

December 21, 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY

of
Advent



St. Michael's Church
Sunday, December 21, 2025
and Christmas Day 2025

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 20

8:00 AM † Deceased Members of the Cattelona Family	Family
4:00 PM † Dolores Jackson	Dennis Jackson
† Paul Roller	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	

Monday, December 22

8:00 AM † Marilyn Boucher	Ann Hines
Pro-Life Cause	Friends of Sylvia Marsico
7:00 PM † Robert Michael Hanlon	Beloved Wife & Family

Tuesday, December 23

8:00 AM † Kimberly B. Lechner	Rant Family
† Bill Kellam	JoAnn Dorgan

Wednesday, December 24

8:00 AM † Miriam McLain	Graniero Family
4:00 PM † James F. Simonelli	Rosanna, Jenna, & Cara
† Donald W. Johnson (at Long Branch Middle School)	Johnson Family
5:30 PM † All Grandparents	
7:00 PM † Pope Francis	
8:30 PM † Bishop John M. Smith	
10:00 PM † Dotty O'Hara	

Thursday, December 25

7:00 AM † Ed Thayer Sr	Thayer Family
† Salvatrice Gervolino	Patrick & Elizabeth Gervolino
8:30 AM † Michael Wrubel	Wife Maria & Family
† Pamela Gatta	Mom & Dad
10:00 AM † Harold & Julia Bowman	Loving Children Michael, Joe & AnneMarie
† Scott Opatosky	Mom & Rick Ferrante
† Eileen, Ed, Matt & Mark	Family
12:00 PM † MaryAnn Reinhardt	Maurly Zane
5:00 PM People of the Parish	

Friday, December 26

8:00 AM † Grace Tho	Aida David
† Ethel Delaney	Emily Carroll

Saturday, December 27

8:00 AM † Bob Clinton	Margaret Clinton
People of the Parish	
4:00 PM † Penny Covella	Mark Patella
† Ann V. Olivadoti	Joe & Dorinne Cattelona
5:30 PM Special Intention	
† Dotty O'Hara	Joe & Joan Richter
7:00 PM † Miriam McLain	Graniero Family
† Donald Kenny	Marian Davey

Sunday, December 28

7:00 AM † Richard Konopada	Carroll Family
† Bill Kellam	Marian Davey
8:30 AM † Christian Diaz	
† Mary Morgano Petti	Granddaughter Paula
10:00 AM † John Krause	Joanne & Frank Buono
† Rita Cittadino	Sisters Marie & Rosanna
12:00 PM † Mary Lou Blake	David & Emily Beaton
† JoAnn Miller	Viola Trollan & Family
4:00 PM † John Richard Turbak	Byington Family
† Doris Johnson	Johnson Family
† Karen Gomes	Mom, Dad & Siblings
7:00 PM † Gienor Santos	His Family
People of the Parish	

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



Mary, Mother of God, January 1, 2026**Holy Day of Obligation Masses****Vigil Masses****Wednesday, December 31****4:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M.****Holy Day Masses****Thursday, January 1****8:00 A.M., 12:15 P.M., and
5:00 P.M.****(no 4:00 P.M. and no 7:00 P.M.
Masses on January 1st)**

• There will be no scheduled Confessions on the day of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, a holy day of obligation. If an urgent need for Confession on January 1 occurs, arrangements can be made by contacting the parish office.

Christmas Mass Schedule 2025**Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24**

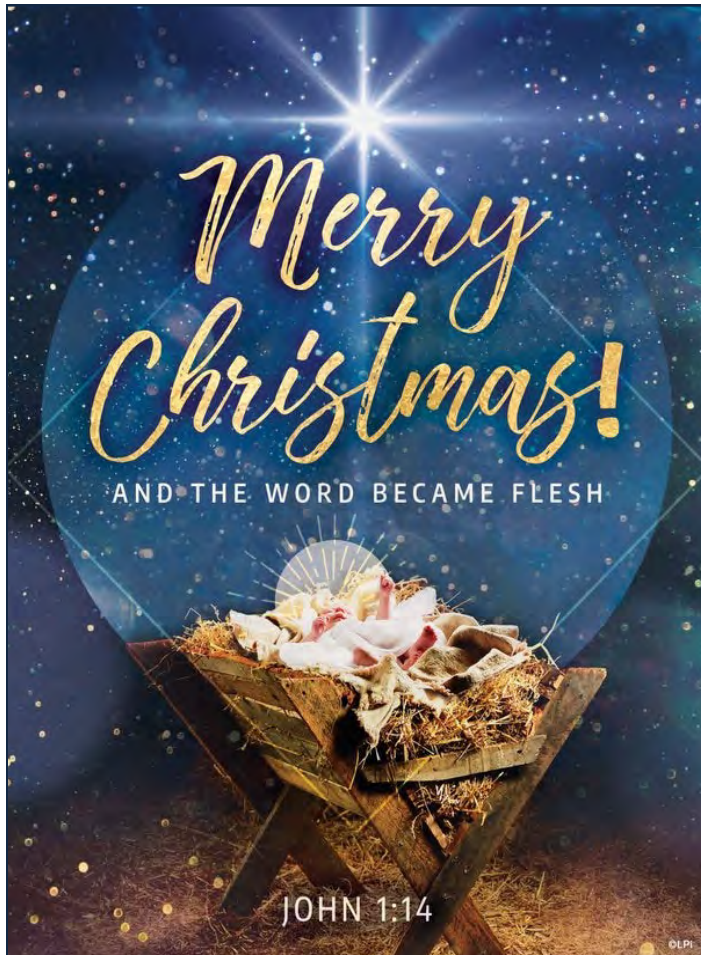
4:00 p.m. in the Upper Church
 4:00 p.m. livestream of the Upper Church Mass
 to the Lower Church
 4:00 p.m. at the Long Branch Middle School
 Auditorium
 5:30 p.m. in the Upper Church
 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Church
 8:30 p.m. in the Upper Church
 10:00 p.m. in the Upper Church

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.

**“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.

PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

WEEKLY MASS INTENTION

† Anthony DeMarco	r/o Tony DeMarco Family
† Anthony DeMarco	r/o Bergrud Family
† Anthony DeMarco	r/o The Wrubel Family
† Bernice Wrubel	r/o The Wrubel Family
† Jose Santos	r/o Tony & Natalina Gomes
† Joseph Wrubel	r/o The Wrubel Family
† Julia Rosario Pereira	r/o Tony & Natalina Gomes
† Leon Kadelski	r/o The Wrubel Family
† Marie DeMarco	r/o Bergrud Family
† Marie DeMarco	r/o Tony DeMarco Family
† Marie DeMarco	r/o The Wrubel Family
† Michael Wrubel	r/o Bergrud Family
† Michael Wrubel	r/o The Wrubel Family
† Pamela Gatta	r/o Aunt Maria
† Pamela Gatta	r/o Mom and Dad
† Ronald Lubischer	r/o Joyce Lubischer
† Stanley Kadelski	r/o The Wrubel Family
† Val Juliano	r/o Bergrud Family
† Val Juliano	r/o Tony DeMarco Family
† Valentina Juliano	r/o The Wrubel Family
† Walter Kadelski	r/o The Wrubel Family

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

Change of Date

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

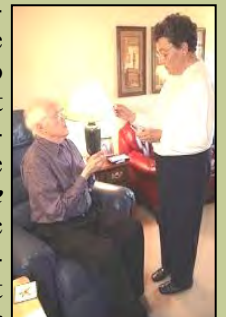
The parish's outdoor Christmas Creche has been installed on the rectory's front lawn during the past few days (please see the accompanying photo from Advent 2023). The Creche is a gift to the parish and to the people of the parish and the community in memory of Rosa Alba Stranieri from Rosa's family. 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.



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.



OUR PROMISE TO PROTECT: The Diocese of 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.

Parish Office Christmas Hours

The parish business office will be closed from Thursday, Dec. 24 through Friday, December 26.

The parish business office will be closed on December 31 and January 1.

While the office is closed during these days of Christmas Week:

- If there is an urgent need for assistance from a priest or from the parish staff, please call the parish office's main number (732-222-8080) and the answering service will handle your call and arrange for an appropriate response.
- Masses and Confessions will take place at their usual times while the business office is closed.



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.

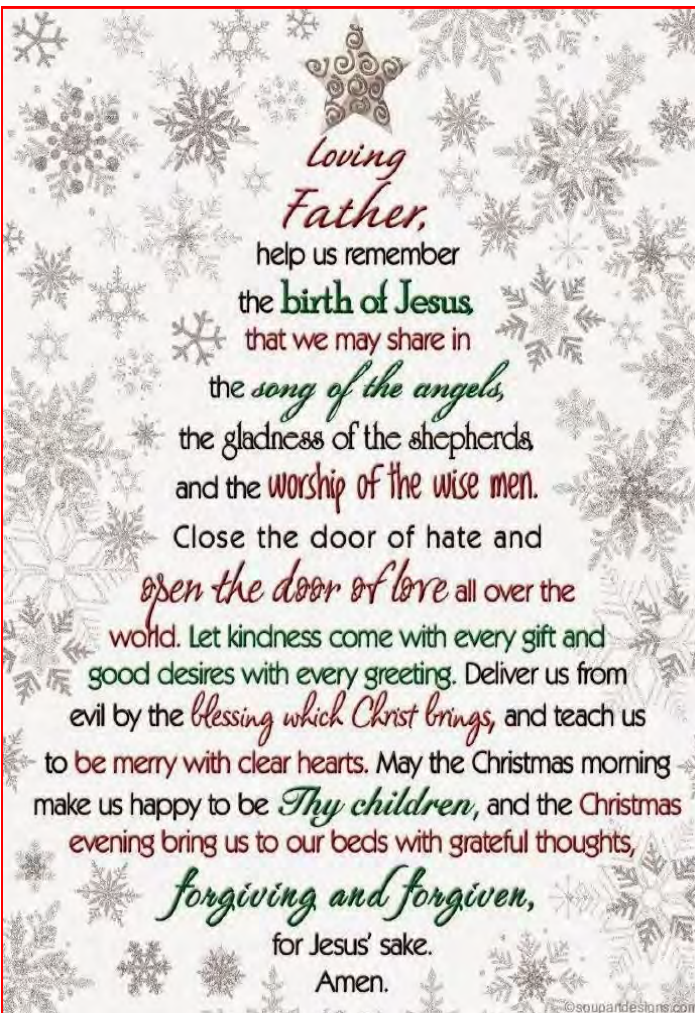
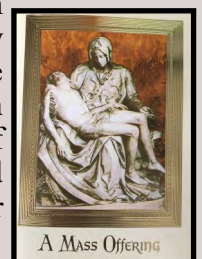
The spiritual lesson in this age old custom is **unity of the family – the main pillar of society**. The bond of unity is the Christ-like charity that should exist amongst the members of the family. The father of the family is the link in the unbroken chain of One Body, One Bread, One Christ, and One 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.

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.



SAVE THE DATE



2026 MARCH FOR LIFE D.C.

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!

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

God bless you!

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

SAVE THE DATE
FRIDAY



January 23, 2026

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

Mass for Life & Life Expo



Celebrated by Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M.



■ 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

STANDING TOGETHER FOR Life

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.

Catholic Charities
DIOCESE OF TRENTON



Diocese of Trenton

ON THE CALENDAR AT ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH



Blessing of Parish Christmas Creche	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
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 (See Page 3 for Mass Schedule)
Rally & March for Life in Washington, DC	Friday, January 23, 2026 (See Page 6 for details)
Diocese Mass for Life & Life Expo	Friday, January 23, 2026 (See Page 6 for details)

Weekend Collection & Attendance

Thank You!

Saturday, December 6, 2025

4:00 PM Mass	\$2,624.00	207 people
5:30 PM Mass	\$732.00	83 people
7:00 PM Mass	\$544.00	54 people

Sunday, December 7, 2025

7:00 AM Mass	\$1,516.00	78 people
8:30 AM Mass	\$2,097.00	123 people
10:00 AM Mass	\$2,589.00	162 people
12:00 PM Mass	\$1,988.00	159 people
4:00 PM Mass	\$1,280.00	231 people
7:00 PM Mass	\$893.00	216 people

Mailed-in Envelopes for the December 7 collection and for previous Sunday collections: **\$2,801.00**

This Week's Total: \$17,064.00

Same Week's Total Last Year: \$13,641.00

Immaculate Conception: \$4,441.00

Due to an early publication deadline for the December 21 bulletin, the attendance and collection data for the weekend of December 13 and December 14 will be published in the December 28 bulletin. Thank you for your attendance at Mass and for your faithful stewardship and financial support of the parish.

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.

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