



St. Michael

Romanian Byzantine Catholic Church

609 N. Lincoln Ave, Aurora, IL 60505

Church phone: (630) 897-8115

Rev. Remus Orian: (330) 809-2500

email: remuso@rcdcanton.org

website: www.stmichaelromanianchurch.org

Most Reverend John Michael Botean

Bishop of the Romanian Greek Catholic Diocese of Canton, OH

Diocese website: romaniancatholic.org

Administrator – Rev. Father Remus Orian

Rectory Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm

Cantors and Readers (Cantori ai Bisericii)

Saturday: Diane Moreau, Lynn Matyas, Denise Matyas

Sunday: Ana Muresan, Marius Misca

December 24th, 2023

Sunday before the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

This Sunday: Tone 5, Epistle Heb 11:9-10, Gospel Matthew 1:1-25

Weekly Liturgy Schedule

Monday, December 25, 2023: 10:00AM: + Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ - Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, December 26, 2023: 10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy + Synaxis of the Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

Wednesday, December 27, 2023: No Divine Liturgy

Thursday, December 28, 2023: No Divine Liturgy

Friday, December 29, 2023: - No Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 30, 2023: 4:00 PM: Divine Liturgy for John Daniel Banks by Mary Ann Banks

Sunday, December 31, 2023: 10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy for all the members of St. Michael

Monday, January 1, 2024: 10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy + Circumcision of Our Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)

CONFESSION: AT ANY TIME BY REQUEST, PLEASE CONTACT FATHER REMUS DIRECTLY at 330-809-2500

Please pray for our sick and others: Violet Buga, Susan Banks, Joseph Popp, Emilia Adriana Russo, Mary Ann Signorelli, Vasile Moga, Florence Moga, Lisa Mickle, Stefana Pupek, Steve Korody, Carol Bristow, and all others who are confined to their homes or are in nursing homes.

****Please let Father Remus know if you have an upcoming surgery, illness, etc. so, we can add your name to our prayer list.*

Collection: December 16 & 17, 2023

- **Weekly Offerings: \$ 1,374.00**
- **Loose: \$ 201.00**
- **Cemetery: \$ 245.00**
- **Heat/AC: \$ 190.00**
- **Membership: \$ 230.00**
- **Candles: \$ 36.00**
- **Building Fund: \$ 200.00**
- **Holy Day: \$ 10.00**
- **Christmas Flowers: \$ 129.00**

Total: \$ 2,615.00

Sarmale Sale: \$ 3,035.00

Thank you all for your support!

There is still time to make your charitable deductible 2023 donation to church. We are asking parishioners to make their donations by Dec. 31, 2023 to be included on their 2023 donation letter.

What if I have not been to the Sacrament of Penance for many years?

How do I prepare? What do I say?

First – Do not be afraid. Jesus said, “Heaven rejoices more for one repentant sinner than for 99 righteous persons who never needed to repent.” The priest will probably be so happy you’ve returned to confession after many years that you will make all the hours, he spends in the confessional seem light.

Second - Try to prepare with the help of a good examination of conscience, but the priest will know that you cannot remember your sins with the precision of someone who came the previous week.

Third - Get the largest sins off of your shoulders first.

Fourth – Do not be afraid to ask the priest for help; most confessors are experts in leading someone in your circumstances through an examination of the “big stuff” in the confessional.

Finally – Do not wait. Come back to be reconciled to your loving Father, set off the celebration in heaven, and share your Father’s joy!

Sarmale Sale

Thank you to everyone that participated in the Sarmale Sale: those that donated all the ingredients, those that worked many hours and days preparing the sarmale and to everyone that purchased it. The event was a huge success and raised \$3,035 for the Building Fund for church repairs.

The Blessing of Homes

Blessing of the homes is done each year on or after the feast of Theophany. This act is the central sign of God's sanctification of all things through Christ's baptism in the river Jordan and His Epiphany to the world.

When the priest comes, all who are present in the house should gather around the icon with the candle and a bowl of water. They should, if they are able to join in and sing of the Troparion of the Feast of Epiphany. Then a family member leads the priest through the house with the candle. As the priest goes, he sprinkles holy water, and prays for a blessing upon each room and the activity that goes on there. When they have gone through the entire house, the family gathers again around the table and the priest blesses each person present.

General guidelines should be observed:

- A candle with an icon and some holy water should be put in a suitable place

- Also, a list of first names for whom prayers are to be offered, including members of the family and all those living in the house.

- If it is the practice to give the priest a gift, it should not be placed with the holy objects on the table. It can be prepared in advance but given at the conclusion of the service, preferably in an envelope or a card.

A signup sheet is available in the front of church for you to schedule a time with Father Remus to bless your home.

• Candles

During the month of **December 2023**, our candles have been graciously donated by Mary Rausch in memory of George & Margaret Matyas.

We are also in need of donations for future months. The total costs for altar candles, incense, and another liturgy supplies for one month is \$100.

• Office

*****To facilitate accurate accounting, please make sure that you use separate checks/cash for the Special Collection, Candles, Heat and A/C, Building Fund, Cemetery, and Saturday and Sunday collection envelopes.**

*****For Holy Baptism**, contact the Parish Office at least **one** month prior to the date requested.

*****For Weddings**, contact the Parish Office at least **six** months prior to the date requested. **No exceptions!**

*****For Funerals**, please contact Fr. Remus **before** making the arrangements with the funeral home.

- **Online donations:** Check out our online offering page! You can also sign up for Online donations to St. Michael's by scanning the QR Code below.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

CRACIUN FERICIT!