St. Michael's Church

December 7, 2025 | Second 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.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception A Holy Day of Obligation Monday, Dec. 8 Schedule of Masses on Page 3

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, December 6

8:00 AM † Maryann Priolo

4:00 PM † S. Bruce Crowell

† Rose Zampello

Francis Zampello &

Susan McCarthy

Liz & Freddie

5:30 PM Special Intention

† Deceased Members of the

Troese Family

7:00 PM Special Intention: Olga Pomaco Kristen & Liam Hayden

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

Monday, December 8 (Immaculate Conception-Holy Day of Obligation)

Kathy & Ralph Stubbs

Friends of Sylvia Marsico

Peter & Laura Cheney

Thayer Family

7:00 PM † Benigno Polanco Ochs Family

People of the Parish

† Mary & Ed Holden

12:15PM † Teresa Mathew Theccanat

Pro-Life Cause

7:00 AM † Dorothy O'Hara

4:00 PM † Dorothy O'Hara

7:00 PM † Msgr. Sean Flynn

8:00 AM † Helen Stubbs

Wednesday, December 10

8:00 AM † Jack Levy Wife, Debbie † Anne & Nadine Carroll Carroll Family

Thursday, December 11

8:00 AM † Maryann Smeriglio

† Ann Olivadoti

Friday, December 12

8:00 AM † Miriam McLain Graniero Family

† Leigh Ann Basaman Michaele McKenna & Patricia Micale

Saturday, December 13

8:00 AM † Maximino Arce

People of the Parish

4:00 PM † Paul Rolleri Loving Wife, Eileen † Ann V. Olivadoti Joe & JJ Vassallie

5:30 PM Special Intention

† Rose Sorrentino Agnes & Paul D'Angelo

† Dotty O'Hara Joe & Joan Richter

7:00 PM † Rita Cittadino Christopher M. Citadino

& Children

† Victor Serritella Vicki & Tom Hoagland

Sunday, December 14

7:00 AM † Charles Murrin Theresa

Special Intention: Catherine Russo

Russo Family

8:30 AM † Charlotte DeVita Family

† Ann V. Olivadoti Mack Family

10:00 AM † Sophie & Charlie Sedoski Mary Farrar &

Daughter Catherine

Special Intention: Children's Rosary

12:00 PM † Ronald Mancini Danielle Mancini

† M. Napierala Daughters

Special Intention: Deacon Your friends at James Dunleavy de Poortere: St. Michael's

on Ordination to the Diaconate

4:00 PM † Patty Chavez Luci, Ed & Elisa Perez

† Frank & Rose Notaro Daughters Marie &

Rosanna

† Manuel Ribeiro Tony & Natalina Gomes

7:00 PM People of the Parish

Tuesday, December 9

8:00 AM† Jimmy Cade Ducharme Lew & Renee Mazza

† Marilyn Boucher Ann Hines

The three Sanctuary Candles will be lit this week for Peace on Earth.



Second Sunday of Advent December 7, 2025 Page 3

Advent Fridays Worship & Liturgy Update

Extra Masses and extra times for Eucharistic Adoration and Confession have been 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

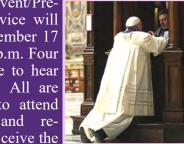
Please Note

CHANGE OF DATE

The date of the parish's Advent Penance Service has been moved to Wednesday, December 17 in order to accommodate JCP&L's replacement of their electrical equipment located on the church's property. We will have no electricity on Monday, December 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE WEDNESDAY, December 17

The parish's Advent/Pre-Christmas Penance Service will be on Wednesday, December 17 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Four priests will be available to hear Confessions that night. All are invited and welcome to attend





grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of our spiritual preparation for Christmas.

"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."

PRAY FOR
PEACE
IN
UKRAINE



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.



Blessing of Christmas Creche, Prayers, and Carols: Saturday, Dec. 13 and Sunday, December 14

The parish's outdoor Christmas Creche will be installed on the rectory's front lawn during the next

few days (please see the accompanying photo from Advent 2023). 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 13th imme-



diately after the 4:00 p.m. Mass and on Sunday the 14th 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.



Christmas Mass Schedule 2025

Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24

4:00 p.m. in the Upper Church 4:00 p.m. livestream of the Upper Church Mass to the Lower Church

4:00 p.m. at the Long Branch Middle School Auditorium

5:30 p.m. in the Upper Church 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Church 8:30 p.m. in the Upper Church 10:00 p.m. in the Upper Church

Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25

7:00 a.m. in the Upper Church 8:30 a.m. in the Upper Church 10:00 a.m. in the Upper Church 12:00 p.m. in the Upper Church 5:00 p.m. in the Lower Church



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.



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.



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Advent Retreat With Fr. Pio Mandato; Please Join Us!

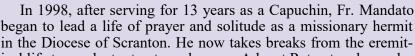


St. Michael's will be hosting an *Advent Retreat with Fr. Pio Mandato* later this month. The Retreat will take place during the evening of Thursday, Dec. 11 and the morning of Friday, Dec. 12 (the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe). The Retreat schedule is below. It will include Mass, Confessions, Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary, relic veneration and blessing, and a talk by Fr. Pio. Please join us on Thursday or Friday or both to *enhance and enrich your Advent spiritual preparations*

for Christmas with the words, prayers, and blessings of Fr. Pio.

Fr. Pio Mandato is a Capuchin priest whose mother, Graziella Mandato, was a spiritual child of St. Padre Pio in

Italy and wrote a memoir about him. Fr. Pio was named after the saint and, like St. Pio, traces his roots back to the village of Pietrelcina in southern Italy. Fr. Pio received his First Holy Communion from St. Padre Pio. His family migrated to America, and at 17 years of age Fr. Mandato entered the Capuchins. He was ordained in 1985 and offered his first Mass at the same altar as St. Padre Pio. He became involved in hospital chaplaincy and developed a reputation for his devotion to the sick, like St. Pio.





ical life to conduct retreats such as our Advent Retreat and preach and offer healing Masses for the sick.

Advent Retreat Schedule

• Thursday, December 11:

• Friday, December 12:

7:30 a.m – 7:55 a.m	
8:00 a.m	Mass (Fr. Pio presiding and preaching)
8:30Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration (until	12:00 Noon), & Confessions with Fr. Pio (until 9:00 a.m.)

Advent Wreath Prayers at Meal Time

Please (if at all possible) have an *Advent Wreath* on your table at meal time (and throughout the day) during this holy and hopeful Season of Advent. The following prayers are recommended to be prayed *by the <u>family</u>* at the table and over the wreath before each meal (especially dinner) and as the appropriate candles are lighted and burning brightly to represent *Jesus*, the <u>LIGHT</u> of the *World*.

The head of the home or an appointed person will lead the other members of the family in the prayer.



Prayer for First Week of Advent (Hope) – November 30 thru December 6

(This prayer should be repeated each day during the first week. After the prayer, the family's <u>youngest member lights the first purple candle.</u>)

Leader: O Lord, stir up Thy might, we beg Thee, and come, that by Thy protection we may deserve to be rescued from the threatening dangers of our sins and saved by Thy deliverance. Through Christ our Lord. All: Amen.

Prayer for Second Week of Advent (Love) – December 7 thru December 13

(This prayer should be repeated each day during the second week. After the prayer, the family's <u>oldest member lights both the first and second purple candles.</u>)

Leader: O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may prepare for Thy only begotten Son, that through His coming we may be made worthy to serve Thee with pure minds. Through Christ our Lord. All: Amen.

Prayer for Third Week of Advent (Joy) – December 14 thru December 20



The Third Sunday in Advent is also known as the The Joyful Sunday and it is represented by the rose/pink candle.

(This prayer should be repeated each day during the third week. After the prayer, the mother of the family will light the first and second purple candles and the rose candle.)

Leader: O Lord, we beg Thee, incline Thy ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Thy visitation. Through Christ our Lord. All: Amen.

Prayer for Fourth Week of Advent (Peace) - December 21 thru December 24

(This prayer should be repeated each day during the fourth week. After the prayer, the <u>head of the family will light</u> <u>all four candles.</u>)

Leader: O Lord, stir up Thy power, we pray Thee, and come; and with great might help us, that with the help of Thy Grace, Thy merciful forgiveness may hasten what our sins impede. Through Christ our Lord. All: Amen.

Available at https://mycatholicprayers.com/prayers/advent-wreath-prayer/.



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).

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 June 29, 2025 to November 29, 2025 and we replaced those now-obsolete books for the Advent Season on Saturday morning November 29 after the conclusion of the 8:00 a.m. Mass. If you would like to have a copy of that "now-retired" Missalette (for reference to the Scripture readings and prayers, spiritual reading, enjoying the hymns and the artwork, etc.), we have several copies onhold 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 pickup at your convenience. Or you may simply ask Larry or one of the ushers for a copy from the ushers' closet.

Children's Rosary

Please join us for a Children's Rosary on 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



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.

Beginning a few minutes after the 4:00 Mass concludes. Ending a few minutes before the 7:00 Mass begins.



Free! No Charge!







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.



DOUBLE FEATURE! 4:30 P.M. The Little Rascals Christmas Episode



Blessing of City Hall Manger Scene: Saturday, December 13 at 12:00 p.m.

All are invited and welcome to attend the outdoor Annual Blessing of the Long Branch City Hall Manger Scene (*The Christmas Creche*). Fr. John and friends and neighbors Christ the King Parish will conduct the service with blessings, prayers, and Christmas carols and with festive music provided by a mariachi singer and guitarist. Please join us for this happy occasion as Church and City come together for Christmas celebration.

City Hall is located at 344 Broadway, Long Branch. The ceremony will be outdoors on the lawn on the Broadway side of the building for about 10-15 minutes. There is plenty of parking. Merry Christmas!!

PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

WEEKLY MASS INTENTION

† Ronald Lubischer

r/o Joyce Lubischer

YEARLY MASS INTENTIONS

April 2026

†Ŝusan Whitman

r/o Lex and Janet Tucci

May 2026

†Rita N. Cittadino

r/o Christopher M. Cittadino and Children

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

SOLD OUT *

Tickets for Fr. Alphonse's Christmas Concert here at St. Michael's may 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.



The deadline to request Christmas Memorial Flowers is this Wednesday, December 10.

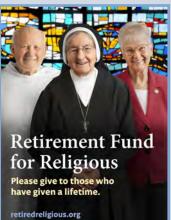
St. Michael's Church Christmas Flowers Memorial 2025

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
		40
		<u> </u>
		To the second
200		
Please include your name and mailing address	s to re-	
ceive your copy of the Christmas Memorial B	ooklet:	antity x \$45.00
	10tat qu	unity x \$43.00
	Total Donation	n: \$
The state of the s	To the state of th	



Second Collection Next Weekend December 13 and 14 For Retirement Fund for Religious



Next weekend's Second Collection supports the Retirement Fund for Religious, which helps more than 20,500 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have spent their lives in service - many receiving little to no pay. Now, their communities struggle to meet their basic care, medication, and daily living needs. Your

generosity ensures they can age with dignity. Please give in gratitude for their lifelong commitment.

Please make checks payable to St. Michael's Church.

SAVE THE DATE



Friday, January 23, 2026



Bus to D.C.

Plans are being made for a chartered bus to bring parishioners to the March for Life. Details will be announced soon in the bulletin. Please save the date!





Second Sunday of Advent December 7, 2025 Page 11

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.

Weekend Collection & Attendance

Thank You!

Saturday, November 22, 2025

4:00 PM Mass	\$2,489.00	196 people
5:30 PM Mass	\$1,048.00	118 people
7:00 PM Mass	\$714.00	64 people

Sunday, November 23, 2025

7:00 AM Mass	\$1,413.00	87 people
8:30 AM Mass	\$1,908.00	141 people
10:00 AM Mass	\$1,499.00	129 people
12:00 PM Mass	\$1,941.00	153 people
4:00 PM Mass	\$1,085.00	117 people
7:00 PM Mass	\$856.00	202 people

Mailed-in Envelopes for the November 23 collection and for previous Sunday collections: \$1,020.00

This Week's Total: \$13,973.00

Same Week's Total Last Year: \$13,789.00

Weekend Collection & Attendance

Thank You!

Saturday, November 29, 2025

4:00 PM Mass	\$2,220.00	179 people
5:30 PM Mass	\$961.00	112 people
7:00 PM Mass	765.00	53 people

Sunday, November 30, 2025

7:00 AM Mass	\$1,648.00	96 people
8:30 AM Mass	\$1,654.00	137 people
10:00 AM Mass	\$1,490.00	134 people
12:00 PM Mass	\$2,393.00	131 people
4:00 PM Mass	\$1,007.00	108 people
7:00 PM Mass	\$853.00	139 people

Mailed-in Envelopes for the November 30 collection and for previous Sunday collections: **\$515.00**

This Week's Total: \$13,506.00

Same Week's Total Last Year: \$14,480.00

Bus Trip to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City DECEMBER TRIP CANCELLED

When: Tuesday, December 16, 2025

On the Calendar at St. Michael's Church



St. Michael's Church	
During Advent-Extra Times for Masses, Confessions, and Eucharistic Adoration	Fridays of Advent on December 5, 12, and 19 (See Page 3 for details)
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 5 for details)
Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe	Friday, December 12, 2025
Blessing of Long Branch City Hall Manger Scene	Saturday, December 13, 2025 Outdoors at 12:00 p.m. (See Page 8 for details)
It's A Wonderful Life	Sunday, December 14, 2025 4:45 p.m. (See Page 8 for details)
Rosary Altar Society Christmas Luncheon	Wednesday, December 17, 2025 (See Page 7 for details)
Parish Penance Service	Wednesday, December 17, 2025 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (See Page 3 for details)
Simbang Gabi	Friday, December 19, 2025 (See Page 4 for details)
Fr. Alphonse's Christmas Concert at St. Michael's	Sunday, December 21, 2025 (See Page 8 for details)
Christmas (a holy day of obligation)	Thursday, December 25, 2025
Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God (a holy day of obligation)	Thursday, January 1, 2026
Rally & March for Life in Washington, DC	Friday, January 23, 2026 (See Page 10 for details)