



St. Michael

Romanian Byzantine Catholic Church

609 N. Lincoln Ave, Aurora, IL 60505

Church phone: (630) 897-8115

Rev. Remus Orian: (330) 809-2500

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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 17th, 2023

Sunday of the Holy Ancestors (11th Sunday after Holy Cross)

This Sunday: Tone 4, Ep. Col 3:4-12, Gospel Luke 14:16-25

Weekly Liturgy Schedule

Monday, December 18, 2023: Office closed - No Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, December 19, 2023: No Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, December 20, 2023: 8:00 AM: Divine Liturgy for Kathy and Jeff Matyas by Matyas and Moreau Families

Thursday, December 21, 2023: 8:00 AM: Divine Liturgy for Jim Popp by Mary Ann Hogan

Friday: December 22, 2023: - No Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 23, 2023: 4:00 PM: Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 24, 2023: 10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy for all the members of St. Michael

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

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 9 & 10, 2023

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|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Weekly Offerings: \$ 1,135.00 | • Candles: \$ 27.00 |
| • Loose: \$ 46.00 | • Building Fund: \$ 1,270.00 |
| • Cemetery: \$ 130.00 | • Holy Day: \$ 20.00 |
| • Heat/AC: \$ 240.00 | • Christmas Flowers: \$ 30.00 |

Total: \$2,898.00

Thank you all for your support!

2024 Weekly Envelope Packets are available on the table in the narthex. If you were not assigned a packet and would want one, please notify Fr. Remus.

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.

Can a priest reveal what he has heard to others?

No. A priest can never reveal the sins a person has confessed. This is known as the “Seal of Confession,” which admits of no exceptions (CCC 1467).

If a priest were to violate the seal of confession he would be automatically excommunicated (CIC 1388).

Over the centuries several priests have died, and many have been imprisoned because they refused, even under threat of torture and execution, to break the inviolable seal of confession.

This is one of the most beautiful aspects of the sacrament and of the priesthood: the priest who hears our confession, in order to protect the secrets, we have whispered to God through him, will allow himself to be imprisoned, tortured or even killed.

That’s how seriously he and the Church take the seal and the sacrament.

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 advanced but given at the conclusion of the service, preferably in an envelope or a card.

• 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.



To Tickle Your Funny Bone 😊

A sinner at confession said, "Father, I kicked my bossy mother-in-law out of my house."

The confessor replied, "My son, tell me your sins first and leave your good deeds for later."

December Birthdays

Happy Birthday! La multi ani!

Dec 2: Nina Matesan

Dec 6: Lauren Welsch

Dec 5: Florin Iuhas

If you would like your birthday in the bulletin, please inform Father, so it will be listed in the future.