

**St. Michael  
Netcong, New Jersey**

*Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting Light...*

*Second Sunday  
of Advent*

**The Church of Saint Michael**  
**December 5, 2021**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**



Please remember in your prayers those who have died.

Please remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Nicholas Rafferty, Beth Courter, Tim Paternostro, Dick Bland, Karlene Yapple, David Conklin Jr., Allison Leigh, Paula DiElsi, Robert Spezza, Richard Trapp, Bob Flynn, Janet Chanda

**Weekly Memorial**  
**Sanctuary Lamp:**  
**For All Deceased Parishioners**

**Readings for the week**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**Sunday**

Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

**Monday**

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

**Tuesday**

Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14

**Wednesday**

Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

**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 4, 2021**

10am Antoinette Gugliemini

5pm Ohle Family & Riordan Family,  
 Mary Gruszecki

**Sunday, December 5, 2021**

7am Joseph DeVito

9:30am Protection of babies in the womb and their families, Theresa Donnarumma

11:30am Raymond DeFalco, Harry Simionidis

1:30pm Special Intention

**Monday, December 6, 2021**

10am John Bauer, Dorothy Sellarole

**Tuesday, December 7, 2021**

10am James Werner, Dorothy Sellarole

**Wednesday, December 8, 2021**

**Immaculate Conception**

7am Special Intention

10am Pete & Carol Dinkowitz

7pm Sylvia Anne Seelinger

8:15pm Spanish Mass Special Intention

**Thursday, December 9, 2021**

10am Bajram Leka

**Friday, December 10, 2021**

10am Marie B. Heaney, Dawn Liguori

**Saturday, December 11, 2021**

10am Thomas Togno

5pm Louis Castaldi, Rea Family, Pat Buckley & Pell & Buckley Families

**Sunday, December 12, 2021**

7am Richie DiRenzo, Alice & Louis Esposito

9:30am Ronald E. Costanzo,  
 Mary & Michael Mandaglio

11:30am Josephine Vaia & Biaggio Vaia,  
 Special Intention of Bob Flynn

1:30pm Special Intention

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

Sunday, November 21, 2021 .....	\$5,925.00
WeShare .....	\$2,087.00
Sunday, November 28, 2021.....	\$6,118.00
WeShare .....	not available



## NCYC Reflections

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My name is Valeria Ramirez, I am 17 years old and I attended NCYC. My experience at NCYC was one of a kind. Not everyone gets to experience something like what I and a few others experienced back in Indianapolis, Indiana. NCYC was unlike any other church convention/retreat I've been to. Seeing 10,000 people come together and praise God like brothers and sisters was heartwarming. The talks I attended and simply listening to people preach their love for God back in the Lucas Oil Stadium was humbling. It was a reminder that God is someone we should give thanks to everyday for the simplest things like waking up in the morning, the cry of our siblings, food on our table, a roof over our heads, etc.

Everyday, there was somewhere to be and something to do. Whether it was walking from the hotel to the stadium or entering different rooms to listen to different topics and how it connects to God. At the Stadium, Chika was one of the speakers that touched my heart. Almost like I stabbed it because what she said related to me in ways I didn't know. She spoke about being faithful and trusting God's plan. She was a cali girl surrounded by a lovely family and then one day she was offered a job in the opposite side of the country without anyone or anything to rely on over there. She was scared, nervous, and worried she wouldn't like it there and that she would be lonely. But with the help of God, she took herself out of the nutshell she was living in and went into the scary part of the world, the unknown.

Sometimes in life, you need to put yourself in situations where you don't feel comfortable to fully live the life God wants you to live. I'm 17 which means I'm underage so going out into the world really isn't an option for me but putting myself out there whether it's in interviewing for new jobs I've never worked in is one way to start my journey of faith. Chika made me realize life is constantly evolving and you need to allow yourself to give in and adapt to new environments with the help of God.

I will forever be grateful for this wonderful opportunity Father Mike, my parents, and the St Michael Parish let me take part in. Stepping out of my comfort zone and going by myself with teens I didn't know to Indiana for 3 days will be an unforgettable experience. I want to give thanks to Father Mike for approaching me one day after church to attend NCYC. I also would like to give thanks to my parents for allowing me to go. To Gemma, Sarah, and Nicole thank you for being the best chaperones and making this experience so fun. Lastly, I want to acknowledge and give thanks to our parish St. Michael's church for putting in money and for all their corporations that made this all happen. Money doesn't grow from trees and if there was anything I'd spend my money on again it would be NCYC.

**Valeria Ramirez**

During my trip at Indianapolis I learned so many things that I will try my best to apply to my every day life. I learned to accept the difficulties God has put in my life and know that it is all apart of his plan. I learned to trust him no matter the circumstances and to pray to him whenever I get the chance. It was at the trip that I finally didn't feel alone. I was able to see so many other Catholics my age have the same struggles that I have and relate to them. I learned a lot of advice from those that had a speech and I am so thankful I had the chance to go on this trip.

I'd like to thank the parish for putting in effort so this trip could be possible. This was something that I will remember and keep with me forever and I am so thankful to know that the parish cared enough to make this trip happen this year, especially after the pandemic. I know it was hard especially since money was something that played a difficult part in the trip but it was possible because of the will of God and the commitment they put in. Once more I can't express how grateful I am to be able to have gone to this trip, thank you.



**Kelly**

Hello, I recently had the Opportunity to attend NCYC. During the trip I had lots of fun and met tons of new and interesting people, being around these people made me feel more comfortable about my faith. These people had shared incredible stories about their personal experience with God. These stories made me feel more connected to the faith and made me understand that whatever happens it is the work of God no matter if it is bad or good in our eyes it is always beautiful because God was the cause. I learned that we should not only thank God for the good things in life but for the inconvenient things as well. During the convection I gained a better understanding of the relationship between science and our faith and that science and christianity are not enemies.

On the last day of the convention when mass was being held at the football stadium I felt God the most I had ever felt God before. Coming back from the trip I had felt a stronger connection with God and our faith. I had also learned a lot. This experience would have not been possible without your support and I thank you all very much for giving me the chance to go on this trip and learn more about our faith. Thank you and God bless you.

**Fabrizio DiMartino**

This was the first NCYC I've ever been to and I went in so nervous and anxious. Right away I connected with people I didn't know. I felt like this group was the most amazing group I could've gone with. From the moment I stepped into the stadium that nervousness left. Just seeing everyone around me having fun and connecting with people made me feel safe.

We met so many people from all over the states. People from Alaska, Oklahoma, Kansas, Chicago, Wisconsin, etc. Not only was this one of the most fun experiences in my life, it was also one of the most educational experiences. It made me, physically and mentally, have a closer relationship with God.

There's so much you learn at NCYC. You learn peoples testimonies and stories that really touch your heart. There's so much feeling and emotion at this conference that it really strengthens you in your faith. With the amount of people praising Jesus, just walking by you could feel His presence so heavily in the air. This was beyond one of the best trips that I have ever been on, and I will definitely be going again.

**Hannah Bunk**

NCYC was a great experience to grow greater with my faith in God and become closer to Him. It was truly an amazing experience seeing all of the people in Lucas Oil Stadium that participated in mass and wanted to become closer to God as well. Everyone would join in song and prayer which was incredible to hear. It is nice to know that people from all over the country love God and that those people are a part of the change in our religion today.

There were multiple talks occurring in the convention center, but the one that affected me the most was how to trust God. This talk allowed me to be more open when praying and helped me figure out how to listen to God more. Wherever it seems like something bad has happened you just have to have trust in God and His plan for you. I definitely think the talks at the convention center and in the stadium impacted everyone that heard and I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say if I ever had the chance to attend again I would take it.

**Carissa Suralik**

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**John Borda**

I remember going to NCYC in 2019. It was one of the best decisions I've ever made. I remember coming out of a relationship before NCYC 2019. It was a moment I felt like I hit rock bottom. NCYC really helped me with what I was struggling with. I was really excited about going back in 2021. When the pandemic hit, I was scared because I thought there wouldn't be an NCYC 2021. When I found out that it was gonna happen, I was happy. Before NCYC 2021, I was struggling with myself. The pandemic hit me hard. I wasn't doing so well in school and sports. Junior year of high school was really a struggle for me. I've tried to do things to make me happy and it was nothing. I felt like giving up because junior year kept getting worse and worse. I really tried to use summer to recover but it failed. I kept getting haunted by my past. I felt like no one was here for me. I didn't know what I was gonna do. Since senior year is better than Junior year, it still had some bumpy roads. With school, sports, and work, it just gave me more stress. Time went on, and I started to realize NCYC was getting closer. This was something I was looking forward to because it helped me before, so I was hoping to seek help. Even though it wasn't 25,000 people, I was looking forward to being with 10,000 people that were just like me.

I remember landing in Indianapolis. I felt excited because I was ready for NCYC. I knew that I was going to get help. I knew that I was going to get closer with my community. Another thing I was really struggling with was keeping a good relationship with God. I remember going to the food court, and seeing people that were there for NCYC, I was happy. Walking into the stadium for the evening session, seeing everyone there gave me a feeling of happiness and peace. What I've been waiting for two year finally came. Going to the breakout sessions really helped me. I love going to the talks to learn about my faith. I love meeting new people from across the country. Adoration at the stadium has always been my favorite. I love it because, seeing the Holy Eucharist on the table, I knew I could talk to Jesus about anything. I talked to Him about why I was struggling before. Will my struggles lead me to a good life? I also thank Jesus that I was still here. I thanked Him for everything He has done with our community to

make NCYC a thing. I asked Him to protect my family from the United States, Costa Rica and Colombia. I asked Him to make sure that my past relatives are doing fine in Heaven. I asked Him to help me when I got back home because I knew I was struggling a bit. I also asked Him to help me develop a strong relationship with Him. Leaving the stadium, I felt like a new person. I felt like the weight on my shoulders was lifted. I thought to myself, "Is this what heaven feels like?" Adoration will always help me a lot. On the last day, after mass at the stadium, I turned around, and saw these kids from Indianapolis hugging and crying with each other. This really caught my attention. In just three days, it showed me how NCYC really brings us closer with each other. It takes a while to have a strong bond with each other. But I can tell they developed a bond so big, when it ended, they're sad that it's over.

I remember when I first joined the youth ministry, I would only talk to two people. After NCYC 2019, it felt like I've known the whole Youth Ministry for a long time. And with the people that went to NCYC for the first time this year, I felt closer with them. I didn't want it to end because it felt nice. NCYC will always have a huge impact on my life. Everything I learned at NCYC, I hope to use to help others in the future. I was sad that NCYC ended. But I was happy that it happened.

**John Borda**

Ablaze, to burn fiercely. That's one word to describe what I felt on the NCYC trip. I got to meet people from all over the nation, gathered in one spot to share our love for God. I got to listen to many talks about experiences. I also got to listen to songs that filled my heart with love. As I sang along, it would be as if everything else disappeared, and I was just nothing but a soul on fire for God. So yes, ablaze, in my case, to burn fiercely with love, for God. I am very thankful for everyone in the church who made this trip possible. I am lucky to be able to experience such a wonderful gathering, and it wouldn't have been possible without the help of the amazing people at St. Michaels. Thank you so much.

**Rebecca Borda**

Dear St. Michaels Church

Hello, I'd like to begin this letter with a thank you to all the people who helped in the making of the trip to Indianapolis, the people who went, and the people who planned the trip. The trip to Indianapolis was an amazing experience due to many factors: the people I met there, the sights seen, the time spent over there, and the time spent bonding with others. I recently had this opportunity to participate in the trip to Indianapolis and now I am here to talk about it to you the readers.

The trip to Indianapolis was an amazing trip due to the people I met there, why? I say this because

now it's hard to find people who believe in what you believe in or who are like you and in this trip I met many people like me and who believe in the same things as me learning that you're not alone and that there are many people like you. The time spent there was another great thing we got to attend masses with all sorts of singing, bishops, archbishops, deacons, etc. We also got to see bands play music and talk about topics about Catholicism, such as how to strengthen our faith, the history of it, how it relates to now, why it is important to believe in your faith and have fun doing it at the same time. The trip was fun and the bonds you felt with everyone is another amazing thing you feel during the trip. I recommend this trip to anyone who wants to experience an amazing trip and have fun learning and strengthening your faith.

**Iann Proano**

## Faith Formation

### Calendar Reminders, K-7:

- 12/5: Family Session for Gr. K-7 after 9:30 am Mass
- After Mass sessions resume next week, 12/12

### Confirmation II (sophomores):

- Please hand in all outstanding paperwork this week.
- Sponsor Paperwork: due 1/15/22. Please hand in blue info form AND signed Sponsor form TOGETHER).

### Middle School Confirmation (gr. 8 and 9)

- You should be working on service for the quarter that includes Oct, Nov, Dec., due Dec. 31
- Mass participation sheets due today
- Sponsor Paperwork: due 1/30/22. Please hand in blue info form AND signed Sponsor form TOGETHER).



## YOUTH MINISTRY

**Youth Ministry Meetings on Mondays at 7pm.**

If you have any questions, please email me at [youth.ministry@stmichaelsnetcong.org](mailto:youth.ministry@stmichaelsnetcong.org)

-Nicole



### **Advent Day of Recollection**

Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> 7-9pm in church  
Come join us as Brother Thomas and the Franciscans of the Renewal (CFR) share the meaning of Advent

### **Advent Retreat in Spanish**

Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> 9am-3pm  
in church  
Fr. Alexis Coffi  
Suggested \$10 donation



## **Diocesan Ministries Appeal 2021**

### **DIOCESE OF PATERSON**

With the year coming to an end, many people plan to make a final year-end charitable contribution that has the most impact. Please consider the Diocesan Ministries Appeal which helps so many of your brothers and sisters in Christ. In fact, tens of thousands of people are supported each year by the work of our Diocese with assistance from the Appeal. All of us can play a part in the Diocesan Ministries Appeal – as either a contributor to the cause or as a recipient of its mission – and all are blessed as a result. Please make the Diocesan Ministries Appeal a priority in your year-end philanthropy. Gifts can be made by check, credit cards, through gifts of securities or on-line at [www.2021appeal.org](http://www.2021appeal.org). May God bless you for your generosity!

### **Midnight Run NYC**

Our first midnight run of the year!

Saturday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>

We are in need of donations – new underwear in larger sizes for men, socks, toiletry items (only small-travel size), clean and gently used clothing in larger sizes, clean pants, shirts, shoes. Large and xlarge hoodie sweatshirts, backpacks or tote bags, new underwear for woman in large and xlarge sizes along with clean clothes. Thank you-

### **St. Paul's Abbey Christmas Trees**

St. Paul's Abbey, on 289 Rt. 206, Newton, NJ has thousands of Christmas trees ready to choose 'n' cut 7 days a week from Nov. 26 to Dec. 20 from 10am to 3:30pm. There is also a gift shop with many items for Christmas.

### **Immaculate Conception Masses**

Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

7:00am

10:00am

7:00pm

8:15pm in Spanish

### **Christmas Mass Schedule**

Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Eve

3:30pm

5:30pm

10:00pm

Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Day

7:00am

9:30am

11:30am

1:30pm in Spanish

Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

### **SEGUNDO DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO**

**Domingo**

Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

**Lunes**

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

**Martes**

Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14

**Miércoles**

Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

**Jueves**

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

**Viernes**

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

**Sábado**

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

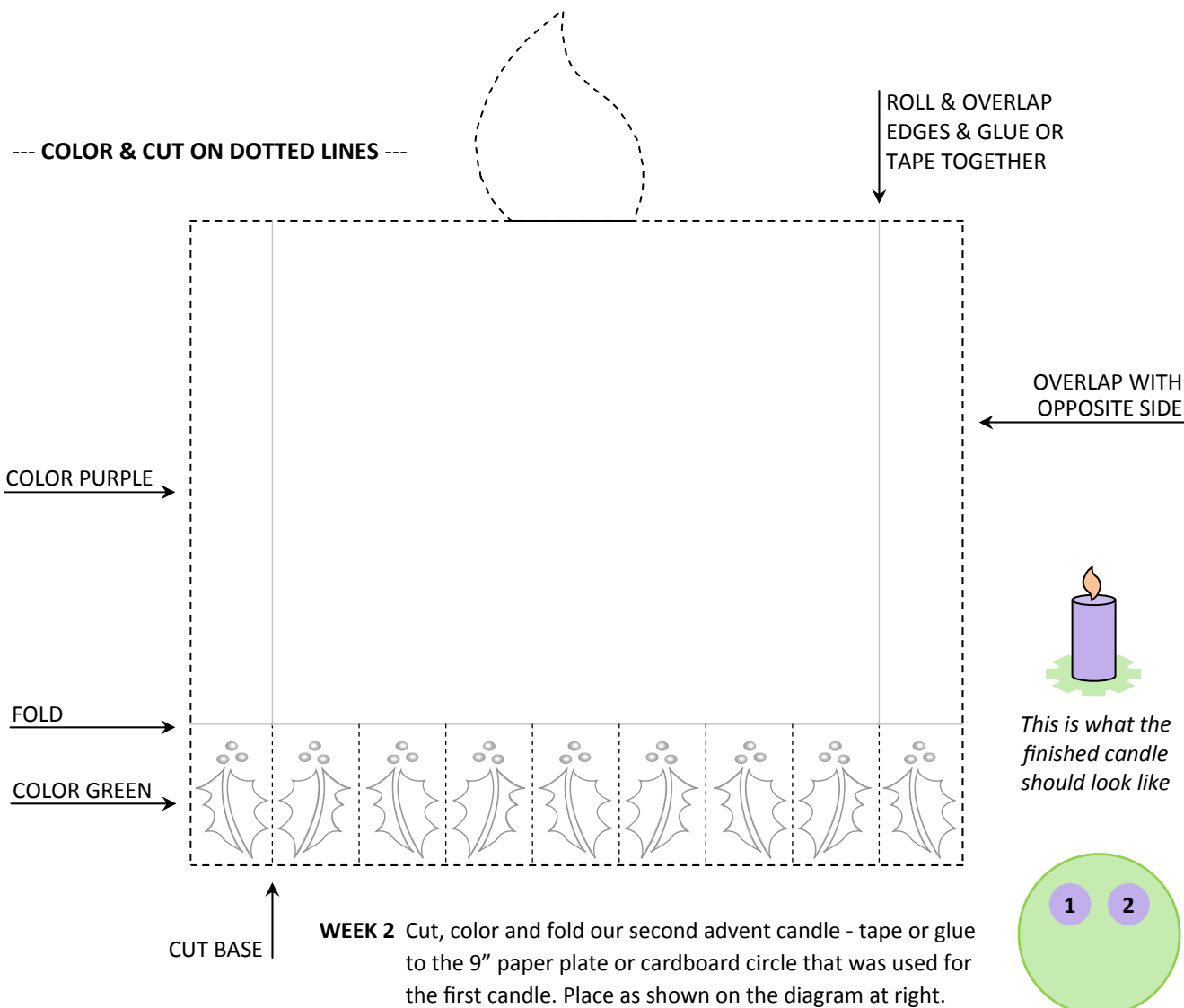
### WEEK 2, evening lighting prayer

Prayer said by Father or head of household

"O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may prepare for  
Thy only begotten Son that through His coming we  
may be made worthy to serve Thee with pure minds.  
Through Christ our Lord, Amen".

Oldest child lights 2 purple candles.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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