

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

February 18, 2024 | First Sunday of Lent

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

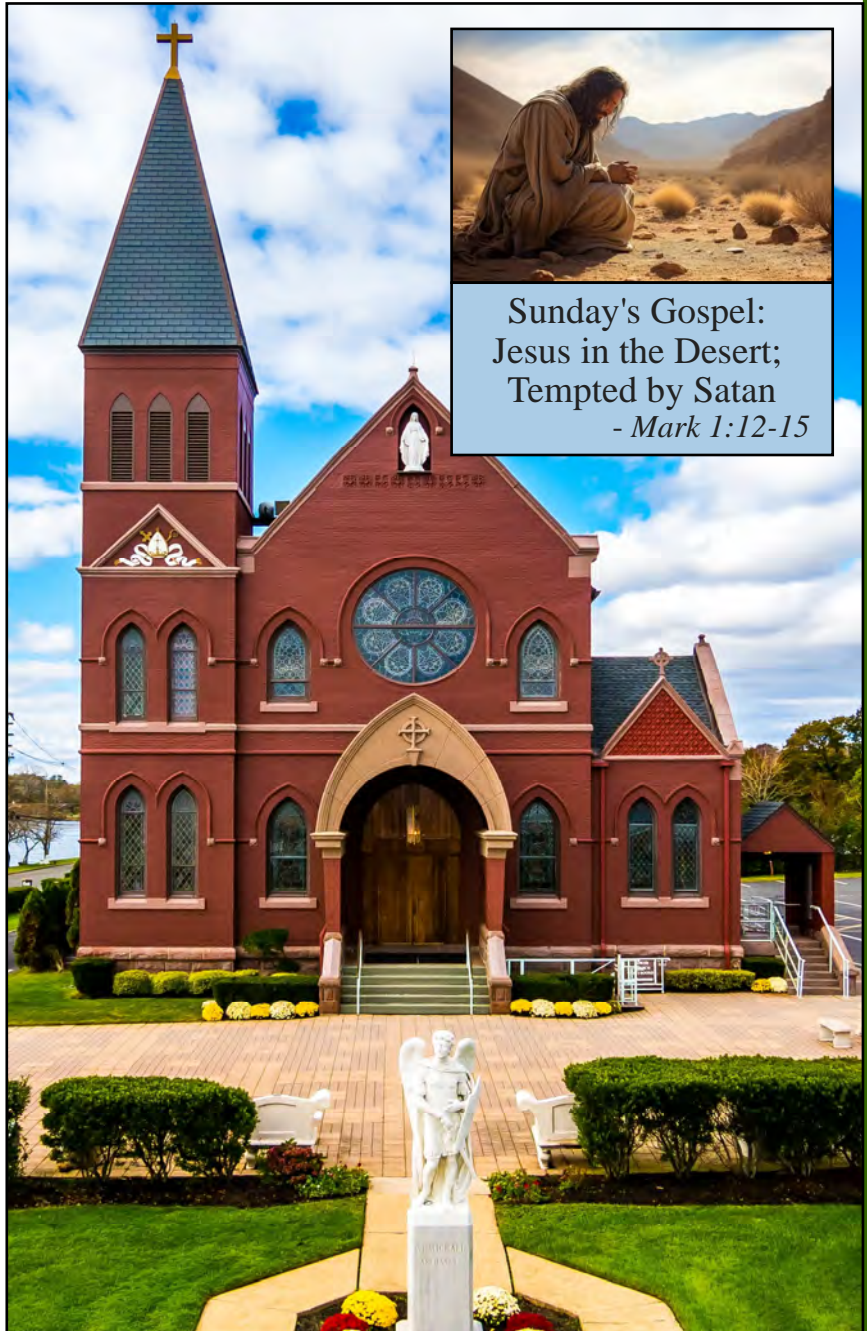
Couples who wish to marry at the parish should contact the Parish Office for a Marriage Request Form, and for further information. The bride or groom, or their parents/grandparents must be registered parishioners for at least eighteen months prior to the proposed wedding date to make arrangements. There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



Sunday's Gospel:
Jesus in the Desert;
Tempted by Satan
- Mark 1:12-15

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

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



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 17

8:00 AM People of the Parish

4:00 PM † Philip Meola

† Ellen Schmale

5:30 PM Special Intention

† Michele Posthumus

7:00 PM † Anthony Suozzo

John & Deborah Perri &
Family

Granddaughter Doris

Pamela Tuschmann

Susan Fahoury & Family

Sunday, February 18

7:00 AM † Charles Murrin

People of the Parish

8:30 AM † Bill Nina

† Kurt Kuster

10:00 AM † Michael Schaffner

† Jo-Ann D'Apolito

12:00 PM † Dennis & Rosalie Gallo

4:00 PM Special Intention: Staff Sgt
Thomas F.X. Bender, III

† James "Skip" Longenberger

7:00 PM † Jay Filippo

† Carol Donoforio

Theresa

Reid, Kuster & Weiner
Families

Reid, Kuster & Weiner
Families

Thorne Family

Frank & Joanne Buono

Bill Lisa

Family

Ilvento Family

Family

Filippo Family

Monday, February 19

8:00 AM Pro-Life Cause

† Nicholas Maria

7:00 PM † Margaret Haney

Friends of Sylvia Marsico

Vince

Phyllis Gottlieb

Tuesday, February 20

8:00 AM † Patricia Perry

† Maria Merenyi

Kathi West

SVDP

Wednesday, February 21

8:00 AM † Harry Tokanos

† Mildred Gilligan

Mary

Thursday, February 22

8:00 AM † Thomas Hanson

† Danielle Russo

Christine Munafo

Family

Friday, February 23

8:00 AM † Patricia Bakey

Special Intention:
Fr. John Butler

12:15 PM Thanksgiving to Our Lady
of Lourdes

Christine & Sean Munafo

Jane & Katie Farmer

Loundy Saint Louis

Saturday, February 24

8:00 AM People of the Parish

4:00 PM † Angela Perri

Special Intention: Sharon &
Anthony Florio

5:30 PM Special Intention

† Dennis Schilling

7:00 PM Thanksgiving to Our Lady
of Lourdes

John & Deborah Perri
& Family

Anne & Bill Lisa

Jane & Katie Farmer

Loundy Saint Louis

Sunday, February 25

7:00 AM Special Intention:
Sandi Catananzi

† Virginia Ann Porter

8:30 AM Special Intention: Marie & Lou
Cacciabarne

† Gerard Casazza

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

10:00 AM Special Intention:
Fr. John Butler

† Anthony Principe

12:00 PM † Joseph Lopopolo

† Tyler Napolitano

4:00 PM Special Intention: Staff Sgt
Thomas FX Bender, III

† Theresa A. Fisher

7:00 PM † Jay Filippo

Thanksgiving to Our Lady
of Lourdes

People of the Parish

Emily Carroll

Saundra & Maximo
Cortese
Anne & Bill

Mary & Steve

Joanne & Frank Buono

Joe & Susie Rinaldi

Denise Valentine

Mother, Palmyra Fisher

Family

Shelley Harris

Family

Loundy Saint Louis

LENT 2023

Our Lenten observances will include the following:

- On Fridays during Lent, *Mass* will be celebrated at **12:15 p.m.** in the Upper Church from February 16 through and including March 22. The 8:00 a.m. Mass on Fridays remains unchanged. *Eucharistic Adoration* will follow the 8:00 a.m. Mass on these Fridays of Lent until Benediction at 12:00 p.m. There will be no Friday 5:30 Masses during this year's Season of Lent.
- These Friday 12:15 Masses during Lent will be followed by Confessions after the 12:15 Mass until 1:15.



- Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Fridays of Lent at 7:00 p.m.
- Bishop O'Connell's annual letter regarding Lenten regulations is available on the parish website and was published in last Sunday's bulletin.
- The date and time of the parish's Lenten Penance Service will be announced.

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

Copies of *The Little Black Book* (six-minute reflections on the weekdays' Gospels of Lent) are available in the back of the church. Please help yourself to one!

YOU ARE INVITED TO
THE 9TH ANNUAL ST. MICHAEL'S

SOUP & SALAD BEFORE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Lower Church
Six Fridays of Lent

Beginning February 16, 2024

Soup & Salad from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

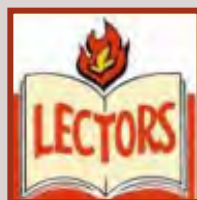
Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

FREE-WILL DONATION APPRECIATED

New volunteers are always welcome to join the Soup & Salad Team and to help with at-home preparation of soup items or salad items or dessert items and with night-of set-up, serving, and clean-up.

To learn more about helping with our Soup & Salad Suppers, please call JoAnn Dorgan at (732) 614-1484.



Our Parish is in need of lectors/readers and altar servers for **ALL** of our Masses and especially our Sunday 7:00 a.m. Mass, Saturday 7:00 p.m. Mass, Weekday Masses, and from time-to-time for our Funeral Masses.

If you can help, please call the parish business office, 732-222-8080.

Thank you!



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

IMPORTANT DATES RE OUR CCD PROGRAM

- Sacrament of Confirmation: Thursday, March 14, 2024. (Msgr. Thomas Mullelly presiding)
- First Confessions: Saturday, March 23, 2024.
- First Holy Communion: Saturday, May 4, 2024.

Presidents' Day



The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, February 19 in observance of Presidents' Day. Daily Mass that day will be celebrated at the usual Monday 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. times with Confessions after each of those Masses. The office will re-open at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 20.

Diocese of Trenton 27th Annual Men's Conference



To register go to cmjc.ticketspice.com/2024mensconference

Saint Mary Mother of God Church,
19 Cherry Tree Farm Road, Middletown NJ
Saturday Feb. 24 8:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m.

Our 2024 Conference Speakers



Joe Klecko
NY Jets, NFL
Hall of Fame



Tim Glemkowski
Speaker
Catholic Evangelist



Xavier Reyes-Ayral
Author Marian
Apparitions Expert

Second Collection This Weekend February 17 and 18 for Black and Native Americans Mission



This weekend we will have a second collection for the Black and Native Americans Mission as requested by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Mandated by the III Plenary Council in 1884, the 125-year-old National Collection for Black and Indian people continues as the embodiment of the Church's concern for evangelizing the Black and Indian peoples of the United States. The funds are distributed as grants to dioceses throughout the United States, supporting and strengthening evangelization programs which otherwise would cease. The Collection was formerly known as The Black and Indian Home Mission Collection. For more information visit blackandindianmission.org.

Please make checks payable to St. Michael's Church.

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

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 4

Jack Barney



LAUNCH WEEKEND: FEB. 24 & 25



February 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today, I invite you to be a part of something truly special— the Annual Catholic Appeal! This year's theme, "One Love, One Faith, One Family," mirrors the teachings of Christ and resonates with the wisdom of Colossians: "And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity" (Colossians 3:14). This profound and perfect love reinforces our shared belief in one God, inspiring us to become pillars of compassion and support for each other.

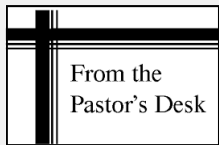
A gift to the appeal becomes a lifeline for families in need, supports the education of our youth in the faith, and empowers individuals on their journey to become religious leaders, such as Deacons and Catechists, serving our parishes and communities with wisdom and faith. Your support also sustains our retired priests, allowing them to continue offering guidance, and provides essential resources to our Catholic school principals and teachers, ensuring an education grounded in faith and values.

May God bless you abundantly for your generosity and commitment to our church. Join us on this journey, hand in hand, as we embody the spirit of "One Love, One Faith, One Family."

With every good wish, I remain

Most Reverend David M. O'Connell, C.M.
Bishop of Trenton



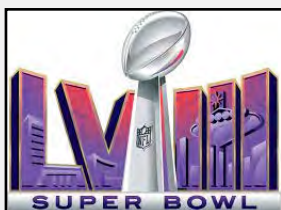


Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Michael's Church:

Next weekend (February 24 and 25) is Pledge Weekend and Kick-Off Weekend for this year's Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA). Each year our Diocese of Trenton and Bishop O'Connell request the financial support of all of the members of the Diocese of Trenton to further the work of our Diocese's ministries. Each of us – wherever we reside and wherever we worship and pray – has a vital part in all we do in Christ's name, and each of us can share in all we do (and in all that we are called upon and invited to do) with a gift to the Annual Catholic Appeal. Our single Act of Faith/Hope/Charity propels the works of love that build up our Church. You are able to make that happen with a generous gift to the ACA. Please read the Bishop's ACA letter published above. Pledge cards are in the pews at all of our Masses this weekend.

(continued on page 7)

IF IT'S FEBRUARY IT MUST BE.....



The Heat is ON! Please Keep Praying!



Some might have noticed the absence of heat in the Upper Church in recent weeks at some of the early morning Masses and evening Masses. Our 138-year old church is heated by a boiler system that is approximately 30 years old and well past its life expectancy and the useful life for which it was designed.

Sooner than later we will have a very significant bill to pay for a new boiler (in the range of approximately \$75,000). In the meantime, our boiler repair service and our parish maintenance team (Larry and Tom) have done a heroic job (often very early in the morning long before even the earliest Mass-goers arrive) of keeping the heat "ON" at least temporarily and moderately by means of band-aid repairs to the boiler itself (located in the bowels of the southwest corner of the church basement) and creative solutions to the leaks in the maze of steampipes embedded in the pilasters and sheet-

rock of the walls of the janitor's closet in the northeast corner of the basement (please see the accompanying photos and the area highlighted in the yellow circle).

The expense thus far for the current round of heat-related repairs is approximately \$6,500. There could be more similar near-term expenses during the remainder of this year's heating season plus the "big bill" looming out there in the not-so-distant future for the new boiler replacement. The plan for paying these bills (at least partially) – as discussed with the parish trustees and parish finance council – is to set aside on reserve the \$20,500 that St. Michael's will be receiving from the Diocese of Trenton as our rebate for successfully reaching and surpassing our 2023 parish goal in last year's Annual Catholic Appeal fundraising campaign and doing the same with the rebate of approximately \$20,000 that we will hopefully earn again if *when*(!) we reach our goal in this year's Annual Catholic Appeal, which coincidentally, commences next weekend. Other financing plans are also being evaluated.

Please say a prayer and cross your fingers (on *both* hands!) that the ol' boiler in our church basement will be able to limp its way to the finish line of the Winter of 2023-2024 and keep us reasonably warm until then and that we will be able to generate and set aside the funds necessary for the installation of a brand new boiler later this year. God bless.



In observance of World Marriage Day (Sunday, February 11, 2024) and National Marriage Week (February 7-14, 2024), the Diocese of Trenton honors all Catholic married couples with a special web resource 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, and for newly

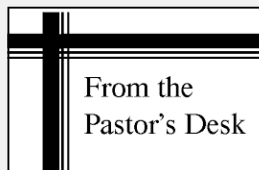
married couples, be sure to visit www.dioceseoftrenton.org/newly-married-resource-page - what every couple needs to make their marriage extraordinary! (Part of the *BuildingStrongMarriages.org* initiative of the Diocese of Trenton)

Week 3 (February 17 and 18)

Celebrating the Beauty of Catholic Marriage from the Catechism – read more at usccb.org under "Resources"

1643 "Conjugal love involves a totality, in which all the elements of the person enter - appeal of the body and instinct, power of feeling and affectivity, aspiration of the spirit and of will. It aims at a deeply personal unity, a unity that, beyond union in one flesh, leads to forming one heart and soul; it demands indissolubility and faithfulness in definitive mutual giving; and it is open to fertility. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*)

(continued from page 5)



LAUNCH WEEKEND: FEB. 24 & 25

This year St. Michael's share of the Diocesan-wide goal is \$104,000 (a dollar amount that has been reduced by the Diocese from our former goal of many years of \$109,000 in light of our parish's recent lower numbers in terms of Mass attendance and the Sunday Offertory collection). We at St. Michael's achieved our ACA goal last year and the six years before that for the first times; we've been batting 1,000% in the Annual Appeal since 2017! As the result of reaching our parish ACA goal in each of those seven most recent years we not only strongly supported the Diocese in its charitable works and ministries (including sending young men to the seminary to become our priests of the future) and demonstrated our commitment to stewardship and charitable giving, our parish also gained the financial reward of a rebate that has averaged \$20,200 per year for each of the past seven years (2023 back to 2017).

Those ACA rebate funds have been utilized for the Lower Church restrooms renovation project, church foundation water-proofing and repairs, CCD/education materials, church roof repairs, Covid-related upgrades to the Lower Church's ventilation equipment, new ventilation equipment for the Confessionals, and buildings and grounds repairs. The 2022 ACA rebate was also used in part to fund ordinary operating expenses since - as we all know - the parish's revenue from Sunday collections and the Easter and Christmas collections was depleted in 2022 due to the pandemic and reduced in-church Mass attendance. I have proposed to our Parish Trustees and the Parish Finance Council that we use the hoped-for 2024 ACA rebate to pay for a significant portion of the boiler repairs and the ultimate boiler replacement so that we can keep the heat "on" in our church; details about our church's heat, boiler, and boiler expenses may be found on Page 6 of this bulletin.

As the people of the Diocese of Trenton, we and you and I and *all of us* have an opportunity to help others see Christ working in our midst. I ask you to please take a moment and prayerfully reflect on any help you can give. We truly need everyone to participate. This year we again are striving to do our parish fair share toward helping the Diocese reach the Diocesan-wide/four-county/97-parish goal of \$6.5 million in the 2024 Annual Catholic Appeal. I am always grateful and moved by the level of support that you give to our parish and to our Diocese. I thank you for this support, and may God continue to bless you and your family and St. Michael's Parish.

With prayers, gratitude, and best wishes,

Rev. John K. Butler, Pastor



Join us for a powerful Pro-Life event:

Friday, February 23rd @ 7:00pm at Holy Innocents Church, Neptune

We begin with a presentation by:

Michael Phelps with Good Counsel Homes:

Good Counsel Homes serve and protect the most poor and vulnerable – homeless mothers and their children. They offer a loving home, a 24/7 crisis pregnancy hotline and Lumina – their post-abortion healing program.

Michael's presentation will be followed by a Q & A session

We will continue our program with a viewing of "Unplanned"

We will conclude with give aways of engaging Pro-Life books and copies of the DVD of "Unplanned"

Literature on a variety of pro-life topics will be available for free in the gathering space – along with an opportunity to dialogue with others who share our ardent desire to protect and defend the most vulnerable among us!

"And the king will say to them in reply, Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40



UNPLANNED

All Abby Johnson ever wanted to do was to help women. As one of the youngest Planned Parenthood clinic directors in the nation, she was involved in upwards of 22,000 abortions and counseled countless women about their reproductive choices. Her passion surrounding a woman's right to choose even led her to become a spokesperson for Planned Parenthood, fighting to enact legislation for the cause she so deeply believed in.

For further details please contact: jeanmanigold@hotmail.com

Until the day she saw something that changed everything, leading Abby Johnson to join her former enemies at 40 Days For Life, and become one of the most ardent pro-life speakers ever.

NOTE: Because of sensitive topics and images, this film is rated R by the MPAA. Viewers under the age of 17 must be accompanied by an adult or guardian or must obtain a signed permission slip to attend.

For further details please contact: jeanmanigold@hotmail.com



HELP SAVE LIVES IN MONMOUTH COUNTY!

Protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide witness of prayer, fasting, peaceful vigils, and community outreach.

Take part in 40 Days for Life in Monmouth County

Vigil Location: Planned Parenthood at 69 E. Newman Springs Road, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702.

Vigil Hours: Monday through Friday 8 am to 6 pm. Saturday / Sunday - at will.

Local Contact: monmouth4life@hotmail.com

Learn More... 40daysforlife.com/shrewsbury

Check our Resources for Educational Information, Prayer and Pregnancy Resources.

Come and Bring a Friend... or 2... or 3!

40 Days For Life/Shrewsbury is a peaceful, prayerful witness. There is no shouting, foul language or graphic signs. As always, stay on the sidewalk or public right of way. Do not go on private property, block driveway or park in Planned Parenthood lot.

Please follow current COVID 19 protocols.

St. Michael's parishioners usually gather at this location on Mondays at 10:00 a.m., 12:00 Noon, and 2:00 p.m. during these 40 Days for Life.

Weekend Collection & Attendance

Thank You!

Saturday, February 10, 2024

4:00 PM Mass	\$2,118.00	201 people
5:30 PM Mass	\$1,125.00	103 people
7:00 PM Mass	\$660.00	74 people

Sunday, February 11, 2024

7:00 AM Mass	\$1,097.00	73 people
8:30 AM Mass	\$1,759.00	112 people
10:00 AM Mass	\$1,343.00	135 people
12:00 PM Mass	\$1,880.00	178 people
4:00 PM Mass	\$945.00	139 people
7:00 PM Mass	\$257.00	41 people

Mailed-in Envelopes for the February 11 collection and for previous Sunday collections during the Pandemic Lockdown: **\$2,887.00**

This Week's Total: \$14,071.00

Same Week's Total Last Year: \$11,978.00



Lenten Soup for the Soul Series

San Alfonso Retreat House

755 Ocean Ave • Long Branch, NJ • 07740

February 21, March 4, March 11 and March 18

6:00 – 8:30 PM

Soup Supper 6:00 PM, Presentation 7:00 pm

\$25 per Evening

Looking for some spiritual nourishment this Lent?

Come to our Lenten Soup for the Soul Evenings!

Join us for some soup, fellowship, prayer and reflection to feed your body, mind, heart, and soul!

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Become What You Celebrate

Presenter: Rev. Timothy Tarnacki, OSPPE

Monday, March 4, 2024

What Does It Mean To Be The Beloved?

Presenter: Sr. Maureen Christensen, RSM

Monday, March 11, 2024

How to Witness To Your Faith in the 21st Century

Presenter: Cristina D'Averso-Collins

Monday, March 18, 2024

Praying With Jesus' Good News in the Parables of Mercy

Presenter: Judy Schiavo

Registration is required

To register: e-mail info@sanalfonsoretreats.org OR

register online: www.sanalfonsoretreats.org

Phone: 732-222-2731, X140

Full program description available at

www.sanalfonsoretreats.org

21 Main Ave.
Ocean Grove
NJ 07756



Silent Directed Retreat Weekend

February 23 - 25, 2024



Silent Directed retreats allow us to deepen our relationship with God. They offer an experience grounded in solitude, silence, and prayer, including daily meetings with a trained spiritual director. This time invites one to listen deeply to the movements of the Spirit.

Directors

Carol Beevers SSJ
Joannie Cassidy SSJ
Maureen Conroy RSM
Joe Costantino SJ
Cathy Looker SSJ

Ways to Register and Participate:

- Donation: \$270 (includes meals)

To register for the February 23-25, 2024 **Silent Directed Retreat Weekend** please email S. Joannie Cassidy at jlc.cassidy@gmail.com or call (732) 898-9981.

21 Main Ave.
Ocean Grove
NJ 07756



Living the Lent We Get

March 2, 2024 • 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Presenter: Christine Eberle



What if we approached Lent as an invitation, rather than a challenge? In the first part of this retreat, we will explore how to let life become its own Lenten discipline, calling us to prayer, sacrifice, and generosity through the ordinary experiences of each day. In the afternoon, in the company of the Samaritan Woman at the Well, we will listen for Jesus' invitation to allow ourselves to be seen, known, and cherished by God—just as we are.

Christine Marie Eberle passionately connects scripture, spirituality, and everyday life. She is the author of two books of daily meditations—*Finding God in Ordinary Time* and *Finding God Abiding*—and is known for her interpretations of Biblical women.

Ways to Register and Participate:

- In-person for the day—Donation: \$30 (includes lunch)
- Overnight Friday and attending the Retreat Saturday—Donation: \$85
- Virtual Participation Donation: \$20

To register for the **Living the Lent We Get Retreat** please email S. Joannie Cassidy at jlc.cassidy@gmail.com or call (732) 898-9981.



Why is it so important to **register with a parish**? Registration is the official way we join a parish community. Some people think that because they attend a particular parish they automatically belong. Registering as parishioners **requires signing up, formally enrolling yourself in a parish by contacting the parish business office**. Registration is a commitment to a community, a way to be included in the religious, social and ministerial activities of your parish. Registration shows you belong. It is also necessary for certain benefits and administrative purposes, like scheduling sacraments, obtaining a sponsor or godparent eligibility and qualification letter from the pastor, and getting donation statements for your income tax returns.

Most importantly, it lets the parish count on you, to call on you to assist in its mission. Registering in your parish is a statement of faith and confidence in the life and work of your parish and of the Church.

When we buy a house or rent an apartment: • we go to City Hall to register to vote; • we call the gas company and the electric company and the water company and the phone company to arrange for these services; • we call the cable company to have our cable TVs and computers brought online. When we travel, we register at our hotel's front desk.

By the same token, when we move into a new parish (OR, when we have been “going to the parish church for a long time” but for whatever reason have NOT “gotten around” to registering as a parishioner with the parish business office), it's customary, appropriate, necessary, and “good form” to visit the parish office and register. The same rule of thumb applies to our children when they grow-up and reach the age of young adulthood; **the time has then arrived for that grown-up child to register in his or her own name as a member of his/her parish (whether still residing at home with Mom and Dad or having moved into his/her own home)**. For further information about registering as a parishioner at St. Michael's Church, please call Mary at the Parish Office at 732-222-8080. Thank you.

ALL ARE WELCOME

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.



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

Learn More: nj.marchforlife.org

New Jersey Right to Life
MARCH FOR LIFE

ON THE CALENDAR AT ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH



40 Days for Life	February 14 - March 24, 2024 (See Page 9 for details)
Fridays in Lent (Mass at 8:00 <u>and</u> 12:15. Confessions after each of these Masses. Eucharistic Adoration 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)	Friday, February 16-March 22, 2024 (excludes Good Friday) (See Page 5 for details)
Lenten Stations of the Cross and "Soup & Salad"	Fridays of Lent 6:00 p.m. "Soup & Salad" 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross (See Page 5 for details)
Presidents' Day (Parish Office Closed)	Monday, February 19, 2024
Confirmation	Thursday, March 14, 2024
First Confessions for CCD Second Graders	Saturday, March 23, 2024
Palm Sunday	Sunday, March 24, 2024
Easter	Sunday, March 31, 2024
First Holy Communion	Saturday, May 4, 2024
New Jersey March for Life	Thursday, September 26, 2024

Communion Visits; Confession Visits; Anointing of the Sick



Please keep in mind that the parish priest and our lay Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist are available and eager to bring Communion to parishioners who are in the hospital (nursing homes, assisted living facilities, rehab centers, and hospices, too) and to parishioners who are at home but unable to get to church. Please contact Mary Valan at the parish office or Dotty O'Hara at (908)310-6497 to make arrangements. Hospitals and other healthcare facilities **generally do not notify the parish office** regarding their Catholic patients who desire to receive Sacraments. And so it falls to the patient herself/himself or to a family member or friend to contact the parish office to make the request. The parish priest will also very gladly make a hospital visit or home visit to hear a Confession and/or administer the Sacrament of the Sick ("Anointing of the Sick") in addition to bringing Holy Communion. Please remember to contact the parish office or Dotty to make these arrangements. Thank you.



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 (732-222-8080) 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.



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

When: Tuesday, February 20, 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