

**St. Michael
Netcong, New Jersey**

*And to the earth
it gave great light...*

*Third Sunday
of Advent*

The Church of Saint Michael
December 12, 2021
Third Sunday of Advent



Please remember in your prayers those who have died: Robert Suralik, Kathryn O'Brien

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

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday

Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

Monday

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday

Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25; Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday

Is 54:1-10; Lk 7:24-30

Friday

Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

Saturday

Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

Mass Intentions for the Week

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

Monday, December 13, 2021

10am Biaggio Vaia, Joseph Reilly

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

10am Catherine Werner

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

10am Sherry Lopez, Rudy Sarate Sr.

Thursday, December 16, 2021

10am Dolores Murtha

Friday, December 17, 2021

10am George Calvert

Saturday, December 18, 2021

10am Nicholas Bias

5pm Rea Family, Louis Castaldi, John Bauer

Sunday, December 19, 2021

7am Thomasina Grogan, Sherry Lopez

9:30am Alfred & Carmella Esposito, Biaggio Vaia

11:30am AnneMarie & Jim Konyak,

Frances & Matthew Soccio

1:30pm Special Intention

TITHING – GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

ST. MICHAEL'S HAS BEEN A TITHING PARISH SINCE 1988.

Sunday, November 28, 2021.....	\$6,118.00
WeShare	\$1,502.50
Sunday, December 5, 2021	\$6,187.00
Repair & Renovation.....	\$2,297.00
Retired Religious	\$2,100.00
WeShare	\$2,217.50
WeShare Repair & Renovation	\$301.00

Homily ~ Deacon John

Are you ready for Christmas?

That seems to be the question everyone asks. Looking forward to Christmas is normal, however we can easily get so distracted by what is ahead that we don't pay attention to where we are. This season of Advent is the perfect time for us to prepare our world for the coming of Jesus, remembering the incarnation, His coming into the world in the flesh the first time, and the promise of His second coming in glory at the end of time. For many of us his first coming seems too long ago to be relevant and the promise of the second has been delayed so long we don't take it seriously. While Jesus' second coming at the end of time could be centuries away, we tend to forget that no one leaves this life alive. All of us must face Jesus at the end of our time, at our particular judgment, when we will meet Him face to face and have to answer for our life here on earth. He will ask us what we have done with the talents and treasures He has given us. Are you prepared?

Our first reading and our Psalm this week are about the hope of return from exile for the Jewish people. The prophet Baruch related to the people to prepare, and to look ahead to the great things that God would do for them in the future, and the Psalm was about the joy and thankfulness of the people for what God was doing for them at the present, Yet God had an even greater promise for their future. However they took God's promises for granted and had a shortsighted and self centered vision of Gods plan, and wasted the gifts given to them. This time of Advent is a time for us to look back at the promises God has kept in our lives, the blessings he has for us now, and the great expectations He has for our future. As we anticipate the incarnation we can't forget the other side of the coin. The incarnation is about God's mercy and salvation for a fallen and sinful world, when He comes again it will be about divine justice.

As we prepare for Christmas we need to look deep inside our souls and ask ourselves, am I ready for His coming? What in my life needs to change so that I can be prepared for Him? What are the mountains and hills in my life that need to be made low? What are my valleys that need to be filled in? How can we hear the voice of God with all the worldly distractions? Internet, TV, Smartphone, computer, these are supposed to be tools to make our life simpler and yet they seem to have the opposite effect. How do we grow closer to God when we don't have his e-mail address and He doesn't text? We need to turn off the distractions and embrace the silence. With all the electronic devices and gadgets and gizmos to think for us, it is easy to lose touch with God. Advent is a perfect time to put the world in proper perspective and to remember that this is not our true home. We are on the journey to immortality, and Jesus came in the flesh as a newborn baby to show us the way.

Today is the perfect time to rid ourselves of the baggage that keeps us from Jesus.

As we ponder our shopping list, perhaps we can consider a gift for Jesus. He really wants our hearts this Christmas. So in practical terms, we can begin by moving the mountain of pride and self centeredness, by making low the hills of anger and hostility (even when stuck in holiday traffic or in the grocery store behind the lady with the shopping cart in the 12 items or less lane.) We can fill in the valleys of depression, anxiety, and negativity and become the light to the world that Jesus wants us to be. The perfect place to offer this gift to Jesus is in the confessional, where we can purge our heart and soul from all its excess baggage and give Jesus our heart.

So starting today, and for each day this Advent and beyond, give Jesus the gift he truly wants this Christmas.

Homily ~ Deacon Rich

Gospel of Luke 3:1-6 2nd Sunday of Advent

Fr. Mike explained very well last week about Advent being the preparation time for us to celebrate the first coming of Jesus at Christmas but more importantly, He is coming again! - We are preparing for His second coming and it is going to be both terrifying and amazing. - I think, only amazing if we are ready for Him... If we are not ready, Oh boy... - John the Baptist is telling us today to be ready too. Prepare the way of the Lord... - Make straight His paths... The path to our hearts, let Him right in. Don't block Him... - He is actually coming again real soon too, as in about 5 minutes or so too. - Are you ready for Him now? How is He coming real soon? Do you know how? In the Eucharist. - Are you ready to receive Him in the Eucharist? Do we know what it means to be ready? - What do you think it means to be ready for Jesus in the Eucharist, at Christmas and especially at His second coming? How do we ready ourselves to receive Jesus? - Simply put, we have to do His will. We have to figure out or discern what He wants us to do, the purpose He created us for and do it with love and humility. - We discern His Will for us by living as He commands us, with the Commandments and Beatitudes. - Here is the thing though... It all has to matter!!! It can't just be, go to Mass, hear the readings, hear the Gospel, listen to the homily drone on, get communion, receive the final blessing... - Then out the door until you do it all over again next week or maybe not... It has to matter. - All of this in here (Church), has to make a difference out there!! Every single moment... - If we are preparing and doing God's will for us all the time, it almost becomes muscle memory. - All this has to change the way we handle things out there. It's easy when all is going well, right? - What about when things aren't going so well? THAT is when all this preparing has to kick in! - We

have to automatically or, we should automatically, remember Jesus and all He teaches us and realize that if we let Him into our hearts at that point, it will all be OK. No matter what... - That takes a lot of faith and trust. That is why we are here, preparing for Him to make a difference in our lives, all the time... Memories help us too. If we remember a time when Jesus worked in our lives, it helps us to remember to let Him work again, now in our lives. - We are getting ready for Christmas, lights, trees, trains around the tree maybe, the manger... - If you know me for a while you know I have talked about C9 lights hanging on my grandma's porch on her house in PA and how that memory quickly brings me right to Jesus... - Well, I have another memory from Christmas when I was growing up, that brings me to Jesus.... - Me, my parents, brothers and sister would put the tree up and we would decorate it with lights and Christmas balls... The lights had those metal cupcake holder things on them... Did yours? - The thing that brings me right to Jesus though was the last thing my Mom would put on the tree. - The tinsel... Do you remember tinsel?... It was long, very thin strips of shiny, silvery metal... - We all would grab a bunch and put it on each branch. The tree looked very nice. - When Annemarie and I were dating, I asked to invite her over to help decorate our tree. - We had carols playing, excitement was in the air... We put the lights on, hang all the balls on. - Annemarie and I said we would finish with the tinsel so we grabbed the tinsel packs and I started grabbing a bunch and putting them on each branch... Another bunch, another branch... - I looked over at Annemarie because she stopped helping and her jaw was on the ground. Shock! - She was watching me put bunches of tinsel on each branch... - I asked her what was wrong and barely speaking she said, that is not how you put tinsel on... - I said yes it is... She said no it's not and I said, alright, show me and handed her my tinsel... - She grabbed one piece of tinsel and draped it over a branch, grabbed another piece, did it again. - I started doing the same, one piece of tinsel on one branch. That tree looked BEAUTIFUL!! - Prepare the way of the Lord... Make straight His paths in your hearts... Happy Advent.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Ministry Meetings on Mondays at 7pm.

If you have any questions, please email me at youth.ministry@stmichaelnetcong.org

-Nicole

Faith Formation

Calendar Reminders, K-7:

- After Mass class sessions: 12/12 and 12/19
- Mass only: 12/26 and 1/2/22

Confirmation II (sophomores):

- Sponsor Paperwork: due 1/15/22. Please hand in blue info form AND signed Sponsor form TOGETHER).
- SERVICE FORMS: for Oct., Nov., Dec due 12/31 in Faith Formation office

Middle School Confirmation (gr. 8 and 9)

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

THANK YOU

To the Parishoners of St. Michael Church, I don't know how to thank you all for the kindness you have shown to me. Your cards and masses have been a real inspiration to me in these tough times. I will never forget the love you've shown me. I look forward to the day I can thank you all in person. Hoping I will be back among you within 3 months. Meanwhile, I will continue to pray for all of you every day.

May God bless you all,
Bob Flynn



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. May God bless you for your generosity!

Midnight Run NYC

Our first midnight run of the year!

Saturday, Dec. 18th

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.



Saint Michael Christmas Mass Schedule

Friday, December 24th

Christmas Eve

3:30pm

5:30pm

10:00pm

Saturday, December 25th

Christmas Day

7:00am

9:30am

11:30am

1:30pm in Spanish

Sunday, December 26th

Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

TERCER DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

Domingo

Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

Lunes

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27

Martes

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32

Miércoles

Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25; Lk 7:18b-23

Jueves

Is 54:1-10; Lk 7:24-30

Viernes

Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

Sábado

Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25



Tercer Domingo de Adviento

12 de Diciembre de 2021

“Alégrese siempre en el Señor. Vuelvo a insistir, alégrese. Que la bondad de ustedes sea conocida por todos los hombres. El Señor está cerca. No se angustien por nada, y en cualquier circunstancia, recurran a la oración y a la súplica, acompañadas de acción de gracias, para presentar sus peticiones a Dios.”

De seguro estamos haciendo muchos planes. A media temporada de Adviento se nos dice ‘Aléngrense, sean felices.’ Aún con todas las dificultades, tome un momento porque ‘el Señor está cerca.’ Tome un momento para agradecerle por venir. Tome un momento, mire a su alrededor, y dése cuenta de cuán bendecido es usted.

¿No tiene una razón para estar agradecido y feliz? ¿No le permite su fe expresar su agradecimiento a otros, por la vida, por la familia? Traiga a esas personas y sus necesidades al Señor en sus planes y oraciones. ‘Que la bondad de ustedes sea conocida por todos.’

Que las palabras finales de la biblia sean su mantra esta semana: ‘Ven, Señor Jesús.’

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