

# ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

March 12, 2023 | Third 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 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, ext. 2 at the Catholic Center.



This Sunday's Gospel Passage:  
(Third Sunday of Lent; John 4:5-42)  
"Jesus and the Samaritan Woman"  
(a/k/a "The Woman at the Well")



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  
Emily Carroll, Ass't Parish Secretary  
Lauren Walters, Acting Music Director  
Larry Swenson, Maintenance Coordinator

## 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



## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, March 11

8:00 AM People of the Parish	
4:00 PM † Joseph Conte	Wife & Children
† Barbara Alvino	Barbara Ruscil
5:30 PM † Rosemary Brundage	Paul & Agnes D'Angelo
† Daniel O'Connor	DeMaio Family
7:00 PM † Sr. Francis Scanlon	Joe & Joan Richter

### Sunday, March 12

7:00 AM † Charles Murrin	Theresa
† Josephine Saunders	Michelle Murphy
8:30 AM † Deceased Members of the Carapella Family	Granddaughter
† Clarice G. Viggiano	Friend
10:00 AM † Ronny Traversa	Tin & Ellie Tarantolo
† Dolores DeFelice	Olsen & Bertorelli Families
12:00 PM † Dorothy Zsamba	Sheree & Dominick Carnevale
† John Augello	Michael Bowman
4:00 PM † Renee Bazaz	Husband Chuck
† Charlie Grippio	Margie & Joe Wargo
7:00 PM People of the Parish	

### Monday, March 13

8:00 AM Pro-Life Cause	Friends of Sylvia Marsico
† Rita N. Cittadino	Christopher M. Cittadino & Family
† Richard Maglione	Wife Quinta & Daughters
7:00 PM † James Dillon, III	Friends

### Tuesday, March 14

8:00 AM † Frank & Mickey DeLisa	Mary Takonas
† John Connelly	Russo Family

"I fear nothing, because of the promises of heaven."

-St. Patrick

### Wednesday, March 15

8:00 AM † Carmela Marie Bettigole	
† Bob Chiusano	Bill Lisa

### Thursday, March 16

8:00 AM † Emilia & Julius B. Simonelli	Maria & Pasquale Simonelli
† Danielle Russo	Family
† Rosaleen De Bonis	De Bonis Family

### Friday, March 17

8:00 AM † Richard Donovan	Kathryn Miller
† Gerard Rooney	Kathryn Miller
12:15 PM † Angie Calabrese	Virginia Gizzi
5:30 PM Health & Blessings: Our Young Parishioners Confirmed on March 9	

### Saturday, March 18

8:00 AM Special Intention: Fr. Bernard McIlhenny, S.J.	Bill Mizerak
People of the Parish	
4:00 PM † Eleanor & Frank Rosano	Family
† Josephine Van Houten	Jack & Rene Brignola
5:30 PM † Carmela Bettigole	Dolores Serra
† Matthew Sciarillo	Dotty O'Hara
7:00 PM † Joan T. Mulrooney	Tony & Lisa Monte

### Sunday, March 19

7:00 AM Special Intention: Santa Santiago	Bill & Anne Lisa
† Roberta Grecco	Mary & Herb Jensen
8:30 AM † Ann, Louis & Michael Ciccarone	Mary & Catherine Farrar
† Jack & Bette McWilliams	Joe & Joan Richter
10:00 AM † Joe Agresto	Wife & Children
† Frank Sosnowski	Joanne & Frank Buono
12:00 PM † Margaret Larsen	Mark & Dana Viggiano
† RoseMarie Carnevale	Sheree & Dominick Carnevale
4:00 PM † Mrs. Florence MacLearie	Bill Mizerak
7:00 PM People of the Parish	

## LENT 2023

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 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 (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 (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.
- Outdoor Stations of the Cross in the San Alfonso Retreat Center's prayer garden overlooking the ocean on Wednesday of Holy Week (April 5) at 12:00 Noon.
- 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

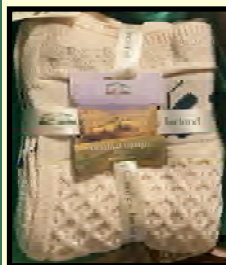
Please note that the 6:00 p.m. Soup and Salad Supper will be preceded by Eucharistic Adoration from 12:45 until 5:15 p.m. and Mass in the Upper Church at 5:30 p.m., Confessions at 6:00 p.m., and Eucharistic Adoration from 6:00 p.m. to 6:50 p.m. and will be followed by Stations of the Cross in the Upper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





Pastor's Note. Each Sunday at Noon (Rome time) the Holy Father usually appears in the window of the Papal apartment to give a weekly Angelus address. The Pope's Angelus address is typically a short homily about the Sunday Mass readings. After delivering this reflection on the readings, the Pope proceeds to pray the Angelus Domini (or the Regina Coeli during Easter). Afterwards he typically greets the pilgrims who that are present in the square in various languages of the world. The following is Pope Francis' Angelus address of two weeks ago on the **First Sunday of Lent** (Feb. 26, 2023). It is very instructive and helpful on **how to practice Lent well** and with **reliance on the Word of God** and **frequent reading of the Scriptures during the Season of Lent** and also in any and all times of trial and temptation. (This transcript is available at <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/angelus/2023/documents/20230226-angelus.html>).



POPE FRANCIS  
**ANGELUS**  
Saint Peter's Square  
Sunday, 26 February 2023



Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

[1] The Gospel of this first Sunday of Lent [February 26th] presents to us Jesus in the desert, tempted by the devil (cf. Mt 4:1-11). “**Devil**” means “**divider**”. **The devil always wants to create division**, and it is what he sets out to do by tempting Jesus. Let us see, then, *from whom* he wants to divide him, and *how* he tempts him.

[2] **From whom does the devil want to divide Jesus?** After receiving Baptism from John in the Jordan, Jesus was called by the Father “my beloved Son” (Mt 3:17), and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in the form of a dove (cf. v. 16). The Gospel thus presents us the three divine Persons joined in love. Then Jesus himself will say that he came into the world to make us, too, partake in the unity between him and the Father (cf. Jn 17:11). The devil, instead, does the opposite: he enters the scene **to divide Jesus from the Father and to distract him from his mission of unity for us. He always divides.**

[3] Let us now see *how* he tries to do it. The devil wants to take advantage of the human condition of Jesus, who is weak as he has fasted for forty days and is hungry (cf. Mt 4:2). The evil one then tries to instil in him **three powerful “poisons”**, to paralyse his mission of unity. **These poisons are attachment, mistrust, and power.** First and foremost, **the poison of attachment** to material goods, to needs; with persuasive arguments the devil tries to convince Jesus: “You are hungry, why must you fast? Listen to your need and satisfy it, you have the right and the power: transform the stones into bread”. Then **the second poison, mistrust**: “Are you sure the Father wants what is good for you? Test him, blackmail him! Throw yourself down from the highest point of the temple and make him do what you want”. Finally, **the third poison, power**: “You have no need for your Father! Why wait for his gifts? Follow the criteria of the world, take everything for yourself, and you will be powerful!”. **The three temptations of Jesus.** And **we too live among these same temptations, always.** It is terrible, but that is just how it is, for us too: attachment to material things, mistrust and the thirst for power are **three widespread and dangerous temptations, which the devil uses to divide us from the Father** and to make us no longer feel like brothers and sisters among ourselves, to lead us to solitude and desperation. **He wanted to do this to Jesus, he wants to do it to us: to lead us to desperation.**

[4] **But Jesus defeats the temptations.** And how does he defeat them? **By avoiding discussion with the devil and answering with the Word of God.** **This is important: you cannot argue with the devil, you cannot converse with the devil! Jesus confronts him with the Word of God. He quotes three phrases from the Scripture that speak of freedom from goods (cf. Dt 8:3), trust (cf. Dt 6:16), and service to God (cf. Dt 6:13), three phrases that are opposed to temptation.** He never enters into dialogue with the devil, he does not negotiate with him, but **he repels his insinuations with the beneficent Words of the Scripture.** It is **an invitation to us too; one cannot defeat him by negotiating with him, he is stronger than [we are]. We defeat the devil by countering him in faith with the divine Word.** In this way, Jesus teaches us to defend unity with God and among ourselves from the attacks of the divider. The divine Word that is Jesus’ answer to the temptation of the devil.

[5] **And we ask ourselves: what place does the Word of God have in my life?** Do I turn to it in my spiritual struggles? **If I have a vice or a recurrent temptation, why do I not obtain help by seeking out a verse of the Word of God that responds to that vice?** Then, **when temptation comes, I recite it, I pray it, trusting in the grace of Christ. Let us try, it will help us in temptation, it will help us a great deal, so that, amid the voices that stir within us, the beneficent one of the Word of God will resound.**

[6] May Mary, who welcomed the Word of God and with her humility defeated the pride of the divider, accompany us in the spiritual struggle of Lent....

[7]....And I wish you all a happy Sunday. Please, do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your lunch, and *arrivederci!*

*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.



EYES OF CHRIST



FEET OF CHRIST

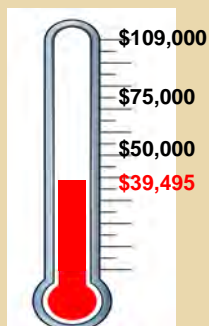


HANDS OF CHRIST

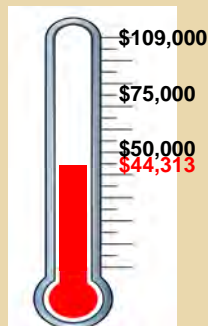
## ANNUAL CATHOLIC Appeal 2023

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

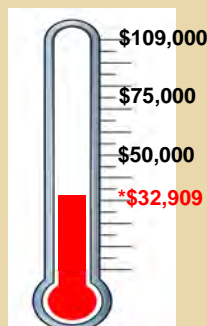
**2021  
After Three  
Weekends**



**2022  
After Three  
Weekends**

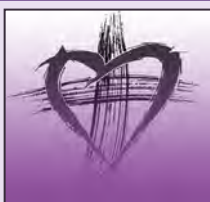


**2023  
After Three  
Weekends**



The three “thermometers” above compare our parish’s 2021 vs. 2022 vs. 2023 results-to-date in the Annual Catholic Appeal. The thermometers indicate good news. This year’s total after three weekends is strong, although it is behind the pace after the same first three 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 \$32,909 figure is approximately 30.1% of our parish goal. It was received through and including the third weekend of the campaign (tallied as of March 7) from 105 pledgers or check-writing contributors (and many unidentified, unquantified cash contributors) all of whom comprise approximately 4.9% of the 2,127 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.

We are the  
**BODY**  
of **CHRIST**  
2023 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

### St. Michael's Rosary Altar Society Sponsoring Lenten Day of Prayer Monday, March 27, 2023

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: Monday, March 27, 2023 – 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Where: San Alfonso Retreat House, 755 Ocean Avenue, Long Branch.

Cost: \$55.00 (per person) Coffee and Danish upon arrival. Hot lunch at 12:00 Noon.

Reservations: RSVP by Tuesday, March 21, 2023. Please call Sharon Barham at 732-539-7145 with the number of guests, their names and phone number.

Payment: Checks should be payable to: St. Michael's Rosary Altar Society.

Please mail payment to Sharon Barham, 2 Belle Drive, West Long Branch, NJ 07764. For further information contact: Dotty O'Hara 908-310-6497.

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!***



## WEBINAR INVITE:

## Praying Within the Special Needs Community and Beyond

with authors Dave and Mercedes Rizzo

Come and join us to discover various types of prayer and be part of a larger community of families who have loved ones with special needs.

Thursday, March 30, 2023 • 7pm



David and Mercedes Rizzo are parishioners at St. Isaac Jogues parish in Marlton, NJ. They write and speak from a faith perspective as parents of a child with autism. They blog regularly at CatholicMom.com. They are authors of *Praying For Your Special Needs Child*, (Word Among Us Press) and *Spiritually Able and The Adaptive First Eucharist Preparation Kit* (Loyola Press). Follow them on Facebook at Autism with the Rizzos.



TO REGISTER SCAN QR CODE OR GO TO:

[dioceseoftrenton.org/special-needs-webinar](https://dioceseoftrenton.org/special-needs-webinar)

QUESTIONS CAN BE DIRECTED TO:

[holyinnocentsociety@dioceseoftrenton.org](mailto:holyinnocentsociety@dioceseoftrenton.org)

SPONSORED BY: The Holy Innocents Society along with the Office of Catholic Social Services and the Department of Catechesis



## 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 third 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."

## 2023 Lenten Soup for the Soul Series San Alfonso Retreat House

755 Ocean Ave • Long Branch, NJ • 07740

March 27 6:00 – 8:30 P.M.

**LAST NIGHT OF SERIES!**

Looking for some spiritual nourishment this Lent?  
Come to our [Lenten Soup for the Soul Evenings](#)  
this March!

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

**Monday, March 27, 2023**

***To Bear the Beams of Love***

Presenter: Sr. Honora Nicholson, RSM

Space is limited; registration is required

E-mail Us: [info@sanalfonsoretreats.org](mailto:info@sanalfonsoretreats.org)

Phone: 732-222-2731 ext. 140

To register online or for full program description  
visit

[www.sanalfonsoretreats.org](http://www.sanalfonsoretreats.org)

Save THE Date

## 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL BLUE MASS

THE DIOCESE OF TRENTON'S  
CELEBRATION of  
LAW ENFORCEMENT



Thursday, April 13, 2023 | 10:30 AM

Principal Celebrant: Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M.

St. Robert Bellarmine Co-Cathedral

61 Georgia Road, Freehold

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### IMPORTANT DATES RE OUR CCD PROGRAM

- First Confessions: Saturday, March 25, 2023
- First Holy Communion: Saturday, May 6, 2023
- Crowning of Mary: Sunday, May 7, 2023

## HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

*St. Patrick (March 17),  
pray for us.*

*N.B.: Please remember the Parish  
Irish Soda Bread Contest. Details  
are on Page 3 of this bulletin.  
Slainte!*



## 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.**

## DON'T FORGET TO "SPRING" AHEAD!

Daylight Savings Time will  
begin at 2:00 a.m. on Sun-  
day, March 12. Remember  
to set your clocks forward!

### PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

#### WEEKLY MASS INTENTION

† Ronald Lubischer r/o Joyce Lubischer

#### YEARLY MASS INTENTIONS

#### April 2023

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

#### SEPTEMBER 2023

† Ralph and Eleanor Siciliano r/o The Boeckman Family

#### FEBRUARY 2024

† Susan Whitman r/o Lex and Janet Tucci

## THE PRO-LIFE PRESENTATION YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS



### Professor Robert George

McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence  
and  
Director of the James Madison Program  
in American Ideals and Institutions  
Princeton University

"The Dobbs Decision and The Past, Present and Future of The Pro-Life Cause:  
A Conversation Between Harold Cassidy, J.D. and  
Robert George, J.D., D. Phil., D.C.L., D. Litt."

Sunday, May 21 at 1:30PM

St. Agnes Church

103 Center Avenue, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716

Co-sponsored by Catholic Vote & Our Lady of Perpetual Help - St. Agnes Parish

Reception to Follow Presentation



## Weekend Collection & Attendance

*Thank You!*

### Saturday, March 4, 2023

4:00 PM Mass	\$2,588.00	219 people
5:30 PM Mass	\$1,517.00	104 people
7:00 PM Mass	\$779.00	48 people

### Sunday, March 5, 2023

7:00 AM Mass	\$1,517.00	71 people
8:30 AM Mass	\$1,292.00	122 people
10:00 AM Mass	\$1,019.00	133 people
12:00 PM Mass	\$1,619.00	127 people
4:00 PM Mass	\$1,161.00	154 people
7:00 PM Mass	\$835.00	146 people

Mailed-in Envelopes for the March 5 collection and for previous Sunday collections during the Pandemic Lockdown: **\$1,121.00**

**This Week's Total: \$13,448.00**

**Same Week's Total Last Year: \$14,382.00**

## Please Register as a Parishioner: The Helpful Reasons Why



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. For further information about registering at St. Michael's Church, please call Mary at the Parish Office at 732-222-8080. Thank you.



## Second Collection Next Weekend March 18 and 19 for Catholic Relief Services

Next weekend we will have a second collection at all Masses for the Catholic Relief Services. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Next weekend, please give generously to the collection and reveal Christ's love to those most in need. Learn more about the collection at [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief).

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



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



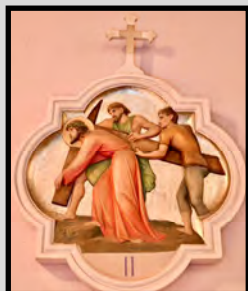
Please keep in mind that the parish priests and our lay Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist are available and eager to bring Communion to parishioners who are in the hospital (nursing homes, assisted living facilities, rehab centers, and hospices, too) and to parishioners who are at home but unable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



**The Stations of the Cross in OUR Church: Walking the Road to Calvary TOGETHER with Jesus and Mary During OUR 44 Days of Lent**



### *Jesus is condemned*



### *Jesus takes up His Cross*



### *Jesus falls the first time*



### *Jesus meets His Mother*



### *Jesus is laid in the tomb*



### *Jesus removed from Cross*



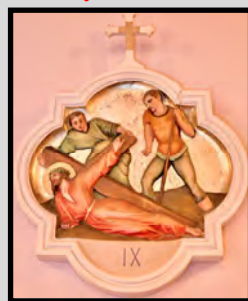
### *Jesus dies on the Cross*



### *Jesus is nailed to the Cross*



### *Jesus stripped of His garments*



### *Jesus falls a third time*



### *The women of Jerusalem*

The Stations of the Cross is a fourteen-step devotion that commemorates (usually with prayer, meditation, song, and artwork) certain of the events of Good Friday – during His Passion and during her sorrows as she walks through Jerusalem with the Cross and to the Tomb. The Stations focus on specific events of that day, beginning with Jesus’ condemnation. The Stations are found in most churches and are commonly used as a pilgrimage (especially on Fridays and Wednesdays of Lent and especially on Good Friday) as the individual moves from station to station. At each station, the individual pauses and recalls and contemplates an event leading up to the Crucifixion and burial. Specific prayers are recited at each station. The visual image is considered “*Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.*” Luke 2:19) and then the individual moves to the next station until all fourteen Stations are completed. Here at St. Michael’s we are blessed with an especially beautiful set of Stations on the North and South walls of the Nave of the church. Please make a point of praying the Stations of the Cross during Lent and walk the road to Calvary – the Way of the Cross – ***together*** with Jesus and Mary. (Adapted from *The Way of the Cross* available at <https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?>

Please join us for Stations of the Cross on Fridays of Lent at 7:00 p.m.



### *Simon helps carry Cross*



### *Veronica wipes Jesus' face*



### *Jesus falls a second time*



## EARTHQUAKES ROCK TURKEY AND SYRIA

### Please help families today with critical relief

Two severe earthquakes struck Turkey and Syria last month. 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. 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.**

## St. Vincent de Paul

God of Justice  
Open our eyes  
to see you in the face of the poor.  
Open our ears  
To hear you in the cries of the exploited.  
Open our mouths  
To defend you in the public squares as well  
as in private deeds.  
Remind us that what we do to the least ones,  
we do to you. Amen



SOCIETY OF  
ST. VINCENT  
de PAUL

## The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony

Jesus elevated marriage to a Sacrament at the Wedding Feast at Cana. Catholics have the duty to receive the Sacrament of Matrimony in a Catholic church. The Grace of the Sacrament of Matrimony enhances and supports the permanent and indissoluble bond of marriage and strengthens the love and fidelity, patience and wisdom of the spouses.

Please make contact with the parish office at least one year prior to your intended marriage date to begin the preparation process. This includes attendance at a Pre-Cana Conference and several meetings with one of our parish priests. A specific wedding date cannot be assured by the parish until **after** this marriage preparation has commenced and initial documentation has been received and reviewed. Therefore, all engaged couples are strongly advised to **speak to the parish staff first** when beginning to make wedding plans and **strongly advised not to make commitments with third-parties** (banquet halls, photographers, hotels, airlines, etc.) until **after** the wedding date has been finalized in writing with the parish office.



If you are presently in a civil marriage and desire to receive the Sacrament and enter into a valid Catholic marriage, please contact the parish office at 732-222-8080 to obtain further information about the "convalidation" of your marriage. We also offer direction and assistance on the possibility of receiving an annulment for those who are divorced. Please do not hesitate to call. The annulment process is generally less difficult or cumbersome than imagined.



## BAPTISM GODPARENTS AND CONFIRMATION SPONSORS

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

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



To receive a letter signed and sealed by the Pastor to verify your eligibility to serve as a Baptism Godparent or as a Confirmation Sponsor (such letters are required by (and issued by) virtual-

ly all Catholic parishes in the United States including St. Michael's), please keep the following eligibility criteria in mind:

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

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

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

## 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 3 for details)
Irish Soda Bread Contest	Friday, March 17, 2023 (See Page 3 for details)
First Confessions	Saturday, March 25, 2023
Palm Sunday	Sunday, April 2, 2023
Outdoor Stations of the Cross at San Alfonso	Wednesday, April 5, 2023 12:00 Noon
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

## 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](http://faithdirect.net). Our parish code is NJ319. Thank You.

## PARISH COUNSELING SERVICES

A joint effort of the Diocese of Trenton and Catholic Charities provides licensed professionals for short term counseling (up to six sessions) to parishioners dealing with difficult issues, for example, job-stress, family concerns, and bereavement. Contact your pastor or parish priest 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.