

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

April 3, 2022 | Fifth Sunday of Lent

DAILY MASS

Mon – Sat: 8:00 AM | Mon: 7:00 PM

First Friday 12:15 in Latin in Oct, Dec, Feb, Apr, June, Aug. In English in Sept, Nov, Jan, Mar, May, July. And 5:30 (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 *And temporarily a Sunday 5:30 PM Mass as described on Page 5.

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 1:00 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.

The Pope's Act of Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary



O Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, in this time of trial we turn to you. As our Mother, you love us and know us: no concern of our hearts is hidden from you. Mother of mercy, how often we have experienced your watchful



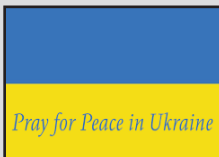
care and your peaceful presence! You never cease to guide us to Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Yet we have strayed from that path of peace. We have forgotten the lesson learned from the tragedies of the last century, the sacrifice of the millions who fell in two world wars. We have disregarded the commitments we made as a community of nations. We have betrayed peoples' dreams of peace and the hopes of the young. We grew sick with greed, we thought only of our own nations and their interests, we grew indifferent and caught up in our selfish needs and concerns. We chose to ignore God, to be satisfied with our illusions, to grow arrogant and aggressive, to suppress innocent lives and to stockpile weapons. We stopped being our neighbor's keepers and stewards of our common home. We have ravaged the garden of the earth with war and by our sins we have broken the heart of our heavenly Father, who desires us to be brothers and sisters. We grew indifferent to everyone and everything except ourselves. Now with shame we cry out: Forgive us, Lord!

(continued on page 8)

Pastor's Note. Pope Francis on March 25 (the Solemnity of the Annunciation) led the world in consecrating Russia, Ukraine, the

Church, and all humanity to the Blessed Mother. The first portion of the Act of Consecration appears above and it continues on Page 8.



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. 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
Susan Cleaver, Ass't Parish Secretary

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



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 2

8:00 AM † Anne Elizabeth Feeney
 † Conrad Russo Family
 4:00 PM † Anthony Chiafullo John & Deborah Perri and Family
 † Joe Sorrentino JoAnn & Family
 5:30 PM † Mary Lu Pingitore Pingitore Family
 † Jack Levy Paul & Agnes D'Angelo
 7:00 PM People of the Parish

Sunday, April 3

7:00 AM † Rosa Alba Stranieri Mother Francesca
 † John Anthony Luongo Lester Luongo
 8:30 AM † Carolyn Kuz Linda Tanchak & Anna DeSouza
 † Julia Feeney
 10:00 AM † Dr. Reginald Farrar Mary Farrar
 † Jo-Ann D'Apolito Joanne & Frank Buono
 12:00 PM † Rev. William Halbing
 † Enzo Landi Greca Family
 4:00 PM † George Dudas Fred & Janice Carr
 † John & Yolanda Cole Farmer & Cole Family
 5:30 PM People of the Parish
 7:00 PM † Jay Filippo Filippo Family
 † John O'Brien Tom & Noreen O'Sullivan

Monday, April 4

8:00 AM Pro-Life Cause Friends of Sylvia Marsico
 † June Huhn
 7:00 PM † Pedro Manuel Bencosme Patricia Bencosme

Tuesday, April 5

8:00 AM † Cousins Linda
 † Clarice Viggiano Viggiano Family
 Special Intention: Family
 Joe Richter



Wednesday, April 6

8:00 AM † Jeanette DiDomenico Viggiano Family
 † John E. Hogan Catherine Campen

Thursday, April 7

8:00 AM † Christopher Renzo
 † Jack Levy

Friday, April 8

8:00 AM † Angelo Di'Amico Viggiano Family
 † Danielle Russo Grandmother
 12:15 PM † Rev. James Sauchelli
 5:30 PM Peace in Ukraine

Saturday, April 9

8:00 AM † Mark Russo Mother
 People of the Parish
 4:00 PM † Justin Hamill Sudman Family
 † Marti DeGhetto Luci, Ed & Elisa Perez
 5:30 PM † Angie Albano Agnes & Paul D'Angelo
 † Paul D'Angelo Agnes & Paul D'Angelo
 7:00 PM † PFC Antonio Cittadino Christopher Cittadino

Sunday, April 10

7:00 AM † Charles Murrin Theresa
 † Anna Cattelona Family
 8:30 AM † Joan Renzella Matthew & Debbie Welsh
 † Carolyn Kuz Linda Tanchak & Anna DeSouza
 10:00 AM † Mary & William Kresan Mary Farrar
 † Scott I. Opatosky Rick & Carol Ferrante
 12:00 PM † Lorenza Redaelli Aschettino Family
 † Vincent Kreder
 4:00 PM † Anna Sokalski Louise Hoffman
 † Jay Filippo Filippo Family
 5:30 PM People of the Parish
 7:00 PM † Rev. James Sauchelli

The Blessed Mother, the St. Joseph, and the Sanctuary Candles will be lit this week for the people of Ukraine and for peace in Ukraine.



LENT 2022

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 March 4 through and including April 8. 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.
- 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.
- Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Fridays of Lent at 7:00 p.m.
- Outdoor Stations of the Cross: Wednesday, April 13 at 12:00 Noon (in the Prayer Garden at the San Alfonso Retreat House) and Friday, April 15 at 5:00 p.m. In the event of inclement weather, these stations will be prayed in the Upper Church.
- Bishop O'Connell's annual letter regarding Lenten regulations is in the February 27 bulletin on Page 3 and on the parish website.
- The date and time of the parish's Lenten Penance Service is Tuesday, April 11 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Four priests will be hearing Confessions that night.

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.

HOLY WEEK 2022 SCHEDULE

CHRISM MASS

- **Monday, April 11 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.

PENANCE SERVICE

- **Tuesday, April 12 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM**

Four priests will be available for Confessions on the Tuesday evening of Holy Week.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

- **Wednesday, April 13 at**

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

- **Friday, April 15 at 5:30 PM**
Outdoors (weather permitting) around Lake Takanassee. We will meet and begin and conclude in our Upper Church
- **Friday, April 15 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. Morning Prayer will be 15-20 minutes in length. No Morning Mass on these days of Holy Week.

HOLY THURSDAY

- 8:00 AM Morning Prayer**
- 8:20 AM - 8:50 AM 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 Stations (outdoors)**
- 7:00 PM Stations (Upper Church)**

HOLY SATURDAY#

- 8:00 AM Morning Prayer**
- 8:20 AM - 8:50 AM Confessions§**
- 12:00 Noon Blessing of Easter Food Baskets**
- 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-Upper Church**
- 10:00 AM Mass-Lower Church❖**
- 12:00 PM Mass-Upper Church**
- 12:00 PM Mass-Lower Church❖**
- 5:00 PM Mass***

§ Two priests hearing Confessions.

No scheduled Confessions on Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday except as listed here. For an urgent penitential need, please speak to the priest celebrant after Mass or phone the parish office.

† There will be coffee and 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.

❖ Priest in-person will be presiding at this Mass in the Lower Church. Not a televised Mass on the TV monitor.



“Coffee And...” in Place of Soup & Salad This Lent 2022



During our 2022 Lenten Season we are offering a new social gathering on Friday evenings immediately prior to 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross.

Last year and in 2020 we cancelled the Lenten Soup & Salad Suppers because of the covid pandemic. This year as Lent has arrived, the pandemic seems to be waning but it is still not entirely behind us, and the preparation and serving of food and beverages at a community gathering is still of concern for some.

So we are “modifying the menu” but not the fundamental concept of Soup & Salad this year. Instead of the home-made soups and home-made salads and other simple, minimal supper items that have been prepared and then served family-style and buffet-style in past years, this year we will offer coffee, tea, bottled water, individual containers of fruit juices, and individually wrapped portions of cakes and cookies – “light fare” – to be enjoyed along with conversation and fellowship beginning at 6:15 p.m. each Friday with the Praying of Grace and before moving to the Upper Church shortly before 7:00 p.m. for Stations of the Cross. These evening refreshments are intended to make us mindful of foregoing a more substantial meal on the Fridays of Lent in favor of smaller portions that provide sustenance while also highlighting the Lenten themes of fasting, sacrifice, self-denial, and penitential practices.

“Coffee And...” will take place in the Lower Church. Thanks once again to the Parish Hospitality Committee members for their vision and efforts in putting this spiritual and social event together for us. May our Lenten journeys nourish our minds, hearts, and souls; strengthen and refresh us; and bring us closer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



Next Sunday (April 10) is Palm Sunday

*Palms will be blessed at the beginning of all Masses
next weekend and distributed at the conclusion of each
Palm Sunday Mass.*

MORNING PRAYER ON APRIL 14, 15, AND 16

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 Sisters of Life to Visit St. Michael's; This Weekend of April 2-3, 2022

The Sisters of Life – a remarkable, vibrant, and gifted/talented community of religious sisters – will be visiting St. Michael's Parish this weekend April 2nd and 3rd. During this visit the Sisters will:

- Speak at all ten of our Masses on: the Gospel of Life; the dignity of the human person made in the image and likeness of God; respect for all human life; the **MIRACLE** of human life; that **God chose for you** and that **God chose for all persons** to exist and to live; that the Sisters of Life have the vocation and the ability to assist and to support those in need in protecting human life; the story of the founding of the Sisters' community in 1991, the community's unique growth and thriving in a hostile world, and its vital and successful work; and that the Sisters of Life have taken a solemn religious vow to protect and enhance the sacredness of every human life acknowledging the goodness of every person and upholding the dignity and worth of each person created from and for God's great love.
- Conduct classroom visits with our Sunday-session CCD students and share with them the Sisters' stories of growing up in the Catholic faith and living-out the faith.
- Be available for one-to-one conversations or counseling sessions for those who may have a need or desire for conversation, advice, support, prayer. These conversations will take place outdoors (weather permitting) in the parish's gazebo rose garden adjacent to the rectory following each Mass; in the event of inclement weather, these conversations will be in the Lower Church.
- Meet with the college students of Monmouth University's Catholic Campus Ministry for their Sunday 7:00 p.m. on-campus Mass with Fr. Mark and for fellowship and conversation following that Mass.



The Sisters of Life is a contemplative/active religious community of women founded in 1991 by John Cardinal O'Connor **for the protection and enhancement of the sacredness of every human life**. Like all religious communities, the Sisters take the three traditional vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. They also are consecrated under **a special, fourth vow to protect and enhance the sacredness of human life**. The Sisters of Life are well known to many for (among many other things) their support and counseling of pregnant women in need of practical assistance, their inner-city apostolate and respite residences, and public speaking appearances including the memorable address by Sister Bethany at the National Rally for Life in Washington, DC in January 2018 (see <https://marchforlife.org/tag/sisters-of-life/>). Please welcome the Sisters of Life to St. Michael's and pray for their important and vital work.



Please keep this parish and world-wide endeavor in your daily prayers

PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, for ever and ever. Amen.



Student-Led Stations of the Cross

LED BY CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY AT
MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY, APRIL 8
7:00 P.M.

At St. Michael's Church

CONTACT CRISTINA AT CDAVERSO@MONMOUTH.EDU

*The Filipino Clergy in the
Diocese of Trenton and
the Filipino Communities
are inviting everyone to
celebrate our Filipino
Catholic Faith*



DIOCESE of
TRENTON

500

**YEARS OF
CHRISTIANITY
IN THE PHILIPPINES**



1521 - 2021

gifted to give

Mass at the:

**CO-CATHEDRAL OF
ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE**

61 Georgia Road, Freehold, NJ 07728

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2022 • 10:30 AM

Main Celebrant:

BISHOP DAVID M. O'CONNELL, C.M.

Bishop of Trenton

Reception to follow in the:

CO-CATHEDRAL'S DENTICI HALL

For more information, please contact the following priest liaisons:

Fr. Mark Nillo, 732-788-1747, Coordinator

Fr. PJ Alindogan, 732-725-5977 Fr. Ariel Robles, 732-500-4956

Fr. Joe Noche, 732-309-0878 Fr. Gene Daguplo, 848-448-5187



Diocese of
Trenton

Philip Reyes, official photographer

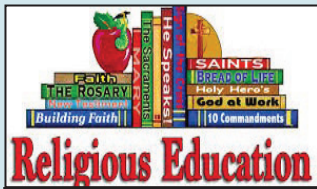
For monetary donations, please contact the following members of the finance committee:

Mercer Co: Marie Lavente, 609-643-3180

Ocean Co: Art & Agnes Monta, 732-600-6110

Burlington Co: Adelina and Troy Beauvais, 609-668-8664

Monmouth Co: Noel & Arlene Cabrera, 908-770-1981



From the Desk of Our
Director of Religious
Education

+JMJ+

+AMDG+



*I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently, find me.
(Proverbs 8:17)*

I have often heard people say, "I was born Catholic." However, no one is born Catholic, we become Catholic at our Baptism. Thinking that our parents made the decision for us is not completely true either. Your parents may get credit for cooperating, but in Psalms we are told ***"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you."*** Now just say to yourself, "God has personally chosen me, yes me, to be a member of the Body of Christ." Knowing that **YOU ARE GOD'S CHOICE** is reason to pause and reflect upon the great significance of life you've been given.

God never compels us to do His will, and at times we all ignore the promptings of the Spirit. Many persons reach adulthood who were never baptized because they were not of a Catholic background or had parents who did not cooperate. Others were never taught to put their Baptism into practice and so in ignorance, fell away from the Church and the sacraments. But the Holy Spirit never falls away – and those seeking the Truth hear His voice.

Perhaps you know someone who is not baptized, or was baptized but never received the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation and is now interested in doing so. God has chosen them, too, and now they are responding to His invitation to draw closer to Him. You could and should play a pivotal role in their conversion by encouraging them and advising them to contact the local Catholic parish. And offer to pray with them and for them.

Over the centuries there have been various ways for adults to become full, participating members of the Catholic Church. Currently the process used is the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**. Those enrolled in RCIA are called catechumens, and after the Rite of Election, the Elect. They prepare themselves for receiving the sacraments of initiation, Baptism, Communion and Confirmation, by studying the Gospel, learning Catholic teachings and customs, and professing their faith in Jesus Christ and His Church.

Baptism spiritually distinguishes the baptized from unbaptized due to the graces of the sacrament. While we all know that at Baptism we are cleansed of Original Sin and we receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we also receive a minor exorcism, in which one asks God to protect a person from evil powers. For the unbaptized catechumen, we celebrate the **Three Scrutinies and Purification and Enlightenment** which include minor exorcisms. These begin starting the second Sunday of Lent and special readings are used at the Mass.

By identifying and healing what is weak or sinful in the hearts of the Elect, the Scrutinies are meant to fortify all that is good in them. By the grace of Christ they will help her or him in their decision to love God above all else and to do His will. Here at St. Michael's we join one Elect, Justin Glick, as he undergoes the Scrutinies on his journey into the Church. We also welcome the catechumens, Lisa Bowen and John Haladick, as they complete their sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation. All three will be made full members of the Catholic Church and the Parish of St. Michael's at the Easter Vigil this year.

The Church, including ourselves, has reason to rejoice that these new or fully initiated members join us in bringing Christ's love to the world and establishing the Kingdom of God. Like them, by recalling our own decision to turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel, we ask for the grace to do so and are reminded that God personally chose us, yes us, to know, love and serve him in this life and to be happy forever with Him in the next life.

Kevin Connelly
Director of Religious Education

Notes & Reminders from the D.R.E.:

- First Holy Communion: May 7, 2022
- Crowning of Mary: Sunday, May 8, 2022
- CCD classes continue through and including April 24 (for Sunday students) and April 26 (for Tuesday students) except no classes on Sunday, April 17 and Tuesday, April 19 for the Easter Recess.

(continued from front cover)

The Pope's Act of Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Holy Mother, amid the misery of our sinfulness, amid our struggles and weaknesses, amid the mystery of iniquity that is evil and war, you remind us that God never abandons us, but continues to look upon us with love, ever ready to forgive us and raise us up to new life. He has given you to us and made your Immaculate Heart a refuge for the Church and for all humanity. By God's gracious will, you are ever with us; even in the most troubled moments of our history, you are there to guide us with tender love.

We now turn to you and knock at the door of your heart. We are your beloved children. In every age you make yourself known to us, calling us to conversion. At this dark hour, help us and grant us your comfort. Say to us once more: "Am I not here, I who am your Mother?" You are able to untie the knots of our hearts and of our times. In you we place our trust. We are confident that, especially in moments of trial, you will not be deaf to our supplication and will come to our aid.

That is what you did at Cana in Galilee, when you interceded with Jesus and he worked the first of his signs. To preserve the joy of the wedding feast, you said to him: "They have no wine" (Jn 2:3). Now, O Mother, repeat those words and that prayer, for in our own day we have run out of the wine of hope, joy has fled, fraternity has faded. We have forgotten our humanity and squandered the gift of peace. We opened our hearts to violence and destructiveness. How greatly we need your maternal help!

Therefore, O Mother, hear our prayer.

Star of the Sea, do not let us be shipwrecked in the tempest of war. Ark of the New Covenant, inspire projects and paths of reconciliation.

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Star of the Sea, do not let us be shipwrecked in the tempest of war. Ark of the New Covenant, inspire projects and paths of reconciliation.

Queen of Heaven, restore God's peace to the world.

Eliminate hatred and the thirst for revenge, and teach us forgiveness. Free us from war, protect our world from the menace of nuclear weapons. Queen of the Rosary, make us realize our need to pray and to love. Queen of the Human Family, show people the path of fraternity.

Queen of Peace, obtain peace for our world.

O Mother, may your sorrowful plea stir our hardened hearts. May the tears you shed for us make this valley parched by our hatred blossom anew. Amid the thunder of weapons, may your prayer turn our thoughts to peace. May your maternal touch soothe those who suffer and flee from the rain of bombs. May your motherly embrace comfort those forced to leave their homes and their native land. May your Sorrowful Heart move us to compassion and inspire us to open our doors and to care for our brothers and sisters who are injured and cast aside.

Holy Mother of God, as you stood beneath the cross, Jesus, seeing the disciple at your side, said: "Behold your son" (Jn 19:26). In this way he entrusted each of us to you. To the disciple, and to each of us, he said: "Behold, your Mother" (v. 27). Mother Mary, we now desire to welcome you into our lives and our history. At

(continued on page 9)

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.



LOVE HIM



SERVE HIM

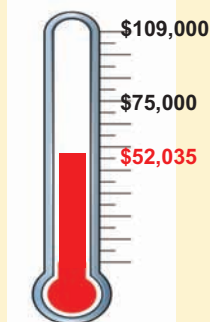


KNOW HIM

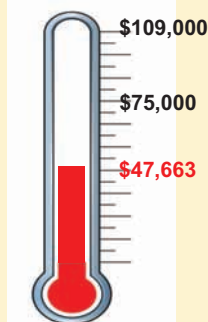


Parish Goal = \$109,000

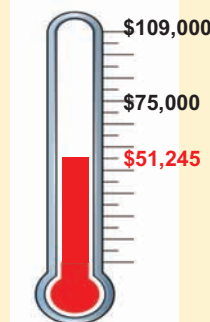
2020
After Five
Weekends



2021
After Five
Weekends



2022
After Five
Weekends



The three “thermometers” above compare our parish’s 2020 vs. 2021 vs. 2022 results-to-date in the Annual Catholic Appeal. The thermometers indicate good news. This year’s total after five weekends is substantially ahead of our parish’s total after five weekends in 2021 and close to 2020’s pace. Thank you for your support of the Annual Catholic Appeal. ***Together we can do great things!***

*This \$51,245 figure is approximately 47% of our parish goal. It was received during the fifth weekend of the campaign (tallied as of March 29) from 143 pledgers or check-writing contributors (and many unidentified, unquantified cash contributors) all of whom comprise approximately 5.8% of the 2,468 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.

What does

LOVE
have to do with it...

everything!

(continued from page 8)

The Pope’s Act of Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

this hour, a weary and distraught humanity stands with you beneath the cross, needing to entrust itself to you and, through you, to consecrate itself to Christ. The people of Ukraine and Russia, who venerate you with great love, now turn to you, even as your heart beats with compassion for them and for all those peoples decimated by war, hunger, injustice and poverty.

Therefore, Mother of God and our Mother, to your Immaculate Heart we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourselves, the Church and all humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine. Accept this act that we carry out with confidence and love. Grant that war may end and peace spread throughout the world. The “Fiat” that arose from your heart opened the doors of history to the Prince of Peace. We trust that, through your heart, peace will dawn once more. To you we consecrate the future of the whole human family, the needs and expectations of every people, the anxieties and hopes of the world.

Through your intercession, may God’s mercy be poured out on the earth and the gentle rhythm of peace return to mark our days. Our Lady of the “Fiat”, on whom the Holy Spirit descended, restore among us the harmony that comes from God. May you, our “living fountain of hope”, water the dryness of our hearts. In your womb Jesus took flesh; help us to foster the growth of communion. You once trod the streets of our world; lead us now on the paths of peace. Amen.

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, April 6. 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!



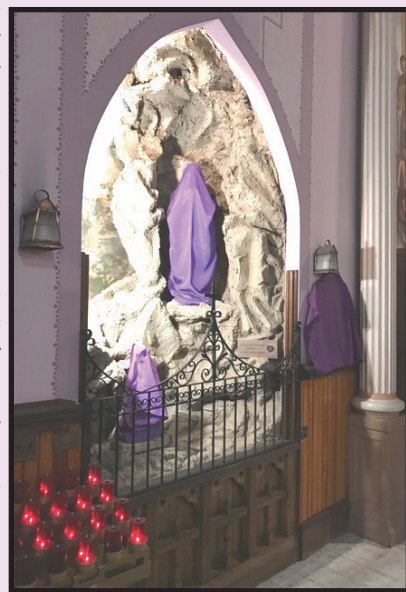
The Lenten Veiling of Statues and Crosses

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.



Prayer for Followers of Saint Vincent De Paul



Tender God, refuge of the poor, You filled Vincent de Paul with the strength of the Apostles, to work for the salvation of the poor and the instruction of the clergy.

May we who follow the example of His holy life, be driven by unceasing charity, to continue the mission of Your Son in the world.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

Amen

Change of Date: St. Vincent dePaul in April

The date of the Monthly Food Pantry of the St. Vincent dePaul Society in April will change from the usual third Saturday of the month to the second Saturday of the month April 9 for this one month only. This change is due to Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday falling on the third weekend of the month this year. Thank you for your continued support of the St. Vincent dePaul Society and its work.

Bulletin Production Problems; Apologies

Production problems arose with our parish bulletin last weekend (as announced at the weekend Masses) and the March 27 bulletin was not printed and not shipped. The bulletin printer in Chicago informed us that they were experiencing supply chain shortages and mechanical failures and so we did not have hard copies of the March 27 bulletin in the pews last week. We've been informed that those same supply chain and mechanical problems are continuing at the printing facility in Chicago and so we have hired another printer (located in New Jersey) to assist us with our April 3 bulletin. The March 27-bulletin is still posted on the easels at the back of the church as it was last weekend and is also available online at the parish website. The April 3 bulletin is available in the usual hard-copy form at the usual locations in the church and is also available online at the parish website. We apologize for these bulletin problems and thank you for your patience and cooperation.

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!

St. Michael's Rosary Altar Society; Sponsoring Lenten Day of Prayer and Reflection Thursday, April 7, 2022

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

Date and Time: Thursday, April 7, 2022 - 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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

Cost: \$50.00 (per person) Coffee and Danish upon arrival. Lunch at 12:00 Noon

Reservations: RSVP by Thursday, March 31, 2022 by calling Sharon Barham at 732-539-7145. Please provide number of guests, names, contact phone numbers.

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

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

Further information contact: Dotty O'Hara (908-310-6497)

Please note: Covid protocols will be followed when attending the retreat at San Alfonso. Masks (please bring your own) should be worn at all times (other than when eating), social distancing will be required, and there will be designated pews and/or seats in all areas of the Retreat House. Temperature of guests will be taken upon arrival.



PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

WEEKLY MASS INTENTION

† Ronald Lubischer r/o Joyce Lubischer

YEARLY MASS INTENTIONS

SEPTEMBER 2022

†Ralph and Eleanor Siciliano r/o The Boeckman Family

FEBRUARY 2023

†Susan Whitman r/o Lex and Janet Tucci

April 2023

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

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 6

Kevin Epperson

Week 7

Richie Thomas

Outdoor Holy Communion at Two Masses Temporarily. As part of our effort to work through hopefully the final phase of the pandemic, and with the balancing of numerous factors and limited resources and manpower and womanpower as best we can, Holy Communion will be available in the parking lot in your cars after the Saturday 4:00 indoor Mass and after the Sunday 10:00 indoor Mass beginning on Saturday, January 8th and Sunday, January 9th for those who attend and participate at those Masses in their cars by means of the live-stream transmission of the indoor Mass being celebrated at those hours. The radio transmission of the audio of these two Masses on station 92.1 FM will not be available because of equipment and technical reasons; the audio and video live-stream transmission of these two Masses may be accessed on your i-phone, tablet, or other similar devices (in your car or elsewhere) via the parish website www.stmichaelnj.com and the parish YouTube Channel. The priest/celebrant of these two Masses will be indoors as he celebrates the Mass and not on the stage near the garage in the parking lot. This plan will remain in effect until further notice and is temporary and is of course subject to inclement weather (e.g. winter snow or extreme cold) that would put the health of the Mass-goers, the Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, ushers, parking lot staff, and priests at risk. As Holy Communion is made available post-Mass in the parking lot in this extraordinary way to meet sacramental needs and to satisfy health and safety concerns during the ongoing pandemic, please keep in mind and observe the utmost reverence for the Blessed Sacrament and the utmost respect for the sacredness and dignity of the Mass.

St. Michael's Parish and some of our neighboring parishes will once again participate in the "40 Days for Life" prayer vigil at Planned Parenthood in Shrewsbury during the Season of Lent. This Spring vigil started on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd and extends through Monday, April 11th. We invite you to please join us! During past campaigns, St. Michael's parishioners have been



going to this location to pray on Monday's at 10:00 a.m., 12:00 Noon, or 2:00 p.m. However, if a more convenient time is needed, as indicated in the flyer below, the hours at Planned Parenthood are from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and "Saturday and Sunday at will".

All participants are asked to attend with a prayer partner. Please see the flyer below for information and to sign up.



HELP SAVE LIVES IN MONMOUTH COUNTY!

Protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide witness of prayer, fasting, peaceful vigils, and community outreach.

Take part in 40 Days for Life in Monmouth County

Vigil Location: Planned Parenthood at 69 E. Newman Springs Road, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702.

Vigil Hours: Monday through Friday 8 am to 6 pm.
Saturday / Sunday - at will.

Local Contact: monmouth4life@hotmail.com

Learn More... 40daysforlife.com/shrewsbury

Check our Resources for Educational Information, Prayer and Pregnancy Resources.

Come and Bring a Friend... or 2... or 3!

40 Days For Life/Shrewsbury is a peaceful, prayerful witness. There is no shouting, foul language or graphic signs. As always, stay on the sidewalk or public right of way. Do not go on private property, block driveway or park in Planned Parenthood lot.
Please follow current COVID 19 protocols.

ON THE CALENDAR AT ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH



Annual Catholic Appeal 2022	Commenced February 26-27; 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)	March 4-April 8, 2022 (excludes Good Friday)
40 Days for Life – Mondays in Lent: Rosary Prayer to End Abortion at Planned Parenthood	March 7- April 11, 2022
Lenten Stations of the Cross and "Coffee And...."	Fridays of Lent 6:15 p.m. "Coffee And...." 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross
Sisters of Life Parish Visit	Weekend of April 2-3, 2022
Rosary Altar Society Lenten Day of Reflection San Alfonso Retreat House	Thursday, April 7, 2022
Stations of the Cross Led by Students of Monmouth University's Catholic Campus Ministry	Friday, April 8, 2022 7:00 p.m.
Parents' Baptism Preparation Class	Saturday, April 9, 2022 10:00 a.m.
St. Vincent DePaul Monthly Food Pantry (Please note change of date)	Saturday, April 9, 2022
Palm Sunday	Sunday, April 10, 2022
Outdoor Stations of the Cross (San Alfonso Retreat House Prayer Garden)	Wednesday, April 13, 2022 12:00 Noon (See Page 3 for details)
Easter	Sunday, April 17, 2022
Divine Mercy Sunday	Sunday, April 24, 2022
First Holy Communion	Saturday, May 7, 2022
May Crowning of Mary	Sunday, May 8, 2022
Irish Language Mass	Sunday, June 5, 2022 5:15 p.m.

Weekend Collection & Attendance

Thank You!

Saturday, March 26, 2022

4:00 PM Mass	\$2,962.00	168 people
5:30 PM Mass	\$786.00	71 people
7:00 PM Mass	\$473.00	54 people

Sunday, March 27, 2022

7:00 AM Mass	\$1,120.00	72 people
8:30 AM Mass	\$1,172.00	89 people
10:00 AM Mass	\$2,192.00	146 people
12:00 PM Mass	\$1,223.00	147 people
4:00 PM Mass	\$830.00	122 people
5:30 PM Mass	\$542.00	23 people
7:00 PM Mass	\$753.00	104 people

Mailed-in Envelopes for the March 27 collection and for previous Sunday collections during the Pandemic Lockdown: **\$2,915.00**

This Week's Total: \$13,968.00

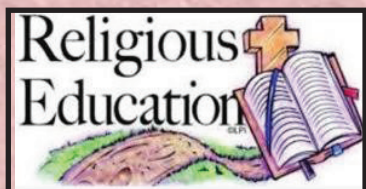
Same Week's Total Last Year: \$12,579.00

Second Collection: Catholic Relief Services: \$3,564.00

Annual Catholic Appeal (cash and checks; omitting pledge cards): \$28.00

Coordinator of Religious Education (CRE)

St. Catharine Church, Holmdel NJ, is currently seeking applicants for a full-time Coordinator of Religious Education. The qualified candidate has experience in parish ministry and will work closely with the Pastor in advancing the mission in the parish. The Coordinator of Religious Education is responsible for the Religious Education Program for grades 1-8, family catechesis, as well as Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation preparation.



The CRE is also responsible for the recruiting, training, and leading of catechists for both the Religious Education Program and RCIA. Qualified candidates will have a minimum of a BA Degree in Religious Education, Theology, or related field. Candidates with an unrelated degree will be required to complete the Diocesan Leadership Program for Parish Catechetical Leaders.

The successful candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing. He/she must be flexible in the work schedule, willing to work some evenings and occasional weekends. Please e-mail your resume with cover letter and two professional references and one personal reference to: saiello@stcatharine.net



The next Baptism preparation class for parents is scheduled for Saturday, April 9 at 10:00 a.m. at the parish's Catholic Center at 16 Beechwood Avenue, West Long Branch. Please call the parish office to register in advance.

Extra Sunday Mass for Covid-Vaccinated and Face Masked

We have added – temporarily – an extra Sunday Mass to our weekend schedule which began on Sunday, January 9 at 5:30 p.m. At this Mass all will be required to please follow ALL THREE of the following: (a) have been covid-vaccinated at least once, (b) wear a facemask throughout the Mass except to consume the Eucharist, and (c) receive Communion on the hand only and not on the tongue. Covid vaccination verification cards will NOT be required at this Mass...the honor system will be relied on. One covid vaccination is sufficient for attending this Mass, although the second and third vaccinations are strongly encouraged and preferred. If one is ill or experiencing covid symptoms or symptoms of other illness – as has been requested/recommended in the past – please remain at home. At our other Masses here at St. Michael's we have been following and we will continue to follow the guidelines of the State and Diocese: • vaccinations strongly encouraged (not required), • face-masks strongly encouraged (not required), • frequent handwashing strongly encouraged, • Communion on the hand (per the Diocese; the State is silent of course on this point) strongly encouraged (not required). With regard to Holy Communion, receiving on the hand and not on the tongue at ALL Masses is VERY, VERY, VERY strongly encouraged until we are all out of the covid woods (and required on the hand at the Sunday 5:30 Mass referred to above). Please pray that the date of emerging from the covid woods is soon!

HELP WANTED: PARISH BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

The 'linked' parishes of Precious Blood in Monmouth Beach and St. Dorothea in Eatontown are looking for a Parish Business Administrator who has a background in:

- accounting (can run payroll, pay bills, produce financial reports, knows how to work with spreadsheets),
- office administration (keep records, correspondence, fill in for receptionists, basic I.T.);
- building and grounds management (be the point person for vendors and contractors)
- personnel management (coordinate volunteers, take care of H.R. issues with employees).

Understanding and following Catholic teachings and policies are a must. Please see the parish website for a fuller job description: saintdorothea.org

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Date: April 7, 2022

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**Location: Christ the King Parish/Our Lady
Star of the Sea Church
Corner of Chelsea and Second Avenue
Long Branch, NJ 07740**



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