

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.



Did you ever stop and realize that there is no earthly gain that can ever really satisfy us? Think of winning the Lotto. On this side of the winning ticket, it's all about the money, the new car, house, vacations, bank accounts, and infinite pleasures. The possibility of acquiring all of these earthly securities brings us back again and again to the purchase of a ticket. Then, one day we win! Our dreams are fulfilled, and happiness is on the horizon. Then one day, we wake up and realize that

nothing has really changed, and I am not as satisfied as I thought I was or would be. I find myself living in my incompleteness and with my profound sorrow and grief. I did not find joy.

Glimpses of joy are possible but not by material means. They are brought to us through incredible experiences of connection that bring us face to face with real and authentic faith, hope, and love. And, they are glimpses and do not last. The moment we find ourselves looking back at them, they are gone, and we find ourselves remembering the moment in memory. To carry joy within us is to realize that it is not something I create, manufacture or even acquire. It is not able to be purchased. It is a gift. My need for joy mirrors my need for eternity, for a Creator who has a claim on the very essence of who I am and desires a home within me. As C. S. Lewis discovered, joy is a surprise that speaks to my very soul and is given as gift by the God who loves me.

The beauty of Advent is found in discovering the beauty of the gift of joy. God has visited his people for no other reason than to show them where and how to find joy! All of our human and earthly joy experiences are always only glimpses. They never satisfy us, sustain us or fulfill us. It is only God who is the joy of my soul. Real, Divine experiences of joy catch us off guard, make us stop and become aware, bring a feeling of awe and rightness and have an eternal Otherness about them. Nothing created by humans can ever come close to this. We probably will not fully realize the truth of all of this until we actually meet God face to face in heaven one day. Then, in that sacred moment when our hearts leap for joy we will understand what we have been tirelessly searching for all along. Intense gratitude will most surely follow.



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 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 10:30 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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 12, 2020

5:00 PM

Fredrick Bardell

Remembrance, By Family

Sunday, December 13, 2020

8:00 AM

Anthony and Jean Cassetta

Remembrance, By Family

10:30AM

Chiarina Ciotola

1st Anniversary, By Her Children



THIS WEEK'S READINGS



Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
 Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27
 Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32
 Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23
 Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17
 Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25
 Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-2

Religious Formation

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

Happy 3rd 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

All Day Confessions

Think about God's mercy waiting for you...and consider going to Confession on: **Saturday, December 19, 2020 AT SAINT PHILIP CHURCH IN GREENVILLE** Confessions will be held from 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM. Please sign up on their website <https://saintphilip.com/> to reserve your spot.

Keep the Heat On: Help or Be Helped



Bishop Tobin recently kicked off this year's Keep the Heat On heating assistance campaign, a program that helps struggling families with heating assistance who have exhausted all other public and private means to keep their families warm during the Rhode Island winter. Since 2005, your generous support has provided more than \$3.25 million in assistance to more than 14,681 Rhode Island households in need.

If you would like to help local families this winter, please send tax-deductible donations to: Keep the Heat On, One Cathedral Square, Providence, RI 02903 or visit www.heatRI.com to make a secure credit card donation. You may also support Keep the Heat On using Text-To-Give --text **keepheat** to **401-496-9889**.

If you, or someone you know, is in need of assistance, please visit the web site, www.heatRI.com, or call 401/421-7833 for additional information.



ST. MICHAEL'S FOOD CLOSET

Donations to the food closet 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 9am-4pm.

The following items are needed: sugar, cookies and crackers, hamburger helper, **tuna**, canned fruit, jarred tomato sauce, coffee, **juices**, paper towels, napkins, toilet paper and tissues.

THANK YOU!

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Following COVID-19 protocols, mass attendance is limited, and reservations are required

Christmas Eve
Thursday, December 24, 2020
Mass at 5:00 PM

Christmas Day
Friday, December 25, 2020
Mass at 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Mass can be viewed on our YouTube Page on Friday, December 25, 2020 at 10:30 AM



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS CLASSES HAVE STARTED

You can still join in! The reception of the sacraments occur at the Easter Vigil. 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 family life, we learn to trust other people for protection and care. This experience of trust within the family enables children to believe us when we testify about our faith in Jesus. John the Baptist was believed by those who heard him because he helped them to recognize Jesus in their midst. In our family life, we hope and pray that we lead one another to recognize Jesus' presence in our world.

As you gather as a family, recall that during the Advent season we are invited to pay particular attention to the signs of Jesus' presence in our world. Consider some of the signs of Jesus' presence that you have experienced. During Advent, we remember how John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus. Pray together that your family will be led to recognize that Jesus is present among us. Read and pray together the psalm for today's Mass, the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55)

Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children forever.



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