Annunciation of the Lord Parish

Pastoral Administrator:	Fr. Craig Carolan
Pastoral Associate/DRE:	Sr. Judy O'Brien, IHM
Music Ministers:	Connie Baranski
	Ryan Tenbusch
	Jodi Golochowicz
	Tim Wirth
Webmaster:	Mark Kubacki
Secretary:	Brenda Heilig
Bookkeeper:	Janice Pionk
E-mail:	annunciationparish@centurytel.net
Parish Website:	annunciationofthelordparish.weebly.com

Office Hours (Port Austin):
Monday & Wednesday 9-4
Tuesday & Thursday 9-5:30
Friday 9-2

Parish Office & Main Parish Church:
Saint Michael
8661 Independence St.
P.O. Box 355
Port Austin, MI. 48467
Phone: 989-738-7521
Fax: 989-738-5886

Additional Worship Site
St. Mary Church
1709 Moeller Road
Kinde, MI 48445

St. Edward Church & Catechesis Center
5083 Park St. PO Box 68
Kinde, MI 48445
989-874-4744

Weekend Liturgies
Saturday 4:00PM (St. Michael)
Sunday 8:30AM (St. Mary)
Sunday 10:30AM (St. Michael)

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Every Tuesday at 6:30PM and Thursday at 9:00AM at St. Mary
Every Saturday at St. Michael 3:00-3:45PM
Every Sunday at St. Michael 10:00-10:20AM
Other times by appointment

Sacrament of Marriage:
Please call the Parish Office when you desire to celebrate Matrimony, at least six months prior to the proposed wedding

Sacrament of Baptism:
Please inquire with Fr. Carolan at least one month before the desired date of Baptism

New Parishioners:
If you wish to become a member of our parish, please call the parish office or stop by anytime during office hours

Pray for the Sick

Theresa Bambach, Shirley Butch, Margaret Carpenter, Mike Gage, Bill Goretski, Sheryl Koroleski, Linda Kozlowski, Mary Kozole, Rachel Maurer, Mary Mergucz, Jim Moore, Rosa Palazzolo, Bob Prill, Chris Robbins, Farren Rutkowski, Gernith Janos, Bob Ranger, Ben Rorabacher, Jim Schumacher, Tim Sera, Genevieve Ventline, Betty Vigenski, Kathy Wagner, and Lillian Wills.

This Week at a Glance

Monday	December 16 No Mass
Tuesday	December 17 – St. Mary
6:00PM	***Dawn Wisneski*** by Syl & Gloria Lasceski
6:30-6:45PM	Confession – St. Mary
7:00PM	RCIA – Parish Center
Wednesday	December 18 – St. Michael
8:30AM	***Barbara Davis*** by Joan Yaroch
7:00PM	Communal Penance – St. Michael
Thursday	December 19 – St. Mary
8:30AM	***Robert Gorkowski*** by family
Friday	December 20 – St. Michael
8:30AM	***For the intentions of the Right To Life Programs***
1:00PM	Sunday Scripture Preparation – St. Edward Hall

4th Sunday of Advent

Saturday	December 21
4:00PM	St. Michael
	Genevieve Yaroch by Ken Baranski
	Kelly Parrish by William Parrish Family
Sunday	December 22
8:30AM	St. Mary
	David Wichert by Con & Sheila Vigenski
10:00-10:20AM	Confession-St. Michael
10:30AM	St. Michael
	Margaret Byarski by family
	Edward & Margaret Horeski by family

Stewardship

"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed the deaf hear, and the dead are raised…" Matthew 11:4-5

When Jesus cured the sick we called it a miracle. Yet God has blessed us with many good things – our eyesight, our hearing, our talents, our health and so much more – and we often take it all for granted. The good steward recognizes every blessing in life as a miracle from God and strives to use those gifts for God's honor and glory.

Gift Given to God Dec 7 & Dec 8
(194/458)

Envelope	$ 7,049.00	Immaculate Conception	$ 645.00
Loose	$ 364.00	Religious Retirement	$2,061.00
Utility	$ 5.00	World Mission Sunday	$ 10.00
CHD	$ 10.00	Christmas	$ 60.00

Dear Parishioners,

The traditional name of this Sunday, Gaudete, derives from the text of the official entrance chant for this day: "Rejoice in the Lord always." This theme is also reflected in today's first reading, which speaks of the earth itself rejoicing as the desert blooms forth. But this reading also speaks of the earth waiting to rejoice. The redemption of God, which is the cause of our rejoicing, lie still in the future: the eyes of the blind will be opened, the tongue of the mute will sing, sorrow and mourning will flee. We do rejoice, but it is the particular kind of joy that is to be found in waiting for the source of our joy.

One of the tensions we experience in celebrating the season of Advent today is the tendency of the modern secular world to turn it into Christmas, with decorations going up the day after Thanksgiving—if not well before—and a busy round of Christmas parties. I have even seen an advertisement for an after Christmas sale that begins on December 23rd! Rather than a season of joyful waiting, Advent becomes the season of immediate Christmas gratification. Those of us who want to keep Advent as a season of expectation might be attempted to adapt a "Bah! Humbug" attitude toward the festivities of December. But perhaps we should be more forgiving of those who tend to rush the Christmas season. We recall the words of James in the second reading: "Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another." After all, the joy-in-waiting of Advent is rooted in our faith that Jesus is the one who is to come; we do not have to wait for another. The Lord is at hand; indeed, Jesus Christ our redeemer is already here.

A beautiful Advent devotion that teaches the patient, but joyful expectation of Christ's coming is *Las Posadas*, a Mexican devotion now becoming more popular in the United States. It is a nine-day novena to Christmas which begins on December 16 and goes each night until December 24th. *Las Posadas* was invented by the Franciscan Friars as a way to teach the Indians about the long journey of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Joseph being originally from Bethlehem had to go there in order to be enrolled in the census. As they near Bethlehem, Mary is almost due to give birth to Jesus. The faithful form a procession praying and singing as they walk along with images of Jesus and Mary, or a couple dresses up like Jesus and Mary. As they begin knocking on doors: One group outside sings: "In the name of heaven, I ask you for shelter because my beloved wife can continue no longer." The group inside responds: "This is no inn, continue on your way. I am not about to open. You may be a scoundrel." After at least two doors where they are rejected, the procession arrives at the third door. The outside group sings: "My wife is Mary, she is the queen of Heaven, and she will be Mother of the Divine Word." Inside the group sings: "Are you Joseph, your wife is Mary? Come in pilgrims, I did not recognize you. Everyone enters the home where a fiesta with food, drink, music, and a piñata is prepared. Pauline Books and Media offer a good bi-lingual rendition of the Posadas.

Advent Blessings,
Fr. Craig

Sunday Afternoon Movie
December 15 – 3:00PM – Parish Center
Our Lady of Guadalupe - Mother of Hope!
&
The Cloak of Juan Diego
(The Story of Our Lady of Guadalupe)

The new LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE has been prepared for January & February 2014. If anyone has been overlooked, please call the parish office.

CHRISTMAS MASSES
December 24 4:00PM (youth mass) St. Mary
December 24 6:30PM St. Michael
December 25 8:30AM St. Michael

Christmas Flowers
Each poinsettia costs an average of $25.
***St. Michael*: You may contribute using the envelope in your packet dated December 1 at any point during the month.**
***St. Mary*: Christmas Flower envelopes are available in the church entry.**
Please indicate memorials by writing names on the envelope. Thank you for your generous contributions and helping present a joyful atmosphere at Christmas and beyond. Only those memorials received by December 19th can be published in the Dec 22/23 bulletin.

Christmas Decorators Needed!
St. Mary Church – 12:00noon – December 15
St. Michael Church – after 10:30AM Mass – December 22

CLOTHE-A CHILD THANK YOU
To all those contributing boxes, wrapping paper, money donations, time and loving labor in preparing and transporting the beautifully wrapped gift boxes to Bad Axe. Special thanks to Rachel Parrish, Lori Toner, Connie Baranski and the catechists and students of grades 5-8.

LITTLE INFANT TREES
Barren trees are now in place in the entries of our churches. Please assist with decorations of new and homemade infant items for poverty-born infants of our day in Jaurez, Mexico, Texas and the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation in Montana. Please "wrap" with clear plastic.

4:00 Christmas Eve Mass Children Participation
Children in grades K-3 invited to participate in the 4:00PM Christmas Eve Mass at St. Mary Church. Children may dress in any character from the manger scene. Children may make use of costumes available or use costumes prepared at home. Please call Sr. Judy before Dec. 23 to secure a parish costume. (874-4744)

Daughters of Isabella
Euchre Card Party
January 5, 2014 - 1:00PM
Knights of Columbus Hall, Bad Axe
$5.00 Lunch & Cards 50/50's
Proceeds toward OLLH School