



St. Michael Catholic Church

Sunday Mass - 8 am

Wednesday Mass - 5 pm

James Schmitz †

Confessions -

Fourth Sunday of the month after Mass

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Kenyon, MN 55946
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The Baptism of the Lord

January 11, 2026

Merry Christmas everyone. We continue to celebrate Christmas until today: the Baptism of the Lord. I really enjoyed this entire Christmas season. I hope Christmas was joy filled for you, also. I know a lot of people got sick over the holidays, but maybe that is behind us now. I want to thank the people who gave me gifts, cards, and goodies during Christmas. It is a good thing they make the priest's chasuble so large. It is time to discipline myself once again.

All four gospel writers record the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the Jordan river. However, only Mathew's version has John the Baptist objecting to it. Why? John knows his baptism is one of "repentance" and Jesus has no sin to repent of. So, it doesn't make sense John would baptize Him. Yet, Jesus tells John, "To do it for now." We find out later Jesus takes our place, for the debt of sin and sin is washed away in baptism by the death and resurrection of Christ.

Sin in Jewish thought is likened to a debt we build up against God and others. While sins are debts, righteous deeds are seen as credits and wages and heavenly treasure. The idea here is God will pay us for righteous deeds with heavenly treasure. That is why Jesus encourages us to "store up treasures in heaven." We either rack up debt through sin or build up heavenly credit through righteous deeds.

In this New Years let us commit ourselves to righteous deeds. Find a new year's resolution that fits you. Keep in mind this last Friday was "Quitters Friday." The day when people quit doing their new year's resolution. They just can't get it done. I love that phrase, "quitters Friday." Yet, maybe those who have faith in God can rely on God to help them supernaturally. Choose something small you can accomplish. Set yourself up for success, not failure. Something you can build a habit upon like loving someone who you don't like or establishing more of a prayer life. This can be our response to quitters Friday, righteous deeds that build up heavenly credit. This is not earning our salvation, but wanting to take the power we received in baptism to build heavenly treasure.

Happy New Year,
Fr. Cory Rohlfing

Welcome to all those visiting us today. We invite everyone to continue to celebrate Mass with us at St. Michael's. Please let the parish office know if we can be of assistance to you.

CONTRIBUTIONS

January 4, 2026

Adult Envelopes:	\$	1453.00
Loose Plate:	\$	89.00
Maintenance:	\$	20.00

Saints of the week

January 13 - St. Hilary
January 17 - St. Anthony

Divine Mercy Mass schedule:

Sunday - 8 am, 10 am,
12 pm (Spanish), 5 PM
Monday - 5:30 pm
Tuesday - 8:30 am
Wednesday - 8:30 am
Thursday - 8:30 am
Friday - 10:30 am at BA
Saturday - 8:30 am, 4 pm

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

January 18

Reader: Laura Chmelik
Ushers: Dave Mund & Tim LaCanne
Servers: Christian LaCanne & Mark Mund
EM: Brydie LaCanne & Lynn Auset

January 25

Reader: Mike Chase
Ushers: Marv Donkers & Tim Donkers
Servers: Ben Keller & Serenity Overholt
EM: Vicki Parrish & Barb Story

January money counters:

Marv Donkers & John Smith

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

January 15 - Eucharistic Adoration 6:00-7:00 pm
Lectio Bible Study 7:00 pm

January 16 - Holy Hour of Reparation 5:30 am

January 19 - Parish Council 7:00 pm

January 22 - Eucharistic Adoration 6:00-7:00 pm
Lectio Bible Study 7:00 pm

January 23 - Holy Hour of Reparation 5:30 am

January 25 - Confessions 9:00 am

We pray for all our parishioners, families and friends who are in need of physical or spiritual healing, especially, Thomas Eilen, Jaci Eilen, MacKensie Eilen, Michaela Neuzil, Harold Amundson, Sandy Rumstick, Diana Kelley, Greg Krinke, Bev Watson, Faith Cruz, and Simone Boesen.

We pray for those in the Armed forces, especially Naomi Bauernfeind.

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



Mardi Gras Bingo - February 15 at 2 pm

Please join us for our annual Mardi Gras Bingo party!



Sign-up sheets are available on the bulletin board in the atrium for volunteers to help the day of the bingo party and for donations. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Please remember to make a basket for the silent auction. The baskets are an important part of the bingo party and help to make it more successful. Baskets can be brought to the office at any time. Thank you!

Can you spare a little bit of your time and your talents to help at St. Michael's? **We are in need of ushers, lecturers, servers, and money counters.** These volunteer opportunities require very little time commitment, but would be a tremendous help and service to the church. Contact the office for more information.



Altar Servers needed!

Altar servers have the privilege of assisting the priest in the sanctuary during the Mass and other liturgical functions. Would you be willing to serve our parish in this capacity? We are looking for people of all ages to help in this important role. Please contact the parish office for more information.

Community Events/News

•MCCL March for Life is Thursday, January 22, noon-1 p.m., Minnesota State Capitol, St. Paul. Join other pro-lifers to remember unborn lives lost and to call for respect and protection for both unborn children and their mothers. Learn more at mccl.org/march.

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is a liturgical bridge that connects the Christmas season to Ordinary Time. During the Christmas season we pondered the Incarnation, Nativity, Presentation in the Temple, and Epiphany. Today, we see Jesus manifesting Himself to the world as He began His three years of public ministry.

Jesus begins His ministry through an act of deep solidarity with the fallen human race. John the Baptist had been preaching in the desert and offering a baptism of repentance. John's baptism was not the same as our baptism today. Instead, it was only a sign of one's willingness to turn away from sin and turn toward God. Jesus, of course, had nothing to repent of. He was sinless in every way. But that didn't stop Him from freely choosing to receive the baptism of repentance. Why would He do that?

Simply put, Jesus chose to unite Himself with fallen humanity, taking upon Himself our own sins and suffering their consequences. He humbly allowed Himself to be identified as a sinner in need of repentance. This was done out of love for us and out of His longing to become one with us so that we could become one with Him.

As we commemorate Jesus' baptism liturgically, we celebrate the fact that our Christian baptism was the beginning of this new unity with the Holy Trinity. But we also celebrate our oneness with God, which is renewed every time we make an interior act of repentance for our sins. If we fully understood what happens every time we acknowledge our sins and repent of them, we would never grow tired of repenting. Every time we acknowledge and repent of our sin, we meet Christ anew, receive a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and affirm and deepen our adoption by the Father in Heaven.



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



A voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." - Mt 3:17