

# ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

*September 24, 2023 | Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

## DAILY MASS

Mon – Sat: 8:00 AM | Mon: 7:00 PM

First Friday 12:15 PM in Latin in Feb, Apr, June, Aug, Oct, Dec. In English in Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Nov. And 5:30 PM (on First Friday) in English in all months.

## WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday: 4:00 PM, 5:30 PM, 7:00 PM

Sunday: 7:00 AM, 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM, 4:00 PM, 7:00 PM

## 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.

## 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 1:15 PM. Other days/times can also be arranged. Parents must be registered parishioners, and can call the Parish Office for information and scheduling.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

To enroll your child for our Religious Education classes, please contact Kevin Connelly, (732)483-0360, ext. 2 at the Catholic Center.



## PARISH OFFICE

800 Ocean Avenue | Long Branch, NJ 07740  
Ph: (732) 222-8080 | Fx: (732) 870-1174  
[www.stmichaelnj.com](http://www.stmichaelnj.com)

Monday through Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (closed 12:00 Noon - 1:00 p.m. for lunch)

Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

Answering service phone coverage at all other times.

## PARISH STAFF

Rev. John Butler, Pastor  
Rev. Cyril Johnson, Parochial Vicar  
Thomas Randazzo, Business Manager  
Kevin Connelly, Director of Religious Ed.  
Mary Valan, Parish Secretary  
Emily Carroll, Assistant Parish Secretary  
Lauren Walters, Acting Music Director  
Larry Swenson, Maintenance Coordinator

## CATHOLIC CENTER AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

16 Beechwood Avenue | West Long Branch,  
NJ 07764  
Ph: (732) 483-0360 | Fx: (732) 795-3262  
**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**  
732-483-0360 ext. 1

# MASS INTENTIONS

## Saturday, September 23

8:00 AM † Grace Tho Friend  
 4:00 PM † Edward & Margaret Roller Loving Family  
 † Robert Cook Barbara Schibell  
 5:30 PM † Sumner & Margaret Shaw Family  
 † Harold Pfeiffer Family  
 7:00 PM People of the Parish

## Sunday, September 24

7:00 AM † Deceased Priests & Brothers of San Alfonso  
 8:30 AM † James Dillon, III Friends  
 † Jean Monte Monte Family  
 8:45 AM (At St. Jerome's Church) Health and Blessings: Children of Our Parish and Our Catechists  
 10:00 AM † Brian L. Rogers, Jr. Chris & Michelle Rogers  
 † Christopher J. Rogers, Jr. Chris & Michelle Rogers  
 12:00 PM † Robert Canale Emily O'Connor & Liz Sloomaker  
 † Jay Filippo Family  
 4:00 PM † Laurie Procopio Christine Lowe, Colleen Gryta, & Kerry Weber  
 7:00 PM People of the Parish

## Monday, September 25

8:00 AM † Michael W. Thorne Thorne Family  
 (60th Birthday)  
 † Louis Celmer, Jr. Wife Barbara & Family  
 Pro-Life Cause Friends of Sylvia Marsico  
 7:00 PM † Lucy & Joseph C. Mazza Mazza, Maslo & McGuire Families

## Tuesday, September 26

8:00 AM † Josephine Valentino  
 † Eileen Tallman

## Wednesday, September 27

8:00 AM † David C. Marks Wife & Family  
 † Charles McLaughlin

## Thursday, September 28

8:00 AM † James F. Brown, Sr. Sons

## Friday, September 29

8:00 AM † Michael Wrubel Wife Maria & Family  
 † William A. Dennis Tom Viggiano  
 † Thanksgiving to St. Michael Loundy Saint Louis

## Saturday, September 30

8:00 AM People of the Parish  
 4:00 PM † William A. Schmidt Wife Doris  
 † Claire Cozzetto Sharon Cozzetto  
 Special Intention: Sheryl McGill & Family  
 Marilyn Wilbert  
 5:30 PM † Jay Filippo Family  
 † Maria Critelli Michael Bowman  
 7:00 PM † Deceased Grandparents

## Sunday, October 1

7:00 AM † Rosa Alba Stranieri Mother Francesca  
 8:30 AM † Brian Rogers, Jr. Joe Marino  
 † Beverly Russo Mary & Sons  
 10:00 AM † Ronald E. McConnell Janice & Fred Carr  
 † Stephen Podracky Mary & Steve  
 12:00 PM † Virginia Hieter Gloria Eisenbarth  
 † Mr. & Mrs. Delehanty Anthony Lucarelli  
 Health & Blessings: The Legal Profession  
 4:00 PM People of the Parish  
 7:00 PM † Souls in Purgatory

The St. Joseph's Sanctuary Candle will be lit this week in memory of Louis Celmer, Jr., requested by his wife Barbara and Family.

The Center Sanctuary Candle will be lit this week in memory of Harold J. Bowman, requested by his loving children Michael, Joe, and AnneMarie.

The Blessed Mother's Sanctuary Candle will be lit this week in Honor of St. Michael, requested by Loundy Saint Louis.



This week the altar flowers have been donated by Loundy Saint Louis in Thanksgiving to St. Michael.

The bread and wine at the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, September 24 have been donated by Loundy Saint Louis in Thanksgiving to St. Michael.

The bread and wine at the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Friday, September 29 have been donated by Loundy Saint Louis in Thanksgiving to St. Michael.





## The Feast of The Archangels

**Novena to St. Michael: September 21-29**

The Feast of the Archangels (Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael) and our parish's patron saint's day is Friday, September 29. We will pray at all Masses a novena prayer to our parish's patron saint - St. Michael the Archangel - during the nine days beginning on Thursday, September 21 and concluding on Friday, September 29. St. Michael, pray for us!



**RED MASS**  
of the  
**Diocese of Trenton**  
**AT St. Michael's Church**  
**Sunday, October 1, 2023**  
**12:00 p.m.**

Our parish will be hosting the 2023 Red Mass of the Diocese of Trenton for judges, lawyers, and others engaged in the administration of justice and the legal profession. Rev. Peter James Alindogan, former Pastor of Our Lady of Hope Parish, our neighboring parish to the West, will be the homilist and among the concelebrating priests.

We'll be praying for all those involved in the legal system and asking the Holy Spirit to help and inspire all of us in our efforts for Justice. All are welcome to attend and participate at the Red Mass.



**September 27 - November 5, 2023**  
**40 DAYS FOR LIFE**  
THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF ABORTION

### HELP SAVE LIVES IN MONMOUTH COUNTY!

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

#### Take part in 40 Days for Life in Monmouth County

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

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

**Local Contact:** [monmouth4life@hotmail.com](mailto:monmouth4life@hotmail.com)

**Learn More...** [40daysforlife.com/shrewsbury](http://40daysforlife.com/shrewsbury)

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

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

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

**Please follow current COVID 19 protocols.**

**St. Michael's parishioners usually gather at this location on Mondays at 10:00 a.m., 12:00 Noon, and 2:00 p.m. during these 40 Days for Life.**

## MEMORIAL OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI: BLESSING OF THE PETS

The parish's annual Blessing of the Pets will take place on Saturday, September 30 at 11:00 a.m. on the courtyard in the front of the church. All of your pets and animals are welcome! People are welcome, too!



## **Our Children's Attendance at Sunday Mass: A Vital Priority PLEASE!!!**

Dear CCD Parents (cc: To All the Parishioners of St. Michael's Church):

The recent back-to-school days of September and the beginning of another new school year provide us with an opportunity for fresh starts, reminders, the breaking of old bad habits, and the initiating of positive/constructive new routines. In furtherance of those thoughts and those objectives, I wanted to remind all of our CCD families of **"the new extra Sunday Mass"** that I had announced at last weekend's Masses and that will be added to our parish's Sunday Mass schedule (on an experimental basis for at least one semester) beginning this Sunday, September 24, 2023 at 8:45 a.m. at the St. Jerome's Church.

The timing and the location of this **8:45 Sunday Mass AT** the St. **Jerome** Church (which is adjacent to and physically connected to the St. Jerome's Schoolhouse where our 9:20-10:35 a.m. Sunday CCD classes are conducted) is intended to increase – to the greatest degree that our parish can muster – the opportunities for the parents of our Sunday CCD students **to see to it that their children (of First Communion age and older) fulfill their obligation to attend Sunday Mass.** I am very grateful to Fr. Jerome's Church and Our Lady Elizabeth Dalessio (the principal their consent to my request for Michael's Sunday Morning Church" so that we can better **kids to Mass**" and to **assist and forts to fulfill their responsibilities get their children to Sunday**

As I mentioned at last Sunday's Mass, I am very concerned about the **NON-**our parish's children and by their detail about this concern day and Sunday and spelled-out concern, I recounted the story of last year's 8th Grade



education classes on three separate occasions on the first Mondays of November, December, and January; those students, by the way, were in the middle of their final school year of preparations to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in March. By going down the chronological list of **all nine Masses offered at St. Michael's every weekend**, I had asked for a show of hands as to "Who had attended this Mass or that Mass during the previous weekend?" here at St. Michael's. And, I also asked the 8th Graders Question #10 of the end of the survey which was whether they might have attended Sunday (or Saturday evening) Mass at some church other than at St. Michael's. The results of this Monday evening survey:

- **RE the First Weekend of November 2022 – six** out of 28 8th Grade students had attended Mass.
- **RE the First Weekend of December 2022 – four** out of 28 8th Grade students had attended Mass.
- **RE the Second Weekend of January 2023 – six** out of 28 8th Grade students had attended Mass.

I was not shocked nor surprised by these survey results but I was greatly saddened by the "facts" that had been discovered and, as mentioned above, greatly concerned about the spiritual well-being of those 8th Grade students (candidates for Confirmation!) and the spiritual well-being of their younger siblings and of other younger "of-Communion-age" children who, I believe, are also most likely **not** attending Sunday Mass. We have approximately 175 children enrolled in this year's CCD program and of that number 130 or so are "of-Communion-age" or older (Grades 3-8) and therefore under the Church's obligation to attend Sunday Mass (and holy of obligation Masses, too). As I scan the congregation at all of our Saturday Vigil Masses and Sunday Masses, I see nothing even close to the vicinity of 130 children in the 8-14 years old age bracket in our pews.

During those homilies last weekend, I took a few additional minutes to remind the parents (and to remind all who were in attendance because this Sunday Mass NON-attendance situation is not a "parent-and-child ONLY problem" but affects **everyone** and needs to be a parish-wide concern for the welfare of the entire Church of today and the entire Church of the future) that, in summary, the reasons and purposes for the Sunday Mass obligation are:

- **Justice** – simply giving God His due. Giving back to the God who created us and who loves us beyond our wildest imagination a few of the minutes that He has given to us in the first place.

*(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). *You* make that happen with a generous gift to the ACA. Your contribution does make a difference! Please help. Please contribute. Please make a pledge.



EYES OF CHRIST



FEET OF CHRIST

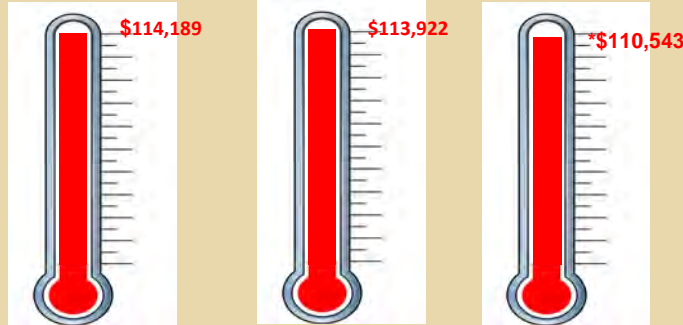


HANDS OF CHRIST

## ANNUAL CATHOLIC Appeal 2023

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

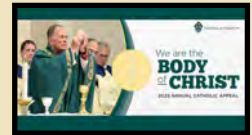
2021 After Twenty-Ninth Weekends      2022 After Twenty-Ninth Weekends      2023 After Twenty-Ninth Weekends



The three “thermometers” above compare our parish’s 2021 vs. 2022 vs. 2023 results-to-date in the Annual Catholic Appeal. The thermometers indicate good news. This year’s total after twenty-nine weekends is strong, although it is behind the pace after the same first twenty-nine weekends of last year and the year before that. Thank you for your support of the Annual Catholic Appeal. ***Together we can do great things!***

**N.B:** Second Collection on September 23-24 to support the Diocese Annual Catholic Appeal.

\*This \$110,543 figure (not 100% collected) is 101.4% of our parish goal. It was received through and including the twenty-ninth weekend of the campaign (tallied as of September 19) from 303 pledgers or check-writing contributors (and many unidentified, unquantified cash contributors) all of whom comprise approximately 14.2% of the 2,127 registered households of the parish. ***Thank you!***



The Diocese sent a Diocesan-wide mailing during the week of February 10 to all of our registered parishioners and past ACA contributors asking for prayerful consideration of a pledge/contribution to the Appeal. Please help.



## Thank you, Joe and Carmel Mirarchi!

At the 5:30 p.m. Mass last Saturday, September 16, St. Michael’s said “thank you” and “auf wiedersehen” to Joe Mirarchi and his wife Carmel. Joe has generously given many years of service to our parish in numerous capacities (altar server, Eucharistic Minister, lector, trustee, catechist, Christmas decorations ladder climber!) and he and Carmel will be retiring and re-locating to Virginia at the end of this month

Our good wishes for the Mirarchis continued at a reception in the Lower Church that followed the 5:30 Vigil Mass (please see the accompanying photos). May God bless Joe and Carmel in their retirement! Joe and Carmel, thank you from all of us at St. Michael’s.



St. Luke's RC Church of Toms River and co-hosts  
St. Michael's RC Church of Long Branch invite you to the

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual "White Mass"**  
*for all Healthcare Workers*

**Sunday,  
October 15, 2023  
2:00PM**

Join us as we praise and honor St. Luke, the Patron Saint of Physicians. This celebration is for Healthcare Workers of all faiths, their family, and friends. Feel free to wear your white lab coat or other work attire as you wish. There will be a blessing of the hands.

Reception to follow immediately after Mass.

Did you know? The "White Mass" is named for the traditional white coats and uniforms worn by medical personnel and is a special way to recognize all healthcare staff.

**ST. LUKE**  
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
1674 OLD FRESHOLD ROAD • TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY 08755

SCAN ME



**Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults**

Would you like to become a Catholic? Or perhaps you have been baptized yet never received First Holy Communion or made your Confirmation? Or, been baptized and received your First Holy Communion but not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation?

**RCIA**

The Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) classes begin in the fall. If you are interested in attending these classes to complete your Sacraments, please contact Kevin Connelly (our Director of Religious Education) at 732-483-0360 ext. 1 or Mary Valan at the parish office.


**Summer's Impatiens Depart; Autumn's Mums Arrive**




*Please keep this worldwide 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.



**NEW JERSEY RIGHT TO LIFE**  
**RAFFLE FUNDRAISER**

The weekend of October 7 & 8 Jersey Right to Life raffle tickets will be sold at all Masses at St. Michael's. Please show your support for LIFE by buying a raffle ticket. The cost is \$10 per ticket.

Proceeds will benefit New Jersey Right to Life, the state's oldest and largest Pro-life organization, dedicated to protecting all human life from conception to natural death.

**This year's prizes are :**

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize - 2024 Volvo XC40 AWD SUV valued at \$42,400**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize - \$1,000 ShopRite Gift Card**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize - \$750 ShopRite Gift Card**
- 4<sup>th</sup> prize - \$500 ShopRite Gift Card**



## Fall 2023 Bible Study

### GENESIS

Who Am I? Where did I come from? Where am I going?

Where: St. Michael's Lower Church.

When: Thursdays - September 21 to November 16.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.; OR 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m..

Please call Rene and Jack at 732-222-3164 to reserve a seat and study guide.

In the words of Julie Andrews in The Sound of Music, "Let's start at the very beginning, a very good place to start..."



Bring a Bible, bring a friend!

*Married at St. Michael's on  
September 16, 2023*

*Giovanna Russomanno & Gordon Molinary*



We joyfully welcome into our parish family the following infants who were baptized here in August 2023: Louis Roland Bianchini V, and Remi Jay Decker, and five year old Peyton Jean Tjarks. May God bless them and their families.



**PRAY  
FOR  
PEACE  
IN  
UKRAINE**



## Save the Date

Fr. Alphonse's Christmas Concert  
at St. Michael's Church

Sunday, December 17, 2023  
1:30 p.m. in the Upper Church

Tickets to go on sale in Mid-October.

## PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

### WEEKLY MASS INTENTION

† Ronald Lubischer r/o Joyce Lubischer

### YEARLY MASS INTENTIONS

#### FEBRUARY 2024

† Susan Whitman

r/o Lex and Janet Tucci

#### April 2024

† Rita N. Cittadino

r/o Christopher M. Cittadino  
and Children

#### SEPTEMBER 2024

† Ralph and Eleanor Siciliano

r/o The Boeckman Family

† Connie and Tony Criesi

r/o Lin Criesi

† Dick Nolan

r/o Lin Criesi

NJ CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE

**BEHOLD HIM!**  
*Eucharistic Revival*



**BISHOP  
JOSEPH ESPALLAT**  
Auxiliary Bishop  
Archdiocese of New York  
Friday Evening Speaker



**FR. JOHN GORDON**  
Director of Evangelization  
Archdiocese of Newark  
Saturday Speaker



**GILBERT RODRIGUEZ**  
Encounter School of  
Ministry NJ Campus  
Saturday Speaker

REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION  
732-671-0071 X221

[WWW.DOTCCR.ORG](http://WWW.DOTCCR.ORG)

**FRI, OCTOBER 27, 7PM-9PM  
SAT, OCTOBER 28, 9AM-9PM**

ST. MARY, MOTHER OF GOD CHURCH  
19 CHERRY TREE FARM ROAD  
MIDDLETOWN, NJ. 07748



## WHAT IS IT ?

### WHAT IS THE NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL?

The National Eucharistic Revival is a three-year initiative sponsored by the Bishops of the United States to inspire and prepare the People of God to be formed, healed, concerted, united, and sent out to a hurting and hungry world through a renewed encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist – the source and summit of our Catholic faith. The revival has officially begun in June 2022, and its milestone event will be a National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, Indiana, from July 17-21, 2024. The National Eucharistic Revival and National Eucharistic Congress are a direct response to the Holy Father's call for a "pastoral and missionary conversion which cannot leave things as they presently are" so that the Church in the United States might be "permanently in a state of mission." (*Evangelii Gaudium*, n. 25)

This Eucharistic movement seeks to bring together clergy, religious, laity, apostolates, movements, and parish and diocesan leaders to spur momentum, collaboration, and lasting impact for the renewal of the Catholic Church in the U.S. over the next three years. Each year will have a strategic focus for formation and missionary discipleship.



## WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR ?

### THE FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI

June 19, 2022

We launch our national response to the Lord's call with widespread eucharistic processions and adoration on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

## WHAT'S NEXT ?

### YEAR OF DIOCESAN REVIVAL

2022 – 2023

This first year of the Revival invites diocesan staff, bishops, and priests to respond to the Lord's personal invitation and equips them to share this love with the faithful through Eucharistic congresses and events.

### YEAR OF PARISH REVIVAL

2023 – 2024

The second phase will foster Eucharistic devotion at the parish level, strengthening our liturgical life through faithful celebration of the Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, missions, resources, preaching, and organic movements of the Holy Spirit.

### NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

July 2024

At this historic event, more than 80,000 Catholics of all ages will gather in Indianapolis to reconsecrate their hearts to the source and summit of our faith.

### YEAR OF GOING OUT ON MISSION

2024 – 2025

Having enkindled a missionary fire in the hearts of the American faithful, the Holy Spirit will send us out on mission to share the gift of our Eucharistic Lord.



(continued from page 4)

## Our Children's Attendance at Sunday Mass: A Vital Priority PLEASE!!!

• The purposes of all prayers including the prayer that is the Mass itself (using the simple acronym A-C-T-S) – To give to God (along with fellow Mass-goers (as God intends and desires) as a parish community assembled together) our Adoration (worship), Contrition, Thanks-giving, Supplication.

• The Third Commandment – “Remember to keep holy the Lord's day.”

• The First Precept of the Church – “You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* at 2042).

• Canon #1247 of the Canon Law of the Church – “On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass.” Canon #11 of the Canon Law of the Church in turn states that merely ecclesiastical laws “bind those who have been baptized in the Catholic Church or received into it, possess the efficient use of reason, and, unless the law expressly provides otherwise, have completed seven years of age.”

• *Catechism* #2180-2188 – “On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass....The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice. For this reason the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor. Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin.

• Words of St. Paul – “Bring your children [and worship] of the Lord.” (Ephesians 6:4)

• Gospel Words of Jesus – “Let the children come to me.” (Luke 18:16) See

• Parents' Written and Signed Promis-Preparation – “...to accept children lovingly [your children] as practicing Catholics active

• Parents' Promises at the Child's Baptism – affirming your acceptance of your responsibility of the Faith. It will be your duty to bring as Christ taught us. Do you clearly understand We do.”



children up in the discipline and instructions

children come to me. Do not hinder the children also Luke 17:2.

es at the Time of Their Catholic Marriage from God and raise them well...to raise in the Church.” (Pre-Nuptial Investigation)

tism – “You, as parents, are today responsible for training your child in the practice your child up to keep God's commandments stand, parents, what you are undertaking?

Having said all this, beginning this coming morning 8:45 Mass in the St. Jerome Church

(a) include a homily specifically intended for and prepared for the CCD students of ages 5-14 in the congregation, (b) conclude no later than 9:15 a.m. so that the children can proceed to their classrooms in time for a prompt 9:20 start of the day's lessons and a prompt 10:35 completion of the day's session,

(c) welcome and encourage the attendance of CCD parents and non-CCD siblings and other family members, and (d) be on an experimental basis and re-evaluated in December as to Mass attendance and other criteria.

I appreciate everyone's time in reading this letter and reflecting on and praying over its concerns and objectives. As I said from the Ambo on Saturday and Sunday I am “APPEALING!” to our parents to PLEASE take to heart the obligation to attend Sunday Mass (every Sunday) themselves and to see to the fulfillment of their responsibility to cause their “of age” children to attend Sunday Mass (every Sunday). I am calling on parents to please set the good religious example that will help their children to form a good, strong foundation that will last for a lifetime. Another topic for another letter (and another homily) is the consequences and remedies when these obligations are not fulfilled and the level of culpability depending on age and circumstances etc. The Sacrament of Confession is always available of course so long as there is sincere repentance, avoidance of the sin of presumption, and mindfulness of the Act of Contrition's promise “to amend my life. Amen.”

To conclude on a more upbeat note.....Yes, Sunday Mass attendance is an obligation. May we all please cultivate in our own minds and in the minds of the children a sense of viewing that obligation as an OPPORTUNITY to praise and thank God and to reciprocate the love that He has given to us; seeing the obligation not as a burden nor as an intrusion on our freedom nor as “something else on the weekend's to-do list” but as a priority of our Sunday so that out of Justice and Love we willingly and joyfully give over that one hour (or fraction of one hour) to God our Father.

With prayers and gratitude,  
Fr. John K. Butler, Pastor

*Pastor's Note. This Sunday is 2023's World Day of Migrants and Refugees – the **109th** such day of awareness and prayers – and remembering that **the Holy Family (refugees themselves in the sense of being forced to flee from their homeland)** had emigrated temporarily to Egypt to protect their son Jesus from the massacre ordered by King Herod until the angel of the Lord let them know that it was safe to return. (Matthew 2:13-23) The following is an excerpt from the Message of Pope Francis for this year's World Day. The entire Message may be found at <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/20230511-world-migrants-day-2023.html>.*

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS  
FOR THE 109th WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES 2023**  
*Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay*

Dear brothers and sisters!

The migratory flows of our times are the expression of a complex and varied phenomenon that, to be properly understood, requires a careful analysis of every aspect of its different stages, from departure to arrival, including the possibility of return. As a contribution to this effort, I have chosen to devote the Message for the 109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees to **the freedom that should always mark the decision to leave one's native land.**

**"Free to leave, free to stay"** was promoted several years ago by as a concrete response to the many migration movements. From many Churches, I have come to see a widely shared pastoral con-

....[We are constantly admonished simply a brother or sister in difficulty knocks at our door. Consequently in every case migration is the called to show maximum respect this entails accompanying and best we can, constructing bridges and channels for a safe and regular migration. In whatever place we decide to build our future, in the country of our birth or elsewhere, the important thing is that there always be a community ready to welcome, protect, promote and integrate everyone, without distinctions and without excluding anyone.



the title of an initiative of solidarity – the Italian Episcopal Conference challenges posed by contemporary attentive listening to the Particular – that ensuring that that freedom is cern....

ished] to see in the migrant not culture, but Christ himself, who is, even as we work to ensure that fruit of a free decision, we are for the dignity of each migrant; managing waves of migration as and not walls, expanding chan-

The synodal path that we have undertaken as a Church leads us to see in those who are most vulnerable – among whom are many migrants and refugees – special companions on our way, to be loved and cared for as brothers and sisters. Only by walking together will we be able to go far and reach the common goal of our journey.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 11 May 2023  
FRANCIS

**PRAYER**

God, Father Almighty,  
grant us the grace to work tirelessly  
for justice, solidarity and peace,  
so that all your children may enjoy  
the freedom to choose whether to migrate or to stay.  
Grant us the courage to denounce  
all the horrors of our world,  
and to combat every injustice  
that mars the beauty of your children  
and the harmony of our common home.  
Sustain us by the power of your Spirit,  
so that we can reflect your tender love  
to every migrant whom you place in our path,  
and to spread in hearts and in every situation  
the culture of encounter and of care.





## ALL SAINTS DAY NOVEMBER 1ST



### Solemnity of All Saints

All Saints Day is November 1, 2022 and *a holy day of obligation*. Mass will be celebrated:

**Tuesday, October 31**

4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Our Bishop David M. O'Connell will be the celebrant and homilist at both of these Vigil Masses on Tuesday, October 31.

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**Wednesday, November 1**

8:00 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 4:00 p.m.,  
and 7:00 p.m.

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



Annual Catholic Appeal 2023 Commenced February 18-19; Ongoing

Fall Bible Study: Beginning  
The Book of Genesis Thursday, September 21, 2023  
(See Page 7 for details)

Novena to St. Michael Beginning  
Thursday, September 21, 2023  
(See Page 3 for details)

"Red Mass" of the Diocese of Trenton AT St. Michael's (for the legal profession and those in related occupations) Sunday, October 1, 2023  
12:00 Noon  
(See Page 3 for details)

"White Mass" (for the medical profession and those in the healthcare and related fields) Sunday, October 15, 2023  
2:00 p.m.  
at St. Luke's Church, Toms River, NJ  
(See Page 6 for details)

All Saints Day Wednesday, November 1, 2022  
(Holy Day of Obligation) (See Page 11 for details)  
Bishop O'Connell will be presiding and preaching at the 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Vigil Masses on October 31.

All Soul's Day Candlelight Mass Thursday, November 2, 2022  
7:00 p.m.

## Weekend Collection & Attendance

**Thank You!**

**Saturday, September 16, 2023**

4:00 PM Mass	\$2,052.00	148 people
5:30 PM Mass	\$1,539.00	229 people
7:00 PM Mass	\$660.00	68 people

**Sunday, September 17, 2023**

7:00 AM Mass	\$1,127.00	86 people
8:30 AM Mass	\$1,762.00	126 people
10:00 AM Mass	\$1,402.00	99 people
12:00 PM Mass	\$1,209.00	122 people
4:00 PM Mass	\$825.00	104 people
7:00 PM Mass	\$1,119.00	148 people

Mailed-in Envelopes for the September 17 collection and for previous Sunday collections during the Pandemic Lockdown: **\$3,716.00**

**This Week's Total: \$15,411.00**

**Same Week's Total Last Year: \$16,495.00**

**Second Collection for Annual Catholic Appeal (cash and checks; omitting pledge cards): \$960.00 Thank You!**



## SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!

Dear Eagles Up Supporters:

Please continue to support **EAGLES UP!**  
Donations may be placed in the boxes in the church vestibule. Donation checks towards shipping must now be made payable to:  
**EAGLES UP/NATIVITY CHURCH.**

All shipping will be handled through Nativity Church in Fair Haven Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

## 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.

