

The Church of Saint Michael
Sunday, December 31, 2017
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph



Please remember in your prayers those who have died.

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
 Yaple, 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:
 For All Parishioners of
 St. Michael Church
 Sanctuary Lamp: Deceased of The Keenan Family

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

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sunday
 Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17
 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40
Monday
 Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Tuesday
 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28
Wednesday
 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Jn 1:29-34
Thursday
 1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42
First Friday
 1 Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51
First Saturday
 1 Jn 5:5-13; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38

Mass Intentions for the Week

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, Carmine 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

**Monday, January 1, 2018 Solemnity of Mary,
 New Year's Day**
 9:00 a.m. Deceased Members of the Rea Family,
 Jamie Liamero

Tuesday, January 2, 2018
 8:00 a.m. Angelina Arbolino

Wednesday, January 3, 2018
 7:00 a.m. For All Parishioners of St. Michael Parish

Thursday, January 4, 2018
 8:00 a.m. The Leonard Family

Friday, January 5, 2018
 7:00 a.m. Mary Brodo

Saturday, January 6, 2018
 8:00 a.m. Kyle Mullen
 5:00 p.m. Sabato & Angelina Gugliemini, Marie Vendola

Sunday, January 7, 2018
 7:00 a.m. Bill & Mary Ruf
 8:45 a.m. Julie Arbolino
 10:30 a.m. Patricia Buckley
 12:00 p.m. Veronica Marks
 1:30 p.m. Special Intention

TITHING – GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING
ST. MICHAEL'S HAS BEEN A TITHING PARISH
SINCE 1988.
Sunday 12/24/17 Not Available
To run our parish properly we need \$9,651.
Please consider helping a little bit more if you can.



From Fr. Michael

By now, we wouldn't be hearing any more Christmas carols. Just a week after Christmas, Christmas carols sound rather odd, Christmas décor look rather worn out, and it seems like Christmas is over and done with. Even in church, to wish someone "Merry Christmas" sounds off-beat. What we hear is "Season's greetings" although it is not clear what that season refers to. So for the world, Christmas is over and done with, making way for New Year celebrations with with an eye toward the ball in Time's Square with its famous countdown. Unfortunately it's back to work and back to school the next day.

But for the Church, we have continued the celebration of Christmas for eight days, or what is called the Christmas Octave. This New Years Day, the eighth day of the Octave, we honor Mary with the title "Mother of God". That title is certainly not new, in fact it goes all the way back to the year 431 when the Council of Ephesus formally proclaimed that title for Mary.

That title says much about who Mary is, but it also says much more about who Jesus is – that Jesus is God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. Mary is honored as Mother of God on the eighth day of the Christmas Octave and there is a reason for it. The number eight (8) has a peculiar biblical meaning. God created the world in seven days. The eighth day represents a new creation or a re-creation. We will hear in the gospel that when the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave Him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given Him before His conception. So the Savior is given a name eight days after His birth. Similarly with John the Baptist, on the eighth day, his mother Elizabeth gave him that name and confirmed by his father Zechariah. Also eight days after the His Resurrection, Jesus appeared again to His disciples and especially to Thomas and he made that proclamation: My Lord and my God.

Mary is honored as Mother of God on this eighth day of the Christmas Octave because as Elizabeth said this of her: "Blessed is she who believed that the promises made to her by the Lord would be fulfilled." Mary has this to say: Yes, from this day forward, all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me. Year after year, as we begin each new year, we bless Mary and we honor her as Mother of God and also as our Mother.

Mary had to wait for what God has to reveal to her. Meanwhile, she treasured and she pondered. She prayed and waited and in the end finally understood. And as the Mother of God, she now prays for us that we will also treasure all that has happened and ponder over it and that we will see the great things that the Almighty will do for us. But we have to pray and wait.

So on this feast of Mary the Mother of God and on this first day of the year, instead of making New Year resolutions, let us make New Year petitions. With Mary the Mother of God and our Mother praying for us, let us treasure our blessings, let us ponder on our needs, and let us wait for God to do great things for us.

From Fr. Henry

Hoy domingo 31 de Diciembre, el calendario nos muestra que es el último día del año 2017, y que en poco tiempo iniciaremos la cuenta regresiva para recibir el nuevo año. En este día la alegría y la incertidumbre se mezclan tomando ganancia en muchos hasta preguntarnos que me traerá este nuevo año? Muchos para dar respuesta anticipada a esta pregunta ponen su confianza en supersticiones de buena suerte en las cuales creen que se regirá el nuevo año.

Para esta temporada es muy común ir a las tiendas y encontrar los cientos y cientos de ropa interior de un color específico, tanto para hombre como para mujer, los cuales deben ser utilizados este día 31 para recibir el año nuevo con muy buena suerte, hay otras personas que deciden ir a dar una vuelta por la vecindad con sus maletas de viaje, esperando que el nuevo año sea uno de muchos viajes y nuevas experiencias, otros creen en la superstición de las uvas u otras frutas y muchos otros en las papas peladas que se ponen debajo de la cama, entre otros.

No dejes que el sentido de la vida quede definido por una simple superstición. No trates de adivinar lo que pasará mañana; más bien trata de vivir con pasión y fuerza el presente, vive cada día libremente pero muy responsablemente, pues Dios nos ha dado el regalo de la libertad, el cual debemos utilizar con inteligencia y sabiduría en cada una de nuestras decisiones.

Para este nuevo año que el calendario nos indica; amar debe ser la clave. Si alguien te pregunta qué quieres para este año que llega?, tu respuesta debe ser: AMOR. Estoy seguro de que sólo amando se puede ser feliz, es por eso que te propongo a que te lances a vivir en amor, perdonando, comprendiendo, dando nuevas oportunidades, creyendo en tus posibilidades, soñando, confiando en los que te han dado muestras de amor y luchando con fortaleza por todo lo que sueñas ser.

Si Dios existe es para que seamos felices. No puede tener otra razón. De este modo, es muy importante que hoy tengas claro que Él es amor, Dios te llena de lo que necesitas para salir adelante. Su Bendición te asegura que si sabes discernir y actuar serás feliz. No tienes que andar buscando seguranzas en supersticiones ni talismanes, ya Él decidió darte la vida eterna y hacerte feliz. Dios te ama y nos invita a hacerlo igualmente. Mil bendiciones en este nuevo año, deseando todo lo bueno para ti. ¡Feliz Año Nuevo!

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

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)

YOUTH MINISTRY

† **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

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.

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



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

"Dear Lord, as we stand at the beginning of this new year we confess our need of Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future. We each have our hopes and expectations for the year that is ahead of us—but You alone know what it holds for us, and only You can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges. So help us to humbly put our hands into Your hand, and to trust You and to seek Your will for our lives during this coming year.

We pray for our nation and its leaders during these difficult times, and for all those who are seeking to bring peace and justice to our dangerous and troubled world. We pray especially for Your protection on all those who serve in our armed forces, and we thank You for their commitment to defend our freedoms, even at the cost of their own lives. Be with their families also, and assure them of Your love and concern for them. Bring our divided nation together, and give us a greater vision of what You would have us to be. Your Word reminds us that "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12).

As we look back over this past year we thank You for Your goodness to us—far beyond what we have deserved. May we never presume on Your past goodness or forget all Your mercies to us, but may they instead lead us to repentance, and to a new commitment to make You the foundation and center of our lives this year.

And so, our Father, we thank You for the promise and hope of this new year, and we look forward to it with expectancy and faith. This I ask in the name of our Lord and Savior, who by His death and resurrection has given us hope both for this world and the world to come."

Amen

A BLESSED AND HAPPY NEW YEAR 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

Suggested New Year's Resolution

St. Michael's Reader of Sacred Scripture Ministry (formally known as Lectors) needs you. Jesus calls us to service and this ministry is a simple way to fulfill His teachings.

No experience necessary. Anyone from Confirmation candidates to long time parishioners are welcome. We will provide you with a workbook that gives helpful suggestions and you can choose your favorite masses. Please prayerfully consider joining the Reader ministry as one of your New Year Resolutions. Be assured, the spiritual benefits will enrich your faith. Call Valerie Nichols: 973-347-9030 or email at valerie.n@stmichaelnetcong.org

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph December 31, 2017

"They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regards to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: 'Now Master you can let your servant go in peace.'"

How often we have attended a baptism, as parent, godparent, big brother or sister, relative or friend. Some assumed the role of Joseph and Mary, others that of Simeon, or Anna who prayed. Whatever our role, we are called to recognize the special presence of the Christ as they did. Joseph protected, Mary reflected, Simeon prayed and praised. We do too.

Pope Francis in his exhortation 'The Joy of Love' provides a terrific teaching as we bring one year to a close and turn the page to a new year of grace. He says, 'Family prayer is a special way of expressing and strengthening this paschal faith. A few minutes can be found each day to come together before the living God to tell him of our worries, to ask for the needs of our family, to pray for someone experiencing difficulty, to ask for help in showing love, to give thanks for life and for its blessings and to ask Our Lady to protect us beneath her maternal mantle. With a few simple words, this moment of prayer can do immense good for our families.'

As we hear of all the new year's resolutions, may we see this as our priority.

Have a Happy & Blessed New Year!