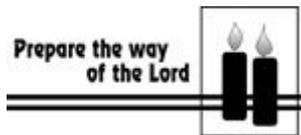


**The Church of Saint Michael**  
**Sunday, December 10, 2017**  
 Second Sunday of Advent



Please remember in your prayers those who have died.

Please remember in your prayers the sick of our parish:

Peter Stchur, Irma Vidal, Tim Paternostro,  
 Bill Regal, Michelle Demeo, Diana Palumbo, Rose DeSantis,  
 Edmond DeSantis Jr., Susan DeSantis, Fr. Leo Carey, Pat Leone,  
 Beth Courter, Bill Hancock, Bruce Hill, Diane Grzymko, Pauline  
 Milone, Chet Verdi Sr., Chet Verdi Jr., Doug Ernst, Deborah  
 Kelly, Marie Simmons, Marjorie Hancock, Jordyn G., Karlene  
 Yaple, Jeanne Rattner, Carolyn Sundheim Nystrom, Mike  
 Loretta, Samantha Weckter, Patrick Devine, Isabelle Exile,  
 Elaine Grogan Fiorello, James Burns, Lisa Deritter,  
 Helen Newstead

Weekly Memorials

Sanctuary Lamp: **Pete & Carol Dinkowitz**  
 Sacramental Bread & Wine: **James & Anna Pucci**

Weekly Devotions

Monday: .....Charismatic Prayer Group 7:00 pm  
 Wednesday: .....Rosary Group 7:30 pm  
 Friday: .....Divine Mercy 3:00 pm  
 Saturday: .....Rosary (after 8 am Mass) 8:30 am

Readings for the week

Second Sunday of Advent

**Sunday**

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

**Monday**

Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26

**Tuesday**

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab; Lk 1:26-38 or

Lk 1:39-47

**Wednesday**

Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30

**Thursday**

Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15

**Friday**

Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19

**Saturday**

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Saturday, December 9, 2017**

8:00 a.m. Special Intention

5:00 p.m. Mark Zeliff

**Sunday, December 10, 2017**

7:00 a.m. Margaret Chromey, Louis & Alice Esposito

8:45 a.m. Veronica Marks

10:30 a.m. Pat Buckley, Buckley Family & Pell Family,  
 Pete & Carol Dinkowitz

12:00 p.m. Sean Clark

1:30 p.m. Teresa Ramirez & Matias Salazar  
 Intentions of Martha Beltran

**Monday, December 11, 2017**

7:00 a.m. Michael Loretto

**Tuesday, December 12, 2017**

8:00 a.m. Pauline Flynn

**Wednesday, December 13, 2017**

7:00 a.m. Leeta Loretto, Michael Foley

**Thursday, December 14, 2017**

8:00 a.m. Special Intention

**Friday, December 15, 2017**

7:00 a.m. Michael Loretto

**Saturday, December 16, 2017**

8:00 a.m. Leeta Loretto

5:00 p.m. Agnes Chافت

**Sunday, December 17, 2017**

7:00 a.m. Richie DiRenzo

8:45 a.m. Special Intention

10:30 a.m. Alfred & Carmella Esposito, Veronica Marks

12:00 p.m. Nicholas Bias

1:30 p.m. Special Intention

TITHING – GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING  
 ST. MICHAEL'S HAS BEEN A TITHING PARISH  
 SINCE 1988.

Sunday 12/3/17                      \$6,506.00

No More 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection        \$170.00

Repair & Renov.                      \$2,285.00

*To run our parish properly we need \$9,651.*

*Please consider helping a little bit more if you can.*

*Please pray for our Diaconate Candidates –  
 Russ Raffay and John Meyer*

**Next Healing Mass**  
**Tuesday, January 30th at 7pm**  
**Rosary/Chaplet at 6:30pm**

The readings for the Second Sunday of Advent remind us that the past, present and future comings of Jesus into the world are the fulfillment of the saving plan of God. Today's scripture readings deal with coming home – Babylonian exiles coming home, *shalom* or perfect peace coming home, our going home with Jesus at his second coming and Jesus, the Savior, coming home into our lives during Advent. All three readings focus on the absolute necessity of our readying ourselves by repentance and reparation for Christ's coming. In the *first reading*, Isaiah assures his people that the Lord will restore their homeland to them and care for them as a shepherd cares for the sheep. Today's *responsorial Psalm* also speaks of the return of *shalom* (perfect peace), and pardon to the people. The *second reading* gives an answer to those who scoff at the expectation of the second coming of Christ, explaining that God's way of reckoning time is different from ours and that God has His own reasons for delaying Christ's second coming. It gives us the assurance that Jesus is sure to come again although we do not know when. Hence, while we wait, we should be leading lives of holiness and godliness. Finally, *the Gospel* tells us that the restoration of the fallen world has already begun, starting with the arrival of John the Baptist, the messenger and forerunner of the Messiah. John speaks of one, more powerful than he – Jesus Christ – who will baptize us with the Holy Spirit. Each of us has received the gift of the Holy Spirit in baptism, and now we live in the Spirit each day, waiting for the return of our Lord. Thus, we become John the Baptist's successors, preparing for Christ's return which will bring a new and perfect world.

In December 1903, after many attempts, the Wright brothers were successful in getting their "flying machine" off the ground. Thrilled, they telegraphed this message to their sister Katherine: "We have actually flown 120 feet. Will be home for Christmas." Katherine hurried to the editor of the local newspaper and showed him the message. He glanced at it and said, "How nice. The boys will be home for Christmas." He totally missed the big news – man had flown! Many of us are thrilled at the gifts, food and festivities of the holiday season, ignoring the fact that Christ's birth is the true reason for this "holiday season," and that these are HOLY DAYS intended to give Jesus a homecoming by bringing him into our hearts and daily lives.

## Our Advent Wreath

For many Christians, Advent wreaths are a favorite way to commemorate the month of December leading up to Christmas Day. The Advent candles (usually three purple or blue and one pink) demonstrate the difference between darkness and light. In the Bible, Christ is referred to as the "Light of the World" while sin is referred to as the darkness of humanity. As His Advent, or "coming," draws nearer another candle is lit, with each candle dispelling the darkness a little more. Therefore, the Advent wreath helps us to spiritually think about salvation history which surrounds the birth of Jesus (God becoming flesh) who comes to redeem the human race.

**SHAPE:** The circular shape of the wreath represents God and His unending and unconditional love for us, which is without beginning or end. It represents a love that sent His Only – Begotten Son into the world to redeem us from sin. It also represents the unending of eternal life which becomes ours through faith in Jesus Christ.

**NUMBER:** The Advent Wreath traditionally holds four candles which are lit, one at a time, on each of the four Sundays of the Advent season (each representing 1,000 years). The four candles represent the 4,000 years that humanity waited for the world's Savior; from Adam and Eve to Jesus. The First Sunday of Advent symbolizes Hope with the "Prophet's Candle" reminding us that Jesus is coming. The Second Sunday of Advent symbolizes Faith with the "Bethlehem Candle" reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. The Third Sunday of Advent symbolizes Joy with the "Shepherd's Candle" reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus. The Fourth Sunday of Advent symbolizes Peace with the "Angel's Candle" reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward All." Some Advent wreath traditions also include a fifth white "Christ" candle, symbolizing the purity of Christ. This candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

**COLOR:** More traditional wreaths use violet or purple colored candles. However, recently, a dark colored blue has been used (which distinguishes this time of year from the purple of Lent). Nonetheless, while this liturgical season is a time of prayer, penance and sacrifice, it differs from Lent with a more joyful tone and theme. Advent is the season where we spiritually wait in our "darkness" with hopeful expectation for our promised redemption, just as the whole world did before Christ's birth and just as the whole world does now, as we eagerly await His promised Second Coming

## YOUTH MINISTRY

† Santa's Helpers Fundraiser on December 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> †  
Drop off gifts on December 15<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup>  
in front of the Church Hall  
Wrapping gifts on the 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am-4:00pm  
Pick up gifts on the 17<sup>th</sup>  
Sign ups available after mass  
† White Elephant Party on December 18<sup>th</sup> †  
Christmas gift exchange and potluck for SMCYM  
Please speak to Jacqueline Schmitt and Rachel Nadeau for  
more information 7:00pm-9:00pm  
† Christmas Assisted Living Festivities on December 23<sup>rd</sup> †  
SMCYM is going to Bentley Commons at Paragon Village  
Please speak to Adam Hernandez and Lizvette Pappaterra  
10:00am-11:00am  
† Christmas Eve Mass 11pm †  
In need of 6 volunteers for mass procession  
Please contact youth minister if interested  
ALL registration forms are available on the parish website  
under Youth Ministry  
For more information, please contact St. Michael's Youth  
Minister, Sarah Cho at  
[youthministry@stmichaelnetcong.org](mailto:youthministry@stmichaelnetcong.org)

Thank you for all the donations for our  
Midnight Run to NY!  
We really appreciate your generosity.

### 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal *In Giving, We Receive*

As you plan to celebrate the joy of the Christmas season by giving gifts to your friends and loved ones, there is one gift that you can give to tens of thousands of people. It does not require ten thousand names tags or ten thousand bows. All that's needed is a completed pledge card to the Bishop's Annual Appeal or an on-line gift at [www.2017appeal.org](http://www.2017appeal.org). Say "Merry Christmas" to so many of your brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Paterson who need some hope and joy in their lives by participating in the Bishop's Annual Appeal today. May God bless you for your generosity!

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

### Religious Education Reminders

#### Calendar

#### Last sessions before Christmas:

- 12/17 for K-6
- 12/11 for Gr. 8 (TEST)
- 12/18 for Gr. 7 (TEST)
- Sessions resume weekend of Jan. 7

#### Children's Choir:

- We will have practice on 12/10 and 12/17 11:15 am-12 pm (if you are going to the 12 pm mass let Mrs. Rogalo know and we can dismiss your child earlier)
- **Choir will sing at these masses in Dec.:** 12/10 at 8:45am and 12/24 at 5 pm.

#### Confirmation Prep

- **Next sessions:**
  - Con I., 12/17, 4-6pm, Msg. Trapasso hall
  - Con. II, 12/10, 8:30-10:30, RECTORY basement
- **Confirmation II:** Service forms are overdue ☹
- **Confirmation I:** Service forms for the first quarter (Oct., Nov., Dec.) due Dec. 31
- **New commitment book procedure:** begins Sunday, 12/24 masses (12/23 at 5:00 pm and going forward)

#### First Reconciliation

Sat., January 13, 2018 in the Church

**9:30 am, The classes of:** Soraya Hernandez and Dee Tardive

**11:30 am,** The class of Tina DeLuca

### **THE FOOD PANTRY THANKS YOU!!**

We would like to thank all of you for your donations to the pantry for Thanksgiving. Due to your kindness and generosity we provided 200 bags of food and 50 turkeys to 63 families. We ask that you put only nonperishable foods in our Pantry bin. To donate turkeys or hams, please call the Rectory Office at 973-347-0032 ext. 2300. As always, God Bless You and thank you in advance for your continued help.



## Christmas Mass Schedule

### December 23 & 24, Regular Masses

**Saturday** 5pm

**Sunday** 7am, 8:45am, 10:30am & Noon English  
1:30pm Spanish

### Christmas Eve, December 24

**Sunday**

5pm English

11pm Bilingual

### Christmas Day, December 25

**Monday**

7:30am, 9:30am & 11:30am English

1:30pm Spanish

Also.....

### Day after Christmas, December 26

**Tuesday**

9am English

### Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, New Year's Day

**January 1, 2018**

**Monday**

9am English

## Bus Trip to Washington DC

### The March For Life

**Friday, January 19**

The bus will leave upper parking lot at 6:30 am  
and return around 10:30 pm.

The cost of the bus trip is free and is  
sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

First come first serve.

Contact John Hand @ 973-670-7457 for more information.

## ADORATION

Can you use an hour of silence with Jesus?

Please come and visit HIM at the

Adoration Chapel

PRAYER and MEDITATION

*"The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with  
joy." Ps. 126*

Dear Lord,

"Through the darkness, I look for your wisdom.

I want my heart to be open to you.

But sometimes in these days, it seems that

so many things come between us.

Help me to be awake and aware

of the radiance you bring to my life.

Help me to be grateful each day

for the blessings of family and friends.

Let me be a peacemaker

in my own life, and in the world.

Let me pray especially for this difficult world

and those who are so in need of an end to violence.

My heart begs for this as my Advent prayer today. AMEN."

## ADORATION OPEN HOURS

Friday 1 am

Friday 11 pm Prayer Partner

Saturday 12 am Prayer Partner

Saturday 6 pm

Saturday 7 pm

Saturday 9 pm

*Thank you and God bless you.*

*Marie Francisco 732-895-7972*

## **Respect Life**



Holy Hour is the third Tuesday of the month at 7pm in church.  
**Please join us at Planned Parenthood in Newton for one hour  
of prayer – First Saturday of each month at 10am. All are  
welcome.**

If you have any questions, please call Andrina at 973-609-4012.  
(Crisis Pregnancy Hotline – 800-848-5683)

## St. Michael's Giving Tree



*Please return  
wrapped gifts with  
tags on them*

***THIS WEEKEND.***

*God Bless your generosity.*