

**The Church of Saint Michael**  
**Sunday, December 27, 2015**  
 Feast of the Holy Family



**Please remember in your prayers those who have died.**

**Please remember in your prayers the sick of our parish:**

Rose DeSantis, Edmond DeSantis Jr., Emma Jane Fenimore, Rosemarie DiRupo, David Pope, Jennie Sommer, Brian Bergeson, Eileen Bergeson, Jaydon Franklin, Paula DiElsi, Michael Parker, Evelyn and Vivian Dumpert, Sam Rosa Pat Leone, Simon Harvey, Robert Newton, Robert White, Phil Grella, Vincent D'Alessandro, Diana Palumbo, Patricia Heady, Elaine Dietz, Thomasina Grogan, Michele Demeo

**Weekly Memorial**

Altar Bread & Sacramental Wine:

Nicholas Costanzo

Sactuary Lamp:

Andrew Weaver

**Weekly Devotions**

Monday:..... Charismatic Prayer Group 7:00 pm  
 (not on the last Monday of the month)

Wednesday:..... Rosary Group 7:30 pm

Friday:.....Divine Mercy 3:00 pm

Friday:..... Under Mary's Mantle 7:30 pm

Saturday: .....Rosary (after 8 am Mass) 8:30 am

**Readings for the week**

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

**Sunday**

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

**Monday**

1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2:13-18

**Tuesday**

1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

**Wednesday**

1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40

**Thursday**

1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18

**First Friday**

Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

**First Saturday**

1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Saturday, December 26, 2015**

9:00 a.m. Special Intention

5:00 p.m. Jack Norgard, Aniello, Laura, Robert, Geri Brodo

7:00 p.m. Raymond VanSaun

**Sunday, December 27, 2015 Feast of the Holy Family**

7:00 a.m. David Weaver

8:45 a.m. Louis Lamberto, John Dimino Jr.

10:30 a.m. Gus & Josephine Rampone, Louis Lamberto

12:00 p.m. Carmela DeSantis, Concetta Vassallo

5:00 p.m. Mary Ruf

**Monday, December 28, 2015**

7:00 a.m. Franciszek Gierlach

**Tuesday, December 29, 2015**

8:00 a.m. Franciszek Gierlach

7:00 p.m. Healing Mass

**Wednesday, December 30, 2015**

7:00 a.m. Franciszek Gierlach

**Thursday, December 31, 2015 New Year's Eve**

8:00 a.m. Franciszek Gierlach

5:00 p.m. Anne T. Keenan

7:00 p.m. Mary Alice & William Keenan

**Friday, January 1, 2016 New Year's Day**

9:00 a.m. Josephine, Emilio, Sam & Vincent Rea, Jamie Liamero

11:00 a.m. Vincent Tardive, Aniello, Laura, Geri, Bob Brodo

**Saturday, January 2, 2016**

8:00 a.m. Emil and Laura Normandy

5:00 p.m. Louis Lamberto, Mary Barath

7:00 p.m. Veronica Geraghty

**Sunday, January 3, 2016**

7:00 a.m. Mario Francomacaro

8:45 a.m. Barbara Bias

10:30 a.m. Louis Lamberto

12:00 p.m. Delbert "Del" Malr

5:00 p.m. Special Intention

**TITHING – GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING**

ST. MICHAEL'S HAS BEEN A TITHING PARISH SINCE 1988.

**Sunday 12/20/15                      \$7,690.00**

**Retired Religious                    \$ 147.00 (additional)**

**Christmas Flowers                   \$ 551.00**

**Online                                      \$ 822.00**

*Amount Needed Weekly      \$9,651.00*

*To run our parish properly we need \$9,651.*

*Please consider helping a little bit more if you can.*

## From Fr. Adam & Fr. Leonardo

### Our message for the New Year

The life of Jesus begins with Mary. Therefore, it is appropriate that we begin the New Year with a Feast of Mary, the Mother of God. Since Mary is the Mother of God she is the mother of joy, joy to the world. So the traditional greeting on this first day of the New Year is one of joy: Happy New Year!

There is a presence of the Lord in everything that happens to us. One good resolution for this year is to use our time in prayer to discern God's face, God's presence, God's Mercy and God's Word to us in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to know that everything has its place in God's redeeming plan. One resolution we can bring to this New Year is to try to see God's presence and purpose in everything that occurs in our life. God wants to be with us all the time, he just wait for our invitation. He just waits and gently knocks he doors of our hearts and patiently waits until we open. Our God is a Merciful and Loving God.

In the beginning of this year, there is also Mary's presence. The shepherds found the infant with Mary and Joseph. A classic feature of our Catholic spirituality is to make Mary and Joseph companions in our spiritual life. They will lead us to a deeper union with Jesus Christ.

Mary is the quiet light, the morning star to guide us. Our litany calls her a tower, an ark, a gate, a refuge, a help and a mirror of what is right. January 1, is the oldest feast of Mary in the West. What better way to begin the New Year than to ask for her help so that we would have the energy, the faith, the courage she showed in listening to the Lord's commands so we can go forth in faith to do what we are called to do. A good resolution for this coming year is to make Mary a part of our spiritual life. **Let us make a promise in the beginning of New Year 2016 that we will pray a Holy Rosary every day!**

Whatever the New Year holds for us, whatever events are waiting for us, these commitments to see God's face in everything and to stay close to Mary are what we can bring to this year and renew each week at Mass.

In the beginning of New Year 2016, the Year of Mercy, let us ask Mary, Mother of God, for the grace to know Jesus more intimately, love him more ardently, believe in his great Mercy and follow him more closely so that this may be a truly Happy New Year!

Many Blessings for New Year 2016!  
Fr. Leonardo and Fr. Adam

### Healing Mass

Our next Healing Mass is on December 29th at 7pm, with Rosary/Chaplet at 6:30pm

### Youth/Family Mass

Our next Youth/Family Mass will be on January 3rd at 7pm.

### Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for January

**Universal:** Interreligious Dialogue

That sincere dialogue among men and women of different faiths may produce the fruits of peace and justice.

**Evangelization:** Christian Unity

That by means of dialogue and fraternal charity and with the grace of the Holy Spirit, Christians may overcome divisions.



### *Giving couldn't be easier!*

Click on the Donate tab or the link on the home page on our website ([www.stmichaelnetcong.org](http://www.stmichaelnetcong.org)). If you have questions or need help setting it up, email [smonlinegiving@gmail.com](mailto:smonlinegiving@gmail.com)! We'd be happy to help.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### NEWS

#### After Christmas---

Gr. 1-6 resumes:

- FOR MONDAY: Jan. 4
- FOR SUNDAY: Jan. 10 (NO CLASS 1/3)

Gr. 8 sessions resume Jan. 4 at 6:45 pm (and every Mon. night through 2/1)

Gr. 7 sessions resume Feb. 8

**Confirmation I:** next large group meeting **1/10**, 1-3 pm.

Small group meetings will begin in second half of January. Schedules were distributed at 12/13 large group session. It is each candidate's responsibility to remember to attend the first small group session in January—no reminder phone calls will be made!

- If you did not hand in a service form in Dec. please drop it off at the Rel. Ed. Office this week

## Confirmation II:

- CORRECTION: Next large group meeting: January 17, 1-3:20 pm
- † Service forms due: Jan. 10 (covering all service done since 9/30). Please note all make up service is to be completed by Jan. 10. If you need help, please contact Mrs. Rogalo, 073-347-1465.

## ACRE Evaluations for Grades 5, 8 and 10

As per the calendar and the letters sent home with every student (Gr. 5,8,10) ACRE Religion Assessment mandated by Bishop Serratelli will take place as follows:

Grade 5: During regular class sessions 1/24 and 1/25

Grade 8: During regular class session 1/25

Grade 10: During the large group session scheduled for 1/17, 1pm in church basement. Please note the assessment will only take part of the time; the balance of the session will be a regular meeting ending at 3:20pm.

*Any young person who is absent the day of the evaluation will take it the day he/she returns to class.*



**First Reconciliation Dates:** as per the calendar

**Sat., Jan. 16 at 9:30 am:** Classes of Miss Hric/Mrs. Seredvik, Kathy Parker

**Sat., Jan. 16 at 11:30 am:** Classes of Soraya Hernandez, Dee Tardive, Tina DeLuca

**Sat., Jan. 23 snow date**

Please keep in your prayers the parish children who will be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time in January!

## St. Michael School News

### **St. Michael School Annual Calendar Raffle Tickets On Sale NOW!**

St. Michael School's annual calendar raffle ticket sale has begun. The drawing will have daily monetary wins for 65 days starting January 1st through March 6, 2016. A winning ticket is placed back in the raffle so there are *65 chances to win with just one ticket!* Tickets are \$10 each. If you would like to purchase a ticket(s), please contact St. Michael School office at 973-347-0039 x10. We will make arrangements for you to receive. St. Michael School students and parents will also be selling tickets at Masses on 12/12 and 12/13. They make great Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers!

### **St. Michael's Prayer Group**

"Genesis to Jesus" series will resume on  
Monday, January 4 at 7pm.

## Youth Ministry News

**Fr. Leonardo 973-224-6693 or 973-347-0032**

### **Evil begets evil**

There was once a king who was so cruel and unjust that his subjects yearned for his death or dethronement. However, one day he surprised them all by announcing that he had decided to turn over a new leaf. "No more cruelty, no more injustice," he promised, and he was as good as his word. He became known as the 'Gentle Monarch'. Months after his transformation one of his ministers plucked up enough courage to ask him what had brought about his change of heart. And the king answered, "As I was galloping through my forests I caught sight of a fox being chased by a hound. The fox escaped into his hole but not before the hound had bitten into its leg and lamed it for life. Later I rode into a village and saw the same hound there. It was barking at a man. Even as I watched, the man picked up a huge stone and flung it at the dog, breaking its leg. The man had not gone far when he was kicked by a horse. His knee was shattered and he fell to the ground, disabled for life. The horse began to run but it fell into a hole and broke its leg. Reflecting on all that had happened, I thought: If I continue in my evil ways, I will surely be overtaken by evil'. So I decided to change". "Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone". Romans 12:17-18

### **Teen Workshop**

Beginning in January, Youth Ministry will be meeting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month for an activity in the rectory basement from 6:30pm-8:30pm (if other than that, we will advise).

### **Chicken Parmigiana Dinner**

Mission trip will be hosting its annual Chicken Parmigiana Dinner on Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> from noon to 6pm at the Knights of Columbus hall. Advance ticket sales will be available the weekend of January 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> after all Masses or tickets can be purchased at the door.

### **SAINT MICHAEL'S OUTREACH PANTRY**

We want to thank all of you for all your generosity! We were able to supply food to so many families. Merry Christmas!

## St. Michael's Giving Tree



Thank you all so much for helping us to provide gifts for so many families. God Bless you.

### **Knights of Columbus 3665 2015 Monthly Blood Drive**

Monday, December 28th  
3pm – 9pm  
140 Ledgewood Avenue, Netcong  
No Appointments necessary  
Walk-ins welcome

### **ADORATION**

“The Blessed Sacrament is the continuation of Christ’s Incarnation on earth. Coming to the Blessed Sacrament we find the same humility and gentleness that the shepherds found in ‘the babe lying in a manger’ (LUKE 2:15). The hunger in the heart of God for the love of man is expressed in the profound humility of these two words, Baby Jesus.” (from the book *Letters to a Brother Priest*)

### **Adult Confirmation**

We invite any adults of the parish who have not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation to consider taking the necessary steps to prepare for reception of this Sacrament. Instructional sessions will begin soon. Anyone interested should contact Deacon Joe for further information at [973-229-6959](tel:973-229-6959).

### **Snow Shoveling Help at Church**

Fr. Adam will be away for Army boot camp from January through March. We do not have a custodian to help us shovel the walkways. Can you give us a hand? Please call the rectory 973-347-0032. Thank you.

### **Respect Life Committee**



If anyone would like to join us, please call Andrina at 973-609-4012. We need your help and your ideas... The Respect Life Meeting will be held the first Saturday of the month at 11:30am in the rectory basement. Holy Hour will be the third Tuesday of the month at 7pm in church.  
(Crisis Pregnancy Hotline – 800-848-5683)

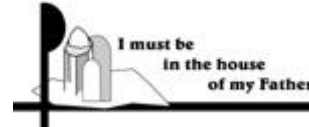
### **Spiritual Adoption - Special Prayer**

As the pregnancy part of our spiritual adoption comes to a close with the anticipated births of the babies we prayed for, please remember to pray a special birthday prayer for them on Christmas for their continued life with Christ.

*-Please join us at Planned Parenthood in Newton for one hour of prayer – First Saturday of each month at 10am. All are welcome. We need to end these atrocities against life.*

### **CHRISTMAS MAGNETS**

“Keep Christ in Christmas” magnets, new design, will be on sale after Masses this and next weekend. Additionally, they will be on sale at the Knight’s Santa Breakfast. Cost is \$3. Please contact John Matits at [973] 248 - 5265 for details or magnets.



### **THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

#### **First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14**

Sirach emphasizes the importance of honoring one’s parents. He explains that spiritual riches will come to those who are kind to their mother and father.

#### **Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21**

Paul advises us to treat each other with kindness and mercy and to forgive as God forgives us. His words remind families to always love and respect one another and let Christ’s peace reign in their hearts and in their homes.

#### **Gospel: Luke 2:41-52**

When Jesus was twelve years old, the Holy Family traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast. Jesus did not return with the company. Instead, he stayed in Jerusalem, sitting among the teachers while amazing them with his understanding and questions. When found by his concerned parents, Jesus reminded them that he must be in the house of his Father. Returning together, Mary kept these things in her heart.

# Happy New Year!