

SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

# SAINT MICHAEL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

4 CHURCH STREET · NETCONG, NJ 07857

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## TEAM POSITIVE

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## SCHEDULE OF MASSES

**Saturday:** 5:00 pm

**Sunday:** 7:00, 9:30, 11:30 am (*in English*)

**Misa en Español todos los Domingos:** 1:30 pm

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## WEEKDAYS

**Weekdays:** 10:00 am

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## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

**Saturday:** 4:00 - 4:30 pm    **Monday:** 6:30 - 7:00 pm

(no Monday reconciliation during June, July or August)

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**Phone:** 973-347-0032

**Website:** [www.stmichaelnetcong.org](http://www.stmichaelnetcong.org)

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*Welcome to our Church*

The Church of Saint Michael  
 September 11, 2022  
 Twenty-fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time



Please remember in your prayers those who have died: Timothy Trapper

Please remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: May Lee, Special Intention, Lucy Pintos, Karlene Yaple, Joseph Conklin, Marysia Hancock, Bev Couter, Kathy Conklin

Weekly Memorial

Altar Bread & Wine: For All Deceased of 9/11

Readings for the week

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Sunday**

Ex 32:7-11, 13-14; 1 Tm 1:12-17; Lk 15:1-32 or 15:1-10

**Monday**

1 Cor 11:17-26, 33; Lk 7:1-10

**Tuesday**

1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a; Lk 7:11-17

**Wednesday**

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

**Thursday**

1 Cor 15:1-11; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

**Friday**

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

**Saturday**

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

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, September 10, 2022

10am Theresa Donnarumma, Eddie Bixby

5pm Peggy Rea, Paula & Valerie Tardive

Sunday, September 11, 2022

7am For the Deceased of 9/11

9:30am Agnes White, Andrew Benson

11:30am Anthony & Alphonse Peluso, Jacqueline Hurley

1:30pm Special Intention

Monday, September 12, 2022

10am Tim Trapper

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

10am Jimmy LaBell, Special Intention

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

10am Sam Rea

Thursday, September 15, 2022

10am Sherry Lopez

Friday, September 16, 2022

10am Mary Gruszecki, Sr. Mary Rose

Saturday, September 17, 2022

10am John Bauer

5pm Allan Surdi, Carol Harris

Sunday, September 18, 2022

7am Louis & Alice Esposito

9:30am Ronald E. Costanzo, Raymond DeFalco

11:30am Special Intention

1:30pm Special Intention

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

Sunday, September 4, 2022 .....	\$4,773.00
Repair & Renovation.....	\$1,520.00
WeShare .....	\$2,155.50
WeShare R & R.....	\$246.00

Confessions are on Saturdays 4:00-4:30pm

## From Deacon John

Homily from September 4, 2022

There is an old German saying, “We grow too soon old and too late smart.” Our first reading is from the book of wisdom which reminds us that the wisdom of God is beyond our grasp. While we may gain all the knowledge in the world, without the wisdom to discern, any and all information is incomplete. While it is true we learn from our mistakes, we don’t always grow wiser from them.

Some of the most learned and brightest among us sometimes can have the least common sense, especially when it comes to issues of faith. The wisdom that comes from God takes all the knowledge and data from practical experience and, with faith and reason, we begin to discern and understand, allowing us to grow wiser.

The emphasis these days seems to be more on gathering data and processing information than on reasonable and rational thinking. On top of that, when faith in God enters into the thought process, many very intelligent, even brilliant minds immediately close down and become dumb as a stump and stubborn as a mule, or worse yet even hostile or angry. They can’t fathom that there could be a merciful creator who would let his son die, out of love for us. The data and the empirical evidence don’t support this theory. It is easier to convince them about aliens from another planet or the latest Elvis sighting.

The fact of the matter is, without God in the mix, nothing makes total sense, and things seem incomplete. It is only with God’s love for us that we are able to love each other, and that love of God and love of neighbor is the basis for every law in a civilized society whether the secular world admits it or not. And let’s face it, Christianity is controversial!

Many people think that the radical idea that anyone would offer his life for mine is just ludicrous, no man would do that, and if there were a God, He certainly wouldn’t do that. That is the point so many people get stuck on, and why so many souls are lost. We, as Christians, are called to die to self and to offer our lives for others. However, often times the example we set can make some people uncomfortable. Living a virtuous life can be controversial when those who lack virtue see your example and feel that you might be judging them, and this can make some people angry, VERY ANGRY! Our Gospel today speaks about hating our brother. Yet in a more practical sense it is rather being hated by, brother, sister or mother. Living the Christian life will cost you. The question becomes, how much are you willing to pay? Do we calculate the cost? Do we try to negotiate with God, and offer a little conversion now and later after we get old, the rest of our conversion, the easy payment plans? How about I give up the sins I don’t like and keep the sins I’m comfortable with?

The command of Jesus is clear, “whoever does not carry

his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.” These are not timid words or figures of speech. The life of a Christian is not supposed to be easy, but it is very rewarding. With faith in Jesus and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit we can reasonably and rationally calculate the cost of our faith. We have the foundation of the Church, established by Jesus and brought to birth by Mary and the Apostles at Pentecost in 33A.D. It has been built with the blood of the Martyrs and the saints for the past two thousand years and despite countless attacks by powers and principalities it remains. While our faith offers little in the way of worldly “things” it offers much in the way of heavenly things, both here and in the hereafter. This is not without cost, and the cost can be very high. I can tell you that I have been “cancelled” by some people whom I love very much. I have lost friends, and I have been called many unflattering things because of my faith. I have not yet shed blood or been thrown in jail for it, however, that may be coming soon. Yet the rewards of the Christian are a sense of peace and contentment. An unshakable trust that in whatever situation you find yourself in, you are not alone, He is beside you.

The choice we face today is to become His disciple now, or forfeit our eternal soul later. It’s entirely up to you and me.

## From Deacon Rich

Gospel of Luke 14:25-33  
23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Do you want to be a disciple of Jesus? Did you catch what we have to do to be His disciple? If we go to Him without hating father, mother, wife, children, brothers and sisters and even our own lives, we cannot be His disciple. I don’t know about you but these words used to upset me... Also, who ever does not carry his own cross and come after Him cannot be his disciple. Our cross is unique, and we don’t choose our cross, we can only choose to carry it and follow Him. We all know He will never give us a cross too heavy to bear if we ask for His help in prayer. I have learned the value of prayer, of asking for His help, of praising, thanking and adoring Him. We had a catechist meeting this week and Mrs. Rogalo handed out a St. Mother Teresa magnet. It is a picture of her with a quote... “My secret is simple, I pray”... Well, I pray to understand. To understand what Jesus tells us and I have to pray to understand today’s Gospel reading. Especially when He tells us we can’t be His disciple if we go to Him without hating father, mother, wife, children, brothers and sisters and even our own lives. I didn’t understand it...

We know that all Scripture is Truth and not contradicting... It is not wrong or vague, it is Truth.

Basically, Jesus says to be His disciple, we have to choose Him over anything and anyone else. Unfortunately for me, I understand these words very clearly now... I say unfortunately but we also know that Jesus allows things to happen to us for our ultimate good... This is Faith. So, what made me understand? A lot of time, anger, hurt, pain, tears, forgiveness, and prayer...

Back when my Dad got sick with pancreatic cancer, and was in the hospital for an operation and treatment near Philadelphia, PA, me and my whole family were going there every weekend. Also, when my Mom was sick with cancer and getting treatments we were there as a family too. These were obviously very stressful times for all of us and our true feelings and beliefs were brought to light. My dad passed in 2008 and my Mom in 2013. I say family as in my extended family. Things at times got pretty ugly and all for the reasons expressed in the Gospel today. I had to choose... I say I but Annemarie was obviously with me through it all, we had to choose. Before I go on, I have to say I am not better or worse than anyone. I am not holier either... I just always pray to do God's Will for me and my family. Doesn't always work but... Fr. Mike told us about humility last week. Humility is knowing ourselves as God knows us. Humility is truth.

Like I mentioned, things got pretty ugly... Fighting, arguing, yelling... Most of the issues had to do with treatment options and end of life decisions for my parents. My family and I had different views on what we were all talking about and trying to decide... Our lives and our bodies are a gift from Jesus. We don't own either of them. They are gifts and God has told us how we are to use them and treat them, our body and life.

If we believe in Jesus Christ and His Holy Church then there are certain things we should do, and God loves us to the point of giving us free will to choose what we do with our lives and bodies. As I said, obviously it was very stressful and we were talking with the doctors, my parents and each other about these end-of-life decisions and things got bad and I had to choose...

That is what Jesus is talking about in the Gospel today! No one gets between God and me. We have to choose Him if we want to be His disciple! God or my brother? Jesus. God or my father? Jesus. God or anything? Jesus. We all had different thoughts about these decisions, and I expressed what we believe and, well... I love my extended family and pray for them and their families all the time! Prayer has brought me Peace and understanding. It has been a long road and I am still traveling it. It is a heavy cross to bear but it is my cross. And Jesus tells me to pick it up and come after Him. With His help I am getting closer to Him. We all have to make hard decisions to be His disciple... God or anything, I choose Jesus!

## FAITH FORMATION

### **Faith Formation Registration for 2022-23**

#### **Is currently closed**

...so that we can prepare for the new year.

Late registration date will be posted on the website:  
[www.stmichaelnetcong.org/religious-education](http://www.stmichaelnetcong.org/religious-education)

**NOTE: IF we have not received your signed Faith Formation covenant your registration is NOT complete and your children CANNOT begin classes! If you do not have a printer at home, please take a blank Covenant document in the church vestibule on the table by the door, sign it and drop off in the mailbox outside of the Office.**

Faith Formation sessions will begin on Sunday, Sept. 25. **IF YOU ARE REGISTERED** you will receive an email with details

For those to be confirmed in October: (Middle School Confirmation group)—Retreat on 9/24 at Sacred Heart Center. Information will be emailed to you.

For those to be confirmed in the spring: (NET group and Confirmation II group (Level 8)—we will have a parent and candidate meeting before classes begin: Sunday, Sept. 18 after the 10:30 am Mass (about 11:30am) in the church hall. You will receive an email with details. Questions? Contact us at 973-347-0032 ext. 2330 or 2320 or by email.



### YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Ministry meetings will begin Monday,  
September 19th at 7:00pm in the  
Youth Ministry room.

If you would like to join or if you have any questions,  
please email me at

[youth.ministry@stmichaelnetcong.org](mailto:youth.ministry@stmichaelnetcong.org)

-Nicole

## **FOOD PANTRY**

The Food Pantry is in need of the following items:  
**pasta, spaghetti, canned corn, canned fruit, canned soup.** As always, we thank you for your generosity and support.

## Loyola Jesuit Center Men's Weekend Retreat

October 14-16  
Morristown, NJ  
Call for reservations  
973-539-0740



### Saint Michael Church - 2022 Picnic

Join us after 5pm Mass on September 17th for the annual Church BBQ. Come out and enjoy some great food and beverages with your fellow parishioners. Make new friends or catch up with old ones. We will have games and activities for the kids. Please bring a salad or a desert to share. Please contact the office so we have a count. See you the 17th!

### SILVER AND GOLD WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Couples, were you married in 1972 or 1997? (Or, have you been married for 60+ years?) The Diocese of Paterson invites you to celebrate your 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> or 60+ wedding anniversary during a special Mass to be offered at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson, NJ. Bishop Sweeney will serve as main celebrant on this joyful occasion to be held: **Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 3:00pm.** Arrangements can be made by contacting the parish office. The deadline to submit your registration to your parish office is Thursday, October 6th, 2022. You will receive additional information from the Office of Family Life once your registration has been processed. *Congratulations on this joyous occasion!*

Morris Catholic High School is accepting applications for the Class of 2027 and for transfer students for this upcoming academic year. Learn more about Morris Catholic through our Admissions events!

Our Open House date is:

Wednesday, October 5th from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Sunday, October 23rd from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

You can sign up for these events at  
[www.morriscatholic.org/openhouse/](http://www.morriscatholic.org/openhouse/)

We are also offering shadow days and in-person campus tours. Contact [admissions@morriscatholic.org](mailto:admissions@morriscatholic.org) to schedule one of these visits or for more information about our application process!

You can also visit [www.morriscatholic.org](http://www.morriscatholic.org) to learn more about all of our athletic, academic, and extracurricular programs.

### 40 Days for Life

September 28 – November 6

Help Save Lives!

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

<https://www.40daysforlife.com/admin/manage-local-campaign.aspx>

### VIGESIMOCUARTO DOMINGO EN TIEMPO ORDINARIO

#### Domingo

Ex 32:7-11, 13-14; 1 Tm 1:12-17; Lk 15:1-32 or 15:1-10

#### Lunes

1 Cor 11:17-26, 33; Lk 7:1-10

#### Martes

1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a; Lk 7:11-17

#### Miércoles

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

#### Jueves

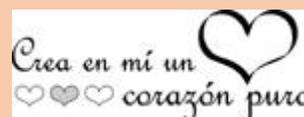
1 Cor 15:1-11; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

#### Viernes

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

#### Sábado

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



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