



ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

1212 KELLY ST, UNION, NEW JERSEY 07083

Mission

A diverse spiritual community in action, dedicated to drawing people to Christ and making church and worship matter. We do this through our liturgical worship and living out our stewardship of time, talent, and treasure.

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Mass: Monday—Friday
8:30 am, 12:00 Noon

Saturday

Mass: 8:30 am
Confession: 1:00 pm—2:00 pm
Saturday Vigil Mass—5:30 pm

Sunday

7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am,
12:00 Noon

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Msgr. Anselm I. Nwaorgu
Pastor

Rev. Camilo Lopez
Parochial Vicar

Deacon Michael Alfano
Permanent Deacon

Margaret Kazan
Principal

Mary Jo Arnaldo-Sipe
Parish Secretary/Bookkeeper

Maria Edmond
Lois Scanio
Religious Education

Cristina Manochio
Joseph Santillo
Youth Ministry

Fran Engleman
Music Director

Tiago Rodrigues
Property Manager

Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Charles McDermott

PARISH OFFICE

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www.stmichaelunion.org

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 [StMichaelChurch](https://www.instagram.com/StMichaelChurch)

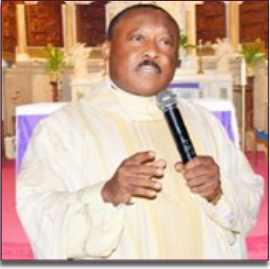


Whoever does not carry his
own cross and come after me
cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:27



The Transforming Power of Grace



My friends, sometimes the smallest books of the Bible carry the greatest punch and challenge. The Letter of Paul to Philemon (our second reading on this 23rd Sunday, Year C) is one such book. Just

one chapter long, yet bursting with love, grace, and challenge.

The storyline is this: Philemon, a slave owner, had been converted to Christianity by Paul. Onesimus, Philemon's slave—once called useless—had run away from his master, somewhat in shame, and encountered Paul in prison in Rome, where he too was converted to Christianity. Now, Paul wants to return Onesimus to Philemon and asks Philemon to receive him back, not as property, not as someone useless, but as a beloved spiritual brother.

That is a tall order—and yet therein lies the punch of this story. Let's begin with the writer. In addressing Philemon, Paul says, "I could order you what to do—but instead, I appeal to you out of love." He writes not with the voice of command, but with the voice of love. Think about that. How often do we try to control others with authority, when love is far more powerful? True influence doesn't come from control but from compassion. Parents, leaders, teachers—your greatest power is not in what you can demand, but in how you can love.

The letter is also about Onesimus, a runaway slave, someone society branded as useless, untrustworthy, even disposable. But God had other plans. In prison, Onesimus met Paul, and through Paul, he met Christ—and his life was changed. Paul calls him "my child, whom I have begotten in my chains." From useless to useful. From runaway to redeemed. From a slave to a son in faith. That, my friends, is the transforming power of grace. Maybe you feel like Onesimus—

like you've failed, wasted years, or drifted too far. Hear the good news: there is no sinner without a future and no saint without a past. No one is beyond God's reach. In Christ, the broken are made whole, the lost are found, and the useless become useful.

The letter is also to Philemon, Onesimus' master. Paul requests that he receive Onesimus, not as a slave but as a brother in Christ. Imagine how radical that sounded in a world built on social rank and power! Paul was declaring: in Christ, there is no slave or free, no superior or inferior. There is only one family—God's family. Amazing, isn't it? Yet we live in a world divided by politics, race, class, and pride. Accepting Jesus Christ should compel us to end bitterness and hatred, reviling and malice, discrimination and dehumanization, classism and racism. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ. I know that sounds like a cliché, but it is truly a radical concept at the very heart of Christianity. The Gospel does not just save souls—it heals relationships. It does not only reconcile us to God—it reconciles us to one another.

The question to ask, then, is this: Who is the Onesimus in my life? Who needs my forgiveness, my welcome, my embrace? Who needs to be received not with suspicion or bitterness, but with the open arms of Christ? True faith is about building bridges where the world wants to build walls.

So let us allow love to lead!

Let us allow grace to transform!

Let us allow reconciliation to be our default mode.

Msgr. Anselm Nwaorgu

Stewardship of Treasure

2025 UNION OF SAINTS & NATIONS (USAN)

Dear Parishioners,

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for your efforts in ensuring that our one and only fundraiser (USAN), to help keep our parish financially stable, remains successful. Our previous campaigns met and exceeded our goals, to the glory of God and thanks to your generosity.

As we plan to close this year's campaign by the end of September, we have generated **\$86,093** so far. It is very important that we meet our \$100,000 goal by September 30, 2025.

We appeal to all facilitators to do their best to meet their goals and remit to the parish office. We appeal to all parishioners to find it in their hearts to participate in this process, so that we can ensure the financial health of our Church.

To this end, we need at least:

10 people who can donate upward of \$500.

20 people who can donate upward of \$250

40 people who can donate upward of \$100.

All donations, as always, are tax-deductible.

I thank you for your determination to keep our parish solvent.

In Christ,

Msgr. Anselm I. Nwaorgu

Your servant Pastor



Prayer to ST. MICHAEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

"Give and gifts will be given to you ... the measure with which you measure will in turn be measured out to you." Luke 6:38

COLLECTION & SOS

	NEEDED WEEKLY	ACTUAL WEEKLY	OVER/UNDER
AUGUST			
Week 1	\$ 8,461	\$ 7,313	\$ 1,148
Week 2	\$ 8,461	\$ 8,604	\$ 143
Week 3	\$ 8,461	\$ 6,982	\$ 1,479
Week 4	\$ 8,461	\$ 8,058	\$ 403
Week 5	\$ 8,461	\$ 8,197	\$ 264
Monthly SOS	\$11,425	\$10,137	\$ 1,288

Dear Parishioners,

In order for us to stay in the **GREEN**, it is important that we meet our weekly budget collections and SOS. Please let us continue to support the weekly Sunday collection so that we can achieve our goals of balancing the budget going forward.

Thank you for your support of the parish and your continued generosity.

Msgr. Anselm

ANNUAL APPEAL 2025

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

2025 Base Goal: \$47,850.00

2025 Stretch Goal: \$57,420.00

As of: July 18, 2025

Donor Pledge: \$43,410.00

Donor Received: \$37,337.16

6 Ways To DONATE

ONLINE GIVING:

Parish Giving
—SIGN UP FOR ELECTRONIC GIVING—
stmichaelunion.org

BANK TRANSFER:

zelle

stmichaelunion@comcast.net

In the Comment section, indicate where your donation should be accounted for, e.g., USAN (with your Group Name), Offertory, Tithe, etc.

CONTACT FREE:

QR CODE



Scanning the code above with your mobile device directs you to the online donation page

MAIL IN:



1211 Orange Ave, Union, NJ 07083

DROP OFF: AT THE PARISH CENTER



1211 Orange Ave, Union, NJ 07083

DURING OFFERTORY: AT MASS



You can use designated envelopes OR use your envelope but indicate where your donation should be accounted for.

Mass Intentions & Novenas

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY

September 6

8:30 am Novena of Masses,
Ruben Vibar (Living)-Birthday
Mian Family (Living)-Protection
5:30 pm Mary Christine Demetillo (Living)-Birthday
Anne Margarette Florita (Living)-Blessings & Guidance
Jerry Crincoli, Mary & Gino Ianiro

SUNDAY

September 7

7:30 am For Parishioners, Mary & Gino Ianiro
9:00 am Aidan Perez (Living)-Birthday
Josephine Fiatty (Living)-Healing
Emmalee Engelman (Living)-Healing
Isirio Torres, Anthony Doss
10:30 am Vincent Espana (Living)-Thanksgiving
Raymondo & Norma Canares (Living)
Manuel & Mannelia Caram
12:00 noon Woolley Chrisphonte (Living)-Thanksgiving
Frederik Dittermer

MONDAY

September 8

8:30 am Novena of Masses
Sterlinda Vital (Living)-Thanksgiving
Sherman Mc Michael
12:00 noon Geoffrey Rumohr (Living)-Birthday
Joanne Celestin (Living)-Thanksgiving
Julian De Vera (Living)-Thanksgiving
Raymond Alphe

TUESDAY

September 9

8:30 am McNisky Jeautus ((Living)-Birthday
Michael Ange Bontemps (Living)-Thanksgiving
Roger Boetsch
12:00 noon Jim Ford (Living)
Stephanie Tokpe (Living)-Thanksgiving
Nathalie Michelle Destin (Living)-Birthday

WEDNESDAY

September 10

8:30 am Mian Family (Living)-Protection
Socorro Dagat (Living)-Healing
Cebulak Family (Living)
12:00 noon Mary Ann Kelly
Mary & Gino Ianiro

THURSDAY

September 11

8:30 am Roger Boetsch
All Souls in Purgatory
12:00 noon Yesmia Rodriguez (Living)-Healing
Teresa & Nicola Vanni

FRIDAY

September 12

8:30am Kosisochukwa Akoon Odoemene (Living)-Birthday
Elizabeth Donato & Joe Pacicco
12:00 noon Novena of Masses
Mary & Gino Ianiro
Wonesca Gabriel, Felicie Hypolite

SATURDAY

September 13

8:30 am Charles Eluwa (Living)-Birthday
Meryll Orendian (Living)-Birthday
Giuseppe Pontoriero
Sabinus Ihediwa

ALTAR OFFERINGS

The Altar Bread & Altar Wine are offered for St. Michael's Parishioners.

The Sanctuary Lamp is offered for Lucy Scalgione, family and friends.

Novena of Masses SEPTEMBER 2025

Jose & Lucille Arnaldo	Phil Matrale
James Ford, Sr.	Jean Ford
Mary & Idolo Russomano	George Rinehart, Jr.
Mary & Gino Ianiro	Teresa & Nicola Vanni
Elizabeth Donato & Joe Pacicco	All Souls in Purgatory
Magdalena Moreno Cruz	James Williamson
Thomas Donohue	Angela Perez
Helen & Stanley Skora	Linda & Oscar Uusima
Rosalie & Helmut Kikas	Avi & Endel Stafenau
Joseph & Carol Furnari	Purification G. Ezpeleta
Edie, Tom & Scott Leddy	
Vivian Osemwegie (Living)-job protection	
Emmalee Engleman (Living)-healing	
Socorro Dagat (Living)-Birthday	
Jeff Pogorzleski (Living)-Healing	
Eric Kouevi (Living)-Guidance	
Stephanie Tokpe (Living)	
Living & Deceased Members of the Santoriello Family	
Micheline Kmetz & Joseph Kmetz	
Patsy Scalgione & deceased family members	
Living & Deceased Members of Orlando, Landolfi,	
Siciliano & LaManna Families	
Lucille Sousa Araujo & Manuel Periera Araujo	
Living & Deceased Members of Del Rosario &	
Perez Families	
Living & Deceased Members of Boulín & Maddy Families	
Living & Deceased Members of the Aguh &	
Nzeakor Families	

PRAYERS OF HEALING FOR

Anthony Staynings, Grace Fortino, Dolores Rust, Lucy Nwauku, Judy Reid, Jeff Pogorzelski, Marie Esposito, Jose M. DeJesus, Shirley Dobard, Joyce Toth, Maria Ferrara, Alex Pretto, Paulo Goncalves, Frances Machado, Michael Nworu, Victoria Nworu, June Musa, Theresa Ojeawere, Kathy Chavez, Sofia Teixeira, Carlos Dacruz, Socorro Dagat, Peter & Cathy Fortunato, Anna Lepski, Nicole Ferlo, Juanita Ottenstroer, Baby Sophia Alfano, John Dittermer, Sal Dovi, Kathy Doherty, Mary Ann Flynn, Roger Swadish, Jaime DeLeon, Doug Heinzer, Leonard Stfalk, Aida Polanco, Mary Ann McGrath, Anthony Terrezza, Homer Mereira, Alberta Phillips, Annamae McKnight, Liza David, Kate Hurley-Dandekar, Michelle Dressel, Jose Espiritu, Cristina Sarmiento, Agripina Perez, Walter McMahon, Loty Angara, Isabela Esmores, Jonathan Hyland, Mary Byrune, Bernadette Ogang, Jessica Troche, Maria Sinoes, Robin Gaskin, Emmalee Engelman, Joe Santillo, Vincent Dragone, Dolores Fortino, Adolfo Angara, Arcie Borja, Jennie Grube, Scott Diamond, Tara Arendacs

DECEASED RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

Please remember in your prayers our parish, friends and family members who have passed on to the Lord, that they may inherit the promise of everlasting life in heaven. Especially,

Palma Palumbo, Leonard Romano, Grace McDermott

Ministry Happenings

CYO YOUTH MINISTRY

Cristina Manochio
(908) 688-1232, ext 3

Joseph Santillo
cyounionnj@gmail.com



The CYO / Youth Ministry would like to welcome all high school teens to our first meeting of the school year on **Tuesday, September 16th from 7:00pm-8:15pm in the Phil Matrale Hall** of St. Michael's Church. Please use the Orange Avenue entrance and we look forward to seeing everyone soon!

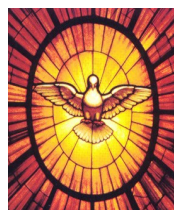
Join our parish's new **YOUNG ADULT GROUP** (ages 18-25) - a Christ-centered community made for you. Together we'll dive into Bible studies, worship night and faith filled discussions while also enjoying game nights, move nights (yes, The Chosen is on the list), open mic nights, field days and even more.

It's more than just events-its space to grow in your connection with God, one another and to also have fun!

Come as you are. Bring a friend. Let's walk this journey of faith and building community together.



CHARISMATIC RENEWAL PRAYER GROUP



St. Michael's Parish Catholic Charismatic Renewal Prayer Group invites you to join us every **Wednesday evening's Testimony Night, at 6:00 PM, in Phil Matrale Hall (LC).**

WELLNESS MINISTRY

(FREE) DANCE/EXERCISE/SELF DEFENSE Class
For the Family
Saturdays 9:30-10:30 am
Phil Matrale Hall (LC)



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We are pleased to announce that CCD (Faith Formation) classes for children will begin as follows:

Sunday, September 28-10:30-11:45 am
Monday, September 29 (Grades 1-5)
3:30-4:45 pm
Tuesday, September 30 (Grades 6-8)
7:00-8:15 pm

We look forward to sharing this year of faith and learning with your children.

The Religious Education Program is looking for Catechists, Aides, and Substitutes!

If you feel called to share your faith and help guide our children in their journey with Christ, we would love to hear from you. Please call the Religious Education Office at **(908) 964-5613** or email **smreligiouseducation@gmail.com**.

The **Religious Education Office** is open Monday through Thursday 9:30AM to 2:30PM (except holidays) or by appointment. We are located in the Parish Center at 1211 Orange Avenue. You can also contact us by phone 908-964-0965 at any time and leave a message or via email at smreligiouseducation@gmail.com

RCIA PROGRAM

Deacon Michael Alfano RCIA classes are every Saturday morning in the Phil Matrale Hall (LC) - Murphy Room at 10:30 am. Please contact Deacon Michael at michaeljalfano@aol.com if you want to learn more about the program.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY

Consider joining the Eucharistic Ministry, it is a rewarding experience, bringing Christ to others at mass and those who are unable to attend mass. At this time our parish is in need for new candidates for the Eucharistic Ministry. At this time we are in need of men and women 18 years and older to volunteer to the Ministry of the Eucharist. We presently have openings for all masses. If you are interested in becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, please contact Terry Dziedzic at (908) 418-3730 or dziedzic@comcast.net and Deacon Michael Alfano at (201) 995-7211 or michaeljalfano@aol.com.

Announcements

SAVE THE DATE ST. MICHAEL'S FEAST CELEBRATION

When: Friday, September 26, 2025
Time: 7:00 pm—11:00 pm
Where: Costa Del Sol—Vauxhall Road, Union
Cost: \$65 per person, includes buffet dinner, soda, coffee, DJ

Cash or check (payable to St. Michael's Church)
 Tickets are limited—please don't delay.
 No reservations accepted. **TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.**

They are available at the Parish Center (1211 Orange Ave.) and with **Cynthia Grandeza & Luz Gonzales.**

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH **Feast Day & Anniversary Celebration**

September 20, 2025—Saturday
 Rain Date: September 27, 2025
St. Michael's Fair—12:00-4:00 pm
 Church Parking Lot
 Hosted by: Family Activities Committee

September 26, 2025—Friday
Dinner-Dance—7:00-11:00 pm
 Costa Del Sol Restaurant, Union, NJ
 Cost: \$65 per person

September 28, 2025—Sunday
Ice Cream Social— 10:30 and 12:00 noon Mass
 Free Ice Cream for Everyone!
 Hosted By: GIFT (Grow in Faith Together Ministry)

September 28, 2025—Sunday
Musical Concert—3:00 pm
 Main Church
 Featuring St. Michael's Choir & Friends
 Refreshments will be served after the Concert,
 Phil Matrale Hall (LV)



SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Our next Fellowship will be on **September 21, 2025** at all Masses.

We thank the following for their generous donation to our August Fellowship: **Maria Ponce, Victoria Oyakhionome, Chioma Anopueme, Med Domingo & Soque Dagat.**

Anyone interested in volunteering and joining the Fellowship Sunday team or any other Social Events Activities, please text Cynthia Grandeza at 908-591-1065 or call the Parish Office at (908) 688-1232, ext. 100.



TRAVELING STATUE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The statue should be picked up on Sunday at a Mass time you requested, stays at your home for a week and dropped off on Saturday before the 5:30 pm Mass. There is a sign up sheet in the vestibule of the Church or call the Parish Office (908) 688-1232 for more information.

SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

September 7—Marilyn Morales—12:00 noon mass
 September 14—Karen del Rosario—5:30 pm mass
 September 21—Jeanne Spassione—9:00 am mass
 September 28—Susan Greenough—9:00 am mass

OCTOBER SCHEDULE

October 5- Brain Del Rosario —5:30 pm
 October 12—Khristine Aguinaldo—12:00 noon
 October 19—Mozia Family—9:00 am mass
 October 26- Tita Sarmieneto—12:00 noon

Join our celebration as we honor the Filipino Saints



San Lorenzo Ruiz San Pedro Calungsod
Sunday, September 21, 2025 @ 3:00 pm

Daily Novena will start on Friday, Sept. 12, 2025
 after the 8:30 am Mass on weekdays and Saturdays
 and before the 12:00 noon Mass on Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025
 Reception and fellowship after the Mass at the
 Phil Matrale Hall (Lower Church)

*Devotees are encouraged to wear Filipiniana/Barong Tagalog
 or native attires.*

*There will be a second collection for the SMC Multi-Cultural
 Ministry Projects*

Bus trip to Wind Creek Casino Bethlehem, PA

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2025. Bus leaves St. Michael's parking lot at 9:30 am sharp.

Cost: \$35, you will receive \$25 in slot play

SAVE THE DATE—HEALING MASS

October 18, 2025 at 11:00 am

Phil Matrale Hall (LC)

No registration required