

The Church of Saint Michael
Sunday, December 9, 2018
 Second Sunday of Advent



Please remember in your prayers those who have died:
 Catherine Togno

Please remember in your prayers the sick of our parish:
 Brian Korgeski, Zachary Glut, Tim Paternostro, Bill Regal,
 Diane Grzymko, Carolyn Sundheim Nystrom, Karlene Yaple,
 Dr. Love, Christine Parker, Marjorie Francomacaro, Barbara
 Poyer, Fred Krause

Weekly Memorials
 Altar Bread & Wine:
 Mechele Dachisen

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

Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday
 Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6
Monday
 Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday
 Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday
 Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab;
 Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Thursday
 Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15
Friday
 Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday
 Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Mass Intentions For The Week

Saturday, December 8, 2018 Immaculate Conception
 8:00 a.m. Andrew Chromey
 12:00 p.m. Ralph Bozza
 5:00 p.m. Louis & Alice Esposito,
 Josephine & Anthony Preziosi

Sunday, December 9, 2018
 7:00 a.m. Richie DiRenzo, Julie Arbolino
 9:30 a.m. Special Intention
 11:30 a.m. Carmella DeSantis
 1:30 p.m. Special Intention

Monday, December 10, 2018
 7:00 a.m. Margaret Chromey, Marie B. Heaney

Tuesday, December 11, 2018
 8:00 a.m. Mike Stabile

Wednesday, December 12, 2018
 7:00 a.m. Pauline Flynn

Thursday, December 13, 2018
 8:00 a.m. Special Intention

Friday, December 14, 2018
 7:00 a.m. Ronald Costanzo

Saturday, December 15, 2018
 8:00 a.m. Special Intention
 5:00 p.m. Michael Dachisen, Sarah Bennett

Sunday, December 16, 2018
 7:00 a.m. Special Intention
 9:30 a.m. Patricia Buckley, Pell & Buckley Families
 11:30 a.m. Carol & Peter Dinkowitz
 1:30 p.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast (Bilingual)

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

Sunday, 12/2/18	\$6,433.00
WeShare Online	\$871.00
Healing Mass	\$108.00
Repair & Renovation	\$2,010.00

*To run our parish properly we need \$9,651.
 Please consider helping a little bit more if you can.*

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

*Our Next Healing Mass is
 Tuesday, January 29th at 7pm*

From Fr. Mike

Every year as we enter into Advent, it appears as though what dominates our time are a month long season of shopping and feasts. There seems to be some general confusion about what the Advent Season really means and why we participate in it. While the focus is on preparation and alertness for the birth of our Lord (Christmas), it is only part of the story. The word "Advent" (meaning "coming") is a translation of the Greek word *Parousia*. During the Fourth and Fifth Centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the Baptism of new Christians at the Feast of the Epiphany (January) which celebrates God's Incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus, his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist, and his first miracle at Cana.

During this season of preparation, Christians would spend forty days in penance, prayer and fasting to prepare for this celebration. At first, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas. However, by the Sixth Century, Christians living in Rome had tied Advent to the coming of Christ. But the "coming" they had in mind was not Christ's first coming in the manger in Bethlehem, but His second coming in the clouds as the judge of the world at the end of time. It was not until the Middle Ages that the season of Advent was plainly linked to Christ's first coming at Christmas.

Today, the season of Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to the celebration of Christmas. At that time, the new Christian year begins with the twelve-day celebration of Christmastide, which lasts from Christmas Eve until Epiphany on January 6th (Advent begins on the Sunday that falls between November 27th and December 3rd). Advent symbolizes the present situation of the Church in these "last days", as God's people wait for the return of Christ in glory. The Church is in a similar situation to Israel at the end of the Old Testament: in exile, waiting and prayerfully hoping for the coming of the Messiah. Israel looked back to God's generous past on their behalf in leading them out of Egypt in the Exodus and once again they called upon God to act for them. In the same way, the Church, during Advent, looks back upon Christ's coming in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ's kingdom when He returns for His people.

It is in this theology, this way of thinking that the Advent hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" is the perfect song to be sung because it represents the Church's cry during the Advent Season. While Israel would have sung the song in expectation of Christ's first coming, the Church now sings the song in commemoration of His birth (Christmas) and also in expectation of His Second

Coming in the future. To balance the two elements of remembrance and anticipation, the first two Sundays in Advent (through December 16th) look forward to Christ's Second Coming and the last two Sundays (December 17th – 24th) look backward to remember Christ's First Coming. Over the course of the four weeks, Scripture Readings move from passages about Christ's return in judgment, to Old Testament passages about the expectation of the coming Messiah, to New Testament passages about the announcements of Christ's arrival by John the Baptist and the angels.

We would do well to reflect on the present violence and evil in our world as we cry out to God to make things right; to "put death's dark shadows to flight." Our exile in the present makes us look forward to our future Exodus. And our own sinfulness and need for grace should lead us to pray for the Holy Spirit to renew within each of us, that true and perfect image of Christ.



St. Michael's Giving Tree

Is here!



The Giving Tree will be located in the back of the church and the ornament tags will be available. We are asking that you return the wrapped gift with the ornament tag by December 15/16th
God Bless your generosity.

Adoration Chapel Notice for Christmas

The Chapel will close at 5pm on
Monday, Christmas Eve
and it will reopen at 9pm
on Tuesday, Christmas Day

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Gr. 1-6: meet 12/9 and 12/16.

Kindergarten: meets 12/16.

No sessions gr. K-6 on 12/23, 12/30.

Sessions resume Sun, 1/6 for Gr. 1-6

Jr. High: Gr. 8 meets 12/10 (mid-year test); Gr. 7 meets 12/17 (mid-year test) 6:30-8:30 pm, church and church hall.

No sessions for Jr. High on 12/24 or 12/31; Sessions resume 1/7 for Gr. 8 and 1/14 for gr. 7

Confirmation Prep

- **Next sessions:** Con. I – 12/9 and Con. II – 12/16, regular time and place
- SIGNED Mass sheets for Dec. due by 12/31. Please use the mailbox outside of the office front door facing Church St.
- **Confirmation I and II:** Service forms for the quarter (Oct., Nov., Dec.) due Dec. 31
- **Service opportunities:** please see the email sent on 12/3 from Faith Formation office or call 973-347-0032, ext. 5 for more information about 2 service opportunities (12/15 and 12/23).

Children's Choir:

- We will have practice on 12/9 and 12/16 11:30 am-12 pm
- **Choir will sing at these masses in Dec.:** 12/9 at 9:30 am and 12/24 at 5 pm.

What Is BEST ADVENT EVER?

From Dynamic Catholic

It's a free email program that will help you slow down and focus on what matters most during this busy season. You'll experience Advent in a whole new way—leading to the best Christmas of your life!

To sign up, visit

BestAdventEver.com/Christmas18

Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast

Would you like to donate towards

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe?

Please bring your donations to the parish office.

Thank you for your generosity.

HELP THE FOOD PANTRY!

The Food Pantry is in need of the following items for our Christmas Food Drive: toilet tissue, toiletries (soap, shampoo and deodorant), boxed stuffing, cranberry sauce, gravy, canned fruit and cereal. Please leave your donations in the bin outside the rectory garage. Thank you, as always, for your generosity!

Youth Ministry

† Christmas Mass Procession †

December 24th @ 10:00pm Mass

December 25th @ 9:30am Mass

We need 1 Mary, 1 Joseph, and 2 angels per Mass to process down with baby Jesus

Please contact Sarah if interested!

Costumes provided

† **MARCH FOR LIFE** †

Thursday January 17th-Friday January 18th

Stand for those who cannot stand for themselves

Counts as an excused absence from school if you have discussed with your teachers prior to the trip about rescheduling necessary quarterlies, midterms, or homework

\$100 deposit due by December 20th with

permission slip

Only 9 spots available

First come first serve

† **Youth Ministry Meetings** †

Every Sunday unless posted

12:30-1:30pm in the school

All permission slips/registration forms can be found online
Calendar for other events and service opportunities can be found on the parish website at stmichaelnetcong.org/youth-ministry

Knights of Columbus March For Life Bus Trip January 18, 2018

The bus will leave from St. Michael's upper parking lot at 6:15 am. We will return around 11:00 pm that evening. We will march with thousands of others to peacefully protest the Roe V Wade decision that legalized abortion in America.

The cost of the trip is free to all and is sponsored by

The Knights of Columbus Council 3665 Netcong.

To reserve your seat and for more information call

John Hand @ 973-670-7457.

ADORATION

Jesus wants you to do more than
to go to Mass on Sunday.

"Our communal worship at Mass must go together with our personal worship of Jesus in Eucharistic adoration in order that our love may be complete." (St John Paul II)

OPEN HOURS

Monday 5am. Tuesday 6am, 3pm, 11pm, Wednesday 6am, Friday 1pm, Saturday 4am, 5am, 11am, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm, Sunday 12am. Please prayerfully consider filling an open hour. If you cannot make your hour – please find coverage or call your division leader. Thank you!

Marie Francisco 732-895-7972

Andrea Trapper 973-347-7031

