St. Michael's Church

November 30, 2025 | First Sunday of Advent

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.

DURING ADVENT

Please see Page 3 for our special schedule during Advent for extra Masses, Confessions, and Eucharistic Adoration.

MARRIAGES

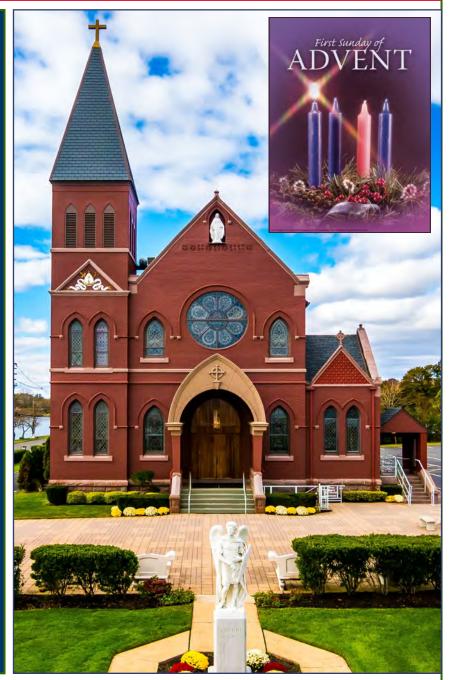
Couples who wish to marry at the parish should contact the Parish Office for a Marriage Request Form, and for further information. The bride or groom, or their parents/grandparents must be registered parishioners for at least eighteen months prior to the proposed wedding date to make arrangements. There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

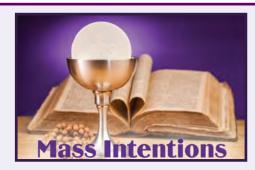
PARISH STAFF

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, Maintenace 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



Saturday, November 29

8:00 AM † Ann Olivadoti JoAnn Dorgan

People of the Parish

4:00 PM † Chip Buenafuente Carroll Family

Special Intention: Fr. John Grateful Parishioner

5:30 PM Special Intention

Special Intention: Fr. John Grateful Parishioner

7:00 PM† Richard & Sarah Salmon Emilee & Sheamus Salmon

Special Intention: Fr. John Grateful Parishioner

Sunday, November 30

7:00 AM † Rosa Alba Stranieri

Special Intention: Fr. John Grateful Parishioner

8:30 AM † Charlotte DeVita Family

Special Intention: Fr. John Grateful Parishioner

10:00 AM † Kathleen Pangaro Carroll Family

Special Intention: Fr. John Grateful Parishioner

12:00 PM † Noemi & Antonio Landi Mr. & Mrs. Joseph G.

Greca

Health & Blessings:

Rev. John McGowan, C.Ss.R.

Special Intention: Fr. John Grateful Parishioner

4:00 PM Special Intention: Fr. John Grateful Parishioner

† Robert Sudman Carol & Bill Ring

People of the Parish

7:00 PM † Justine Weeden Family

Special Intention: Fr. John Grateful Parishioner

Monday, December 1

8:00 AM † Jack Levy Wife, Debbie

† Miriam McLain Graniero Family

Pro-Life Cause Friends of Sylvia Marsico

7:00 PM † Robert Fagan A Parishioner

Tuesday, December 2

8:00 AM † Grace Tho Aida David
† Miriam McLain Graniero Family

Wednesday, December 3

8:00 AM † Maryann Smeriglio Paul & Agnes D'Angelo

† Teresa Burke Paul & Agnes D'Angelo

Thursday, December 4

8:00 AM † Cap't James Heimbold Sister

† Esther Hughes De Bonis Family

Friday, December 5

8:00 AM † James Masi Vincent Masi

† Clarice Viggiano Viggiano Family

12:15 PM† Jack Dubois

5:30 PM Vocations, Vocations, Vocations

Saturday, December 6

8:00 AM † Maryann Priolo

4:00 PM † S. Bruce Crowell Nancy & Richard Phares

† Rose Zampello Francis Zampello &

Susan McCarthy

5:30 PM Special Intention

† Deceased Members of the Liz & Freddie

Troese Family

7:00 PM People of the Parish

Sunday, December 7

7:00 AM Special Intention: Vicki Minard Glenn & JoAnne Albano

Special Intention: Mullin Family

Unborn Children

† Rosa Alba Stranieri

8:30 AM † William F. Kellam Lou & Loretta Pullano

† Nancy Guthrie J.E. Boehles

10:00 AM † Mary Lou Blake Carroll Family

† Rose Zampello Frank Zampello &

Susan McCarthy

12:00 PM† Louis Vincelli Maryann Fallica

† Thomas Baldino Donna Scally

4:00 PM† James Simonelli Marianne Calise

† Carmen Perez Luci, Ed & Elisa Perez

7:00 PM† Benigno Polanco Ochs Family

People of the Parish

This week the three Sanctuary Candles will be lit in Thanksgiving for all the gifts and blessings that God has shared with us.



First Sunday of Advent November 30, 2025 Page 3



Save the Date!

Fr. Pio Mandato will be visiting St. Michael's for a one-night Advent Evening Retreat in the Upper Church on Thursday, December 11 and to celebrate our 8:00 a.m. Mass on Friday, December 12 (the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe) and to hear Confessions following that Mass. Please save the dates. Additional information will be published in next Sunday's bulletin.



Advent Fridays Worship & Liturgy Update

Extra Masses and times for Eucharistic Adoration and Confession will be added to the parish calendar on the three Fridays (December 5, 12, and 19) of this year's Season of Advent as follows:

·Mass	12:15
·Confessions	12:45 to 1:15
·Eucharistic Adoration	8:30 to 12:00 Noon
·Benediction	12:00 Noon
·Mass	5:30
·Confessions	6:00 to 6:30

"The Little Blue Book"

Advent and Christmas Seasons 2025-2026

These books contain six-minute reflections on the Sunday Gospels of Liturgical Year A as well as daily weekday reflections beginning on November 30 (First Sunday of Advent) through January 11 (the conclusion of the Christmas Season on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. If you would like a free copy, they are available in the vestibule in the back of the church.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025

Masses:

Sunday, December 7th 4:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.

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



IMPORTANT REMINDER

Regarding the Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation on Monday, Dec. 8

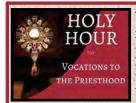
- Early Morning Extra Mass. An early morning Mass at 7:00 a.m. has been added to the Monday, December 8 calendar to accommodate the schedules of students and children and those who report to work early in the morning. All are welcome at this 7:00 a.m. Mass.
- Two Mass Obligations. The Sunday obligation and the Immaculate Conception Holy Day obligation are two distinct obligations that require all Catholics past First Communion age to attend two Masses in order to fulfill the obligations. The two separate obligations cannot be fulfilled by attending only one single Mass during the late afternoon or early evening of Sunday, December 8. Our Diocese has advised that the Church's Canon Law requires "that a Catholic attend one Mass on Saturday Evening/Sunday and a second Mass on Sunday Evening/Monday to fulfill both obligations."

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE MONDAY, December 16

The parish's Advent/Pre-Christmas Penance Service will be on Monday, December 15 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 3 of this bulletin.



There will be a monthly 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 on December 4. 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 Fucharistic Adoration on December 5

First Friday Mass in Latin according to the Novus Ordo will be celebrated on December 5 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, December 5 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, December 5 followed by Con-



fessions until 6:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Children's Rosary

Please join us for a Children's Rosary

Sunday, December 14 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

Fr. Alphonse's Christmas Concert at St. Michael's Church Sunday, December 21, 2025 1:30 p.m. in the Upper Church

Tickets may be purchased online by visiting the parish Alphonse's Christhome page website's www.stmichaelnj.com where a St. Michael's may Click Here link immediately below the concert announcement will take you to the Evenbrite ticket-selling website.

Tickets for Fr. at mas Concert here at be purchased online by visiting the parish's website at

www.stmichaelnj.com which will take you to the ticket-selling website of Eventbrite. Ticket prices are \$58, \$53, \$48, and \$40 plus a service and processing charge for the first three levels of tickets. All concert seats will be reserved and assigned seating. Tickets will not be available for purchase in the parish business office (except as



announced) nor over the phone. Please print the tickets that you buy online and bring your printed tickets to the concert so that you may be admitted and seated in the correct location.

A limited number of guest seats reserved for clergy and religious sisters and nuns in the First Section may become available for purchase on or about December 15 if invited clergy/religious guests decline the tickets. Please visit the parish website for further information about the possible availability of these reserved clergy seats for purchase.



Our Parish is in need of lectors/ readers and altar servers for ALL of our Masses and especially our Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass, Saturday 7:00 p.m. Mass, Weekday Masses, and from time-to

-time for our

Funeral Masses. Training will be provided. The rewards are heavenly!



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

St. Michael's Rosary Altar Society Annual Christmas Luncheon

Inviting All Women of the Parish to the St. Michael's Rosary Altar Society Annual Christmas Luncheon

Luncheon Details:

St. Michael's Rosary Altar Society is pleased to once again host our Annual Christmas Luncheon at the Deal Country Club.

Date: Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 12:00 Noon.

Place: Deal Country Club, 1 Golf Lane (Roseld Avenue, Deal, NJ 07753).

Menu: Buffet Luncheon (includes coffee/tea/soda).

Cost: \$55 per person (includes gratuity) with a cash bar available. Check should

be made payable to St. Michael's Rosary Altar Society.

Business or Holiday Attire (no denim).

Reservations: RSVP by Friday, December 12th, by texting Pam Russo at 609-810-9935.

Payment: Cash by person or mail check to Pam Russo, PO Box 36, West Long Branch, NJ 07764 (Remarks space on checks: Rosary Altar Society

Christmas Luncheon).

Volunteering is about helping your community, but it's also about YOU. Whether it's your first-time and you're unsure what to expect, or maybe you are returning to serve again, St. Vincent de Paul hopes you'll experience fulfillment and joy from helping your neighbors in need. As a volunteer you see need first-hand and grow in appreciation for all that you have. You also understand that you made a difference in someone's life who really need it.

Currently, we are looking for people who can help us *interview* those in need who call SVDP for help. Sometimes the need is for rent or utilities, medication or funeral expenses. Training is provided. Please contact Mary Jensen at 732-233-0672 or e-mail: mary.jensen07@gmail.com.

Experience the joy of service.

Registering as a Parishioner



Why is it so important to register with a parish? Registration is the official way we join a parish community. Some people think that because they attend a particular parish they automatically belong. Registering as parishioners requires signing

up, formally enrolling yourself in a parish by contacting the parish business office. Registration is a commitment to a community, a way to be included in the religious, social and ministerial activities of your parish. Registration shows you belong. It is also necessary for certain benefits and administrative purposes, like scheduling sacraments, obtaining a sponsor or godparent eligibility and qualification letter from the pastor, and getting donation statements for your income tax returns. Most importantly, it let's the parish count on you, to call on you to assist in its mission. Registering in your parish is a statement of faith and confidence in the life and work of your parish and of the Church. For further information about registering at St. Michael's Church, please call Mary or Emily at the Parish Office at 732-222-8080. Thank you.

From the D.R.E.

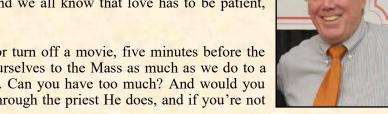
A Reflection on: What the Mass Is; Why We Go to Sunday Mass; Why <u>NOT</u> to Leave Sunday Mass Before Its Conclusion

Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him. (Isaiah 30:18)



Kevin Connelly Director of Religious Education Would you ever use an ATM machine to withdraw money but leave before the money came out? Certainly not. And if you did, the money gets pulled back into the machine. But isn't that what we do when we leave the Mass early by skipping past your pew and final blessing for a hurried departure? "Hold on a minute," you object, "I received Communion!" True, you have consumed the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ, but did you commune with your Lord and Savior? Taking quiet time to adore, love and talk with Him instead of a rushed goodbye to the exit door? Is your time so important you need to quickly escape with Jesus as a silent passenger inside of you? After all, Jesus remains physically present in your body for about 15 minutes.

The Catechism tells us "the fruits of the sacraments ... depend on the disposition of the one who receives them" (CCC 1128). In other words, like the ATM's money, God's awesome power is in the sacraments He dispenses. To receive His transforming power, however, you must make yourself available to God's love. And we all know that love has to be patient, because love takes time to grow.



Consider this angle: Do you leave the theater, or turn off a movie, five minutes before the ending? Of course not. Shouldn't we commit ourselves to the Mass as much as we do to a show? The final blessing gives you more grace. Can you have too much? And would you wait for Jesus to give the blessing in person? Through the priest He does, and if you're not there, you miss out.

We don't simply attend Mass as part of a checklist of things we have to do. The habit of walking out early gives that impression (and by the way, technically does not fulfill the obligation of attending the full Mass.)* If we but consider what God does at the Mass, making present Christ's sacrifice on the Cross and His Resurrection, we would cherish our time there to the fullest. It also suggests one does not fully understand why we go at all. The Mass is about a relationship with God, but not just our own. It's not "God and me," rather it's a lot bigger than that. We are gathered as One Body in Christ, "God and us" as an assembly praising God and supporting and loving each other. Paraphrasing St. Paul, "running out on the assembly is neglecting the Eucharist as well." Instead, we are meant to be together as a community of followers allowing the Crucifix of Christ to proceed before us and lead us into the world.

One of the most cited reasons for people leaving the Catholic Church for a Protestant denomination is the desire for a more welcoming and supportive people. That is something that should never happen, and it wouldn't happen if we took the care and time just to be with each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. That is precisely why we are called together for communal worship. Let's show praise to God in and out of the Church and stop sprinting to get away from Him and each other.

Finally, our focus at Mass is the Eucharist, and not "where do I have to be next?" Yes, there may be rare times when leaving early is necessary, but we can all agree making it a habit is not a good thing. Actions do speak louder than words, so let us all do a better job minding our own actions.

*The present Code of Canon Law reads: "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass." It doesn't say part or parts of the Mass. The expectation is that the person will attend a complete Mass. A Catholic Catechism quotes the canon and states, "Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin."

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Presented by the

Monmouth County Simbang Gabi Community

All are welcome to this festive Novena of Masses.

Inherited by the Filipinos from the Spaniards,
Simbang Gabi (Misa De Gallo) is a Catholic devotion of
nine consecutive nights for the joyful anticipation of
Christmas.

6:30pm Rosary Prayer followed by the 7pm Holy Mass

Friday, December 12

St. Anselm Church, Tinton Falls

Saturday, December 13

Holy Innocents Church, Neptune

Sunday, December 14

St. Catherine of Siena Church, Farmingdale

Monday, December 15

St. James Church, Red Bank

Tuesday, December 16

St. Rose Church, Belmar

Wednesday, December 17

Church of the Nativity, Fair Haven

Thursday, December 18

St. Benedict Church, Holmdel

Friday, December 19

St. Michael Church, Long Branch

Saturday, December 20

St. Dorothea Church, Eatontown

We encourage everyone to wear traditional Filipino attire on the <u>FINAL</u> night. Reception and fellowship to follow the <u>FINAL</u> Mass celebration.





@Monmouth County Simbang Gabi



@Monmouth County Simbang Gabi

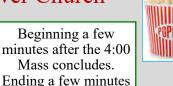
Scan to Donate to Monmouth County Simbang Gabi



Advent/Christmas Movie Night in the Lower Church

St. Michael's Presents A Christmas Favorite: It's A Wonderful Life

Sunday, December 14 at 4:45p.m. Free!





No Charge!







before the 7:00 Mass

begins.

Please feel free to bring a sandwich or salad or the like for your supper during the movie. Pizza, popcorn, and bottled water will be provided by the Parish Hospitality Committee.

Communion Visits; Confession Visits; Anointing of the Sick



Please keep in mind that the parish priests 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 to make arrangements. Hospitals and other healthcare facilities generally do not notify the parish office regarding their Catholic patients who de-

sire 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 priests 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 to make these arrangements. Thank you.



FORMED is now available for St. Michael's parishioners. St. Michael's is paying the annual fee so that all of our parishioners may have free access to FORMED at no charge.



How to register with and access FORMED:

- 1. Go to FORMED.org/signup
- 2. Enter your parish zip code or name to select your parish
- 3. Enter your name and email



St. Michael's Church Christmas Flowers Memorial 2025

If you would like to donate flowers in memory of a loved one, please complete the order form below and return this page to the Parish Office with your donation. The price is \$45 per memorial. All names will be included in a memorial booklet. To be included in the memorial booklet, your form and donation must be received at the Parish Office by Wednesday, December 10th. *Please print clearly*.

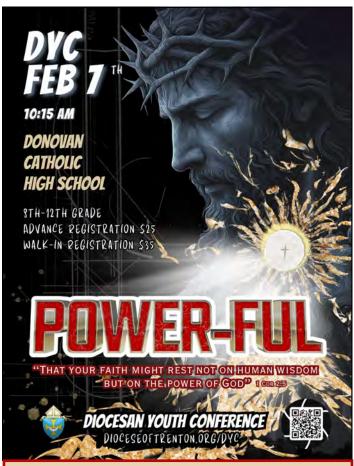
In Memory Of	Requested By	Quantity
		W.
0,10		
Please include your name and mailing addreceive your copy of the Christmas Memorial	ess to re- Booklet:	
	Total qu	antity x \$45.00
	Total Donatio	n: \$



OUR PROMISE TO PROTECT: The Diocese of PROMISE TO PROTECT

Trenton and St. Michael's Church are committed to the initiatives outlined in the U.S. Bishop's Charter for the protection of Children and Young People in regard to the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors. If you have

been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the Diocesan Abuse Hotline: 1-888-296-2965 or via email at abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org. The Diocese of Trenton reports any allegations of sexual abuse to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Anyone with an allegation is also encouraged to provide that information to local law enforcement authorities.



The Diocesan Youth Conference is a gathering for ALL teens in the 8-12th grades of the Diocese of Trenton. It is an exciting day filled with great music, powerful talks, fun service projects and more! Most importantly it is a chance to connect with other Catholic teens beyond your parish or school and grow in your faith!





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PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

WEEKLY MASS INTENTION

† Fernando Pinho

r/o Tony and Natalina Gomes

† Ronald Lubischer

r/o Joyce Lubischer

YEARLY MASS INTENTIONS

April 2026

†Susan Whitman

r/o Lex and Janet Tucci

May 2026

†Rita N. Cittadino

t/o Christopher M. Cittadino and Children

Due to an early publication deadline for the November 30 bulletin, the attendance and collection data for the weekend of November 29 and November 30 will be published in the December 7 bulletin. Thank you for your attendance at Mass and for your faithful stewardship and financial support of the parish.

2026 Mass Book

The 2026 Mass Book opened on Tuesday, November 18. 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.





Bus Trip to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City

When: Tuesday, December 16, 2025 Cost: \$40.00 (Receive \$20.00 back at Casino and free refreshments on the bus).

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



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

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.



On the Calendar at St. Michael's Church



First Sunday of Advent Sunday, November 30, 2525

Holy Hour for Vocations

Thursday, December 4, 2025 7:00 p.m.

First Friday

Friday, December 5, 2025 (12:15 Mass in Latin, Eucharistic Adoration after the 8:00 Mass until 12:00 Noon, Mass at 5:30 p.m., Confessions 6:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (a holy day of obligation) Monday, December 8, 2025 (See Page 3 for details)

Advent Spirituality Retreat (Fr. Pio Mandato)

Thursday, December 11, 2025 (See Page 3 for details)

It's A Wonderful Life

Sunday, December 14, 2025 4:45 p.m.

(See Page 8 for details)

Parish Penance Service

Monday, December 15, 2025 6:00-6:45 p.m.; 7:30-8:30 p.m.

(See Page 3 for details)

Rosary Altar Society Christmas Luncheon Wednesday, December 17, 2025 (See Page 5 for details)

Simbang Gabi

Friday, December 19, 2025 (See Page 7 for details)

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

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin

Sunday, December 21, 2025 (See Page 4 for details)

Christmas

Thursday, December 25, 2025

(a holy day of obligation)

Thursday, January 1, 2026

Mary, the Mother of God

(a holy day of obligation)

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.