

The Church of Saint Michael
September 13, 2020
Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Please remember in your prayers those who have died.

Please remember in your prayers the sick of our parish:
Drew Taormina, Jeanne Rattner, Nicholas Rafferty,
William Lozano, Thomas Togno, Lorraine Krozser

Weekly Memorial

Bread & Wine:

All Deceased Parishioners of St. Michael Church

Confession Times

Mondays 6:30pm-7pm

Saturdays 4pm-4:30pm

No confession on Holidays

Adoration News

Beginning Monday, September 14th the Chapel will be open Monday through Friday from 10:30 AM (after 10:00am Mass) to 7:00 PM. We will expect the adorers who have those assigned hours to cover their hour.

The following should be adhered to:

- No more than 4 people in the Chapel at one time.
- Masks should be worn.
- There will be no use of the bathroom in the Sacristy.
- The door must remain open at all times, even if the weather is inclement to allow for ventilation.
- Please do not leave any books, rosaries, etc. in the Chapel.
- Hand sanitizer and Lysol spray should be used. Spray is in short supply, so if anyone can find a can, it would be great to leave it in the chest in the Chapel or even on the credenza.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, September 12, 2020

10am Mary Brodo

5pm Pat Buckley

Sunday, September 13, 2020

7am Jimmy LaBell

9:30am Edward Flannery Jr., Joseph Espono

11:30am Special Intention

1:30am Special Intention

Monday, September 14, 2020

10am John & Gloria Bauer, Kathy Butterbrodt

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

10am Sherry Lopez

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

10am Special Intention Albert Verdi

Thursday, September 17, 2020

10am Daniel & Sprague Shope

Friday, September 18, 2020

10am Joseph Togno

Saturday, September 19, 2020

10am Eugene & Regina Trapp

5pm Samuel D. Palumbo Jr.,

Adeline & Joseph Bencivenga

Sunday, September 20, 2020

7am Joseph Togno

9:30am Ronald E. Costanzo, Donald LaBell

11:30am Jennie Loretta LaSalle Davis

1:30am Special Intention

Readings for the week

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday

Sir 27:30—28:7; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

Monday

Nm 21:4b-9; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17

Tuesday

1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

Wednesday

1 Cor 12:31—13:13; Lk 7:31-35

Thursday

1 Cor 15:1-11; Lk 7:36-50

Friday

1 Cor 15:12-20; Lk 8:1-3

Saturday

1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49; Lk 8:4-15

Faith Formation News

Faith Formation Registration

Please see the parish website for details AND to register online: (www.stmichaelnetcong.org/ go to Faith Formation at the top, then Religious Education) OR contact the Faith Formation office (973-347-0032 ext. 2330).

For families who are registering for Faith Formation for the first time:

- Please register with the parish first. Go to the website www.stmichaelnetcong.org, and choose the Census tab at the top.
- After completing the Census, follow the directions listed on the website (see above) above to register your child for Faith Formation.

If you have **any** questions, please email us at faith.formation@stmichaelnetcong.org, or call us at 973-347-0032 ext. 2330

Confirmation Prep: Details of our opening meeting on 9/26 have been emailed to all registered candidates. If you did not receive an email with letter and permission form, please contact the office.

Parent Sessions for New Program

Emails were sent on 9/9 to alert you to this information.

One parent per family should attend. Due to the need for social distancing restrictions, we ask that children NOT attend this session; it is only for adults. Please choose one session; there are separate sessions for families with children preparing for Reconciliation and First Communion this year.

Please consult your email for the time and place of these sessions.

YOUTH MINISTRY

YM online meetings Mondays at 7:30 p.m.
Please contact Nicole to join.
If you have questions, please email Nicole at youth.ministry@stmichaelnetcong.org

Knights of Columbus

Monthly In-Person Meetings resume
second Tuesday of each month, 7:30pm
Msgr Trapasso Hall
Located on the church's lower level
Video Conferencing options available.

For details or interested in becoming a member
please email kofc3665gk@gmail.com

THE FOOD PANTRY IS OPEN!!!

(Fridays 9:30am -2:30pm).

We are in need of donations of any and all
NON-PERISHABLE foods and personal hygiene items.
As always, we thank you for your
generosity and kindness.

Mass Schedule through September

Saturday
5pm in church

Sunday
7am in church
9:30am drive in Mass behind school
11:30am in church and live stream
1:30pm in Spanish in church and live stream
Daily Mass at 10am in church

Confession

Saturdays 4-4:30pm
Mondays 6:30pm-7pm
No confessions on Holidays

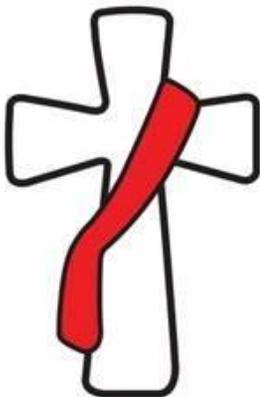
SILVER WEDDING

ANNIVERSARY MASS Couples, were you married in 1995? The Diocese of Paterson invites you to celebrate your 25th wedding anniversary during a special Mass to be offered at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson, NJ. Bishop Sweeny will serve as main celebrant on this joyful occasion to be held: Sunday, November 8th, 2020. **Arrangements can be made by contacting the parish office. The deadline to register is Thursday, October 1st, 2020.** You will receive additional information from the Office of Family Life once your registration has been processed. Congratulations on this joyous occasion!

2020 Diocesan Ministries Appeal

News About the Bishop's Annual Appeal...

The Bishop's Annual Appeal is getting a face lift. (Or more like a "name lift") The name of the Bishop's Annual Appeal has been changed and will now be known as the Diocesan Ministries Appeal. So if you get a letter from Bishop Sweeney in the next week or so asking you to support the Diocesan Ministries Appeal – please know that this is the new name of the Annual Appeal. While the name has changed, the work of the Diocesan Ministries Appeal will continue to focus on the important ministries that it always has and will continue to serve thousands of people throughout our Diocese. Thank you for your support!



From Fr. Mike

On behalf of the parish, I want to thank Deacon Joe for his many faithful years of being a parishioner of Saint Michael Church and for his twenty-seven years of diaconal ministry here in this parish. To the many couples he prepared for marriage, to those couples that he witnessed their wedding vows; to the same couples he prepared for their children's baptisms and baptized them as well; for all those that he has journeyed with in the RCIA; for his presence on the altar, his preaching, his presence at wake services and burials, both in our parish and throughout the diocese and for his ministry in the hospital as well, I am truly grateful for his dedication and service to the Lord and this local church.

From Deacon Joe

After 50 years as a parishioner of St. Michael Parish, 27 of them as a deacon, it is now time for me to retire from the active diaconal ministry. In accordance with Diocesan regulations I had submitted my retirement request to Bishop Serratelli last October at the age of 75 but requested an extension to the time when we would have two new deacons ordained from our parish. That time has now come. These years as a deacon have been personally rewarding for me, but more importantly, I hope that my service to you parishioners has borne fruit and that I leave the active ministry having, in some way, helped to make this parish grow in faith and to grow as a community. I fully appreciate the support and encouragement that I have received from all of you and from the priests, deacons and staff who have served here during these years. I will still, of course, continue to be an active member of the parish and will, from time to time, be serving in some diaconal capacity such as an occasional Sunday Liturgy, funerals and wakes. I would be more than happy to make hospital and nursing home visits as well as home visitations and to bring Communion to the sick and homebound. Just call and I will come. I will continue to keep our parish in my prayers and I ask that you remember me now and then in yours. That is how we can continue to support each other.

Thank you Deacon Joe

Deacon Joe,

Congratulations on your retirement. It has been a privilege serving with you these past twenty-seven years and as your classmate in diaconate formation the prior four years. You have been an inspiration, always ready to serve where needed whether it is leading the RCIA program, witnessing weddings, assisting on the altar during Sunday and weekday liturgy as well as funeral masses, leading vigil prayers at wakes and graveside and of course the many, many baptisms you have performed over the years. Your friendship and insight have been a great source of comfort for me.

On a lighter note I admire your humility, for as we learned a few years back not only can you not walk on water apparently you cannot even stand on ice.

God Bless, Your brother deacon and friend.
Deacon Stu Murphy

Deacon Joe

D - Devout
E - Easygoing
A - Athletic
C - Caring
O - Objective
N - Nice

J - Judicious
O - Oratorical
E - Equitable

Congratulations on your retirement as Deacon and thank-you for your many years of service to St. Michael Parish. It's been my privilege to get to know you better as we participated in various parish ministries and activities. I admire your devotion to serving God and the people of St. Michael Church. I thank-you for the personal sacrifices you had to make in your role as a deacon, coordinator of the RCIA program, organizing the Eucharist ministers, and many other activities throughout the years. Our parish has been lucky to have such an intelligent, compassionate and caring person as one of our deacons. May God bless you and your family as you transition into retirement.

Sincerely,
Valerie Nichols

For Deacon Joe

The first thing that comes to mind when I reflect on my relationship with Deacon Joe Keenan is his generosity with his time. A number of years ago, before the arrival of Fr. Mike, we the office staff had a huge problem with priest availability. There were many instance when we were left scrambling to find a priest to deal with daily occurances such as wakes, graveside services, communion to the sick or shut-ins, baptism, weddings and various other activites that came up with the daily runnings of a parish. Since Joe was the only deacon who was retired, we continually had to turn to him for his help. In almost every single instance Joe responded with a yes even if it meant altering his schedule. He gave us a place to turn to for help in countless circumstances. To this I can only say thank you Joe for getting us out of a sticky situation time after time. Joe's time as a deacon is remembered by me as a time of unselfishly giving of his time for the good of our parish.

On a lighter note, I would like to note part of my personal relationship with Joe. He used to come into our office many times with questions regarding issues with the parish. Invariably, after seemingly asking all of his questions, he would leave and come walking in half a minute later with another question. Because of how often this happened, I began calling him Colombo after the TV character with that same name. The name eventually stuck and we all had a laugh about it. I feel there was one instance that I should relate to you. One Monday morning, after Joe and his wife, Anne had participated in counting of the collection money which is another thing Joe dedicated himself to every week, after Joe had asked his usual number of multi-questions Anne turned to Joe and solemnly said to him "Let's go Colombo we have things to do". After I finally stopped laughing I realized my nickname for Joe had reached into his personal life and I felt extremely pleased.

Thanks for the memories Joe. May God Bless you and your family for all the days to come. Enjoy your retirement, you have earned it.

Bob Flynn

Deacon Joe,

Thank you for 27 years of service to St. Michael Church. I would like to also thank you for always being there for myself, my family, the staff and our parish. I say this because you have always been available to help out at even the latest of notice. It has been an inspiration to be a witness to your willingness to always say yes when needed.

I have been lucky and blessed to be a parishioner of St. Michael Church for over 30 years and you have always been a part of my time here. I will miss you - but I know that you will still be here to serve when needed.

Congratulations on your retirement! I bet we will see you and Anne riding your bikes and walking through town even more now. Enjoy.

God Bless You,
Annemarie Bias

Dear Deacon Joe,

I have been a parishioner at St. Michael Parish for over 35 years and I can't remember a time that you were not actively involved in the service of God's people here. Although you might be 'officially' retiring, I have the feeling that you will be stepping in when needed or asked because I have come to see that being a minister of service is who you *are*.

I recently read that a deacon in the Church is called to be an 'icon of Christ'. The purpose of religious icons is to *point* to heavenly realities, honoring God and His saints and angels. I think that in the selfless and truly joyful way you have served our parish these last 27 years as a Deacon, you have embraced that call very well.

I have so many memories of you pitching in, of saying 'yes' to all that the parish needed. Whenever I asked for assistance with a project for Faith Formation, aside from 'checking with Anne' to make sure you didn't have a prior engagement, you have been there to help. And so many 'Thank Yous' are in order.

Thank you for all of the times you said 'yes' to helping with VBS. Some of my fondest memories are of you teaching the children about Moses and Pharaoh and Jonah (from inside the big Fish!), sometime even dressing in that old bathrobe that served as a Biblical tunic for so many years. Your legacy lives on as we still use that costume for the yearly Nativity procession!

Thank you for the scores of Confirmation interviews you did, and for making a point to encourage the teens to invest in their preparation time. Thank you for

roleplaying the Bishop at so many Confirmation practices; you must have done a convincing job because many times, when we asked teens the name of the bishop, there were always one or two that answered 'Deacon Joe'!

Thank you for the times you made sure we had the right number of altar servers and Eucharistic ministers for Saturday First Communions and for Tuesday Confirmations. Thank you for all the times you calmed me down before the Bishop arrived, reminding me that while details are important, the Holy Spirit would be conferred to the teens even if the readings were wrong, sponsors were late or the answers to the Bishop's questions were less than precise.

Thank you for the countless servers you recruited, trained and scheduled—a truly challenging task in a parish with so many busy families. Thank you for all the parent meetings you led (especially when I gave you very short notice!). Thank you for guiding so many RCIA catechumens through their preparation to become Catholic, and for working with so many candidates to help them complete the Sacraments of Initiation, and for keeping it all straight so that the Easter Vigil ran smoothly. Thank you for the many, many baptism classes you presented and children you welcomed into the family of God through the waters of Baptism. Thank you for all the times you sang the Exultet—it never could have been easy but you never said no.

Thank you for all the chairs and tables you set up for parish picnics, pot lucks, soup suppers and appreciation dinners, especially after you retired and were available outside of work hours. Thank you for your presence at so many staff meetings and all the times you brought up really significant questions that no one else thought of. Thank you for all the research you always do before presenting those tricky questions. Thank you for all of the carefully crafted homilies that often made me stop and think, especially about the poor and marginalized and the responsibility for every follower of Christ to do the Works of Mercy and not just during Lent.

Thank you for the weddings you witnessed and the brides and grooms you kept calm all the while showing through your delighted smile the joy you shared at witnessing the beginning of a new family.

Thank you for embracing and continuing the ecumenical spirit that I remember was such a strong part of Fr. Trapasso's time as pastor. I'm so glad that you made sure that St. Michael was represented at the Good Friday Cross walk every year. As a deacon, your calling is not to move away from the world but to bring the Good news into the world. Thank you for bringing the Gospel message into the community in all the ways you served

the towns in which you lived. I was delighted to go on the adult Mission Trip with you and Anne this past January. The easy way that you approached even the most difficult of situations in Jamaica was a lesson in what it means to truly serve the poor.

Thank you for all of the times you have been a source of calm even when everyone around you was ruffled. Thank you for seeing even the difficulties the parish community has faced over the years as opportunities for growth. I honestly can't remember a time when you were anything but optimistic, joyful in Christ and willing to work hard.

Thank you for all the years you have given in service to St. Michael Parish and to the Lord. I will miss you on the altar, at staff meetings, and on the monthly preaching rotation. But a deacon is not what you do, it's who you are so I think that although you'll mostly be sitting in the pews at mass, you will still be pitching in, sharing the Gospel through your words and actions, always reminding us about the importance for all of us to serve one another, always pointing to the reality of Christ in our lives.

God bless you always,
Debbie

Joe it has been a real pleasure working with you in Adult Confirmation, RCIA and Arise.

You are a kind and thoughtful person and so willingly give of yourself. Thank you for the many ways you have shared your gifts to our Parish. I have enjoyed listening to you and also have enjoyed your sense of humor. I hope you will continue helping at St. Michaels in your retirement.

Betty P

PS I have also enjoyed your Irish Soda bread.

Words are not enough to express what you have meant to me. I have seen you serve from even before you were ordained. The time you have spent serving others is too immense to even begin to calculate. You have been a great mentor, a great grandfather to my kids, a great father to my wife, and the best father-in-law anyone could ask for. Thanks so much for your gift of service and for showing me how to be a loving father.

I wish you well.

God Bless.

Russ

Deacon Joe,

The parish is not going to be the same with you retired Deacon Joe. We will miss you, your contributions, your service and your inquisitive, helpful nature. Your many years of can do (and will do) service are and were an inspiration to me as I was going through formation and since my ordination to the diaconate. But it is not what we do as deacons, it is who we are in mind, body and soul. You were and are a good example of this for me as I (by the grace of God) continue to serve the Church and St. Michael Parish.

I will miss our weekly "bidding" on who gets what Mass. You were always so accommodating to me and my family (always appreciated) as we celebrate birthday after birthday, weekend after weekend in the Bias/Keenan families... Always offering a helpful hand or advice on any and all issues around my house, boiler, car, bike, trailer, towing... I enjoyed every conversation we had on these items and more. This is all making it sound as if you are going away... I certainly hope not! You may be taking "the bench" but hopefully you will still be around to offer your love of God and His Church to us brother deacons and to our parish.

God bless you and your family Deacon Joe as you enjoy the next chapter of your life where I am sure you will have your clipboard out, watching and taking notes on me, Stu, John and Russ.

Peace. +Deacon Rich

Deacon Joe,

Thanks so much for all you have done for Saint Michael Church during your years as a Deacon. In addition to the activities which are seen by the parishioners, I know you have done much behind the scenes that most people don't realize. Thanks for doing things like bringing communion to the homebound and working with altar servers and eucharistic ministers to help make things run smoothly. Thanks also for all the times you have been called on at the last minute and have willingly stepped up to help out. You have certainly been a blessing to all at Saint Michael Church.

Wishing you many blessings as you and Anne go forward into your retirement. Relax a little, and enjoy spending your time on all the activities and trips you are planning.

God Bless
Lucille Togno