

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

February 25, 2024 | Second 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.

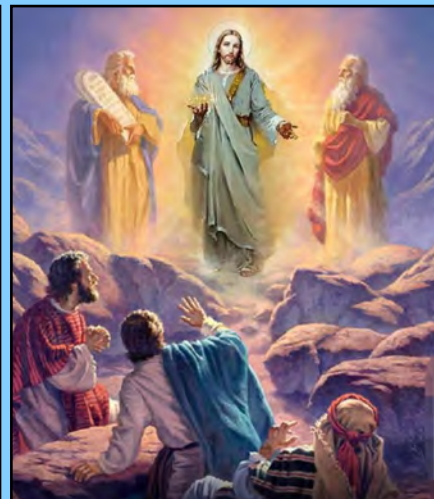
BAPTISMS

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.

This Sunday's Scripture Readings



This Sunday's Scripture readings utilize the Biblical stories and images of the father-son relationship between Abraham and Isaac and between God, the Father and Jesus to help us better understand and to succeed in our Lenten tests and in our Lenten transformations. The image on the left is from the stained glass window in our own church depicting "The Testing of Abraham" and his near-sacrifice of his son Isaac. (today's First Reading – Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18) The image on the right depicts the Transfiguration of Jesus – "Then from the cloud a voice from Heaven was heard saying, 'This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.'" (today's Gospel reading – Mark 9:2-10)

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

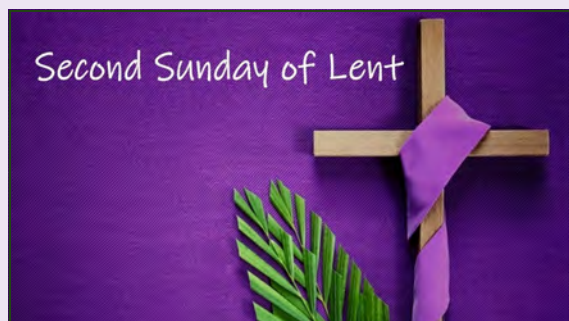
Larry Swenson, Maintenance Coordinator

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 24

8:00 AM People of the Parish

4:00 PM † Angela Perri John & Deborah Perri & Family

Special Intention: Sharon & Anthony Florio Anne & Bill Lisa

5:30 PM Special Intention † Dennis Schilling Jane & Katie Farmer

7:00 PM Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Lourdes Loundy Saint Louis

Sunday, February 25

7:00 AM Special Intention: Sandi Catananzi Emily Carroll

† Virginia Ann Porter Sandra & Maximo Cortese

8:30 AM Special Intention: Marie & Lou Cacciacarne Anne & Bill

† Gerard Casazza Mary & Steve

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 Joanne & Frank Buono

† Anthony Principe Joe & Susie Rinaldi

12:00 PM † Joseph Lopopolo Denise Valentine
† Tyler Napolitano Mother, Palmyra Fisher

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

† Theresa A. Fisher Shelley Harris

7:00 PM † Jay Filippo Family
Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Lourdes Loundy Saint Louis
People of the Parish

Monday, February 26

8:00 AM Pro-Life Cause Friends of Sylvia Marsico

† Deceased Members of the Russo Family Family

7:00 PM † Mary Anne Browne

Tuesday, February 27

8:00 AM † Anthony Suozzo

Wednesday, February 28

8:00 AM † Robert Clinton Margaret Clinton

† Deceased Members of the Cattelona Family Family

Thursday, February 29

8:00 AM † Chip Buenafuente Carroll Family

† Alfred Thorne

Friday, March 1

8:00 AM † Paul Kirzow Bob Perricelli

Thanksgiving to St. Michael Loundy Saint Louis

12:15 PM † Margaret McCarthy

† Charles Bigalke

Saturday, March 2

8:00 AM † Chestoria Heaning Linda

People of the Parish

4:00 PM Special Intention: Anthony & His Cousins

† Anne & Ernesto DeMarco Anne & Bill

5:30 PM † Deceased Members of the Zambrano Family Armand R. Zambrano, Jr.

Special Intention

7:00 PM Thanksgiving to St. Michael Loundy Saint Louis

Sunday, March 3

7:00 AM † Richard Fromer Bruce & Angelica

† Jack Levy Wife Debbie

8:30 AM † John McTague VanDerhoef Family

Special Intention: Staff Sgt Thomas FX Bender, III Family

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

10:00 AM † Eileen Ann Harrington Fr. John & the Butler Family

Special Intention: Erich & Barbara Bodnar Peter Greeley

12:00 PM † Theresa Fisher Daughter Palmyra

† John Fisher, Sr. Daughter Palmyra

4:00 PM † Charles F. Hanisch Sister Audrey

† George Hanisch Sister Audrey

People of the Parish

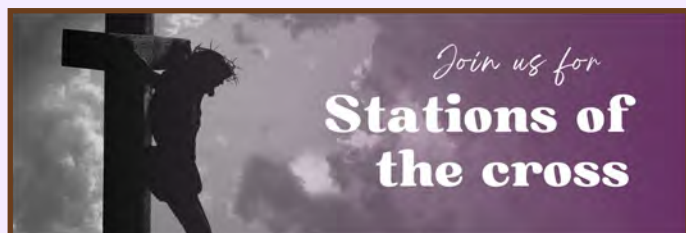
7:00 PM Thanksgiving to St. Michael Loundy Saint Louis

† Sally Matthes Marie Coppinger

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 the February 11th bulletin.
- The date and time of the parish's Lenten Penance Service will be announced.

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.

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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The praying of the Stations of the Cross will be led by the following groups and parish ministry teams:

- Friday, March 1.....Altar Rosary Society
- Friday, March 22.....Catholic Campus Ministry Students of Monmouth University

All are invited and welcome to participate in the praying of the Stations of the Cross on the Friday evenings of Lent and on Good Friday. One may also walk and pray the Stations of the Cross at other times in the church - - privately and individually; or in a small group with a friend or two and/or family members - - whenever the church is open for private visits, for example Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and Sundays between 10:45 a.m. and 11:45 a.m.

*Married at St. Michael's on
February 9, 2024
Krysta Kucinski & Thomas Leverich*

*February 10, 2024
Alexa Foggia & Anthony Anzalone*



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.

21 Main Ave.
Ocean Grove
NJ 07756



Living the Lent We Get

March 2, 2024 • 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Presenter: Christine Eberle



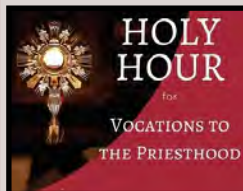
What if we approached Lent as an invitation, rather than a challenge? In the first part of this retreat, we will explore how to let life become its own Lenten discipline, calling us to prayer, sacrifice, and generosity through the ordinary experiences of each day. In the afternoon, in the company of 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 jlcassidy@gmail.com or call (732) 898-9981.



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 29.* 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 English* at 12:15 P.M. and Eucharistic Adoration on March 1

First Friday Mass *in English* will be celebrated on March 1 at 12:15 p.m. Confessions will be heard after that Mass until 1:15 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration will take place throughout the morning on Friday, March 1 from the conclusion of the 8:00 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 12:00 p.m. All are welcome.



February 14 - March 24, 2024 40 DAYS FOR LIFE THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF ABORTION

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.



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.

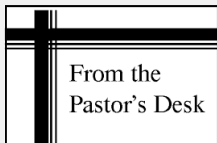
A gift to the appeal becomes a lifeline for families in need, supports the education of our youth in the faith, and empowers individuals on their journey to become religious leaders, such as Deacons and Catechists, serving our parishes and communities with wisdom and faith. Your support also sustains 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



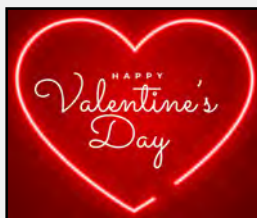
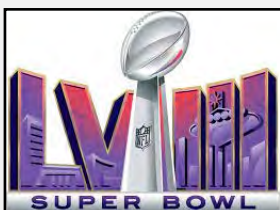


Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Michael’s Church:

This 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.

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IF IT’S FEBRUARY IT MUST BE.....





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 4 (February 24 and 25)

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

1644 The love of the spouses requires, of its very nature, the unity and indissolubility of the spouses' community of persons, which embraces their entire life: "so they are no longer two, but one flesh." They "are called to grow continually in their communion through day-to-day fidelity to their marriage promise of total mutual self-giving." This human communion is confirmed, purified, and completed by communion in Jesus Christ, given through the sacrament of Matrimony. It is deepened by lives of the common faith and by the Eucharist received together (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*).

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 5

Jack Barney



Lenten Soup for the Soul Series

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

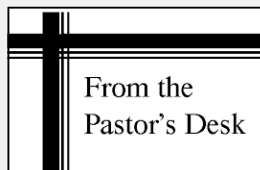
register online: www.sanalfonsoretreats.org

Phone: 732-222-2731, X140

Full program description available at

www.sanalfonsoretreats.org

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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; this reduction is in light of our parish's recent lower numbers in terms of Sunday 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 last Sunday's February 18 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



ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH EASTER FLOWER MEMORIAL

If you would like to donate flowers in memory of a loved one, please complete the form below and return this page to the Parish Office with your donation. The cost is \$45 per memorial. All names will be included in a memorial booklet and published in the Easter bulletin. Booklets will be available in the back of the church when printed. To be included in the memorial booklet and the Easter bulletin, your form and donation must be received at the Parish Office by **Monday, March 18. Please print clearly.**

In Memory Of

Requested By

Quantity

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Please include your name and mailing address to receive your copy of the memorial booklet:

Phone Number:

Total Number of Memorials

_____ x \$45.00 = \$_____

Additional donation (optional): \$_____

Total Donation: \$_____

May our Lenten journeys and sacrifices lead us to - - and enrich - - our Easter joy!

Weekend Collection & Attendance

Thank You!

Saturday, February 17, 2024

4:00 PM Mass	\$2,865.00	158 people
5:30 PM Mass	\$1,175.00	91 people
7:00 PM Mass	\$540.00	47 people

Sunday, February 18, 2024

7:00 AM Mass	\$1,141.00	97 people
8:30 AM Mass	\$1,647.00	119 people
10:00 AM Mass	\$1,683.00	192 people
12:00 PM Mass	\$1,773.00	173 people
4:00 PM Mass	\$862.00	128 people
7:00 PM Mass	\$545.00	124 people

Mailed-in Envelopes for the February 18 collection and for previous Sunday collections during the Pandemic Lockdown: **\$1,350.00**

This Week's Total: \$13,581.00

Same Week's Total Last Year: \$11,503.00

Ash Wednesday: \$4,523.00

Second Collection: Central and Eastern Europe: \$911.00

Second Collection: Black and Native American: \$2,560.00

Online Giving

Please consider joining the parishioners who are using Faith Direct for automated giving to St. Michael's Church. It is secure, convenient and Faith Direct will provide you with an offertory card to place in the basket during the collection. There is no cost to you, and the program provides a great benefit to our parish. Please sign up today by visiting faithdirect.net. Our parish code is NJ319. Thank You.

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



Feeling overwhelmed?

Personal losses impacting life?

Struggling with a relationship?

Everyone can use a little extra support in handling life's challenges.

**Parish Counseling Services
Are Available.**

Through a joint service of Catholic Charities and the Diocese of Trenton, short term professional counseling (up to 6 sessions) is available. The fee is \$90 per session but there is financial assistance available for those who need it. Use of an individual's health insurance may also be an option.

Contact your pastor or parish priest for more information and to get assistance with the referral.



Diocese of Trenton

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.



SUPPORT GROUP FOR ANYONE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." *Matthew 11:28*

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We have many offerings for anyone experiencing the pain and hurt of losing a marriage relationship. It doesn't matter if you are contemplating divorce, newly separated, going through the divorce process, recently divorced or divorced many years. You could have been married 4 years or 40 years, it doesn't matter, this program has help for everyone that attends!

We are currently offering a 12-Week Program
Beginning Thursday, March 7, 2024
From 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
St. Leo The Great, Parish Center Meeting Room
Located at 50 Hurleys Lane, Lincroft, NJ

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Our programs are run by trained and certified Facilitators who are divorced and who have completed our 12-week Program and now would like to bring the healing they received to you!

To register or to have one of the Facilitators give you a call to find out more information, please email: healingheartsfromdivorce@gmail.com.

For more information to help you decide if this program is right for you, please visit: <https://www.mylifechangecoach.com/divorceministry>.

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We don't ask if you're Catholic, we only ask if you need healing!

We hope you can join us, and we look forward to meeting you!

BAPTISM GODPARENTS AND CONFIRMATION SPONSORS

Have you been asked to be a Baptism GODPARENT? Have you been asked to SPONSOR someone who is preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, or for an adult in the RCIA program?



It is an honor and a privilege to be asked. You are seen as someone whom a family, child, teenager, or adult looks up to as living the Christian Catholic faith in a complete, strong, and exemplary manner. You model that behavior and faith in the way that you live your life.

To receive a letter signed and sealed by the Pastor to verify your eligibility to serve as a Baptism Godparent or as a Confirmation Sponsor (such letters are required by (and issued by) virtually all Catholic parishes in the United States including St. Michael's), please keep the following eligibility criteria in mind:

- Registered at (for at least three months) and active parishioner of St. Michael's Church.
- At least 16 years of age.
- Completed all Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation).
- If married, married in the Catholic Church according to Catholic Church Law, or with the express permission of the Church. If unmarried, living a chaste single life (including not cohabitating).
- Attend Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and receive the sacraments of the Church regularly.

The Church takes very seriously the role of being a sponsor. Choosing a sponsor is to be based on the person's dedication to the faith and consistent practice thereof.

Sponsor letters will be gladly and happily given to individuals who meet all of these criteria and who have been **registered members of our parish for at least three months**. If there are any questions or concerns regarding the Church's teaching on these matters or on the criteria for and interpretation of the qualifications for Baptism godparenthood or Confirmation sponsorship, please feel free to call the parish office to arrange for a telephone conversation or meeting with Fr. Butler.

NEW JERSEY MARCH FOR LIFE

WHEN:

Thursday,
September 26, 2024

WHERE:

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

SCHEDULE

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



New Jersey Right
to Life

MARCH FOR LIFE

Learn More: nj.marchforlife.org

Behold, I make all things **NEW**



NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

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!

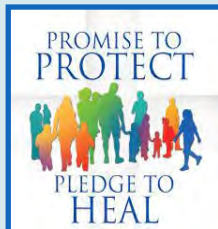
The Blessed Mother's Sanctuary Candle will be lit this week in Honor to Our Lady of Lourdes, requested by Loundy Saint Louis.



ON THE CALENDAR AT ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH



40 Days for Life	February 14 - March 24, 2024 (See Page 4 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 3 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 3 for details)
Holy Hour for Vocations	Thursday, February 29, 2024 7:00 p.m.
First Friday	Friday, March 1, 2024 (12:15 Mass in English, Eucharistic Adoration after the 8:00 a.m., Mass until 12:00 p.m., Confessions 12:45 to 1:15 p.m.)
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



OUR PROMISE TO PROTECT:

The Diocese of Trenton and St. Michael's Church are committed to the initiatives outlined in the U.S. Bishop's Charter for the protection of Children and Young People in regard to the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors. If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the Diocesan Abuse Hotline: 1-888-296-2965 or via email at abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org. The Diocese of Trenton reports any allegations of sexual abuse to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Anyone with an allegation is also encouraged to provide that information to local law enforcement authorities.

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.