

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 . . .

We have arrived at the fourth and final weekend of Advent. We are busy making our final preparations for Christmas. In our hearts and in our homes, we should be able to sense the nearness of the Lord. We can feel his presence, and we can see a spirit of hope and joy all around us. The Lord is going to arrive very soon.

This spirit of hope and joy is personified in today's gospel with Elizabeth's greeting when her cousin, Mary, comes to visit her. Mary is a humble servant of the Lord who has traveled a great distance from Nazareth in the far north of Israel to a little town of Ein Karem just outside Jerusalem in the south of Israel. Mary is the one God has chosen to bear his Son. Mary has opened her heart to God, and the world is filled with great hope and joy. What was true for Elizabeth some 2,000 years ago should also be true for us today. Can we feel this promise of hope and joy as we await the return of our Savior?

I want to thank everyone who is helping to decorate our church for the Christmas season. Our church always looks beautiful for this great celebration. Thank you to everyone who has signed up to help with the various ministries at our Christmas Masses this week. Thank you to everyone who had made the effort to remember me this holiday season through your Christmas cards and gifts. I want to wish all those families who will be traveling over the Christmas holiday a very safe trip and blessed celebration. God bless you all and a very Merry Christmas!

*Peace,
Fr. John*

Growing In Faith?: How do I experience the presence of Jesus?

Laudato Si' Encyclical —

The Good News People share from Pope Francis's encyclical, **Laudato Si'** (Praise Be to You). The encyclical is subtitled, *On Care for Our Common Home*.

The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. At the global level, it is a complex system linked to many of the essential conditions for human life. A very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system. In recent decades this warming has been accompanied by a constant rise in the sea level and, it would appear, by an increase of extreme weather events, even if a scientifically determinable cause cannot be assigned to each particular phenomenon. Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption. (Paragraph 23)



Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20, 2015

The Dawn from on high
will visit us!



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

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

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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 21—27

Monday	Dec. 21	7:00 pm	SCCS Board of Education in Harlan
Tuesday	Dec. 22	8:15 am	Mass for the Stephen C. Finken Families
Wednesday	Dec. 23	8:15 am	School Mass in memory of Mary Poepsel and Edwin "Bud" Skalla
Christmas Eve	Dec. 24	5:00 pm 9:00 pm	Mass in memory of Marcus & Don Gross and Betty Kohles Mass in memory of Don Poole and Mary Masur
Christmas Day	Dec. 25	9:00 am	Mass in memory of Marianne Muenchrath and Monica Kleffman
Saturday	Dec. 26	4:00 pm 4:30 pm 5:00 pm	Confessions Rosary Mass in memory of Vince & Norma Krantz and Jimmy Vandenberg
Sunday	Dec. 27	8:30 am 11:00 am	Mass in memory of Jean Elder Ethridge and Laverne Daeges. Mass for the people of St. Michael's



Blessed are
you who
believed that
what was
spoken to you
by the LORD
would be
fulfilled

Sunday Mass is televised on cable TV (HMU Channel 23 at 4:00 pm on Sunday and Wednesday, on Mediacom Channel 18 at 4:00 pm on Monday and FMCTC Channel 48 at 4:00 pm on Monday and Friday.)

Grant Eternal Rest, O Lord, To: — Ray Schaben, brother of Charles Schaben, Janice Schmitz and Gladys Rau of our parish; **Pat Kenkel**, mother of Kristi Schaben and Rodney Kenkel, and sister of Duane Fahn, Mary D'Arcy and Ken Fahn of our parish; **Paul Zaccone** of our parish; and **John Fromm**, cousin of Steve Finken of our parish.

Flower Memorials Given To The Parish — are in loving memory of: Ivo Coenen, Darrell Coenen, Maxine Thielen, Rose Mary Reinig, Ralph Gessert, Don & Regina Gessert, Elmo & Genevieve Kimball, Ed Plagman, Jake & Gen Jacobsen, Otto Klein, Ashley Stamp, Marvin Miller, Joelle Breezley, Will & Sidonia Buman, Bob & Sophie Ertl, and Betty Kohles. The greenery arrangements by the entrance doors were given in memory of Tiny Schmidt.

Fair Trade Items — will be available in the back of church this weekend. Fair Trade gives the farmers who grow the coffee beans and cocoa a fair price for their crops. By giving these items as a gift, you share the Fair Trade message with others. Try our new chocolate flavors for stocking stuffers! Also, the coffee from Guatemala, in ground or whole bean, will be available.

Give The Gift Of Light — Someone from the Nicaragua Committee will also be in the back of church this weekend to answer questions or accept donations for the solar panel project for our sister parish.

Go Fund Me — There is a Go Fund Me account set up for our Nicaragua solar panel project at www.GoFundMe.com/villasandino. Please share this site with your family and friends.

Museum Of Religious Arts — After 15 years in operation, the museum will be closing after regular hours on January 10, 2016. The museum is located west of Logan on Highway 30. If you have never been to the museum, it is well worth a visit. Come and see the "Reason for the Season" displays with nearly 500 nativity sets. The cost is \$5 for adults. Hours are Sunday, Noon to 4 and Tuesday — Saturday 10 to 4.

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

Jenny Schwery	Mike Wohlhutter	Betty Markham
Zane Coenen	Helen Schmitz	Marge Gubbels
Eunice Blum	Fr. Dave Polich	David Blum
Mary Tepe	Charlie McNair	Helen Blum
Darlene (Dar) Kenkel	Bernice Stracke	Merle Lawyer
Kelly Gaer	Rose Sternberg	Clifford Kruse
Dwayne Stolz		

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. 21st	Zep 3:14-18a	Lk 1:39-45
Tue. 22nd	1Sm 1:24-28	Lk 1:46-56
Wed. 23rd	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24	Lk 1:57-66
Thur. 24th	2Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16	Lk 1:67-79
Fri. 25th	Is 9:1-6 Titus 2:11-14	Lk 2:1-14
Sun. 27th	1Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 1Jn 3:1-2, 221-24	Lk 2:41-52

Tithing — December 13	\$ 6,358
Needed each week	7,709
Difference	(1,351)
	() if deficit
Year to date	\$ (13,358)

Advent Communal Reconciliation Schedule —

Sunday	December 20	2:00 pm	Earling
Sunday	December 20	3:30 pm	Defiance
Sunday	December 20	2:00 pm	Missouri Valley



Vocations Corner

At The Heart — of church is vocation. The earliest idea of what is today called "church" starts with the Greek word ekklesia, which is only found twice in the gospels, both times in Matthew, and means those who have been "called out". Jesus "calls out" all who follow him to share in his ministry in different ways.

— Vision Vocation Guide 2015



St. Michael's Faith Formation

WE ARE FAMILY!

Upcoming Dates —

Dec. 23 & 30 NO CLASSES — Christmas Break
 Jan. 6 7:00 pm Crossroad Mass for Grades 7-12
 No classes for Grades K-6, but you are encouraged to come to the Mass.

Thank You — to all who donated to the Mitten Tree project. We donated the hats and mittens to West Central for the children in need.

To All The Families Of St. Michael's — from the faith formation catechists and director. May the blessing of Christmas fill your hearts and may God bless the New Year with love and mercy in your families. Thank you for sharing your children with us each week. May God inspire all parents to be the faith and spiritual leaders in each family and may all parents grow closer to Jesus each day.



Follow Us — St. Michael's Faith Formation

Mark Your Calendar For Future Area Events

- **Catholic Women's Conference** is February 13 at St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines. Mass is at 8:00 am. The conference runs from 9:00 am-3:00 pm with speakers including Elizabeth Ficocelli, Sister Anne Shields, Arleen Spenceley and Sister Marie Hesed. Tickets are \$25 plus an optional \$10 box lunch. Call 515-453-8223 for details or register at catholicwomensconference.com.
- **Healing and Hope retreat** with Rwanda genocide survivor Immaculee Ilibagiza will be at Holy Trinity Church in Des Moines on February 12-13. For more information contact Anne at 515-864-6945. Purchase tickets at immaculee.com/events/appearances.
- **Iowa Catholic Men's Conference** is March 5 at St. Francis parish in West Des Moines. Speakers are Al Kresta, Jim Blackburn, John Crudele and Dr. Dan McGuire. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online at IowaCatholicMensConference.com.
- **Christ Our Life Catholic Regional Conference** is September 24-25 at Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines. There will be world-class speakers, celebrations of the Holy Mass, reconciliation, inspirational music, adoration and more.

CYO Basketball — This Sunday, December 20

St. Michael's Girls vs Westphalia — 1:00 pm — in Westphalia
 St. Michael's Boys vs LYO — 2:00 pm — in Westphalia

Thanks — to all who signed up for the Christmas Mass ministries. As you can see in the schedule, there are some blank spots, so please fill in if you are at any of these Masses.

St. Michael's Parish Offices — will be closed beginning on Wednesday, December 23, at 1:00 pm until December 28. The parish staff wishes you and your families a Merry Christmas!

Ministry Schedule

Dec. 24-27	Thursday Dec. 24 5:00 pm	Thursday Dec. 24 9:00 pm	Friday Dec. 25 9:00 am	Saturday Dec. 26 5:00 p.m.	Sunday Dec. 27 8:30 a.m.	Sunday Dec. 27 11:00 a.m.
1st Lector	Marcus Gross, Jr.		J.C. Salvo	Chris Tepe	Deann Irmeier	Rob Kloewer
2nd Lector			Alice Buman	Steve Finn	Sarah Devine	David Erlbacher
Eucharistic Ministers	Connie Kohles (T) Britney Bengford Deacon Jim DeBlauw Shayla Leinen Kathy Campbell Richard Lee Pat Lee	Nancy Jacobs (T) Maxine Kwapiszeski Bill Wingert Sandy Wingert	Virginia Kruse (T) Edward Reinig Jan Blum Brian Gubbels Pam Gubbels	Joyce Thraen (T) Britney Bengford Marvin Bissen Gary Weihs Diane Weihs Chris Tepe Ron Muenchrath	Ed Reinig (T) Donna Schmidt Mary Jane Swanson Bill Wingert Sandy Wingert Doug Baker Mary Baker	Tami Kloewer (T) Rob Kloewer Cheryl Long Jordyn Moser Jenny Moser Bob Kesterson Julie Kesterson
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Cantors	Flames					
Ushers	Lisa Bengford Rodney Bengford Tom Powers Shelby Powers		Les Blum	Les Blum Jan Blum Rodney Bengford Lisa Bengford	J.C. Salvo Kenny Kenkel Ethel Defenbaugh Cletus Schmitz	Marcus Gross, Jr. Bob Hastert Russ Chamberlain Bill Buman
				E.M. Elm Crest Dec. 27 Joyce Rodenborn Leo Kloewer	E.M. Private Homes Dec. 27 Steve Finn Susan Finn	Money Counter Merry Christmas!

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