



Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 20, 2020

ST MICHAEL'S



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## FATHER MARK'S NOTES

### Christmas 2020

It will be a Christmas to remember – Christmas 2020. What has happened in the last nine months has been unprecedented, unparalleled, and bewildering to all of us. The virus itself and all the different ways it has affected our lives: the unemployment, the economy, the loneliness, the isolation, the different way we must now interact with one another, loved one's we cannot be with, and on and on. It will indeed be a Christmas to remember.

I wonder, just how bewildering was that first Christmas for Mary and Joseph? The pregnancy, the journey, the Birth in a cave (and stables in those days, especially in Bethlehem, a very rocky place, were usually in small caves.) the angels – representing heaven, the Magi – representing the Gentiles, the shepherds – representing the lost and forsaken. I have to believe they, too, were bewildered. This scenario isn't how they had planned for their lives together to begin. They were faithful; why would God do this to them? Had they done something wrong?

They were a couple who learned fast how to trust this God, who had just turned their lives upside down, who often seemed absent, but was actually with them every step along the way.

While it may seem that God is absent and silent in our present situation, He, as with Mary and Joseph, is very much with us. So, whether you can join us in the Church, or our beautifully decorated Hall, or at home this Christmas, we do hope you will join us as we celebrate this very bewildering Christmas 2020. It will be one to remember, and one that calls us to a deeper experience of God – just like that first Christmas did for Mary and Joseph. If you do join us, we will be connected, we will know that God is indeed with us, and we will be His Church. Merry Christmas, and hope to see you, or at least that you see me virtually this Christmas – bewildering as it is, God is with us!

## CHRISTMAS MINISTRY SCHEDULES

### December 24—Christmas Eve—4 pm

Servers: Kate Edwards, Alyssa Kush, Peyton Barry

Lectors: John Skelley, Adeline Mishler

Euch. Min.: Ed Sheehan (2), Julie Sheehan,

Michelle Rivetti, Tom Polacek, Mary Polacek

Hospitality: Val Deater, Bill Deater, Marianne

Krizner, Marge Pipan, Michelle Kush, Ed

Sheehan, Julie Sheehan, Kathy Lepsch

George Kogut, Mary Kogut

### December 24—Christmas Eve—7 pm

Servers: Haley Kesslak, Adriel Manalang

Lectors: Jim & Jeanne Clark

Euch. Min.: Michelle Rivetti (2), Linda Geiser,

Dawn Zabala, Marilyn Billow, Denise Esch

Hospitality: Cathy Vigna, John Esch, Janette

Cowan, Ray Cowan, Kevin Evans, Kathy Lepsch,

John Fontana, Julie Fontana

### December 24—Christmas Eve—10 pm

Servers: Domenick Barger, Vindy Kohan,

Lectors: Andrea Criswell, Marty Radovanic, Jr.

Euch. Min.: Kim Belskey (2), Heather Nibert,

Carol Battaglia

Hospitality: Maria DeMarco, Ralph DeMarco,

Gail Stotler

### December 25—Christmas Day—10 am

Servers: Domenick Barger

Lectors: Rick Wess, Jan Koval

Euch. Min.: Michele Varner, Jerry Clark, Mary

Kay Clark

Hospitality: Patty Falcone, Don Falcone, Janice

Rayha

## ***OMOS OUTREACH - How Can We Help Others This Advent?***

### ***Your Ideas to “Become Jesus in Our Midst”***

Pray over them  
Donate to your Catholic Schools  
Compliment & thank service & sales people  
Send or drop off Christmas to nursing home residents  
Give what is most precious in physical possessions to express freedom of love. For what is superficial to us are great in the heart of God  
Offer to pay for someone’s groceries when checking out  
Jesus says “trust in me in all things”  
Take an elderly neighbor a meal & cookies  
Give candy canes to people you meet  
Pray for those who do not love or believe  
Buy a gift card from a restaurant, give it to someone who is alone & take them out to eat post-pandemic  
Pray for those who can’t be with us and make plans together when we can meet safely. Give them something to look forward to.

Make a phone call  
“Secret Santa” lonely people  
Recognize Him in all of us  
Buy a coffee or meal for a person behind you in line  
Smile at everyone you see and acknowledge with your eyes that you can see Christ in them!  
Donate to the Salvation Army  
Random acts of kindness  
Sing Christmas carols in the neighborhood with small a group  
Seek out people who are never listened to  
Offer to run an errand for someone  
Donate items to the hospital  
Go Christmas caroling outside a nursing home  
Write anonymous letters to people in the nursing home

### ***Virtual Angel Tree Report...***

This year we estimate over \$12,000 going into this project of serving over 150 children / 51 families this Christmas. We shopped for you those who gave a donation and wanted to stay safe, others bought gifts online and shipped them to us, and some went shopping and found what they wanted to buy. You contributed to the food certificates each family will receive as well. We partnered with St. Vincent De-Paul, Mom's House, Birthright, Parishioners of OMOS/St. Michaels, DMCA, and Bishop McCort to help those in our local area.

Thank you very much for supporting this project of providing clothing, food, and toys to make each of the Christmas mornings a bit brighter. Thank you goes to Ellen Shayesteh for organizing and doing much of the work to see this project through!

### ***Grocery Shopping?***

**Food Bins – Drive up and drop off – located on our back patio behind Holy Grounds.**

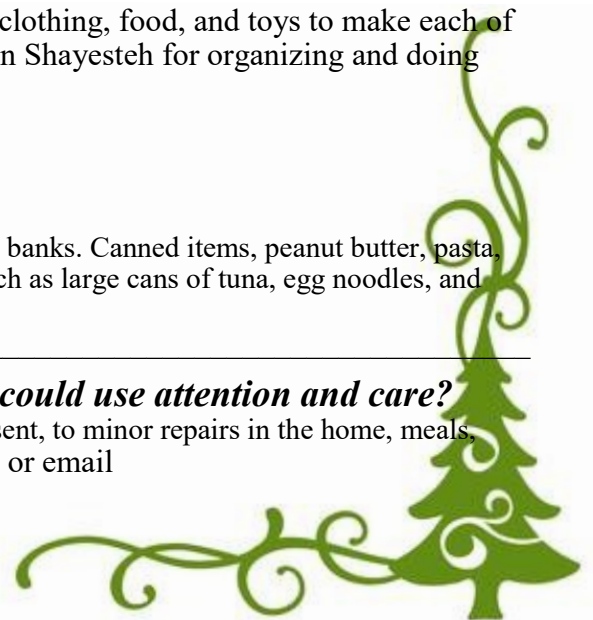
When you are shopping, pick up a couple of extra items for the food banks. Canned items, peanut butter, pasta, etc. / Also, items for the St. Vincent de Paul Tuna Noodle dinner such as large cans of tuna, egg noodles, and large cans of mushroom soup. There is a great need currently.

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### ***Do you know someone in our parish community who could use attention and care?***

There are various ministries we resource to help from a friendly card sent, to minor repairs in the home, meals, etc. Go to [omostoday.com](http://omostoday.com), click under Care Ministry, call 535-7646, or email

***[omoscareministry@gmail.com](mailto:omoscareministry@gmail.com)***





## SMALL GROUP NEWS

I'm sure everyone is busy getting ready for Christmas, whatever that may look like this year, and I'm sure the last thing on your mind is, "What is my small group going to study in January?" Well, you will be excited to know that we have been thinking about that for you! As the new year rolls out and new hope comes along with it, we thought it would be a good time for everyone to do a self-check on where we are on our faith journey and in our relationship with Jesus, the newborn Messiah! Are we living the life of a good disciple?

Here are some recommendations for January reading/studying:

*The Holy Longing* by Ronald Rolheiser

*The Prodigal God* by Timothy Keller

*Pray, Decide and Don't Worry* by Bob and Jackie Angel and Fr. Mike Schmitz

*Soul Detox: Clean Living in a Contaminated World* by Craig Groeschel

Online study

*Metanoia* by The Wild Goose is Loose TV

Join us in our January self-check, a great way to start the New Year!

## EPIC

We are excited to announce our spring plans! Life Teen will be offered on Sunday and Thursday evenings from 7-8:30. Youth Alpha for any 9,10,11th grader that hasn't completed the course will be offered on Sundays from 5-7. Norman Ed will be teaching a class in between Masses on Sunday mornings. Sign-ups will be coming soon! It is necessary to keep the groups small and masks and social distancing will be required.

## ST. MICHAEL'S NEWS

The St. Michael's Advent Collection of non-perishable food for St. Vincent de Paul Food for Families will run until **Sunday, December 20**. Please be as generous as possible. There are a great many in need during these challenging times.

Reservations for Christmas Mass at St. Michael's, Christmas Eve 4 p.m. & Christmas Day 9:45 am, may be made by calling Maureen Puchko at 539-6321. Please leave a message with the number of people planning on attending.

St. Michael's will decorate the church on **Sunday, December 20 at 10 am**. All are welcome! Many hands make for light work.

St. Michael's is selling Giant Eagle, Sheetz, and Walmart Scrip. The scrip is available after Mass and at Riek's Country Store, 539-6280. Holiday hours are Tuesday through Friday, 11 am—4 pm and Saturday 10 am to 4 pm. For additional information, call Marisa at 814 243-3674. We can only accept cash or checks payable to St. Michael's Church.

## WEEKLY & MINISTRY SCHEDULES

### Monday, December 21

6 a.m. — Eucharistic Adoration

8 a.m. — Mass

### Tuesday, December 22

6 a.m. — Eucharistic Adoration

7:30 a.m. — Confession

8 a.m. — Mass

### Wednesday, December 23

7:00 a.m. — Praise and Worship

4:30 p.m. — Eucharistic Adoration

5:30 p.m. — Confessions

6 p.m. — Mass

### Thursday, December 24

4 p.m. — Mass at OMOS

4 p.m. — Mass at St. Michael's

7 p.m. — Mass at OMOS

10 p.m. — Mass at OMOS

### Friday, December 25

9:45 a.m. — Mass at St. Michael's

10 a.m. — Mass at OMOS

11:45 a.m. Communion outside Mass at OMOS

### Saturday, December 26

3 pm — Confessions

4 p.m. — Mass at OMOS

**Servers :** Alexis Smith & Vindy Kohan

**Lector:** Rick Wess

**Euch. Min:** Diana Tyger (2), Michelle Petrell, Mary Kay Clark

### Saturday December 26

6:00 p.m. — Mass at St. Michael's

**Servers:** Tim Burgess & Lucy Smith

**Lector:** Mary K Simmons

### Sunday, December 27

8:30 a.m. — Mass at OMOS

**Servers:** Joseph & Ella Nibert

**Lector:** Nelson Lowes

**Euch. Min:** Dawn Zabala (2), Karen Hoffman, Rosemary Zenone

### Sunday, December 27

11:00 — Mass at OMOS

**Servers:** Bradyn Younkins & Joe Gritzer

**Lector:** Michelle Petrell

**Euch. Min:** Amy Bradley (2), Patty Falcone, Anne Schrey

**12:30 p.m.** — Communion outside Mass at OMOS

## SUNDAY COLLECTION

December 13, 2020

Envelopes.....\$9844

Loose.....\$ 859

Online (85) .....\$6184

Total.....\$16,887

## REST IN PEACE

**Eileen (Dorothy) Casker**

Buried from OMOS

*Our sympathy and prayers go out to the families and friends of the deceased.*

## WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd]/Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66

Thursday: *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79 *Night:* Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14.

Friday: *Day:* Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22

Next Sunday: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, Dec. 19-Vigil

4:00 p.m. Mary Jane Messich (Jim & Kathy Ridella)

6:00 p.m. Patricia Kesslak (Nancy Lill)

### Sunday, Dec. 20—4th Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Joyce Deibert (Paul & Cindy Pioli)

11:00 a.m. Bill & Rosemarie Weinzierl (Family)

### Monday, Dec. 21

8:00 a.m. Richard Blaschak (Family) & Colleen Solomon (husband, Dan)

### Tuesday, Dec. 22

8:00 a.m. John Farabaugh (wife, Georgia)

### Wednesday, Dec. 23

6:00 p.m. Pete Omodio (The Deter Family)

### Thursday, Dec. 24

4:00 p.m. OMOS & St. Michael's Parishioners

7:00 p.m. OMOS Parishioners

10:00 p.m. OMOS Parishioners

### Friday, Dec. 25

9:45 a.m. St. Michael's Parishioners

10:00 a.m. OMOS Parishioners

### Saturday, Dec. 26-Vigil

4:00 p.m. William & Gertrude Podratsky (Dave & Joann Urban)

6:00 p.m. Mark Stem (Tom & Marisa Williams)

### Sunday, Dec. 27—Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

8:30 a.m. Richard Hanechak (Carol Visnovsky)

11:00 a.m. Philip & Marie Catanese (Ric & Patty Csarak)