

# ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

February 26, 2023 | 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

## DURING LENT

Please see Page 5 for extra times for Mass, Confession, and Eucharistic Adoration during Lent.

## 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 1:15 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, ext. 2 at the Catholic Center.

## DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis



Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words; be silent and listen.



HOW  
ARE YOU  
CHOOSING TO  
WALK IN HIS  
SANDALS  
THIS LENT?

LENT  
A SEASON  
OF RENEWAL

## 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. Cyril Johnson, Parochial Vicar

Thomas Randazzo, Business Manager

Kevin Connelly, Director of Religious Ed.

Mary Valan, Parish Secretary

Lauren Walters, Acting Music Director

## CATHOLIC CENTER AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

16 Beechwood Avenue | West Long Branch,  
NJ 07764

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

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

732-483-0360 ext. 1



“One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.” *-Matthew 4:4*

### Wednesday, March 1

8:00 AM † Frances Buck

† John Connelly

Jack & Rene Brignola

### Thursday, March 2

8:00 AM † Anna Marie Cattelona  
(1st Anniversary)

† Jack Levy

Family

Wife Debbie

### Friday, March 3

8:00 AM † Chestoria Heaning

† Richard Fromer

† Conrad Russo

Linda Heaning

Bruce Fromer

Family

12:15 PM Vocations, Vocations,  
Vocations

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

† Blaise & Stephanie  
Mitkowski

Barbara & Edward  
Moskal

Barbara & Edward  
Moskal

### Saturday, March 4

8:00 AM † Natalie Easu

† Michelina Russo

4:00 PM † Eleanor & Frank Rosano

† Rev. Russell Abata

5:30 PM † Raymond P. Vassallie, Sr.

7:00 PM People of the Parish

Kathleen West

Family

Family

Rick Binaco

Bill & Anne Lisa and  
Family

### Sunday, March 5

7:00 AM † Ed Thayer

† Rosa Alba Stranieri

8:30 AM † Clarice Viggiano

10:00 AM † George & Bridie Richter

12:00 PM † Mary Wibbelsman

† Eugene Vavrick, Sr.

4:00 PM † William A. Conley

People of the Parish

7:00 PM † Orlando Graziano

Pat, Anne Marie &  
Michael Thayer

Viggiano Family

Joe & Joan Richter

Michael Bowman

Conley Family

Rose & Kevin Venezia

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, February 25

8:00 AM People of the Parish

† Benjamin Gizzi

Wife

4:00 PM † Joy Rosano

† Angela Perri

Family

John & Deborah Perri and  
Family

5:30 PM † Gerald T. Barbato

† Josephine Van Houten

Charlie & Chris McClelland

St. Vincent De Paul Society

7:00 PM Special Intention: Veronica  
Heaning

Linda

### Sunday, February 26

7:00 AM Special Intention: Veronica  
Heaning

Linda

8:30 AM † All Souls in Purgatory

† James Cade Ducharme

Joseph & Kelina Vassallo

Lew & Renee Mazza

10:00 AM † Ronny Traversa

† Louise Knop

Tin & Ellie Tarantolo

MaryAnn Rogowski

12:00 PM † Tyler Napolitano

† Eileen Patricia Condon

Loving Family

4:00 PM † James Dillon, III

† Ed Webb

Friends

Barbara & Family

7:00 PM † Lenore Devine

People of the Parish

Scavone Family

### Monday, February 27

8:00 AM Pro-Life Cause

Special Intention: Veronica  
Heaning

Friends of Sylvia Marsico

Linda

7:00 PM Health & Blessings: Children  
of the Parish

### Tuesday, February 28

8:00 AM † Robert Angelo

† Nicholas Cattelona, Sr.

Lew & Renee Mazza

Daughter

The Center Sanctuary Candle will be lit this week in loving memory of John Augello, requested by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Principe.





February 1, 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

As Bishop, each year I look forward to inviting you to witness the good works that our ministries are doing every day in the Diocese of Trenton and in our parishes. Possibly you, a loved one, or a friend have experienced or seen and benefitted from the “gift” of one or more of these ministries in action.

In St. Matthew’s Gospel, the Lord Jesus commissioned his disciples, “What you have *received* as a gift, *give* as a gift!” (Matthew 10:8) These words are a reminder that we should be grateful for the many blessings we have received from God in our lives and that we, in turn, should give of ourselves through our time, talent, and treasure. The Lord’s words are addressed to us! His words are addressed to all of us!

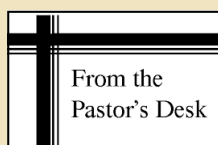
I am humbled by and thankful for your support of our Diocesan Annual Catholic Appeal in the past and ask you to again prayerfully consider making a 2023 gift to this year’s Annual Catholic Appeal so that the Church within our Diocese may continue to be a beacon of love and faith for all God’s people. Together we can do great things!

I will continue to keep you and your loved ones in my prayers.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

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

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

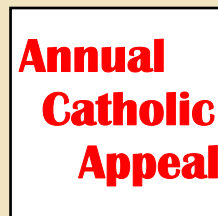
Last weekend (February 18 and 19) was the official Pledge Weekend and the Kick-Off for this year’s Annual Catholic Appeal. The Appeal will continue during the following months; and the Bishop’s video message will be presented this Sunday (Feb. 26) during the 12:00 Noon Mass.

Each year our Diocese of Trenton and Bishop O’Connell request the 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 with a gift to the Annual Catholic Appeal (“ACA”). 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.

This year St. Michael’s share of the Diocesan-wide goal is \$109,000 (the same goal as in the past thirteen years and the goal that we achieved last year and the four years before that for the first times). The Diocesan-wide goal for this year’s ACA is \$6.5 million. As the result of reaching our parish ACA goal in each of those five most recent years

**IF IT’S FEBRUARY IT MUST BE.....**

(continued on page 7)





As published in last  
Sunday's bulletin.

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

February 1, 2023



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

During the days and weeks of penance that lie ahead --- from **Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023, until Holy Thursday morning, April 6, 2023** --- the Catholic Church throughout the world commemorates the penitential season of Lent ending with the Sacred Triduum of Holy Week. The model Jesus gave us for "these forty days" was his own experience in the desert and the temptations that followed him there where he encountered Satan face to face. And yet, Jesus, there in the desert --- alone, fasting and in intense prayer --- beat back the devil and triumphed over temptation, as strong and as unrelenting as it was throughout those forty days.

We enter the desert of Lent like Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit, to face our devils, our temptations head on. But we are not alone. The Lord Jesus Christ is with us. And so, too, is the Church, the entire community of faith observing Lent. Here is what the Catholic Church in the United States requires of us as baptized Catholics:

**The days of FAST (only one full meal) and ABSTINENCE (no meat) are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. No dispensations are granted on these solemn days except for reason of sickness or those provided in canon law below. ALL OTHER FRIDAYS OF LENT are days of ABSTINENCE.**

**The pastor of a parish has the faculty to give a dispensation to individual parishioners in his parish and the Diocesan Bishop alone has the authority to dispense groups of Catholics but only for a serious reason.**

**Those who are automatically dispensed from fast and abstinence regulations outside the age limits noted below include: the physically or mentally ill, especially individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also included in the dispensation are women who are pregnant or nursing. In all cases, common sense should prevail, and ill persons should not further jeopardize their health by fasting.**

Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to FAST (only one full meal) as above. From the age of 14, people are also obliged to ABSTAIN (no meat): this obligation prohibits the eating of meat, but not eggs, milk products or condiments of any kind, even though made from animal fat).

The obligation to observe the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious one for Catholics. Failure to observe one penitential day in itself is not considered a serious sin. It is the intentional failure to observe any penitential days at all, or a substantial number of penitential days, that must be considered a serious matter.

The obligation, the privilege really, of receiving the Eucharist at least once a year --- often called "Easter duty" --- for those in the state of grace should still be fulfilled during the period from the **First Sunday of Lent, February 25-26, 2023, to Trinity Sunday, June 3-4, 2023**. However, the Church's law does permit this precept to be fulfilled at another time during the year when there is a just cause.

I want to encourage all Catholics, especially those who are conscious of serious sin, to go to confession and to make use of the sacrifices and traditions that have always been part of our Lenten practices in the Church.

We do, indeed, fast and pray with the Lord Jesus and with our fellow Catholics. May this Lent be a time of penance leading to grace and joy for us all at Easter.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*David M. O'Connell, C.M.*

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

## LENT 2023

Our Lenten observances will include the following:

- Ash Wednesday was on February 22, 2023.
- On Fridays during Lent, *Mass* will be celebrated at **12:15 p.m. and at 5:30 p.m.** in the Upper Church from February 24 through and including March 31. The 8:00 a.m. Mass on Fridays remains unchanged. *Eucharistic Adoration* will follow the 12:15 Mass on these Fridays of Lent until 5:15 p.m. and follow the 5:30 Mass until 6:50 p.m.
- These Friday 12:15 and 5:30 Masses during Lent will be followed by Confessions after the 12:15 Mass until 1:15 and after the 5:30 Mass until 6:30.
- New:** Confessions on Saturday afternoons during Lent (Feb. 25; March 4, 11, 18, 25; Apr. 1) from 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.
- New:** Eucharistic Adoration and Holy Hour on Sunday mornings during Lent (Feb. 26; March 5, 12, 19, 26; Apr. 2) from 10:50 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.
- Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Fridays of Lent at 7:00 p.m.
- 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 8TH ANNUAL ST. MICHAEL'S  
(AND FIRST TIME SINCE COVID!)

## SOUP & SALAD BEFORE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Lower Church  
Six Fridays of Lent  
Beginning February 24, 2023

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

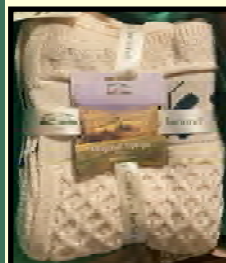
Please note that the 6:00 p.m. Soup and Salad Supper will be preceded by Eucharistic Adoration from 12:45 until 5:15 p.m. and Mass in the Upper Church at 5:30 p.m., Confessions at 6:00 p.m., and Eucharistic Adoration from 6:00 p.m. to 6:50 p.m. and will be followed by Stations of the Cross in the Upper Church at 7:00 p.m.



### Irish Soda Bread Contest



Do you have a favorite family recipe (or your own recipe) for Irish soda bread? Bake and bring your Irish soda bread to St. Michael's Soup and Salad gathering on Friday, March 17, 2023, to enter our "first" *Irish Soda Bread Contest*. Bring your entry (bread) to the Soup and Salad dinner by 5:30 p.m. on St. Patrick's Day. For further information, contact Joann Dorgan (732-614-1484) or Rose McVey (201-232-3891).



The lucky winner  
will win this  
beautiful Irish  
Throw Couch  
Blanket.



## 2023 Lenten Soup for the Soul Series



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!

### 2023 Evenings of Reflection

February 27, March 6, March 27

6:00PM – 8:30PM

5:30 – 6:00 Arrival and Registration

6:00 – 7:00 Simple Lenten Soup Supper

7:00 – 8:30 Program

#### Monday, February 27, 2023 Take Nothing for the Journey? Packing for the Unknown

If we don't know what the future holds; how can we prepare? It's like packing for a trip without knowing the destination! Nevertheless, the beginning of our journey through Lent is a good time to consider what we need bring with us—and what we might want to leave behind—so that we can travel lightly, responsive to God's call. In this evening of reflection we will pray with stories from the Bible, literature, and life. Using "packing" as a metaphor, we will ponder the attitudes, relationships, dreams, commitments, and even possessions we want to carry with us into the unknown future.

**Presenter:** 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*. After a 26-year career as a college campus minister, in 2019 Christine ended her tenure as Director of Campus Ministry at Gwynedd Mercy University to commit to a full-time ministry of writing, speaking, and retreat facilitation. She is thrilled to be returning to San Alfonso for a third Lenten reflection. You can follow her at [christine-marie-eberle.com](http://christine-marie-eberle.com).



#### Monday, March 6, 2023 Living Lent: Choosing Life!

*"Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life..."* Deuteronomy 30:19 – 20

Lent invites us by prayer, fasting and almsgiving to be renewed in our resolve to choose life in Christ as the way to our deepest peace inside of ourselves and with others. This evening will offer some reflection on God's call to holiness and to wholeness by listening for God's voice from deep within our being and from within the heart of the world. Embracing our Lenten journey in prayer and reflection enables us to respond more fully to the invitation to turn back to Christ with all our hearts so that "we may have life and have it to the full."



**Presenter:** Rev. Ed Faliskie, C.Ss.R is a member of the preaching team here at San Alfonso Retreat House. He has previously served as pastor at several Redemptorist parishes, as a foreign missionary, and a parish mission preacher. Fr. Ed has also served his Redemptorist community in various leadership roles throughout his 32 years in ministry.

#### Monday, March 27, 2023 To Bear the Beams of Love

Early on in Lent we hear that Jesus, "full of the Holy Spirit", returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness for forty days. He went into the desert after having been baptized in the Jordan with, as Jan Richardson writes, "the name Beloved ringing in his ears." Our Lenten Journey is meant to be a season of grace when we allow God to speak that same truth to each of us, so that we deepen our understanding of God's promise and come to know ourselves as Beloved.

**Presenter:** Sr. Honora Nicholson, RSM is a member of the pastoral-services team at RENEW International, a Catholic publishing house. She enjoys her current work, because of her love of parish ministry and the power of small groups. In addition to certification in spiritual direction and leading retreats, she volunteers with various organizations such as The Innocence Project and alternative- education institutions.

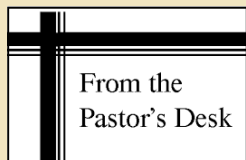
Sr. Honora holds the degree of Master of Arts in theological studies from the University of Dayton. She has a passion for social justice, especially in the areas of racism and immigration. Sr. Honora "can often find humor in unusual circumstances" and feels comfortable meeting people with different backgrounds.



**Register Today!**  
**Registration Form on Page 7**

<b>2023 LENTEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL SERIES REGISTRATION FORM</b> <small>(ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUESTED)</small> <b>COST: \$25 PER EVENING</b>			
NAME: _____		PHONE: _____	
ADDRESS: _____		CITY: _____	ST: _____ ZIP: _____
E-MAIL: _____		AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____	
I would like to register for the following Lenten evenings: <i>(Register for one or more evenings. Please check all you would like to attend.)</i> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <span>_____ February 27</span> <span>_____ March 6</span> <span>_____ March 27</span> </div>			
<b>PAYMENT INFO:</b> To make an online credit card payment, visit <a href="http://www.sanalfonso retreats.org/80">www.sanalfonso retreats.org/80</a> To pay by check, please mail completed registration form with checks made payable to: <div style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;"> <b>San Alfonso Retreat House</b>  <b>755 Ocean Avenue</b>  <b>Long Branch, NJ 07740</b> </div>			
E-mail Us: <a href="mailto:info@sanalfonso retreats.org">info@sanalfonso retreats.org</a>		Phone: 732-222-2731, x140 Visit us: <a href="http://www.sanalfonso retreats.org">www.sanalfonso retreats.org</a>	

(continued from page 3)



**LAUNCH WEEKEND: FEB. 18 & 19**  
**(and at the 12:00 Noon Mass**  
**on Sunday, Feb. 26)**

we not only strongly supported the Diocese in its ministries and charitable works and demonstrated our commitment to stewardship and charitable giving, our parish also gained the financial reward of a \$23,000 rebate in 2018, a \$16,500 rebate in each of 2019 and 2020, and a \$21,500 rebate for 2021 and a rebate of approximately \$21,000 anticipated for 2022.

Those ACA rebate funds were utilized for the Lower Church restrooms renovation project, church foundation water-proofing and repairs, CCD/education materials, Covid-related upgrades to the Lower Church's ventilation equipment, new ventilation equipment for the Confessionals in the Upper Church, and buildings and grounds repairs. The 2021 ACA rebate was also used in part last year 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 the parish trustees and parish finance council that if St. Michael's is successful again in achieving the parish's \$109,000 ACA goal and earns and receives a rebate of \$16,000 or more that the parish use those rebate funds for: (a) further upgrades to the air filtration/ventilation system and equipment in the Upper Church, (b) painting of the Lower Church and new ceiling light fixtures in the Lower Church, and (c) re-staining and re-varnishing of the wood floors in the Upper Church. Other parish-related uses of ACA proceeds are also under consideration.

As the people of the Diocese of Trenton, we and you 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 who has the ability to participate in the Annual Catholic Appeal. This year we again are striving to do our parish fair share toward helping the Diocese reach the Diocesan/four-county/97-parish goal of \$6.5 million in the 2023 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.

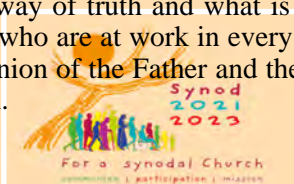
With prayers, gratitude, and best wishes,

Rev. John K. Butler, Pastor

*Please keep this parish and worldwide  
endeavor in your daily prayers*

### PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD

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.



### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

#### IMPORTANT DATES RE OUR CCD PROGRAM

- Sacrament of Confirmation: Thursday, March 9, 2023.
- First Confessions: Saturday, March 25, 2023
- First Holy Communion: Saturday, May 6, 2023
- Crowning of Mary: Sunday, May 7, 2023

### Weekend Collection & Attendance

*Thank You!*

#### Saturday, February 18, 2023

4:00 PM Mass	\$1,918.00	274 people
5:30 PM Mass	\$758.00	102 people
7:00 PM Mass	\$617.00	49 people

#### Sunday, February 19, 2023

7:00 AM Mass	\$1,177.00	73 people
8:30 AM Mass	\$1,087.00	111 people
10:00 AM Mass	\$1,000.00	128 people
12:00 PM Mass	\$1,641.00	167 people
4:00 PM Mass	\$1,348.00	126 people
7:00 PM Mass	\$861.00	104 people

Mailed-in Envelopes for the February 19 collection and for previous Sunday collections during the Pandemic Lockdown:  
**\$1,096.00**

**This Week's Total: \$11,503.00**

**Same Week's Total Last Year: \$13,419.00**

**Second Collection: Church in Central and Eastern Europe: \$3,297.00**

### St. Patrick's Day 2023: Bishop's Permission for Eating Meat on FRIDAY, March 17

*Pastor's Note.* In an email dated February 8, 2023 and published below, our Bishop, His Excellency David M. O'Connell, C.M., has granted for this coming **St. Patrick's Day** (which falls on a **Friday** this year) a dispensation from the Lenten Friday obligation to abstain from eating meat. If you take advantage of this permission to eat meat on St. Patrick's Day this year, please also take note of and observe the Bishop's request to transfer your Friday abstinence obligation to another day of your choosing in Lent or to perform a work of charity or some exercise of piety to fulfill the spirit of the Lenten obligation.

"The Holy Season of Lent brings with it the serious annual penitential obligation to abstain from meat on Fridays of Lent. This year, 2023, however, Friday of the second week of Lent corresponds with Saint Patrick's Day (March 17), which has traditionally been an occasion for special celebrations. As Bishop of the Diocese of Trenton, I am granting a dispensation from the obligation to abstain from eating meat to Catholics of the Diocese of Trenton as well as to any visitors or travelers who may be physically present within the territory of this Diocese on Friday, March 17.

Those Catholics taking advantage of the dispensation, however, are asked to transfer the Friday abstinence obligation to another day of their choosing in Lent or to perform a work of charity (for example, a donation to the poor) or some exercise of piety (for example, a visit to Church and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, a rosary, or some other prayer, etc.) to fulfill the spirit of the obligation."

### Spring Small Group Bible Study

You are invited to join us as we journey back in time to the city of Jerusalem to the spring of AD 33. Our tour guides include three eye-witnesses and one fantastic researcher from the four days that changed the world forever. We know them as Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Our tour departs on Thursday, March 2. There are two time possibilities: 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. or 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The tour continues:

- Thursday, March 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. or 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Thursday, March 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. or 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Thursday, March 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. or 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.



Please call Rene and Jack at 732-222-3164 to secure a seat and sign up for a map and the necessary paperwork. (passport not needed).



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 March 2.*

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 3

First Friday Mass *in English* will be celebrated on March 3 at 12:15 p.m. Confessions will be heard after that Mass until 1:15 p.m. And First Friday Mass will also be celebrated (in English) at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, March 3 followed by Confessions until 6:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration will take place throughout the afternoon on Friday, March 3 from the conclusion of the 12:15 Mass until Benediction at 5:15 p.m. All are welcome.



### Rosary Altar Society's St. Valentine's Day Mass and Luncheon

The members of the Rosary Altar Society gathered to celebrate St. Valentine's Day on February 14 with an 11:30 Mass and luncheon at Rooney's Oceanfront Restaurant (see photo). Fr. Cyril Johnson celebrated the Mass.

The Rosary Altar Society is a group of dedicated women whose mission is to foster devotion to the Blessed Mother through frequent praying of the Rosary and to promote the spiritual welfare of the Society's



members and of the parish. Their activities include works of charity, caring for altar linens used at Mass, decoration and maintenance of the church's sanctuary area, conducting days of spirituality and reflection, sponsoring cultural/social events, daily prayer at home and after the Saturday morning Mass for the sick of the parish, and managing the St. Michael's prayer chain of 50-plus members. New members are always welcome. Please contact Dotty O'Hara at (908) 310-6497 for information.



## February 22 to April 2 40 DAYS FOR LIFE.

### 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](mailto:monmouth4life@hotmail.com)

**Learn More...** [40daysforlife.com/shrewsbury](http://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.**

### Communion Visits; Confession Visits; Anointing of the Sick

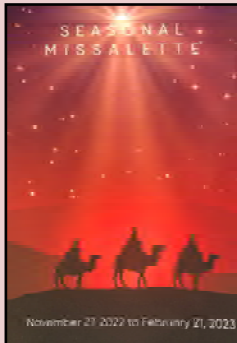


Please keep in mind that the parish priests and our lay Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist are available and eager to bring Communion to parishioners who are in the hospital (nursing homes, assisted living facilities, rehab centers, and hospices, too) and to parishioners who are at home but unable 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 priests 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.



## Expired Missalettes Available

A good number of parishioners often ask about taking home a copy of the paperback Missalettes when a particular issue of the book has expired. The most recent previous issue of the Missalettes covered the period of time from November 27, 2022 to February 21, 2023 and we replaced those now-obsolete books last Tuesday morning after the conclusion of the 8:00 a.m. Mass in advance of Ash Wednesday. If you would like to have a copy of that "now-retired" Missalette (for reference to the Scripture readings and prayers, spiritual reading, enjoying the hymns and the artwork, etc.), we have several copies on-hand in the ushers' closet at the rear of the church. Please feel free to ask one of the ushers to give you a copy.



## PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

### WEEKLY MASS INTENTION

† Ronald Lubischer r/o Joyce Lubischer

### YEARLY MASS INTENTIONS

#### FEBRUARY 2023

† Susan Whitman r/o Lex and Janet Tucci

#### April 2023

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

#### SEPTEMBER 2023

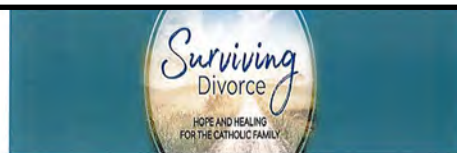
† Ralph and Eleanor Siciliano r/o The Boeckman Family



The next Baptism preparation class for parents is scheduled for Saturday, March 11 at 10:00 a.m. in the Lower Church. Please call the parish office to register in advance.

## PARISH COUNSELING SERVICES

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



## ST. MARY'S DIVORCED AND SEPARATED

### What is an Information Night?

This Information Night will provide you with all the information you need to help you decide if you would like to attend our 12-week program that will begin March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 on Monday nights from 7:00-8:30 pm at St. Mary's Chapel in Middletown.

### What can I expect from the 12-week Program?

The program is called "Surviving Divorce: Hope and Healing for the Catholic Family". It is a DVD series developed by Rose Sweet, a dynamic Catholic author and speaker who has developed this series to help Catholics and their families heal from divorce!

Two sessions are available yearly, Fall and Spring. The DVDs last approximately 30 minutes, and then we have open discussion on a variety of topics such as grief, anger, depression, forgiveness, dealing with your ex and your family, how to tell the children and help them cope, how to navigate the court system, your finances and more. We work with a team of professionals that often join us as guest speakers to help you through this process.

We are committed to the program and to divorced and separated Catholics throughout the Diocese and we are eager to assist you in any way we can. Our primary collective goal is to bring about your healing in your own time and support you along the way. The website to learn more about the program can be found by visiting:

[www.mylifechangechangecoach.com/separated-divorce](http://www.mylifechangechangecoach.com/separated-divorce)

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WE DO NOT ASK YOU IF YOU ARE CATHOLIC,  
WE ONLY ASK YOU IF YOU NEED TO BE HEALED. ©  
IT IS A CATHOLIC PROGRAM DESIGNED TO HEAL  
EVERYONE THAT COMES TO IT!

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St. Mary's Chapel  
26 Leonardville Rd.  
Middletown

All are Welcome!

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REGISTRATION  
REQUIRED!  
SEATING IS LIMITED!

To Register/Email:

[Healingheartsfromdivorce@gmail.com](mailto:Healingheartsfromdivorce@gmail.com)  
One of our facilitators will  
get back to you!



## DAY TRIP WITH OCEANPORT SENIORS MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET

Hunterdon Hills Playhouse  
April 11, 2023

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET captures the contagious spirit, free-wheeling excitement, and thrilling sounds of the once-in-a-life-time event where four of music's best talents came together.



**Date:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023

**Where:** Hunterdon Hills Playhouse, Hampton, NJ

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. (Bus leaves from the Port-au-Peck Firehouse parking lot).

**Price:** \$95.00 (members) \$110.00 (guests).

Please RSVP to Mimi Paolise by March 1, 2023. Mail payment cash or check payable to Oceanport Seniors to: Mimi Paolise, 49 Wyandotte Avenue, Oceanport, NJ 07757

Price includes bus transportation, lunch and show. No refunds.

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



Annual Catholic Appeal 2023 *Commenced February 18-19; Ongoing*

Fridays in Lent (Mass at 8:00, 12:15, 5:30. Confessions after each of these Masses. Eucharistic Adoration 12:45-5:15 and 6:00-6:50) *Friday, February 24-March 31, 2023 (excludes Good Friday)*

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)*

Confirmation (Presiding: Msgr. Joseph Rosie) *Thursday, March 9, 2023*

Parents' Baptism Preparation Class *Saturday, March 11, 2023*

Irish Soda Bread Contest *Friday, March 17, 2023 (See Page 5 for details)*

First Confessions *Saturday, March 25, 2023*

Palm Sunday *Sunday, April 2, 2023*

Easter *Sunday, April 9, 2023*

Divine Mercy Sunday *Sunday, April 16, 2023*

First Holy Communion *Saturday, May 6, 2023*

May Crowning of Mary *Sunday, May 7, 2023*

## EARTHQUAKES ROCK TURKEY AND SYRIA

### Please help families today with critical relief

Two severe earthquakes struck Turkey and Syria this past Monday. The casualties and damage and the need for help are described in the information below that was sent to the parishes of the Diocese of Trenton by Bishop O'Connell on Tuesday. Catholic Relief Services is a trustworthy and competent organization to whom you may make a financial donation if you desire to support the earthquake relief efforts. The web page through which donations can be made is <https://support.crs.org/donate/earthquakes>.



Photo by Hasan Huseyin Kul/Anadolu Agency via Getty Images

The diocesan magazine is providing earthquake coverage at [www.TrentonMonitor.com](http://www.TrentonMonitor.com) and will add information about "How to Help" as it becomes available.

On February 6th, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake devastated large areas of central Turkey and northwest Syria. The death toll has surpassed 7,000 and continues to climb. The earthquake is the worst to strike Turkey this century. Later that day, the region experienced a second magnitude 7.7 quake.

Across affected areas in both countries, apartment buildings and schools have been leveled. For Syrians, the damage took place in areas already devastated by years of war. In Turkey, the airports and the high roads of Anatolia are closed and most hospitals are unusable. Schools have been closed across the country.

Catholic Relief Services will support emergency relief efforts led by local partners in both Syria and Turkey with Caritas Turkey, Caritas Syria in Aleppo and Latakia—where extensive damage has been reported—and other local partners. Already in Turkey, Caritas Anatolia, in coordination with authorities, is bringing displaced people to safe, open spaces and distributing hot meals and clothing. The dioceses of Izmir and Istanbul are collecting donations to send to the Anatolia Region.

**Your gifts will help partners to provide safe shelter and access to food, clean water, and hygiene supplies.**



### 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](mailto: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.