



December 24. 2023

"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

-Luke 1:45

Tuesday, December 26

8:00 AM † Ethel Delaney

† Gail Sciallo

8:00 AM † Paula Pagliuso Rodrigues

† William Delehanty



Carroll Family

JoAnn Dorgan

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturda	,, Decem	ber 23
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4:00 PM † Anthony (Chubby) Chiafullo

† Jean Cosentino

Rosemarie Gianotto &

Family

5:30 PM † Debbie & Josephine

8:00 AM People of the Parish

Harrington

Special Intention

7:00 PM † Marie Valderine Carole Raphael

† Susan R. Dunn

Loving Family

Edward Harrington

Jean Marc Lilavois

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 Family

> † Thomas Caruso Family

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

Family

8:30 PM † Mary Anne Browne

10:00 PM † Karen Gomes &

Grandparents

People of the Parish

Tony & Natalina

7:00 AM † Rosa Alba Stranieri

Friend 10:00 AM † Michael Noel

> † William Delehanty Luci, Ed & Elisa Perez

12:00 PM † Charles Newbury Anthony Lucarelli

Bruce & Joan Fromer 4:00 PM † Kathryn Fromer

Monday, December 25

7:00 AM † Salvatore J. Mirarchi Mirarchi Family

† Ed Thayer, Sr. Thayer Family

8:30 AM † Michael Wrubel

Wife Maria & Family

† Pamela Gatta

Mom, Dad & Family

† Lisa Durkin Dolan

John & Joanne Durkin

† Salvatrice Gervolino

Children & Husband

Pro-Life Cause

Friends of Sylvia Marsico

10:00 AM † Harold & Julia Bowman

Loving Children Michael, Joe

& AnneMarie

† Eileen, Mark, Edward, &

Courtney

Family

12:00 PM † Scott Opatosky

Mom & Dad

† Peter Lucia

Rick & Carol

5:00 PM † James & Mary Weeden

Thursday, December 28

Wednesday, December 27

8:00 AM † Robert Clinton Margaret Clinton

Friday, December 29

8:00 AM † Chip Buenafuente Tom & Jane Carroll

Saturday, December 30

8:00 AM People of the Parish

4:00 PM † Kaitlyn Peterson Aunt Lydia Mooty

> † Rosanne Steets Fran & Dave Ebert

5:30 PM Special Intention

Dianne Fichter † Anne DiGenova

7:00 PM † Justine & Jim Weeden

Sunday, December 31

8:30 AM † Gus Mazzola Marylou & Jim Pacelli

Special Intention: Koffi Aya

Marie-Louise

7:00 PM People of the Parish

The Center Sanctuary Candle will be lit this week in loving memory of Rose and Frank Brown, requested by Elizabeth and Fredrica Brown.

The Blessed Mother Sanctuary Candle will be lit this week for peace throughout the world and Christmas blessings.

The St. Joseph Sanctuary Candle will be lit this week for the Pro-Life Cause.



Christmas Mass Schedule 2023

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

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

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24 In the Upper Church

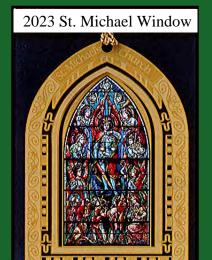
4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m., 8:30 p.m., and 10:00 p.m.

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.

Important Information Re Our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses

- •Please remember that (as of December 15) 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 8 of this bulletin and in the bulletins of December 17 and December 10.
- •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 health and safety 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.
- •The obligation to attend Mass on Sunday, December 24 is separate and distinct from the Christmas obligation to attend Mass. Attendance at <u>two Masses</u> during the three days of December 23-25 is necessary "to avoid the near occasion of sin." Some possibilities for meeting <u>both</u> obligations include:
 - •12/23 Saturday Evening Mass + 12/24 Sunday Evening Mass....Or....12/23 Saturday Evening Mass + 12/25 Monday Mass at any time....Or....12/24 Sunday Morning Mass + 12/24 Sunday Evening Mass....Or....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.
- •There will be no scheduled Confessions on Christmas Day. If there is an urgent need for a Confession on Christmas Day, please phone the parish office to make an appointment or see the priest after Mass.
- •The Mass schedule for New Years's Eve (Sunday, December 31) and New Year's Day (Sunday, January 1) The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God is on Page 5 of this bulletin. January 1st is not a holy day of obligation in 2024 in the United States.
- •May everyone's Christmas be "merry and bright" and holy, healthy, safe, and joyful. God bless us, everyone!"



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 23 after the 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Masses and Sunday, December 24 after the 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.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

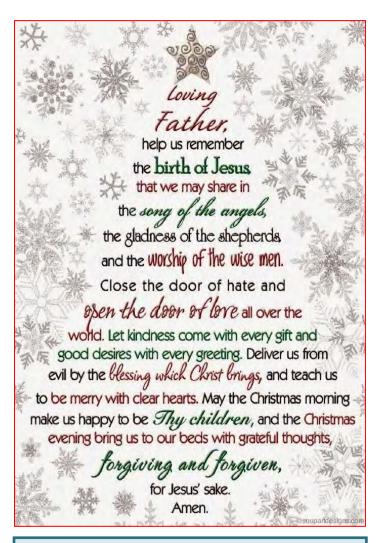


ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

COMMEMORATIVE ORNAMENTS 2023 Edition Series and 2019 Edition Series

Order Form

Name: (print)	
Address:	
Email:	
Home Number:	
Cell Number:	
Quantity	
X \$20.00 each = \$	2023 St. Michael 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)
Total Price \$ Check Checks are preferable, please.	Cash
Questions may be directed to D	otty O'Hara at 732-222-8080.



"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.

PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

WEEKLY MASS INTENTION

† Ronald Lubischer

r/o Joyce Lubischer

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

†Connie and Tony Criesi

r/o The Boeckman Family r/o Lin Criesi

†Dick Nolan r/o Lin Criesi

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Mass Times on Monday, January 1, 2024 New Years's Day



Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 a.m. (followed by Confessions until 9:00 a.m.) and 11:00 a.m. (no scheduled Confessions after the 11:00 a.m. Mass). There will be no 7:00 p.m. Mass on Monday, January 1, 2024 and no scheduled Confessions that night.

The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God, is not a holy day of obligation in 2024 in the United States.

On Sunday, December 31, 2023 we will follow our usual Sunday Mass schedule and usual Sunday Confessions schedule.

Parish Business Office Hours

The parish office will be open for business as follows during the week following Christmas. The office's usual business hours are:

Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 Noon and 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Mon., December 25......Closed All Day Tues., December 26......Open 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Wed., December 27......Closed All Day through and including Tues., Jan. 2, 2024

Wed. January 3, 2024.....Re-Opens; Regular hours 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (except closed 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. for office staff's lunch hour)

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.



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 might be "permanently in state of misа sion." (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.

Weekend Collection & Attendance

Thank You!

Saturday, December 16, 2023

4:00 PM Mass	\$2,551.00	164 people	
5:30 PM Mass	\$1,009.00	107 people	
7:00 PM Mass	\$531.00	41 people	

Sunday, December 17, 2023

7:00 AM Mass	\$1,107.00	89 people
8:30 AM Mass	\$1,818.00	123 people
10:00 AM Mass	\$1,651.00	125 people
12:00 PM Mass	\$1,977.00	148 people
4:00 PM Mass	\$728.00	116 people
7:00 PM Mass	\$728.00	122 people

Mailed-in Envelopes for the December 17 collection and for previous Sunday collections during the Pandemic Lockdown: **\$1,149.00**

This Week's Total: \$13,249.00

Same Week's Total Last Year: \$12,841.00

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: 12/19, 12/20, 12/21 & 12/22 10:00am—6:00pm



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

On the Calendar at St. Michael's Church



(Holy Day of Obligation)	Monuuy, December 25, 2025
Parish Office Closed	See Page 5 for Christmas Week Hours
New Year's Day and Solemnity of	Monday, January 1, 2024

Mary, The HolyMother of God (not a holy day of obligation in 2024)

Holy Hour for Vocations Thursday, January 4, 2024 7:00 p.m.

First Friday
Friday, January 5, 20243 (12:15 Mass in
English, Eucharistic Adoration 12:45
p.m. to 5:15 p.m., Mass in English at
5:30 p.m., Confessions 12:45 to 1:15 and
6:00 to 6:30 p.m.)

Epiphany of the Lord Sunday, January 7, 2024

Baptism Class Saturday, January 13, 2024 11:00 a.m.

March for Life and Rally for Life Friday, January 19, 2024 in Washington, DC

St. Michael's Parish Mass for Life Friday, January 19, 2024 8:00 a.m.

Diocese of Trenton Mass for Life Friday, January 19, 2024
(See Page 9 for details)

New Jersey March for Life Thursday, September 26, 2024 (See Page 11 For details)

PLEASE 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!

Update re the Our Lower Church



The repairs in our Lower Church are progressing. Please see the bulletins of Dec. 10 and Dec. 17 for other updates. Work on the instal-

lation of the new floor tiles began this past Monday, December 18 – approximately 4,000 square feet of porcelain tile; a dark gray border around the perimeter and a lighter shade of gray inside the border





(please see the accompanying photos). A crew of seven installers from Prestige Flooring, LLC is working diligently; the date for completion of the floor tile installation is uncertain as of the date of this bulletin's printing deadline. After comple-

tion of the floor work, other work will be necessary in the Lower Church including the new wainscoting and chair rail, carpentry, electrical, painting, etc.



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.



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.

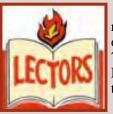
Full details for the day's events, including a registration link for the Lunch & Seminar can be found at: dioceseoftrenton.org/standing-together-for-life. Questions, contact Belem Perez at 609-403-7133 or bperez@dioceseoftrenton.org





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.



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!





- Learn why we do everything in the Mass. Increase your understanding of, and respect for, the Mass.
- Get more involved in the Mass and get more out of the Mass.
- 3.Learn skills that will help you throughout life: punctuality, teamwork, self-discipline, sharpening of the memory, planning ahead, reacting calmly and wisely to the unexpected, thinking on your feet, communication, preparation, follow-up.





- 8. Be of service to the Church, your parish, and the community. Be engaged in parish life.
- 9. Be closer to "the action" ... Proximity to the sacred... It's the best seat in the house.
- 10. Make your parents proud and happy. You'll be happy, too. As an adult, you'll look back with fondness on your altar server years.
- 11. Being an altar server means *serving God* and *serving His people*. It is a special ministry, a privilege, and an honor.
- 12. Pope Francis recently told a group of youth altar servers, "You experience the closeness of Jesus, the sweetness and power of His presence... The closer you are to the altar, the more you will remember to speak with Jesus in daily prayer; the more you will be nourished by the word and the body of the Lord; the better able you will be to go out to others, bringing them the gift that you have received, giving in turn with enthusiasm the joy that you have received."

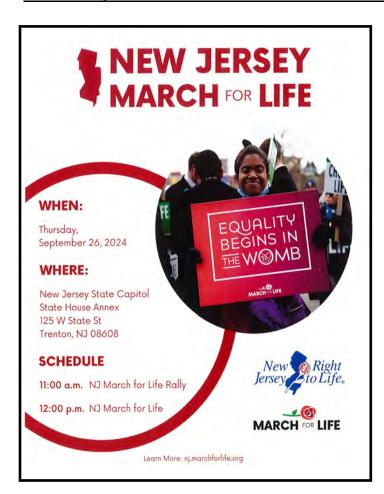


- 4. Deepen your relationship with God and better discern your life's vocation (whether religious life, married life, or single life).
- Be a leader and a teacher. Share your talents. Mentor next year's team of new altar servers.
- 6. Form new friendships.
- 7. Get to know and interact with the priests, musicians, lectors, and other altar servers. And maybe get to know the Bishop, too!



To become an altar server or to obtain more information, please contact Dotty O'Hara at the parish office at (732) 222-8080. Faithful, practicing Catholics ten (10) years old or older are eligible.







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.

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, ext. 2 at the Catholic Center.

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, Maintenance Coordinator

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.

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