

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

February 28, 2021 | Second Sunday of Lent

DAILY MASS

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

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

During Lent: Special schedule on Fridays (see page 4)

WEEKEND MASSES

Our weekend Mass schedule is gradually evolving as our recovery from the pandemic continues. Please see the inner pages of this bulletin and our website for specific weekend Mass times. Eight weekend Masses as of Feb. 2021.

RECONCILIATION

Our Confession/Reconciliation schedule is also gradually evolving as our recovery from the pandemic continues. Please see the inner pages of this bulletin and our parish website for specific Confession times. All scheduled Confessions will be indoors near the St. Joseph Altar of the sanctuary until further notice. For a special need or to arrange for a by-appointment Confession at other times, please call the parish office. **During Lent: Special schedule on Fridays (see page 4)**

REGISTRATION

To register with the parish, please call the Parish Office for information.

MARRIAGES

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

BAPTISMS

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

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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



PARISH OFFICE

800 Ocean Avenue | Long Branch, NJ 07740

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

www.stmichaelnj.com

Hours (pending return to full schedule):

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

Answering service phone coverage at all other times.

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

PARISH STAFF

Rev. John Butler, Pastor

Rev. Mark Nillo, Parochial Vicar

Thomas Randazzo, Business Manager

Kevin Connelly, Director of Religious Ed.

Mary Valan, Parish Secretary

Jose Rodriguez, Maintenance Manager

Lauren Walters, Acting Music Director

CATHOLIC CENTER AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

16 Beechwood Avenue | West Long Branch,
NJ 07764

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

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
732-483-0360 ext. 7



MASS INTENTIONS*

Saturday, February 27

8:00 AM People of the Parish

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| * 4:00 PM † Rev. Russell Abata | Rick Binaco |
| 5:30 PM † Danny Mellaci | Holly & Chris Geiling |
| 7:00 PM † Patricia Chavez | Nancy Simonetti |

Sunday, February 28

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 7:00 AM † Rosa Alba Stranieri | Mother Francesca |
| 8:30 AM † Nicholas Cattelona, Sr. (Anniversary) | Daughter & Family |
| * 10:00 AM † Adeline Buttacavole | Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Principe |
| † William "Bill" J. McLaughlin | The Families of MTOTSA |
| 12:00 PM † Marie Conti | McCrae Family |
| † Wally Case | McCrae Family |
| 7:00 PM People of the Parish | |

Monday, March 1

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 8:00 AM Pro-Life Cause | Friends of Sylvia Marsico |
| † Katherine Orsogna | Doris Schmidt |
| 7:00 PM † Marguerite C. Butler | |

Tuesday, March 2

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 8:00 AM Special Intention: Cristian Rodrigues | Ana Rodrigues & Family |
| † Carol Granit | |

* All Masses listed on this page will be celebrated indoors in the Upper Church with the exception of the Saturday 4:00 p.m. Mass and the Sunday 10:00 a.m. which are celebrated (weather permitting) in the parish's North Parking Lot and live-streamed via the parish website www.stmichaelnj.com and the parish's YouTube channel. *Please see Page 5 of this bulletin for further information on winter weather-related contingencies and plans regarding our outdoor parking lot Masses.*



Wednesday, March 3

8:00 AM † Joseph Miller

Thursday, March 4

8:00 AM † Carol Thomas (Rescigno) Debra & John Nunziato

Friday, March 5

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 8:00 AM † Clarice Viggiano | Loving Family |
| 12:15 PM † Deceased Members of the Crummy Family | |
| 5:30 PM † Irene F. & Edward W. Moskal Sr. | Barbara & Edward Moskal |

Saturday, March 6

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 8:00 AM People of the Parish | |
| * 4:00 PM † John Casey | Sudman Family |
| 5:30 PM † Catherine Wright | Margaret Henneberry |
| 7:00 PM † Danny Mellaci | Peggy, Anthony & Danielle Romano |

Sunday, March 7

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 7:00 AM † Charles Murrin | Theresa |
| 8:30 AM † Gregory Santacroce | McCrae Family |
| † Patricia Chavez | Simonetti Family |
| * 10:00 AM † Jay Filippo | Family |
| 12:00 PM † Claire Alacante | Connie Marsala |
| † Charles Fiumefreddo | Gilda DeAssis & Family |
| 7:00 PM People of the Parish | |

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



During Lent Please Give Yourself – AND Jesus! – the Gift of Eucharistic Adoration and a Holy Hour



What is “Eucharistic Adoration”? What is a “Holy Hour”? Understood simply, Eucharistic Adoration is quiet, silent prayer, contemplation, meditation, spiritual/scriptural reading, and the like while reverently seated or kneeling before the Blessed Sacrament in the sacred, holy serenity of the church. Quiet, prayerful, restorative time with God. Some have referred to Eucharistic Adoration (tongue-in-cheek) as “wasting time with God” – and what a wonderful, powerful, grace-filled, revitalizing, beneficial waste of time it is! Peaceful, private time (a full hour or even ten or fifteen minutes) spent adoring, honoring, thanking God – “giving God His due, giving God our ear” and our undivided, undistracted attention – by gazing upon the Eucharistic Presence of Christ as the Blessed Sacrament resides in the Mon-

strance placed upon the altar.

In a deeper sense, Eucharistic Adoration involves “the contemplation of the Mystery of Christ truly present before us.” During Eucharistic Adoration, we “watch and wait”... we remain silent in the Real/True Presence of Jesus...we open ourselves to His Graces which flow from the Eucharist. By worshiping the Eucharistic Jesus, we become what God wants us to be! Like a magnet, the Lord draws us to Himself and gently transforms us. In its fullest essence Eucharistic Adoration is “God and Man (God *and YOU!*) reaching out for each other, at the same time, and being ***TOGETHER*** with each other!”...Time and Time-less Eternity joined for a few miraculous moments of spiritual union.

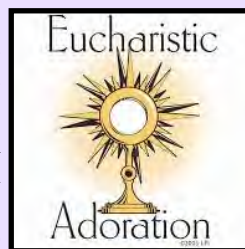
Why Go To Eucharistic Adoration? Why Pray a Holy Hour? St. Alphonsse Liguori wrote: “Of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the Sacraments themselves, the one dearest to God and the one most helpful to us. The Eucharist is a priceless treasure: By not only celebrating the Eucharist *during* Mass, but also by praying before It *outside* of Mass, we are enabled to make contact with the very wellsprings of Grace.”

When asked “What would save the world?” Saint/Mother Teresa replied: “My answer is prayer. What we need is for every parish to come before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in holy hours of prayer.”

The Invitation. The homilies at all of the Masses at St. Michael’s this weekend will focus on Eucharistic Adoration, explain and emphasize its importance and value/benefits, and invite and encourage us to pray a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament. Days and times for Eucharistic Adoration here at St. Michael’s – quiet prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament reposing in the Monstrance on the altar – are listed above. During the current season of Lent extra hours for Adoration have been added to the parish’s weekly calendar to accommodate as best we can parishioners’ and visitors’ busy schedules. Please accept the invitation. Please make the effort – especially during Lent as we prepare for Easter and Holy Week – to break away briefly from your routine and to take advantage of the opportunity: • to give to Jesus the gift of grateful, reverent prayer and worship, • to give to yourself the gift of God’s peace, strength, encouragement, and love that flow from that wellspring of the Eucharist, • to give back a few minutes to the Savior who has given you a re-opened gateway to Heaven by the gift of His hours and death on the Cross for Mankind. During Lent please give yourself – AND give Jesus! – the Gift of Eucharistic Adoration and the Gift of a Holy Hour.

Days and Times For Eucharistic Adoration During Lent (commencing March 4)

- Sundays 6:00 p.m. to 6:50 p.m. (prior to 7:00 p.m. Mass)
- Thursday 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Thursday nights preceding First Friday; later start time this month due to the 6:00 p.m. Confirmation)
- Fridays 12:45 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. (between 12:15 and 5:30 Masses) and 6:00 p.m. to 6:50 p.m. (between 5:30 Mass and 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross)



Blood Drive at Monmouth University
Monday, March 8 from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
 Location: Anacon Hall in the Rebecca Stafford Student Center
 at Monmouth University - 2nd floor
 (Use Larchwood Ave. gate to enter campus)

Appointments are strongly encouraged and available at rwjuhdonorclub.org
 or by calling 732-235-8100 ext 221.

DURING THE SEASON OF LENT 2021...

Our Lenten observances will include the following:

- On Fridays during Lent, *Mass* will be celebrated at **12:15 p.m. and at 5:30 p.m.** in the Upper Church. The 8:00 a.m. Mass on Fridays remains unchanged.
- These Friday 12:15 and 5:30 Masses during Lent will be followed by Confessions for 30 minutes. Confession also follows the weekday 8:00 a.m. Mass until 9:00 a.m.
- **Eucharistic Adoration** will follow the 12:15 Mass on these Fridays of Lent until 5:15 p.m. In addition, extra hours for Adoration during Lent have been placed on the calendar: • Thursday, March 4 from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. following the 6:00 p.m. Confirmation that evening • Fridays (commencing March 5) from 6:00 p.m. to 6:50 p.m. between the 5:30 p.m. Mass and 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross • Sundays (commencing March 7) from 6:00 p.m. to 6:50 p.m. prior to the Sunday 7:00 p.m. Mass.
- Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Fridays of Lent **at 7:00 p.m. this year (not 7:30 p.m. as in recent past years)**. There will be no Soup & Salad Suppers this year in light of covid precautions.

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

The neighboring parishes of "Cohort 17" will be collaborating with each other and again coordinating Confession schedules (see below) during the fourth week of the Lenten Season to maximize opportunities for those desiring the Sacrament of Reconciliation as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter. **Cohort 17 Lenten Reconciliation Week 2021** begins on Monday, March 15 and continues to Sunday, March 21.... "Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away and that the Lord may grant you times of refreshment and send you the Messiah." (Acts 3:19-20) Confessions will be available **every day that week** at the church locations and times noted below. The Cohort 17 parishes are Christ the King (Our Lady Star of the Sea and Holy Trinity), Our Lady of Hope (St. Jerome's and St. Mary of the Assumption), and St. Michael's. **Please pause during the Season of Lent and make it a priority to make time for a good Confession.**

"I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more."

Jeremiah 31:34



Cohort 17 Parishes Lenten Reconciliation Week 2021

Monday, March 15, 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m., 7:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

St. Michael's Church, Long Branch

Monday, March 15, 12:00 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.

St. Jerome's Church, West Long Branch

Tuesday, March 16, 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

St. Michael's Church, Long Branch

Wednesday, March 17, 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

St. Michael's Church, Long Branch

Thursday, March 18, 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

St. Michael's Church, Long Branch

Friday, March 19, 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m., 12:45 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

St. Michael's Church, Long Branch

Saturday, March 20, 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

St. Michael's Church, Long Branch

Saturday, March 20, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Our Lady, Star of the Sea Church, Long Branch

(Confessions will be heard outdoors in the parking lot in

English, Spanish and Portuguese, with 5 priests hearing confessions)

Sunday, March 21, 7:45 a.m. - 8:15 a.m., 6:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

St. Michael's Church, Long Branch

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend Outdoor Parking Lot

In-Car Masses *

Saturday at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

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

Weekday Public In-Church Masses

Monday through Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

Monday Night at 7:00 p.m.

On Fridays during Lent, Mass will also be celebrated at **12:15 p.m. and at 5:30 p.m.** in the Upper Church.

Church Building Hours For Private Prayer

- These hours are subject to change for funerals, weddings, and other special occasions.
- Monday through Friday: 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Monday: 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (before and after Monday evening's 7:00 p.m. Mass)
- Saturday: 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. (before and after Saturday morning's 8:00 a.m. Mass) and 5:00 to 5:30 and 6:45 to 7:00 before the 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Vigil Masses, respectively.
- Sunday: 6:30 a.m. until conclusion at 8:00 a.m. of the Confessions following the 7:00 a.m. Mass when the church will be closed to allow for sanitizing/cleaning before re-opening for the 8:30 a.m. Mass. And 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (respectively, before and after the Sunday 12:00 Noon and Sunday evening 7:00 p.m. Masses).

Weekend Public In-Church Masses

Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

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

Schedule of Confessions †

- 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.
- During Lent: After the Friday 12:15 and 5:30 Masses during Lent for 30 minutes.

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

* Regarding Our Parking Lot Masses

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

Saturday 5:30 Vigil Mass Beginning This Weekend

A Saturday 5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass (indoors in the church) went onto our regular weekly Mass schedule beginning last weekend (February 20), the first of the Lent. Place of the effect of our PRE-tended to our volunteers and parish priests 5:30 Mass. The door is always open for new volunteers to step forward and assist with the visible and invisible work that goes into the celebration and staging of the Mass. Please call the parish office to learn more about this worthy and helpful, overlooked and under-appreciated form of volunteer service to your parish and to your fellow parishioners.



Saturday
5:30
Mass

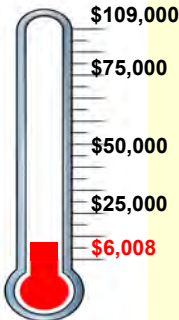
ANNUAL CATHOLIC Appeal 2021

Each of us has a vital part **TOGETHER** 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 propels the works of love that build up *our* Church. *You* make that happen with a generous gift to the ACA. Your contribution does make a difference! Please help. Please contribute. Please make a pledge.

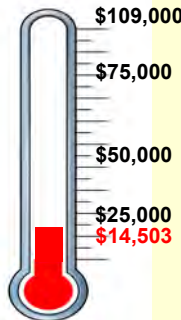


Parish Goal = \$109,000

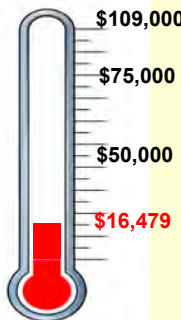
2019
After One
Weekend



2020
After One
Weekend



2021
After One
Weekend



The three “thermometers” above compare our parish’s 2019 vs. 2020 vs. 2021 results-to-date in the Annual Catholic Appeal. The thermometers indicate good news. This year’s total after one weekend is significantly ahead of our parish’s total after one weekend both in 2020 and 2019. Thank you! ***Together we can do great things!***

*This \$16,479 figure is approximately 15.1% of our parish goal. It was received during the first weekend of the campaign (tallied as of February 24) from 55 pledgers or check-writing contributors (and many unidentified, unquantified cash contributors) all of whom comprise approximately 1.9% of the 2,899 registered households of the parish. ***Thank you!*** The Diocese sent a Diocesan-wide mailing during the week of February 10 to all of our registered parishioners and past ACA contributors asking for prayerful consideration of a pledge/contribution to the Appeal. Please help to the extent that you can.



THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL 2021 ***IN ACTION!***

1. HOW YOUR CONTRIBUTION HELPS THE TRENTON DIOCESE HELP OTHERS:

Catholic Education Administration:

Catholic schools in Burlington, Mercer, Monmouth and Ocean counties welcome over 16,000 Catholic and non-Catholic students from many different cultural backgrounds. Parents, as the primary educators of their children, work in partnership with teachers to develop their children's potential in becoming life-long learners. Donations to the ACA help to ensure that curriculum and performance standards and development of educators continue at high levels within our 27 Catholic elementary schools. Last year your gift helped with reaching out to more than 78,000 alumni who have been given the opportunity to give back so that other students can succeed in our schools.

2. HOW YOUR CONTRIBUTION HELPS ST. MICHAEL’S CHURCH HERE AT HOME:



Air filtration and ventilation equipment for Upper Church



Memorial for Unborn Victims of Abortion



Improvements to Upper Church’s sound system



Safety/security cameras and monitors (deferred from 2020)

Weekend & Ash Wednesday Collection & Attendance

Thank You!

Wednesday, February 17, 2021(Ash Wednesday)

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|
| 8:00 AM Public In-Church Mass | \$316.00 | 112 People |
| 12:15 PM Public In-Church Mass | \$346.00 | 123 People |
| 4:00 PM Parking Lot Mass | \$1,465.00 | 173 Cars |
| 5:30 PM Public In-Church Mass | \$333.00 | 118 People |
| 7:00 PM Public In-Church Mass | \$268.00 | 94 People |

Saturday, February 20, 2021

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| 4:00 PM Parking Lot Mass | \$1,885.00 | 94 Cars |
| 5:30 PM Public In-Church Mass | \$1,066.00 | 23 People |
| 7:00 PM Public In-Church Mass | \$285.00 | 27 People |

Sunday, February 21, 2021

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| 7:00 AM Public In-Church Mass | \$725.00 | 54 People |
| 8:30 AM Public In-Church Mass | \$612.00 | 43 People |
| 10:00 AM Parking Lot Mass | \$2,075.00 | 81 Cars |
| 12:00 PM Public In-Church Mass | \$1,150.00 | 64 People |
| 7:00 PM Public In-Church Mass | \$471.00 | 42 People |

Mailed-in Envelopes for the February 21 Collection and for Previous Sunday Collections during the Pandemic Lockdown: **\$1,569.00**

This Week's Total: \$9,838.00

Same Week Last Year's Total: \$13,359.00

Second Collection: Black and Indian Peoples \$1,485.00

Ash Wednesday: \$2,728.00

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

Monthly

Holy Hour for Vocations

There will be a Holy Hour for Vocations from **8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (please note time change due to 8th Grade Confirmation in the Upper Church that night)** on the Thursday evening that precedes First Friday. The next Holy Hour for Vocations will be on March 4. The Holy Hour will include Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary, and Confessions. The harvest is great but the laborers are few. Please join with us in praying for vocations!

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

First Friday Mass *in Latin* will be celebrated on March 5 at 12:15 p.m. Confessions will be heard after that Mass until 1:15 p.m. And First Friday Mass will also be celebrated (in English) at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, March 5 followed by Confessions until 6:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration will take place throughout the afternoon on Friday, March 5 from the conclusion of the 12:15 Latin Mass until 5:15 p.m. and also from 6:00 p.m. to 6:50 p.m.



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

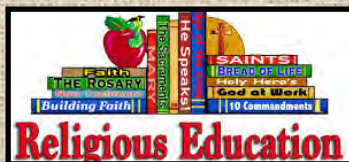
Stream the Stations of the Cross with Bishop O'Connell this Lent



Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M., is leading a special, multimedia experience of the Way of the Cross, is available for streaming on the Diocese of Trenton's YouTube channel. The presentation features the watercolor portrayal of the 14 stations by popular 19th century French painter James Tissot, one of Bishop O'Connell's favorite artists. After experiencing a spiritual vision while visiting the Church of St. Sulpice in Paris, Tissot dedicated his artistry to portraying the life of Christ in 350 watercolors based upon the Gospels – 14 of which depict the Stations of the Cross. The entire collection was purchased by and remains on display with the Brooklyn Museum of Art. Bishop O'Connell has observed that the Stations' portrayal has been "selected to help us prayerfully envision the Passion and Death of the Lord Jesus Christ." Leading prayers first composed by St. Alphonsus Liguori, the Bishop invites the faithful to join him in commemorating the Way of the Cross

this Lent. To stream the Stations, visit youtube.com/trentondioecese.

From the Desk of Our
Director of Religious Education



As members of the Catholic Church, every sacrament received not only confers grace on the individual, but it also builds up the *entire* Body of Christ. In other words, whether baptism, marriage or confession, every time one of the seven sacraments is experienced, *it has effects in you and me*. We must always keep in mind that *In Christ we are One*.

The thirty-seven youths in our parish who have been preparing to be confirmed on March 4th this year by Monsignor Thomas Gervasio, are moving into deeper communion with the Church, which means deeper communion with you and me. When they are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, they join us in the **solemn obligation to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross**. Quite a challenge, especially in a country growing ever more hostile to the truth of the Gospel. Our new Confirmandi will need Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgment, Courage, Knowledge, Reverence and Wonder and Awe of God, (the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit) to overcome the challenges and the deceptions of this world.



We would do well to reflect on how *we (all of us!)* are fulfilling *our own* Confirmation witness. With tragic consequences many Catholics do not put the full grace of Confirmation into practice. Like all sacraments, it unites us more firmly to Christ if we continue to pursue the relationship. There is no "graduation" from knowing Jesus in the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, reading Scripture, attending Mass, confessing our sins, and living out our Catholic faith. The measure of joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, chastity, and love in our lives (the fruits of the Holy Spirit) is a good indication of how *we're* responding to the Holy Spirit's indwelling *in us*.

As Catholics we need to do a better job of confessing Christ more boldly and supporting each other in the Faith. To begin with, let us pray for each other, but don't stop there. As our Eighth Graders approach *their* Confirmation, please ask the Holy Spirit to guide *you* in *your* response as a disciple of Christ. And for our Confirmandi, please pray:

Lord, You send out Your Spirit to touch the hearts of all people, so that they may believe in You and in Jesus whom You sent. Look kindly on all candidates for Confirmation as they listen to Your voice. Open their hearts to Your Spirit and bring to fulfillment the good work that You have begun in them.

Kevin Connelly

Director of Religious Education



During Lent from February 17 through March 28 our community will once again take part in the 40 Days for Life prayer vigil at the Shrewsbury Planned Parenthood. This is a peaceful, prayerful witness. There is no shouting or foul language and no graphic signs are carried. We walk, praying, saying a Rosary. We pray for the deceased babies; for the babies who are saved; for the moms and dads; for the workers inside; and for reconciliation, conversion and healing. We hope to change minds and hearts and to make a difference inside and outside of the clinic. We walk on the sidewalk in prayer for one hour, giving back to Jesus just a tiny bit of ourselves...This campaign over the years has saved thousands of babies.



We do not go on the property, we do not go on the driveway or park in the Planned Parenthood lot. We follow all COVID-19 precautions including wearing a mask and social distancing.

If you would like information and/or to join us on Mondays during Lent, please contact Mary Richards at 732-222-1562 or email mrichards0302@gmail.com. Other day(s) can be arranged, too. To learn more about 40 Days for Life or to sign up for a different day, go to: <https://www.40daysforlife.com/shrewsbury>

NEIGHBORING PARISHES OF

Northeast Monmouth
Cohort 17

**Schedule of the Stations of the Cross
During Lent Within Cohort 17**

Our Lady of Hope Parish (www.ladyofhopeparish.org)

St Jerome's Church: Fridays of Lent beginning
February 19 at 7:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Church: Mondays of Lent beginning
February 22 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass

Christ the King (www.cklb.org)

Holy Trinity Church: Every Friday during Lent at 6:30
p.m. in English.

Our Lady Star of the Sea Church: Every Friday during
Lent at 3:00 p.m. in English.

St. Michael's (www.stmichaelnj.com)

Fridays of Lent at 7:00 p.m.



**Schedule of Confessions During Lent
Within Cohort 17**

Cohort 17 Parishes Lenten Reconciliation Week 2021

March 15-21. See page 4 for detailed information about
Confessions available *every day this week in our Cohort*.

Our Lady of Hope Parish (www.ladyofhopeparish.org)

Confessions during Lent from 12:00 Noon to 12:45 p.m.
alternating between St. Jerome and St. Mary's Churches
Saturdays beginning February 20 at St. Jerome Church.

Christ the King (www.cklb.org)

Every Saturday, 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the Sacristy at Our La-
dy, Star of the Sea Church.

St. Michael's (www.stmichaelnj.com)

Monday-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. and
6:15-6:45 p.m. prior to the 7:00 p.m. Mass; and after the
12:15 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Masses on Fridays of Lent for
30 minutes.

The Light is ON  for You.
Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation

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



| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Catholic Appeal 2021 | Commenced February 21; Ongoing |
| Fridays in Lent (Mass at 8:00, 12:15, 5:30. Confessions after each of these Masses. Eucharistic Adoration 12:45-5:15. Stations of the Cross 7:00) | February 19-March 26, 2021 (excludes Good Friday) |
| 40 Days for Life – Mondays in Lent: Rosary Prayers to End Abortion at Planned Parenthood | February 17 to March 28 10:00 a.m. (see Page 8 for details) |
| Confirmation (Msgr. Gervasio presiding) | Thursday, March 4, 2021 6:00 p.m. |
| Cohort 17 Lenten Reconciliation Week | March 15-21, 2021 (see Page 4 for details) |
| First Confessions | Saturday, March 20, 2021 at 9:30 and 11:30 |
| Palm Sunday | Sunday, March 28, 2021 |
| Easter Sunday | Sunday, April 4, 2021 |
| Inter-Parish (Cohort 17) Mass of Remembrance for the COVID-19 Deceased of Long Branch and West Long Branch Communities | Saturday, April 10, 2021 10:00 a.m. (outdoors at St. Michael's Parking Lot) |
| First Holy Communion | Saturday, May 8, 2021 at 9:30 and 11:30 |

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 HIPAA & 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 1

Lynn Moody

Week 4

Connie Mirarchi

Week 6

Andrew Yeboah

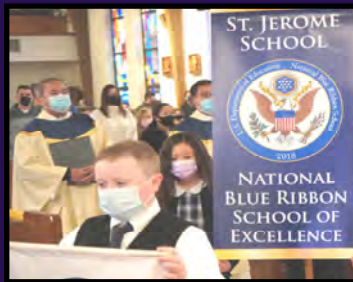
Week 8

Walter Fiore





Pastor's Note. This weekend brings to a close 2021's observance of Catholic Schools Week. Please take a minute to read the letter below sent to us by Sister Elizabeth Seton Dalessio, Principal of St. Jerome's School. Sister Elizabeth mentions – among other topics – her gratitude for the support that St. Michael's Church and our parishioners have provided to St. Jerome's School over the years. Students from St. Jerome's will be speaking at several of our Masses during the February 27-28 weekend to keep us informed about the good work going on at our neighboring parish and school (the only Catholic elementary school in our Diocesan cohort and a recipient of the Notional Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award) and to demonstrate with their own words and public speaking skills the quality of their instruction at St. Jerome's and the value of Catholic education. Please remember in your prayers Catholic education and the students, parents, teachers, staff members, priests, and the Sisters of the Religious Teachers Filippini at St. Jerome's and their diligent work and sacrifices.



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

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

God bless you.

Sister Elizabeth Seton Dalessio, MPF
Principal



Prayer and Support For Relief From Winter Storm Disasters in Texas

Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M., has shared the following prayer request with the faithful of the Diocese of Trenton: Please pray for all those who have died or have been injured in the recent winter storms, especially in Texas. We pray especially for those whose homes have been destroyed or who are without power and heat and for first responders who are offering assistance to those with urgent needs. In our Lenten almsgiving, let us find concrete ways to help our brothers and sisters. Let us entrust them in prayer to Our Blessed Mother Mary and St. Joseph.



Online donations can be made to Catholic Charities USA at www.CCUSA.online/weather or to local Catholic Charities of the Archdioceses of Galveston-Houston www.catholiccharities.org or San Antonio www.ccaosa.org; and the Dioceses of Dallas www.ccdallas.org; Fort Worth www.catholiccharitiesfortworth.org; Tyler www.ccetx.org; Beaumont www.catholiccharitiesbmt.org; Lubbock www.cclubbock.org; Corpus Christi www.catholiccharities-cc.org; Austin www.ccctx.org.



Life-Giving Wounds Retreat

for adult children of divorce or separation

Come for a better understanding of the wounds caused by your family's breakdown, and how to heal from them

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April 17 & 24, 9 am-12:30 pm

Virtual, with an in-person Mass on May 1

*Spots reserved for NJ residents until 3.17, then open to all



Register online at <https://diometuchen.org/adult-children-of-divorce>



The next Baptism preparation class for parents is scheduled for Saturday, March 6 at 10:00 a.m. in the Lower Church. Please call the parish office to register in advance.

2021 Mass Book

We kindly ask that when you drop your Mass Intentions off to the office mailbox for scheduling, please include a written list stating the names and dates of your requests and your name and phone number. The stipend for Masses is \$10.00 per Mass.

PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

WEEKLY MASS INTENTION

† Alzira Cacoilo r/o Tony & Natalina Gomes and Family

YEARLY MASS INTENTIONS

OCTOBER 2021

Salvatore J. Mirarchi r/o Joe & Carmel Mirarchi



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