

The Church of Saint Michael  
December 22, 2019  
Fourth Sunday of Advent



Please remember in your prayers those who have died:  
Josephine Vaia

Please remember in your prayers the sick of our parish:  
Tim Paternostro, Abigail Paternostro, Bill Regal,  
Diane Grzymko, Zach Glut, Catherine Lackey, Maggie  
Michaud, Diana Palumbo, Keith Pasquariello, Nancy  
Regal, Carmella Susco, George Ellis, Mari Grohowski,  
Danny Mannetti, Jean Rattner

Weekly Memorial

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

All are Welcome... All are Invited...  
Come... PRAY the ROSARY  
Monday though Saturday  
7:30AM

Readings for the week

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday

Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

Monday

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday

Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Friday

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

Saturday

1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, December 21, 2019

- 8:00 a.m. Necelia Polianchik, RoseMarie DiRupo,  
Sprague Shope  
5:00 p.m. Eleanor Sylvester, Patricia Buckley &  
Buckley & Pell Family

Sunday, December 22, 2019 Fourth Sunday  
of Advent

- 7:00 a.m. Thomasina Grogan  
9:30 a.m. Gus & Josephine Rampone  
11:30 a.m. Alfred & Carmella Esposito  
1:30 p.m. Special Intention

Monday, December 23, 2019

- 7:00 a.m. For All Parishioners

Tuesday, December 24, 2019 Christmas Eve

- 8:00 a.m. Fred & Grace Grogan &  
Deceased Family Members  
5:00 p.m. Elwin & Mary Burd, John & Gloria Bauer  
10:00 p.m. Adeline & Joseph Bencivenga,  
Samuel D. Palumbo Jr.

Wednesday, December 25, 2019 Christmas Day

- 7:00 a.m. Rea Family, Louis Castaldi  
9:30 a.m. For All Deceased Family Members  
11:30 a.m. Grace, Albert & Ronald Costanzo  
1:30 p.m. Spanish Mass Intentions

Thursday, December 26, 2019

- 9:00 a.m. Chester Guzik

Friday, December 27, 2019

- 7:00 a.m. Carol Fenton

Saturday, December 28, 2019

- 8:00 a.m. Special Intention  
5:00 p.m. Angie Guerra, Anthony Bove

Sunday, December 29, 2019 The Holy Family

- 7:00 a.m. Special Intention Jonathan Beaubien,  
Patricia Short  
9:30 a.m. Intentions of Aziz Family, Joan Hoffman  
11:30 a.m. Special Intention  
1:30 p.m. Aurelinda Custodio

TITHING – GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

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

Sunday 12/15/19	\$6,679.00
WeShare	\$1,141.00

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# *Christmas Message 2019*

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## Christmas at Greccio

Someone to love, someone to care for. It was that thought which gripped the heart of St. Francis of Assisi at Greccio that Christmas as he had decided to celebrate the Birth of Jesus in a new way. He had brought a real ox and ass to the altar so they, too, could share in this rebirth of Christmas in the bread and wine of the Christmas Eucharist.

At Christmas it was the infant Christ who was born again in human hearts, and it struck Francis that God came to earth as a baby so that we would have someone to care for. Christmas was the dearest of feasts because it meant that God was now one of us. Flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone, this child we could approach without fear. We could be silly and uninhibited as we sought to make Him laugh. We could be totally ourselves because a child accepts us just as we are and screams with delight at our little performances on his behalf.

Someone to care for, someone to try and please, someone to love. God, a helpless babe: God, a piece of Bread. How much trust God had in creatures! In the Eucharist and in the Nativity, we grow up, because God places himself in our care. We come out of ourselves if we are aware, because we now have responsibilities for God. Not only the earth to till and creation to subdue, but now God to care for.

And so strong was Francis' desire to love, that at that Christmas Mass at Greccio the babe of Bethlehem appeared to him alive and smiling on the cold rock. And he took the babe into his arms and held it to his heart, and the child was warm and soft. Francis' virginity was made fruitful in this child he held to his breast. He had no child but Jesus Himself. His Lord had reversed roles for him and for all who need someone to love, someone to care for.

The peasants at that Mass had witnessed Francis' fatherhood, and the child became theirs as well. They had brought torches for their midnight journey from the village on the hill opposite the brothers' hermitage. But they did not need them for the journey home that night, so brightly did their own hearts burn that God had truly been enfleshed in the baby at the altar. Francis was so happy for them. The simple folk of Greccio were like children themselves, and God had once again been revealed to little ones.

Someone to love. That was Greccio, that was Christmas. He prayed for all the lonely people of the world that they would understand what God's enfleshment meant to them personally. God was like us now in everything but sin. And He let Himself be touched and handled by everyone who would come to Him.

Someone to care for, someone to touch. That was Greccio, that was God become a man. Francis left Greccio that year with a new heart, for the brothers would keep alive the custom of celebrating Christmas in that fashion.

The people of Greccio would spread the word to the next village and from there it would cover the whole of Italy, maybe the world. Someday, perhaps, all people could look into the altar crèche at Christmas and know they had someone special to love, someone divine to care for. And they would begin to love anew.



Merry Christmas!!!

May the Lord's nativity bring joy and peace in our hearts and may we always remember the reason for our celebration. The Lord has come and we are saved. Let us not stop from growing in our faith and allowing its fruits to manifest in the lives that we are all living. The Lord came so that we can be with Him and experience the love and peace that was promised. Let us express to all the world the joy that we have in our hearts because of the salvation that has been given to us.

Like the shepherds who were the first messengers of the Lord's birth, let us be persevering in witnessing to others the love that God has for us – let us be messengers as well telling others through our words and actions about the Kingdom of Heaven that Jesus Christ offers.

May the heart of Jesus truly live in all our hearts so that we may be messengers of his love and salvation to all the people that we meet all the days of our lives.

*Fr. Mike Lee*

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

*No Healing Mass in December*

### St. Michael's Giving Tree



Thank you for all your kindness  
and generosity!

### ADORATION CHAPEL

"At Adoration, people will come to know the peace and joy of a true relationship with Jesus, a greater understanding of their purpose in life and how much Jesus unconditionally loves them every minute of every day."

**Merry Christmas to all!**

Open Hours-Sunday 11pm, Monday 12am & 1am

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

### ADORATION NOTICE

The Adoration Chapel will close at 3pm on  
Tuesday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve  
and will reopen after the  
9am Mass on Thursday, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>

### March For Life

#### Knights of Columbus Bus Trip

January 24<sup>th</sup> is the annual bus trip to Washington DC. Anyone interested can call John Hand at 973-670-7457. The trip to the March For Life is sponsored by St. Michael's Knights of Columbus Council #3665.

There is no charge to participate. Seats are limited. First come first serve. Leaving at 6:00 am from St Michael's school parking lot and returning around 10:00 pm. Let's take a stand against Roe v Wade together.

## Faith Formation News



Santa Breakfast for children: 12/22 after the 9:30 am mass, (until 12 pm) church hall. Santa will be there after the 1:30 mass too! All are welcome! (children are free; free will offering for adults)

- **No sessions gr. K-6 on 12/29 or for gr. 7-8 on 12/30.**

Sessions resume:

- Sun., 1/5 for Gr. 1-6
- Sun., 1/12 for Gr. K
- Mon., 1/6 for Gr. 8
- Mon., 1/13 for Gr. 7

### Confirmation I and II:

- Service for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter (4 hrs. over the course of Sept-Dec) *and* signed Mass sheets for December due Dec. 31. Please use the mailbox outside of the office front door facing Church St.

### First Reconciliation

Sat., January 18, 2020 in the Church

**9:30 am, The classes of Tina DeLuca, Sierra Lopez and Lucia Pintos**



## YOUTH MINISTRY

Yankee Candle order is in!  
Please pick up in the parish office.

Jan 24

March For Life Sign ups  
(overnight trip – Jan. 23-24)

Feb. 13

Jason Evert – 7-9pm, St. Paul Inside the Wall

### Youth Ministry Meetings

Mondays at 7:00pm in Youth Ministry mtg. room  
All permission slips/registration forms can be found online. Calendar for other events can be found on the parish website at [stmichaelnetcong.org/youth-ministry](http://stmichaelnetcong.org/youth-ministry). If you have questions, please email Nicole at [youth.ministry@stmichaelnetcong.org](mailto:youth.ministry@stmichaelnetcong.org)

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**



## Saint Michael Outreach Pantry

Our distribution of food to the needy for Christmas is fast approaching and we need the following items to complete our food bags: men's and women's deodorant, toilet tissue, canned fruit and spaghetti. Please leave ONLY your NON-PERISHABLE donations in the bin outside the rectory garage. ANY FROZEN OR REFRIGERATED FOODS LEFT IN THE BIN WILL HAVE TO BE DISCARDED FOR HEALTH REASONS. Thank you for your generosity. Merry Christmas to all!!

**FREE**



**ZUMBA**

Saturdays from 10 to 11am

Also Wednesdays at 7pm in the Parish Gym

¡Clases de Zumba Gratis en el Gym de la parroquia!!!!

Sábados de 10:00 AM a 11:00 AM Y

Miercoles a las 7:00 PM

## *The Legend of the Candy Cane*

*Look at the candy cane.  
What do you see?  
Stripes that are red like  
the blood shed for me.  
White is for my Savior  
who's sinless and pure.  
"J" is for Jesus, my Lord,  
that's for sure!  
Turn it around and  
a staff you will see.  
Jesus, my sheperd,  
was born for me!*

*author unknown*



## Our Lady of Guadalupe



From Fr. Henry

## CUARTO DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO



En este cuarto domingo de adviento, en el cual encendemos la última vela de color morado en nuestra corona de adviento, la liturgia nos invita a reflexionar en el anuncio de la llegada de Nuestro Señor. Hoy, una persona especial ocupa nuestra atención, una mujer joven y hermosa llamada María, casi desconocida para la mayoría de los judíos. Dios, sin embargo, la eligió para ser la madre de su Hijo, Jesucristo.

Al igual que nuestra Santísima Madre la Virgen María, estamos dispuestos a tener como único propósito en la vida hacer la voluntad del Señor, y meditar en nuestro corazón el misterio del nacimiento de Cristo. ¿He cumplido los compromisos que me propuse? ¿Cómo hemos cumplido esos compromisos que nos hemos propuesto anteriormente? ¿En qué he tenido éxito, en qué he fallado? ¿Estoy dispuesto a cumplir y ser fiel al igual que María lo fue en su vida? Se acerca la gran fiesta de Navidad, la fiesta del nacimiento de nuestro Señor Jesucristo en Belén y en cada uno de nuestros corazones, dando gracias a Dios que una vez más nos reúne en esta celebración eucarística y en torno a esta corona. Y pidamos que la presencia de la Santísima Virgen María nos ayude a dar ese último esfuerzo para estar listos y recibirte. Permítenos acompañarla durante estos últimos días en su camino a Belén para recibirte en nuestras vidas.

*Padre Henry*

## Novena de Navidad 2019

Todos están invitados a hacer parte de la Novena de Navidad la cual se realizará en 8 casas de familia diferentes. A continuación, encontrarán el día, Nombre del Anfitrión de la noche, Teléfono y dirección.

Dic. 16: Magda Campson. /Tel. 570-807-3851 / Direc: 165 Main St, Hackettstown, NJ 07840

Dic. 17: Maria F. Naranjo/ Tel. 347-905-3606 / Direc: 100 College View Dr. Hackettstown, NJ.

Dic. 18: Narcisca Fonseca/ Tel. 973-945-9114/ Direc. 8 Young Dr. Stanhope, NJ 07874

Dic 19: Adriana Arias/ Tel. 862-258-5047/ Direc: 18 Gallagher Lane, Wharton NJ. 07885

Dic. 20: Rubi Naranjo / Tel. 973-978-4375/ Direc: 6 Orchard St. Budd Lake, NJ 07828

Dic. 21: Larissa Puanos/ Tel. 862-754-9776/ Direc: 12 New St. Stanhope, NJ. 07874

Dic. 22: Luzma Naranjo/ Tel. 973-796-4478/ Direc: 6 Orchard St. Budd Lake, NJ 07828

Dic. 23: St. Michael church Hall. 4 Church St, Netcong NJ. 07857

EL DIA 24 CADA FAMILIA REZA LA NOVENA  
EN SUS HOGARES Y EN FAMILIA

*Gracias a todas estas familias que  
generosamente abrirán las puertas de  
sus casas a esta bonita tradición!!*

*Merry Christmas  
from we who serve you~  
Deacon Joe, Deacon Stu,  
Deacon Rich, Annemarie Bias,  
Bob Flynn, Debbie Rogalo,  
Jodi Suralik, Nicole Bias,  
Lucille Tognio, Betty Pinsonault,  
John Kinyon, Donna Bauer,  
Tomasz Gorski, Katie Kreil,  
Valerie Nichols*