ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

December 17, 2023 | Third Sunday of Advent

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

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.

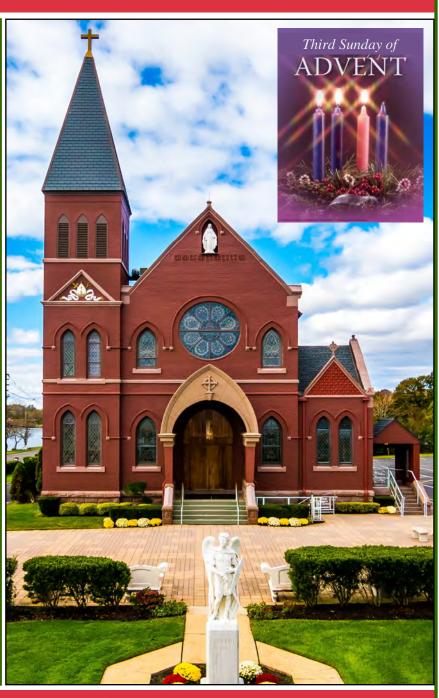
Parish Staff

Rev. John Butler, Pastor 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, Maintenace Coordinator

Religious Education Office

16 Beechwood Avenue | West Long Branch,
NJ 07764
Ph: (732) 483-0360 ext. 2| Fx: (732) 795-3262

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
732-483-0360 ext. 1





MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 16

8:00 AM † Florence Moutenot Rene & Jack Brignola
People of the Parish
4:00 PM † Dolores Jackson Husband Dennis
† Paul Rolleri John & Deborah Perri

5:30 PM † Emilia & Julius B. Simonelli Maria & Pasquale

Simonelli

and Family

† Adelene LaRosa Paul & Agnes D'Angelo

Special Intention

7:00 PM † Victor Serritella Vicki & Tom Hoagland

† Betty & Gene Mellone Daughter Linda

Sunday, December 17

7:00 AM † Charles Murrin Theresa

8:30 AM † Frank Notaro Christopher M. Cittadino

† Mary Ann Dillon Pam & Bruce Testa

8:45 AM (At St. Jerome's Church): Health and Blessings:

Children of Our Parish and

Our Catechists

10:00 AM † Charles & Sophie Sedoski Mary & Catherine Farrar

† Carl DeCesare Bruce Crowell 12:00 PM† Cora Sue Villane Santopietro Villane Family

† Bruce Merril Van Vliet

4:00 PM † Frank DeVivo Frank, Donna & Skylar

Horsey

† Kathleen LaPointe Glenn & JoAnne Albano

7:00 PM † Jayne Natoli Mark & Juana

People of the Parish

Monday, December 18

8:00 AM † Joseph L. Heimbold, Sr. Daughter J.E. Boehles
Pro-Life Cause Friends of Sylvia Marsico

7:00 PM † James & Mary Weeden

Tuesday, December 19

8:00 AM † Kathryn H. Cittadino Christopher M. Cittadino & Grandchildren

† Andrew Bertorelli Family

December 17, 2023

The Lord, Your God, is in your midst,
A mighty savior; He will rejoice over you with
gladness, and renew you in his love.
-Zephaniah 3:17

Wednesday, December 20

8:00 AM † Paula Pagliuso Rodrigues Morning Rosary Group

Thursday, December 21

8:00 AM † Harry B. Tokanos Mary Takonas † Tony Criesi Lin Criesi

Friday, December 22

8:00 AM † Anne Carroll Family

12:15 PM † Roy Bonforte Deborah & Nicholas Migliaccio and Family

5:30 PM † Ruth Wojciechowicz Deborah M. Migliaccio

† Louise D'Ambrisi Migliaccio Family

Saturday, December 23

8:00 AM People of the Parish

4:00 PM † Anthony (Chubby) Chiafullo Loving Family

† Jean Cosentino Rosemarie Gianotto &

Family

Edward Harrington

5:30 PM † Debbie & Josephine

Harrington

Special Intention

7:00 PM † Marie Valderine Carole Jean Marc Lilavois

Raphael

† Susan R. Dunn Migliaccio Family

Sunday, December 24

7:00 AM † Stephen Arthur Gill

8:30 AM † Samuel Pecora

10:00 AM † Thomas J. Angerio Wife & Daughters

† Sharon Mazza Bruce Crowell

12:00 PM † Dennis O'Hara

2:30 PM † Josephine Sudman Mary & Sons

(at Pollak Theater)

4:00 PM † Joseph Welter Loving Family

5:30 PM † Colonie Family

† Thomas Caruso Family

7:00 PM † Nicole Margiloff Joe & Cathy Cafiero and Family

Family

8:30 PM † Mary Anne Browne

10:00 PM † Karen Gomes & Tony & Natalina Grandparents

Advent Fridays Worship & Liturgy Update

Extra Masses and times for Eucharistic Adoration and Confession have been added to the parish calendar on Fridays (December 22) of this year's Season of Advent as follows

•Mass	12:15
•Confessions	
•Eucharistic Adoration	
*Benediction	5:15
•Mass	5:30
•Confessions	6:00 to 6:30

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE MONDAY, DECEMBER 18



The parish's Advent/Pre-Christmas Penance Service will be on Monday, December 18 in two sessions (before and after the 7:00 p.m. Mass) from 6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. and from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Four priests will be available to hear Confessions that night. All are

invited and welcome to attend and receive the grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of our spiritual preparation for Christmas.

Confessions during Advent will also be heard during the usual hours and the extra hours listed on the bulletin cover and on Page 5.



Blessing of Christmas Creche, Prayers, and Carols: Saturday, Dec. 16 and Sunday, December 17

The parish's outdoor Christmas Creche has been installed on the rectory's front lawn during the past week (please see the accompanying photo from Advent 2022). The

Creche is a gift to the parish and to the people of the parish and the community in memory of Rosa Alba Stranieri from Rosa's family. On Saturday the 16th immediately after the 4:00 p.m. Mass and on Sunday the 17th immediately after the 10:00 a.m. Mass we will gather at the Creche to bless and re-dedicate it, to pray for Rosa's



eternal rest, and to sing *Silent Night* as a parish family. All are invited to attend and participate.



2:30 p.m. (at the Pollak Theater at Monmouth University and with permission from Bishop O'Connell for this early starting time.)

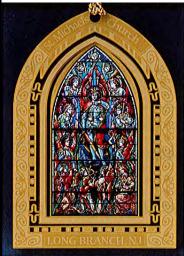
4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m., 8:30 p.m., and 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25

7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., and 5:00 p.m.

- •The doors to all of our Christmas Eve Masses and Christmas Day Masses will open 30 minutes before the start of each Mass. If the building's seating capacity is reached, no further admittance will be permitted because of fire code compliance and safety and health considerations.
- •The following Masses will be live-streamed (available at the parish website www.stmichaelnj.com) and then archived on the parish website: Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m. Mass and Christmas Day 10:00 a.m. Mass.
- •Please remember that (as of December 5) the Lower Church will most likely not be available for Christmas Eve Masses and Christmas Day Masses because of the water damage in the church basement from the September 29 rainfall and flooding. Therefore seating capacity may be limited to the Upper Church only unlike recent past years. Please plan accordingly. Further information about the repairs to the Lower Church may be found on Page 6.
- •Scheduling Note: The obligation to attend Mass on Sunday, December 24 is separate and distinct from the Christmas obligation to attend Mass. Attendance at *two Masses* during the three days of December 23-25 is necessary "to avoid the near occasion of sin." Some possibilities for meeting *both* obligations include:
- •12/23 Saturday Evening Mass + 12/24 Sunday Evening Mass
- •12/23 Saturday Evening Mass + 12/25 Monday Mass at any time
- •12/24 Sunday Morning Mass + 12/24 Sunday Evening Mass
- •12/24 Sunday Mass at any time + 12/25 Monday Mass at any time
- •The Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m. Mass will be the parish's Christmas <u>FAMILY</u> Mass and the Parish Christmas Choir will be singing at that Mass.
- •Christmas Carols will be sung (beginning at 9:30 p.m.) prior to the Christmas Eve 10:00 p.m. Vigil Mass.

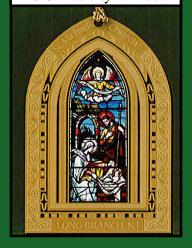
2023 St. Michael Window



Our Parish Christmas Ornaments are again available for purchase during the current Advent Season. Supplies are limited. Please see the accompanying photos. Each ornament is \$20 and may be purchased this weekend Saturday, December 16 after the 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Masses and Sunday, December 17 after the 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Masses. Payment may be made by check (payable to St. Michael's Church with "Christmas Ornament" noted on the memo line) or cash; sorry no credit cards and no debit cards.

The St. Michael Window ornament and the Nativity Window ornament are custom-made exact replicas of the stained glass windows in our church and are specially designed and fabricated for our parish.

2019 Nativity Window



2019 Christmas Tree



ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

COMMEMORATIVE ORNAMENTS 2023 Edition Series and 2019 Edition Series

Order Form

(print)	
Address:	
Email:	
Home Number:	
Cell Number:	
uantity	
X \$20.00 each = \$	2023 St. Michael's Window Edition
X \$20.00 each = \$	2019 Nativity Window Edition
X \$20.00 each = \$	2019 Christmas Tree Edition
X \$45.00 bundled = \$	All three ornaments (save \$15)
otal Price \$	
heck	Cash
hecks are preferable, please.	•

"The Little Blue Book"

Advent and Christmas Season 2023-2024 These books contain six-minute reflections on the Sunday Gospels of Liturgical Year A. If you would like a free copy, they are available in the back of the church.

> PRAY FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE



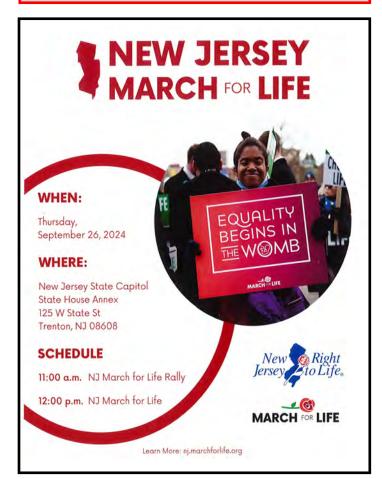


Our Parish is in need of lectors/ readers and altar servers for *ALL* of our Masses and especially our Sunday 7:00 a.m. Mass, Saturday 7:00 p.m. Mass, Weekday Masses, and from time-to-time for our Funeral Masses.

If you can help, please call the parish business office, 732-222-8080.

Thank you!





The Christmas Wafer: The "Oplatki"



The word Bethlehem means "House of Bread". The breaking of bread is a sign of charity, unity, friendship, and hospitality. Religious family traditions and customs bring the truths of Faith into the home. One of these beautiful Christmas customs is the **Christmas Wafer.** A wafer bearing a simple design commemorative of Christ's birth is broken by the

head of the family and distributed to each member. With a simple prayer for God's grace and the welfare of the present and absent members of the family, the head family member breaks the wafer and distributes it, a piece to each one at the table. While doing so each member of the family is kissed and is wished a joyful feast. The other family members then greet one another in the same way.

The spiritual lesson in this age old custom is **unity of the family – the main pillar of society.** The bond of unity is the Christ-like charity that should exist amongst the members of the family. The father of the family is the link in the unbroken chain of One Body, One Bread, One Christ, and One Church. The mother of the family is the symbol of Mary-the Blessed Mother: a symbol of love, maternal care, self-sacrifice, spiritual teacher. The family joins in the eternal procession no matter where they are. For there is a universal longing by men to be always with one another, with God.

All this brings to mind clearly our charity for one another, to seek salvation together. Family customs remind us that we seek and obtain salvation with the help of others at all times.

The Christmas Oplatki Wafers will be available at no charge in the vestibule of the church beginning on the Third Sunday of Advent (the weekend of December 16-17). Please share one (or two! or more!) with your family.

PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

WEEKLY MASS INTENTION

† Lacy Smith

r/o Tony & Natalina Gomes

YEARLY MASS INTENTIONS

FEBRUARY 2024

†Susan Whitman APRIL 2024 r/o Lex and Janet Tucci

†Rita N. Cittadino

r/o Christopher M. Cittadino

and Children

SEPTEMBER 2024

†Ralph and Eleanor Siciliano

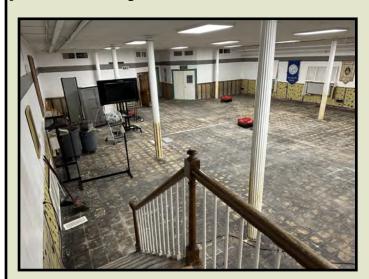
r/o The Boeckman Family

†Connie and Tony Criesi †Dick Nolan r/o Lin Criesi r/o Lin Criesi

Repairs in Our Lower Church; An Update - Where Things Now Stand

The repairs in our Lower Church are progressing – slowly but surely. Extensive water damage occurred in the Lower Church with the record-breaking rainfall and flooding of September 29. All of the basement's carpet and all of the wainscoting up to the chair-rail height had to be removed either because it had been destroyed by the flood waters or to prevent mold etc. The outdoor repair work (underground rainwater drainage upgrading) was completed in November (please see the bulletins of November 12 and 19, 2023).

In the meantime, insurance adjusters, contractors, flooring specialists, and others have been working on the plans for the Lower Church repair project, prepping the "old floor" for installation of a new porcelain tile floor, selecting materials, and working-out the costs and the sources of funds and the extent of the insurance coverage and the extent of the parish's out-of-pocket expense, etc. The total price for all of the indoor Lower Church repair work (from the commencement of the emergency water remediation and debris removal on September 29 itself to the last drop of new paint in the (hopefully) near future) is currently estimated at over \$100,000 and possibly as much as \$150,000 or more. Thankfully, much of that expense is covered by insurance through our Diocese of Trenton. The accompanying photos illustrate the current condition of the Lower Church. The likelihood of the Lower Church being repaired and ready for use for Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day is very low. We will keep everyone posted and informed about that prospect and about progress, in general, in the Lower Church. Please pray for the success and swift completion of this repair project and for its long-term results.









Weekend Collection & Attendance

Thank You!

Saturday, December 9, 2023

4:00 PM Mass	\$1,941.00	171 people
5:30 PM Mass	\$442.00	79 people
7:00 PM Mass	\$520.00	58 people

Sunday, December 10, 2023

7:00 AM Mass	\$1,524.00	101 people
8:30 AM Mass	\$1,475.00	93 people
10:00 AM Mass	\$1,137.00	118 people
12:00 PM Mass	\$1,550.00	105 people
4:00 PM Mass	\$678.00	94 people
7:00 PM Mass	\$567.00	82 people

Mailed-in Envelopes for the December 10 collection and for previous Sunday collections during the Pandemic Lockdown: **\$1,290.00**

This Week's Total: \$11,124.00

Same Week's Total Last Year: \$14,469.00

Second Collection: Support for Religious Retirement:

\$3,713.00

Immaculate Conception: \$4,334.00

On the Calendar at St. Michael's Church December 12-20, 2023 Simbang Gabi (See Page 8 for details) Blessing of Parish Outdoor Saturday, December 16, 2023 Sunday, December 17, 2023 **Christmas Creche** (See Page 3 for details) Fr. Alphonse's Christmas Concert Sunday, December 17, 2023 1:30 p.m. at St. Michael's Monday, December 18, 2023 **Advent Penance Service** 6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (See Page 3 for details) Christmas Monday, December 25, 2023 (Holy Day of Obligation)

Monday, January 1, 2024

Communion Visits; Confession Visits; Anointing of the Sick



Please keep in mind that the parish priest and our lay Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist are available and eager to bring Communion to parishioners who are in the hospital (nursing homes, assisted living facilities, rehab centers, and hospices, too) and to parishioners who are at home but unable to get to church. Please contact Mary Valan at the parish office or Dotty O'Hara at (908)310-6497 to make arrangements. Hospitals and

New Year's Day and Solemnity of

Mary, Mother of God (not a holy

day of obligation in 2024)

other healthcare facilities *generally do not notify the parish office* regarding their Catholic patients who desire to receive Sacraments. And so it falls to the patient herself/himself or to a family member or friend to contact the parish office to make the request. The parish priest will also very gladly make a hospital visit or home visit to hear a Confession and/or administer the Sacrament of the Sick ("Anointing of the Sick") in addition to bringing Holy Communion. Please remember to contact the parish office or Dotty to make these arrangements. Thank you.

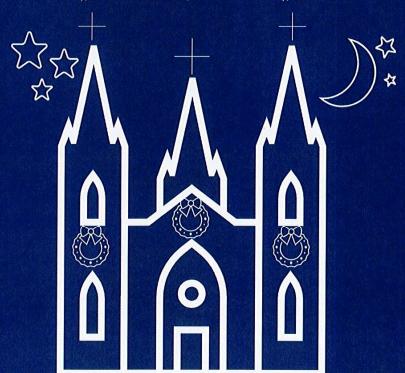


2023 Monmouth County

Simbang Gabi

6:30 p.m. Rosary, Confessions, Eucharistic Adoration | 7:00 p.m. Mass

Tuesday, December 12, at Saint James, Red Bank
Wednesday, December 13, at Saint Ann, Keansburg
Thursday, December 14, at Saint Catherine, Farmingdale
Friday, December 15, at Holy Innocents, Neptune
Saturday, December 16, at Holy Family, Union Beach
Sunday, December 17, at Saint Dorothea, Eatontown
Monday, December 18, at Saint Benedict, Holmdel
Tuesday, December 19, at Saint Clement, Matawan
Wednesday, December 20, at Saint Mary, Middletown



Inherited by the Filipinos from the Spaniards, the Simbang Gabi (Night Mass) is a Catholic devotion of offering a Mass each night for nine consecutive days in joyful anticipation of Christmas Day. All are welcome to this festive Novena of Masses.

Standing Together for Life – Mass for Life; Lunch & Seminar

On Friday January 19, 2024, the faithful of the Diocese of Trenton will come together in prayer and solidarity to proclaim the sanctity of all human life!

All are invited to an 11:00 a.m. Mass for Life celebrated by Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M., in St. Robert Bellarmine Co-Cathedral, 61 Georgia Rd., Freehold. No registration is needed for the Mass, seating is first come first served. Mass will be livestreamed on Youtube.com/trentondiocese.

The Mass will be followed by a Lunch & Seminar in the Co-Cathedral's Dentici Hall. A panel of local expert speakers will offer practical, actionable ideas and resources to take back to parishes where they can be immediately applied to build a culture of life in a spirit of inter-ministry collaboration and radical solidarity with vulnerable pregnant women and families. Advanced registration to attend the Lunch & Seminar is required by January 10, 2024.

Full details for the day's events, including a registration link for the Lunch & Seminar can be found at: dioceseoftrenton.org/standing-together-for-life. Questions, contact Belem Perez at 609-403-7133 or bperez@dioceseoftrenton.org







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 the United States miaht "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 re-



newal 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.

All are welcome to join our Family Ministry Fair Live Webinar on Thursday, January 25, 2024 from 1:00 – 3:30 PM. Our four speakers will be: Dr. Gregory Popcak (Catholic HOM), Damon Owens (Communio), Enza Cerami (Living Stones, Inc.) and Patrick Metts, LPC (RESTORE Catholic Marriage Resource). This event presents a chance to learn and grow parish outreach to families and also minister to marriages. For more information and/or to RSVP for the Zoom link please contact cdaverso@diometuchen.org



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 (732-222-8080) 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.

2024 Mass Book

We kindly ask that when you come to the office for scheduling, please bring a written list including the names and dates of your requests and your name and phone number. The stipend for Masses is \$10.00 per Mass.



Expired Missalettes Available

A good number of parishioners often ask about taking

home a copy of the paperback Missalettes when a particular issue of the book has expired. The most recent previous issue of the Missalettes covered the period of time from August 13, 2023 to December 2, 2023 and we replaced those now-obsolete books for the Advent Season on Saturday morning December 2 after the conclusion of the 8:00 a.m. Mass. If you would like to have a copy of that "now-retired" Missalette (for refer-



ence to the Scripture readings and prayers, spiritual reading, enjoying the hymns and the artwork, etc.), we have several copies on-hold in the parish office and in the church's ushers' closet. Please phone the office to request a copy of the Missalette and we will be happy to mail one to you or to leave it in our office mailbox for you to pick-up at your convenience. Or you may simply ask Larry or one of the ushers for a copy from the ushers' closet.

A Season to Remember Begins at Saint Leo the Great Religious Store

A Catholic Gift Store for Friends, Family and Clergy



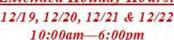
Give the gifts that matter most with devotionals that focus on our faith. We have something for everyone!

You'll find unique gifts such as,
Nativities including those from Fontanini
Advent Wreaths, Candles & Calendars • Home Décor
Crucifixes • Holy Family Statuary • Angels • Specialty Ornaments
Religious & Fine Jewelry • Bibles & Books • Holy Cards & more!
Our Rosary & Travel Centers are fully stocked with
great ideas for meaningful stocking stuffers.



Regular Store Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 10:00am - 4:00pm Extended Holiday Hours:





50 Hurleys Lane • Lincroft, NJ 07738 Located at the lower level of the Parish Center 908-770-1989 • www.stleothegreat.com/store