



# Saint Michael's Roman Catholic Church

*A Tithing Community*

765 Co-Op City Boulevard  
Bronx, New York 10475-1601  
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[www.saintmichaels-cc.org](http://www.saintmichaels-cc.org)

### Parish Office Hours

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

### Parish Staff

Reverend Peter Heasley, S.Th.D.,  
Pastor  
Reverend Benedict Paul, Ph.D.,  
Parochial Vicar

Deacon Thomas Tortorella

Reverend Akram Javid  
Reverend Luis Saldaña  
Sunday Associates

Brian Freeman, Parish Secretary  
Sarah Glassman, Music Director

### Mass Schedule

#### **Weekdays (Mon.-Sat.):**

9:00 AM

#### **Saturday Vigil:**

4:00 PM

#### **Sunday:**

8:30 AM

10:00 AM

11:30 AM (Spanish)

1:00 PM

### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday: 5:00-6:00PM  
First Fridays: 9:30-4:30PM

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Every Saturday: 3:00-3:45 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 20 , 2020

Fourth  
SUNDAY  
of  
Advent



December 20, 2020

### OUR CHRISTIAN LOVE

The Christmas schedule is as follows:

#### December 24 (Christmas Eve):

9:00am Daily Mass

4:00pm Vigil Mass

#### December 25 (Christmas Day):

12:00am Midnight Mass

8:30am Christmas Mass at Dawn

10:00am Christmas Mass during the Day

We have changed the missalette we use for Mass, from *The Heritage Missal* to *Breaking Bread*. Since we are still unable to have them in the pews, and we are not yet at our normal capacity, we will do for the English-language Mass-goers what we have been doing for the Spanish Mass, selling the missalettes for \$5. This means that, for the next liturgical year 2020-2021, you keep your own missalette and bring it to Mass with you. *Breaking Bread* has some different hymns, and by bringing yours with you, we'll all be able to sing together. They will be available for sale in the office between Masses on Sunday and during the week.

You may have received, in the mail, an invitation to participate in the **WeShare** giving program. We began using WeShare this past spring, when public liturgies were suspended. Many parishioners have started using WeShare on a weekly basis or to make one-time donations, as you can see in our reporting of the weekly collection in this bulletin. WeShare is simply a way to give to the parish electronically, using the Internet. It is not a separate fundraiser or capital campaign, but takes the place of the paper collection envelopes. Please consider making your weekly tithe or a special donation using WeShare. If you have any questions, simply contact the Parish Office.

**Advent Reconciliation Monday:** On Monday, December 21, every parish in the diocese of New York, Brooklyn, and Rockville Center will offer the Sacrament of Penance, from 4:00-8:00pm. Come and prepare for Christmas through Confession!

Pope Francis has declared the year 2021 the Year of Saint Joseph. Please visit the parish website for a link on how to participate – there is an opportunity for a plenary indulgence! We will have more to come in these pages, as well.

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.*

Advent is a season, traditionally, for meditating upon the Four Last Things: Death, Judgment, Hell, and Heaven. Below are excerpts from a well-known sermon on heaven by the German priest, Fr. Francis Hunolt (+1746).

### **ON THE JOY OF THE ELECT IN THE BEATIFIC VISION**

“While they looked on He was raised up” (Acts 1:9).

If a blessed soul in heaven finds such unspeakable delight in the knowledge and possession of those things that are outside of God, what infinite joy it must experience in God Himself, who has imparted all their wonderful beauty and properties to those things...? If creatures, who are only small drops fallen from the sovereign Good, are so beautiful, sweet, and pleasing, that they make a delightful paradise for the soul, what must not God be, who is the living Source and Origin of all sweetness, all beauty, all delight...? When the disciples saw the glorified humanity of Our Lord on Mount Thabor, they were ravished out of themselves, and became almost senseless through delight. “Lord,” cried out Peter, “it is good for us to be here.” Let us build tabernacles that we may dwell here forever. They thought they were already in heaven. What would have been their feelings if they had got even one glimpse of Our Lord’s divinity?

Yes, my dear brethren, we shall see this God, and possess and enjoy forever this supreme Good. “We shall see Him as He is;” the Godhead in all its entirety shall be present to the eyes of our minds, and we shall see His omnipotence, His wisdom, His glory, His majesty, His infinite perfections, “as He is,” in His own being. And it is in this vision and knowledge that the happiness of the elect principally consists, as St. John says: “Now, this is eternal life: That they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent.”

“We shall see Him as He is.” Ah, Christians! if we only love God here with our whole hearts for a short time we shall behold Him face to face in the kingdom of heaven for all eternity, and that too not in the superficial manner in which we see visible things here on earth. If I look at a fine house I cannot therefore say that it is mine. If I see gold and silver I cannot therefore say with truth: this gold and silver belongs to me. But in heaven the vision of God will be at the same time the full possession of God, so that the moment I shall see God and know Him clearly I shall be able to say with truth: God is mine; the God of infinite beauty belongs to me; the great, immense God is wholly mine, and will be my very own for all eternity... If I look at a prince or a king, I do not therefore become a prince or a king; nor does it make me rich or beautiful to behold one who is rich or beautiful. But the clear vision of God changes a man into God, and as it were transforms him into the beauty and nature of God: “We shall be like to Him.”

O my God! is not that a too great and lavish reward for the little I can do for Thee on earth? To be like Thee for all eternity! Would it not be more than enough for me to have the happiness of being numbered among Thy elect as their companion, and of living forever in Thy own house? Would it not be honor enough for me to wait on Thee at the throne of Thy glory as Thy servant and attendant? Would it not be happiness enough for me to be with Thee always as Thy friend and child? Would it not be joy enough to behold and admire forever the infinite beauty of Thy countenance? Would it not be wealth enough to possess Thee, the supreme Good, as my very own property? No; “I have said: You are gods, and all of you the sons of the Most High...” So shall God say to the elect soul in heaven; now you see Me as I am; all that I am, all that I have shall be yours too; you shall rule and govern as I do; you shall rejoice with the same joy in which My happiness consists; only in the kingly and divine throne will I be above you; that is, I am God of Myself, and in My own nature; you shall be a god by My grace and in My likeness. O happiness of the saints, how great thou art! as great as is the immense, infinite God Himself!

There is nothing on earth sweeter to the hearts of those who love each other than the enjoyment and gratification of their mutual affection; but neither is there anything on earth more bitter or tormenting to the heart than love, because it can never be fully satisfied... Oh, how different it will be with the love of the elect for their God, and of God for His elect! To love always and burn in the fire of love, and always be loved most perfectly by the Person whom one loves; to love always and always have the loved One present; to love always and be always united with the loved One; to love always and always possess with the Beloved all that one can wish for and desire; to love always and be always certain that for all eternity that love will never bring weariness; to love always, and since the Beloved is unchangeable, never to suffer a change in that love, oh, what bliss!



Pray for ...

We pray for mutual understanding in our country and an end to violence.

We pray for our front-line workers during this pandemic: our doctors and nurses, our police officers, EMTs, and firefighters, our teachers and caregivers, our grocery store clerks and restaurant workers, and all exposed to the risk of contracting Covid-19.

We pray for the members of our parish who are living alone, especially Eula Burton.

We pray for the members of our parish serving in the military, especially SFC Lamont Cleare.

We pray for the protection of the unborn, of children, the sick, and the elderly.

We pray for the members of our parish who are homebound, especially Maria Santiago

We pray that the peace of Christ soon fill the earth.



Lectors

Saturday–Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>

- 4:00pm Stephen Perry
- 8:30am Stephen Perry
- 10:00am Maria Lorenzana
- 11:30am Emma Fernandez
- 1:00pm Cedric Hyde

Those who are over 65 or have underlying health conditions are cautioned not to come to Mass.

Once inside, please obey all instruction from the ushers, the priests, and the deacon. Wear a mask. Maintain a six-foot distance. There will be no physical Sign of Peace or Presentation of the Gifts. Communion may be received on the tongue or in the hand, but not on gloves. Singing will be limited, as we have removed the missalettes.

If you cannot walk forward to receive Holy Communion, you must sit in the first row of pews. The priests and deacon will not walk back to you.

**WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR DECEMBER 13:**

Because of seasonal publishing deadlines, this information is not yet available.

Thank you to those who continue to send in their weekly tithe even though they are unable yet to return to Sunday Mass. All of us might consider using WeShare to make our donations online; please visit the parish website for links and information on how to do so.



Mass Intentions for the Week

**Sunday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> : Fourth Sunday of Advent**

- 8:30am: Pro populo
- 10:00am: Vincent Mc Donnell ( Special Intention )
- 11:30am: Angela Puig ( Special Intention )
- 1:00pm: Virtudes Rosario ( Special Intention )

**Monday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>: Winter Begins**

- 9:00am: Virtudes Rosario ( Special Intention )

**Tuesday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>: No saints or special observances**

- 9:00am: Sylvia Alvarez

**Wednesday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>: St. John of Kanty**

- 9:00am: Family of Viera & Acevedo & Rivera

**Thursday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>: The Vigil of Christmas**

- 9:00am: Brian Neill Johnston
- 4:00pm: Pro populo

**Friday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**

- 12:00am: Veronique Ediou
- 8:30am: Joseph & Theresa Saverese
- 10:00am: Karamaly Paulose

**Saturday, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>: St. Stephen; First Day of Kwanzaa**

- 9:00am: Yvonne Blackman ( Special Intention )
- 4:00pm: Benny K. Madden

**Sunday, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

- 8:30am: Juan Martinez
- 10:00am: Karmaly Paulose
- 11:30am: Justino Sanchez
- 1:00pm: Pro populo

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
- Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
- Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
- Thursday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
- Friday: 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]
- Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
- Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

**Sanctuary Lamp**