

# ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

*January 31, 2021 | Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time*

## DAILY MASS

Mon-Sat: 8:00 AM | Mon: 7:00 PM

First Friday: 12:15 (in Latin) and 5:30 (in English)

## WEEKEND MASSES

Our weekend Mass schedule is gradually evolving as the pandemic lockdown subsides. Please see the inner pages of this bulletin and our parish website for specific weekend Mass times.

## RECONCILIATION

Our Confession/Reconciliation schedule is also gradually evolving as the pandemic lockdown subsides. Please see the inner pages of this bulletin and our parish website for specific Confession times. All scheduled Confessions will be indoors near the St. Joseph Altar of the sanctuary until further notice. For a special need or to arrange for a by-appointment Confession at other times, please call the parish office.

## 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 1:00 PM. Other days/times can also be arranged. Parents must be registered parishioners, and can call the Parish Office for information and scheduling.

## HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

There is a Monthly Holy Hour for Vocations that includes Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions. This Monthly Holy Hour is from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM on the Thursday immediately preceding the First Friday.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

To enroll your child for our Religious Education classes, please contact Kevin Connelly, ext. 2 at the Catholic Center. All families must be registered with the parish.



## PARISH OFFICE

800 Ocean Avenue | Long Branch, NJ 07740

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

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

**Hours (pending return to full schedule):**

Mon, Wed, Fri: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Answering service phone coverage at all other times.

Closed Tuesday and Thursday until further notice as a Covid precaution.

## PARISH STAFF

Rev. John Butler, Pastor

Rev. Mark Nillo, Parochial Vicar

Thomas Randazzo, Business Manager

Kevin Connelly, Director of Religious Education

Mary Valan, Parish Secretary

Jose Rodriguez, Maintenance Manager

Lauren Walters, Acting Music Director

## CATHOLIC CENTER AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

16 Beechwood Avenue | West Long Branch,  
NJ 07764

Ph: (732) 483-0360 | Fx: (732) 483-0363

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

732-483-0360 ext. 7



*The people were astonished at Jesus' teaching, for he taught them as one having authority.*  
-Mark 1:22

## MASS INTENTIONS\*

### Saturday, January 30

8:00 AM People of the Parish

\* 4:00 PM † John Perri, Sr.

John & Deborah Perri  
& Family

Special Intention:  
Marilyn Sudbeck

7:00 PM † Vera Lutz

Deborah Migliaccio

† Bishop John M. Smith

### Sunday, January 31

7:00 AM † James O'Donohue, Jr.

Sister & Family

8:30 AM † Robert "Bobby" Fortin

Tom Viggiano

† Rev. William T. Schneider

\* 10:00 AM † Lisa Cavaliero

Michael Bowman

† Jay Filippo

Family

12:00 PM † James Cassidy

Anthony Queenan

† Patty Chavez

7:00 PM People of the Parish

### Monday, February 1

8:00 AM Pro-Life Cause

Friends of Sylvia Marsico

† Marie Siciliano

Joe Marino

† Andre Moutenet

Rene & Jack Brignola

7:00 PM † Yovani Carrasco-Delgado

### Tuesday, February 2

8:00 AM † Ann Miller

Jane & Pat Farmer

### Wednesday, February 3

8:00 AM † Eleanor Cattelona

Daughter Winkie & Family

### Thursday, February 4

8:00 AM Special Intention: Lisa Virga

### Friday, February 5

8:00 AM † Clarice Viggiano

Loving Family

† Mark N. Russo

Mom

12:15 PM † Linford Fabello

5:30 PM † Irene F. & Edward W.  
Moskal, Sr.

Barbara & Edward Moskal

### Saturday, February 6

8:00 AM † Conrad J. Russo

Wife

† Linda DeLicio

Fr. Mark Nillo &  
Fr. John Butler

\* 4:00 PM † Linda DeLicio

Fr. Mark Nillo &  
Fr. John Butler

7:00 PM People of the Parish

### Sunday, February 7

7:00 AM † Rosa Alba Stranieri

Mother Francesca

8:30 AM † Cathy Coll Valani

Bruce Crowell &  
Sharon Mazza

\* 10:00 AM † Kimberly Watts

Carol Ferrante

† Callie Thomas

Patricia Tucker

12:00 PM † Paul Sebastiano

Mary Quinones

† John Lastimosa

Violeta Peters

7:00 PM People of the Parish

\* All Masses listed on this page will be celebrated indoors in the Upper Church with the exception of the Saturday 4:00 p.m. Mass and the Sunday 10:00 a.m. which are celebrated (weather permitting) in the parish's North Parking Lot and live-streamed via the parish website [www.stmichaelnj.com](http://www.stmichaelnj.com) and the parish's YouTube channel. **Please see Page 3 of this bulletin for further information on winter weather-related contingencies and plans regarding our outdoor parking lot Masses.**

The Blessed Mother, the Center, and the St. Joseph Candles will be lit this week in prayer for the nurses, doctors, healthcare workers, family members, and friends who are caring for and treating COVID-19 patients; for their own health and safety; and for their courage, professionalism, and love.





## SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THE WEEKENDS OF JANUARY 30-31 AND FEBRUARY 6-7 AND FOR THE WEEKDAYS OF FEBRUARY 1 THROUGH FEBRUARY 6

### FACE MASKS REQUIRED AT ALL MASSES, CONFESSIONS, ETC.

#### Weekend Outdoor Parking Lot

##### In-Car Masses \*

Saturday, January 30 and February 6 at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 31 and February 7 at 10:00 a.m.

- Communion distributed in cars at end of Mass.
- Tune your radio to 92.1 FM.
- Live-stream available at parish website and You Tube.
- If inclement weather occurs, the priest/celebrant and Eucharistic Ministers will re-locate to the Upper Church. The church will be closed to the public during these Parking Lot Masses. Restrooms are available during these Masses.

#### Weekday Public In-Church Masses

Monday, February 1 through  
Saturday, February 6 at 8:00 a.m.  
Monday, February 1 at 7:00 p.m.

- Our Saturday morning Daily Mass was restored to the regular weekly Mass schedule beginning on Saturday, August 1 but at 8:00 a.m. rather than the former pre-lockdown 9:00 a.m. time until further notice in order to provide Saturday morning time slots for Baptisms until the pending backlog of Baptism requests (resulting from the pandemic lockdown) has been accommodated.
- Communion will be distributed only inside the Church. No parking lot in-car Communion at these Masses.
- Upper and Lower Church open with *limited seating* in compliance with social distancing guidelines.
- The Upper Church Mass will be viewable on the Lower Church TV monitor if limited seating capacity (64) in Upper Church is exceeded.
- Holy Communion will be brought to congregants (if any) in the Lower Church (seating capacity 50).

#### Church Building Hours For Private Prayer

- These hours are subject to change for funerals, weddings, and other special occasions.
- Monday through Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Monday: 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (before and after Monday evening's 7:00 p.m. Mass)
- Saturday: 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. (before and after Saturday morning's 8:00 a.m. Mass) and 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (before and after Saturday evening 7:00 p.m. Mass)
- Sunday: 6:30 a.m. until conclusion at 8:00 a.m. of the Confessions following the 7:00 a.m. Mass when the church will be closed to allow for sanitizing/cleaning before re-opening for the 8:30 a.m. Mass. And 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (respectively, before and after the Sunday 12:00 Noon and Sunday evening 7:00 p.m. Masses).

#### Weekend Public In-Church Masses

Saturday, January 30 and February 6 at  
7:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 31 and February 7 at  
7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 12:00 Noon, and 7:00 p.m.

- Communion will be distributed only inside the Church. No parking lot in-car Communion at these indoor, in-church Masses.
- Upper and Lower Church open with *limited seating* in compliance with social distancing guidelines.
- The Upper Church Mass will be viewable on the Lower Church TV monitor if limited seating capacity (64) in Upper Church is exceeded.
- Holy Communion will be brought to congregants (if any) in the Lower Church (seating capacity 50).

#### \* Regarding Our Parking Lot Masses

Our outdoor parking lot Masses have been very well attended (over 120 cars per Mass lately) and enhanced safety and confidence. We desire to continue celebrating these Masses until winter cold weather makes it unfeasible for the health of the Communion Ministers, ushers, and other volunteers. Please check the parish website for any weather-related notice of a change. If we move a parking lot Mass indoors due to the weather, we will do our best to live-stream the indoor Mass at the same time and to distribute Communion in the parking lot at the conclusion of the indoor in-church Mass.

#### Schedule of Confessions

##### (All Confessions are Currently Indoors\*)

- Saturday, January 30: 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday, January 31: after the 7:00 a.m. in-church Mass until 8:00 a.m. • 6:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. prior to the 7:00 p.m. in-church Mass.
- Monday, February 1 thru Saturday, February 6: after the 8:00 a.m. in-church Mass until 9:00 a.m.
- Monday, February 1: after the 7:00 p.m. in-church Mass until 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, February 6: 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday, February 7: after the 7:00 a.m. in-church Mass until 8:00 a.m. • 6:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. prior to the 7:00 p.m. in-church Mass.

\* Commencing on November 29 all of the Confession times listed above are conducted indoors in the sanctuary near the St. Joseph Altar. Weather permitting in the event of unseasonably mild temperatures on a given day, the priest-celebrant of the Mass preceding Confessions may elect to move the Confession location outdoors to the north portico of the church; and if that is the case, the priest-celebrant (and confessor) will announce that change of location at the conclusion of Mass.

## Mass of Remembrance for Patty Chavez

We will offer a Mass of Remembrance for Patty Chavez on Sunday, January 31 at 12:00 Noon in the Upper Church. All are invited and welcome. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* -- which was at the heart of Patty's vocation as a religion teacher, catechist, leader of our CCD program, and faithful Catholic -- states: "From the beginning the Church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers...for them, above all the Eucharistic Sacrifice, so that...they may attain the beatific vision of God" (#1032). The 2018 Mayor's Proclamation of "Patty Chavez Day" in Long Branch, NJ is re-published today on Page 11 of this bulletin.



## LENT 2021

Our Lenten observances will include the following:

- On Fridays during Lent, *Mass* will be celebrated at **12:15 p.m. and at 5:30 p.m.** in the Upper Church. The 8:00 a.m. Mass on Fridays remains unchanged. *Eucharistic Adoration* will follow the 12:15 Mass on these Fridays of Lent until 5:15 p.m.
- These Friday 12:15 and 5:30 Masses during Lent will be followed by Confessions for 30 minutes.
- Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Fridays of Lent at 7:30 p.m.
- The parish's Lenten Penance Service will occur during the week beginning March 22 (date and time to be announced).

*May our Lenten journeys nourish our minds and hearts, strengthen us against the chains of sin, and bring us closer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.*

## ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE

On Ash Wednesday, February 17 Masses are as follows:

8:00 A.M. Mass

12:15 P.M. Mass

4:00 P.M. Mass

5:30 P.M. Mass (Children's & Family Mass)

7:00 P.M. Mass

Ashes will be imposed at all five Masses on Ash Wednesday immediately after the homily. The 5:30 p.m. Mass on Ash Wednesday will focus on the parish's children and families; all are welcome and invited to that Mass.

Bishop O'Connell - - with everyone's health and safety in mind on Ash Wednesday and during Lent - - has directed parishes to continue following all covid protocols during Lent and to please be mindful of the following:

- The Church has never obliged attendance at Mass nor the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is not a holy day of obligation.
- Imposing ashes in the usual manner is not permitted this year.
- Recommended Method: marking the foreheads of the faithful with ashes **with the use of a QTip**.
- A new QTip must be used with every person (as currently done with anointings).
- Sprinkling of ashes on the top of the head (the "Roman custom") is not customary in the U.S. and is inadvisable.
- Priests and, only if necessary, other ministers shall sanitize hands before and after imposition of ashes.
- Ashes are to be blessed after the homily of the Mass. They will be imposed at the conclusion of the Mass prior to the departure of the faithful.

## Ash Wednesday Children's and Family Mass

Please join us for our annual Children's and Family Ash Wednesday Mass. This Mass will be celebrated on Ash Wednesday, February 17 at 5:30 P.M. for all children and their families and friends. All are welcome. Begin this Lenten season with your child and make this a Lent to remember!!!

### Monthly Holy Hour for Vocations

There will be a Holy Hour for Vocations from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the Thursday evening that precedes First Friday. The next Holy Hour for Vocations will be on February 4. The Holy Hour will include Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary, and Confessions. The harvest is great but the laborers are few. Please join with us in praying for vocations!

### First Friday Mass *In Latin* at 12:15 P.M. and Eucharistic Adoration on February 5



First Friday Mass *in Latin* will be celebrated on February 5 at 12:15 p.m. Confessions will be heard after that Mass until 1:15 p.m. And First Friday Mass will also be celebrated (in English) at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, February 5 followed by Confessions until 6:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration will take place throughout the afternoon on Friday, February 5 from the conclusion of the 12:15 Latin Mass until 5:15 p.m.

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



Mass of Remembrance for Patty Chavez	Sunday, January 31, 2021 12:00 Noon
Candlemas Day	Tuesday, February 2, 2021
Memorial of St. Blaise	Wednesday, February 3, 2021
Holy Hour for Vocations	Thursday, February 4, 2021 7:00 p.m.
First Friday Mass in Latin	Friday, February 5, 2021 12:15 p.m.
Baptism Preparation Class	Saturday, February 13, 2021 10:00 a.m.
Kick-Off of Annual Catholic Appeal 2021	February 13-14, 2021 at all Masses
Ash Wednesday	Wednesday, February 17, 2021
Confirmation (Msgr. Gervasio presiding)	Thursday, March 4, 2021 6:00 p.m.

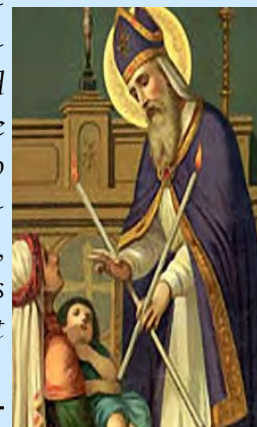


**Candlemas** is a feast celebrated annually on February 2. It celebrates three occasions: the presentation of the child Jesus; Jesus' first entry into the temple; and the celebration of the Virgin Mary's purification.

The Diocese has requested -- as a covid health/safety precaution -- that we not have the traditional Candlemas procession with lighted candles this year. Blessed candles are not to be distributed before, during or after the Candlemas Mass this year. Parishioners may bring their own candles to church to be blessed and that blessing will take place at the conclusion of the Prayer of the Faithful at the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Tuesday, February 2. All are invited and welcome.

### Prayer in Honor of St. Blaise (Memorial on February 3)

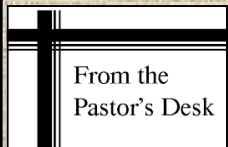
O God, deliver us through the intercession of Thy holy bishop and martyr Blaise, from all evil of soul and body, especially from all ills of the throat; and grant us the grace to make a good confession in the confident hope of obtaining Thy pardon, and ever to praise with worthy lips Thy most holy name. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



The Memorial of St. Blaise is February 3 and falls on a Wednesday this year. Throats will be blessed on Wednesday, February 3 at the conclusion of the 8:00 a.m. Masses. The Diocese has requested -- as a covid health/safety precaution -- that no individual blessings of throats occur involving any physical contact. The celebrant at the Feb. 3rd Mass at 8:00 a.m. will impart a general blessing to all in the congregation using the traditional formula ("Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr ..."). The celebrant that morning will extend the usual two crossed candles over the whole congregation while reciting the general blessing. All are invited and welcome.



## Pope Francis' Homily on Word of God Sunday (January 24, 2021): God's Word in the Scriptures is a Love Letter from the One Who Knows Us Best



*Pastor's Note.* Pope Francis has declared the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (this year it was last Sunday, January 24) to be the "**Sunday of the Word of God**" in order to promote knowledge and love of Scripture and to promote a closer relationship between the People of God and the Bible. This special day is intended to be a celebration of the word of God in and throughout the Church. The Holy Father said, "A day devoted to the Bible should not be seen as a yearly event but, rather, a yearlong event, for we urgently need to grow in our knowledge and love of the Scriptures and of the Risen Lord." Here at St. Michael's we observed Word of God Sunday at all Masses on Saturday, Jan. 23 and Sunday, Jan. 24 with special prayers and with homilies that focused on Scripture – keeping in mind the Pope's words that "we need to develop a closer relationship with sacred Scripture; otherwise, our hearts will remain cold and our eyes shut, struck as we are by so many forms of blindness. The Bible is not a collection of history books or a chronicle, but is aimed entirely at the integral salvation of the person." In Rome, the Pope's homily for this year's Word of God Sunday was preached by Archbishop Rino Fisichella since the Holy Father was unable to attend Mass that day due to sciatica. The Pope's Word of God Sunday homily is published below in its entirety. Please enjoy reading the words of the Pope on the Words of God. May the Word of God touch your mind and guide your heart so that you may live-out the Word worthily and well!

### SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

### HOLY MASS

### HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

St. Peter's Basilica  
Sunday, 24 January 2021

[Archbishop Rino Fisichella read the homily Pope Francis had prepared for the occasion]

On this **Sunday of the Word of God**, let us listen to Jesus as he proclaims the Kingdom of God. Let us consider what he says and to whom he says it.

What does he say? Jesus begins his preaching with these words: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand" (Mk 1:15). God is near, that is the first message. His kingdom has come down to earth. God is not, as we are often tempted to think, distant, up in heaven, detached from the human condition. No, he is in our midst. The time of his distance ended when, in Jesus, he became man. Ever since then, God has been very close to us; he will never retire from our human condition or tire of it. Gospel; today's reading tells us that Jesus repeating them. "God is near" was the leitmotif of his preaching, the heart of his message. If this was the opening theme and the refrain of all Jesus' preaching, it must necessarily be the one constant of the Christian life and message. Before all else, we must believe and proclaim that God has drawn near to us, that we have been forgiven and shown mercy. Prior to every word of ours about God, there is the Word who continues to tell us: "Do not be afraid, I am with you. I am at your side and I will always be there".



The word of God enables us to touch this closeness, since – as the Book of Deuteronomy tells us – it is not far from us, it is near to our hearts (cf. 30:14). It is the antidote to our fear of having to face life alone. Indeed, by his word the Lord consoles us, that is, he stands "with" (con-) those who are "alone" (soli). In speaking to us, he reminds us that he has taken us to heart, that we are precious in his eyes, and that he holds us in the palm of his hand. God's word infuses this peace, but it does not leave us in peace. It is a word of consolation but also a call to conversion. "Repent", says Jesus, immediately after proclaiming God's closeness. For, thanks to his closeness, we can no longer distance ourselves from God and from others. The time when we could live thinking only of ourselves is now over. To do so is not Christian, for those who experience God's closeness cannot ignore their neighbours or treat them with indifference. **Those who hear God's word are constantly reminded that life is not about shielding ourselves from others, but about encountering them in the name of God who is near. The word sown in the soil of our hearts, leads us in turn to sow hope through closeness to others. Even as God has done with us.**

(continued on page 7)



(continued from page 6)

## Pope Francis' Homily on Word of God Sunday (January 24, 2021): God's Word in the Scriptures is a Love Letter from the One Who Knows Us Best

Let us now consider to whom Jesus speaks. His first words are to Galilean fishermen, simple folk who lived by harsh manual labour, by day and night. They were no experts in Scripture or people of great knowledge and culture. They lived in a region made up of various peoples, ethnic groups and cults: one that could not have been further from the religious purity of Jerusalem, the heart of the country. Yet that is where Jesus began, not from the centre but from the periphery, and he did so in order to tell us too that *no one is far from God's heart. Everyone can receive his word and encounter him in person.* The Gospel offers a nice detail in this regard, when it tells us that Jesus' preaching came "after" that of John (Mk 1:14). That word after is decisive: it points to a difference. John received people in the desert, where only those able to leave their homes could go. Jesus, on the other hand, speaks of God in the heart of society, to everyone, wherever they find themselves.

He does not speak at fixed times or places, but "walking along the shore", to fishermen who were "casting their nets" (v. 16). He speaks to people in the most ordinary times and places. *Here we see the universal power of the word of God to reach everyone and every area of life.*



*Yet the word of God also has particular power, that is, it can touch each person directly.* The disciples would never forget the words they heard that day on the shore of the lake, by their boats, in the company of their family members and fellow workers: words that marked their lives forever. Jesus said to them: "Follow me, I will make you become fishers of men" (v. 17). He did not appeal to them using lofty words and ideas, but spoke to their lives. He told fishermen that they were to be fishers of men. If he had told them: "Follow me, I will make you Apostles, you will be sent into the world to preach the Gospel in the power of the Spirit; you will be killed, but you will become saints", we can be sure that Peter and Andrew would have answered: "Thanks, but we'll stick to our nets and our boats!" But Jesus spoke to them in terms of their own livelihood: "You are fishermen, and you will become fishers of men". Struck by those words, they come to realize that lowering their nets for fish was too little, *whereas putting out into the deep in response to the word of Jesus was the secret of true joy.* The Lord does the same with us: he looks for us where we are, he loves us as we are, and he patiently walks by our side. As he did



with those fishermen, he waits for us on the shore of our life. *With his word, Jesus wants to change us, to invite us to live fuller lives and to put out into the deep together with him.*

So dear brothers and sisters, *let us not ignore God's word. It is a love letter, written to us by the One who knows us best.* In reading it, we again hear his voice, see his face and receive his Spirit. That word brings us close to God. Let us not keep it at arm's length, but carry it with us always, in our pocket, on our phone. Let us give it a worthy place in our homes. Let us set the Gospel in a place where we can remember to open it daily, perhaps at the beginning and at the end of the day, so that amid all those words that ring in our ears, there may also be a few verses of the word of God that can touch our hearts. To be able to do this, *let us ask the Lord for the strength to turn off the television and open the Bible, to turn off our cell phone and open the Gospel. During this liturgical year, we are reading Saint Mark, the simplest and the shortest of the Gospels. Why not read it at home too, even a brief passage each day. It will make us feel God's closeness to us and fill us with courage as we make our way through life.*



## What Is "Convalidation" of a Civil, Non-Church Marriage All About? Congratulations, Sharon & Chuck, on the Convalidation of Your Marriage!

Congratulations to St. Michael's parishioners Sharon and Charles Barham on recently getting married at St. Michael's according to the rite of the Catholic Church. Sharon and Charles exchanged their vows with each other during a Mass that was celebrated on Tuesday, January 19 and attended by a few members of their family and friends. It was also Charles' 66<sup>th</sup> birthday. Sharon and Charles were married in a civil ceremony 40 years ago in November 1980. They decided to get married in the Church and to pursue the process known as "Convalidation". Convalidation, or the process of bringing your civil marriage to be recognized and blessed sacramentally by the Catholic Church, is not a difficult one. It involves meeting with a priest to discuss the Sacrament of Matrimony and the many good things that the Sacrament brings to couples who have been civilly married (among them, the grace of God's blessing to make their marriage last longer). The process also involves planning a simple ceremony where the civilly married couple exchanges their marriage vows or gives their consent to each other to love each other



faithfully for the rest of their lives. The sacramental ceremony is witnessed by a priest or deacon who accepts the couple's consent on behalf of the Church. If you are civilly married or know someone who is, we invite you to bring your marriage to be recognized by the Church. St. Michael's parishioners may contact the parish office to make a request for an appointment with the parish priest to explore Convalidation. Please note

*Convalidation*  
Bringing YOUR Marriage  
into THE Church

## World Marriage Day and National Marriage Week 2021



Special announcement for Catholic Married Couples! In observance of World Marriage Day (Sunday, February 14, 2021) and National Marriage Week (February 7-14, 2021), the Diocese of Trenton has launched an

exciting new web resource for Catholic married couples to enhance their marriage in three important ways: 1) *Reconnect with Your Spouse*, 2) *Make Your Marriage Even Better*, and 3) *Serve Others in Your Marriage*. Find all this and more at [www.dioceseoftrenton.org/world-marriage-day-for-couples](http://www.dioceseoftrenton.org/world-marriage-day-for-couples) - what every couple needs to make their marriage extraordinary! (Part of the *Building-StrongMarriages.org* initiative of the Diocese of Trenton)

### The Cana Rosary for Marriage (February 7-14, 2021)



To commemorate World Marriage Day (Sunday, February 14) and National Marriage Week (February 7 - 14), the Diocese of Trenton will host a special

livestreamed event for all Catholic families - *The Cana Rosary for Marriage* - from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm each evening, Sunday, February 7 through Saturday, February 14, 2021. This recitation of the rosary and reflection on marriage will be led by a different couple each evening; it will help all couples rely on our Most Holy Mother Mary to assist with their greatest needs and bring them closer to the Lord. All information for this event can be found at [www.dioceseoftrenton.org/world-marriage-day](http://www.dioceseoftrenton.org/world-marriage-day)

that a civilly married person whose marriage is not convalidated by the Church is not eligible/qualified to serve as a Baptism godparent, Confirmation sponsor, Eucharistic Minister, etc. It is our desire that civilly married persons take a more active part in the life of the Church so we invite those persons to consider having their marriages convalidated/recognized by the Church. Thank you, Sharon and Chuck, for being faithful witnesses to the teaching of the Church and for being positive examples for others who may be considering the sacramental convalidation of a civil, outside-the-Church marriage.



## Weekend Collection & Attendance

**Thank You!**

### Saturday, January 23, 2021

4:00 PM Parking Lot Mass \$2,127.00 112 Cars  
7:00 PM Public In-Church Mass \$307.00 48 People

### Sunday, January 24, 2021

7:00 AM Public In-Church Mass \$516.00 42 People  
8:30 AM Public In-Church Mass \$635.00 39 People  
10:00 AM Parking Lot Mass \$1,646.00 81 Cars  
12:00 PM Public In-Church Mass \$1,014.00 37 People  
7:00 PM Public In-Church Mass \$512.00 56 People

Mailed-in Envelopes for the January 24 Collection and for Previous Sunday Collections during the Pandemic Lockdown: **\$2,360.00**

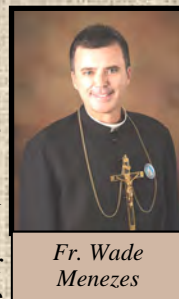
**This Week's Total: \$9,117.00**

**Same Week Last Year's Total: \$13,763.00**

Please continue your financial support of your parish during the COVID-19 situation by: mailing Sunday collection envelopes to the parish business office; dropping-off Sunday collection envelopes in the rectory mailbox at any time; or by means of online Faith Direct.net where the St. Michael's parish identification code is NJ319. *Thank you very much. And God bless.*

## Save the Dates: Parish Mission: Fr. Wade

The Parish Mission with *Fr. Wade Menezes, of the Fathers of Mercy*, was originally scheduled for May 2-6 and was postponed twice last year because of the COVID pandemic. We have re-scheduled the Parish Mission and Fr. Wade will be here at St. Michael's December 11-15, 2021 for an Advent Parish Mission. Please save the dates.



Fr. Wade  
Menezes

## PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

### YEARLY MASS INTENTIONS

#### JANUARY 2021

Louis Carlesimo  
r/o Children  
Ursula Carlesimo  
r/o Children

#### OCTOBER 2021

Salvatore J. Mirarchi  
r/o Joe & Carmel Mirarchi

## 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.

# ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT REQUEST FORM

If you wish to receive a written statement reporting your 2020 contributions to St. Michael's Church for purposes of your income tax returns, please complete the form below and return it to the Parish Office. Submit your request to St. Michael's Church, 800 Ocean Ave., Long Branch, NJ 07740. Or email your request to parish@stmichaelnj.com.

**Faith Direct** – If you make your weekly contributions or other contributions to the parish by means of the *Faith Direct* online method, you may obtain a written statement reporting such online contributions by visiting [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net) and following the instructions on the homepage.

For additional assistance, please call parish Business Manager Thomas Randazzo at the parish office at 732-222-8080 on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday during business hours 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (closed for lunch 12:00 Noon to 1:00 p.m. for lunch).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope Number: \_\_\_\_\_





# CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2021

## SAINT JEROME SCHOOL

### JANUARY 31—FEBRUARY 6

During Catholic Schools Week, we celebrate the key elements of Catholic education: faith development, academic excellence and dedication to service. These are the qualities that form the cornerstone of education at Saint Jerome School. This year is different from all other years. We may not have as many in-person activities as we would like but we are thriving in all that we do. **This year our open house is virtual.** Please make sure you go to [saintjeromeschool.org](http://saintjeromeschool.org) to see some of the great programs that are planned for Catholic Schools Week and beyond. You are always welcome to visit. Please call ahead to make an appointment (732.222.8686) to see first hand the great education that takes place everyday! **Registration for Pre-K through Sixth grade begins on Monday, February 9, 2021. looking forward to "seeing you."**

This year, I want to take the moment to thank you, the parishioners of Saint Michael's Parish. You are so very generous and supportive of all that we do at Saint Jerome School. Because of your continued efforts, our children do receive a quality Catholic education in the finest tradition. Rest assured the children do include you in our prayers at Mass and remember, every Thursday, down the road a piece the Sisters pray for you and thank God for you.

God bless you.

Sister Elizabeth Seton Dalessio, MPF  
Principal



### Baptism Preparation Class

The next Baptism preparation class for parents is scheduled for Saturday, February 13 at 10:00 a.m. in the Lower Church. Please call the parish office to register in advance.

### PARISH COUNSELING SERVICES

A joint effort of the Diocese of Trenton and Catholic Charities provides licensed professionals for short term counseling (up to six sessions) to parishioners dealing with difficult issues, for example, job-stress, family concerns, and bereavement. Contact your pastor or parish priest for additional information and referral. The fee is \$90 per session, but, if needed, financial assistance is available through the Diocese of Trenton Parish Counseling Services.

### Rosarian Prayer Group

#### PRAYERS FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH

This is a list of parishioners, relatives, and friends who are in need of our prayers for healing. **Our Rosarians also pray every Saturday for all the parishioners of St. Michael's.** Please note that intentions will be listed for two months and then removed,

unless the requestor calls to renew for another two months. Please also note that according to the HIPPA & privacy laws only the sick themselves or family members may request to be added to the list. Contact the Parish Office for all prayer requests. Thank you and may Our Lord grant healing to all those who are

suffering and in need of our prayers.

#### Week 2

Andrew Yeboah

#### Week 4

Walter Fiore

#### Week 6

Jennifer Abate

#### Week 8

June Scavone





# City of Long Branch

## Proclamation

*WHEREAS, St. Michael's Church in the City of Long Branch, New Jersey is recognizing, honoring, and thanking Mrs. Patty Chavez for 32 years of distinguished service to the parish – most recently, 21 years as the parish's admired and beloved Coordinator of Religious Education (CRE) since 1997 and preceded by 11 years as a catechist in the parish's CCD Program beginning in 1986; and*

*WHEREAS, the religious education and spiritual formation of our children is a fundamental and vital responsibility of family life and parish life, a valuable result of which is an upright and virtuous citizenry well trained in matters of faith, morals, and conscience. Mrs. Chavez has been a highly successful leader and achiever in these fields, thereby contributing greatly to the cultivation of good citizenship in our children and to the well-being of our community; and*

*WHEREAS, Mrs. Chavez has during the course of her superlative career as the St. Michael's CRE trained nearly 100 religious education teachers, overseen the catechetical instruction of more than 9,000 students, and prepared almost 3,000 children to receive Sacraments of Initiation of the Roman Catholic Church; and*

*WHEREAS, Mrs. Chavez has distinguished herself as an able, humble, and energetic servant of the community and of the parish through her selfless and authentic teaching and remarkable exemplification of faith and of love for her fellow man; and*

*WHEREAS, Mrs. Chavez, a life-long resident of Long Branch, has inspired the families of our City and of St. Michael's Church by excelling as a role model of professionalism, competence, utmost character, and zeal, and she has further excelled as wife, mother, grandmother, volunteer, friend, mentor, parishioner, and citizen.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that Sunday, July 1, 2018 be known as "**Patty Chavez Day**" in the City of Long Branch. I extend my congratulations to Mrs. Chavez as she celebrates her 32 years of service to St. Michael's Church and its parishioners, and I offer her my best wishes for continued success and fulfillment as she embarks upon her well-earned retirement.

*John Pallone*  
John Pallone, Mayor







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