

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

February 6, 2022 | Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

DAILY MASS

Mon – Sat: 8:00 AM | Mon: 7:00 PM

First Friday 12:15 in Latin in Oct, Dec, Feb, Apr, June, Aug. In English in Sept, Nov, Jan, Mar, May, July. And 5:30 (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 *And temporarily a Sunday 5:30 PM Mass as described on Page 5.

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.

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

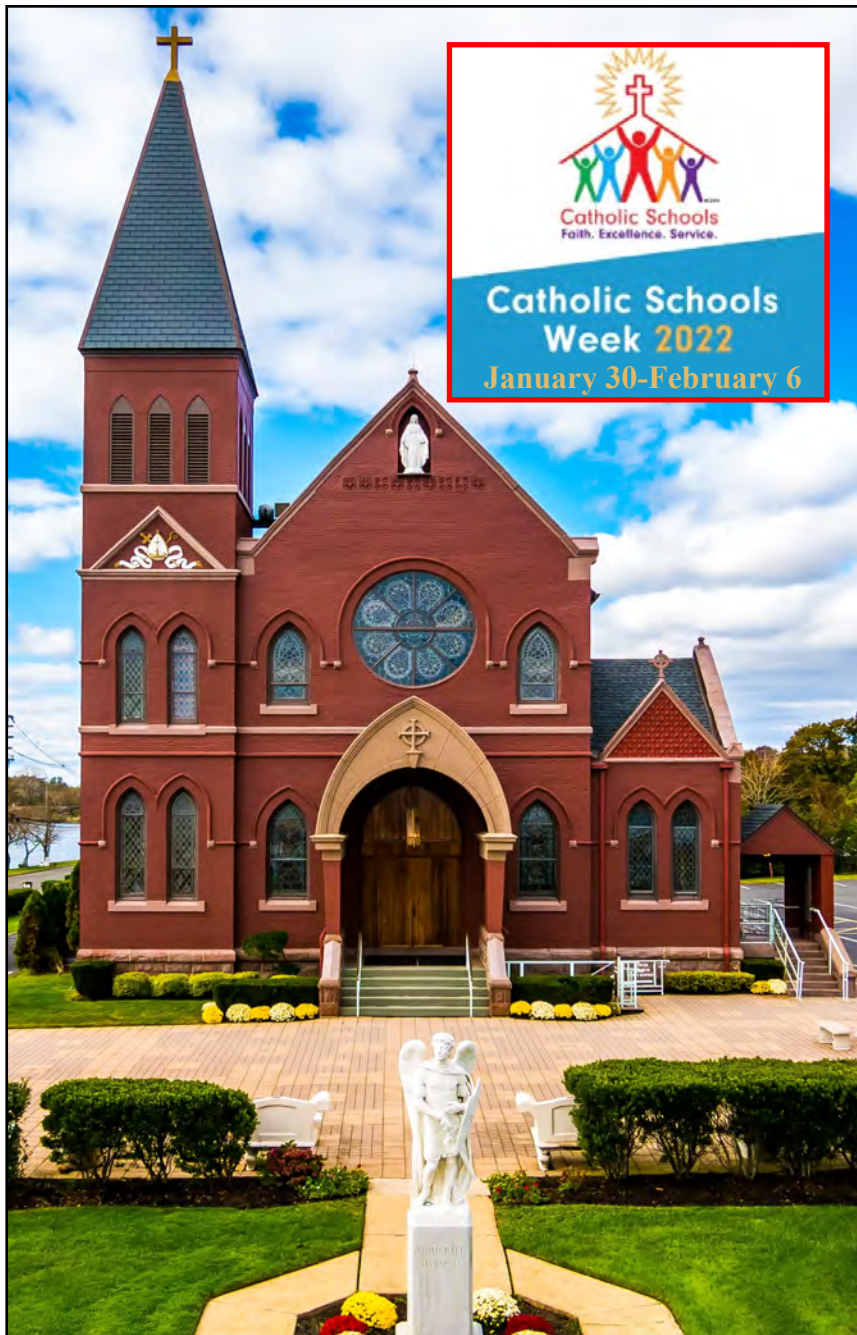
Baptisms take place generally on Sundays at 1:00 PM. Other days/times can also be arranged. Parents must be registered parishioners, and can call the Parish Office for information and scheduling.

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.



PARISH OFFICE

800 Ocean Avenue | Long Branch, NJ 07740
Ph: (732) 222-8080 | Fx: (732) 870-1174
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
Rev. Mark Nillo, Parochial Vicar
Thomas Randazzo, Business Manager
Kevin Connelly, Director of Religious Ed.
Mary Valan, Parish Secretary
Jose Rodriguez, Maintenance Manager
Lauren Walters, Acting Music Director
Susan Cleaver, Ass't Parish Secretary

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



*THEN I HEARD THE VOICE
OF THE LORD SAYING,
“Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?”
“Here I am,” I said; “send me!”
- Isaiah 6:8*

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 5

8:00 AM Special Intention: Nieces & Nephews	Linda
† Clarice Viggiano	Viggiano Family
4:00 PM † Jack DuBois	Mark & Dana Viggiano
† Angelina Costello	James & Ann Galatro
5:30 PM † John E. Hogan	Catherine Campen
7:00 PM People of the Parish	

Sunday, February 6

7:00 AM † Rosa Alba Stranieri	Mother Francesca
8:30 AM † Eileen & James Karlinski	Basaman Family
† Msgr. James Innocenzi	
10:00 AM † Jack DuBois	LaMarca Family
† Joseph & Jean Ferrante	Rick & Carol Ferrante
12:00 PM † Sister Charlotte Koch	Anne Marie & Bill Lisa
† Robert Hanlon	Audrey Boglioli
4:00 PM † Andrew Bertorelli	Evelyn & Bob Hampton
5:30 PM People of the Parish	
7:00 PM † Donald “Eddie” Blanchett	
Health & Blessings: Msgr. James Turro (100th Birthday)	

Monday, February 7

8:00 AM Pro-Life Cause	Friends of Sylvia Marsico
7:00 PM † Dianne Albano	Corey Family

Tuesday, February 8

8:00 AM † Renee DeMasi	Pat & Jane Farmer
† Louise Mazza	

Wednesday, February 9

8:00 AM † Joseph F. Boehles	Wife J.E. Boehles
† John Hogan	

Thursday, February 10

8:00 AM † Ed Thayer, Sr.	Pat & Family
† Daniel Kearney	

Friday, February 11

8:00 AM † Guy Maclin Attkinson	Harold J. Cassidy
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Saturday, February 12

8:00 AM † Emil Maggio	Tom Viggiano
† Carmine DiDomenico	Viggiano Family
4:00 PM † St. Jude, Mary and the Sacred Heart	
† Susan Whitman	Angela & Frank
5:30 PM † Cecilia LaMorte	Stephanie & Tom Siciliano
People of the Parish	
7:00 PM † John Tomaszewski	Tony Monte
† Rita Notaro Cittadino	Louie & Tricia Vincelli

Sunday, February 13

7:00 AM † Charles Murrin	Theresa
† Rosa Alba Stranieri	Mother Francesca
8:30 AM † Raymond Webb	Anne Marie & Bill Lisa
† Michael Wrubel	Wife Maria & Family
10:00 AM † Jack DuBois	Dorothy, Tony, & Sanzone Family
† Frank Jacobs	Valan Family
12:00 PM † Pauline & Joseph L. Greca	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Greca
† Noemi & Antonio Landi	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Greca
4:00 PM † Maryanna Doran	Gross Family
† Betty Mellone	Daughter Linda
5:30 PM People of the Parish	
7:00 PM † Joan Fiumefreddo	

The Center Sanctuary Candle will be lit this week
in loving memory of Joan Fiumefreddo.
The Blessed Mother and St. Joseph Sanctuary Can-
dles will be lit this week For the Pro-Life Cause.



16th Ordinary Synod

OUR PARISH'S PARTICIPATION

How does a listening session work?

All parishioners and community members are invited to participate in one listening session at their schedule's convenience.

A listening session is a small group session comprised of a facilitator, note taker, and between six and eight participants. These sessions will last a little over an hour. The facilitator will lead the session, posing the primary Synod question: What are the joys or consolations and the difficulties or obstacles of our journeying together as a church and faith community?

Participants will individually share their stories first, and then the participants will be asked to reflect on the stories they have heard from others in the session. After this moment of reflection, the participants will be asked about what moved, touched, or resonated with them. The purpose is not to agree or disagree with one another, but to listen and be moved by the Holy Spirit. Finally, the participants will be asked to share how they feel the Spirit guiding is them to be Church in the future.

The note taker will capture these stories, but not the names of the participants. Notes from each session will be forwarded to the Diocese. The Diocese will in turn, assemble the responses from all the listening sessions throughout the parishes of the Diocese of Trenton in a summary for use at the United States Bishop's Conference. The US Bishop's Conference will then compile their collective summaries to be forwarded to Rome.

SYNOD RESOURCES

Get your questions answered

Got questions about the synod? See the dedicated Synod page on the diocesan website where you can find Synod prayers, Bishop O'Connell's pastoral letter, a video of the Opening Mass in Trenton, including the homily, video messages from Bishop, a copy of the decree issued by the Bishop inaugurating the Synod in the Diocese – content in English and Spanish. Dedicated Synod page on The Monitor website where you can find news reports and updates on events, developments and new resources connected to the Synod from the Vatican and here in the Diocese.

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE SYNOD

A message from the Co-Chairpersons on sharing our own experiences

Pope Francis has given all the Catholic faithful an opportunity to take part in the preparation for the 2023 Synod of Bishops in our own diocese and parishes. You might wonder why the experience of individual people is so important. Our stories illustrate how we live our faith in the concrete everyday of our lives. Listening to each other's stories helps us relate to one another, to empathize, to recognize our common hopes and the faith that sustains us. If we are willing to ponder these stories and consider them in the light of our call to be Church, then we might be able to hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church in our time.

PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD

Please keep this endeavor in your daily prayers

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, for ever and ever. Amen.



Pastor's Note: During the recent weekend of December 11 and 12, the parish took up the customary annual second collection for the support of the Retirement Fund for Religious (retired Catholic sisters, nuns, brothers, and religious order priests who have dedicated themselves to lives of service and mercy). As usual the parishioners of St. Michael's and other parishes of the Diocese were very responsive and very generous in their support of that collection. Below is a thank you letter from Msgr. Thomas Mullelly (Vicar for Clergy and Consecrated Life of the Diocese of Trenton) and Sister Rose McDermott, S.S.J. (Delegate for Religious Life of the Diocese of Trenton). On behalf of Fr. Mark and myself and for all the retired religious who will benefit from your financial support and prayers....THANK YOU and GOD BLESS. As the following letter states, please be assured that you are receiving the graces of the "grateful prayer of those who once served in various ministries and continue to serve with their prayers in the more contemplative dimension of their lives."



Office of Clergy and Consecrated Life

January 19, 2022

Dear Pastor/Administrator,


Despite the covid distress that has ravaged the world, our country and our Church, once again, you have prompted the generosity of your people regarding the national collection for retired religious. Be assured that you and your parishioners have the prayerful gratitude of so many ill and retired sisters, brothers and priest religious throughout the United States.

As soon as the money is tabulated and recorded in our Office of Finance, it will be sent on to the Office for Retired Religious in Washington, DC. This Office disperses the finances in accord with the needs of the individual religious institutes. The money is a reserved fund, directed solely to the retirement needs of the numerous Villas and Nursing Facilities caring for these religious throughout the United States and can be used for nothing else. In addition to this monetary assistance, the Office offers specialized assistance with the financial planning of these facilities in addressing such health care needs. None of this could be accomplished without your entreaties and the kindness of your parishioners in response to the collection.

May the New Year 2022 be holy, happy, and healthy for you, your staff, and parishioners. Be assured you begin it with the grateful prayer of those who once served in various ministries and continue to serve with their prayers in the more contemplative dimension of their lives.

With sincere gratitude,


Msgr. Thomas D. Mullelly, J.D., J.L.M.
Vicar for Clergy/Consecrated Life


Sister Rose McDermott, S.S.J.
Delegate for Religious Life

Extra Sunday Mass for Covid-Vaccinated and Face Masked.

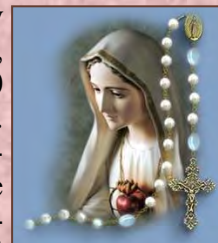
We have added – temporarily – an extra Sunday Mass to our weekend schedule which began on Sunday, January 9 at 5:30 p.m. At this Mass all will be required to please follow ALL THREE of the following: (a) have been covid-vaccinated at least once, (b) wear a face-mask throughout the Mass except to consume the Eucharist, and (c) receive Communion on the hand only and not on the tongue. Covid vaccination verification cards will NOT be required at this Mass....the honor system will be relied on. One covid vaccination is sufficient for attending this Mass, although the second and third vaccinations are strongly encouraged and preferred. If one is ill or experiencing covid symptoms or symptoms of other illness – as has been requested/recommended in the past – please remain at home. At our other Masses here at St. Michael's we have been following and we will continue to follow the guidelines of the State and Diocese: • vaccinations strongly encouraged (not required), • facemasks strongly encouraged (not required), • frequent handwashing strongly encouraged, • Communion on the hand (per the Diocese; the State is silent of course on this point) strongly encouraged (not required). With regard to Holy Communion, receiving on the hand and not on the tongue at ALL Masses is VERY, VERY, VERY strongly encouraged until we are all out of the covid woods (and required on the hand at the Sunday 5:30 Mass referred to above). Please pray that the date of emerging from the covid woods is soon!

Outdoor Holy Communion at Two Masses Temporarily.

As part of our effort to work through the omicron surge (some have been calling it the “omicron tsunami”)....the covid statistics at the nearby hospitals have been staggering and sobering; please pray for the patients, hospital staff, and all caregivers) and without over-reacting and with the balancing of numerous factors and limited resources and manpower and womanpower as best we can, Holy Communion will be available in the parking lot in your cars after the Saturday 4:00 indoor Mass and after the Sunday 10:00 indoor Mass beginning on Saturday, January 8th and Sunday, January 9th for those who attend and participate at those Masses in their cars by means of the live-stream transmission of the indoor Mass being celebrated at those hours. The radio transmission of the audio of these two Masses on station 92.1 FM will not be available because of equipment and technical reasons; the audio and video live-stream transmission of these two Masses may be accessed on your i-phone, tablet, or other similar devices (in your car or elsewhere) via the parish website www.stmichaelnj.com and the parish YouTube Channel. The priest/celebrant of these two Masses will be indoors as he celebrates the Mass and not on the stage near the garage in the parking lot. This plan will remain in effect until further notice and is temporary and is of course subject to inclement weather (e.g. winter snow or extreme cold) that would put the health of the Mass-goers, the Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, ushers, parking lot staff, and priests at risk. As Holy Communion is made available post-Mass in the parking lot in this extraordinary way to meet sacramental needs and to satisfy health and safety concerns during the ongoing pandemic, please keep in mind and observe the utmost reverence for the Blessed Sacrament and the utmost respect for the sacredness and dignity of

St. Michael's Altar Rosary Society Monthly Meeting Saturday, February 12, 2022

St. Michael's Altar Rosary Society will meet on Saturday, February 12, immediately following the 8:00 a.m. Mass in the Lower Church. Our Society seeks to foster devotion to the Rosary and to serve the interests of our St. Michael's community with spiritual and corporal works of mercy. All women of the parish are encouraged and welcome to join us.



PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

WEEKLY MASS INTENTION

† Ronald Lubischer r/o Joyce Lubischer
† Sabino Noivo r/o Tony & Natalina Gomes

YEARLY MASS INTENTIONS

SEPTEMBER 2022

†Ralph and Eleanor Siciliano r/o The Boeckman Family

We joyfully welcome into our parish family the following infants who were baptized in January 2022: Francesca Rae Thomas, Beatrix Lovely Chasen, Sienna Rose Antonelli, Bodhi Ford Stankovich, and Stella Elizaberh Polk. May God bless them and their families.



The next Baptism preparation class for parents is scheduled for Saturday, February 19 at 10:00 a.m. at the parish's Catholic Center at 16 Beechwood Avenue, West Long Branch. Please call the parish office to register in advance.

Parish Office Hours and Office Covid Protocols Modified.

Our parish business office and all parish staff will be following guidelines recently issued by our Diocese for the Diocese Chancery Office staff members and Chancery Office visitors as an omicron precaution. The parish office staff will alternate days in the office and days working at home through the end of February. Mary or Susan will be in the office on all weekdays during usual business hours through the end of February. Office hours will be re-evaluated in light of covid/ omicron/etc. and published at the end of next month. All office visitors are asked to please wear face masks while visiting the parish office until further notice.

***Pastor's Note.** In conjunction with Catholic Schools Week (January 30 – February 6), students from St. Jerome's School (8th Graders and 7th Graders) and Sister Elizabeth Dalessio (School Principal) will be speaking at several of our Masses here at St. Michael's during the February 5-6 weekend. Please welcome Sister Elizabeth and the St. Jerome's students and please pray for the good works of Catholic education. St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Jerome, and St. Michael, pray for us.*



A 2018 National Blue Ribbon School

Enriching Pre-K - Grade 8

SAINT JEROME SCHOOL

Registration begins
February 8, 2022

Please call us for info or a tour!
732-222-8686

250 Wall Street West Long Branch, NJ 07764
www.saintjermeschool.org

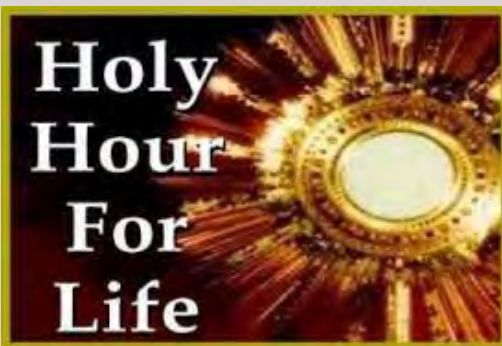
MISSION

The Saint Jerome School community strives to guide and motivate all students, to achieve their greatest success, in intellectual and spiritual development by providing an excellent education rooted in Catholic values.

EDUCATION

Saint Jerome School is highly respected for its rigorous academic standards, its student interaction, and its safe and nurturing environment. Students have access to current STEM technology such as **the Robotics Program and interactive virtual field trips.**

Holy Hours for Life on 1st and 22nd of the Month



The Supreme Court's decision in the *Roe vs. Wade* case was issued on the 22nd of the month in January 1973.

The Supreme Court heard the oral argument in the *Dobbs vs. Jackson* case (the case that we pray will overrule *Roe vs. Wade* or at least substantially cutback on *Roe* and substantially increase the protection of the unborn) on the 1st of the month in December 2021.

The Supreme Court's decision in the *Dobbs* case is likely to be issued in June of this year or perhaps sooner.

During the coming months as we anticipate the *Dobbs* decision, we will conduct a Holy Hour for Life on the 1st day and the 22nd day of each month beginning on February 1st. This Holy Hour will take place twice on

each of these days – immediately after the conclusion of the 8:00 a.m. Daily Mass until 9:30 a.m. and again in the evening of each of these days from 6:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Each Holy Hour for Life will include Eucharistic Adoration, Scripture reading, reflection/homily, Rosary, and Benediction. All are invited and welcome. Please pray for an end to abortion; for reconciliation, conversion, and healing; and for compassionate and competent care for women during and after crisis pregnancy. St. Michael, pray for us.

A CALL FOR PRAYER ON THE WORLD DAY OF THE SICK: Friday, February 11

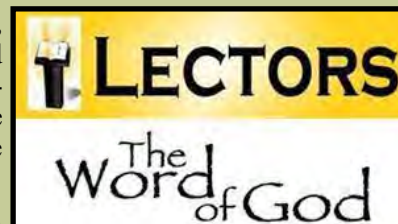
Saint Pope John Paul II in 1992 designated February 11 as World Day of the Sick. In the letter that Saint John Paul published to institute the World Day of the Sick he referred to “a special time of prayers and sharing, of offering one’s suffering for the good of the Church and of reminding us to see in our sick brothers and sisters the face of Christ who, by suffering, dying, and rising, achieved the salvation of humankind”. On World Day of the Sick, we are called to be especially sensitive to the needs of the ill and homebound, and so... We pray to You, O God of our Faith. We lift to You imploringly our needs and the needs of the sick throughout the world, particularly those who are cast away because of their illness or advanced age. We pray for the patience of the sick, and the compassion of caregivers. Let Your blessings of healing come upon our sisters/brothers that they may praise You all the days of their lives. God of healing, heal Your people. We pray, merciful God, hear our prayers. Amen.

Saint Michael’s Church: Invitation to Join Our Lector Ministry

To Our St. Michael’s Parishioners,

If you have an interest or desire to read at Mass, please consider joining our Altar Service Ministry as a Lector.

The Lector proclaims the Word of God at Mass. When Sacred Scriptures are read, God himself speaks to His people in His word. The readings from the Word of God are an element of the greatest importance in the Liturgy. The Word of God is addressed to His people through the readings from Sacred Scripture. In the readings, the table of God’s Word is spread before the faithful, and the treasures of the Bible are opened to them.



Perhaps God is calling **YOU** to be a Minister of the Word by becoming a Lector in His Church. The Lector qualifications include the following:

- Candidates for this ministry must have received all of the Sacraments (Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation); age 16 and older.
- The Lector believes that Sacred Scripture is the Word of God and has deep respect for God’s presence in that Word.
- Candidates are truly suited to perform the Lector’s function. They are receptive to comprehensive training based on their skills, possess a willingness to complete formation in this ministry, and demonstrate evidence of a deep spirituality.
- Candidates need to fulfill the Diocese of Trenton Child Protection Program’s requirements, and be a registered parishioner of St. Michael’s Church



Please consider joining this special Ministry. We promise YOU will find it a most rewarding and spiritual experience. And, it is not hard! And, the training is not difficult! Further, our Altar Service Ministry Coordinator, Dotty O’Hara, will work with you to accommodate your schedule.



If you would like to talk more about your interest in joining our Lector Ministry, Father John, Father Mark, and Dotty will be more than happy to answer your questions and tell you more about St. Michael’s Lector Ministry.

Please prayerfully consider becoming a Lector at St. Michael’s. Perhaps God is calling you to serve Him as a Reader in His church. Please let us know if we can answer any questions or concerns you might have by calling the Parish Office or seeing us after Mass.

Yours Faithfully in Christ,

Fr. John, Fr. Mark, and Dotty O’Hara

Earthquake Relief in Haiti; Special Appeal on Feb. 12 –13

Dear St. Michael's Parishioners and Visitors:

During the weekend of February 12-13 we will be welcoming to St. Michael's Church Fr. Paul Janvier, SVD (of Mount Carmel Church and Mother of Mercy Parish in Asbury Park) and Fr. Jean Felicien, a parish priest and canon lawyer of our Diocese of Trenton. Fr. Paul and Fr. Jean were born and raised in Haiti and have been ministering to the people of the Diocese of Trenton for many years. They will be with us next weekend to tell us about the extraordinary death toll, injuries, and property damage suffered in Haiti as the result of the magnitude 7.2 earthquake that struck the southern portion of the country on August 14 of last year. That earthquake damaged or destroyed hundreds of churches, including the local parish church of St. Francis de Sales in the Town of Mercan, Haiti (in the Diocese of Les Cayes), where Fr. Paul grew up and where he received his Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation).



Photo #1

Fr. Paul has asked – and Bishop O'Connell has given permission – for an opportunity to request that the people of St. Michael's please assist the people of St. Francis de Sales with prayers and financial support to help with the rebuilding of their church. Fr. Paul's church was completely destroyed by the earthquake (Photo #1). The similar nearby church of St. Agnes in Marceline, Haiti was damaged almost as extensively (Photos #2 and #3). The damage and the plight of the parishioners at nearby St. Agnes was reported (with the accompanying photos) in a recent online news story (link: <https://www.npr.org/2021/08/30/1032504117/churches-in-haiti-lie-in-ruins-after-the-earthquake-but-still-try-to-comfort-and0>).

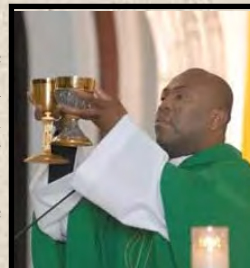
The pastor at St. Francis – Fr. Dunel Constant, whom Fr. Paul has known for many years – has estimated that the church costs will be in the range of millions themselves have wealth and yet they have no funds. The situation is dire for brothers and sisters in Haiti – far worse than others in order to life.

Fr. Constant has also informed that over 2,200 people died and over 12,000 were injured as the result of this earthquake in Haiti. The thousands injured include Fr. Paul's own sister and thousands in Haiti are facing homelessness, and displacement. Fr. Paul has six parishioners at his beloved St. Francis Parish where Masses are now being celebrated in the parking lot and without a church over the people's heads nor a roof over the



Photo #2

Fr. Constant, the people of St. Francis, and Fr. Paul have already expressed their gratitude to the people of St. Michael's and Bishop O'Connell for the unique opportunity to make this appeal for financial help and prayers. Fr. Paul will preach the homily at seven or eight of our ten Masses next weekend and Fr. Jean will preach the homily at the other two or three weekend Masses. Fr. Paul has written in a recent email to me: "The parishioners of St. Francis de Sales are praying and working hard all over to rebuild the church as soon as possible. We lean on the faith and donations from many people of good will to reach our goal. Confidently, we believe, with God at our side we will succeed, because the Church first of all belongs to Jesus Christ. This is what He said to Peter: 'Upon your faith I will build my Church.'" (Matthew 16:18).



Fr. Paul Janvier, SVD



Fr. Jean Felicien

rebuilding U.S. \$300,000. The St. Francis parish has contributed very little in the way of personal funds. They have clearly contributed \$8,000 of their own money and they – our parish – clearly need financial help and prayer to bring their parish church back to

formed Fr. Paul that approximately 12,000 were injured as the result of this earthquake. The thousands injured include Fr. Paul's own sister and thousands in Haiti are facing homelessness in the aftermath of the earthquake. Fr. Paul has six parishioners at his beloved St. Francis Parish where Masses are now being celebrated in the parking lot and without a church over the people's heads nor a roof over the

(continued on page 9)

(continued from page 8)

Earthquake Relief in Haiti; Special Appeal on Feb. 12 –13

Please be attentive to the homilies of Fr. Paul and Fr. Jean next weekend and please listen with “the ear of your heart.” (*St. Benedict*) Many of us en-
 ce with the damage and disruption-
 Nature (Hurricane Sandy is but one
 comfort and relief that can come
 known neighbors and unknown
 miles away. The second collection
 to this church-rebuilding project at
 made payable to “St. Michael’s
 memo line “Haiti Earthquake Re-

Thank you for your support of
 Francis Church in Mercan, Haiti.



Photo #3

are familiar from first-hand experi-
 tion that can be wrought by Mother
 example) and many of us know the
 from the charitable support of un-
 friends hundreds/thousands of
 on February 12-13 will go entirely
 St. Francis in Haiti; checks may be
 Church” with a notation on the
 lief”.

this appeal to help the people of St.
 May God bless you.

With prayers and gratitude,

Fr. John K. Butler, Pastor

ON THE CALENDAR AT ST. MICHAEL’S CHURCH



Pulpit Remarks re the Synod	February 5-6, 2022 All Masses
Visitation by St. Jerome’s School Students and Sister Elizabeth Dalessio, Principal	February 5-6, 2022 All Masses
Collection for Earthquake Relief/ Reconstruction for St. Francis De Sales Church in Diocese of Les Cayes, Haiti	February 12 and 13, 2022
World Marriage Day and Related Observances	February 13 to 27, 2022 (See Page 8 for details)
Valentine’s Day (Rosary Altar Society Luncheon)	February 14, 2022
Baptism Class for Parents	Saturday, February 19, 2022 10:00 a.m.
Presidents’ Day (Parish Office closed)	Monday, February 21, 2022
Holy Hour for Life	Tuesday, February 22, 2022 8:30 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.
Ash Wednesday	March 2, 2022
Confirmation (Msgr. Mullelly presiding)	Thursday, March 10, 2022

Weekend Collection & Attendance

Thank You!

Saturday, January 29, 2022 *

4:00 PM Mass	\$377.00	10 people
5:30 PM Mass	\$87.00	11 people
7:00 PM Mass	\$87.00	12 people

Sunday, January 30, 2022 *

7:00 AM Mass	\$639.00	26 people
8:30 AM Mass	\$1,239.00	63 people
10:00 AM Mass	\$1,535.00	95 people
12:00 PM Mass	\$1,188.00	107 people
4:00 PM Mass	\$481.00	78 people
5:30 PM Mass	\$182.00	19 people
7:00 PM Mass	\$305.00	41 people

Mailed-in Envelopes for the January 30 collection and for
 previous Sunday collections during the Pandemic Lockdown:
\$2,625.00

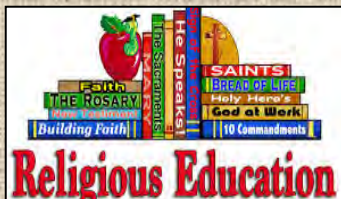
*** Mass attendance affected by Jan. 29 snow storm.**

This Week’s Total: \$8,745.00

Same Week’s Total Last Year: \$9,117.00

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 clear-
 ly. Please ask an usher for assistance.



From the Desk of Our
Director of Religious Education

Pastor' Note. Last week's snow storm of January 28-29 prevented the parish bulletin of Sunday, January 30 from reaching us in time for last weekend's Masses. The FedEx package containing those bulletins arrived here at St. Michael's on Monday morning the 31st from Illinois. Since many of our parishioners and weekend visitors did not have access to the January 30 bulletin, we are re-printing some of the key items from that bulletin in this the February 6 edition including Mr. Kevin Connelly's outstanding D.R.E. Letter below.

+AMDG+

Traditions are something handed down from previous generations. Some traditions have endured for thousands of years profoundly influencing human relationships and the development of civilized societies. "Good" traditions not only connect us to our ancestral past, they continue to enrich and unite us in every-day relationships. They remain relevant because authentic traditions and symbols permeate the soul with truths beyond mere verbal communication. "Good" traditions bind humanity together which is why Satan wants us to forget or destroy them. Sacred Tradition, which recalls the movement of God the Holy Spirit in history and in the lives of the people of God, is especially despised by the Evil One.

You don't need me to tell you that our country's traditions and symbols are under malicious assault, but perhaps you do not equally realize that our Catholic traditions are under the same pernicious attack, albeit by more covert methods (at least for the time being.) It would be hard to argue that the awareness of our Holy Days, especially our Holy Seasons, have not been dissipated by neglect, lack of interest and sometimes commercialism. The Twelve Days of Christmas, the Epiphany, the Baptism of Our Lord, the Annunciation, the Easter Triduum, the Ascension, Pentecost, Corpus Christi, the Transfiguration, the Assumption, All Saints Day, the Immaculate Conception and other days of profound significance and joy, so worthy of being honored and celebrated, are instead "oh-hums" to many of us Catholics.



In the big scheme of things, does it really make much of a difference that these Holy Days fade away? If you care about the quality of your life it does. We are losing out on the deep meaning, understanding and direction worthy traditions and symbols offer to our lives. They provide another channel of God's communication to us and in the bonding of people into community. It is no coincidence that with the loss of positive social and religious traditions violence, intolerance and apathy are on the rise in our world. With just a little reflection on the growing chaos in our society, it becomes apparent that our disregarded positive traditions are a much-needed source for actual *Peace on Earth and Good Will to All* because they help us to honor the sacred, see truth and to care about each other. ***The customs and rituals that make up our traditions aren't mere niceties, they are something we truly need!***

On February 2nd, forty days after Christmas, we come to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as the Purification of Mary, the Holy Encounter and Candlemas. This tradition is linked as far back as Moses, (14 centuries before Christ and 26 centuries before our present time) although it took on a new and fuller meaning with Jesus. And while it is not in the season, it is the last Christmas feast of the liturgical calendar as we commemorate Christ the infant child.

More than just interesting, it is the substance that the Presentation holds for us today that makes it important in our lives. In a world crying for purification, liberation and deliverance from darkness, Mary and Joseph went to offer Jesus to God in the Temple at Jerusalem. Here they encountered Simeon, an elderly and holy man. Taking Jesus in his arms Simeon exclaims: *Now, Master, you can dismiss your servant in peace; you have fulfilled your word. For my eyes have witnessed your saving deed, displayed for all the peoples to see: A revealing light to the Gentiles, the glory of your people Israel*

Simeon is saying to us, Listen up! God keeps His promises and Jesus, the Messiah, our Priest, Lord and Savior, has come to be the revealing light for all humanity. Right now, in real time, our world seems to be darkening and we need the reassurance of Simeon's words that Jesus will dispel sin and darkness and even in troubling times we can *be at peace*. We need to be reminded that we have been presented at baptism, becoming a Christian dedicated to God. At that time, we received a candle lit from the Paschal Candle and told, *You have been enlightened by Christ. Walk always as children of the light and keep the flame of faith alive in your heart.*

(continued on page 11)





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