

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

December 14, 2025 | Third 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 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



MASS INTENTIONS

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. Cittadino
& Children

† Victor Serritella

Vicki & Tom Hoagland

Sunday, December 14

7:00 AM † Charles Murrin

Theresa

Special Intention:
Russo Family

Catherine Russo

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
James Dunleavy de Poortere:
on Ordination to the Diaconate

Your friends at
St. Michael's

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

Monday, December 15

8:00 AM Pro-Life Cause

Friends of Sylvia Marsico

† Pedro Perez

Luci, Ed & Elisa Perez

7:00 PM † Miriam McLain

Graniero Family

Tuesday, December 16

8:00 AM † Emilia & Julius Simonelli

Family

† Florence Moutenot

Jack & Renee Brignola

Wednesday, December 17

8:00 AM † Frank Notaro

Christopher M. Cittadino
& Family

† Miriam McLain

Graniero Family

Thursday, December 18

8:00 AM † Joseph L. Heimbold, Sr.

Daughter

† John Mullin

Cynthia Mullin

Special Intention: The Russo
Family

Family

Friday, December 19

8:00 AM † Andrew Bertorelli

His Family

† Kathryn H. Cittadino

Christopher M. Cittadino
& Children

12:15 PM † Detective Sgt. Patrick A. King

5:30 PM † Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, December 20

8:00 AM † Deceased Members of the
Cattelona Family

Family

4:00 PM † Dolores Jackson

Dennis Jackson

† Paul Rolleri

John & Deborah Perri
and Family

† Anthony "Chubby" Chiafullo

Loving Family

5:30 PM Special Intention

† Adelene La Rosa

Agnes & Paul D'Angelo

7:00 PM People of the Parish

Sunday, December 21

7:00 AM † Miriam McLain

Graniero Family

† Deceased Members of the
Russo Family

Family

8:30 AM † Charlotte DeVita

Family

Special Intention: Jackie Diehl

Sister

10:00 AM † Anthony M. Principe

Loving Children Joe &
AnneMarie

† Andrew Bertorelli

His Family

12:00 PM † Renado Robert LaManna

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph G.
Greca

† Robert Baeza

Pam Heggie

4:00 PM † Betty & Gene Mellone

Daughter, Linda

† Filippa & Eleanor Fazio

Maria Fazio

† Teresa & Luigi Triscari

Maria Fazio

7:00 PM People of the Parish

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



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 Adoration8:30 to 12:00 Noon
- Benediction.....12:00 Noon
- Mass.....5:30
- Confessions (**Cancelled on Dec. 19**).....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 in the church and rectory 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



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

O come, O come,
Emmanuel!

"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.

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.

Advent:

*A Time of
Repentance
Penance
Renewal*



Change of Date

Blessing of Christmas Creche, Prayers, and Carols: Saturday, Dec. 20 and Sunday, December 21

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 20th immediately after the 4:00 p.m. Mass and on Sunday the 21st 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.



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



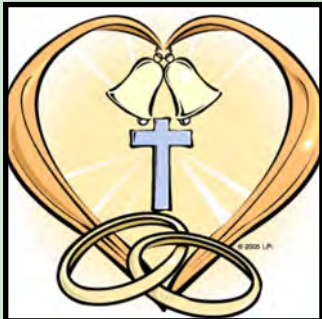
This weekend's Second Collection supports the Retirement Fund for Religious, which helps more than 20,500 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have spent their lives in service -

- 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.

The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony

Jesus elevated marriage to a Sacrament at the Wedding Feast at Cana. Catholics have the duty to receive the Sacrament of Matrimony in a Catholic church. The Grace of the Sacrament of Matrimony enhances and supports the permanent and indissoluble bond of marriage and strengthens the love and fidelity, patience and wisdom of the spouses.



Please make contact with the parish office at least one year prior to your intended marriage date to begin the preparation process. This includes attendance at a Pre-Cana Conference and several meetings with one of our parish priests. A specific wedding date cannot be assured by the parish until **after** this marriage preparation has commenced and initial documentation has been received and reviewed. Therefore, all engaged couples are strongly advised to **speak to the parish staff first** when beginning to make wedding plans and **strongly advised not to make commitments with third-parties** (banquet halls, photographers, hotels, airlines, etc.) until **after** the wedding date has been finalized in writing with the parish office.

If you are presently in a civil marriage and desire to receive the Sacrament and enter into a valid Catholic marriage, please contact the parish office at 732-222-8080 to obtain further information about the "convalidation" of your marriage. We also offer direction and assistance on the possibility of receiving an annulment for those who are divorced. Please do not hesitate to call. The annulment process is generally less difficult or cumbersome than imagined.

NOTICE

No Electricity; Parish Office To Be Closed – Monday, December 15

JCP&L will be doing electrical work on their equipment at St. Michael's (the transformer on the rectory's front lawn) on Monday, December 15 and we will have no electrical power beginning at 9:00 a.m. that day. The 8:00 a.m. Mass and 8:30 a.m. Rosary and Confessions will not be affected. The parish office will be closed that day for in-person business; the parish secretaries and D.R.E. will be working remotely and answering the office phones from home during our usual office hours. The church will be open until its usual 2:00 p.m. closing time, however we will not have heat and electrical lights that day after 9:00 a.m. The bathrooms in the Lower Church will close at 9:00 a.m. for the remainder of the day. Thank you for your cooperation.

MASS CANCELLATION: There will be no 7:00 p.m. Mass and no 7:30 p.m. Confessions on Monday, December 15 due to the electricity issue.

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*

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 parish office on a first come, first served basis due to a very limited number of Oplatki wafers that the parish was able to purchase this year. Please share one (or two! or more!) with your family.



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.



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 family** 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 LIGHT 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 youngest member lights the first purple candle.)

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 oldest member lights both the first and second purple candles.)

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.

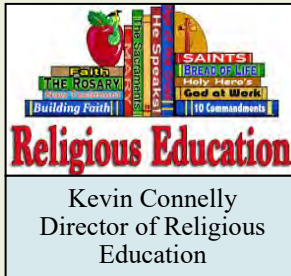
Prayer for Fourth Week of Advent (Peace) - December 21 thru December 24

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

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/>.



From the D.R.E.***An Advent Reflection: Thy Kingdom Come***

It's called the "Magic of Christmas." All those good feelings and the cheery hustle and bustle of the season. The humming of carols, trees with twinkling lights, green wreaths adorned in red, gold or silver bows, and so many other delights that help make this a merry season. And for some reason our greetings are especially heartfelt, and we have a particular desire to do something good and to be generous to others. Is it really magic? No, my friend, you may not realize it, but ***God is calling you.***

As human beings with bodies, we take in things through our senses. The "Christmas Magic" is God using our touch, sight, hearing, taste and smell to inform our spiritual sense of something incredibly wonderful - His love for us. Christmas is God's supreme act of speaking to us through the material world in the Incarnation of His Son, Jesus. God made flesh.

It is a holy tradition to celebrate the birth of Jesus, but that is not what we are preparing for. After all, that happened over two thousand years ago. We need to continually prepare for the glorious ***Second Coming of Jesus***, when He will come to judge us, whether we are living or we're dead. Until then He is with us unseen yet helping us to be ready for Him. So, let us ask ourselves, ***"Am I ready to meet Jesus, face to face?"***

To answer that question we need to know why the Father sent Jesus to us, and how we are expected to respond. I will offer you my limited reflection, but it shan't end there lest we get ensnared by the "magic" instead of hearing God's voice. It is for you to take St. Anselm's advice this Advent and ***escape from your everyday business for a short while, hide for a moment from your restless thoughts. Break off from your cares and troubles and be less concerned about your tasks and labors. Make a little time for God and rest a while in Him.***



Here are some thoughts for your meditation on why Jesus was incarnated. His "to do" list would include:

- To do the will of His Father.
- To do "The Good News" of how immeasurably God loves us.
- To do revelation of our identity and infinite value as brother or sister to the Son of God, Jesus Christ through His incarnation, becoming man.
- To do light into a dark world, bearing witness to the Truth.
- To do the defeat of death and the defeat of the works of Satan.
- To do the calling of sinners to repentance.
- To do the giving of His life as a ransom to save sinners.
- To do restoring humanity to holiness, making us partakers of Divine Nature.
- To do the opening of the Gates of Heaven so that we can enjoy eternal happiness in the Trinity of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- To do the fulfilling of the Law of the Prophets.
- To do an everlasting covenant with His followers, the Church.
- To do the establishment of the seven sacraments of salvation.
- To do the ushering in of the era of the Holy Spirit.
- To do the example of how we are to live our lives.

More could be added to this list, but the all-encompassing answer is this: **Our Heavenly Father sent Jesus to establish the kingdom of God.**

What is the kingdom of God, you ask? It is the presence of Jesus Christ in the hearts of believers, you and me, His Body the Church, which brings into the world God's immeasurable, unconditional, irretrievable and sacrificial

(continued on page 9)

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!



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



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



**Simbang
2025 Gabi**

Presented by the
Monmouth County Simbang Gabi
Community

All are welcome to this festive Novena of Masses.
Inherited by the Filipinas 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 **FINAL** night. Reception and fellowship to
follow the **FINAL** Mass celebration.



@Monmouth County Simbang Gabi



@Monmouth County Simbang Gabi

Scan to Donate to Monmouth County Simbang Gabi

Confessions after the 5:30 p.m. Mass on December 19 are cancelled due to the 6:30 p.m. Rosary and the 7:00 p.m. Simbang Gabi Mass.

**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.

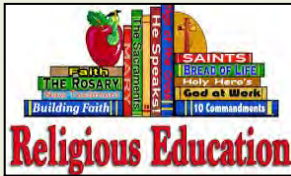


* A limited number of guest seats reserved for clergy and religious sisters and nuns in the First Section may become available for purchase on or about December 15 if invited clergy/religious guests decline the tickets. Please visit the parish website for further information about the possible availability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

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An Advent Reflection: Thy Kingdom Come

From the D.R.E.



Kevin Connelly
Director of Religious
Education

love. His kingdom brings forth righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit in the daily lives of the faithful. Not until the end of history will this kingdom be fully realized.

So then, what is expected of each one of us? How do we prepare for our in-person meeting with Jesus? By building up the kingdom of God with the time we are given. That will require faith, discipline, sacrifice and commitment to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. The Holy Spirit will show the way.

First, we must own up to and repent of and confess our sins according to God's revealed Truth – known through the Bible and in the Catholic Church - and not be excused by our own opinions. With that weight lifted in sacramental confession, in our obedience to Christ we show our love for Him and in our actions we live a life of charity, kindness, justice, forgiveness and integrity. But this is not a solo act. It is imperative that we share the Gospel of Good News with others. (Perhaps where most of us could do a better job.)

Instead of "Magic of Christmas, the "Reality of Christmas" comes from God's initiative and our response to and our cooperation with His initiative. So that we will live a purposeful life pleasing to God, have a genuine relationship and ultimate union with Jesus, eternal life, and everlasting peace in Heaven - where the lights never dim, the green never fades, the caroling never wearies, and the merriment that comes from loving goes on and on.

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 desire to receive Sacraments. And so it falls to the patient herself/himself or to a family member or friend to contact the parish office to make the request. The parish 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.



DYC
FEB 7TH
10:15 AM
DONOVAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
8TH-12TH GRADE
ADVANCE REGISTRATION \$25
WALK-IN REGISTRATION \$35

POWER-FUL
"THAT YOUR FAITH MIGHT REST NOT ON HUMAN WISDOM
BUT ON THE POWER OF GOD" 1 Cor 2:5

DIOCESAN YOUTH CONFERENCE
DIOCESEOFTRENTON.ORG/DYC

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!

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!

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY

January 23, 2026

11:00 AM | Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine, Freehold, NJ

Mass for Life & Life Expo



■ Pray in solidarity with those travelling to Washington, DC for the national March for Life

■ Engage with local life-affirming organizations that promote human dignity from womb to tomb

■ Foster friendships, network and strengthen bonds to build a culture of life in our community



dioceseoftrenton.org/standing-together-for-life



Feeling overwhelmed?

Personal losses impacting life?

Struggling with a relationship?

Everyone can use a little extra support in handling life's challenges.

**Parish Counseling Services
Are Available.**

Through a joint service of Catholic Charities and the Diocese of Trenton, short term professional counseling (up to 6 sessions) is available. The fee is \$90 per session but there is financial assistance available for those who need it. Use of an individual's health insurance may also be an option.

Contact your pastor or parish priest for more information and to get assistance with the referral.



Diocese of Trenton

ALS Prayer Group Invitation

Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS) is a neurological disease with no known cure. For those impacted by ALS, a virtual prayer group is available. It is offered for those who desire an opportunity to pray with others for strength and offer up their sufferings to our Lord.



**THE GROUP
MEETS VIA
ZOOM EVERY
MONDAY AT
11:00 A.M. (NJ time)**

**If you have
ALS or are a
caregiver or
family member
of someone with
ALS, you are
invited to join.**

**Participate every
week or just
when you can.
We will be there.**

**"For where two or
three are gathered
together in my
name, there am I in
the midst of them."
Matt. 18:20**

**For more information or
to register, please send
an email with the
subject line "ALS" as
well as your name and
telephone number to**

**[holyinnocentsociety@
dioceseoftrenton.org](mailto:holyinnocentsociety@dioceseoftrenton.org)**

God bless you!

SPONSORED BY HOLY INNOCENTS SOCIETY, DIOCESE OF TRENTON - OFFERED WIDELY

PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH**WEEKLY MASS INTENTION**

† Ronald Lubischer r/o Joyce Lubischer
 † Francelina Pedro Santos r/o Tony and Natalina Gomes
 † Manuel Almeida Ribeiro r/o Tony and Natalina Gomes

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

We joyfully welcome into our parish family the following babies who were baptized at St. Michael's in November 2025: Annalisa Lucia Reale and Anthony Phillip-Martin Molinary. May God bless them and their families.



Due to an early publication deadline for the December 14 bulletin, the attendance and collection data for the week-end of December 6 and December 7 will be published in the December 21 bulletin. Thank you for your attendance at Mass and for your faithful stewardship and financial support of the parish.

**Bus Trip to
 Resorts Casino in Atlantic City
 DECEMBER TRIP CANCELLED**

When: Tuesday, December 16, 2025

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.

**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**


During Advent-Extra Times for
 Masses, Confessions, and
 Eucharistic Adoration

Fridays of Advent on
 December 5, 12, and 19
 (See Page 3 for details)

Children's Rosary

Sunday, December 14, 2025
 after 10:00 a.m. Mass
 (See Page 5 for details)

It's A Wonderful Life

Sunday, December 14, 2025
 4:45 p.m.
 (See Page 8 for details)

Parish Office Closed
 (no electricity 9:00 a.m.
 to 11:00 p.m.)

Monday, December 15, 2025
 (See Page 5 for details)

Rosary Altar Society Christmas
 Luncheon

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Parish Penance Service
 (Changed Date)

Wednesday, December 17, 2025
 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
 (See Page 3 for details)

Simbang Gabi

Friday, December 19, 2025
 (See Page 8 for details)

Blessing of Parish Christmas
 Creche
 (Changed Date)

Saturday, December 20, 2025
 after 4:00 p.m. Mass
 Sunday, December 21, 2025
 after 10:00 a.m. Mass
 (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
 (See Page 3 for Mass Schedule)

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)

Diocese Mass for Life & Life Expo

Friday, January 23, 2026
 (See Page 10 for details)