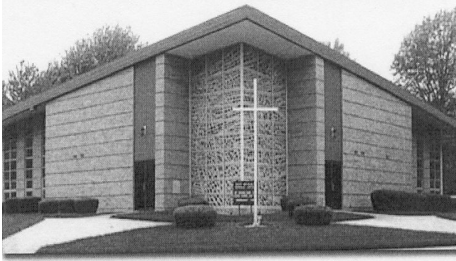


Saint Michael's Parish



CHURCH

2001 College Place
Harlan, IA 51537

PARISH OFFICES

1912 18th Street
Harlan, IA 51537

Parish website: www.stmichaelparish.com
Diocesan website: www.dmdiocese.org

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the people of St. Michael's Catholic Parish, are many parts, but one body. As a community of believers in Jesus Christ and inspired by the Holy Spirit, we celebrate the sacraments, are challenged by Sacred Scripture and Roman Catholic Tradition, share of ourselves in service to others, and strive to promote the dignity of all human life and justice for all, as we continue toward the eternal glory of God's kingdom.



FROM THE PASTOR . . .

As we gather to celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we hear the story of Joseph's discovery that Mary is with child, and he is not the father! We can only speculate on the emotions and hurt that Joseph must have felt when confronted by this news. Then these various emotions turned to surprise and disbelief when the angel informed Joseph of the miraculous nature of Mary's pregnancy. In this great event, Joseph is willing to trust that a distant, unseen, God is becoming accessible and personal to all humanity through the birth of this special and holy child.

As we quickly approach Christmas, I want to acknowledge and thank the Liturgy Committee and the church decorators for their hard work in preparing our church for Christmas. Without question, this is the prettiest time of the church year. So much work by so many volunteers with all the trees, lights, decorations, and of course, the nativity scene help to make the church look so lovely. Thank you to everyone who volunteers their time and talent to decorate our church.

To those families who will be traveling this Christmas season to be with family members, I want to wish you safe travels. May all of you and your loved ones have a blessed and Merry Christmas. God bless you!

*Peace,
Fr. John*

Growing In Faith?: How much do I trust God?

Apostolic Exhortation "The Joy of Love" —

(from the 2014/2015 Assembly of the Synod of Bishops)

The Gospel reminds us that children are not the property of a family but have their own lives to lead. Jesus is a model of obedience to his earthly parents, placing himself under their charge, but he also shows that children's life decisions and their Christian vocation may demand a parting for the sake of the Kingdom of God. (Matthew 10:34-37, Luke 9:59-62) Jesus himself, at twelve years of age, tells Mary and Joseph that he has a greater mission to accomplish apart from his earthly family. (Luke 8:21) All the same, in the concern he shows for children—whom the societies of the ancient Near East viewed as subjects without particular rights and even as family property—Jesus goes so far as to present them as teachers, on account of their simple trust and spontaneity towards others. "Unless you become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3-4)

— (from Chapter 1 pages 20/21)



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2016

Come and rescue us, Lord, with
your mighty power.

Pastor

Rev. John Frost , 755-5244
Email: jmfrost@harlannet.com

Parish Ministers

Rev. Mr. Jim DeBlauw
Email: stmikedeacon@harlannet.com
Rev. Mr. Pat Davitt (retired), 755-5244

Director of Faith Formation

Veronica Wright, 755-5366
Email: stmikere@harlannet.com

Parish Secretary

Brenda Blum, 755-5244
Kathy Hull, 755-5244
Parish email: stmike@harlannet.com

Retired Priest

Rev. Don Bruck
1110 Elm Street, 712-310-2782

Hispanic Outreach Minister

Sr. Joyce Blum, FSPA, 712-489-2426

Hispanic Chaplain

Rev. Paul Koch, 712-309-2289

Parish FAX 755-2604

Parish Hall/Kitchen 755-5744

Shelby County Catholic School

Principal: Joshua De Weerd
755-5634
www.shelcocath.pvt.k12.ia.us

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

4:00 P.M. Saturday or by appointment

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Is celebrated by request. Notify the office.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

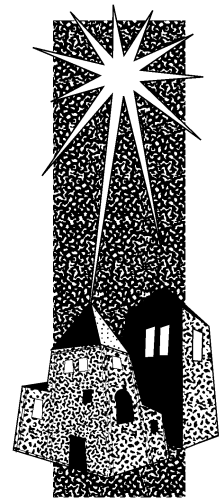
Contact the office to set a date.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Wedding dates are set after
an initial interview with Fr. John.

Calendar for the Week of December 19-25

Monday	Dec. 19	7:00 pm	No Mass Shelby County Catholic School Board of Education Meeting in Harlan
Tuesday	Dec. 20	9:30 am	Mass in memory of Isabel Klein at <i>Elm Crest</i>
Wednesday	Dec. 21	8:15 am 6:30 pm	School Mass in memory of Otto Klein and for his family Classes for Grades K-5 and 8B Grades 6, 7, and 8A Caroling at Elm Crest No Classes for Grades 9-12
Thursday	Dec. 22	7:00 am 12:00 noon	Scripture Study in Parish Office Meeting Room Mass in memory of Jan Davitt
Friday	Dec. 23	8:15 am	School Mass in memory of Marge Kramer & Terry Blum and for a Special Intention
Saturday	Dec. 24	5:00 pm 9:00 pm	Mass in memory of Marcus Gross Sr. & Don Gross Mass in memory of Nick & Adeline May and Vince & Norma Krantz
Sunday	Dec. 25	9:00 am	Mass in memory of Jimmy Vandenberg and for the people of St. Michael's



Sunday Mass is televised on cable TV (HMU Channel 15 at 4:00 pm on Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday, on Mediacom Channel 18 at 4:00 pm on Monday, and on FMCTC Channel 48 at 4:00 pm on Monday.) Sunday Mass is also available on demand by accessing the Harlan Knights of Columbus channel on YouTube.

Christmas Masses — Be sure to come early for the Christmas Masses. The Flames and Sparks will begin singing about 15 minutes before the 5:00 pm Mass. Rod, John, and crew will also have a prelude about 15 minutes before the 9:00 pm Mass. Just so you know, the church lights will be dimmed for the special prelude before the 9:00 pm Mass.

No Reconciliation — will be held before the Masses on Saturday, December 24. This will allow time for the special music being planned before the Masses. Fr. John will be available during the week of December 18, if you would like to make an appointment for reconciliation.

Christmas Flowers — If you would like to make a memorial donation for Christmas flowers please place your gift in an envelope marked "Flower Donation." Tell us in whose memory the money is given, and place it in the collection basket or mail it to the parish office. Suggested donation is \$20. Memorials received by December 20 will be printed in our Christmas bulletin.

Items For January 1 Bulletin — If you have something that you would like to have placed in the bulletin for the week of January 1, we need to have this in the office by December 20. Because of the holidays, our first new bulletin needs to be sent to the publisher on December 22.

Items For January 8 Bulletin — need to be in the office by December 28.

2017 Church Calendars — are available in the back of church. We ask for a donation of \$2 to help cover the cost of the calendars.

Living Faith Booklets — for January, February, and March are also on the table in the back of church. Thanks to a generous anonymous donor, there is no charge for these booklets. If you will use the booklet, you are welcome to take one.

Remember The Sick In Your Prayers And By Your Notes Or Visits —

Violet Bohr	Gary Kenkel	Gordon Nelson
Joe Gubbels	Kathy Carl	David Updike
Kenny Kenkel	Arden Riley	Alice Carey
Anna Mae Kramer	Bonnie Peterson	Ric Schneider
Margaret Feldman	Courtney Rosmann	Linda Tietsort
Marie Hatfield		

Please call the office with names of those who are sick, or in need of our prayers. And please call when their names can be removed.

Readings For The Week —

Mon. 19th	Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a	Lk 1:5-25
Tue. 20th	Is 7:10-14	Lk 1:26-38
Wed. 21th	Sng 2:8-14	Lk 1:39-45
Thur. 22nd	1Sm 1:24-28	Lk 1:46-56
Fri. 23rd	Mal 3:1-4,23-24	Lk 1:57-66
Sun. 25th	Is 9:1-6	Ti 2:11-14
		Lk 2:1-14

Tithing — December 11

Needed each week	\$ 14,123
Difference	7,308
	6,815
	() if deficit
Year to date	\$ 11,900

Your Donations To Catholic Charities At Work —

Colette (name changed) was addicted to meth and homeless. Desperate for more drugs, she broke into a pharmacy, and then was arrested. In prison, during a routine medical exam, she discovered that she was pregnant. Colette called Catholic Charities which started communication with her through video chat. Together they made a plan to get Colette out of jail and off of drugs, to deliver the baby, and to find adoptive parents. She did it all, and she has even become a sponsor for others at Narcotics Anonymous. Colette says, "I owe my life to Catholic Charities. To learn more, visit www.CatholicCharitiesUSA.org.



St. Michael's Faith Formation

ST. MICHAEL, PRAY FOR US

Upcoming Dates

Dec. 21 6:30 pm Classes for Grades K-5 & 8B. Grades 6, 7 & 8A caroling at Elm Crest. No Classes for Grades 9-12
 Dec. 28 ——— Christmas Break — No Classes
 Jan. 4 ——— New Year's Break — No Classes
 Jan. 11 6:30 pm Classes for Grades K-12

Reminder — we will begin testing prayers in January. If your child did not bring home the list of required prayers for their grade, please check with their catechist.

Help Us Update Our Files — if you have recently dropped your land line, changed phone numbers, or changed your address, please let the parish office know. We try to keep our files updated, and we want to be able to keep in contact with you.

If You Are New To The Parish — please contact the office. We would like to get you on our roster. Let us know who you are, and welcome to St. Michael's Parish family.

Iowa Catholic Radio — is available at 1150 am or 88.5 fm. Tune in on Fridays at 9:00 am to hear "In the Heartland with Bishop Pates." The bishop speaks on local, national, and international news in the Church. Program also airs on Spirit Catholic Radio at 102.7 fm.

Mark Your Calendar Now — for the Shelby County Lenten Mission with Doug Barry on March 21, 22, and 23. More details will follow as the event gets closer.

St. Michael's Parish Offices — will be closed beginning at noon on December 23. We will open again at 8:00 am on Tuesday, December 27. The parish staff wishes you a very Merry Christmas!

Ministers Needed — for the Christmas Masses. As you can see in the schedule to the right, not all of the ministries are scheduled for the weekend Christmas Masses. If you will be attending any of these Masses, we need your help. Thanks for volunteering, and thanks to those who have already signed up to help.



Happy Birthday, Pope Francis — On Saturday, December 17, Pope Francis will turn 80. We continue to pray for the pope as he leads the Church into 2017.



Vocations Corner

Ordination — Deacon Carlos Gomez Pineda will be ordained to the priesthood on Sunday, December 18, at 4:00 pm at St. Ambrose Cathedral, 607 High Street, in Des Moines. All are welcome to attend. Deacon Carlos will be assigned to Corpus Christi Parish in Council Bluffs after his ordination. We pray that the Holy Spirit will be with Deacon Carlos as he begins his ministry as a priest. God Bless him and his ministry.



"She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus." Joseph heard these prophetic words in a dream. They were words of anticipation of what was to come. And in a sense, they ushered in a kind of Advent for Joseph. With this divine message, Joseph began a period of holy waiting. He now knew that the Messiah was going to be coming into his own home, and he had just nine months to prepare! We can only imagine how Joseph might have spent these precious days. Most likely he did more than prepare a physical home for his soon-to-be-born Son; he must have also used these days to prepare his heart, mind, and soul for such a tremendous mission.

Today, we stand in a position not all that different from St. Joseph. We also know that the Messiah will be arriving—not just in remembrance at Christmastime, but in reality at the second coming. But unlike Joseph, we don't have an exact time frame. We don't know when Jesus will return. We just know that we need to be ready!

During the season of Advent, we are challenged to recall this fact and strive to get our hearts in order. The days are short now until Christmas, and for all we know they might be short until Christ's return as well. What remains to be done? Aside from wrapping presents and planning parties, where do we yet need to tidy up our habits to properly celebrate the real meaning of this festive season? How can we make sure that we don't get swept away in the external preparations, forgetting the work that needs to be done in the invisible silence of our souls?

Ministry Schedule

Dec. 24-25	Saturday 5:00 p.m.	Saturday 9:00 p.m.	Sunday 9:00 a.m.
1st Lector	Dan Schumacher	Mary Tepe	Alice Buman
2nd Lector	Rhonda Buck	Chris Tepe	Volunteer Needed
Eucharistic Minister	Brianna Boldan (T) Dan Schumacher Michelle Custer Duane Fahn Connie Kohles Leo Kloewer Volunteer Needed	Nancy Jacobs (T) Shayla Leinen Madi Doonan Beth Klein Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Pam Gubbels (T) Brian Gubbels Carol Doran Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed
Servers	Ellie Gross Trey Gross Eli Boldan	Ethan Tepe Jonathan Tepe Stephen Leinen	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed
Musicians	Church, Wind & Fire	Rod Carlson John Rosman	
Cantors	Flames & Sparks	Maryalycz Dotzler Marielle Tepe	
Ushers	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Rick Doran, Jr. Tom Powers Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed
Dec. 25	E.M. Elm Crest Dottie Bauer Marian Buman	E.M. Private Homes Kay Schechinger Diane Weihs	Money Counters Merry Christmas!

Please Support our Sponsors — They help make this bulletin possible!

 <p>Rick Dotzler, RPh 755-2101 Tina Dotzler, RPh after hours 755-0706 www.PextonPharmacy.com</p>	 <p>SHELBY COUNTY STATE BANK <i>Banking For Your Life!</i> Member FDIC 712.755.5112 scsbn.com</p>	<p align="center">STATE FARM INSURANCE</p> <p align="center">EJ Leinen 712-755-5825</p>	<p align="center"><i>San Pedro de Apostòl (Sister Parish)</i></p> <p>In Villa Sandino, there are two primary schools and one secondary school (Grades 6-11). Most kids in the bigger cities make it through 11th grade, but in the rural area, many only go to 6th grade. Most can't afford college.</p> 	
 <p align="center">755-2154</p>	<p align="center">FOR SALE</p>  <p align="center">755 - 3300 www.ouren.com</p>	 <p>1304 Ninth Street Harlan, IA 51537 (712) 755-3135 (800) 831-6805 1304 N Sawmill Drive Avoca, IA 51521 (712) 343-2453 (800) 447-2588</p>	<p>SW Iowa Farm Business Assoc. "Operated by and for Farmers" for Over 40 Years Comparative Farm Analysis Records and Consulting Tax Management</p> <p>Bob McHugh, EA Consultant 773-2295</p>  <p>616 Market Street, Harlan 712-755-7271 debbie.davis@edwardjones.com www.edwardjones.com Debbie Davis Financial Advisor</p>	
<p>Schaben Real Estate, LLC 701 Hwy. 30 W., Dunlap, IA 51529 www.jimschabentrealestate.com</p> <p>Bob Schmitz BROKER - ASSOCIATE 1121 7th St., Harlan, IA 51537 Office 712-755-5405 Cell 712-579-2997</p>	 <p align="center">Harlan's Full Service Floral Shop Andrea Miller, Owner</p> <p>1814 Chatburn Plaza Harlan, IA 51537 712-755-2680</p>	 <p align="center">FOUR SEASONS TRAVEL</p> <p align="center">For all of your travel needs call Linda, Dori, Trina or Steve</p> <p>1119 7th Street Harlan, IA 51537 (712) 755-3811 800-356-5579</p>	<p align="center">ULTRA NO TOUCH CAR WASH</p> <p align="center">Brent and Morgan Schumacher, Owners</p> <p align="center">Two Locations</p> <p>1316 Chatburn 755-2654 21st & Lincoln 755-2238</p>  <p align="center">www.harlanautomart.com Service • Parts • Tires Mike & Laurie Byrnes Owners</p>	
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 <p align="center">KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS</p> <p align="center">JOIN US... MAKE A DIFFERENCE!</p> <p align="center">Meet 3rd Tuesday. Check bulletin for details.</p> <p>Contact Rick Dotzler 579-2335, Bob Kesterson 249-5799, Orlando Gil 240-0624 for information.</p>	 <p align="center"><i>secret serenity</i> A TAMI KLOEWE SALON</p> <p align="center">712.235.8264 915 7TH STREET HARLAN IOWA 51537</p>	 <p align="center">Advertise Here</p> <p align="center">Call 755-5244</p>	 <p align="center">H&R BLOCK Business Services</p> <p>Payroll, Bookkeeping, Tax and Advice 1110 6th Street Harlan, IA 51537 712-755-2055 www.hrblock.com</p>	
 <p align="center">"complete insurance service"</p> <p>712-755-5195 1205 8th Street Harlan, Iowa 51537 www.theagencyinsurance.com</p>	 <p>755-3881 1414 Chatburn Avenue Harlan, IA 51537 www.towncountrycu.com</p>	<p align="center">LEO'S BARBER SHOP</p> <p align="center">Leo & Janie Goeser</p> <p>1105 7th Street Harlan, IA 51537 Phone 755-5826</p>	 <p align="center">755-2150 M-Th 8:00-5:00 Fri 7:00-2:30 Sat 8:00-12:00</p> <p>MICHAEL V. JOHNSTON, O.D. PRIMARY CARE OPTOMETRIST 2110 12th Street</p>	 <p align="center">of IOWA <i>The Difference is Here!</i></p> <p>1802 23rd St., Hwy. 59, Harlan, IA 712-755-5800 • www.unitedbk.com</p>
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 <p align="center">Harlan - Avoca Underwood - Audubon</p> <p align="center">Locally Owned & Operated Bob & Julie Kesterson</p>	 <p align="center">CHAMBERLAIN Cabinetry & Construction</p> <p align="center">Jeff Chamberlain General Contractor</p> <p align="center">Harlan 712-579-1582</p>	 <p align="center">SWANSON AUTOMOTIVE</p> <p align="center">Engine Rebuilding Car, Truck, Tractor Parts Automotive Machine Shop Hydraulic Hose Shop</p> <p>1706 Exchange St. (712) 755-5187 Harlan, Iowa 51537 Dale Swanson, Jr.</p>	 <p align="center">ELM & CREST Retirement Community <i>Continual Care Retirement Community</i></p> <p align="center">For more info call Sara Poepsel Miller 712-755-5174</p> <p align="center">2104 12th Street Harlan</p>	
 <p>Andy Sondag 402-306-3273 Tony Sondag 712-579-9716 804 9th St., Harlan a_sondag@yahoo.com</p> <p align="center">Monument Design & Installation</p>	<p align="center">TOM POWERS CONSTRUCTION</p>  <p align="center">712-766-3332</p>	<p align="center">DAN J. SCHUMACHER Doctor of Chiropractic</p>  <p align="center">1206 7th Street 712-235-6040 drdan@chiro4life.org</p>	<p align="center">Food & Gifts THE HARLAN FLOWER BARN</p> <p>Donna & Barry Deuel 755-9603 flo-barn@fmctc.com 624 Market Street</p> <p align="center">Full Service Florist Cyclone & Men's Apparel</p>	<p align="center">REX'S REMODELING Rex Buckley</p> <p align="center">755-3780</p>  <p align="center">NATURE'S JOY Irene Buckley, LMT, FCCI www.raindroptaining.com</p>
 <p>Daniel & Ellen Walsh-Rosmann Proprietors Hans Walsh Manager</p> <p>1101 7th St., Harlan IA 712-235-6455 Email: milkanhoneyiowa@gmail.com</p> <p>Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 6 am-2pm, Sunday 8 am-2 pm</p>	<p align="center">Barn Straightening Roofing (steel or shingles) Cement Floors - Driveways Siding (cedar, steel, vinyl) Windows - Doors - Decks Pole Buildings - Garages</p> <p align="center">Wind & Storm Damage</p>	 <p align="center">OSBORN AUCTION LLC</p> <p align="center">Mitch Osborn 712-755-7167 www.osbornauction.com</p>	<p>League Bowling Lazer Bowling Pizza, Dine in or Carry out Birthdays Parties</p>  <p>912 Chatburn Avenue, Harlan, IA 51537 712-755-5863 Joe and Joann Portwood, Owners</p>	 <p align="center">SAME Printing</p> <p align="center">Mike & Sherry Biert Promotional and Screen Printing Specialties <i>We Can Print Anything on (Almost) Anything</i></p> <p>1214 College Blvd. Harlan, IA 51537 Ph: (712) 733-8905 Fax: (712) 733-8821</p>
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