

FIRST SUNDAY *of Advent*



St. Michael
Netcong, New Jersey

The Church of Saint Michael
December 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent



Please remember in your prayers those who have died

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, Special Intention, Carmen Pina, Paula DiElsi, Roseann Lehmann, Louis DiBernard, Tim Paternostro, Margie Kern, John Matits, Elsie DeFeo, Alina & Luca Chretien, The Buga Family

Readings for the Week

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 63: 16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13: 33-37

Special Remembrance

The hosts and wine, which will become the Holy Body and Precious Blood of our Lord, were given in loving memory of: *James and Anna Pucci*

Marian Flowers

The Marian floral arrangement for this week in the month of October was given in loving memory of

John Bauer

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, December 2

5pm Peggy Rea, Raymond J. DeFalco

Sunday, December 3 – First Sunday of Advent

7am Richie DiRenzo

9:30am Paula Tardive

11:30am Edward & Dorothy Dowling, Ellinita Conroy

1:30pm Special Intention

Monday, December 4

10am Robert Donahue

Tuesday, December 5

10am Edward Mulcahy

Wednesday, December 6

10am Eugene Kim

Thursday, December 7

8 am Helen & Charles Bergmaier

Friday, December 8

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

7am Robert Suralik

10am Chet Verdi

7pm Anna Held

8pm Special Intention

Saturday, December 9

10am Sophia & Dmitri Holota

5pm Rea Family, Pat Buckley

Sunday, December 10 – Second Sunday of Advent

7am Joe DeVito, Louis & Alice Esposito

9:30am Ronald E. Costanzo, Carol Bergmaier

11:30am Marie B. Heaney, Josephine Vaia

1:30pm Special Intention

Weekly Donations

Sunday, November 26 \$6383.00

WeShare \$2169.00

As we approach the Sacred Season of Christmas, we ask that you prayerfully consider what special financial gift you will give to your church this year.

With your ongoing generosity, we are able to continue the many ministries that we have here at Saint Michael Church in your name and in the name of Christ!

Advent Recollection

The Parish will have an **Advent Evening of Recollection** Wednesday December 6th at 7:00pm. Presented by the **Salesian Sisters, Sr. Theresa Kelly, FMA & Sr. Nivia Arias, FMA.**

Reflections from NCYC



The three days I spent at NCYC are days that I will always keep close to my heart. From the moment I stepped into the stadium I felt a sense of belonging and comfort. Seeing a grand group of teenagers all joined together in worship reminded me that I am not alone in my journey of faith. The workshops I went to all taught me a valuable lesson. One of them, emphasized on the fact that Jesus will always want to heal our wounds no matter what we've done or gone through. This workshop brought me back to what Father Kartje told the youth in the stadium. He told everyone that we are not a "problem to be solved, but a mystery to be encountered." He reminded us that we are God's creation and that we are granted the gift of Eucharist. He told us that all of our pain, grief, and our anxieties don't define us and that we should find our identity in Jesus Christ. I'd like to thank the St. Michael's parish and my parent's hard work because without them I wouldn't have been blessed with the privilege to go to NCYC for the last time. I'd like to thank all of the teens and chaperones who I traveled with for the smiles, the tears, and laughs. I'm so grateful for all of the memories we made. The experience wouldn't have been the same without you. And lastly, I want to thank Father Mike, for going out of his way to make sure that we were always well fed and came home back in one piece. I'd also like to thank him for the dreaded meetings every night, because without those thought provoking questions, the teachings and new knowledge that we learned each day might've been left in Indiana. I will be forever grateful for the NCYC experience, and I hope that in the future this annual conference will continue to be successful and continue to reach out to thousands of

youth seeking for a place of belonging, worship, and sanctuary. -Kelly Morales

I learned a lot from this trip and I'm glad I had this experience. On the first day I was surprised about how many people were there. I definitely expected something different, but I still had an amazing time. My first session was something called the Gift and the Grit. It was presented by a lovely couple who were very open about their faith life. It really reminded me of how not all relationships are perfect, but having a partner who believes in what you believe in is important. They are able to better understand of what you go through when you have trouble with your faith. They can support and help you through it. Another session that I went to was "3 ways to grow your faith." I was able to learn some ways to keep your environment good and how important it is to stay by God even when you are tempted to stray. Also that god should be with you during every stage or step in your life, like dating. In another session "we are what we receive" I learned that it's important to go through the steps at mass, but also important to know why. You have to be true when saying the prayers and amen's so you can truly know the word of God.

These are things that I will keep with me for the rest of my life. Also what the priest said to me in confession. It was something that I will always keep in my heart and in the back of my mind. This trip was fun, but also insightful. I definitely connected with others and even though I wasn't able to ask enough people for their names, we were still connected with our faith. I learned that that is a connection that no one can break. Thank you for bringing me on this trip and I can't wait to see what is next for my faith journey with St. Michael's church. - Madison Peralta

Going to ncyc was a trip that I needed to go too. I was brought closer to my faith and closer to God. The first night there was overwhelming but also thrilling. Seeing thousands of teenagers filling up half a football stadium was kind of eye opening. Seeing this many teens made me realize I'm not alone in my faith journey. I would like to thank my parents for paying for the trip, I wouldn't have gone to it without them. I would also like to thank Father Mike and the chaperone who accompanied us to Indianapolis and we're watching over us for the whole weekend. I really appreciate everyone for this experience and it will be one I will never forget.

- Onuche

4th Sunday Advent & Christmas

Undoubtedly there will be many questions about how many times we have to go to Mass this year since Christmas falls on a Monday. The long of the

short of it is: **TWICE!**

Now of course, the next question is why? This may take a little longer to answer; December 24th will be the 4th Sunday of Advent and to ensure that the Advent Season is held in its integrity (*which means we actually celebrate four weeks before Christmas*) Sunday (December 24th) is technically and liturgically the 4th Sunday of Advent.

Since Christmas is the very next day, that also requires Christians of the Catholic faith to attend Mass on this feast day as well. We have a vigil Mass to anticipate this special event. Therefore, that is why we celebrate a 4:30pm, 10:00pm and 8:00pm (in Spanish) Mass on Sunday evening (which are the vigils of Christmas Mass). They just happen to fall on Sunday. Therefore, if you are not already confused let me try to stir the mud even more: to fulfill your Sunday and Christmas obligation of attending Mass you can choose any regular 4th Sunday of Advent Masses (*Saturday, December 23rd at 5:00pm or Sunday or December 24th at 7:00am, 9:30am, 11:30am or 1:30pm*). Then to fulfill your obligation of attending Christmas Mass you may choose from the 4:30pm, 8:00pm (Spanish) or 10:00pm on December 24th or the 7:00am, 9:30am or 12:00 pm (bi-lingual) on December 25th. So once again, so you are not confused, you need to come to church **TWICE**.

If you are complaining about having to come to church twice this year, remember that last year you got a “break” by coming to church only once, because Christmas was on Sunday!

For those who come to Mass each and every week, this really does not make any difference since you are here anyway. And for those who only come to church on Christmas, that does not matter either.

What might matter is whether or not you want to just fulfill your obligations or want to truly worship God and give Him thanks for the many gifts that He has shared with you throughout the year.

If Christmas is that one or two times of the year we see your beautiful face, I gently challenge you to come more often. The crowds are fewer and Mass is not as long. But most importantly, we need your presence and your smile!

Adoration Chapel

If you are looking for an hour of peace and silence, come spend it with Jesus.

Contact:

Andrea (201) 874-8769 or Marie (732) 885-7972

Christmas Mass Schedule



Confessions

Wednesday December 20th 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Saturday, December 23rd 4:00pm - 4:30pm

Christmas Eve Masses (Sunday Dec. 24)

4:30pm, 10:00pm (English) 8:00pm (Spanish)

Christmas Day Masses (Monday Dec. 25)

7:00am, 9:30am, 12:00pm (bi-lingual)

Faith Formation

Calendar Reminders—

December Family Session for Levels K-6

The presentation this month will take place after the 9:30 am Mass in the school. You have received an information email with directions and details.

Confirmation I:

- 12/3: Mass followed by service work

Confirmation II and NET:

- 12/3: Class and Mass



REMINDER Confirmation II candidates:

Saint Report is due in the Faith Formation office 11/30! Please see your binder for instruction sheet. You may drop off a hard copy OR email the report (IN WORD).

Help Needed!

We are in need of a classroom aide on Sundays, after the 9:30 mass until 11:30am. If you are interested in helping, please contact Mrs. Rogalo:

faith.formation@stmichaelnetcong.org

In general Aides do not plan lessons—you are there to assist the catechist primarily with classroom management.

Youth Ministry

Join us for Youth Ministry Meetings (8th grade to senior high school) every **Monday evening at 7:00 pm** in the Youth Ministry room.

All Youth are Welcome!

Food Pantry

The food pantry is still in need of the following items:

- Ramen noodles & cup-a-soup
- Spaghetti & tomato sauce
- Cereal (regular size) & rice
- Large soup cans (all varieties), tuna
- Canned vegetables – corn, mixed vegetables, peas, and green bean
- Peanut butter & Jelly

Thank you for your generosity.

Diocesan Ministries Appeal



During this season of Advent, we look forward with hope and joy. We invite you to consider making a year-end charitable contribution to the Diocesan Ministries Appeal, which serves tens of thousands of people in need. God calls each of us by name to be a light in our communities where giving to the Appeal is a blessing to both the contributor and the recipient. Please make our Diocesan Ministries Appeal a priority in your year-end philanthropy. Gifts can be made by check, through gifts of securities, or credit card or online. May God bless you for your support!

St. Paul Abbey



St. Paul Abbey, on 289 Rt. 206, Newton, N.J., one mile south of Newton, has thousands of Christmas trees ready to choose 'n' cut 7 days a week from Nov. 24 to Dec. 21, 10:00 am to 3:30 pm.

Where your money goes

During this time of the year and certainly throughout the year, many organizations call, mail, email and fax requests for donations to their organization. I thought it would be helpful to actually know where your money is going.

When you are making donations throughout the Christmas Season, I would ask you to think twice about where you put your hard earned money:

Amount of every dollar that goes to the needy

| Non-Profit Organization | CEO Salary | |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------|
| Salvation Army | \$ 13,000 | \$.93 |
| Ronald McDonald Houses | None | \$.90 |
| Lions Club International | \$ 196,847 | \$.84 |
| Veterans of Foreign Wars | \$ 238,211 | \$.83 |
| Saint Jude Hospital | \$824,000 | \$.81 |
| Make a Wish Foundation | \$ 441,336 | \$.75 |
| UNICEF | \$1,200,000 | \$.14 |
| March of Dimes | 495,000 | \$.10 |
| United Way | 1,026,017 | \$.09 |
| American Red Cross | 1,030,022 | \$.08 |
| Goodwill Industries | 2,300,000 | \$.08 |
| Our Food Pantry | None | \$1 |

Just because it is a national organization does not mean that the monies go where you think they should be going! Think before you donate!

Knights of Columbus



The Knights of Columbus will be selling **Keep Christ in Christmas** magnets after all masses weekend of Dec. 9-10.

Our Lady of Guadalupe



Join the Parish family in the celebration of **Our Lady of Guadalupe** Dec. 10 at the 1:30 pm Mass.

Celebration to follow in Msgr. Trapasso Hall.

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