



Saint Michael Parish

85 North High Street, Greenville, PA 16125
724-588-9800

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER
22
2024**

**FOURTH
SUNDAY OF
ADVENT**

Saint Margaret, Parish's Mission Church
701 Denver Street, Jamestown, PA 16134

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st.michaelchurch@neohio.twcbc.com

Fr. Brandon Kleckner:
Pastor
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Mr. Nick Hoovler:
Maintenance Supervisor

St. Michael School:
724-588-7050
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SANCTUARY CANDLES

INTENTION & DONOR

Dec 16-31 Dennis Durkos (Dan & Susan Wallace)
Dec 16-31 James & Edith Barbarossa (Benny & Bonnie Barbarossa)
Dec 16-31 John Potase (Daughter & family)
St. Margaret
Dec 16-31 Beth Yurisc (M/M Robert Moore)
St. Margaret

STEWARDSHIP

Third Sunday of Advent
\$8,835.47
Religious Retirement
\$1139
CSA
Pledged: \$104,190
Paid: \$ 103,000

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO OUR PARISH!

Saint Michael Church: In Memory of Rilla Svirby (\$90).

Date / Mass	Lector	EMHC	Cantor	Accompanist	Altar Servers
Dec. 24/ 4:30 PM	Linda Hajtol	Brenda DelMaramo Doug Ruffing	Bob Hutchinson	Natalie Serrano	Callie, Liza, & Tucker S.
Dec. 25 / Midnight	Charlie Demarest	Mary Ann Marshall Patty Meehan	Kathy Williams	Lisa Demarest	Mason M. TBD
Dec. 25/ 9 AM	Mark Holian	Cindy Saulsbery Gabby Saulsbery	Mary Smart	Pat Shaughnessy	Avery W. & Duncan M.
Dec. 28/ 4:30 PM	Patty Meehan	Mary Ann Marshall John Svirbly	Lily T.	Lisa Demarest	Krystal W. Mason M.
Dec. 29/ 8 AM	Bob Moore	Patti Hayes George Soros			John & Gabe G.
Dec 29/ 11 AM	Brenda DelMaramo	Marilyn Kosloski Doug Ruffing	Susan Swartzbeck	Natalie Serrano	Callie, Liza, & Tucker S.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

*Weekday Masses Tues- Fri 9AM /First Sat 9AM
Saint Michael Church*

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:30 *Saint Michael Church*

Jay & Kim McMillan (Anniv.) (Family)

12:00 AM (Midnight) *Saint Michael*

Toni Marie McElhinny (Natalie Higbee)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

9:00 AM *Saint Margaret Mission*

Florence & Benedict Schwartz (Tom & Shirley Patton)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

Saint Stephen

Adelaide Giangiordano (Rosemary & Simon Carpeno)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

Saint John, Apostle

Kevin Carter (Ethel Warhol)

**THE MOST HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY
AND JOSEPH**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

4:30 PM *Saint Michael Church*

Sophie Micsky (Taylor Micsky, Nick & Hannah Cianci)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

***8:00 AM** *Saint Margaret Mission**

For the People of the Parish

11:00 AM *Saint Michael Church*

George Stanfa (Sue, Nick & Chris)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The parish office will be closed from December 24 through January 1. Messages will be checked. The phone system will allow a caller to select the emergency line in the event someone needs anointed. Please do not use that option for any other reason.

CHURCH CLEANING DAY

Please help make the Church shine for Christmas by sharing some of your time and elbow grease to sweep and wipe down the pews beginning Monday (tomorrow) at 9:30 AM. Bring rags and a bucket.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 23 Church "Deep Clean" Work Day.

Dec. 23 Confessions 5PM.

Dec. 24 Church Offices are closed through New Year.

Jan. 8 Adult Education Begins Winter Session.

Confessions return to the Wednesday 8-8:30 PM beginning in January and Saturday from 3-4 PM December 28.

40 CLUB DECEMBER 11

\$500 -Tony DiSalvo; \$500- J.D. Walton; \$250-Tammy Buckley; \$250- John Turner; \$125 - Michael & Joyce Allen; \$125-Kim Walton; \$75-R. M. Guerinni; \$75- Dan & Judy McKay.

FINAL CONFESSION OPPORTUNITY

The final opportunity for Sacrament of Reconciliation is Monday, December 23 from 5-6:15 at Saint Michael. The Church offices will be closed on December 24 in preparation for the Christmas Masses. No Confessions will be heard on Christmas Eve.

SAINT MICHAEL'S/SAINT MARGARET MEN'S GROUP

The 19 December session of the St. Michael's Men's Fellowship Group was the last until January 16th, when we shall reconvene.

"There is no timeline on grieving."

*Seasons of Hope Grief Group Starts again after
the New Year*

"I learned that I'm not the only one grieving - that there is no timeline on grieving." - Season 1 Member

Whether you lost a loved one this past year or 50 years ago, and are looking for consolation in that loss, this Christ-centered faith-sharing group is for you. It meets for six weeks (plus a final extra session with a meal), each Tuesday beginning Tuesday, January 14 through February 25. Prayer, scripture, faith sharing, and fellowship begin at 6:00pm. For more details, take a Seasons of Hope brochure at the church entrance or call Patty, Church Secretary, at 724-588-9800 option 1 by January 7, 2025 to register your spot.

A WORD FROM FATHER BRANDON

In these final hours of the Advent Season and in preparation for the Solemnity and Octave of Christmas, let us not get ahead of ourselves. There yet many hours to have holy hours, to read and contemplate The Word, to partake of the Sacrament of Confession, and to remain (or go to) the silent and empty cave to await the miraculous birth of the God Man! The language of the Scriptures, the words of the Church, and the great reflections and deep contemplations of the saints offers such an array of profound ways of looking at and understanding Christmas – more than just an anniversary of an event. I think that is the greatest enemy to our full and total immersion into the sacredness of the Season – there's a temptation to reduce it to just a birthday like celebration, but we all get the birthday gifts! There's nothing wrong about that – it's quite good to gift people, obviously – but it can and overwhelmingly does overshadow the profound reality of what has taken place! Reclaiming an authentic Biblical and orthodox Christian – Catholic culture (and even purifying the Church) rests in the desire of the Baptized to know the world and humanity and every complexity of reality through the lens of The Magisterium, The Word of God, and the Saints and Fathers of the Church, our Mother! The world in stillness waits, and it hungers and yearns for something truly beyond this world and of the divine. Cultures, societies, institutions, everything are meant to expose souls to the divine, and to feed their souls with the nourishment of what only God and His Church can offer. The 'separation' of church or religion from the public or secular sphere is simply a self-defeating state of mind. Where has separating what you do, believe in, proclaim, advocate for, and even the way you live your life, from God ever lead to holiness and salvation? Where does having a 'religious' side and a 'secular' side ever lead someone to the ranks of the saints? Speak slowly, so I can take notes! It's utter stupidity that the freest nation, ever, to proclaim Christ Incarnate shutters from the august opportunity out of a fear of offending the 'secular' delights or sides of their neighbors! It's all so foolish!

Again, celebrating Christmas the way we do isn't evil, for indeed, this day calls for tremendous celebration! The problem exposed this week is that we so often celebrate – or have elements of our celebration – that are divorced from the divine and the cosmic truth of God, and from the mind and intent of The Church, from whom every Grace of this celebration flows. For instance, Christmas is an Octave. It is Christmas Day for eight days, not one. How many are quick to get back to life as normal or even teardown their decorations by the weekend?! How many are already planning their dumb New Year's Eve party before the Magi have even come to adore the Incarnate God Man or before we have honored the Holy Family?! The Church is not a recommended way of thinking or just for those who want to be exceptionally holy, but She is for everyone for everyone *needs* Her! This isn't even touching upon how, again, the words and language of the Church throughout this upcoming season and these last days of Advent are simply mind-blowing and possess a beauty and mystery unlike any other time or season in the year. I'm not saying to obnoxiously rail against culture but *be* the culture you desire to see; *be* the seed of holiness and mystery you desire the Church, the culture, and our nation to possess.

Ponder Jesus: He came in utter humility, littleness, poverty, and obscurity, yet changed everything. He's a proof case, in a sense, of what is possible to change in a broken world through love and mercy and simplicity. OK, maybe He has an advantage with His divinity...but consider your favorite saint and what he or she was able to incarnate into the world through their littleness and holiness and humility. We can gift the world, and indeed the Church, this Christmas Season with our holiness! We can gift the world and culture our humility and our love for the Word! These – and only these – things can change the world, raise up an authentic Christ-like culture, and never divorce the divine from the human, for Christmas proves to us that it is in the human that the divine may be found! Let us not create a culture or a Church or raise up a family that 'dis-incarnates' the Word from the flesh!

Love
Fr. Brandon