



THE MESSENGER

WELCOME TO THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ROBERTSON COUNTY

ST. MICHAEL

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OUR LADY OF LOURDES

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VOLUME V, ISSUE 10

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 13, 2015

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Website: www.ollsm.org

MASS SCHEDULE

TUESDAY – 8:30 AM
WEDNESDAY – 6:30 PM
THURSDAY – 8:30 AM
FRIDAY – 8:30 AM
SATURDAY – 8:30 AM
VIGIL – 5:00 PM
SUNDAY - 10:30 AM
IN SPANISH - 1:00 PM
HOLY DAY - 7:00 PM

CONFESSIONS

SATURDAY – 9 - Noon
BEFORE VIGIL MASS - 4:15 PM

ROSARY

SATURDAY – 4:30 PM

ADORATION

WEDNESDAY - 3 - 6:15 PM
SATURDAY – 9 - Noon

ST. MICHAEL

Website: www.ollsm.org

MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY – 8:00 AM

CONFESSIONS & ROSARY

BEFORE MASS – 7:30 AM

MUSIC OF THE MASS

PROCESSIONAL: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" #618

OFFERTORY: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #652 Verses 5 & 6

COMMUNION: *Instrumental*

Pastor's Column

To the Parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes & St. Michael:

"It was the end of the third stanza of the hymn "Silent Night" that grabbed my attention last Christmas: "Jesus, Lord, at thy birth." To the extent I had thought about it at all, I had tended to connect Jesus' lordship more with his mature years when he embarked upon his ministry. His baptism, his miracles, his transfiguration — there we see his divinity. Or so I thought. But Jesus' lordship wasn't something that he "grew into" or that was conferred on him by the Father at some point in his adulthood. It was there at his birth in the Bethlehem stable. That process began with the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel told Mary that she would conceive in a miraculous way when the Holy Spirit would come upon

her "and the power of the Most High will overshadow you" (Lk 1:35). The Greek word translated "overshadow" is episkiasei, which describes a cloud-like visitation of God upon the earth. The word is used in describing the Transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain, when a cloud descended from which the voice of God was heard. In the Exodus story, God led the children of Israel out of Egypt in a cloud by day.

"Among Christian mysteries, the Incarnation is in a class by itself, defying any rational explanation. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it: "The gospel accounts understand the virginal conception of Jesus as a divine

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work that surpasses all human understanding and possibility ...” (No. 497). With admirable brevity, the Catechism provides as good a description of the physical process that was involved as we are likely to get: “The Holy Spirit, ‘the Lord, the giver of Life,’ is sent to sanctify the womb of the Virgin Mary and divinely fecundate it, causing her to conceive the eternal Son of the Father in a humanity drawn from her own” (No. 485). Among the many glories of the Incarnation, those of Mary make clear why the Catholic Church (along with the Orthodox bodies) fulfills Mary’s prophecy that “all ages (will) call me blessed” (Lk 1:48). As we shall see, there is also a compelling pro-life message to be found in these passages of Scripture.

“Jesus’ childhood and early manhood constitute the “lost years” of his life. The only glimpses we get of him are shortly after his birth, when he is dedicated to the Lord and, much later, when his worried parents discover him in the temple. These are the years when Jesus, in the words of the Catechism, “remained hidden in the silence of an ordinary life” (No. 534). The very absence of information about his young life may well have contributed to the rise of the cult of the Child Jesus. Even though little is known of this time, it was considered important that his young lordship be recognized and even venerated. Just because the Gospels are silent regarding this period doesn’t mean those years weren’t significant.

“Among the crowds in Bethlehem at the time of the imperial census, only Mary and Joseph perceived what a momentous event had occurred with Jesus’s birth. But word soon spread, thanks to the angelic host, and shepherds came to pay him homage. Later, the Wise Men from the East arrived. Simeon and Anna in the temple also recognized Mary’s son as the Messiah. But the baby Jesus had his enemies as well, a list that would grow as he began his ministry. When King Herod heard that the “king of the Jews” had been born, he put in motion a plan to murder him. The slaughter of the Holy Innocents was the horrific result. They are considered to be the first martyrs of the Church. As for the daily life of the Child Jesus, we can only wonder and speculate. Was he easy to raise? Was he difficult at times? How did he (and his mother) handle the “terrible twos?” Did he have playmates in Nazareth? It’s likely that Jesus went through all the normal stages of growing up, experiencing the good and the not-so-good, just like any other child in first-century Palestine. Although Jesus was divine, he was also true man, and that meant his experience — with the exception of sin — would have been common to mankind in general.

“When Josef Mohr, who wrote the words to “Silent Night,” proclaimed Jesus to be Lord at his birth, he was absolutely right. But there’s more to the story: Jesus’s incarnate lordship predated his birth by nine months. The Catechism makes that point by stating that Jesus was the Christ “from the beginning of his human existence” (No. 486). Since the Catholic Church teaches the scientific truth that life begins at conception, that means divinity was conceived in Mary’s womb at the very moment the Holy Spirit “came upon” her. The Church Fathers, grasping the profound significance of all this, saw Mary as the living Ark of the Covenant. Under the old covenant, the ark, which occupied the Holy of Holies in both the tabernacle and later the temple, was the place where God met with his people. It was Israel’s most sacred possession. St. Athanasius hailed Mary, “O noble Virgin. ... clothed with purity instead of gold! You are the ark in which is found the golden vessel containing the true manna ... the flesh in which divinity resides.” Advent and Christmas are the appropriate times to meditate on the deep mysteries of the Incarnation. May the Child Jesus and his Blessed Mother be your guides.”

Douglas Kneibert

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 13

- 8 am - Mass at St. Michael
- 9 - 10:15 - Religious Education Classes
- 10:30 am - Mass
- 11:30 am - Jr. Legion of Mary
- 11:30 am - Cookies by the pound sale
- 1 pm - Spanish Mass
- 2:30 pm Spanish Choir Practice

Tuesday, December 15

8:30 am - Mass

Wednesday, December 16

- 3 - 6:15 pm Adoration
- 6:30 pm - Mass
- 7:00 pm - Dead Theologians Society

Thursday, December 17

- 8:30 am - Mass
- 7:00 pm - St. Vincent de Paul Society Meeting

Friday, December 18

8:30 am - Mass

Saturday, December 19

- 8:30 am - Mass
- 9-Noon Adoration & Confession
- 11am - Legion of Mary
- 1:00 - Spanish Choir Practice
- 5 pm - Vigil Mass
- 7 pm - Charismatic Group

**WELCOME NEW
MEMBER**

JUDY KING

2016 ENVELOPES & CALENDARS

The 2016 collection envelopes and calendars are located in the back of the church, your envelope number may have changed. If you do not have envelopes and would like a box please contact the office, 615-384-6200. Children's envelopes are available upon request.

AQUINAS VIRTUES CLASS STARTS IN JANUARY

Understanding the how and why of virtuous living will be the topic of discussion in Part 2 of the Aquinas for Beginners class, which will start at Our Lady of Lourdes on Wednesday, Jan. 13. The class will meet in the church rectory on Wednesday nights from 7:10 to 8:30 PM.

The class is a continuation of the study of Saint Thomas Aquinas under the ENDOW (Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women) program, which aims to help busy Catholic women understand their vital role in humanizing and transforming society. The cost of the class is \$20 plus shipping. Participants may register online at <https://store.endowonline.org/teresa-dean-p2782.aspx> or contact Teresa Dean at 615-517-1864. Scholarships are available to cover the cost of the class for those in need.

The writings of this brilliant saint puts a spotlight on the many unreasonable and illogical views touted by our modern culture. The second part of the course studies the saint's teachings on the three theological virtues: faith, hope and charity; and the four cardinal virtues: prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. Why study virtues? In the words of Catholic author Peter Kreeft: "Without personal virtue, we will do good only sporadically. The main source of a good and happy life – for the human race, for each nation and community and each family – is the personal virtue of each individual. No system or set of laws, however, perfect, can work for good without virtuous individuals."

Attendance of Part 1 of the class is helpful, but not essential. New participants are welcome. Participants should register by Jan. 6 to ensure they have material in time for the first class on Jan. 13.

SECOND COLLECTION RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL GROUP PICKS LEADERS

The Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Michael Conference of the St. Vincent DePaul Society elected their leadership team at the second meeting of the new ministry on Dec. 3.

The St. Vincent DePaul Society is an international Catholic lay organization dedicated to social and charitable work through their services to the poor. The ministry is conducted through person-to-person contact with the aim of alleviating suffering and promoting the dignity of each person.

Officers selected at the meeting for our parishes were: Claire Kuzma, president; James Conaghan, vice president; Mandee Johnson, secretary; and Vince Moran, treasurer.

The next meeting will be Thursday, Dec. 17th, at 7 PM in the Our Lady of Lourdes parish rectory (small house beside the church). New members are needed and welcomed! If you have any questions, please call Claire Kuzma at 513-310-5300.

CHRISTMAS / NEW YEARS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 20

8 am Mass at St. Michael
9 - 10:15 - Religious Education
10:30 am Mass
11:30 am - Jr. Legion of Mary
1 pm Spanish Mass
2:30 pm - Decorate the Church for Christmas

Tuesday, December 22

8:30 am Mass

Wednesday, December 23

6:30 pm Mass - No Adoration or Dead
Theologians Class

Thursday, December 24

Christmas Eve - Office Closed
5 pm Vigil Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes
7:30 pm Mass at St. Michael
Midnight Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes

Friday December 25

Christmas Day, Office Closed - 10 am Mass

Saturday, December 26

No 8:30 am Mass, Adoration or Confessions
5 pm Vigil Mass

Sunday, December 27

8 am Mass at St. Michael
No Religious Education
10:30 am Mass
1 pm Spanish Mass

Monday, December 28

Office Closed

Tuesday, December 29

8:30 am Mass

Wednesday, December 30

8:30 am Mass

No Adoration or Dead Theologians Class

Thursday, December 31

New Year's Eve, Office Closed- 7 pm Mass at
St. Michael

Friday, January 1

New Year's Day, Office Closed - 10 am Mass

Saturday, January 2

No 8:30 am Mass, Adoration or Confessions
5 pm Vigil Mass

Sunday, January 3

8 am Mass at St. Michael
No Religious Education
10:30 am Mass
1:00 Spanish Mass

PRAYER LIST

HEALING

*Sandra Armour
*June Bell
*Susie Bess
*Dorothy Bradley
*Robert Bradley
*Cheryl Bush
*Jerry Bush
*Helen Byrne
*Tim Carney
*Don Cole
*Tom Cuff
*Jim Curry
*Eva Davanport
*Bea Heatherly
*Macky Hunter
*Joe Langford
*Thelma Lee
*Ann Marie Legate
*Maurice Limoges
*Rosa Priest
*Nora Rabie
*Mary Senecal
*Robert Senecal
*Dee Smoker
*Gloria Snow
*Mary Stout
*Joyce Traugher

PETITIONS

*For the respect and protection of human life.

DEPARTED AND THOSE WHO MOURN

**Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord: and let perpetual light shine upon them.*

HOMEBOUND

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

*Helen Byrne
*Dorothy Crosslin
*Claudia Traugher
*Mary Ann Klimek
*R.C. Boyle
*Dorothy Johnson
*Tom Crumpler
*Patty Zawierucha

ST. MICHAEL

*John Baker
*Elizabeth Jenkins
*Robert & Regina Head

ASSIGNMENTS

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

SATURDAY - 12/19/2015

Lector: Shelby Hostettler

Extraordinary Ministers:

Connie Mitchell & John Schwarz

Ushers: Carol Huddleston & Volunteer

Altar Server: Volunteer

SUNDAY - 12/20/2015

Lector: Rose Mary Reed

Extraordinary Ministers:

David Johnson & Robyn Masoner

Ushers: Dick Joyce & Volunteer

Altar Servers:

Nick Haynes & Taw Owens

Collection Counters: Pam

Curran & Joan Byrne

ST. MICHAEL

SUNDAY - 12/20/2015

Lector: Kaye Sharp

Extraordinary Ministers:

Linda Harbert & Anna Tinkle

Usher/Greeter:

Mary Jackson

Collection Counters:

Mary Jackson & Joe Grady

GOSPEL: December 14-19

MONDAY: *Matthew 21:23-27*

St. John

TUESDAY: *Matthew 21:28-32*

WEDNESDAY: *Luke 7:18b-23*

THURSDAY: *Matthew 1:1-17*

FRIDAY: *Matthew 1:18-25*

SATURDAY: *Luke 1:5-25*

OFFERING

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

12/6

Parish: \$3,336.00

Haiti: \$413.00

ST. MICHAEL

12/6

Parish: \$2,238.00

Haiti: \$336.00

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS 5:00 PM

SUNDAY MASS 8:00 AM

SUNDAY MASS 10:30 AM

TUESDAY MASS 8:30 AM

WEDNESDAY MASS 6:30 PM

THURSDAY MASS 8:30 AM

FRIDAY MASS 8:30 AM

SATURDAY MASS 8:30 AM

For the intentions of Greg Tramuta by Harry & Thelma Lee

For repose of the soul of Joe, Ruth, Gayle & Brenda Cotter by Tony & Cathy Cotter

For the intentions of Larry & Cara Pryor by Cissy & John Rampino

For the repose of the soul of Richard Goetz by Berta Goetz

For the intentions of Marilyn Barnes by Cissy & John Rampino

For the intentions of Laurale Curtsinger by Cissy & John Rampino

For the repose of the soul of Richard Goetz by Berta Goetz

For the intentions of Jerry & Jenny Gonyea by Terry & Brenda Kelch

The Altar flowers at Our Lady of Lourdes are donated by Jessie & Taylor Johnson