

# ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

March 28, 2021 | Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

## 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

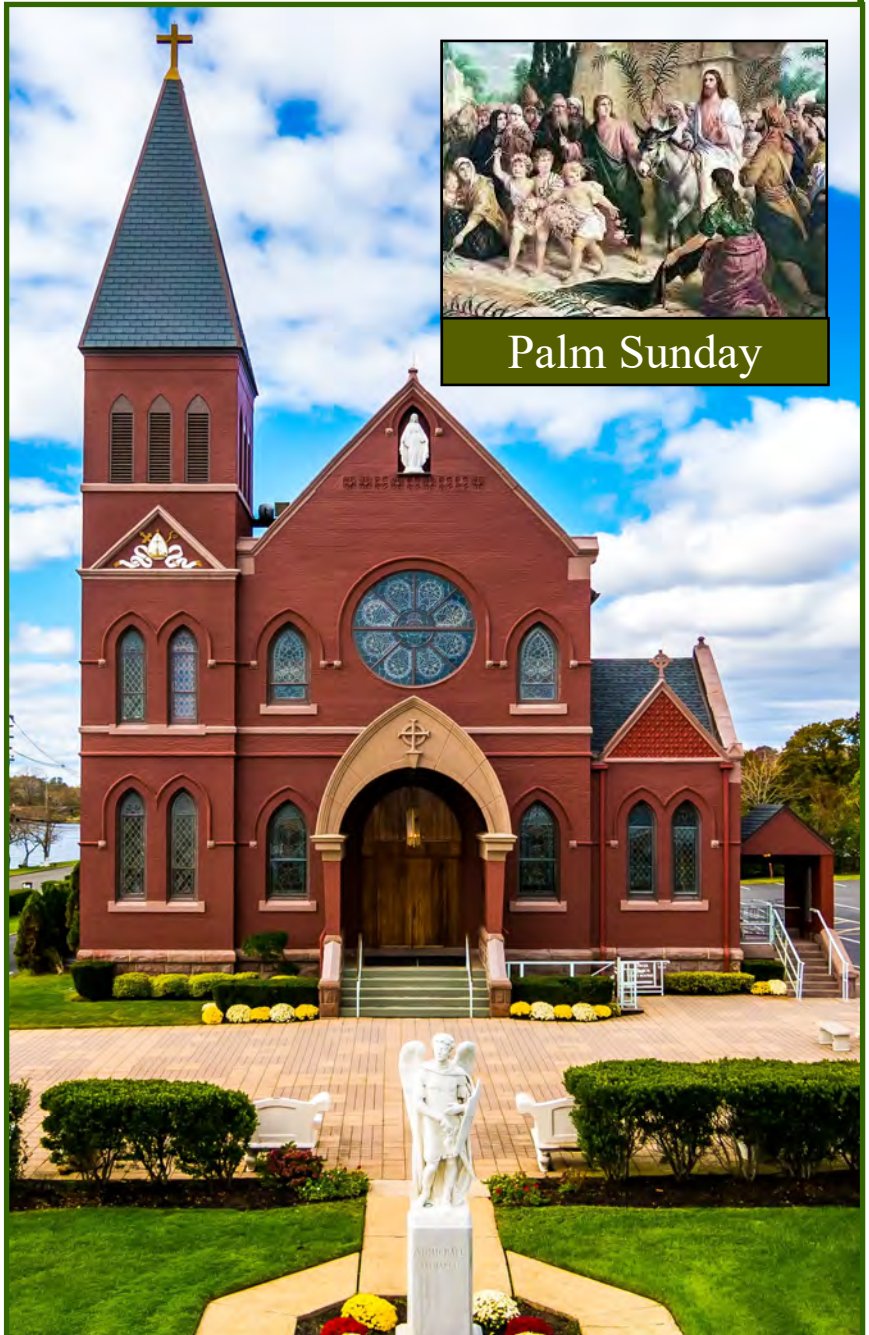
There is a Monthly Holy Hour for Vocations that includes Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions. This Monthly Holy Hour is from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM on the Thursday immediately preceding the First Friday.

## 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.



Palm Sunday



## PARISH OFFICE

800 Ocean Avenue | Long Branch, NJ 07740

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

[www.stmichaelnj.com](http://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 27

8:00 AM † Michael El-Fer	Paul & Kelly Rance
* 4:00 PM † Danielle M. Russo	Mom & Sister Deanna
† Deacon James Kelly	
5:30 PM † Helen Schaefer	Terry & Jack Lee
People of the Parish	
7:00 PM † Ada Freeman	Meryl Schutzbank

### Sunday, March 28 (Palm Sunday)

7:00 AM † Rosa Alba Stranieri	Mother Francesca
8:30 AM † Michael Wrubel	Wife Maria & Family
† Benjamin Gizzi	Family
* 10:00 AM Special Intention: Pro-Life Movement	Vincent Lepore
† Lynn Moody	Joanne & Frank Buono
12:00 PM † Joseph DeSantis	Barbara Maietta
People of the Parish	
7:00 PM † Elaine Gannon	Rich & Denise Cumiskey

### Monday, March 29

8:00 AM Pro-Life Cause	Friends of Sylvia Marsico
7:00 PM † Richard Savare	Nancy Murphy

\* All Masses listed on this page will be celebrated indoors in the Upper Church with the exception of (a) the Saturday 4:00 p.m. Mass and the Sunday 10:00 a.m. Mass which are celebrated (weather permitting) in the parish's North Parking Lot and live-streamed via the parish website [www.stmichaelnj.com](http://www.stmichaelnj.com) and the parish's YouTube channel and (b) the Easter Sunday Sunrise Mass at 6:00 a.m. outdoors on the church courtyard and the Easter Sunday 12:00 Noon Mass at the Long Branch High School Football Stadium. **Please see Page 3 of this bulletin for further information on winter related contingencies and plans regarding our outdoor parking lot Masses.**

*Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.*

*-Philippians 2:8-9*

### Tuesday, March 30

8:00 AM † Joe Agresto	Wife & Children
† Geraldine Woolley	

### Wednesday, March 31

8:00 AM † George & Chestoria Heaning	Linda Heaning
† Patricia Juliano	

### Thursday, April 1

7:00 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper

### Friday, April 2

3:00 PM Passion of the Lord

### Saturday, April 3

8:00 PM † John O'Brien (11th Anniversary)	Noreen O'Sullivan
People of the Parish	

### Sunday, April 4 (Easter Sunday)

6:00 AM † Rosa Alba Stranieri (Church Courtyard)	
7:00 AM † Marie Albano	Paul & Agnes D'Angelo
† Charles Murrin	Theresa
† Joseph Welter	Family
8:30 AM † Bernie Boglioli	Audrey Boglioli
* 10:00 AM † Harold J. & Julia R. Bowman	Loving Children Michael, Joe & AnneMarie
Special Intention: Pro-Life Movement	Vincent Lepore
12:00 PM † Abbot Gerard Lair, O.S.B. (Upper Church)	
12:00 PM People of the Parish (Football Stadium)	
5:00 PM † Patty Chavez	

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





## ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH MASS & CONFESSIONS 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.

### 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.

### ♦ Holy Week Schedule

Please see Page 4 of this bulletin for the schedule of Holy Week Masses, Confessions, and other liturgies.

### 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.

† 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.



There will be no Holy Hour for Vocations at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 1 and no First Friday Mass in Latin at 12:15 p.m. on Friday, April 2 due to Holy Thursday and Good Friday. Please check our Holy Thursday and Good Friday schedule on Page 4 of this bulletin.

Palm Sunday



*This Sunday (March 28)  
is Palm Sunday*

*Fresh palms will be blessed at the beginning of all  
Masses next weekend and distributed at the conclu-  
sion of each Palm Sunday Mass.*

## Mass of Remembrance for the Covid Deceased of The Long Branch and West Long Branch Communities: Saturday, April 10 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Michael's Parking Lot



The Roman Catholic parishes of Long Branch and West Long Branch invite all to attend a Mass of Remembrance for the COVID-19 Deceased of our two communities. We will pray for the repose of their souls, for the consolation of their families and friends, in gratitude for the care they received from health care providers and loved ones, and for perseverance, courage, and strength as we and all the world continue toward the end of the pandemic.

The Mass of Remembrance will be on Saturday, April 10, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. outdoors in the parking lot of St. Michael's Church at 800 Ocean Avenue, Long Branch. The Mass will be bilingual in English and Spanish and concelebrated by the Parish (Our Lady Star of the Church), Our Lady of Hope and St. Mary of the Assumption Michael's Church. Holy Communion will be distributed at all the faithful in the cars.



*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.*

## HOLY WEEK 2021 SCHEDULE

Social distancing, face masks, limited seating capacity, and all other pandemic safety/health protocols will be followed at all Masses and other liturgies.

### CHRISM MASS

- **Monday, March 29 at 7:30 PM**

Our Bishop, David M. O'Connell, will preside at this especially beautiful Mass at the Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine in Freehold. Fr. Mark and Fr. John will be among the 100-plus concelebrating priests. The sacred oils to be used in the parishes will be blessed by the Bishop during this Mass. Only priests to attend this year due to pandemic social distancing guidelines. Live-stream available at Diocese website.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

- **Wednesday, March 31 at 12:00 Noon** - Outdoors (weather permitting) at the San Alfonso Retreat House Prayer Garden. Meet and begin in our Upper Church and conclude in our Upper Church.

- **Friday, April 2 at 5:30 PM** - Outdoors (weather permitting) around Lake Takanassee. We will meet and begin in our Upper Church and conclude in our Upper Church.

- **Friday, April 2 at 7:00 PM** - Indoors in the Upper Church (to be led by Fr. Butler and Fr. Nillo).

### MORNING PRAYER

- **Holy Thursday at 8:00 AM**
- **Good Friday at 8:00 AM**
- **Holy Saturday at 8:00 AM**

Morning Prayer (from the Liturgy of the Hours) will be prayed in the Upper Church on the days and at the times noted above. Confessions will be heard each of those three mornings for 30 minutes by two priests after Morning Prayer (outdoors weather permitting; otherwise in the Upper Church sanctuary). Morning Prayer will be 15-20 minutes in length.

### HOLY THURSDAY

- 8:00 AM Morning Prayer**
  - 8:20 AM - 8:50 AM Confessions§**
  - 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Confessions ¶**
  - 7:00 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper†**
- Following Mass, the Church will remain open for Veneration of the Blessed Sacrament until Midnight.

### GOOD FRIDAY

- 8:00 AM Morning Prayer**
- 8:20 AM - 8:50 AM Confessions§**
- 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Confessions§**
- 3:00 PM Passion of the Lord†**
- 5:30 PM & 7:00 PM Stations**

### HOLY SATURDAY#

- 8:00 AM Morning Prayer**
- 8:20 AM - 8:50 AM Confessions§**
- 12:00 Noon Blessing of Easter Food Baskets (outdoors at courtyard)**
- 8:00 PM Great Vigil Mass†**

### EASTER SUNDAY#

- 6:00 AM Mass at Sunrise at Parish Courtyard (outdoors weather permitting; otherwise in Upper Church) †**
- 7:00 AM Mass\***
- 8:30 AM Mass\***
- 10:00 AM Mass† Parking Lot Mass**
- 12:00 PM Mass\* - Upper Church**
- 12:00 PM Mass ☼ - at Long Branch High School Football Stadium**
- 5:00 PM Mass\***

§ Two priests hearing Confessions.

¶ Three priests hearing Confessions.

# No scheduled Confessions on Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday except as listed here. Additional times for scheduled Confessions are highlighted in **GREEN** in this announcement. For an urgent penitential need, please speak to the priest celebrant after Mass or phone the parish office.

† There will be hot cross buns at the Church Courtyard after this Mass.

\* There will be **one Mass** at this hour; this Mass in the Upper Church will be simulcast to the TV monitor in the Lower Church.

† Live-Stream available at parish website.

☼ The 12:00 Noon Easter Sunday Mass at the football stadium will not be live-streamed but will be available in a delayed recording on the parish website beginning at 4:00 p.m. on Easter Sunday.



## MORNING PRAYER ON APRIL 1, 2, AND 3



Mass is not celebrated on Holy Thursday (except the Mass of the Lord's Supper that night) nor on Good Friday nor on Holy Saturday (except the Easter Vigil Mass that night). **We will pray Morning Prayer on those three mornings** at 8:00 on Holy Thursday, at 8:00 on Good Friday, and at 8:00 on Holy Saturday. **In addition, Confessions** will be heard by Fr. Mark and Fr. John for **30 minutes on each of those three mornings after Morning Prayer** on Holy Thursday from 8:20 to 8:50, on Good Friday from 8:20 to 8:50, and on Holy Saturday from 8:20 to 8:50. Our praying of Morning Prayer will take approximately 15-20 minutes each morning. All are invited and welcome.

Morning Prayer is a part of the Liturgy of the Hours. The Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office or the Work of God (*Opus Dei*), is the daily prayer of the Church, marking the hours of each day and sanctifying the day with prayer...making the day holy (from the start!) with prayer. The Hours are a meditative dialogue on the mystery of Christ, using scripture and prayer. The Divine Office "is truly the voice of the Bride herself addressed to her Bridegroom. It is the very prayer which Christ himself together with his Body addresses to the Father." (SC 84) St. Basil the Great gives an excellent description of Morning Prayer in these words: "It is said in the morning in order that the first stirrings of our mind and will may be consecrated to God and that we may take nothing in hand until we have been gladdened by the thought of God, as it is written: 'I was mindful of God and was glad.'" (Ps 77:4) "Celebrated as it is as the light of a new day is dawning, **this hour also recalls the resurrection of the Lord Jesus**, the true light enlightening all people (see Jn 1:9) and "the sun of justice" (Mal 4:2), "rising from on high." (Lk 1:78) Hence, we can well understand the advice of St. Cyprian: **"There should be prayer in the morning so that the resurrection of the Lord may thus be celebrated."** (GILH, no. 38) From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and available at <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgy-of-the-hours/index.cfm>

## The Lenten Veiling of Statues and Crosses



It is informative and edifying to recall from time to time the theology and traditions behind our religious practices and customs. The Lenten veiling of the church's statues and crosses with purple fabric presents such an opportunity. This practice of veiling or covering dates back many centuries; its exact origin is unclear. The *Roman Missal* currently in use here in the United States provides an instruction (among the "rubrics" in red ink in that liturgical book) stating: "the practice of covering crosses and images in the Church from the Fifth Sunday of Lent is permitted....Crosses remain veiled until the end of the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday; images remain veiled until the beginning of the Easter Vigil." The veiling is optional. It is neither mandated nor prohibited.

The purposes and reasons for the veiling are several. The veiling of crosses and images is a sort of "fasting" from viewing with our eyes the sacred depictions; a sacrifice and a self-denial during the latter days of Lent.



The veiling creates a spiritual hunger and yearning for the return of the images and enhances our awareness and appreciation of them during their absence. The purple color is symbolic of the penitential nature of Lent, the kingship of the resurrected and glorified Jesus, and our mourning and sorrow over the suffering and death of Jesus and His time in the tomb. Just as the Lenten fast concludes with the Paschal feast, so too, our fasting from being able "to see the cross" culminates when the purple veils are removed from the Wood of Calvary on Good Friday. Likewise, our fasting from viewing the statues of the saints culminates on the night of the Easter Vigil with a renewed appreciation of the saints' love of Christ, their faith, their devotion, their closeness to God in heaven, their prayers and intercessions for us, and the example of holy living that they provide for us.



*Each of us* has a vital part **TOGETHER** in all we do in Christ's name, and *each of us* can share in all we do with a gift to the Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA). Our single Act of Faith propels the works of love that build up *our* Church. *You* make that happen with a generous gift to the ACA. Your contribution does make a difference! Please help. Please contribute. Please make a pledge.

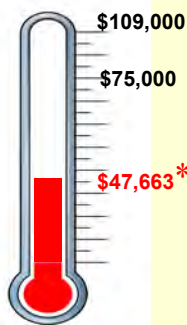
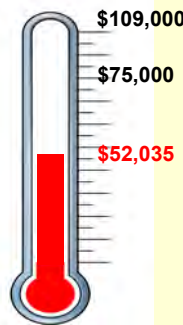
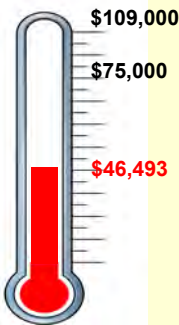


**Parish Goal = \$109,000**

**2019  
After Five  
Weekends**

**2020  
After Five  
Weekends**

**2021  
After Five  
Weekends**



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 five weekends is good but lower than our parish's total after five weekends in 2020 though slightly higher than our five-week total in 2019. Thank you! ***Together we can do great things!***

\*This \$47,663 figure is approximately 43.7% of our parish goal. It was received as of the fifth weekend of the campaign (tallied as of March 22) from 203 pledgers or check-writing contributors (and many unidentified, unquantified cash contributors) all of whom comprise approximately 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.



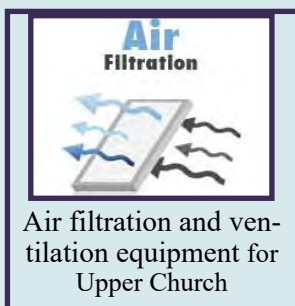
## THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL 2021 **IN ACTION!**

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

#### **Evangelization-Ministry to Families, Youth and Young Adults**

Every person belongs to a family. Families are the foundation of the Catholic parish. In the midst of the family and the parish community, people encounter Christ and learn to be His disciples. Family and Parish are the primary environments in which evangelization takes place. Together in Mission is a tool to support these evangelization efforts. Your gift to the Annual Appeal promotes individuals and family life. Youth events and service opportunities, young adult gatherings, Marriage prep, Baptismal prep, Ministry to separated and divorced persons are just a few of the services offered.

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





# Holy Week unfolds Christ's never-ending love for all

AN OVERVIEW OF HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2021 WITH DIRECTIVES ON PANDEMIC-BASED RESTRICTIONS

*Pastor's Note: This bulletin insert summarizes the key pandemic safety/health protocols that will be followed during Holy Week and Easter Sunday. This insert was provided by the Diocese for use in the parishes.*

**E**ach year, faithful from throughout the world are invited to experience the unfolding of the Paschal Mystery of our Lord by participating in the various liturgies that commemorate his Passion, Death and Resurrection during Holy Week.

The following are encapsulations about the special liturgies along with some of the directives that Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M., issued with regard to the celebrations in this time of pandemic. Priests in the Diocese of Trenton received a full copy of these Holy Week and Easter Pandemic Directives on Jan. 28.

► To read more about the directives in detail, visit [dioceseoftrenton.org/pandemic-directives](http://dioceseoftrenton.org/pandemic-directives).

## PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD • MARCH 28

Palm Sunday, or Passion Sunday, celebrates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem for the Jewish festival of Passover. As Jesus, who was riding on a donkey, entered the city, the



John Butkowski photo

enthusiastic crowds greeted him by throwing their cloaks down before him as a gesture reserved for royalty and also spread palm branches along the road while shouting "Hosanna," a Hebrew expression meaning "save us."

Until this time, Jesus, in his public ministry, did not allow himself to be proclaimed as the Messiah. However, in this final entry into Jerusalem, he sets the stage for an entry that fulfills the Old Testament's foreshadowing of the coming of the Messiah.

As a memorial of Christ's suffering, the day's liturgy includes the reading of the Passion – the Gospel passages, which give the accounts of events of Christ's suffering and Death.

◆ Because of the pandemic, the directives issued by Bishop O'Connell for Palm Sunday include that the Procession and Solemn Entrance at the start of Mass are to be omitted. Palms will be blessed – available after Mass as people exit Church.

## MASS OF CHRISM • MARCH 29, MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

The Chrism Mass reflects the communion of the priests with their bishop. During this Mass, all of the priests of the Diocese who are gathered publicly renew their commitment to their priestly service. The Mass is also when the Bishop blesses the oils to be used in parishes throughout the coming year. The Bishop blesses the Oil of the Sick, which is used for the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, and the Oil of Cat-

echumens, which is used for the Baptism of adult catechumens at the Easter Vigil. He also consecrates the Sacred Chrism, which is used for the Sacraments of Confirmation, Baptism and the ordination of priests and bishops and the consecration of churches.

◆ The diocesan Chrism Mass will be celebrated at 7:30 p.m. in St. Robert Bellarmine Co-Cathedral, Freehold, by Bishop O'Connell. The faithful are invited to watch the Mass this year via livestream only since, due to pandemic restrictions, attendance will be limited to concelebrating priests who will renew their priestly commitments and collect their blessed and consecrated oils for their parishes.

## HOLY THURSDAY • APRIL 1

The Mass of the Lord's Supper commemorates when Jesus gathered with his disciples to celebrate the Passover. During this Last Supper, Jesus instituted the Eucharist and the priesthood.

It is also at this Mass when the Gospel is read of how Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. By washing his disciples' feet, he set for them and for all of his followers, the example of what it means to "love one another" and to be of service to others.



Mike Ehrmann photo

At the end of the Mass, the Eucharist to be shared on Good Friday is not returned to the tabernacle. Instead, the Blessed Sacrament is carried in procession by the priest. This action symbolizes Jesus' walk to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus agonized over the suffering he was soon to endure.

It is also at the end of the Mass when the altar is stripped. This ancient ritual is a powerful re-enactment of the Lord's humiliation at the hands of the Roman soldiers. The bare altar symbolizes the transformation of the communion table of Holy Thursday into the tomb slab of Good Friday.

◆ Pandemic directives state that the washing of the feet and the procession with the Holy Eucharist at the end of Mass be omitted this year. Instead, the Holy Eucharist is to be placed in a tabernacle or altar of repose for the adoration of the faithful after the reception of Holy Communion. ►



Vic Miciretta photo



continued from page 7

## Holy Week continued

### GOOD FRIDAY • APRIL 2

Good Friday, a day of fasting for the Church, commemorates Jesus' Crucifixion and Death. In keeping with the Church's ancient tradition that Sacraments are not to be celebrated on Good Friday, this is the only day during the year when Mass is not celebrated. Instead, the celebration of the Lord's Passion takes place within the context of a Communion service and is held at 3 p.m., which places the prayer close to the traditional hour of Jesus' Death. The service includes a Liturgy of the Word, the Veneration of the Cross and reception of Holy Communion. The Passion is proclaimed again, but on this day, it is from John's Gospel account, which is more personal than the other accounts found in Matthew, Mark and Luke.

◆ Pandemic directives include that physical contact during the Veneration of the Cross is prohibited.



Mike Ehrmann photo

### HOLY SATURDAY • APRIL 3

The Roman Missal explains: "On Saturday, the Church waits at the Lord's tomb, meditating on his suffering and death. The altar is left bare, and the sacrifice of the Mass is not celebrated. Only after the solemn vigil during the night held in anticipation of the Resurrection, does the Easter celebration begin, with a spirit of joy that overflows into the following period of 50 days."

### EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT

Although celebrated on Holy Saturday evening, the Easter Vigil liturgy marks the beginning of Easter. The Vigil is arranged in four parts: a service of light, which includes the blessing of



Jeff Bruno photo

the fire and lighting of the Paschal Candle; the Liturgy of the Word, during which seven Readings from the Old Testament may be proclaimed that tell the Salvation History of God's people; the liturgy of Baptism, when new members are welcomed into the Church through the Sacraments of Initiation, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

◆ Because of the pandemic, the tradition of blessing of Easter food on Holy Saturday is highly discouraged indoors, but outdoor blessings may be arranged at the discretion of the pastor. Pandemic directives issued for the Easter Vigil include the omission of the preparation and lighting of the Easter Fire and

distribution of candles to the congregation; the Blessing of Water should take place with a small amount of water blessed that can be disposed of reverently afterward; no water is to be placed in the fonts, and the Baptismal Liturgy should include the Renewal of Baptismal Promises unless there are Elect present for Baptism. Other adjustments provided in the diocesan pandemic directives will be made by the pastor of each parish.

### EASTER SUNDAY THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD • APRIL 4

Easter Sunday continues to proclaim the glorious news of the Resurrection. Jesus has been raised from the dead and the power of sin and death has been destroyed forever.

◆ Public Masses take place as usual according to parish schedules, observing all COVID protocols.

**Most parishes in the Diocese of Trenton are now livestreaming Masses. To view their Holy Week and Easter livestreaming schedules, please visit your local parish website.**

## Bishop O'Connell's livestream schedule for Holy Week

Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M., has announced his schedule for Holy Week. All of the Bishop's Masses and services will be livestreamed on [Youtube.com/trentondioocese](https://www.youtube.com/trentondioocese).

- ◆ **Palm Sunday, March 28**, the Bishop will celebrate the 10 a.m. Mass in St. Paul Church, Princeton.
- ◆ **Chrism Mass, March 29**, Bishop O'Connell and priests of the Diocese will gather for the annual Chrism Mass at 7:30 p.m. in St. Robert Bellarmine Co-Cathedral, Freehold. During this Mass, all of the priests of the Diocese who are gathered publicly renew their commitment to their priestly service. The Mass is also when the Bishop blesses the oils to be used in parishes throughout the coming year. Due to pandemic restrictions, attendance will be limited to celebrating priests.
- ◆ **Holy Thursday, April 1**, the Bishop will celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7 p.m. in St. David the King Church, Princeton Junction.
- ◆ **Good Friday, April 2**, Bishop O'Connell will preside over the Commemoration of the Lord's Passion at noon in St. Mary of the Assumption Cathedral, Trenton. This is the only day during the year when Mass is not celebrated. Instead, the celebration of the Lord's Passion takes place within the context of a Communion service.
- ◆ **Holy Saturday, April 3**, the Bishop will celebrate the Easter Vigil at 8 p.m. in St. Dominic Church, Brick.



**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](http://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](http://www.cklb.org))**

60 Hour Adoration will begin with a Mass on Monday,  
March 29th at 6:00 am at Our Lady Star of the Sea  
Church. The period of Adoration will end on Wednesday,  
March 31st at 9:15 pm.

**St. Michael's ([www.stmichaelnj.com](http://www.stmichaelnj.com))**

Fridays of Lent at 7:00 p.m.



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

**Our Lady of Hope Parish ([www.ladyofhopeparish.org](http://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](http://www.cklb.org))**

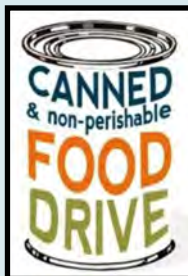
Every Saturday, 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the Sacristy at Our La-  
dy, Star of the Sea Church.

**St. Michael's ([www.stmichaelnj.com](http://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. Please see the Holy Week schedule of  
Confessions on Page 4.

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

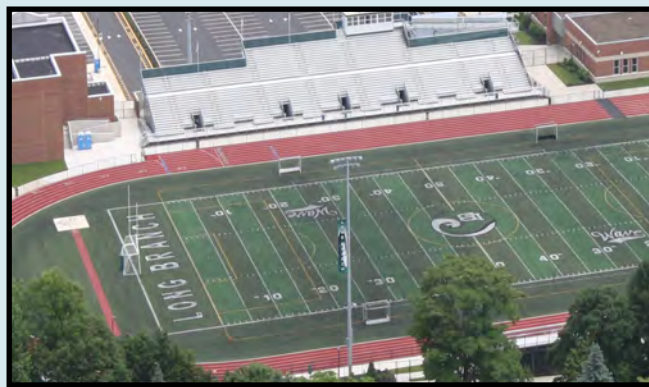
**Canned Food Drive at  
Easter Sunday 12:00 P.M. Mass at  
Long Branch High School Football Stadium**



All who attend our Easter Sunday 12:00 p.m. Mass outdoors at the Long Branch High School football stadium are asked to bring with them a donation of one or two cans of non-perishable food which will be collected by volunteers of the St. Vincent dePaul Society (SVDP) in drop-off bins at the stadium entrances prior to the Mass. The canned food will be distributed to the needy in the community at the next monthly SVDP food pantry at St. Michael's Church on Saturday, April 17, 2021. Thank you for your kindness and generosity and for your support of this Easter Sunday Canned Food Drive.



Instead of an Easter Egg Hunt our Easter Mass at the Football Stadium will be followed by distribution of a "grab-and-go" bag of Easter candy with an Easter Egg for all children 8 years of age and younger.



**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 HIPPA & 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 4**

June Scavone

**Week 4**

Joanne & Frank Buono

**Week 5**

Lynn Moody

**Week 8**

Connie Mirarchi



*Life-Giving Wounds Retreat*  
for adult children of divorce or separation

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

**Hosted by the Diocese of Metuchen, NJ**

*April 17 \$ 24. 9 am-12:30 pm*

Virtual, with an in-person Mass on May 1


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



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

**Save the Dates: Parish Mission: Fr. Wade**

Our Parish Mission with *Fr. Wade Menezes, of the Fathers of Mercy and of EWTN TV and Radio*, was originally scheduled for May 2-6 and was postponed twice last year because of the covid pandemic. We have re-scheduled the Parish Mission and Fr. Wade will be here at St. Michael's December 11-15, 2021 for an Advent Parish Mission. Please save the dates.



**PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH**

**YEARLY MASS INTENTIONS**

OCTOBER 2021

Salvatore J. Mirarchi r/o Joe & Carmel Mirarchi

**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.

SAINT JEROME PTA

*Gift Auction*

CELEBRATING **40** Years 2021

Saturday, April 17th from 8am - 12:30pm  
Sunday, April 18th from 12pm - 4:30pm

at Saint Jerome School • 250 Wall St, West Long Branch • Sister Angelina Pellicola Hall

Each guest can sign up for a one-hour time slot (select times on 4/17 or 4/18) to view the gift baskets and drop tickets for a chance to win wonderful prizes.

[www.signupgenius.com/go/sjs2021](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/sjs2021)

No more than 50 people will be allowed in the school at the same time, masks are required, and please maintain social distancing.

PRIZE LEVELS	Approx. Values	Choose from 3 tickets packages at check in:
LARGE: \$100-\$200 value		• \$50 Package: Includes 25 large, 4 super and 5 mega
SUPER: \$200-\$400 value		• \$100 Package: includes 50 large, 10 super, and 10 mega
MEGA: \$400+ value		• \$200 Package: Includes 50 large, 44 super and 21 mega


Individual tickets will also be available for purchase, as well as the \$1,000 Shopping Spree Tickets, Mystery Prize Tickets and 50/50 Raffle. Acceptable forms of payment will be cash, Venmo and credit card. No checks will be accepted.

Winning tickets will be pulled during a livestream drawing for all guests to watch on **Sunday, April 18th, 2021 at 6:00pm**

Please see reverse side for more detailed information.

For questions contact Inez Bruno: 732-539-6597 or email: [inezbruno@icloud.com](mailto:inezbruno@icloud.com)

**Divine Mercy Sunday**  
**April 11, 2021**



From the diary of Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska, a young Polish nun, "Divine Mercy" is a special devotion that began spreading throughout the world in the 1930s. The message is nothing new, but is a reminder of what the Church has always taught through Scripture and Tradition ~ that God is merciful and forgiving and that we, too, must show mercy and forgiveness. With the Divine Mercy devotion, the message takes on a powerful new focus, calling people to a deeper understanding that God's love is unlimited and available to everyone. The Lord revealed to Sister Faustina a powerful prayer which He wanted everyone to pray ~ THE CHAPLET OF THE DIVINE MERCY ~ and He promised extraordinary graces to those who would recite it.

**Join us on Sunday, April 11 at 2:30 p.m. at Saint Michael's Church for the praying of this special devotion on Divine Mercy Sunday. Confessions will be available from 2:00 to 2:30 p.m.**



## Weekend Collection & Attendance

*Thank You!*

### Saturday, March 20, 2021

4:00 PM Parking Lot Mass	\$2,427.00	131 Cars
5:30 PM Public In-Church Mass	\$493.00	24 People
7:00 PM Public In-Church Mass	\$444.00	33 People

### Sunday, March 21, 2021

7:00 AM Public In-Church Mass	\$601.00	57 People
8:30 AM Public In-Church Mass	\$808.00	59 People
10:00 AM Parking Lot Mass	\$2,279.00	112 Cars
12:00 PM Public In-Church Mass	\$1,012.00	89 People
7:00 PM Public In-Church Mass	\$327.00	78 People

Mailed-in Envelopes for the March 21 Collection and for Previous Sunday Collections during the Pandemic Lockdown: **\$5,188.00**

**This Week's Total: \$12,579.00**

**Same Week Last Year's Total: \$14,245.00**

**Annual Catholic Appeal: \$677.00**

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.*



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 certificate, and getting donation statements for your taxes. 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.

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



Annual Catholic Appeal 2021	Commenced February 21; Ongoing
Palm Sunday	Sunday, March 28, 2021
Holy Week	Please see the schedule on Page 4 of this bulletin
Easter Sunday	Sunday, April 4, 2021
Parish Business Office Closed	Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Monday, April 5
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)
Divine Mercy Sunday	Sunday, April 11, 2021 2:30 p.m.
First Holy Communion	Saturday, May 8, 2021

## Parish Office Closed

The parish office will be closed on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Monday, April 5. The office will reopen at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 6. Mass will be celebrated at the regular time on Monday, April 5 at 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Confessions on Monday, April 5 will be heard at the usual times after the morning Mass until 9:00 a.m. and after the 7:00 evening Mass until 8:00 p.m.



The next Baptism preparation class for parents is scheduled for Saturday, April 17 at 11:00 a.m. in the Upper Church. Please call the parish office to register in advance.

## Aid For The Hearing Impaired

We offer the use of radio aids during Mass upon request. The device is tuned to the sound system in the church so that those who have a hearing deficit might hear more clearly. Please ask an usher for assistance.





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Your Parish in Your Will.

For further information,  
please call the Parish Office.

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