

The Archangel



*Title: Christ in the Wilderness (c. 1515-20)
Artist: Moretto da Brescia (1498–1554)*

THE MONTHLY PARISH NEWSLETTER
SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS' CHURCH
DENVER, COLORADO

FEBRUARY 2026

SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS' CHURCH

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The Reverend Father R. Trent Fraser, Rector
The Reverend Gary Stoddard, Deacon

WARDENS AND OFFICERS

Senior Warden

Jean Gross

Junior Warden

Alan Hamilton

Clerk of the Vestry

Nancy King

Treasurer

Mark Moore

Assistant Treasurer

Wendy Warner

VESTRY MEMBERS

2027

Mark Howard
Missy Shedd
Gregory Hinkle

2028

Kathy Bland
Theresa Frazer-Simser
Nancy King

2029

Billy Joe Dolce, III
Lynn Gonzales
Paul Lindholm

*Founded as a Mission 1925
Original Church Built 1926 • Elevated to a Parish 1944
Present Church Built 1954 • Parish Hall Built 1974
Complex Remodeled 1985 • Parish Hall Remodeled 2018
Kitchen Remodeled 2019 • Bathrooms Remodeled 2021*



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SAINT MICHAEL
AND ALL ANGELS' CHURCH

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NUMBER 13

My Dear People:

The fortieth day after the Lord's Nativity, February 2nd, is the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple, commonly called Candlemas. Normally, it is the end of the Christmas liturgical season. This year, the Easter Cycle begins on February 1st, with Septuagesima Sunday (the Third Sunday before Ash Wednesday and the seventieth day before Easter). Nevertheless, Candlemas is the last hurrah of festivities surrounding the birth of Our Saviour even as we turn once more to the events which lead to the Resurrection.

The ceremonies of Candlemas are ancient, beautiful, and full of significance. The lustral procession carrying candles, and the Sacred Ministers clothed in purple vestments, recalls when Our Lady underwent the ceremony of purification in accordance with the Law of Moses on the fortieth day following the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. After her purification, which readmitted her to Jewish society, both she and St. Joseph presented the infant Child to redeem him according to the Law in the crowded and undoubtedly noisy Temple. Amid all the ritual, how chaotic it must have seemed! The press of the crowd, the chanting of prayers for the liturgy of purification and the presentation itself. The Word made Flesh, born forty days previously in the town of Bethlehem, enters his Temple unknown and unseen. St. Luke, who records Our Lady's remembrance of the day, notes that despite the crowds, Our Lord's presence in the Temple in fulfilment of Malachi's prophecy, was perceived by the aged priest Simeon, and the equally aged prophetess Anna. Simeon came to the Holy Family and filled with the Holy Spirit sang the canticle *Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace*. Simeon was assured by God that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. On Candlemas day, the promise is fulfilled. How could Simeon not break forth into song? Anna, too, sings out her joy when she beholds the Christ Child.

Yet, did anyone pay the slightest attention? A few of the young families closest to the Holy Family may have cast a surprised (and disapproving eye) on this non-liturgical singing by an elderly priest

and an old woman. As Simeon and the Child Jesus gazed into one another's eyes, Simeon with the joy of seeing the one who was to reign as king, Jesus with the steady gaze of He Who Is. Did Simeon perceive that this Messiah was none other than God himself? Tradition would say he did in the moment of picking up the Child in his arms. He must have known this, because he tells Our Lady something which sends chills throughout her being. *This child shall be for the rise and fall of many in Israel, and for a sign that shall be spoken against that the thoughts of many hearts shall be revealed – and a sword shall pierce through your own soul also.* Who could make such a prophecy if he hadn't been given the grace of recognizing this Son of Mary is also the Son of God and as such will restore what had been lost by Adam and Eve in the distant past? After they witnessed this extraordinary event, the Holy Family returned home. Apart from the incident in the Temple when Our Lord was twelve, the life of the Holy Family is one of obscurity and routine. Echoing St. John's Gospel, Christ's time had not yet come.

The Mass for Candlemas starts at 6:00 p.m., with all the customary ceremonies of the blessing of candles and the lustral procession at 6:00 p.m., followed by a Chicken Pot Pie Candlemas Dinner. Reservations for dinner are the same as last year's: \$15 per person. The blessing of throats in honour of the martyr bishop St. Blasius (whose feast is February 3rd) will be offered after Mass. Please come to the Altar rail to receive your blessing. I cannot guarantee that you will be disease free for the rest of winter, but blessings are always beneficial.

Pre-Lent, the preparation for the Lenten Fast, begins on February 1st with the Sunday called Septuagesima, seventy days before Easter (this year Epiphany IV in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer calendar). The following Sundays in Pre-Lent are Sexagesima (approximately sixty days before Easter) and Quinquagesima (approximately fifty days before Easter). This short season is a good time to take stock of the resources that equip us for the spiritual warfare that is always being waged against the Body of Christ by the Devil. Don't wait until Lent itself starts to prepare a Lenten Rule. It will be Easter before you know it, with no meaningful preparation for the celebration of the Resurrection. The Holy Fast of Lent begins on February 18th.

Father Deacon Stoddard will help us observe Lent as the leader of the Lenten Quiet Day, Saturday, February 28th. The Quiet Day begins with Mass at 9:00 a.m. and ends no later than 3:00 p.m. with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Sign-up sheets are at the back of the church so we know how many will attend this important event and thus can provide refreshments accordingly.

Two Lent devotions ought to catch our interest. The first is Father Deacon's offering of Holy Hour, the second, Stations of the Cross. Holy Hour is time spent in the sacramental presence of Christ exposed in the monstrance to pray, to mediate, and to orient one's life toward God. It's a deeply moving time and I hope parishioners will take advantage of the opportunity. Please note that Holy Hour will meet in the Queen of the

Angels Chapel on Wednesday nights at 6:00 p.m. beginning on February 25th.

Stations of the Cross, begins on Friday evening February 27th, at 6:00 p.m. Walking the way of the Cross has been a part of the devotional life of Christians for centuries. The meditations and prayers intricately weave the final journey of Our Lord to Calvary with the hymn *Stabat Mater* reflecting Our Lady's sorrows at the approaching death of her son. The service is 35-40 minutes long and ends with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. If you've never walked the Stations, I encourage you to give it a try!

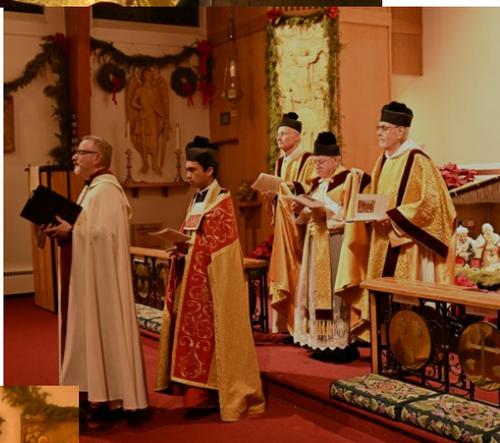
The Lenten Book Study begins meeting on Thursday, February 19th after the 9:30 a.m. Mass. The class continues February 25th, March 5th, 12th, and 26th. I will be on retreat from March 17th through 19th, so there will be no Mass or class on March 19th. The book chosen for study is *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist* by Brant Pitre. The book should be available through familiar websites.

The Annual Meeting took place on January 25th. New members of the Vestry were elected to a term ending at the Annual Meeting of 2029. They are: Billy Joe Dolce, III, Lynn Gonzales, and Paul Lindholm. The Wardens who serve one year terms are Jean Gross, Senior Warden, and Alan Hamilton, Junior Warden. I commend them all to your prayers.

Affectionately, your Friend and Pastor,

Father Trent Fraser

The Feast of the Epiphany



Christmas Decorating of the Church



Christmas Pageant



Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament News

F. Lee Pollart, Ward Secretary

The St. Teresa of Avila Ward of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament meets Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 6:30 pm. This is an excellent opportunity to get a better understanding of the Blessed Sacrament. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to having visitors at the meetings.

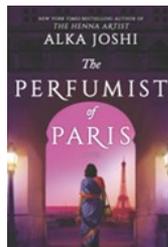
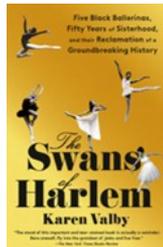
Books 'n' Brunch

Kathleen McGraw

With Christmas festivities behind us now, Books 'n Brunch will again resume on February 1, 2026, after the 10:00 am Mass. We will be meeting in the Parish Hall and on Zoom. We will be discussing the spine tingling thriller NO LIE LASTS FOREVER by Mark Stevens. This is the last in our series of Colorado books and authors.

The books scheduled for March and April respectively are: THE SWANS OF HARLEM by Karen Valby, the forgotten story of five black ballerinas and THE PERFUMIST OF PARIS by Alka Joshi, the final book of the Jaipur Trilogy.

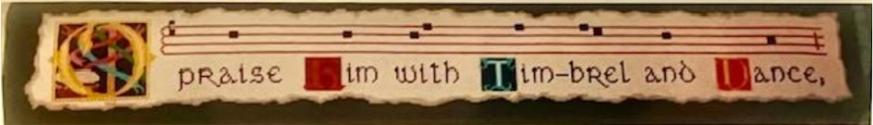
If one of your New Year's Resolutions is to read more or try something new, think about joining us. Anyone is welcome to join in on any or all of our discussions. For more information call the church office.



St. Clare's Guild

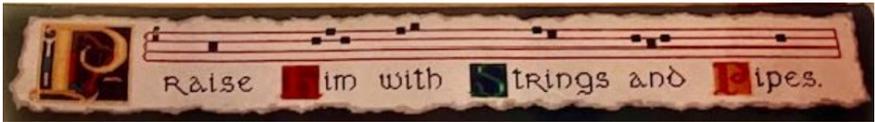
Claudia Walker

We invite you to appreciate a brief overview of the beautiful stitching found within the Church, courtesy of the St. Clare's Guild.



O praise him with Timbrel and Dance
Observe the ribbons symbolizing dance and the drum
representing the timbrel.

Given and stitched by Shirley Wells



Praise him with Strings and Pipes
Row 18 C & D of the Choir Loft

*Stitched by L. Linley & Margaret Baker
Given by Beverly Maul*



The strings are located with the harp.
The pipes are depicted with a flute.

Flowers

GIVEN BY	AVAILABILITY
February 1	
Shackelford Briggs	Michael Mary
February 8	
McGraw Gross	Sanctuary Michael Mary
February 15	
	Altar Sanctuary Michael Baptismal Font Mary
February 22	
No Flowers During Lent	

Kindly take a look at the schedule for Candles.

Adjustments can be made by calling the office.

All memorial lamps are available for \$5.

Kindly take a look at the schedule for Flowers.

Adjustments can be made by calling the office.

Flower memorials cost is \$60 except for the St. Michael Shrine which is priced at \$40.

Candles

GIVEN BY	AVAILABILITY
February 1	
Walker St. Martha's Altar Guild	Passion Michael
February 8	
Jones Family St. Martha's Altar Guild	Walsingham
February 15	
Parishioner Loiseau Greene	Passion
February 22	
Jones Family Parishioner Avery Family Loiseau Hubbard	No Availability

Requesting Candles and Flowers for 2026 Intentions at the Shrines and High Altar

By: Jean Gross

Numerous Shrine candles intended to honor a loved one or to express gratitude for God's Grace regarding something for which we wish to show appreciation have not been reserved during the past year. It is essential that the candles remain lit at the Shrines throughout the premises. The Altar flowers are needed for the Celebration and in Reverence to the Sacrament that resides in the Tabernacle. Flowers are absent only during Lent and Advent. In the absence of a dedication funded by a parishioner, the Intention and associated costs do not simply disappear. Consequently, these expenses are covered by the Church, although they are not included in the budget. The church is unable to sustain this financial burden indefinitely.

I am sharing this information with you because it is essential to engage in prior planning. I extend my gratitude to all those who consistently reaffirm their intentions each year. The schedule for 2026 is currently under preparation. Should you wish to modify your donation in any manner, I kindly ask you to reach out to me promptly. If you have not yet participated in this form of giving thanks or in creating a memorial, please do not hesitate to contact me. The presence of flowers and candles significantly contributes to the beautification of our place of worship and serves as our expression of reverence to the Glory of God.

The costs associated with candles and flowers are as follows:

Shrine Candles **\$5.00**

Shrine candles include St. Michael, Shrine of the Incarnation, The Annunciation at the Shrine of the Incarnation, The Passion Shrine, and both the St. Clare's Shrine and the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in the Queen of the Angels' Chapel.

Weekly Flowers *Prices*

Altar, Sanctuary, and Shrine of the Incarnation flowers are \$60, which is a set of two arrangements.

The Saint Michael Shrine, a single arrangement is \$40.

The Paschal Ring, Our Lady of Fatima, and more are always available during the Easter Season and are priced separately.

If you would like to proceed with your prior requests for 2026, there is no need to reconfirm with me, although such confirmation would be appreciated. The Archangel advertises the names along with the designated flowers and candles for the forthcoming month. Kindly take the time to read it.

If you have any modifications or if you notice an empty space and wish to include a dedication of your own choosing, please inform the office or myself prior to the specified date.

Thank you for your dedication to beautifying the church through your generosity.

Save the Date

Books 'n' Brunch will meet on Sunday, February 1. They will meet after the 10:00am Mass, in the Parish Hall and on Zoom.

Monday, February 2nd is the Feast of the Purification of Our Lady with Mass at 6:00 p.m. and Dinner to follow.

The Society of Mary will meet on Saturday, February 14th, starting with 9:00 a.m. Mass, followed by the Rosary at 9:30, and then the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

The Vestry will meet on Sunday, the 15th at 12:00 noon.

Shrove Tuesday is February 17th. Pancake breakfast is after the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

Ash Wednesday is February 18th. Masses with imposition of ashes are at 9:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

The Lent Book Study begins meeting on Thursday, February 19th after the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament meets on Thursday, February 19th at 6:00 p.m.

Holy Hour will be held in the Queen of the Angels Chapel on Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m. on February 25th.

The Stations of the Cross begin on Friday evening February 27th, at 6:00 p.m., concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Lenten Quiet Day is Saturday, February 28th commencing with Mass at 9:00 a.m. The event will conclude no later than 3:00 p.m. with the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Saint Michael's Lenten Fish Fry is on Friday, March 13th at 5:00 p.m. GB Fish and Chips will be on site. Please see the poster for details.

SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS' EPISCOPAL
CHURCH WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO

**JOIN US FOR A LENT
FISH FRY
WITH GB FISH & CHIPS**

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
FRESH FRIED FISH
AND CHIPS!



**MARCH
13TH**



STARTING AT 5PM

SAINT MICHAEL & ALL
ANGELS' CHURCH
1400 S. UNIVERSITY
BLVD. DENVER, CO
80210



GBFISHANDCHIPS.COM

SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS' CHURCH
1400 SOUTH UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD
DENVER, COLORADO 80210

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