# St. Michael's Church

March 10, 2024 | Fourth 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. Our First Friday 5:30 p.m. Mass has been suspended until further notice.

## 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 3 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, (732)483-0360, ext. 2 at the Catholic Center.

# Sunday's Gospel "God so Loved the World...." -John 3:14-21

# 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, Maintenace Coordinator

# Religious Education Office

OR GOD SO LOVED

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, March 9

8:00 AM People of the Parish

Karen & Richard Ricciardi 4:00 PM † Peter Falvo

> † John Higginbotham Friends

Agnes & Paul D'Angelo 5:30 PM † Rosemary Brundage

Special Intention

7:00 PM Health & Blessings:

The Elderly & Infirm

# Sunday, March 10

7:00 AM † Maria Merenyi Mary Jensen

> † Alfred Thorne Sue and Rob Davidson

> > Family

Ed & Laura Mogila 8:30 AM † Ryan Mogila

Special Intention Staff Sqt

Thomas FX Bender, III

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

**Our Catechists** 

10:00 AM † Anne Carroll Family

> † John Higginbotham **Bruce Crowell**

Special Intention: Health & Blessings: Marietta Datar

12:00 PM † Rev. Russell Abata Rick Binaco

> Sandra Skurat † Beverly Gomez

† Theresa Fisher & Joseph Stephanie Siciliano

DeRosa

4:00 PM † Irene F. & Edward Moskal, Sr. Barbara & Edward Moskal

People of the Parish

7:00 PM † Steven Davis Lin

Special Intention: A friend & her Mike

2 daughters

Special Intention Happy & Lin & Mike

Healthy 65th Fr. John

Monday, March 11 Wife 8:00 AM † Joseph Conte

> Friends of Sylvia Marsico Pro-Life Cause

7:00 PM † Raymond B. Rosenberg His Family

#### Tuesday, March 12

8:00 AM † Mary Crummy

# Wednesday, March 13

8:00 AM † Frank & Mickey DeLisa Mary

> † Richard Maglione Wife Quinta & Daughters

# Thursday, March 14

8:00 AM † Jesse Crummy

#### Friday, March 15

8:00 AM Special Intention: Jack Barney Barney Family

12:15 PM † Marguerite C. Butler

#### Saturday, March 16

8:00 AM † Emilia & Julius Simonelli Family

People of the Parish

4:00 PM † Gregory Surace Kathy Surace &

David Russell

† Gerard Casazza Sudman Family

5:30 PM Special Intention

† Alma DeMarinis Victoria Miragliotta

7:00 PM † Rosaleen De Bonis De Bonis Family

#### Sunday, March 17

7:00 AM † Kathy Heaning Linda

> † Charles Murrin Theresa

8:30 AM † Al Thorne Joann Dorgan

† Richard Rebeck

8:45 AM (At St. Jerome's Church):

Health & Blessings: Children of Our Parish and

**Our Catechists** 

10:00 AM † Rose Notaro **Daughters** 

> † Margaret O'Connor Sudman Family

† Frank Sosnowski Frank & Joanne Buono

12:00 PM Special Intention: Staff Sgt.

Thomas FX Bender, III

† Peter Falvo Mr. & Mrs. Joseph G.

Greca

Family

4:00 PM † Toni Seda-Morales Society of St. Vincent

de Paul

Loundy Saint Louis

† Susan Klutch Russell Murphy

7:00 PM Thanksgiving to St. Joseph

Lin & Mike

Special Intention: Anton Picini

People of the Parish

# **LENT 2024**

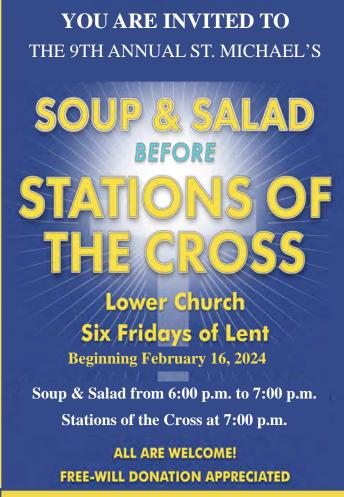
# Our Lenten observances will include the following:

- 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.
- <u>Save the Date</u>: The parish's Lenten Penance Service will be on Thursday, March 21 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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.



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.....Rosary Altar Society
- Friday, March 8.....St. Vincent dePaul Society
- Friday, March 15.....Bible Study Group
- 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.



St. Michael's Rosary Altar Society Sponsoring Lenten Day of Prayer and Reflection Thursday, March 21, 2024 At the San Alfonso Retreat House



All women and men of the parish are invited to attend a Lenten Day of Prayer and Reflection. Our one-day retreat will include community prayer, rosary, spiritual lecture, confession, lunch, and Mass.

Date and Time: Thursday, March 21 - 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Where: San Alfonso Retreat House, 755 Ocean Avenue, Long Branch (parking in the rear).

Cost: \$60.00 (per person) Coffee and Danish upon arrival. Lunch at 12:00 Noon.

Reservations: RSVP by Monday, March 18, 2024 by calling Sharon Barham at 732-539-7145. Please pro-

vide the number of guests, names, contact phone numbers.

Payment: Check made payable to: St. Michael's Rosary Altar Society.

Mail check to: Sharon Barham, 2 Belle Drive, West Long Branch, NJ 07764.

For further information contact: Dotty O'Hara 908-310-6497.

# We Say Goodbye and Thank You to Fr. Joseph

Parishioners gathered to say goodbye and thank you to Fr. Joseph Arockiam, SJ on Tuesday morning after the 8:00 a.m. Mass as Fr. Joseph concluded his stay at St. Michael's. During Fr. John's illness and recovery, Fr. Joseph (a priest friend of our former parochial vicar Fr. Cyril Johnson) was available to fill-in and help with Masses and Confessions. He is returning now to his home in India. We are very grateful to Fr. Joseph for his ministry here at St. Michael's and we are looking forward to a return visit.



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.

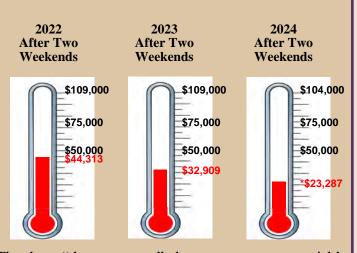








# **Parish Goal = \$109,000**



The three "thermometers" above compare our parish's 2022 vs. 2023 vs. 2024 results-to-date in the Annual Catholic Appeal. The thermometers indicate good

news. This year's total after two weekends is strong, although it is behind the pace after the same first two weekends of last year and the year before that. Thank you for your support of the Annual Catholic Appeal. *Together we can do great things!* 

\*This \$23,287 figure is approximately 22.4% of our parish goal. It was received through and including the second weekend of the campaign (tallied as of March 6) from 117 pledgers or check-writing contributors (and many unidentified. unquantified cash contributors) all of whom comprise approximately 2.4% of the 1,972 registered households of the parish. *Thank you!* The Diocese sent a Diocesanwide mailing during the week of February 11 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.



# 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 O'Hara to make these arrangements. Thank you.



# RE∮IGI©US EDUCA∻ION

# IMPORTANT DATES RE OUR CCD PROGRAM

- Sacrament of Confession for 8th Grade Confirmation Candidates: Monday, March 11, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
- Sacrament of Confirmation: Thursday, March 14, 2024. (Msgr. Thomas Mullelly presiding)
- First Confessions: Saturday, March 23, 2024.
- First Holy Communion: Saturday, May 4, 2024.



#### 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.

# PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

## WEEKLY MASS INTENTION

† Ronald Lubischer r/o Joyce Lubischer

# YEARLY MASS INTENTIONS

**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



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 <u>info@sanalfonsoretreats.org</u> OR register online: www.sanalfonsoretreats.org
Phone: 732-222-2731, X140
Full program description available at

www.sanalfonsoretreats.org

# RCIA 2024 at St. Michael's

The parish's RCIA catechumens and candidates are moving swiftly towards the Sacraments that they will be receiving at the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday night. RCIA, which stands for Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, is a process through which non-baptized adult men and women are baptized and enter the Catholic Church and other adults who are baptized prepare for and receive the Sacraments of First Eucharist and/or Confirmation. Our "RCIA-ers" were welcomed by St. Michael's Parish at the Rite of Sending on February 25 during our 12:00 Noon Mass (photo below) and welcomed by Bishop O'Connell later that afternoon at the Rite of Election dur-



ing a ceremony at the Co-Cathedral of St. Robert



Bellarmine (photo above). Please pray for our RCIA catechumens and candidates. And for further information about how adults may receive these Sacraments and come into full communion with the Catholic Church, please contact Director of Religious Education Mr. Kevin Connelly at (732) 483-0360.



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

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

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

By the same token, when we move into a new parish (OR, when we have been "going to the parish church for a long time" but for whatever reason have NOT "gotten around" to registering as a parishioner with the parish business office),

it's customary, appropriate, necessary, and "good form" to visit the parish office and register. The same rule of thumb applies to our children when they grow-up and reach the age of young adulthood; the time has then arrived for that grown-up child to register in his or her own name as a member of his/her parish (whether still residing at home with Mom and Dad or having moved into his/her own home). For further information about registering as a parishioner at St. Michael's Church, please call Mary at the Parish Office at 732-222-8080. Thank you.



# 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**.

<u>In Memory Of</u>	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!

# Second Collection This Weekend March 9 and 10 for Catholic Relief Services



This weekend we will have a second collection at all Masses for the Catholic Relief Services. Your support for this collection aids victims of persecution and natural disasters, provides legal ser-

vices to poor immigrants, and advocates for the powerless. Through your generosity, six Catholic agencies reveal Christ's love to the vulnerable refugee, the immigrant family, and those who are poor and marginalized. Please prayerfully consider contributing. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

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



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.





# LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE Thursday, March 21

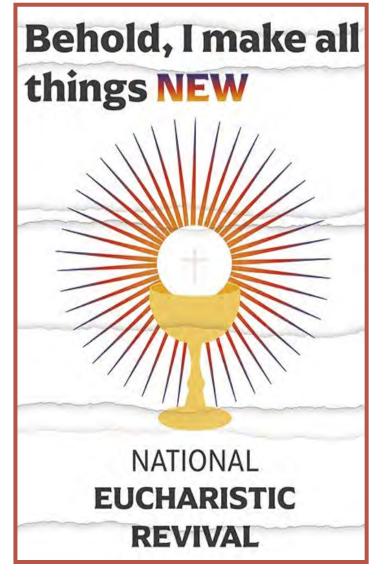


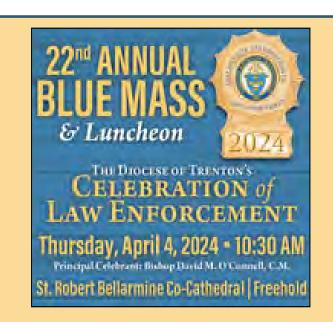
The parish's Lenten Penance Service will be on Thursday, March 21 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Five priests will be available to hear Confessions that

night. All are invited

and welcome to attend and receive the grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of our spiritual preparation for Easter.







PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS THROUGHOUT CENTRAL NEW JERSEY are invited to pray for law enforcement personnel who work to keep their communities safe when the Diocese of Trenton hosts the 22nd Annual Blue Mass April 4, 2024 in St. Robert Bellarmine Co-Cathedral, Freehold, beginning at 10:30a.m.

Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M., will serve as principal celebrant and homilist and will be joined at the altar with priests from across Burlington, Mercer, Monmouth and Ocean Counties. Bagpipers, fife and drum corps members and color guard processions will once again be part of the day's tribute.

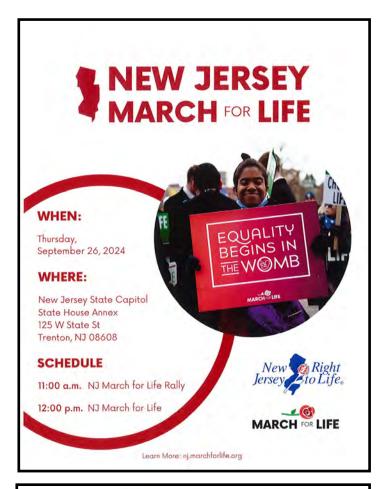
The Mass is open to the public. Afterward, a luncheon will be held for law enforcement personnel and their families. All those who wish to attend the luncheon are asked to register online at dioceseoftrenton.org/blue-mass; (Tickets are \$20 per person; all immediate family members of law enforcement personnel are invited to the luncheon at no charge.)



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

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









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

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

# **Weekend Collection & Attendance**

# Thank You!

# Saturday, March 2, 2024

<b>4:00 PM Mass</b>	\$1,348.00	127 people
<b>5:30 PM Mass</b>	\$565.00	74 people
7:00 PM Mass	\$365.00	68 people

### Sunday, March 3, 2024

<b>7:00 AM Mass</b>	\$1,536.00	83 people
<b>8:30 AM Mass</b>	\$2,247.00	142 people
10:00 AM Mass	\$1,867.00	165 people
12:00 PM Mass	\$1,270.00	176 people
4:00 PM Mass	\$1,392.00	133 people
7:00 PM Mass	\$1,046.00	141 people

Mailed-in Envelopes for the March 3 collection and for previous Sunday collections during the Pandemic Lockdown: \$764.00

This Week's Total: \$12,400.00

Same Week's Total Last Year: \$13,448.00

Annual Catholic Appeal: \$1,025.00

# 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.

# On the Calendar at St. Michael's Church



Sunday, March 31, 2024

Saturday, May 4, 2024

Thursday, September 26, 2024

40 Days for Life	February 14 - March 24, 2024 (See Page 6 for details,
Fridays in Lent (Mass at 8:00 <u>and</u> <u>12:15</u> . Confessions after each of these Masses. Eucharistic Adoration 8:30 a.m12:00 p.m.)	Friday, February 16-March 22, 2024 (excludes Good Friday) (See Page 3 for details)
Annual Catholic Appeal 2024	Commenced February 24-25; Ongoing
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)
Confirmation	Thursday, March 14, 2024
Parish Lenten Penance Service	Thursday, March 21, 2024 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m See Page 9 for details,
First Confessions for CCD Second Graders	Saturday, March 23, 2024
Palm Sunday	Sunday, March 24, 2024

# 2024 Mass Book

We kindly ask that when you come to the office for scheduling, please bring a written list including the names and dates of your requests and your name and phone number. The stipend for Masses is \$10.00 per Mass.



Easter

**First Holy Communion** 

New Jersey March for Life

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

When: Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Cost: \$40.00 (Receive \$20.00 back at Casino and free refreshments on the bus).

Bus leaves St. Michael's Church at 10:15 a.m.

For more information and to make a reservation call Peter at 732-801-6886