

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

80 FARNUM PIKE, GEORGIAVILLE, RHODE ISLAND



Mass Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 PM - Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 AM - Mon-Wed: 7:00 AM
Holy Days: As announced in bulletin

PASTOR: Rev. Richard A. Valentine

PASTORAL ASSISTANT:

William A. Bowden, ext. 4

PARISH SECRETARY:

Donna M. Capalbo, ext. 0

RELIGIOUS FORMATION DIRECTOR:

Wendy A. Carrier, ext. 3

PARISH OFFICE:..... 231-5119

RELIGIOUS FORMATION:.....231-1340

OFFICE FAXNUMBER:..... 231-0523

HOURS: Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

WEB SITE: www.stmichaelsmithfield.org

EMAIL: stmikesgeo@gmail.com

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: Parents should contact the Pastoral Assistant, ext. 4, at least four months before the birth of their baby to discuss baptismal plans.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturdays from 4:00 to 4:30 or by appointment with the priest.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY: Couples should contact the parish priest at least one year in advance. Be sure you have a confirmed date at the church before making any other arrangements.

COMMUNION TO THE SICK: Eucharistic Ministers are available to bring communion to the homebound. Please call the Pastoral Assistant, ext. 4.

PARISH PRAYER LINE: If anyone wishes to request a special intention, please call Avis at 233-0225. All requests will remain confidential.



You are at the eye doctor and it's time for the peripheral vision test. You know the one. It's where you put your head up to a contraption and have to click a switch every time you see a squiggly line. If you don't concentrate and maintain optimal focus, you will miss them and skew the outcome of the test. You can easily find yourself with a diagnosis that really isn't accurate! Concentration and focus are key to succeeding with this evaluation. They are also key

to developing a healthy, vibrant spiritual life. If we do not bring our full consciousness to the task, concentrate with all our might, be watchful and vigilant, we are not going to see God's loving presence flashing before our eyes!

That's why we need Advent. Let's face it. We can easily get distracted, focus on nonessential and superficial things and lose touch with what really matters. Our attentions wander. We daydream and even become a bit overwhelmed and tired. All of the stresses and demands of life consume us and we find ourselves constantly trying to play catch up rather than relishing the moment of the now. "Now" moments are so fleeting. They flash before us like those squiggly lines on a screen. Present moments go as quickly as they come but it is important to discover them and rest in them as often as we can. Though gone in a flash, these now moments of encounter with God teach powerful lessons and offer a grounding in truth that can be found nowhere else. It's the grace of Advent to become watchful and attentive because we are never sure when God will surprise us.

God loves surprises and love thrives on them! God's now moments of surprises come as tender instants of intimate connection where I find profound peace, experience joy, and rest in love. These are Advent times reflective of the now moments when Christ first was born, when God surprises us during every time we care to watch and when the great surprise of Christ's second coming dawns upon us all. But, to discover the grandeur and experience the awe of these now times, we have to be ready. We have to want to be there. We have to believe. And, we have to have the desire to soak in as much as we can in the time we have before us.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK



Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37
 Monday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22
 Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24
 Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37
 Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27
 Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31
 Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Catholics continue to be dispensed from Sunday Mass and Holy Day Masses.

As a reminder, Bishop Tobin continues to dispense Catholics in the Diocese of Providence from the obligation to attend Sunday Masses and other Holy Days of Obligation, which includes the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (December 8) and the Nativity of the Lord. Thus, nothing should disturb the consciences of those Catholics who choose to remain at home until further notice.

WE CONTINUE TO STREAM MASS ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:00 AM on our YouTube Page

Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You in Holy Communion, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and I unite myself completely to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



Thank you for your past generosity! Now, Christmas food baskets are being prepared. The following items are needed to complete the baskets: **canned fruit, coffee, and sugar.** We cannot accept turkeys or hams, but **gift cards to Stop and Shop** will help us complete the holiday baskets nicely. Thank you.

Parish Prayer Line is available for anyone who wishes to request a special intention: 233-0225 All requests will remain confidential.



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 28, 2020

5:00 PM Claire Trottier
5th Anniversary, By Family

Sunday, November 29, 2020

8:00 AM Marion Hopkins Drummond, 6th Anniversary and Maria Gauvin, By the Drummond Clan

10:30AM Joseph Izzi Jr.
6th Anniversary, By Family

Religious Formation

401-231-1340, Ext 3
EMAIL: faithformation80@aol.com

Happy 1st week of Advent!



Please continue working at home and following the lesson guidelines you were given so children are not behind in their learning. If you have any questions feel free to contact Wendy, 231-1340, or faithformation80@aol.com

Advent Wreath

Question:
What's the story behind the Advent wreath?

Answer:
Each season in the liturgical calendar comes with its own local and regional rituals. During the Advent season, wreaths adorn church sanctuaries and family dining room tables. You may have said Advent wreath prayers in childhood or taken a turn lighting the candles. The Advent wreath is full of symbolism about Christ and his coming at Christmas. The wreath is made of evergreen boughs, reminding us that the life of grace doesn't falter with the changing seasons. It always remains fresh and new. Similarly, a circular wreath reminds us of the eternal, never-ending nature of God's love.

Candles remind us that Christ is the light of the world, the One who "shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." We use four candles to represent each week of Advent. Traditionally they come in the liturgical colors of the season. Purple has historically represented penance and sacrifice. We see the same color for the season of Lent. On the third Sunday of Advent, however, we light a rose color. The priest will wear rose vestments at Mass. This is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin. On the third Sunday of Advent, we're roughly halfway through the season. The Church chooses the midpoint to remind us to celebrate in the midst of our anticipation! Whatever the color and whatever the day, the Advent wreath is a beautiful practice to focus our attention on Christ's coming at Christmas.



ST. MICHAEL'S FOOD CLOSET

The Food Closet will be open for our active members on Saturday, December 5th from 11AM-12PM.

The following items are needed: canned vegetables, ketchup, tuna, mayonnaise, sugar, coffee, canned fruit, **juice**, hamburger helper, canned milk, **toilet paper**, napkins, and paper towels.

Donations can be made on weekends during mass time or if you have a large amount, please bring your donations to the rectory, Monday-Thursday from 9 AM- 4 PM Thank You!

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

- Are you Catholic but you never received all the sacraments of initiation? (Baptism, Eucharist, or Confirmation)
- Have you been away from the church, and have now returned but want to know more?

We would like to help you in your Faith Journey! Please call Bill Bowden, our Pastoral Assistant at 231-5120, x 4 or email bbowdstmikes@cox.net with any questions or for more details.

In the Unexpected

"What could happen next?" How many times have you asked yourself that question in the past year? Though we most often use that expression when things don't seem to be going our way, this year it has been an expression of the constant changes to our world which the COVID-19 pandemic has wrought. But we might use the same expression to explain our feelings of being overwhelmed by blessings and good things, when the stars seem to align just right.

No matter what, we can say with certainty that tomorrow will not go exactly as we envisioned. Our lives are influenced by so many factors and the world around us is increasingly complex. Rather than be surprised by the unexpected, maybe we should expect the unexpected.

Living in this manner causes us to cherish more deeply the gifts we have been given. It helps us to live in the present and become mindful of those around us. Our relationships deepen. Our sense of responsibility builds. Our stewardship way of life finds new meaning and purpose.

This Advent will not be the same experience as last Advent. It remains to be seen what the coming days and weeks have in store for each of us. However, no matter what happens, Jesus Christ is there to welcome us to the unexpected. He will celebrate with us in joy and he will even feel our pain. You can count on the unexpected, but you can also count on Him to be there with you. He is now and forever, Emmanuel, "God with us." He is the expected in all things unexpected.

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

November 29, 2020

ADVENT SERIES

This Advent prepare your heart through this exploration of the mystery of the Incarnation, the Virgin Birth, and the events surrounding the arrival of Jesus Christ.



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