

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

March 14, 2021 | Fourth 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 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.

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.

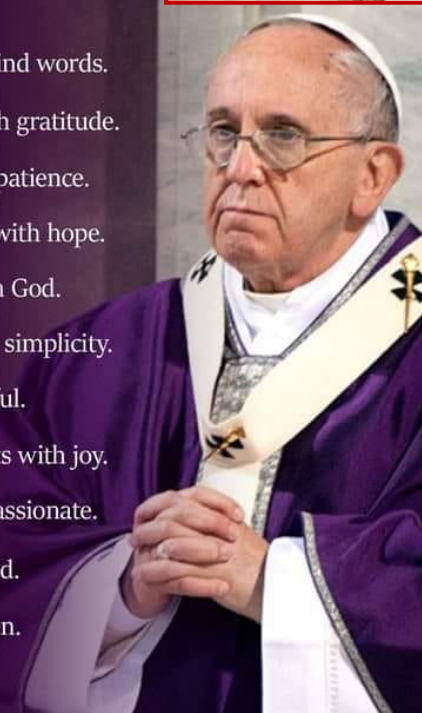
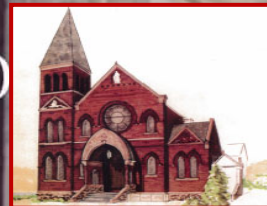
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words; be silent and listen.



St. Patrick (March 17) and St. Joseph (March 19), pray for us.

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, March 13

8:00 AM People of the Parish

- * 4:00 PM † Frank & Mickey DeLisa Mary
 † James & Mary Weeden Grandchildren
 5:30 PM † Betty Mellone Lisa & Lois Sherman
 † John Branca Ilvento Family
 7:00 PM Health & Blessings of
 COVID-19 Caregivers

Sunday, March 14

- 7:00 AM † Patty Chavez Emily & David Kaplan
 † Rosemarie Brundage Paul & Agnes D'Angelo
 8:30 AM † Carol Thomas (Rescigno) Patricia & Michael Fede
 * 10:00 AM † Adeline Buttacavole Mr. & Mrs. Anthony
 Principe
 † Dick Martel Loveland Family
 12:00 PM † Joseph DeSantis Peggy, Anthony &
 Danielle Romano
 7:00 PM People of the Parish

Monday, March 15

- 8:00 AM Pro-Life Cause Friends of Sylvia Marsico
 † Peter Leunes Patrice Carden
 7:00 PM † Catherine Wright Margaret Henneberry

Tuesday, March 16

- 8:00 AM † Rosaleen De Bonis George De Bonis
 † Gloria Henneberry Jim Cattanach



Wednesday, March 17

- 8:00 AM Special Intention: Cristian Ana Rodrigues & Family
 Rodrigues
 † Jane Rovito

Thursday, March 18

- 8:00 AM † Patricia Ann Smentkowski Carol Ferrante
 † Carmine A. Morgano Anne Marie, Pat, Michael
 Thayer & Tom Karwatt

Friday, March 19

- 8:00 AM † Joe Agresto Wife & Children
 † Harry Tokanos Mary
 12:15 PM † Michael Cuneo Loredana Dicristina &
 Joseph Esposito
 5:30 PM † Fr. Gerard Lair, O.S.B.

Saturday, March 20

- 8:00 AM † Patricia Carney Juliano Michele & Gary Fiore
 * 4:00 PM † Florence Meola John & Deborah Perri &
 Family
 † Stephen Kern Alyssa Sudman
 5:30 PM † Peter J. King, Sr. Fred, Janice, Kathleen &
 Isabel Carr
 People of the Parish
 7:00 PM † Ada Freeman Ellen Stone

Sunday, March 21

- 7:00 AM † Danny Mellaci Paul & Agnes D'Angelo
 8:30 AM † Jane Rovito Shirley & Burt Resnic
 † Josephine Mauriello Mauriello Family
 * 10:00 AM † Theresa Krakosky Michael Bowman
 † Frank Sosnowski Joanne & Frank Buono
 12:00 PM † Patty Chavez Marian Davey
 † Adam Duch Ann Turalski
 People of the Parish
 7:00 PM † George Areanitis Jim Cattanach

* 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 3 of this bulletin for further information on winter related contingencies and plans regarding our outdoor parking lot Masses.*

PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

YEARLY MASS INTENTIONS

OCTOBER 2021

Salvatore J. Mirarchi r/o Joe & Carmel Mirarchi

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

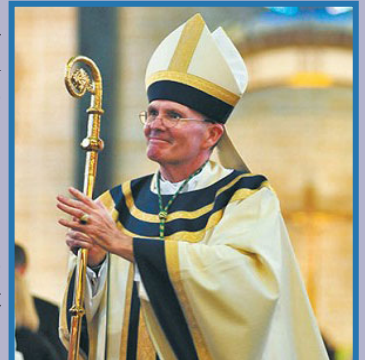
Our outdoor parking lot Masses have been very well attended (over 120 cars per Mass lately) and enhanced safety and confidence. We desire to continue celebrating these Masses until winter cold weather makes it unfeasible for the health of the Communion Ministers, ushers, and other volunteers. Please 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.

Year of
ST. JOSEPH



Bishop O'Connell has issued a diocesan-wide dispensation from the Lenten obligation of abstinence from meat on Friday, March 19, 2021, in honor of the Solemn Feast of St. Joseph,

Spouse of Mary, during this special "Year of St. Joseph." The Bishop encourages the faithful of the Diocese of Trenton who wish to take advantage of this dispensation, if possible, to transfer the Lenten abstinence from meat to another day that week, to attend Mass on March 19, OR to do some special act of penance instead.



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:**
 - Fridays 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.
- *The Little Black Book* (Lenten Gospel reflections) is available in the back of the church after Mass.
- **24 Hours For The Lord:** see Page 7 of this bulletin for further information.

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 (***begins next week!***) 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 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 **Wednesday, March 24. Please print clearly.**

In Memory Of

Requested By

Quantity

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

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

Phone Number:

Total Number of Memorials

_____ x \$45.00 = \$_____

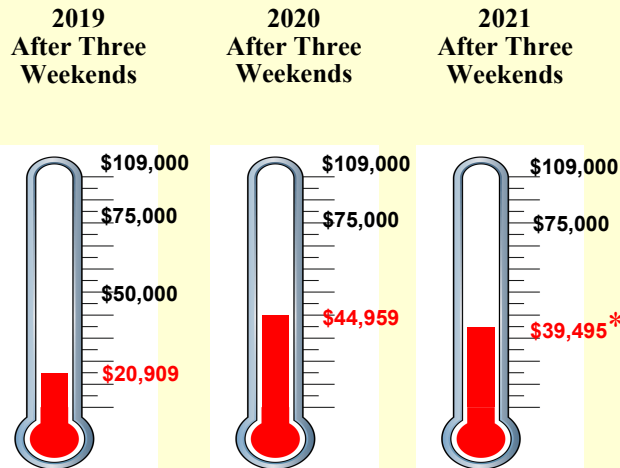
Total Donation: \$_____

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

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 2019 vs. 2020 vs. 2021 results-to-date in the Annual Catholic Appeal. This year's total after three weekends is good but slightly lower than our parish's total after three weekends in 2020 though significantly higher than our three-week total in 2019. Thank you! ***Together we can do great things!***

*This \$39,495 figure is approximately 36.2% of our parish goal. It was received as of the third weekend of the campaign (tallied as of March 8) from 165 pledgers or check-writing contributors (and many unidentified, unquantified cash contributors) all of whom comprise approximately 5.7% 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.



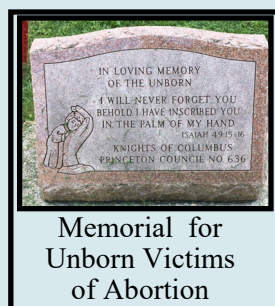
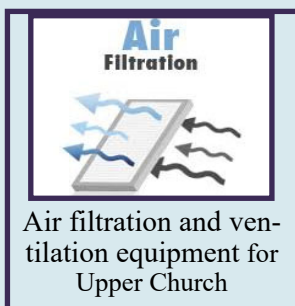
THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL 2021 ***IN ACTION!***

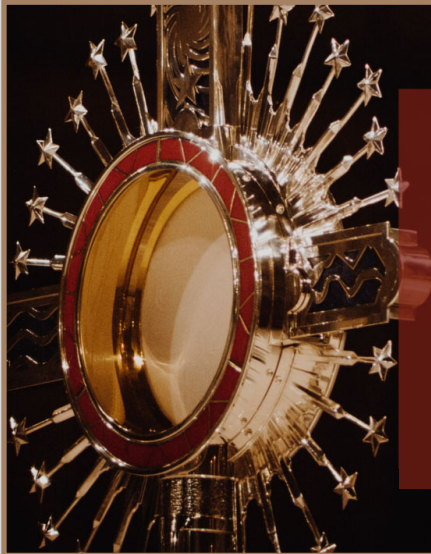
1. HOW YOUR CONTRIBUTION HELPS THE TRENTON DIOCESE HELP OTHERS:

Evangelization in Our Diocese and in Our Parish

Each parish is unique and offers religious education in ways that meet the needs of over 40,000 students in the local Diocese community. Some program structures are very traditional; others are innovative. Over 600 adults in various stages of formation were brought to full initiation with the Church in our diocese last year. Many opportunities for the enrichment of faith are found in events and activities in parishes throughout the diocese, such as Bible Study, parish missions, lecture series, and online learning. These ministries help with adult faith enrichment by providing support for parish leaders and access to resources. Your gift, in essence, builds up our Catholic faith. Together in Mission is a tool within our Diocese that has been created to help pastors, parish clergy and staff, parish ministry leaders and families become more intentional about evangelizing at every phase of life. Your gift supports this innovative tool which impacts the real lives of Catholics growing in faith.

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





24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

Friday, March 19
8:00 A.M. to
Saturday, March 20
9:00 A.M.

St. Michael's Church will once again be observing **24 Hours for the Lord**, a Lenten initiative in which churches remain open for 24 consecutive hours for Masses, Confessions, Eucharistic Adoration, the Rosary, and private prayer time and meditation. We took a one-year hiatus from "24 Hours" last year due to the covid lockdown. And we are very happy to resume this devotion and tradition this year. From March 19 to 20 faithful will have the opportunity to pray before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, reserved in the tabernacle or exposed in the monstrance. Confessions will also be made available during this period. The Mass, Rosary, and Stations of the Cross are also a part of this round-the-clock devotion and preparation for Holy Week.

At St. Michael's Church on Friday and Saturday, March 19-20

Eucharistic Adoration: Friday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon; 1:15 p.m.-5:15 p.m.; 6:00 p.m.-6:50 p.m.; 7:45 p.m.- 11:45 p.m.; Saturday 1:30 a.m.-7:45 a.m. (**Ador-ers' sign-up sheet in church vestibule**)

Confessions: Friday 8:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.; 11:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon; 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.; 7:45 p.m.-8:30 p.m.; Saturday morning 6:00 a.m.-7:45 a.m.; 8:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.

Masses: Friday 8:00 a.m.; 12:15 p.m.; 5:30 p.m.; 12:00 Midnight; 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning.

Rosary: To be prayed four times during the 24 Hours at: Friday 8:30 a.m.; Friday 12:45 p.m.; Friday 11:15 p.m.; Saturday 8:30 a.m.

Stations of the Cross: Friday 7:00 p.m.



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>

Weekend Collection & Attendance

Thank You!

Saturday, March 6, 2021

4:00 PM Parking Lot Mass	\$2,442.00	111 Cars
5:30 PM Public In-Church Mass	\$693.00	22 People
7:00 PM Public In-Church Mass	\$436.00	27 People

Sunday, March 7, 2021

7:00 AM Public In-Church Mass	\$697.00	48 People
8:30 AM Public In-Church Mass	\$1,244.00	53 People
10:00 AM Parking Lot Mass	\$2,367.00	106 Cars
12:00 PM Public In-Church Mass	\$967.00	67 People
7:00 PM Public In-Church Mass	\$238.00	56 People

Mailed-in Envelopes for the March 7 Collection and for Previous Sunday Collections during the Pandemic Lockdown: **\$5,889.00**

This Week's Total: \$14,973.00

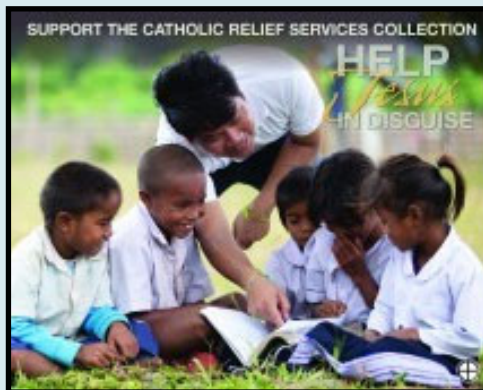
Same Week Last Year's Total: \$15,318.50

Easter Flowers: \$2,517.00

For Annual Catholic Appeal: \$734.00

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.*

Second Collection This Weekend March 13 and 14 For Catholic Relief Services



This weekend March 13 and 14 our parish will take up a Second Collection for The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this Collection provide food to the hungry, sup-

port displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the collection and **help Jesus in disguise**. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

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

TENTATIVE PLANS for a Lenten Day of Prayer and Reflection

Sponsored by St. Michael's Altar Rosary Society, Christ the King Parish, and St. Dorothea's Parish



We are reaching out to **ALL men and women** of our parish and nearby parishes to invite them to join us for a Lenten Day of Prayer and Reflection at the San Alfonso Retreat House. We need

to have a commitment of 30 persons to join us in order to confirm this special Day of Prayer and Reflection.

Date and Time: Monday, March 22, 2021 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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

Cost: \$35.00 (per person); includes light refreshments and boxed lunch

Reservations: **Please** call Sharon Barham no later than Monday, March 15, 2021 if you can commit to joining us. Call Sharon at 732-539-7145.

Student-Led Stations of the Cross

LED BY CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY AT
MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY, MARCH 26
7:00 P.M.

At St. Michael's Church

CONTACT CRISTINA AT CDAVERSO@MONMOUTH.EDU

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 those Masses. Eucharistic Adoration 12:45-5:15 and 6:00-6:50. Stations of the Cross 7:00 p.m.)	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)
Cohort 17 Lenten Reconciliation Week	March 15-21, 2021 (see Page 4 for details)
St. Joseph's Day (in the Year of St. Joseph)	Friday, March 19, 2021
24 Hours For The Lord (see page 7 for details)	Friday and Saturday, March 19-20, 2021
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

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 2

June Scavone

Week 2

Joanne & Frank Buono

Week 3

Lynn Moody

Week 6

Connie Mirarchi

Week 8

Andrew Yeboah



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, which 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 the Bishop'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: youtube.com/trentondioocese.

U.S. Bishops' Statement on Moral Concerns with Using the Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 Vaccine

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) issued a Statement on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 regarding moral concerns with using the Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 vaccine. The Statement may be accessed at the parish website www.stmichaelnj.com. The Statement says in part, "if one has the ability to choose a vaccine, Pfizer or Moderna's vaccines should be chosen over Johnson & Johnson's." The moral concern arises because the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was developed and tested and is produced with abortion-derived cell lines. The USCCB Statement also quotes the judgment of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican that "when ethically irreproachable Covid-19 vaccines are not available... it is morally acceptable to receive Covid-19 vaccines that have used cell lines from aborted fetuses in [the company's] research and production process."



Pope Francis has proclaimed 2021 as a "Year of St. Joseph" and as a part of that celebration Bishop O'Connell has published in this month's *Monitor* magazine a selection of photos of stained glass windows, statues, paintings, and other art work from numerous churches of our Diocese depicting St. Joseph – Patron Saint of the Universal Church. Our church's own Nativity stained glass window is among those photos of the "Faces of St. Joseph" chosen for the magazine. Please take some time to read the March issue of *The Monitor*. And, St. Joseph, please pray for us.



The 2021 Lenten Blood Drive this past Monday went extremely well and in the blood bank's words was "a great success." Gratitude is expressed to all the blood donors and to all those who had a hand in organizing, planning, and conducting the drive.

The blood drive was a collaborative effort among St. Michael's and our neighboring parishes Christ the King and Our Lady of Hope, the students of the Catholic Campus Ministry at Monmouth University, the University itself, RWJBHU, and several other groups. A total of **97 units** of whole blood, platelets, or plasma was collected at the University's Stafford Student Center which **will help to save or sustain the lives of well over 100 patients.**

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Daylight Saving Time will begin at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 14. Remember to set your clocks forward!

spring ahead!

San Alfonso Retreat House Presents:



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!

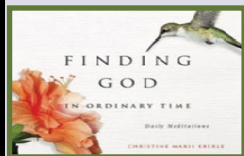
Evenings of Reflection

March 15 and 24

6:00PM – 8:30PM

5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Arrival and Registration
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Simple Lenten Soup Supper
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Program

Monday, March 15, 2021 What Are You Thirsty For?



A Samaritan woman with a complicated history came to a well in the heat of the day; there, she encountered One who recognized her deeper thirst and sent her home transformed. This Gospel (John 4) is often proclaimed on the Third Sunday of Lent. In this program we will hear the Samaritan Woman's story in her own words through the art of dramatic interpretation. Praying with images of thirst, we will draw closer to the "living water" that Jesus offers us all.

Presenter: Christine Marie Eberle passionately connects Scripture, spirituality, and everyday life. A college campus minister for 26 years, she is now a freelance writer, speaker, and retreat facilitator. Her first book of daily meditations, [Finding God in Ordinary Time](#), will be available for purchase. You can follow her at christine-marie-eberle.com.



Wednesday, March 24, 2021 Broken Body of Christ/Broken Body of Earth: A Call to Ecological Conversion

Using the insights of Pope Francis' letter *Laudato Si*, Ecological Spirituality/Theology, and the New Cosmology as well as her own personal experiences of living on the land, Sr. Margaret will explore how "living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue, not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience." (LS #217)

Presenter: Margaret Galiardi, OP. Margaret is a Dominican Sister from Amityville, New York. Margaret has lectured nationally on ecological theology and spirituality, the "New Story and the Christian Story," and the work of Thomas Berry. In addition, she has created numerous original retreats, workshops and lectures in response to expressed needs. She has published two books:

Encountering Mystery in the Wilderness: One Woman's Vision Quest and *Where the Pure Water Flows: The New Story of the Universe and Christian Faith*. She has written for NCR's Global Sisters Report.



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_____ March 15 _____ March 24

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