

The Church of Saint Michael
Sunday, December 24, 2017
 Fourth Sunday of Advent



Please remember in your prayers those who have died:
 Ronald Costanzo

Please remember in your prayers the sick of our parish:
 Peter Stchur, Irma Vidal, Tim Paternostro,
 Bill Regal, Michelle Demeo, Diana Palumbo, Rose DeSantis,
 Edmond DeSantis Jr., Susan DeSantis, Fr. Leo Carey, Pat Leone,
 Beth Courter, Bill Hancock, Bruce Hill, Diane Grzymko, Pauline
 Milone, Chet Verdi Sr., Chet Verdi Jr., Doug Ernst, Deborah
 Kelly, Marie Simmons, Marjorie Hancock, Jordyn G., Karlene
 Yapple, Jeanne Rattner, Carolyn Sundheim Nystrom, Mike
 Loretta, Samantha Weckter, Patrick Devine, Isabelle Exile,
 Elaine Grogan Fiorello, James Burns, Lisa Deritter,
 Helen Newstead, Louis DiBernard, Maria Spezza

Weekly Memorials

Sacramental Bread & Wine: Martin C. Koert Sr.
 Sanctuary Lamp: Andrew Weaver

Weekly Devotions

Monday:Charismatic Prayer Group 7:00 pm
 Wednesday:Rosary Group 7:30 pm
 Friday:Divine Mercy 3:00 pm
 Saturday:Rosary (after 8 am Mass) 8:30 am

Readings for the week

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Monday

Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday

Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday

1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday

1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2:13-18

Friday

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

Saturday

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

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, December 23, 2017

8:00 a.m. Fred & Grace Grogan &
 Deceased Family Members

5:00 p.m. Polianchik & Weaver Families

Sunday, December 24, 2017 Christmas Eve

7:00 a.m. Josephine, Emilio, Sam Vincent Rea,
 Louis Castaldi, Thomasina Grogan

8:45 a.m. Rosita Hernandez

10:30 a.m. Gus & Josephine Rampone

12:00 p.m. Special Intention

1:30 p.m. Special Intention

5:00 p.m. John J. Bauer, Mary & Elwin Burd,
 Louis & Alice Esposito

11:00 p.m. Samuel D. Palumbo Jr.,
 Adeline & Joseph Bencivenga, Joseph Esposito

Monday, December 25, 2017 Christmas Day

7:30 a.m. Anna Giannantonio, Jack Norgard

9:30 a.m. Margaret Flynn, Robert & Maryann Weldon

11:30 a.m. Grace & Albert Costanzo

1:30 p.m. Special Intention

Tuesday, December 26, 2017

9:00 a.m. Janet Loudis

Wednesday, December 27, 2017

7:00 a.m. Carol Fenton, Juan Claudio Alvarado

Thursday, December 28, 2017

8:00 a.m. Michael Loretto

Friday, December 29, 2017

7:00 a.m. Leeta Loretto

Saturday, December 30, 2017

8:00 a.m. Intentions of Joseph & Anne Keenan

5:00 p.m. Ronald Costanzo

Sunday, December 31, 2017 New Year's Eve

7:00 a.m. Eleanor Sylvester, Crmine Milone

8:45 a.m. Angela & Frank Parillo

10:30 a.m. Veronica Marks

12:00 p.m. Normandy Family

1:30 p.m. Special Intention

Mass on Monday, January 1, 2018 is at 9am

TITHING – GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING
ST. MICHAEL'S HAS BEEN A TITHING PARISH
SINCE 1988.

Sunday 12/17/17 \$8,120.00

Retired Religious \$175.00

Christmas Flowers \$683.00

No more 2nd Collection \$170.00

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

Please consider helping a little bit more if you can.

From Fr. Michael



Merry Christmas.

Once a year, at this time, the Nativity Scene makes its appearance here at St. Michael Church and at the beginning of the Vigil Masses, the figure of the baby Jesus will be reverently carried and put into the central place of the Nativity Scene. After all it's the celebration of our Savior's birth and it reminds us of that first Christmas when God came to earth as a helpless baby. In that helpless baby, we see the Word of God made flesh and lived among us. A complete Nativity Scene symbolizes all that. Surrounding the baby Jesus are Mary and Joseph, and the shepherds who came to see this wonderful sign, and the poor and humble surroundings of the manger with the donkey and the cow and a couple of sheep. The three wise men would make their appearance later at the Epiphany.

I have seen some updated versions of the Nativity Scene: one had a shepherd on the mobile phone calling "Dominos", and another with a wise man on his laptop checking Google Maps for directions to Bethlehem. Although we are not going to that extent, this year I was hoping to hang some Angels from the ceiling holding a sign "Gloria in excelsis Deo" but the plans did not come to fruition (but hopefully for next year). Would anyone notice or have they noticed the lack of an angel? But that does not mean that the messenger is forgotten, nor must the message of Christmas become just an after thought. After all, most would be looking at the baby Jesus, or Mary and Joseph, or the shepherds, or the cow and the donkey or whatever.

But the presence of the angel is significant to the whole Christmas story. It was an angel who announced to Mary that she was chosen to be the Mother of God. It was an angel who appeared to the shepherds and brought them the joyful news of the birth of the Savior. The angels are the messengers of God to announce the fulfillment of the promise of God to send the Savior.

All the characters of the Christmas story heard the message and they played a part in the birth of Jesus. Mary accepted the will of God; Joseph had to change his plans; the shepherds went to see the sign. And we have come to celebrate this wonderful story and to hear the message of Christmas again. And having heard the message, we in turn have become the messengers. We are now the "angels" of the Christmas story. The angels sang at the birth of Jesus: Glory to God in the highest heavens, and peace to men who enjoy His favor.

We want to be the people who enjoy God's favor, the people who are blessed by God, the people who despite the challenges and difficulties of life will join the characters in the Nativity Scene and worship the Savior and be filled with peace because Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

Today we hear the message, and it is the message of peace to people of goodwill. As we gather around the altar, Jesus enters again in our hearts to bring us peace and to restore the goodness in us. May we also be messengers of this news of great joy. We have heard that 80% of Catholics in N.J. don't come to church. May we be that Christmas angel to bring them to come and see the Nativity Scene and its message.

From Fr. Henry

La Navidad es una de las fiestas más importantes que celebramos los católicos, junto con la Pascua de Resurrección y Pentecostés. En Navidad celebramos el nacimiento de Jesucristo, pobre y frágil en medio de nosotros, que viene para darnos su amor. Esta es la verdadera Navidad, Jesús, el Emmanuel que traducido significa Dios con Nosotros. El es el centro de la Navidad.

El Papa Francisco en una sus reflexiones nos recalca que Jesús es el centro de la Navidad y nos pide no quitarlo de la nuestra, pues asegura que una Navidad sin Jesús sería una fiesta vacía y sin sentido. No hagamos oídos sordos a estas hermosas palabras de nuestro Sumo Pontífice sino que más bien, démosle sentido en nuestras vidas pidiendo todos juntos que esta Navidad traiga a cada uno de nosotros a quien realmente necesitamos tanto: Dios mismo.

Que sus promesas nos animen a vivir de una manera diferente, que apreciemos el valor de su sangre en la cruz, y que florezca en nosotros el espíritu de bondad y generosidad, rico en amor y dotado de toda la paciencia.

Que Dios les conceda su paz y llene sus corazones de alegría en el amor de Jesucristo.

¡Feliz Navidad a todos!

Padre Henry.



Please pray for our Diaconate Candidates – Russ Raffay and John Meyer

Next Healing Mass
Tuesday, January 30th at 7pm
Rosary/Chaplet at 6:30pm

YOUTH MINISTRY

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

† **March for Life on January 18th-19th** †
March in Washington D.C with hundreds of
thousands of Catholics
who take a stand for life
LIMITED SPOTS

Please contact youth minister if interested

ALL registration forms are available on the parish
website under Youth Ministry
For more information, please contact St. Michael's
Youth Minister, Sarah Cho at
youthministry@stmichaelnetcong.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Religious Education Reminders

NO sessions week of 12/24 and 12/31

After Christmas---

Gr. 1-6 resumes Sunday Jan. 7

Gr. 8 resumes Mon. Jan. 8

Gr. 7 resumes Jan. 15

Confirmation Prep: Con I Jan. 14; Con II, Jan. 7

- **New commitment book procedure:** begins Sunday, 12/24 masses (12/23 at 5:00 pm and going forward)
- **Con I service forms** due Dec. 31

Service Opportunity: we need teens to help with refreshments for First Reconciliation on Jan. 13. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Rogalo via email or phone.

Religious Education Calendars for all programs are available on the website. Go to Faith Formation tab then choose Religious Education.

First Reconciliation

Sat., January 13, 2018 in the Church

9:30 am, The classes of: Soraya Hernandez and Dee Tardive

11:30 am, The class of Tina DeLuca



THE FOOD PANTRY THANKS YOU!!

We would like to thank all of you for your donations to the pantry for Thanksgiving. Due to your kindness and generosity we provided 200 bags of food and 50 turkeys to 63 families. We ask that you put only nonperishable foods in our Pantry bin. To donate turkeys or hams, please call the Rectory Office at 973-347-0032 ext. 2300. As always, God Bless You and thank you in advance for your continued help.



Perfectly Yourself A Christmas Gift to Our Parish Family Complements of Your Knights of Columbus Council

Perfectly Yourself is a profound meditation on what it means to seek the best version of ourselves. Matthew Kelly offers a guide to unlocking the potential each of us has within to be "Perfectly Yourself". He challenges and inspires us to sweep aside that which holds us back from being the person God has made us to be.

In Perfectly Yourself Matthew Kelly pulls no punches regarding the weaknesses we carry within us and the distractions of our modern culture that hold us back to the genuine joy that God wants us to experience. Reading Perfectly Yourself can be a life changing experience that opens up new possibilities to achieving our full human potential as a child of God.

"God's dreams for you and me go so far beyond what the world has to offer. He made each and every single one of us wonderfully unique, and he dreams that we will chase, embrace, and celebrate all he created us to be; the very best version of ourselves."

St. Augustine famously said: "My heart is restless until it finds its rest in Thee." Kelly offers deeply spiritual and wonderfully practical steps we can all take to be the person we are meant to be; the person God wants us to be. This is a gift that keeps on giving by inviting each of us to discover once more what it means to be perfectly ourselves.



Christmas Mass Schedule

December 23 & 24, Regular Masses

Saturday 5pm

**Sunday 7am, 8:45am, 10:30am & Noon English
1:30pm Spanish**

Christmas Eve, December 24

Sunday

**5pm English
11pm Bilingual**

Christmas Day, December 25

Monday

**7:30am, 9:30am & 11:30am English
1:30pm Spanish**

Also.....

Day after Christmas, December 26

Tuesday

9am English

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, New Year's Day

January 1, 2018

Monday

9am English

Respect Life

Holy Hour is the third Tuesday of the month at 7pm in church.
*Please join us at Planned Parenthood in Newton for one hour
of prayer – First Saturday of each month at 10am.*

All are welcome.

If you have any questions, please call Andrina at 973-609-4012.
(Crisis Pregnancy Hotline – 800-848-5683)

Bus Trip to Washington DC

The March For Life

Friday, January 19

The bus will leave upper parking lot at 6:30 am
and return around 10:30 pm.

The cost of the bus trip is free and is
sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

First come first serve.

Contact John Hand @ 973-670-7457 for more information.

ADORERS

**THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE
FOR THE CHAPEL IS AS FOLLOWS:**

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE

THE CHAPEL WILL BE CLOSED DURING the 5:00 P.M.
MASS and opened until the Midnight Mass at 11:00 P.M.
THE BLESSED SACRAMENT WILL BE BROUGHT
BACK BY 12:00 A.M. OR A LITTLE LATER,
DEPENDING ON HOW LONG THE MASS IS.

MONDAY - DECEMBER 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY

THE CHAPEL WILL FOLLOW THE SUNDAY MASS
SCHEDULE, SO THE CHAPEL WILL BE OPEN AT 3:00
P.M.

MONDAY - JANUARY 1 - NEW YEAR'S DAY

THERE WILL BE ONE MASS ON NEW YEAR'S DAY
AT 9:00 A.M. THE CHAPEL WILL BE CLOSED
DURING MASS, BUT OPEN BEFORE AND AFTER.

PLEASE PLAN YOUR DAYS ACCORDINGLY.
THANK YOU AND HAVE A BLESSED, HAPPY
CHRISTMAS!

*Can you use an hour of silence with Jesus?
Please come and visit HIM at the
Adoration Chapel.*

"Hail and Blessed be the hour and moment,
in which the Son of God was born
Of the most pure Virgin Mary at midnight,
in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold.

In that hour, vouchsafe I beseech thee,
Oh my God, to hear my prayers, and grant
my desires, through the merits of our
Savior Jesus Christ, and His Blessed Mother
AMEN!"

A BLESSED AND JOYOUS CHRISTMAS TO ALL!!

ADORATION OPEN HOURS

Friday	1 am
Friday	11 pm Prayer Partner
Saturday	12 am Prayer Partner
Saturday	6 pm
Saturday	7 pm
Saturday	9 pm

Thank you and God bless you.

Marie Francisco 732-895-7972

St. Michael's Giving Tree



*Thank you and
God Bless your
generosity!*