

# ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

February 1, 2026 | Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## DAILY MASS

Mon – Sat: 8:00 AM | Mon: 7:00 PM  
First Friday 12:15 p.m. 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.

On the Thursday evenings immediately preceding First Fridays, Confessions are heard (7:15 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.) during the monthly Holy Hour for Vocations.

## MARRIAGES

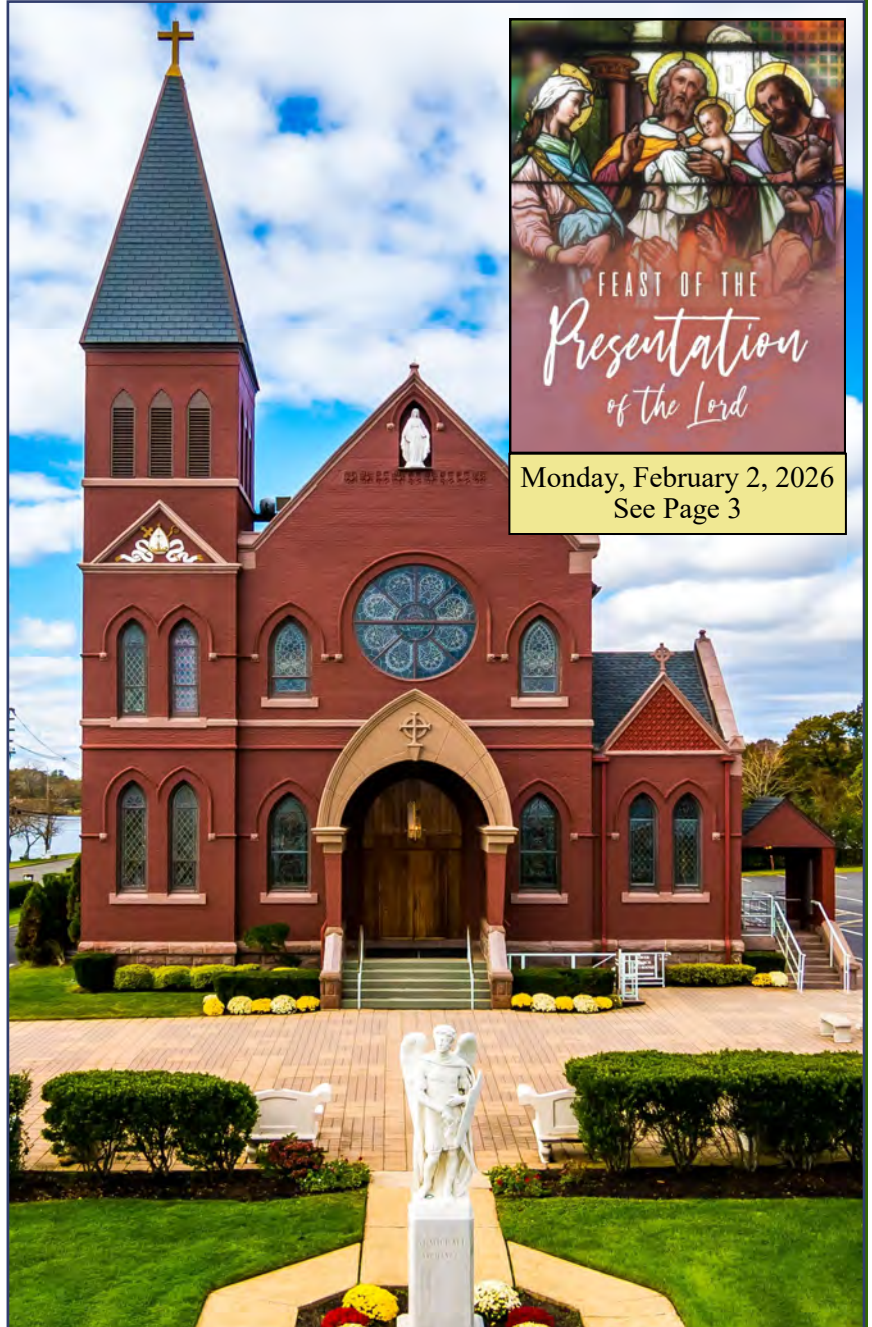
Couples who wish to marry at the parish should contact the Parish Office for a Marriage Request Form, and for further information. The bride or groom, or their parents/grandparents must be registered parishioners for at least eighteen months prior to the proposed wedding date to make arrangements. There 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.



Monday, February 2, 2026  
See Page 3

## 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 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 K. Butler, Pastor  
Kevin Connelly, Director of Religious Ed.  
Mary Valan, Parish Secretary  
Emily Carroll, Assistant Parish Secretary  
Lauren Walters, Acting Music Director  
Larry Swenson, Maintenance Coordinator

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

800 Ocean Avenue | Lower Church | Long Branch, NJ 07740  
Ph: (732) 483-0360 ext. 2 | Fx: (732) 795-3262

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



*“Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.”*

*Matthew 5:10-12a*

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Saturday, January 31

8:00 AM People of the Parish  
 4:00 PM † Alfred J. Thorne Thorne Family  
 † Robert A. Parnell Thorne Family  
 5:30 PM Special Intention  
 † Jay Filippo Filippo Family  
 7:00 PM † James O'Donohue Jr. Family

#### Sunday, February 1

7:00 AM † Rosa Alba Stranieri  
 8:30 AM † Patricia Stephens Viola Trollan  
 † Andre Moutenot Rene & Jack Brignola  
 10:00 AM † Diane Cusa Mary & Catherine Farrar  
 † Noel Vassallo Vassallo Family  
 12:00 PM † Jay Filippo Filippo Family  
 † Mary Anne Mills Family  
 4:00 PM † John T. Dale, Jr. Jorie Berube  
 † Frank Vasfailo, III Mom & Dad  
 7:00 PM People of the Parish

#### Monday, February 2

8:00 AM † Grace Tho Aida David  
 Pro-Life Cause Friends of Sylvia Marsico  
 7:00 PM † Rev. Martin Foran

#### Tuesday, February 3

8:00 AM † Eileen Cacciatore Cacciatore Family  
 † Bob Sudman Valan Family

#### Wednesday, February 4

8:00 AM † Frank Clementi  
 Special Intention: Healing for Fred & Janice  
 Brian Veit

#### Thursday, February 5

8:00 AM † Clarice Viggiano Viggiano Family  
 Special Intention: The Veit Fred & Janice  
 Family for strength and comfort

#### Friday, February 6

8:00 AM † Leigh Ann Basaman Michaele McKenna & Patricia Micale  
 † Mark Russo Family  
 12:15 PM † Rev. Joseph Wortmann  
 5:30 PM † Souls in Purgatory

#### Saturday, February 7

8:00 AM † Conrad Russo Family  
 4:00 PM † Deborah Alvarado Mary & Steve  
 † Alfred J. Thorne Thorne Family  
 5:30 PM Special Intention  
 † Frank Clementi Sal & Pat Riggi  
 7:00 PM People of the Parish

#### Sunday, February 8

7:00 AM Special Intention: JoAnn for a speedy recovery Russo Family  
 8:30 AM † Bob Sudman Grippo Family  
 † Frank Clementi Marie Cilurzo  
 † James Simonelli Adoring Grandchildren  
 10:00 AM † Rita Cittadino Sisters Marie & Rosanne  
 Special Intention: Children's Rosary  
 † Alfred J. Thorne Thorne Family  
 12:00 PM † Jay Filippo Filippo Family  
 † Robert Scally Donna  
 4:00 PM † Dennis Kilkeny Linda & Gina DeSieno  
 7:00 PM People of the Parish

The Blessed Mother, the St. Joseph, and the Center Sanctuary Candles will be lit this week in loving memory of Robert Parnell, requested by his sister Debbie Saffioti and Family.



**February 2, 2026  
FEAST OF  
THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**



**Candlemas** is a feast celebrated annually on February 2. It celebrates three occasions: the presentation of the child Jesus; Jesus' first entry into the Temple in Jerusalem; and the celebration of the Virgin Mary's purification. Parishioners are invited to bring their own candles to church to be blessed and that blessing will take place at the conclusion of the Solemn Entrance and Procession that will occur at the beginning of both the Monday 8:00 a.m. Mass and the 7:00 p.m. Mass on Monday, February 2. All are invited and welcome.

*Monthly*  
**Holy Hour for Vocations**

There will be a Holy Hour for Vocations from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the Thursday evening that precedes First Friday. *The next Holy Hour for Vocations will be later this week on February 5.* The Holy Hour will include Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary, and Confessions. The harvest is great but the laborers are few. Please join with us in praying for vocations!

**First Friday Mass *In Latin* at 12:15 P.M. and  
Eucharistic Adoration on February 6**

First Friday Mass *in Latin* according to the *Novus Ordo* will be celebrated on February 6 at 12:15 p.m. Confessions will be heard after that Mass until 1:15 p.m. *Eucharistic Adoration* will take place throughout the morning on Friday, February 6 from the conclusion of the 8:00 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 12:00 p.m. And First Friday Mass will also be celebrated at 5:30 p.m. in English on Friday, February 6 followed by Confessions until 6:30 p.m. All are welcome.



***Prayer in Honor of St. Blaise***  
(Memorial on February 3)

O God, deliver us through the intercession of Thy holy bishop and martyr Blaise, from all evil of soul and body, especially from all ills of the throat; and grant us the grace to make a good confession in the confident hope of obtaining Thy pardon, and ever to praise with worthy lips Thy most holy name. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



The Memorial of St. Blaise is February 3 and falls on a Tuesday this year. Throats will be blessed on Tuesday, February 3 at the conclusion of the 8:00 a.m. Mass. The priest/celebrant and Lay Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers at the February 3rd Mass will impart a blessing to each individual in the customary "pre-covid manner". All are invited and welcome.

***Children's Rosary***

Please join us for a Children's Rosary on  
Sunday, February 8  
after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at  
St. Michael's Church.

All are invited to participate and  
pray with us.  
Rosaries and prayer books will be  
available.

No prior knowledge of the  
Rosary is needed.



*Any questions, call or text  
Renee Mazza at  
(732) 829-4548*

## St. Michael's Rosary Altar Society Cordially Invites Women of the Parish

*For Faith, Fellowship, & Love  
Celebrating the Feast of St. Valentine  
Saturday, February 14th*

**Mass and Recitation of the Rosary  
8am Upper Church  
Followed by a Brunch Buffet, 9:30 am  
La Scarpetta Italian Grill  
167 Locust Ave, West Long Branch**

**\$20 per person, RSVP by 2/5**

Check payable: St. Michael's RAS

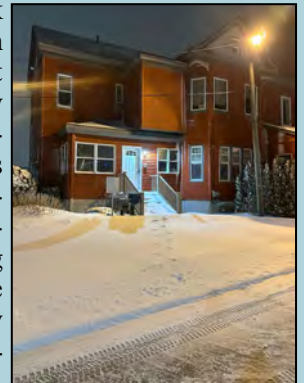
Mail to: Rose McVey, 2001 Vernon St, Oakhurst 07755  
rosetmcvey@optimum.net, 201-232-3891

### The Blizzard of '26

## Another Sunday Snow Storm



St. Michael's weathered last Sunday's snow storm. Noah Blondek and his snow plow trucks and on-foot crew members with shovels in hand were here Sunday afternoon and late into the night and back at 4:30 Monday morning once it was safe and prudent to pursue the snow removal work. They plowed, shoveled, and sanded multiple times during the course of the night and had the parking lots and walkways ready for the Monday morning and Monday evening Masses and Confessions. The Sunday Masses and Confessions, however, were a different story. Bishop O'Connell on Friday issued a dispensation excusing the Sunday Mass obligation for everyone in the Trenton Diocese (see below) and the Governor declared a state of emergency, so the Sunday Masses and Confessions were cancelled here and at many other parishes.



The Bishop urged drivers to exercise extreme caution, encouraged parishioners to watch Sunday Mass on TV or online, and **reminded everyone to please submit your Sunday, January 25 collection contributions online or at the following weekend Mass.** The complete text of Bishop O'Connell's Jan. 23 dispensation message follows below:

### FROM THE BISHOP

New Jersey officials have declared a state of emergency for the entire state in anticipation of a major weekend snow storm Saturday evening through Monday afternoon. Individual parishes will make determinations regarding Sunday and Monday Mass schedules. Check parish websites. Parishioners are urged to exercise extreme caution for any driving. Be careful. The Sunday obligation is dispensed. Parishioners are encouraged to watch Sunday Mass on TV or online. Please submit your Sunday collection contributions online or at the following weekend Mass. Thank you.

Knights of Columbus

This Sunday!

Children’s Basketball Free Throw Contest



We're happy to announce that the Knights of Columbus have invited children of St. Michael's Church to participate in the Knights' local *Annual Basketball Free Throw Contest*. All *boys and girls ages 9 to 14 years old* are invited to participate in the local level competition for the 2026 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. The local competition will be *held this Sunday, February 1, 2026 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the gym at Holy Trinity Church* at 408 Prospect Street, Long Branch (enter through the school's back door located next to the parking lot behind Holy Trinity Church).



Participants will have an opportunity to warm-up and take a few practice shots when they arrive before taking their "official" *15 free throws*. The winners will be the girl or boy in her/his respective age bracket who makes the most baskets out of 15 free throw attempts.



The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest is sponsored annually, with winners progressing through the local, district, and jurisdictional competitions. All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 years old are eligible to participate and will compete in their respective age divisions. The girls and boys winners in each age bracket at the local level on February 1st will be invited to advance and participate in the next round at the district level on Saturday, February 7th at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in the Highlands. All contestants at the local level will be recognized for their participation in the event with a *Certificate of Participation* that will be presented at the gym. A parent will be asked to *sign a written parental consent form at the gym*.

For additional information, please contact David at (609) 805-2771.

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT REQUEST FORM

If you wish to receive a written statement reporting your 2025 contributions to St. Michael's Church for purposes of your income tax returns, please complete the form below and return it to the Parish Office. Submit your request to St. Michael's Church, 800 Ocean Ave., Long Branch, NJ 07740. Or email your request to parish@stmichaelnj.com.

*Faith Direct* – If you make your weekly contributions or other contributions to the parish by means of the *Faith Direct* online method, you may obtain a written statement reporting such online contributions by visiting [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net) and following the instructions on the homepage.

For additional assistance, please call the parish office at 732-222-8080 Monday through Friday during business hours 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (closed for lunch 12:00 Noon to 1:00 p.m.).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope Number: \_\_\_\_\_



# March For Life 2026



Parishioners from eight parishes – St. Michael’s, Christ the King (Star of the Sea, Holy Trinity), Our Lady of Hope (St. Jerome’s, St. Mary’s), St. Anthony’s/Hightstown, Precious Blood, St. Teresa of Calcutta, St. Agnes, and St. Pius X – traveled together by bus and participated in the 2026 Rally and March for Life in Washington, DC on Friday, January 23. Thank you to them and to the many parishioners who contributed to the special second collections to help pay for the chartered bus. The bus was organized and hosted by St. Michael’s, Christ the King, and Our Lady of Hope. The day began for these Respect Life pilgrims with a 5:30 a.m. “Mass for Life” at the Star of the Sea church followed by the bus’ departure at 6:15 a.m. The bus returned to Long Branch at 11:00 p.m.

Please continue to pray and work for an end to abortion; for compassionate and competent care for women and their babies during pregnancy and post-pregnancy; and for reconciliation, conversion, healing, and mercy. The accompanying photos were taken on the bus, at this year’s March, and at Congressman Smith’s Open House Reception.



## PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

### WEEKLY MASS INTENTION

† Ronald Lubischer r/o Joyce Lubischer

### YEARLY MASS INTENTIONS

April 2026  
† Susan Whitman r/o Lex and Janet Tucci

May 2026  
† Rita N. Cittadino r/o Christopher M. Cittadino and Children

## Growing in the Radiance of Teilhard the Mystic:

### A Two-Part Virtual Series

Evenings with Kathy Duffy, SSJ

Wednesdays, February 4 and 11, 2026

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm EST



One of the most important capacities for those of us who wish to live a truly mystical life is the ability to see. Openness to the other and to the many sensations in our immediate surroundings deepens our ability to access the radiance of Matter’s inner face, as well as our capacity to respond to the Divine Presence we encounter within. As we engage passages from Teilhard’s mystical writings, we come to know the Cosmic Christ as the source of all Radiance, drawing the human family toward the light and stirring up passionate desire to join in the work of creation.



Kathleen Duffy, SSJ directs the Institute for Religion and Science. She is President of the American Teilhard Association, former editor of Teilhard Studies, and serves on the Advisory Board of Cosmos and Creation. She has published *Teilhard’s Mysticism: Seeing the Inner Face of the Evolution; Teilhard’s Struggle: Embracing the Work of Evolution*; and edited the volume of essays, *Rediscovering Teilhard’s Fire*.

To register, please visit our website.

Donation – Suggested Scale \$35-\$40 for both evenings, February 4 and 11.



The next Baptism preparation class for parents is scheduled for Saturday, February 14 at 11:30 a.m.

in the Lower Church. Please call the parish office to register in advance.

**St. Michael's Rosary Altar Society  
Announces**

**LENT MADNESS  
SAINT VS. SAINT  
Bracket Challenge  
First Round Ash Wednesday  
Limited to 100 Entries**

**Info & Bracket Sheets  
After All Masses**

**Sat-Sun | Sat-Sun  
2/7-2/8 | 2/14-2/15**

**Bracket Entries Must be  
Submitted by February 15th  
For Chance to Win Prizes**

**\$10  
Donation**

Rose McVey, call or text 201-232-3891  
rosetmcvey@optimum.net

**Weekend Collection & Attendance**

**Thank You!**

**Saturday, January 24, 2026**

4:00 PM Mass	\$4,651.00	368 people
5:30 PM Mass	\$1,017.00	141 people
7:00 PM Mass	\$723.00	79 people

**Sunday, January 25, 2026**

**All Masses cancelled due to snowstorm**

Mailed-in Envelopes for the January 25 collection and for previous Sunday collections: **\$900.00**

**This Week's Total: \$7,291.00**

**Same Week's Total Last Year: \$10,658.00**

**Second Collection: Church in Latin America: \$1,805.00**



**Bus Trip to Resorts Casino  
in Atlantic City**

When: Tuesday, February 17, 2026  
Cost: \$40.00 (Receive \$20.00 back at Casino and free refreshments on the bus).



For more information and to make a reservation call Peter at 732-801-6886

**Bus leaves St. Michael's Church at 10:15 a.m.**

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



Children's Basketball Free Throw Contest	Sunday, February 1, 2026 (See Page 5 for details)
Presentation of the Lord; Blessing of Candles and Procession	Monday, February 2, 2026 (See Page 3 for details)
Memorial of St. Blaise; Blessing of Throats	Tuesday, February 3, 2026 (See Page 3 for details)
Holy Hour for Vocations	Thursday, February 5, 2026
First Friday	Friday, February 6, 2026 (12:15 Mass in Latin, Eucharistic Adoration after the 8:00 a.m. Mass until 12:00 Noon, Mass at 5:30 p.m., Confessions 6:00 to 6:30 p.m.) (See Page 3 for details)
Children's Rosary	Sunday, February 8, 2026 (after the 10:00 a.m. Mass) (See Page 3 for details)
Rosary Altar Society's St. Valentine's Mass and Brunch	Saturday, February 14, 2026 (See Page 4 for details)
Parents Baptism Class	Saturday, February 14, 2026 11:30 a.m.
Ash Wednesday	February 18, 2026
First Night of Lenten Stations of the Cross and Soup & Salad Suppers	Friday, February 20, 2026
Kick-Off Weekend for the Diocese of Trenton's Annual Catholic Appeal	TBA
Sunday Mass of St. Patrick in the Gaelic Language (Fr. Daniel Cahill presiding)	Sunday, March 22, 2026 11:00 a.m.
Confirmation	Thursday, March 26, 2026
Second Annual CCD Communion Breakfast	Sunday, May 17, 2026

**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.