

Third Sunday of Advent ~ December 15, 2024

St. Francis de Sales

2929 McCracken St. Norton Shores, MI
Office: 231-755-1953 Fax: 231-759-7074
stfrancisns.org

Like us on Facebook: [StFrancisNortonShores](https://www.facebook.com/StFrancisNortonShores)

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5pm / Sunday 11am

St. Michael the Archangel

1716 Sixth St. Muskegon, MI
Office: 231-722-3071 Fax: 231-759-7074
saintmichaelsmuskegon.com

Like us on Facebook: [St-Michaels-Church](https://www.facebook.com/St-Michaels-Church)

Weekend Mass

Sunday 9am

Fr. Steve Geerling ~ (231)755-1953 x222 pastor@stfrancisns.org
Emergency # only ~ (231)747-9949
Deacon Jim Cross ~ (231)755-1953 x225 deacon@stfrancisns.org

St. Francis de Sales Staff

Office hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

Annulment Procurator Pat McKeown
patmcqn1969@yahoo.com

Business Manager Kimberly Plyler
x234 businessmanager@stfrancisns.org

Ministry Director Liorah Marianos
x226 ministries@stfrancisns.org
..... music@stfrancisns.org

Parish Secretary Kim Brush
x200 secretary@stfrancisns.org

Maintenance Director .. Mark Robillard
..... maintenance@stfrancisns.org

Maintenance Assistants

Jerry Mazurek and Randy Anderson

Adoration (Thursday 9am-6pm) Al Lutkus

Art & Environment Sarah Emmerson

Knights of Columbus #706 Doug Zuidema

St. Michael the Archangel Staff

Office hours: Mon/Wed 8:30am-3:30pm

Friday 8:30am-12:30pm

Daily Eucharistic Adoration 7am-7pm

Parish Secretary Lisa Cross
office@stmichaelsmuskegon.org

Maintenance Randy Anderson
maintenance@stmichaelsmuskegon.org

Rosary Altar Society President
..... Kitty Slasinski

Art & Environment Tim Duba

Knights of Columbus #13579 Joe Zagar





Tuesday, December 17

4-5pm Confessions
 5:30pm Pray the Rosary St. Michael
 6pm †Casey Kiel by Jan & Stasia Gasior St. Michael

Wednesday, December 18

4-5pm Confessions St. Francis
 5:30pm Pray the Rosary St. Francis
 6pm †Nancy Schmalzer by Steve & Cindy Anderson ...St. Francis

Thursday, December 19

8:30am †Peg McCabe by familySt. Francis
 9-10am Confessions
 9am-6pm Eucharistic Adoration St. Francis

Friday, December 20

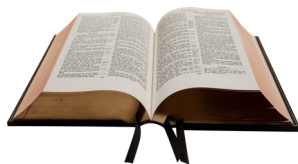
8:30am †Karen Cross by familySt. Michael
 9-10am Confessions St. Michael

Saturday, December 21

3-4:30pm Confessions St. Francis
 4:30pm Pray the Rosary St. Francis
 5pm †Donna Carrier by Chris & Dee Marquart St. Francis
 †Kathleen Gallivan by Lou & Virginia Shields
 †Beatrice Marquart by Chris & Dee Marquart

Sunday, December 22

9am †Sandy Majeski by Ken & Sheryl CallowSt. Michael
 11am †Zbiginew Lezon by family St. Francis
 †Jack Johnston by Mary Ellen Johnston
 †Dean Addicott, Anthony Lombardi & Lombardi family
 †Dan Martin by Louise Matz
 †Nancy & Dale McKay by family
 †Harry & Helen Storm by Dorothy McKay
 †Nancy Schmalzer by Bev Schaub



Readings for the Week of December 16, 2024

Monday	Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17	Ps 25	Matthew 21:23-27
Tuesday	Genesis 49:2, 8-10	Ps 72	Matthew 1:1-17
Wednesday	Jeremiah 23:5-8	Ps 72	Matthew 1:18-25
Thursday	Judges 13:2-7, 24-25	Ps 71	Luke 1:5-25
Friday	Isaiah 7:10-14	Ps 24	Luke 1:26-38
Saturday	Song of Songs 2:8-14	Ps 33	Luke 1:39-45
Sunday	Fourth Sunday of Advent		
	Micah 5:1-4	Ps 80	Heb 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45

Liturgical Roles

Please refer to your schedules for holy days and accuracy

Saturday, December 21
5pm Mass at St. Francis

Altar Server

Josh Roznowski / Sarah Emmerson

Eucharistic Ministers #3 Dick & Melanie S.

John & Mary Allen, Marjorie Eddy,
 Cheri Kimball, Gayle Lagerman,
 Kristi Nagengast

Greeters

Pat Rasch / Tyler & Taylor Cumbee

Lectors

Camille Gabris / Sue McAvoy

Ushers Team #1

Dan Alvesteffer, Dan Haggerty,
 Josh Roznowski, Joe Staple

Sunday, December 22
9am Mass at St. Michael

Altar Server

AriElla Secord

Eucharistic Ministers

Laura McKenna & Tom Schmiedeknecht
 (Chalice)

Kitty Slasinski & Mary LaBash (Ciborium)

Lector

Vince Desmond

Sunday, December 22
11am Mass at St. Francis

Altar Servers

Paul LeRoux / Brody Esch / Kaelan Schneller

Eucharistic Ministers #1 Corey Allard

Steve Anderson, Michael Banka,
 Ken Council, Vela Cabrera, Hannah Jones,
 Brian MacLachlan, Pam Matthews
 Kathy Vanderwater

Greeters

Jan Bates / Sandy Drabczyk
 Mike & Char Matteson

Lectors

Jenni Hurst / Greg Huss

Ushers Team #3

Paul LeRoux, Larry Finner,
 Dan Matthews, Mike VanWalsum

St. Francis weekly offerings

December 8, 2024

Contribution envelopes	\$10,959.00
Holy Day	\$ 1,462.00
Online Giving	\$ 4,055.00

Learn more about on line giving visit
<https://www.osvhub.com/stfrancisns/funds>



A few years ago right after my last Palm Sunday Mass, I was feeling nauseous and experiencing the chills. I thought to myself, "uh oh, who will fill my shoes for Holy Week?!"

Every so often, the diocese sends all active priests a substitute list which continues to shrink. All the more reason to pray for more priests! Retired priests deserve to travel, and available subs are often busy filling in for priests who take vacations.

I made a promise to God that I would never miss or cancel a Mass (unless I was experiencing "reverse peristalsis"), and only then would I scramble to find a sub. Regarding my health, I usually only have a few bad days per year, and last weekend was my "bad days". I'm so grateful for the kind emails, cards, prayers, and donated meals that kept me going! I'll once again offer Anointing of the Sick at the end of this weekend's Masses. Please also take advantage of extended Reconciliation hours at both parishes from the 17th-21st.

Let us look forward to the arrival of Christmas with **hope, peace, joy, and faith!** Both physically and spiritually, may the rest of the month be healthy and of good cheer!



Saint Michael the Archangel
Sunday, December 22 8:30am Pray the Rosary

WELCOME BREAKFAST

St Michael the Archangel

January 12th, 2025
For all new members of the parish that
joined in since 1/1/2024
We want to celebrate you with breakfast
after 9am mass in the Family Center



St. Michael's Offertory

December 8, 2024
Sunday offertory: \$5,405
Online giving: \$1,165

St. Michael's Prayer Line

Audrey Adamczak (231)759-8164
Marlene Evans (231) 670-6149

I Owe You An Apology - Gaudete Sunday by Deacon Jim Cross

Advent Traditions

Our Advent and Christmas seasons are distinguished by many colorful traditions whose histories go way back in the history of the Catholic Church. Occasionally we are called on to defend or explain those traditions to non-Catholics who can see them as frivolous or at times even apostasy. Here's some brief info that might help explain a few of our traditions:

The Advent wreath is a tradition that goes back to early medieval times. It is more likely that the wreath came as an adaptation from the Christmas tree (below) than from its same source. Nevertheless, the circular advent wreath is full of symbolism of God's never ending and "ever-green" love and Jesus as the light of the world. The purple color of Advent calls us to conversion and preparation for the coming of the Lord. The first purple candle, the prophet's candle, represents our HOPE, the coming of the Savior. The second purple candle, the Bethlehem candle, represents PEACE. The third, shepherd's, candle represents our JOYFUL and imminent expectation, which is the reason for the lighter, rose hue. The final purple candle, the angel's candle, represents the PEACE that our triumphant Savior will bring.

Gaudete Sunday is the celebration of the halfway point of our period of preparation. The deeper purple liturgical colors are temporarily lightened to an uplifting "rose" hue (not pink) in order to represent the uplifting of our spirits as Christ draws near. And that's the key to Gaudete (Latin for Rejoice) Sunday. We are moving from "Christ is coming" to "Christ is near." This tradition dates back to roughly the fourth century. For comparison purposes, that's roughly as far back as the official Cannon of the Bible.

"O" Antiphons are the ancient verses we chant (usually as part of evening prayers) during the last 7 days before the Christmas Vigil. They may be more familiar to most of us as (roughly) the verses of the Christmas carol "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." The "O" Antiphons represent our longing for the coming of Christ, and have been sung by the Church since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but of present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "O Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah. If there is one present day Christmas carol that best represents Advent, O Come, O Come Emmanuel is probably it.

The Creche, or Nativity Scene, dates back to the early 1200s, when St. Francis of Assisi invented it as a way of celebrating the coming of Christ at Christmas. His hope was to provide the poor of the communities an experience not unlike a pilgrimage to the birthplace of Christ. His first nativity scene used live people and animals from the village. The name Creche, comes from the Latin word for crib.

The Christmas Tree - We sometimes take some "heat" for the fact that the Christmas tree is adapted from earlier Pagan traditions, but really we should hold that as a point of pride. That's the point of evangelism. That's what Christianity did, as it spread throughout the pagan world. It took the lives and traditions of an unchristian world and transformed them, making them holy. That's what Christ did, and through us, it's what He still does even to this day.

Pope Francis, Jubilee Bull of Indiction, no. 25

"Through our witness, may hope spread to all those who anxiously seek it. May the way we live our lives say to them in so many words: 'Hope in the Lord! Hold firm, take heart and hope in the Lord!' (Ps 27:14). May the power of hope fill our days, as we await with confidence the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and glory, now and forever." Rejoice! The Lord is near!

St. Francis Calendar of Events

Monday, December 16

9am Moms Group Guild Room
10am Mary Monday Rosary Marian Chapel
11am Diabetes Prevention Program Conf. Room 3

Tuesday, December 17

9am Women's Guild Guild room

Thursday, December 19

9:45am TOPS Conf. Room 3
NO Faith Formation classes

Saturday, December 21

9am Men's Faith & Fellowship Conf. Room 3
11am Christmas Play rehearsal Church

Sunday, December 22

NO Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
12:15pm OCIA Conf. Room 3
12:15pm Sunday Social & St. Nick Breakfast S. Hall

OCIA ~ St. Francis & St. Michael

- Dec. 15 Mary and Joseph
- Dec. 22 Star of Bethlehem
- Dec. 29 No session

For questions or interest, email Liorah
ministries@stfrancisns.org

That Man Is You (TMIY)

From my family to yours, and especially to all the men who attend our "That Man Is You" on Monday evenings: May you all have a blessed Advent season, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year!

We will meet again in February for our Spring session as we begin our Lenten journey with eyes focused on Easter. — God Bless, Pat McKeown

Saturday Morning Men's Faith & Fellowship

Facilitator: Mark Schrier

Join us any **Saturday morning at 9am** and enjoy refreshments & fellowship as we review and discuss *The Parables*. No homework.

We will continue to meet until Christmas!

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULES

Christmas Eve

4pm St. Michael

6pm St. Francis

Christmas Day

9am St. Michael

11am St. Francis

Faith Formation For All Ages

Sunday at 9:15am

3yr-5yr Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Sunday at 7pm

Middle & High School Youth Groups

Thursday at 6:30pm

1st -5th Grade Faith Formation Classes

Adult Group (ages 18+) events scheduled monthly

see bulletin and website for complete schedules

For detailed schedules and information,
see the parish website or contact Liorah
ministries@stfrancisns.org

WELCOME BREAKFAST

St Francis de Sales

January 12th, 2025

For all new members of the parish that
joined in since 1/1/2024

We want to celebrate you with breakfast
after 11am mass in the Shepherd's Hall



We pray for the souls of **Donna Carrier** (daughter of John & Mary Allen), **Joseph Gyulay** (husband of Marisha Agana), **Dale McKay** (husband of Dorothy) and **Maxine Janowski** (mother of Jan Sesselmann)

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and let the perpetual light shine upon them. May their soul and the souls of the all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Please remember them in your daily prayers

Mary Jane Bard Leah Bell Jim Benedict Amy Bringedahl Matt Cashbaugh Ron Chandonnet Charlotte Cook Martin Deater Andrew Degner Dorothy Doza Aliyah Droblin Cathleen Dubault Lorraine Feiber Jim Geisler Rita Greeley Connie Harrison Patricia Jensen Dorothy Jones	Madeline Joseph Marleah Kooi Alice Kujawski Pat Linck Kristine Masters Jim Mastee Jerry McKenzie Paul Medenbach Rhonda Leonard-Nathan Phyllis Oza Theresa Panzero Sue Paquin Veronica Rush Emily Ruud Jim Sowa Gerrie Young	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Day Spring</u></p> Nancy Bozell Ann Briggs Marilyn Dion Veda Filipiak Kathy Hale Mary Hynes Maureen Kelly Irene Lodzynski Elizabeth Middlecamp Bernice Sebring Marcella Sharnowski Joe Sirianni Karen Szpeinski Hope Varela	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Lake Woods Nursing and Rehab Center</u></p> Michael Abraham James Alviar Mary Benjamin Jeffrey Butler John Kukulski Paul Thomas <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Roosevelt Park</u></p> Nancy Hux Margaret Jawor Verone Jawor June Martin Marirose McDaniel William Norkus Francis Somers Agnes Strach Deborah Wagner Richard Zokas	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Chestnut Fields</u></p> Arlene Cichun Bernadette DeVoursney Marlene Kelly Mary Therese Kendra Patricia Numerdor Louise Sanford <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Seminole Shores</u></p> Bev Collins Pam Johnston Jim Keating Ann Lomasiewicz Roy Lorenz Terri Ludovicz Marilyn Pilon Irene Rogers Jo Youngstrom	<p><i>Due to HIPAA laws, only names that have been given to the parish by an individual or family member can be printed in the bulletin.</i></p>
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New Year's Eve Party!

Come listen/dance to Muskegon's own Pan Franek, Zosia, and the Polka Towners at Polish Falcons Hall(1014 W. Hackley) Party is 8:30-12:30, cost is just \$25 a person. Hats, noisemakers, and champagne at midnight. Cash bar. Call Barb at 231-343-6445 or Joane at 231-780-3162 for more information and for tickets. Don't delay, tickets limited to 250.

Sponsored by the Muskegon Polish Festival.

Kelly Catholic Center

Stop by the Kelly Catholic Center (2100 Henry) and check out our many Christmas items. Nativities, ornaments, visor clips, children's books, bibles, hand carved crucifixes, as well as, other sacramentals. We also carry Oplatki 'wafers.

St. Mary Heart Food Pantry

We are in need of Christmas food items, especially ham, instant potatoes, gravy, canned vegetables, and box/bags of pastas. *Thank you for your kindness!*

Please bring these items to St. Francis and place in the bins at either entrance by Tuesday, Dec. 17.

To learn more how you can be involved visit stmarysmuskegon.org/marys-heart-food-pantry/

Midnight Mass and concert to be broadcast from the cathedral on FOX 17 and online

The Prelude of Carols followed by Midnight Mass will be broadcast live from the Cathedral of Saint Andrew on FOX 17 and on the diocesan website, grdiocese.org, and [YouTube \(Diocese of Grand Rapids\)](#) on Christmas Eve. The concert begins at 11:00 p.m. followed by Mass at midnight.

On Christmas morning, there will be a replay of Mass on FOX 17 at 7 a.m.

Exploring Priesthood Discernment Opportunities 2025



Discernment is a time of obtaining spiritual guidance and understanding. If you are considering the priesthood, the Diocese of Grand Rapids invites you to meet each month with other young men in high school and college to gather and discern God's will for your life. Feel free to just show up or

email to let us know you are coming at preynolds@grdiocese.org or contact

Fr. Stephen Durkee, sdurkee@grdiocese.org, Director of Priestly Vocations or Associate Director Fr. Rob Mulderink at frrob@lukespot.com if you have questions.

Discernment Meeting Dates

St. Luke University Parish
 10144 42nd Ave., Georgetown Twp. MI 49428
12:30-1:30 p.m. on Jan. 19, Feb. 16, Mar. 23, May 4

Men of the Eucharist

STRENGTHENED IN

CHRIST

RESPONDING WITH JOY

Pray for Seminarian:
Hunter D. Ostapowicz
 Mundelein Seminary
 1000 E. Maple Avenue
 Mundelein, IL 60060