

The Church of Saint Michael
Sunday, January 7, 2018
The Epiphany of The Lord



Please remember in your prayers those who have died.

Please remember in your prayers the sick of our parish:
Helen Newstead, Louis DiBernard, Maria Spezza

Weekly Memorials
Sacramental Bread & Wine:
For All Deceased Parishioners of St. Michael Church

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 Epiphany of the Lord
Sunday
Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12
Monday
Is 55:1-11 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11
Tuesday
1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday
1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday
1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45
Friday
1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday
1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1; Mk 2:13-17

Mass Intentions for the Week

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

Monday, January 8, 2018
7:00 a.m. Souls In Purgatory

Tuesday, January 9, 2018
8:00 a.m. Ronald Costanzo

Wednesday, January 10, 2018
7:00 a.m. Arthur Peters

Thursday, January 11, 2018
8:00 a.m. Eleanor Ballanco

Friday, January 12, 2018
7:00 a.m. For All Parishioners of St. Michael Church

Saturday, January 13, 2018
8:00 a.m. For the Unborn
5:00 p.m. John J. Bauer, Angelina Arbolino,
Anthony Arbolino

Sunday, January 14, 2018
7:00 a.m. Ronald Costanzo
8:45 a.m. Veronica Marks
10:30 a.m. Angelina Arbolino
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 Dec 24, 25, 31 and Jan 1
will be available next weekend
To run our parish properly we need \$9,651.
Please consider helping a little bit more if you can.

Faith: “know it, live it, love it”

In our culture today many of us are tempted to think that faith is a personal matter, that is something between myself and God with no relation to another person or the Church. But this is not the faith Jesus established. At the end of Matthew’s Gospel we hear of the Great Commission: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” At the end of every Mass, the Deacon or the Priest sends us forth commissioning us to go and spread the Good News. The churchy word for this is evangelization. We have lapsed into the mindset that it is the responsibility of a certain few, namely those with collars, stoles and habits, but as Pope Francis has stated throughout his Papacy, it is the responsibility of all Catholics, that faith, that Church, that believing in God by its nature is something to be shared. Pope Benedict has stated that this new evangelization, being a disciple and being Church, is about being a missionary; loving one’s faith implies bearing witness to it. Faith is made stronger when it is shared and transmitted with another person; just think of your favorite food or restaurant, we have a desire to share what is good.

The question then remains how we are to share this faith. For 2018 perhaps we can follow three simple tag lines: Faith “know it, live it, love it”. This year the Parish is embarking on a program from Renew International, *Arise: Together in Christ*, that will help us enter into these three points.

Know it: The Church has existed for over two thousand years and there are many things that we don’t know about it (prayers, traditions, liturgies etc.). But more importantly, we can’t share what we don’t have. Our first step, whether it is in a faith sharing group (*Arise*) or not, is to ask questions, we should have questions. One of the gifts of our modern age is information technology that gives us access to a wealth of information. Our tradition tells us that it is appropriate to ask questions and to struggle and it is even held up for us in Scriptures with doubting Thomas. With his doubt he eventually responds “my Lord and my God” and gets it. Sometimes it is healthy thing to say “why does the Church teach that? It doesn’t match up with my lived experience.” Let us figure it out together. Perhaps there will be someone in the small group that has struggled with the same question. The tendency we have is to say that I will start sharing when I graduate (in terms of knowing enough) but we must

admit that we will never get there. There is not a single human being outside of Jesus who knows the totality of the faith, so let’s discover it together.

Live it: Faith is meant to be lived. So how do you live it? Go to Mass? Faith comes alive when we participate in Mass (notice not go to Mass). It’s not what I get out of Mass but how much are we going to invest now and let it grow. Being involved and sharing your gifts is living the faith; it has nothing to do with how much theological knowledge we have. A person who bakes exceptional cookies can participate and live the faith. Jesus gathered people together in groups to live the faith, he didn’t individually go up to people and ask how they were doing. He walked along and said “follow me”, gathering them into groups. So let’s do this together in small groups. The reality is this we need one another especially on those days when we want to give up. Living your faith means it doesn’t stay in Church, it impacts our lives, our choices and our relationships.

Love it: When you love something it should show, it shouldn’t be kept secret. Joy and faith are contagious. True love is not blind. From experience we know that loving something doesn’t necessarily mean we like it all the time. True love means we see the good as well as the flaws and warts of our community and Church. True love loves the other even if there are things that they don’t particularly like. We might have some experience of it with family. We love family members, whether immediate or extended, even if we don’t agree with what they say. We will support them and be with them even if we don’t like them. In the same way, the Saints are family, the clergy is family, the Pope is family. Through this true love we are called to sacrifice our ego, our desires, our pride for the sake of the other. Once again, we need a community to accomplish this true love.

I would ask everyone to prayerfully consider joining one of the small groups so that we can share the faith. Hopefully next year we can proudly say that we have started to know our faith, live our faith and to love our faith.

*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

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

ACRE Evaluations for Grades 5, 8 and 10

As per the calendar and the letters sent home with
every student this week (Gr. 5, 8, 10) ACRE
Religion Assessment mandated by Bishop
Serratelli will take place as follows:
Grade 5: During regular class sessions 1/28
Grade 8: During regular class session 1/22
Grade 10: During the session 1/21, 1-3 pm (note
time change!!)

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

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)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Religious Education Reminders

Sessions resume:

Gr. 1-6 Sunday Jan. 7

Gr. 8 Mon. Jan. 8

Gr. 7 Mon. Jan. 15

Confirmation Prep: Con I Jan. 14 (church hall);

Con II, Jan. 7 (rectory basement)

- **Con I service forms** due Dec. 31

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

Please arrive at least 15 min. early, in the church



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

time on Jan. 13!

At the back of church there is a basket with
refrigerator magnet 'sheep'—we ask that families
take one and pray for the child listed on the back!

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.

ADORATION

I have risen: I am with you once more. Luke 24:34
Our Lord has indeed risen, and awaits our visit with
Him during Eucharistic Adoration.

*This New Year, if you are searching for ways to
spend more time with Jesus, we are in need for
more Adorers for the following hours:*

ADORATION OPEN HOURS

Friday 1 am
Friday 3 pm
Friday 11 pm Prayer Partner
Saturday 12 am Prayer Partner
Saturday 6 pm
Saturday 7 pm
Saturday 9 pm

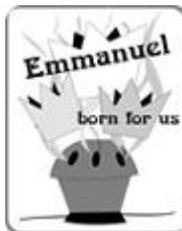
Thank you and God bless you.

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



Live Lent!

***Get ready to really experience Lent with this new
resource from RENEW International. Written by
RENEW's own Sister Terry Rickard, Live Lent! will
help you make the most of this season of
preparation and spiritual renewal.***

- ***Gather weekly in small groups***
- ***Get inspired by the Sunday Gospel readings***
- ***Explore Old Testament insights***
- ***Reflect and pray each day of the week***
- ***Take action in everyday life***

***We have a need for group leaders,
please call the rectory if you are
interested.***

***Training will be provided by Sister
Maureen Colleary.***

For Spanish, please use:

Reflexiones en Cuaresma

***El tiempo de Cuaresma nos invita a la oración,
reflexión y conversión. Ya sea en tu pequeña
comunidad eclesial, con tu familia o
individualmente, este recurso pastoral busca, de
manera concreta, una vivencia plena y
significativa.***

***Este libro contiene seis sesiones y cada sesión
ofrece momentos de oración, reflexión y
preguntas para compartir la fe.***