin Inkrott



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## PEACE

The fourth candle symbolizes the peace of a heart close to Christ. Loving God, we thank You for the gift of peace You give us. Help us prepare our homes for the birth of Baby Jesus, by allowing Christ's peace to fill our hearts.



### For your convenience...

St. Michael Parish offers the option of Online Giving. This service allows a simple way for you to give your regular offering to the Parish.



TO GIVE ONLINE TO ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

✓ Donors go to <https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Giving/St9999438>

✓ **Welcome to ParishSoft Giving!**

Go to TAB: **Sign in**

✓ Click on **REGISTER FOR AN ACCOUNT**

✓ Fill in all information there.

✓ Click on **REGISTER**

Go to TAB: **Give Now**

From there a dropdown menu appears offering different funds from which to choose.

✓ **Enter the amount(s) of your donation(s) in each fund you wish**

✓ You can select/click the **MAKE THIS GIFT RECURRING** box

**There is an added fee for credit card use which is charged to the Parish.**

**So, if possible, please use the ACH (automatic withdrawal) feature.**

✓ I'd like to give by: use dropdown menu to select **Bank Account** or **Credit Card**

✓ Fill in all information there.

✓ Select/click **Save Account** if you don't want to input all the information every time.

✓ Make sure all of your information is correct.

✓ Select/click **SUBMIT!**

An email will be sent to you following the submission.

For those who use online giving, we provide online giving cards at the doors of the church for you to pick up. When the collection basket circulates, you can drop the card in the basket.

*Thank you for your generous support of St. Michael Parish! May God bless you!*

As always, donations can be mailed to:

St. Michael Catholic Church, 311 W. High St., Hicksville, OH 43526.

## Thank you to all who continue to support St. Michael financially!!

### Thanks to those who have signed up for Online Giving!

It's convenient and an efficient way to make contributions whether you're coming to Mass, watching from home, or going on vacation, and online you can choose to make donations to Parish Assistance, for Holy Days, for Diocesan Collections, etc.

### Have you considered including your Parish in your Will?

Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.

Luke 6:38

2022 Collection Envelopes Online Giving



Do you want Collection Envelopes for 2022?

So many are going to Online Giving, which is easy and convenient, but we are just checking!

We still have collection envelopes available for those who still want them.



<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/St9999438>



# Financial Report for St. Michael Parish--

## Reflections from Father Dan:

We approach the end of the calendar year. This generally is a time when many things compete for our time, talent and our treasure. With sincere gratitude we thank all of you for your generosity and dedication to St. Michael Parish! Countless people include coming to church as an important part of their observance of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Your contributions make it possible for us to maintain this beautiful place for people to come and worship. They also support our mission of proclaiming Christ to all people and at all times. Thank You! May God bless you abundantly for your generosity.

## Parish Pictorial Directory 2021--

The directory has been submitted! As soon as we have an ETA on the arrival of our new directories, we'll get that info out to you. As well, you may know, we were trying to get 250 families to get their photos taken by the Universal Church Directories' Photographers to enable us to afford a nice hard-back copy of the Parish Pictorial Directory to commemorate the 100th/140th Anniversary of St. Michael Parish. Because we fell short by about 100 photography sessions, we're looking at a cost to the Parish around \$7,000 to get the hard-back book. This would also get the Parish about 100 extra copies of the Directory. Father has talked to both the Finance Council and Pastoral Council, and they agreed it is worth the extra money for the hard-back edition. That is where we need your help. We are looking for parishioners who are willing to donate money for this cause. Please put any donations in an envelope marked for the Parish Directory and get them into the collection or to the office. There is also an option in online giving to make a donation. Thank you!

You can mail in your contributions to the Parish office at

**St. Michael Catholic Church**  
**311 West High Street**  
**Hicksville, OH 43526**

2021-2022					
Fiscal Year July, 2021-June, 2022					
Year-to-Date					
	Total Sunday Only	Avg Sun	Total Regular Income	Total Exp.	Balance for the Month
July, 2021	19,168	4,792	21,177	14,392	<b>6,785</b>
**Aug., 2021	11,211	2,242	12,225	14,027	<b>-1,802</b>
Sept., 2021	12,432	3,108	15,451	17,600	<b>-2,149</b>
**Oct., 2021	10,085	2,017	12,317	13,779	<b>-1,462</b>
Nov., 2021		0			0
Dec., 2021		0			0
**Jan., 2022		0			0
Feb., 2022		0			0
Mar., 2022		0			0
Apr., 2022		0			0
** May, 2022		0			0
June, 2022		0			0
<b>2020-2021 Totals</b>	<b>52,896</b>	<b>3,040</b>	<b>61,170</b>	<b>59,798</b>	<b>1,372</b>

**\*\*Aug., Oct., Jan., May have 5 Sundays**  
 \$2716 Average Sun. 2020-21  
 \$2531 Average Sun. 2019-20  
 \$2915 Average Sun. 2018-19

Total Sunday Only and Average Sunday includes Saturday & Sunday Collection, mail in and online totals for Sundays.  
 Total Income Column includes the Saturday/Sunday Collection, Holydays, plus Building & Maintenance, Candle \$, Landscaping, Restroom Renovation, Parish Assistance, Annual Catholic Appeal, Diocesan Collections, and other collections.



Saint Michael Catholic Church  
311 West High Street

If you or your family/children are receiving this Newsletter in error, please contact us. Also, if you have changed your address, phone, email, etc., please update your contact info with us. 419-542-8202 or saintmichaelsville@gmail.com.

## St. Michael Catholic Church

### Children's Christmas Eve Mass

**Dec. 24, 4:00pm**

**Dress Rehearsal and choir practice: Thursday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00am-11:00am Prompt!**

**Children's Christmas Eve: participants arrive at 3:00 to prepare**

**Children's Christmas Eve play: at 3:40**

**Children's Christmas Eve Mass: at 4:00**

Our Tradition Continues!

Our Children's Christmas Eve Liturgy begins with the children telling the story of Christmas in word, play, and song followed by Mass.

All interested children are invited to participate in the play and/or children's choir or helping with the Mass. Any interested child (kindergarten-12<sup>th</sup> grade) is welcome.

**Everyone** coming to Mass on Christmas Eve, remember to **come early to see the play and help sing the Carols by 3:40!** Thank you!

## CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER - December, 2021

Needed:

—Play participant

(Joseph, Mary, etc.)

—Welcome reader

(reads a welcome and a thank you for coming!)

—Mass reader 1<sup>st</sup> reading

...you can do more than one (example: choir and play)

Those participating and their PARENTS (please) need to come to the one dress rehearsal, Thursday, Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00 –11:00A.M. In the sanctuary.

In order to create this special liturgy, we are in need of parent volunteers.

Be part of passing on the tradition!

Please call Marilyn Guilford 419-551-7163 or provide the following info to CCD (to Deano or Marilyn or teacher) by December 1st.

—gift bearer

—play reader

—choir participants

—Mass reader 2<sup>nd</sup> reading



