



# 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](http://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.

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2019



### OUR CHRISTIAN LOVE

Traditionally, Advent is a time for reflection on the four last things: death, judgment, heaven, and hell. That may sound morbidly out of place for a time otherwise filled with happy songs, colorful lights, and frantic shopping, but the entrance of our Lord into this world is an invitation to ponder our exit from it with him. With the death of Christ Jesus, which is only possible because he is first born for us, our own death is no longer the last word. The Word made flesh rises from the dead, and calls us, through death, into eternal life. Death is no longer something to fear and, if we follow the martyrs, something to look forward to, as it is only through death that we meet our Lord face to face.

With our death, however, we may prudently fear our judgment. This means not to fear it too little or too much, for while our Lord Jesus has spoken quite seriously about judgment (see Matthew 25), he has also spoken of his mercy. We do have to account for our actions in this life; what we do here affects our ability to see the Lord face to face. If we have turned away from him here, we cannot hope, without his mercy, to turn to him there.

Heaven, then, is the sight of God, what we call the beatific vision. We see the Lord face to face in the company of all those he has saved. This vision is so simple and so powerful that our sinful nature and vicious souls could not bear it without purification. Purgatory is the place for that. This is the happiness for which God has made us, and to which he is calling us by coming among us as man.

Hell is the unfortunate reality of having turned away from God definitively. Actions have consequences, and refusing the Lord's mercy in this life means his refusal of our entry into heaven. There is nothing we can do on earth that the Lord cannot forgive, except our refusing to be forgiven. There is nothing to fear on earth, then, than our own pride. Adoring Christ in his humility and devoting ourselves to our Blessed Mother and the saints is the sure and certain way of preparing to meet the glorious Christ in death and judgment.

The **schedule for Christmas Mass** is as follows: Christmas Eve Mass at 5:00pm – Midnight Mass at 12:00am, with caroling beginning at 11:30pm – and Christmas Day Mass 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.

We are continuing our **toy drive** this year, so please be generous. Drop off on Sunday is in the Meeting Room, or in the office during the week.

Merry 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 10: PREPARATION FOR THE EXODUS (EXODUS 1–12)

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

If the Book of Genesis explains the origins of humanity and of Israel in particular, the Book of Exodus shows why Israel is set apart among humanity. Genesis centers on the covenant with Abraham and his promise of descendants. Exodus centers on the covenant with Moses and his promise of land. Both covenants are ratified by ritual sacrifice and both have a physical sign: the circumcision with Abraham and the stone tablets of the law with Moses. With the Book of Exodus, history becomes more proximate and its telling more precise.

Abraham is a wanderer, and under Moses, the Israelites become wanderers again. Exodus 1–12 tell of the preparations for their journey, their flight from Egypt. We know from the story of Joseph how the Israelites come to settle in Egypt. In Exodus 1, we hear that they have been enslaved. In Exodus 2, we hear of the birth of Moses, his youthful killing of an Egyptian taskmaster, and his flight into Midian, where he marries Jethro's daughter Zipporah. These first chapters are a brief biographical sweep.

At this point, God becomes the principal actor in the narrative. In Exodus 3, God calls Moses. He draws him to himself through a miraculous sign, the burning bush. He reveals his name, Lord, to him. He also reveals that he will work wonders against the Egyptians. In Exodus 4, God responds to Moses' sense of inadequacy by giving him the power to work two signs to show his authenticity, and by giving him Aaron his brother to speak for him. Also in Exodus 4 do we hear the curious story of the Lord threatening to kill Moses for not yet being circumcised – Zipporah saves him.

Moses and Aaron then make their case before Pharaoh. This makes things worse for the Israelites before it makes them better (Ex 5). Moses shows ten plagues, nine of which seem to make little impression on the king (Ex 6–10). It is only when God strikes at Pharaoh's heart by killing his firstborn, and the firstborn son of all the Egyptians, that he lets the Israelites go. This is the event of Passover, described in Exodus 11–12. The Israelites are protected from the angel of death by sprinkling the blood of a lamb on their doorposts and lintels.

The Passover prefigures Christ. He is the lamb, the firstborn son slain to release humanity from slavery to sin. By sharing in his Precious Blood, we are saved from death. That first Passover leads to passing through the Red Sea, as we shall see next time, a watery transition that prefigures our baptism into Christ.

### LAW

Pentateuch	Historical Books
Genesis	Joshua
<b>EXODUS</b>	Judges
Leviticus	Ruth
Numbers	I and II Samuel
Deuteronomy	I and II Kings
	I and II Chronicles
	Ezra–Nehemiah

### THE BOOK OF EXODUS

#### **EXOD 1–12: PREPARATIONS FOR THE JOURNEY**

Exod 13–18: Journey to Sinai

Exod 19–24: Giving the Covenant

Exod 25–40: Preparations for the Dwelling

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2019

## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

**Sunday, December 22nd** Fourth Sunday of Advent  
**Monday, December 23rd** St. John of Kanty; Hanukkah begins  
**Tuesday, December 24th** Vigil of Christmas  
**Wednesday, December 25th** The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) - **Office Closed**  
(Christian Meditation Group 1:30pm) (Cancelled)  
**Thursday, December 26th** St. Stephen; Kwanzaa begins; Boxing Day (Canada)  
**Friday, December 27th** St. John  
**Saturday, December 28th** The Holy Innocents



### Saturday December 28th-29th

**(5:00 pm)** Stephen Perry  
**8:30 am** Antonio Baptiste  
**10:00 am** Maria Lorenzana  
**11:30 am** Nelly Rodriguez  
**1:00 pm** Christina Nevers

### 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**

## **MASSSES** for **the WEEK**

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### Sunday, December 22nd

8:30am Karmely Paulose  
10:00am Benny K Madden  
11:30am Ramon Viera & Teresa Acevedo  
11:30am Rafael C Abreu  
1:00pm Georgina Luciano & Victor Santiago

### Monday, December 23rd

9:00am Rudolph Rosa & Ramos Family

### Tuesday, December 24th

9:00am Vito Pesce

### Wednesday, December 25th

12:00am Maria Violeta & Adolfo Rodriguez & Genara Perez

8:30am Karmely Paulose

10:00am Novena of the masses for Christmas

### Thursday, December 26th

9:00am Sanchez & Montes Family (Novena Mass)

### Friday, December 27th

9:00am Gentles & Burgess Family (Novena Mass)

### Saturday, December 28th

5:00pm Juan Martinez (Novena Mass)

### Sunday, December 29th

8:30am Maddelena Pesce (Novena Mass)

10:00am Eloisa & Gerardo Rodriguez (Novena Mass)

11:30am Berta Araujo (Novena Mass)

1:00pm Martha Salazar Russo (Novena Mass)

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]  
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-5; Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

### WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR DECEMBER 15:

Due to publishing deadlines, this is not yet available.

Thank you for your generosity!