

# St. Michael Church

ANNANDALE, VIRGINIA 22003



**RECORDED MASS SCHEDULES:** (703) 256-0446  
**RECTORY, 7401 St. Michael's Lane** (703) 256-7822  
**SCHOOL, 7401 St. Michael's Lane** (703) 256-1222  
**CONVENT, 7421 St. Michael's Lane** (703) 256-2130  
**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CCD)** (703) 941-9403



**WEBSITE:** [www.saintmichael22003.org](http://www.saintmichael22003.org)

## **MASSES:**

**Sunday Vigil:** Saturday Eve, 5:00 p.m.;  
7:30 p.m. (Vietnamese) only on first Saturdays  
**Sunday:** 6:15 (Extraordinary Form of the Latin Rite),  
7:45, 9:00, 10:30, 12:00 noon

**Weekday Masses:** See Inside Bulletin  
PREGNANT AND NEED HELP? CALL 1-800-848-5683

## **CONFESSIONS:**

Saturday: 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. and at 7:00 p.m. SHARP.  
Wednesday: 7:30 p.m. SHARP. Advent & Lent special schedule.

**BAPTISMS:** SUNDAY AFTER 12:00 NOON MASS. All parents must attend a class prior to the baptism of their child. Baptisms are celebrated on the first and third Sundays of the month. Please call the rectory for information and assistance. (Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

**WEEKLY NOVENA:** Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.  
Novena of The Miraculous Medal.

**MONTHLY DEVOTION:** First Saturdays following the 8:30 a.m. Mass - Our Lady of Fatima.

## **ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL:**

Kindergarten through grade 8.  
For information contact Sister Therese at 703.256.1222 or [sister.therese@stmikes22003.org](mailto:sister.therese@stmikes22003.org).  
Website: [stmikes22003.org](http://stmikes22003.org)

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:**

For all children attending public school Pre-School through grade 12 meets on Sundays September through May. For more information contact Deacon McCaffrey, 703-941-9403.

**PARISH MEMBERSHIP:** Registration forms are available from the ushers after Mass on Sunday or you may stop by the rectory during the week. Parish membership is required for the reception of either Baptism or Matrimony. Please notify the rectory when your telephone number changes and also when you are moving within or outside the parish.

**MARRIAGE:** Please notify one of the priests at least six (6) months before the wedding. Cohabitation (living together before marriage) is not lawful.

**SICK CALLS:** Please notify the Rectory for visits and/or Communion Calls to the sick, shut-ins and those in the hospital.

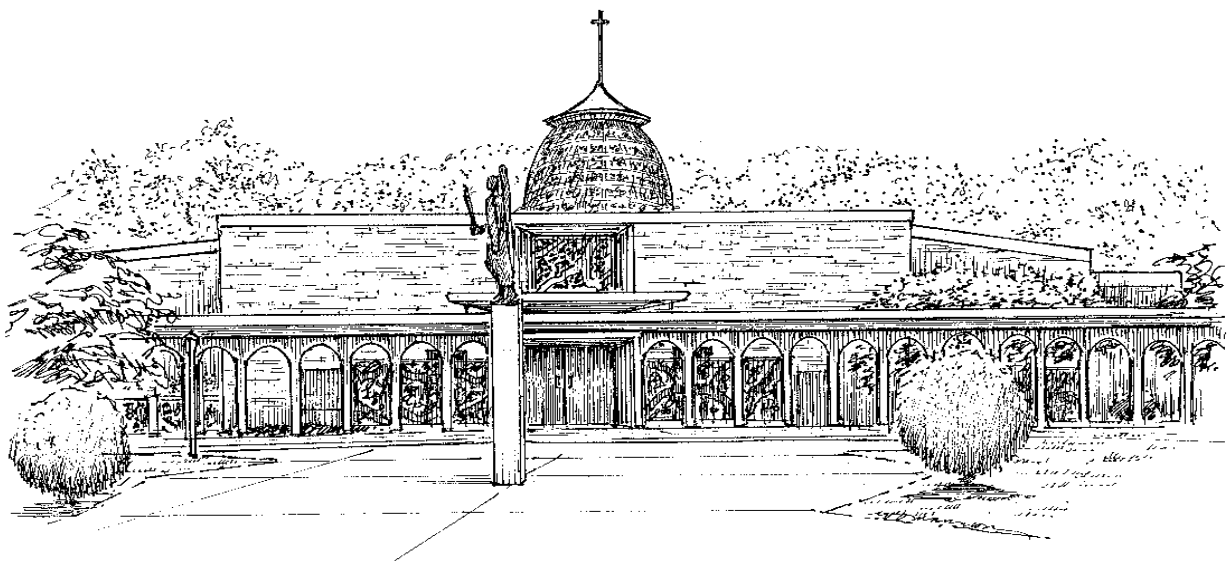
## **CLERGY OF PARISH**

**Pastor:** Rev. Jerry J. Pokorsky

**Parochial Vicars:** Rev. Kevin J. Beres, Rev. Kevin J. Fimian

**In Residence:** Rev. Joseph J. Clark

**Permanent Deacons:** Deacon Roger T. Ostrom, Deacon David S. McCaffrey





**2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

December 4, 2011

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”  
~ Mark 1:3

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**MASS INTENTIONS**  
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**Monday, December 5**

6:15 a.m. Elizabeth and Alexander Bauer +  
8:30 a.m. Hubert & Edeltraut Patzek +  
12 noon Priest’s Intention

**Tuesday, December 6**

6:15 a.m. John Yingst +  
8:30 a.m. Henry Budzynski +  
12 noon Priest’s Intention

**Wednesday, December 7**

6:15 a.m. Fallen Away Catholics  
8:30 a.m. Charlotte Kennedy +  
12 noon Priest’s Intention  
7:30 p.m. Hung Chau family (Vigil Mass)

**Thursday, December 8**

6:15 a.m. Luke Soonji Kwon +  
8:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Prayer—Soriente Family  
12 noon Priest’s Intention  
7:30 p.m. William Hick

**Friday, December 9**

6:15 a.m. Atillo’s family  
8:30 a.m. Griffin Lawton  
12 noon Priest’s Intention

**Saturday, December 10**

8:30 a.m. T. Spragens  
5 p.m. Helen McDowell +

**Sunday, December 11**

6:15 a.m. Margaret & Bernard Ruckhardt +  
7:45 a.m. Siegfried & McEnrue families +  
9 a.m. People of the Parish  
10:30 a.m. Priests of St. Michael’s  
12 noon Tammy & Kylie Nguyen

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**FROM THE BISHOP**  
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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Nowhere do we see more clearly Our Lord’s special compassion for the poor than at Christmas. Together, we meditate on His entrance into the world as a helpless, poor and homeless baby born to a young mother and father. Our Savior became one of us in poverty and rags and he has a special place in His Sacred Heart for the poor and the vulnerable.

Next weekend, **December 10th and 11th**, at all Masses, each parish and mission will hold the annual second collection to support Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington. Catholic

Charities occupies a special place in my heart, and I respectfully ask that you, to the extent you are able, make a *truly sacrificial gift* this year. Your gift to Catholic Charities will remain in the diocese and will help us serve everyone in need, regardless of their faith.

The state of the economy and the number of our fellow citizens who cannot find work have presented the diocese with many challenges. Homelessness and hunger are on the rise. As Catholic Charities continues to serve more and more communities across the diocese, it is clear that both the urban and rural areas are suffering. Catholic Charities must have the resources it needs to serve the diocese—and her parishes.

The Bishop’s Lenten Appeal and annual Christmas collection account for 20% of Catholic Charities’ operating budget, so you can imagine how important your gifts are to our ability to serve the poor. I also ask that you open your hearts and join me in praying for the many in great need. In considering ways you might help, please consider Our Lord’s beautiful reminder in the Gospel of Matthew: “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40).

Faithfully in Christ,  
*Most Reverend Paul S. Loverde*  
Bishop of Arlington

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**FROM THE PASTOR**  
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**In the second week of Advent** -- in another ancient prayer [taken from the eighth-century Gelasian Sacramentary], we admit that this process [of seeking heavenly things] is far from straightforward and we ask for help with those things that still seem to hold us back and bar our way. We all recognize that so often our “earthly undertakings” just do not point us heavenwards and they frustrate us in reaching our true goal. We also pray that through this process we will learn something of the wisdom of heaven even here and now and so be more fittingly made ready to be admitted to eternal life. The wisdom of heaven is that which truly liberates us, unlike earthly wisdom which so often holds us captive.

Almighty and merciful God,  
may no earthly undertaking hinder those  
who set out in haste to meet your Son,  
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom  
gain us admittance to his company.

– Collect of the Second Sunday of Advent

In the final line of this prayer we are introduced to the notion that our hope of heaven is in a real sense the possibility of being made worthy to share all things with Christ. It is the notion of divinisation so prevalent in the teachings of the Fathers of the Church, that process whereby the human heart is expanded by the action of grace until it is able to bear receiving God himself. This idea is central not only to this prayer but to the whole of the Advent season and indeed the entire Christian life. All things, insofar as they are good, are for our sanctification. (Source: Mgr Andrew Wadsworth, executive director of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy, <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/features/2011/11/25/how-the-new-mass-translation-will-enrich-your-advent/>)

**Pope Benedict to the American bishops** -- Many of you have shared with me your concern about the grave challenges to a consistent Christian witness presented by an increasingly secularized society. I consider it significant, however, that there is also an increased sense of concern on the part of many men and women, whatever their religious or political views, for the future of our democratic societies. They see a troubling breakdown in the

intellectual, cultural and moral foundations of social life, and a growing sense of dislocation and insecurity, especially among the young, in the face of wide-ranging societal changes. Despite attempts to still the Church's voice in the public square, many people of good will continue to look to her for wisdom, insight and sound guidance in meeting this far-reaching crisis. The present moment can thus be seen, in positive terms, as a summons to exercise the prophetic dimension of your episcopal ministry by speaking out, humbly yet insistently, in defense of moral truth, and offering a word of hope, capable of opening hearts and minds to the truth that sets us free. At the same time, the seriousness of the challenges which the Church in America, under your leadership, is called to confront in the near future cannot be underestimated. The obstacles to Christian faith and practice raised by a secularized culture also affect the lives of believers, leading at times to that "quiet attrition" from the Church which you raised with me during my Pastoral Visit. Immersed in this culture, believers are daily beset by the objections, the troubling questions and the cynicism of a society which seems to have lost its roots, by a world in which the love of God has grown cold in so many hearts. Evangelization thus appears not simply a task to be undertaken ad extra; we ourselves are the first to need re-evangelization. As with all spiritual crises, whether of individuals or communities, we know that the ultimate answer can only be born of a searching, critical and ongoing self-assessment and conversion in the light of Christ's truth. Only through such interior renewal will we be able to discern and meet the spiritual needs of our age with the ageless truth of the Gospel. ([http://press.catholica.va/news\\_services/bulletin/news/28452.php?index=28452&lang=it](http://press.catholica.va/news_services/bulletin/news/28452.php?index=28452&lang=it))

**This Thursday, December 8, is a holy day of obligation** – the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Masses will be as indicated above: Wednesday vigil Mass, 7:30 p.m.; Thursday, 6:15 a.m.; 8:30 a.m.; 12 Noon; 7:30 p.m.

**The Immaculate Conception** -- a solemnity, is the patronal feast of the United States. It is one of the few Holy days of obligation on the Church calendar -- that is, all Catholics are obligated to attend Mass on this day. As this feast occurs early in Advent, it is a perfect time to consider Mary and her important role in the celebration of Christmas. In 1854, Pope Pius IX's solemn declaration, *Ineffabilis Deus*, clarified with finality the long-held belief of the Church that Mary was conceived free from original sin. In proclaiming the Immaculate Conception of Mary as a dogma of the Church, the pope expressed precisely and clearly that Mary was conceived free from the stain of original sin. This privilege of Mary derives from God's having chosen her as Mother of the Savior; thus she received the benefits of salvation in Christ from the very moment of her conception. This great gift to Mary, an ordinary human being just like us, was fitting because she was destined to be Mother of God. The purity and holiness of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a model for all Christians. For more on the role of Mary in Salvation History, read the entire section of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, §§ 456-511.

**Results from a Washington Post** – Internet poll on the question of female altar servers: Should girls be allowed to be altar servers? Yes. - 32%; No. - 66%; It's complicated. (Leave a comment.) - 2%. (Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-buzz/post/poll-should-girls-be-allowed-to-be-altar-servers/2011/11/18/gIQAIL5ZhN\\_blog.html?wpisrc=nl\\_buzz](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-buzz/post/poll-should-girls-be-allowed-to-be-altar-servers/2011/11/18/gIQAIL5ZhN_blog.html?wpisrc=nl_buzz))

**According to LifeNews.com, Nancy Pelosi** -- is upset that the U.S. Catholic bishops wouldn't approve if the Obama administration did, in fact, decide to force insurance companies to cover birth control, contraception and drugs that could cause abortions. The bishops say that, under such a decision, some religious groups might have to

provide the insurance against their moral and religious views. ... Republicans must want women to "die on the floor," she said, just because they don't want to compel health care providers to assist with abortions. She still thinks that — only more so, if that could possibly be. "[Those who disagree] may not like the language," she told *The Washington Post*, "but the truth is what I said. I'm a devout Catholic and I honor my faith and love it, but they have this conscience thing [that puts women at risk.]" (Source: <http://hotair.com/archives/2011/11/21/pelosi-whines-about-catholics-having-this-conscience-thing/>)

**Shame on us!** -- How dare we have a conscience! (BTW, "They"?)

**Facts on cohabitation** – (living together before marriage): 1) Men in cohabiting relationships are four times more likely to be unfaithful than husbands. In 1960 there were only three STDs; now there are two dozen that are incurable. Cases of STD have tripled in the past six years. The rate of STD among cohabiting couples is six times higher than among married women (Source: Crouse, J.C., *Gaining Ground: A Profile of American Women in the Twentieth Century*, 2000). 2) Greater risk of substance abuse and psychiatric problems: A UCLA survey of 130 published studies found that marriages preceded by cohabitation were more prone to drug and alcohol problems (Coombs, R.H., "Marital Status and Personal Well-Being: A Literature Review," *Family Relations*, Jan. 1991). Depression is three times more likely in cohabiting couples than among married couples (Robbins, L., Rieger, D., *Psychiatric Disorders in America*, 1990).

**Cohabitation breeds abuse** -- violence, and murder: Abuse of children: Rates of serious abuse are lowest in intact families; six times higher in step-families; 14 times higher in always-single-mother families; 20 times higher in cohabiting biological-parent families; and 33 times higher when the mother is cohabiting with a boyfriend who is not the biological father (Crouse, op. cit.). Abuse of women: Compared to a married woman, a cohabiting woman is three times more likely to experience physical aggression (Salari, S.M., Baldwin, B.M., "Verbal, Physical, and Injurious Aggression Among Intimate Couples Over Time," *Journal of Family Issues*, May 2002), and nine times more likely to be murdered (Shackelford, T.K., "Cohabitation, Marriage, and Murder: Woman-Killing by Male Romantic Partners," *Aggressive Behavior*, vol. 27, 2001). This data is consistent with similar data on children.

**If true, why in the world** – would priests (and parents) go ahead, with a wink and a nod, consent to marrying cohabiting couples without challenging them? True love is rooted in the truth and the truth often hurts. And folks, don't be bothered when a family member accuses you of being "judgmental" for saying and doing the right thing.

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**Mini is toying with a few campaign slogans** – What do you think of this one? "Big government makes for little men. Little dogs make for little government and big men. Vote Mini for President." Now there is a rumbling that a miniature schnauzer

mix in the Parish (by the name of Tony, the pet of young Joe) might be planning to run against Mini in the primaries. Tony dog is said to be very pro-life sine he was a shelter dog before his adoption. If Tony runs, Mini pledges an honest campaign. There will be no Chicago politics with her. Sorry, David Axelrod.

**Facts from the Internet** -- (so you know, ahem, they are absolutely true): 1) The State with the highest percentage of people who walk to work: Alaska. 2) The percentage of Africa that is wilderness: 28%. The percentage of North America that is wilderness: 38%. 3) The average number of people airborne over the U.S. in any given hour: 61,000. 4) The first novel ever written on a typewriter, Tom Sawyer. 5) The San Francisco Cable cars are the only mobile National Monuments. 6) Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history: Spades - King David; Hearts - Charlemagne; Clubs - Alexander, the Great; Diamonds - Julius Caesar. 7) 111,111,111 x 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987, 654,321. 8) If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died because of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes. 9) Only two people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, John Hancock and Charles Thomson. Most of the rest signed on August 2, but the last signature wasn't added until 5 years later. 10) Q. Half of all Americans live within 50 miles of what? A. Their birthplace. 11) Q. If you were to spell out numbers, how far would you have to go until you would find the letter 'A'? A. One thousand. 12) Q. What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers and laser printers have in common? A. All were invented by women. 13) Q. What is the only food that doesn't spoil? A. Honey. 14) In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase...'Goodnight , sleep tight'. Now you know.

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IN OUR PARISH  
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**Coffee & Donuts** -- Come by the All Purpose Room on Sunday after the 7:45, 9, and 10:30 a.m. Masses and socialize with friends and fellow parishioners over a fresh cup of coffee and donuts!

**Diaper Collection** -- December 3/4. Sizes 3, 4, and 5 are especially needed. Simply drop off donations in the designated box in the church vestibule. This helps clients of A Woman's Choice, a pro-life pregnancy resource center.

**There will be a meeting of the Lazarus Group** -- on Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at 7:00 pm in the All Purpose Room in the Junior School. For more information about this group, we welcome your attendance at this meeting or call Sheila Craig at 703-256-1630.

**The Giving Tree is up in the vestibule of the Church** -- Please take a card from the tree to help a needy family during this Christmas season. Gift cards can be dropped off at the school, rectory, or in the box in the vestibule of the church no later than Monday, December 12.

**CHOOSE LIFE Virginia License Plate** -- Everyone is encouraged to order the CHOOSE LIFE special plates for you and/or your families and friends for a good cause. For more information e-mail Anh Tu Do at anhd018@gmail.com or call 703-919-4370.

**St. Michael Seniors (50+) Group**

What: Christmas Party  
When: Saturday, December 10, 2011 from 6—9 p.m.  
Where: Senior School Cafeteria  
Cost: \$18 pp for group members; \$22 pp for non-group members  
*Reservation Deadline: Tuesday, December 6, 2011*

We will have a full catered Turkey dinner with all the trimmings, pies, and beverages. Ham will also be available. There will be door prizes and our very popular 50/50. Entertainment will be provided by the Sliders Quartet featuring oldies, Christmas songs and a sing along.

We will be collecting items to donate to ACCA. Please bring jams, jellies, or peanut butter; so soap products (bath, dish, laundry). These items will be appreciated by our less fortunate members of our community.

Send reservation check, payable to St. Michael's Seniors (SMS), to Geri Owen, 7119 Falcon Street, Annandale, VA 22003. Any questions call Marion, 703-256-2781 or Geri, 703-941-3848. *Please make sure that your reservations are received by the deadline date.*

**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA** -- You better watch out... Santa Claus is coming to St. Michaels! On December 17th 9:00-11:00 am, come and enjoy Breakfast with Santa! Pancakes & sausage served from 9-10am. It'll be lots of fun!!! Have your photo taken with Santa Claus, enjoy Arts and Crafts & Story time with Santa's Helpers. Admission is \$5 for parents; \$8 for children 3 and older; 2 and under Free. Please RSVP to [activities@stmikes22003.org](mailto:activities@stmikes22003.org) or call Michelle Kennedy at 703-256-1222

**Here are the names of family members** -- of parishioners who are serving our country overseas: Maj. Michael Swinger, USMC; James Pokorsky, USN; LCPL J.C. Atkinson, USMC; Lt. Col. Geoff Kent US Army; PFC Mark Haugh, USMC; Matt and Jay Waite, Army; Lt. Col. David Griesmer, USMC; Christopher Gaetano USAF; Paul Roman, Jr. USMC; and.... [please call Mary (703.256.7822) and we'll keep our prayers going for our soldiers in harms way. Let's keep this list growing].

**Please Pray for:** Chung Fowler\*; Michael O'Neill\*; Gordon Smith\*; John Wilson; John Zych\*; Mercedes Misko\*; Julia & Sophia Lattanzio; Alice Haynos\*; Michael Rowan\*; Marguerite Wise; Audrey Hink\*; Chau Duong\*; Jack Delaney\*; Natalie Stormer\*; Frances Raftery\*; Pat Pearing; Dominic Pistolesi; Joseph Vaudry; Maria Kerrinckx\*; Walter Ladick\*; Dolores Rike\*; Peggy Wolfe\*; Marissa Ann Wuerthele\*; Dan Keller; Helen Barsanti\*; with apologies to anyone we dropped; to re-add names call Father Pokorsky or the Office for next week.

**Perpetual Adoration** -- We are urgently in need of adorers for the following times: Fridays 5-6 p.m., Saturdays 10-11 a.m., and 5-6 p.m. Please contact Rosemary Duffy at 703-256-4468.

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IN OUR DIOCESE  
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**The Institute of Catholic Culture (ICC) invites you to** -- "The Death of Adam & the Birth of Christ: Understanding the Nativity of God" a talk which will be given by Rev. Paul Scalia on Friday, December 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Thomas More, 3901 Cathedral Lane, Arlington., Virginia 22203. For more information visit the ICC's website at: [www.InstituteofCatholicCulture.org](http://www.InstituteofCatholicCulture.org).