

Saint Michael's Roman Catholic Church

A Tithing Community

765 Co-Op City Boulevard
Bronx, New York 10475-1601
Phone: 718-671-8050
Fax: 718-320-3776
www.saintmichaels-cc.org

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Thursday :
9:30 AM to 4:30PM
Friday
9:30AM-1:30PM

Closed Saturday-Sunday

Parish Staff

Reverend Peter Heasley, S.Th.D.,
Administrator
Reverend Benedict Paul, Ph.D.,
Parochial Vicar
Deacon Thomas Tortorella
Reverend Daniel Sabatos
Sunday Associate
Reverend Akram Javid
Sunday Associate
Reverend Ernest Frimpong
Nursing Home Associate
Brian Freeman, Parish Secretary
Sarah Glassman, Music Director

Mass Schedule

Weekdays: 9:00 AM (Monday -
Friday)

Saturday: 5:00 PM

Sunday: 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM,
(English)

11:30 AM (Spanish)

1:00 PM (English)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Every Saturday: 4:00-4:45 PM

Baptism and Marriage

Scheduled by appointment after
meeting with one of the parish
priests. Please see the parish
website for more details.

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2019



OUR CHRISTIAN LOVE

Our Advent preparation for Christmas gives us, each year, a focused time of reflection on the meaning of our relationship to Christ Jesus in the flesh and for what he is preparing us by his first coming. As you may have noticed, or will, as we proceed through the Sundays of Advent, we hear in the gospel readings of the birth of Christ only on the Fourth Sunday of Advent (Matt 1:18-24). Until then, we hear Isaiah's prophecies regarding a child to be born (Isa 7:10-14 and 11:1-10) interwoven with his prophecies about the future glory of Zion (Isa 2:1-5 and 35:1-6a.10), and the work of Saint John the Baptist in announcing Christ. Just as the days grow darker until right before Christmas, so we as hearers of God's Word tread in prophetic obscurity until the Light is revealed.

Christ is the Light of the world, a reality that we can appreciate better by turning off the artificial lights of our world. I mean this both figuratively and literally. Silence is a gift for the eyes as well as the ears. Anyone who has gone out into the country to see the stars knows how much we are missing from the night sky here in the city. Advent can be a good time to tune out the television and the smart phone for the sake of attuning our eyes to the real darkness in which we live and the real Light who is present and at work to this day among us. Just as we give up things for Lent, so Advent is a time of spiritual and physical preparation for the joys to come. Our souls belong to our bodies and vice-versa, and so a little bodily asceticism can benefit our comprehension of Christmas. Our Lord is born for us in the flesh so that, through the virtuous exercise of our bodily lives, we might live forever with him in the Resurrection.

The **schedule for Christmas Mass** is as follows: Christmas Eve at 5:00pm, Midnight Mass at 12:00am, with caroling beginning at 11:30pm, and Christmas Mass during the day at 8:30am and 10:00am.

Sarah Glassman would like to put together a little **performance by our children** for the Midnight Mass – please see her if you are interested.

Please pray for **Bishops-Elect Gerardo Colacicco** and **Edmund Whalen**, to be ordained this coming Tuesday at Saint Patrick's Cathedral.

Because December 8 falls on a Sunday this year, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to Monday, December 9. Because of this, it is **not** a holy day of obligation this year.

Please take advantage of **Reconciliation Monday – December 16**. From 4-8pm all parishes, including Saint Michael's, will be offering confessions in preparation for Christmas.

Fr. Peter

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Michael the Archangel Church is a multi-cultural Roman Catholic community seeking to live the faith honestly with courage, warmth, trust, love and hope. We are united together in fellowship as a family. The guiding spirit of Christ enables us to serve the needs of others, thereby leading to peace.

BIBLE BULLETIN 9: JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

Rev. Peter A. Heasley, S.Th.D.

Over the past few weeks, we have been moving through the various parts of the Book of Genesis: the Primeval History, with the stories of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah and the Flood, and others; the Abraham Cycle, and the Isaac and Jacob Cycle. None of these stories, or cycles, ends neatly; there is always some overlap, as, in reality, the stories of fathers overlap with those of their sons.

LAW	
Pentateuch	Historical Books
Genesis	Joshua
Exodus	Judges
Leviticus	Ruth
Numbers	I and II Samuel
Deuteronomy	I and II Kings
	I and II Chronicles
	Ezra–Nehemiah

THE BOOK OF GENESIS

Gen 1–11: Primeval History

Gen 12–25: Story of Abraham

Gen 25–36: Isaac and Jacob

GEN 37–50: JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

In the Jacob Cycle, there is a long insertion, the story of Joseph and His Brothers, the other sons of Jacob. The fate of a father has never rested so surely on that of his son, as here Jacob depends on Joseph for survival. The mention of Jacob's passing comes only a few verses before that of Joseph.

The story of Joseph is a long, elegant, and tightly knit story, so much so that scholars think it came out of a later tradition. Indeed, there is much resemblance to the story of Daniel: both are young when they become courtiers of a foreign regime, Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon; both interpret dreams for their kings; both exhibit wisdom in the form of virtue, overcoming temptations; both survive various afflictions, Joseph in a cistern and in prison, Daniel in a lions' den and in a fiery furnace. A key difference emerges from this, in that while Joseph is able to save his people by bringing them down to the foreign land, to Daniel God reveals his ultimate rescue, the resurrection of the dead.

The story of Joseph opens in Genesis 37 with his first two dreams, those of the sheaves in the field and the stars in the sky. Jacob and the other sons interpret these dreams prophetically, however doubtful they are of bowing to Joseph. These dreams become a self-fulfilling prophecy, as their interpretation leads to the very situation in which Joseph's brothers bow to him. They sell him into slavery.

In Genesis 38, we hear of Judah and Tamar, a story that seems to have nothing to do with Joseph. However, we get a glimpse into the character of Judah, and the story contains very similar language to what has preceded. Then, in Genesis 39, we hear a story about Joseph overcoming sexual temptation, unlike his brother Judah. This, however, leads him to prison, where he nevertheless begins his successful run in government.

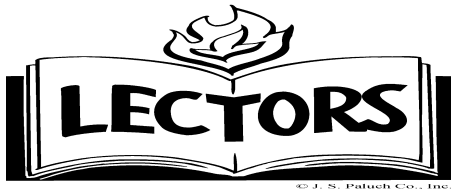
Following this, Joseph interprets pharaoh's dream, and saves the Egyptian people from famine (Gen 40–41). This leads to Jacob's sending his sons down to Egypt for food, a situation of which Joseph takes secret advantage until he cannot control his emotions anymore (in fact, Joseph weeps several times in this story) (Gen 42–46). Finally, Jacob and his sons settle in Goshen. There, Jacob blesses his united family (Gen 49) and, at the mention of Joseph's death, the biblical author assures us that God would lead his people out of Egypt. That, as we will see, is under much different circumstances.

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2019

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 8th Second Sunday of Advent
Monday, December 9th Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tuesday, December 10th International Human Rights Day
Wednesday, December 11th St. Damasus I
(*Christian Meditation Group 1:30pm*)
Thursday, December 12th Our Lady of Guadalupe
Friday, December 13th St. Lucy
Saturday, December 14th St. John of the Cross



Saturday December 14th-15th

(5:00 pm)	Stephen Perry
8:30 am	Stephen Perry
10:00 am	Maria Lorenzana
11:30 am	Rosaura Cruz
1:00 pm	Keith Thomas

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP

Newcomers are always welcome to join the Christian meditation group which meets every Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room. This ancient form of prayer seeks God in silence and stillness without words or thoughts. The meeting includes quiet music, an instructional reading and tape, followed by 25 minutes of silent meditation. Discussion is encouraged. Come and find the teacher within. In the silence of the heart He speaks to us.

THE CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP WILL NOT MEET ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS

December 18th
December 25th
January 1st



Sunday, December 8th

8:30am Frank Santiago
10:00am Thanksgiving Mass Immaculate Conception
11:30am Robert E Zeller
1:00pm Pro-populo

Monday, December 9th

9:00am Rosario Dipasqua

Tuesday, December 10th

9:00am Deacon Michael J Hall

Wednesday, December 11th

9:00am Melanie Medina (Special Intention)

Thursday, December 12th

9:00am Mother of Perpetual Help

Friday, December 13th

9:00am Rossanna Cruz (Special Intention)

Saturday, December 14th

5:00pm Jose Luis Otero

Sunday, December 15th

8:30am Bill Nunn
10:00am Estella Meredith & Priscilla Murphy
11:30am Angel David Vega
1:00pm Marcela Ramirez

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712
Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS, NOVEMBER 24-DECEMBER 1:

Sunday, November 24:	\$4,382
Sunday, December 1:	\$7,609
Campaign for Charity and Justice:	\$606
Christmas Flower Donations:	\$1161
Building Fund:	\$110 (Nov. 24); \$1,007 (Dec. 1)

Thank you for your generosity!