

# ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

January 14, 2024 | Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

## DAILY MASS

Mon – Sat: 8:00 AM | Mon: 7:00 PM

First Friday 12:15 PM in Latin in Feb, Apr, June, Aug, Oct, Dec. In English in Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Nov. And 5:30 PM (on First Friday) in English in all months.

## WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday: 4:00 PM, 5:30 PM, 7:00 PM

Sunday: 7:00 AM, 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM, 4:00 PM, 7:00 PM

## RECONCILIATION

Monday through Saturday: after the 8:00 a.m. Mass until 9:00 a.m.

Monday Night: after the 7:00 p.m. Mass until 8:00 p.m.

Sunday: after the 7:00 a.m. Mass until 8:00 a.m.; 6:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. prior to the 7:00 p.m. Mass.

First Fridays: after the 12:15 p.m. Mass until 1:15 p.m. After the 5:30 Mass until 6:30 p.m.

## REGISTRATION

To register with the parish, please call the Parish office for information.

## MARRIAGES

Couples who wish to marry at the parish should contact the Parish Office for a Marriage Request Form, and for further information. The bride or groom, or their parents/grandparents must be registered parishioners for at least eighteen months prior to the proposed wedding date to make arrangements. There is a twelve month timeline for wedding preparations.

## BAPTISMS

Baptisms take place generally on Sundays at 1:15 PM. Other days/times can also be arranged. Parents must be registered parishioners, and can call the Parish Office for information and scheduling.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

To enroll your child for our Religious Education classes, please contact Kevin Connelly, (732)483-0360, ext. 2 at the Catholic Center.



## PARISH OFFICE

800 Ocean Avenue | Long Branch, NJ 07740

Ph: (732) 222-8080 | Fx: (732) 870-1174

[www.stmichaelnj.com](http://www.stmichaelnj.com)

Monday through Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (closed 12:00 Noon - 1:00 p.m. for lunch)  
Answering service phone coverage at all other times.

## PARISH STAFF

Rev. John Butler, Pastor

Thomas Randazzo, Business Manager

Kevin Connelly, Director of Religious Ed.

Mary Valan, Parish Secretary

Emily Carroll, Assistant Parish Secretary

Lauren Walters, Acting Music Director

Larry Swenson, Maintenance Coordinator

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

16 Beechwood Avenue | West Long Branch,  
NJ 07764

Ph: (732) 483-0360 ext. 2 | Fx: (732) 795-3262

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
732-483-0360 ext. 1

*John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus.*  
*John 1:35-36*

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JANUARY 14, 2024

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Saturday, January 13

8:00 AM People of the Parish

4:00 PM † John Paolise

† Neil Patrick Naughton

5:30 PM † Julia Rose Bowman

7:00 PM Souls in Purgatory

Mimi, Nick, & Regina

Rene & Jack Brignola

Loving Children Michael,

#### Sunday, January 14

7:00 AM † Charles Murrin

Pro-Life Cause

8:30 AM † Peter Falvo

8:45 AM (At St. Jerome's Church):  
 Health & Blessings:  
 Children of Our Parish and  
 Our Catechists

10:00 AM † Richard Stephens

† Esther Petrucci

12:00 PM † Anita Lucarelli McLean

† Anthony Falvo

4:00 PM People of the Parish

7:00 PM † George Maceli

† Thomas Sleavin

Theresa

Susan Dasilva & Family

Joseph Marchitto

Anthony Lucarelli

Family

Lin & Mike

Louie & Tricia Vincelli

#### Monday, January 15

8:00 AM Pro-Life Cause

† Rev. Eugene Grohe, C.Ss.R.

† J. Shannon Swann

7:00 PM Special Intention: Jack Barney

Friends of Sylvia Marsico

Gail & Ron Swann

Barney Family

#### Tuesday, January 16

8:00 AM † Bart Maggio

† Emilia & Julius Simonelli

Tom Viggiano

Family

#### Wednesday, January 17

8:00 AM Special Intention: Health &  
 Blessings: Rosary Altar Society

† Rita Notaro Cittadino

Toni Seinfeld

Christopher M. Cittadino  
 & Children

#### Thursday, January 18

8:00 AM † John L. O'Donohue

† Patricia Foggia

Granddaughter Doris

Barbara & Jack Jarmon

#### Friday, January 19

5:45 AM Pro-Life Cause (Mass Before Parish Bus Departs at 6:30 for  
 the March for Life in Washington)

8:00 AM (Parish Mass for Life)  
 † Larry Jones (2nd Anniv.)

† Harry Tokanos

Eileen & Family

Mary

#### Saturday, January 20

8:00 AM People of the Parish

4:00 PM † Susan Dunn

† Tony Sutera

† Louis Bianchini

5:30 PM † Maria Wojcik

† Fr. Patrick Magee

7:00 PM † Kathryn Fromer

† Frances Riddle

Deborah Foster

Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Nagy

Bianchini Family

Angela Lopatka & Family

Family

Family

#### Sunday, January 21

7:00 AM † Marsha Matteo

Special Intention:  
 Past & Present Priests of St.  
 Michael's

8:30 AM † Kathy Heaning

† Anthony Principe

8:45 AM (At St. Jerome's Church):  
 Health & Blessings:  
 Children of Our Parish and  
 Our Catechists

10:00 AM † Jimmy Delehanty

† Richard Stephens

12:00 PM † Rev. Eugene Grohe, C.Ss.R.

† Donna Valesio

4:00 PM People of the Parish

7:00 PM Special Intention: Jack Barney Barney Family

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Pat, Anne Marie & Michael  
 Thayer

Linda

Regina & Roy DiPietro

Delehanty Family

Patrick Trollan & Family

Emily & David Beaton

The Blessed Mother Sanctuary Candle will be lit this week in  
 loving memory of Anne Carroll, requested by the Carroll Family.







## Gather to Celebrate Life

From the moment of conception to natural death, and every moment in between

Mass will be celebrated at St. Michael's Church on January 19:

- at 5:45 a.m. prior to the bus departure promptly at 6:30 a.m.
- at 8:00 a.m. (the Parish Mass for Life).

All are invited and welcome to attend these Masses.

Our bus passengers and Marchers are all invited to an afternoon reception in Congressman Chris Smith's conference room in the House's Cannon Office Building following the March.

**January 19, 2024**

**ALL ARE WELCOME** for the 51st annual **MARCH FOR LIFE** in Washington DC

The work to build a culture of life in the United States is not finished, even after the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. Many national legislative battles lay ahead including keeping Hyde protection limiting government funding for abortion.

We, along with thousands of pro-life advocates, will march to voice our support for the unborn and mothers in need! The goal of the national March for Life is to not only change laws at the state and federal level, but to change the culture.

**We will continue to march every January at the national level until a culture of life is restored in the United States of America.**

### Transportation Details

- Luxury coach bus sponsored by St. Michaels, St Luke's, Our Lady of Hope, and Christ the King
- Arrive in time for Rally on the National Mall
- March up Constitution, past the Capitol, and finish between the Capitol and Supreme Court
- \$15 per person – Students and Clergy FREE
- Schedule:
  - 6:30 am – Depart from St. Michael's (mass prior)
  - 7 am – Pick up St. Luke's parishioners at Garden State Parkway Exit 98
  - Park and Ride lot
  - 9 pm (approximately) – Drop off at Garden State Parkway Exit 98 Park and Ride lot
  - 9:30 pm (approximately) – Return to St. Michael's lot

For details, reservations, and donations, please call Kathryn Perez: 732.581.9735, email [prolifekp@aol.com](mailto:prolifekp@aol.com) or email by scanning this QR code:



**Please pray for an end to abortion, for compassionate and competent care for pregnant women and new mothers in need; and for conversion, reconciliation, and healing.**

## Standing Together for Life – Mass for Life; Lunch & Seminar

On Friday January 19, 2024, the faithful of the Diocese of Trenton will come together in prayer and solidarity to proclaim the sanctity of all human life!

All are invited to an 11:00 a.m. Mass for Life celebrated by Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M., in St. Robert Bellarmine Co-Cathedral, 61 Georgia Rd., Freehold. No registration is needed for the Mass, seating is first come first served. Mass will be livestreamed on [Youtube.com/trentondioocese](https://www.youtube.com/trentondioocese).

The Mass will be followed by a Lunch & Seminar in the Co-Cathedral's Dentici Hall. A panel of local expert speakers will offer practical, actionable ideas and resources to take back to parishes where they can be immediately applied to build a culture of life in a spirit of inter-ministry collaboration and radical solidarity with vulnerable pregnant women and families. Advanced registration to attend the Lunch & Seminar is required by January 10, 2024.

Full details for the day's events, including a registration link for the Lunch & Seminar can be found at: [dioceseoftrenton.org/standing-together-for-life](https://dioceseoftrenton.org/standing-together-for-life). Questions, contact Belem Perez at 609-403-7133 or [bperrez@dioceseoftrenton.org](mailto:bperrez@dioceseoftrenton.org)



**Friday, January 19, 2024**

**Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine, Freehold**

**Lunch & Seminar 12:30-3:30 p.m.**

**FEATURING 5 EXPERT PANELISTS**

				
<b>JAMES J. KING</b> Executive Director, New Jersey Catholic Conference, the non-partisan public policy voice for the Catholic Church in New Jersey	<b>SUSAN LOUGHERY</b> Associate Executive Director, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton	<b>DR. LINDA DIX</b> President, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Moonstown; Diocesan Chairperson, Holy Innocents Society	<b>ENZA CERAMI</b> Licensed social worker and professional Catholic speaker on God's plan for sexuality and His call to authentic love	<b>JENNIFER MAHER</b> Speaker and contributor for diocesan Family Life initiatives; M.S. in Mental Health Counseling, embracing her Catholic faith and an integrative approach

 FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER:  
[dioceseoftrenton.org/standing-together-for-life](https://dioceseoftrenton.org/standing-together-for-life)

**ADVANCED REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR LUNCH & SEMINAR**



**FRIDAY  
JANUARY 19, 2024**

**Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine, Freehold**

<b>Mass for Life</b> <b>11:00 a.m.</b> CELEBRATED BY <b>Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M.</b> <i>All are Welcome</i>	<b>Lunch &amp; Seminar</b> <b>12:30-3:30 p.m.</b> FEATURING <b>5 Expert Panelists</b> <i>Advanced Registration Required</i>
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 For full information about the day's events, visit:  
[dioceseoftrenton.org/standing-together-for-life](https://dioceseoftrenton.org/standing-together-for-life)

## A Thank You Note to All from Fr. John

I am very grateful to all the parishioners and staff members of St. Michael's and friends and family members and brother priests who have gone out of their way with prayers and get-well cards, home-cooked meals, text messages, emails, rides to doctors' offices and to 7-11, saying Masses and hearing Confessions, etc., etc. during the past few weeks. Thank you!!! Also very grateful to the doctors and nurses and therapists at Monmouth Medical and Encompass Rehab Hospital for their excellent care and treatment. I experienced a stroke on December 21 which the doctors have described as mild. I'm back in the rectory and on "light duty" and a reduced schedule for a while and working towards a gradual return to a full workload with some out-patient therapy along the way and perhaps a simple surgical procedure to be determined. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone very soon. Again, thank you to ALL! The accompanying photo was taken by my sister Amy as I was discharged from the rehab hospital. The poinsettia was a get-well gift from Fr. P.J. Alindogan.





## NEW JERSEY MARCH FOR LIFE



**WHEN:**  
Thursday,  
September 26, 2024

**WHERE:**  
New Jersey State Capitol  
State House Annex  
125 W State St  
Trenton, NJ 08608

**SCHEDULE**  
11:00 a.m. NJ March for Life Rally  
12:00 p.m. NJ March for Life

New Jersey *Right to Life*  
**MARCH FOR LIFE**

Learn More: [nj.marchforlife.org](http://nj.marchforlife.org)

## NOVENA TO ST. JOSEPH TO END ABORTION *January 14-22, 2024*

St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church and Guardian of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Child Jesus, the Son of God whom she carried in her Immaculate womb: intercede for us, we pray, that all recourse to abortion might cease in our nation and our world. As you cared for Mother and Child, care for all women who bear the gift of life in their womb. May no harm ever endanger them and may no choice ever threaten the blessing of human life that God has created within. Guard them with your loving protection, at every moment, until His will has been fulfilled. St. Joseph, spouse of Mary and foster father of the Lord, help us build a culture of life that yields a civilization of love among us. Say the "Our Father," the "Hail Mary" and the "Glory be" after this novena prayer. **This novena will be prayed at all Masses at St. Michael's from January 14-22.**

**PRAY TO PROTECT  
HUMAN LIFE**



**JANUARY 14-22**

**9 DAYS  
FOR LIFE**

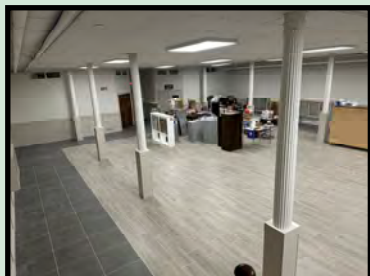
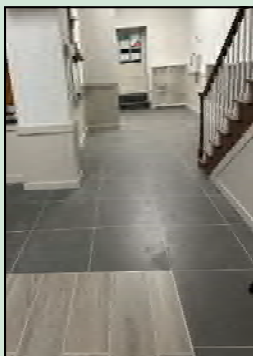


**NOVENA  
to SAINT  
JOSEPH**

*January 14-22, 2024*

### Update re the Lower Church

The repair work in the Lower Church is nearly finished. Praise the Lord! Extensive water damage occurred in the Lower Church with the record-breaking rainfall and flooding of September 29. The damage and repairs are summarized (with "before and after photos") in our Sunday bulletins of December 10 and 17 and November 12 and 19. The installation of the new porcelain tile floor is complete in the main area of the basement and needs a few more days to be completed in the "office area" and kitchen area. Please see the accompanying photos. We are hopeful of having the Lower Church "ready to go" for



a christening event within the next few weeks, the resumption of CCD 8th Grade classes, and the Lenten Friday evening Soup & Salad Suppers. Plans will be announced as soon as possible.

### "The Little Blue Book"

**Advent and Christmas Season 2023-2024**

**These books contain six-minute reflections on the Sunday Gospels of Liturgical Year A. If you would like a free copy, they are available in the back of the church.**

2024 parish calendars are now available in the back of the church. Please feel free to take one after Mass.



**Thank you to the Woolley-Boglioli Funeral Home  
for this donation of the parish calendars!**

### Aid For The Hearing Impaired

We offer the use of radio aids during Mass upon request. The device is tuned to the sound system in the church so that those who have a hearing deficit might hear more clearly. Please ask an usher for assistance.

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF EASTER AND THE MOVEABLE FEASTS FOR 2024

*Pastor's Note: The Proclamation of the date of Easter and the other moveable feasts usually occurs at the Masses on the Feast of the Epiphany, which was last Sunday, January 7. This Proclamation was announced at some but not at all of the Masses here at St. Michael's last weekend. The custom of making this Proclamation on Epiphany Sunday dates from an ancient time when calendars were not readily available. It was necessary to make known the date of Easter in advance, since many celebrations of the liturgical year depend on its date. The number of Sundays that follow Epiphany, the date of Ash Wednesday, and the number of Sundays that follow Pentecost are all computed in relation to Easter. Although calendars now give the date of Easter and the other feasts in the liturgical year for many years in advance, **the Epiphany Proclamation still has value.** It is a reminder of the **centrality of the Resurrection of the Lord in the liturgical year** and the importance of the great mysteries of faith which are celebrated each year.*

Know, dear brothers and sisters, that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Savior. And so, let it be known that:

On the fourteenth day of February will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.

On the thirty-first day of March we will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*[In those places where the Ascension is transferred to the Seventh Sunday of Easter:]* On the twelfth day of May (a **Sunday** now in our Diocese of Trenton) will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the nineteenth day of May, the feast of Pentecost.

On the second day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

On the first day of December, the First Sunday of the Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Full text and further information is available at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' website at <https://www.usccb.org/resources/2024cal.pdf>.

## UPDATE: Bishop making progress in recovery, grateful for prayers and good wishes

Pastor's Note. The following update regarding Bishop O'Connell and his recent heart attack was published in The Monitor earlier this week. Thank you for your prayers for the Bishop.

Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M., was moved from intensive care to the Cardiac Care Unit of Santo Spirito Hospital in Rome Jan. 7, where he continues his recovery from surgery after suffering a heart attack days earlier.

Bishop O'Connell has been hospitalized since Jan. 4 after undergoing emergency cardiac surgery to open a blocked artery. The Bishop had been in Rome a few days ahead of the arrival of some 20 priests of the Diocese for a planned pilgrimage.



In a brief communication with The Monitor Jan. 7, Bishop O'Connell expressed gratitude for all the prayers and good wishes he is receiving and says he is feeling better each day. He looks forward to returning home as soon as possible.

The Bishop added that although he misses being with the priests on pilgrimage, he is very happy that they are enjoying their visit to Rome.

## INFORMATION NIGHT DIVORCED AND SEPARATED MINISTRY



St. Leo's Parish in Lincroft is pleased to announce its continuing ministry entitled, "Surviving Divorce: Hope and Healing for the Catholic Family", a healing program being offered for divorced and/or separated Catholics.

There will be an Information Night on Thursday, February 1, 2024 from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at St. Leo The Great in the Parish Center Meeting Room, located at 50 Hurleys Lane in Lincroft.

If interested, please email: [healingheartsfromdivorce@gmail.com](mailto:healingheartsfromdivorce@gmail.com) with your name and contact information and one of the facilitators will get back in touch with you regarding all the details and will answer any questions you may have.

Visit: <https://www.mylifechangecoach.com/divorceministry> for more information about the program or call/text Michele Coppola Wilson at 201-753-8485.

Thank you for taking the first step towards healing!



PLEASE!! Attend the National March for **LIFE** (if at all possible) on January 19; **YOUR** Presence and **YOUR** Witness and **YOUR** Voice are Urgently Needed to Help Defend the Sanctity of Human Life and to Protect the Lives of **UNBORN Babies**; PLEASE!! Sign-Up for the St. Michael's Parish Chartered Bus to Washington, D.C. on Friday, January 19; Mass at 5:45 a.m.; Bus Departs at 6:30 a.m.; **YOUR** Participation and **YOUR** Sacrifice Will Help to Save Babies' Lives!!!

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The 2024 National Rally and March for Life will take place on Friday, January 19 in Washington, D.C. St. Michael's Church drive up to 57 in-remember that Court in 2022 (in the Baptist, **the** **ington still con-** quoted from the **life/**):



Even with the freedom at the life in the United **the number of** is expected to de-national legislative battles loom, including even keeping longstanding tectons, which limit government funding for abortion on annual appropriation bills. The Hyde Amendment has saved over 2 million is arguably the most impactful pro-life policy in our nation's history, cannot be taken for granted. Last, **our most important work is hearts and minds. The goal of the national March for Life is to not change laws at the state and federal level, but to change the culture mately make abortion unthinkable.**

The four parishes that are collaborating to co-sponsor this bus tation, to cover the majority of the financial expense (\$3,000), and to reduce the out-of-pocket cost of each seat for the passengers (\$52 cost subsidized/reduced to \$15 per passenger; children and students on the bus at no charge) are: (1) St. Michael's, (2) Christ the King (Our Lady Star of the Sea and Holy Trinity here in Long Branch), (3) of Hope Parish (St. Jerome's Church in West Long Branch and St. the Assumption in Deal), and St. Luke's Church in Toms River.

Please consider taking the time and making the sacrifice to attend this important national event for the sake of making a serious, visible, faith-filled, vocal statement in witness of our Catholic teaching on the dignity of the human person (no matter what size and no matter what age that human person may be) and on the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death:



- **The Fifth Commandment:** "Thou shalt not kill." (Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17)
- **Other Passages from Scripture or Other Documents of the Church:**
- "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you." (Jeremiah 1:5)
- "You shall not kill the embryo by abortion and shall not cause the newborn to perish." (Didache 2:2 quoted at Catechism 2271)



Hyde pro-lives and but now **changing only to** **ulti-** transpor-subsidize/actual may ride Parish Our Lady Mary of

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- “There are those who presume to offer dishonorable solutions indeed; they do not recoil even from the taking of life.” (Gaudium et Spes, 51:2)

- “For God, the Lord of life, has conferred on men the surpassing ministry of safeguarding life in a manner which is worthy of man. Therefore from the moment of its conception life must be guarded with the greatest care while abortion and infanticide are unspeakable crimes. (Gaudium et Spes, 51:3 quoted at Catechism 2271)

- The Catechism of the Catholic Church:

- Paragraph 2270: “Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person - among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life.”

- Paragraph 2271: “Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable. Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law.”

- Paragraph 2274: “Since it must be treated from conception as a person, the embryo must be defended in its integrity, cared for, and healed, as far as possible, like any other human being.”

- Documents from Popes on Abortion and Respect for Life:

- Saint Pope John Paul II (March 25, 1995): “The Gospel of life is at the heart of Jesus’ message. Lovingly received day after day by the Church, it is to be preached with dauntless fidelity as “good news” to the people of every age and culture.” (Evangelium Vitae, The Gospel of Life; available at [https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_enc\\_25031995\\_evangelium-vitae.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25031995_evangelium-vitae.html)).

- Saint Pope John Paul II (March 25, 1995): “A new cultural climate is developing and taking hold, which gives crimes against life a new and – if possible – even more sinister character, giving rise to further grave concern: broad sectors of public opinion justify certain crimes against life in the name of the rights of individual freedom, and on this basis they claim not only exemption from punishment but even authorization by the State, so that these things can be done with total freedom and indeed with the free assistance of health-care systems.” (Evangelium Vitae, The Gospel of Life; available at [https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_enc\\_25031995\\_evangelium-vitae.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25031995_evangelium-vitae.html)).



- Pope Benedict (February 24, 2007): “The right to life is a right that must be sustained by all, because it is the first fundamental right of all human rights.” (Address of Benedict XVI to the Pontifical Academy for Life – available at [https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/speeches/2007/february/documents/hf\\_ben-xvi\\_spe\\_20070224\\_academy-life.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/speeches/2007/february/documents/hf_ben-xvi_spe_20070224_academy-life.html)).

- Pope Benedict (February 24, 2007): “Life is the first good received from God and is fundamental to all others; to guarantee the right to life for all and in an equal manner for all is the duty upon which the future of humanity depends.” (Address of Benedict XVI to the Pontifical Academy for Life – available at [https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/speeches/2007/february/documents/hf\\_ben-xvi\\_spe\\_20070224\\_academy-life.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/speeches/2007/february/documents/hf_ben-xvi_spe_20070224_academy-life.html)).

- Pope Benedict (February 24, 2007): “I ask the Lord to send among you, dear brothers and sisters, and among those dedicated to science, medicine, law and politics, witnesses endowed with true and upright consciences in order to defend and promote the “splendour of the truth” and to sustain the gift and mystery of life.” (Address of Benedict XVI to the Pontifical Academy for Life – available at [https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/speeches/2007/february/documents/hf\\_ben-xvi\\_spe\\_20070224\\_academy-life.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/speeches/2007/february/documents/hf_ben-xvi_spe_20070224_academy-life.html)).

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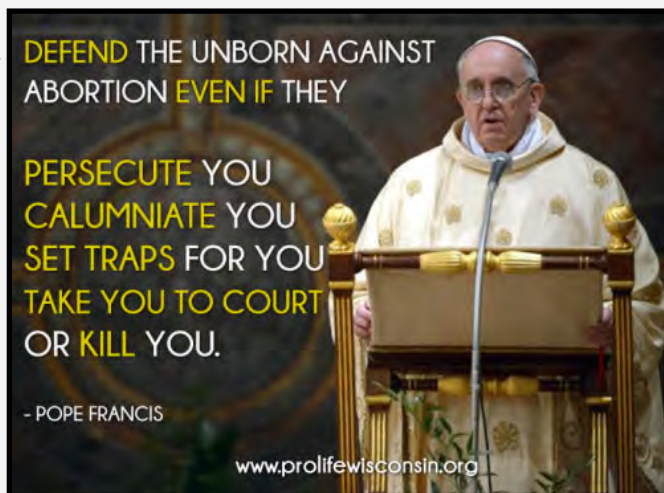
• Pope Benedict (May 12, 2008): “It is necessary to witness concretely that respect for life is the first form of justice to apply. For those who have the gift of faith this becomes a mandatory imperative, because the disciple of Christ is called to be increasingly a “prophet” of a truth that can never be eliminated: God alone is the Lord of life. Every person is known and loved, wanted and guided by him. Here alone lies the deepest and greatest unity of humanity: in the fact that every human being puts into practice God’s one plan, originates in God’s same creative idea. One thus understands why the Bible says: whoever profanes man, profanes the property of God (cf. Gn 9: 5).” (Address of Benedict XVI to the Members of Italy’s Pro-Life Movement – available at [https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/speeches/2008/may/documents/hf\\_ben-xvi\\_spe\\_20080512\\_movimento-vita.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/speeches/2008/may/documents/hf_ben-xvi_spe_20080512_movimento-vita.html)).


• Pope Benedict (May 12, 2008): “If, on the one hand, faithful to her Lord’s commandment, the Church never tires of reaffirming that the sacred value of every human being’s life originates in the Creator’s plan, on the other hand, she encourages the promotion of every initiative in support of women and families in order to create the favourable conditions in which to welcome life, and the protection of the family institution founded on the marriage between a man and a woman. Not only has permission of pregnancy not solved women and a fair number of another wound in our society, dened by deep suffering, the Members of Italy’s Pro-  
[https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/speeches/2008/may/documents/hf\\_ben-xvi\\_spe\\_20080512\\_movimento-vita.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/speeches/2008/may/documents/hf_ben-xvi_spe_20080512_movimento-vita.html)).

#### Conclusion and Request.

Scripture and from the teach- mind and also taking into ac- knowledge and experience of current culture and current so- spect for Life, it is evident that notion of “fear of the Lord,” terror, anxiety, and dread but is best understood as an appropriate response of respect and awe directed toward God – in a word “**REVERENCE**” toward God – and in turn resulting in “**reverence** for **LIFE**” – human life created by God in the image and likeness of God. The sound bite can be reduced to and summarized in these few words: REVERENCE for God and REVERENCE for the moral law written by God on the hearts of men and women (Jeremiah 31:33-34) and REVERENCE for LIFE. Reverence for life and reverence for the **GOSPEL of LIFE** proclaimed by Jesus Himself that can be publicly and visibly WITNESSED **by you and me** at the Rally and March in Washington; as Pope Benedict wrote in one of the quotations set forth above: “It is necessary to **witness concretely** that respect for life is the first form of justice....For those who have the gift of faith this becomes **a mandatory imperative**, because the disciple of Christ is called to be increasingly a “prophet” of a truth [and a witness of Truth] that can never be eliminated: God alone is the Lord of life. **Every person** is known and loved, wanted and guided by Him.”

So, **please consider attending** the National March for **LIFE** (if at all possible) on Friday, January 19. The complete information about the chartered bus to Washington departing from our St. Michael’s parking lot is published on Page 3 of today’s bulletin. For those who are unable to take the bus to Washington, please consider attending our “Parish Mass for Life” which will be celebrated by Fr. Alphonse Stephenson on Friday, January 19 at 8:00 a.m. – the same day as the Rally and March. Or, if you are unable to take the bus to Washington, please consider – and “offer it up for the pro-life cause!” – attending the 5:45 a.m. Mass with the bus passengers and then seeing them off right after that Mass when the bus departs for Washington at 6:30 a.m. And in the meantime, and on the day-of, and on the days thereafter, please re- member to pray for an end to abortion, for an end to the “culture of death,” for compassionate and competent care for pregnant women and new mothers in need; and for conversion, reconciliation, mercy, and healing.






# Diocesan Youth Conference

**ON PURPOSE**  
"for this purpose have I come."  
Mark 1:29-39

**DYC**  
Saturday  
**Feb. 3rd**  
2024  
Red Bank Catholic HS  
RED BANK, NJ

8-12th grade teens invited!

Adv. Registration \$25  
Walk-in Registration \$35



[www.dotyouth.org/dyc](http://www.dotyouth.org/dyc)

## PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

### WEEKLY MASS INTENTION

† Ronald Lubischer r/o Joyce Lubischer

### YEARLY MASS INTENTIONS

#### FEBRUARY 2024

† Susan Whitman r/o Lex and Janet Tucci

#### APRIL 2024

† Rita N. Cittadino r/o Christopher M. Cittadino and Children

#### SEPTEMBER 2024

† Ralph and Eleanor Siciliano r/o The Boeckman Family

† Connie and Tony Criesi r/o Lin Criesi

† Dick Nolan r/o Lin Criesi



## HAVE FAITH IN YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE

PROVIDING EXCELLENCE IN TRADITIONAL,  
CATHOLIC EDUCATION SINCE 1941

**3 Year Old Preschool Through Grade 8**

Elite Academy Education at 1/3 of the Cost  
Traditional, Competitive, Challenging Curriculum  
After School Care Options Until 6pm (Pre-8)  
100% High School of Choice Admittance Rate in 2023

**OPEN HOUSE | Jan. 28 at 11am**



## HOLY CROSS ACADEMY

**HCARUMSON.ORG**

40 Rumson Road, Rumson NJ 07760  
732.708.3113 | admissions@hcarumson.org



## 2024 Mass Book

We kindly ask that when you come to the office for scheduling, please bring a written list including the names and dates of your requests and your name and phone number. The stipend for Masses is \$10.00 per Mass.



## Weekend Collection & Attendance

**Thank You!**

### Saturday, January 6, 2024

4:00 PM Mass	\$2,361.00	168 people
5:30 PM Mass	\$523.00	74 people
7:00 PM Mass	\$355.00	32 people

### Sunday, January 7, 2024

7:00 AM Mass	\$1,039.00	57 people
8:30 AM Mass	\$1,772.00	81 people
10:00 AM Mass	\$1,250.00	153 people
12:00 PM Mass	\$1,807.00	145 people
4:00 PM Mass	\$1,023.00	136 people
7:00 PM Mass	\$546.00	109 people

Mailed-in Envelopes for the January 7 collection and for previous Sunday collections during the Pandemic Lockdown: **\$553.00**

**This Week's Total: \$10,229.00**

**Same Week's Total Last Year: \$12,807.00**

## Christmas 2023 Collection

The tallying of the Christmas collection is a work in progress at this time since cash and checks earmarked for Christmas continue to come in through the mail and drop-offs at the parish office. We'll publish the amount of the Christmas collection and attendance in the Sunday bulletin in the next few weeks, promptly after we close the books on the counting process. Thank you for your faithful stewardship and financial support of the parish.

Happy Birthday wishes (and home-made, candle-lit birthday cake, too!) were shared with parishioner Tom Viggiano earlier this week during the weekly counting of the Sunday Collection. Tom has been a very active member of St. Michael's Parish for many years, assisting with the volunteer collection counting and serving as a board member of the local chapter of the St. Vincent dePaul Society and SVDP board member since 2000. Happy Birthday, Tom! Ad multos annos! And THANK YOU!



## ON THE CALENDAR AT ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH



Baptism Class	Saturday, January 13, 2024 11:00 a.m.
Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (parish office closed)	Monday, January 15, 2024
Novena for Life	January 16-24, 2024 (See Page 5 For details)
March for Life and Rally for Life in Washington, DC	Friday, January 19, 2024 Mass at 5:45 a.m.; Bus departs at 6:30 a.m. (See Page 3 and Page 7 for details)
St. Michael's Parish Mass for Life	Friday, January 19, 2024 8:00 a.m.
Diocese of Trenton Mass for Life; Lunch & Seminar	Friday, January 19, 2024 (See Page 4 for details)
Catholic Schools Week	Jan. 28 to Feb. 3, 2024
Ash Wednesday	February 14, 2024
Confirmation	Thursday, March 14, 2024
New Jersey March for Life	Thursday, September 26, 2024

## Office Closed; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, January 15 in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. The office will reopen Tuesday, January 16 at 8:30 a.m. Masses and Confessions will take place at their usual Monday times on January 15.



**Old Guard of Long Branch  
is Sponsoring a Bus Trip to  
Resorts Casino in Atlantic City**

When: Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Cost: \$40.00 (Receive \$20.00 back at Casino and free refreshments on the bus).

**Bus leaves St. Michael's Church at  
10:15 a.m.**

For more information and to make a reservation call Peter at 732-801-6886

