



# ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

A DIVERSE SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY IN ACTION

## 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*

**Clare Andriola**  
**Lois Scanio**  
*Religious Education*

**Cristina Manochio**  
**Joseph Santillo**  
*Youth Ministry*

**Fran Engleman**  
**Patrick B. Phillips**  
*Music Ministry*

**Tiago Rodrigues**  
*Property Manager*

*Pastor Emeritus*  
**Rev. Charles McDermott**

## PARISH OFFICE

Tel.: 908-688-1232

Fax: 908-810-1076

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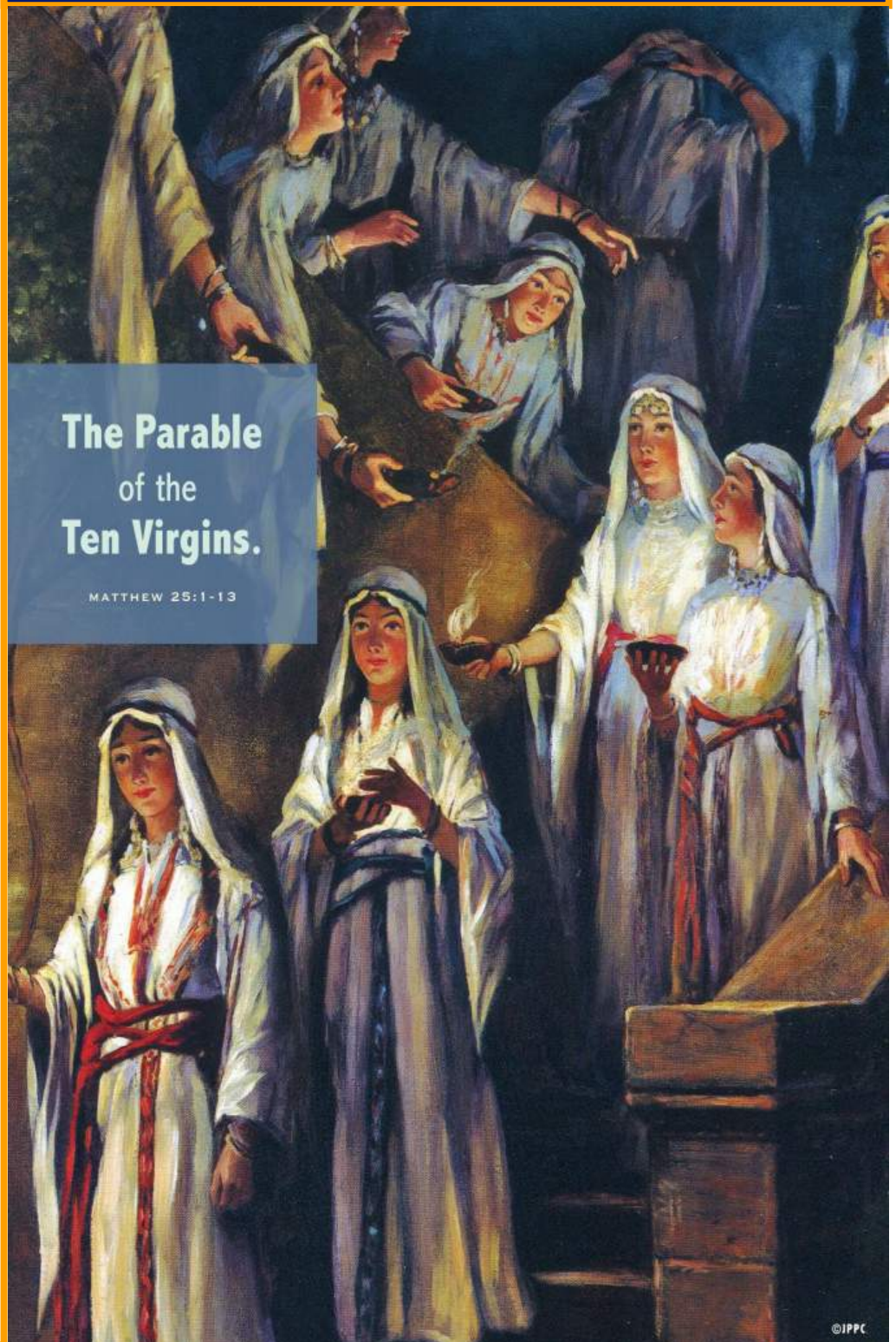
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November 12, 2023

THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY



## The Parable of the Ten Virgins.

MATTHEW 25:1-13

## Ready to Rock and Roll



Because Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow, his teachings were not meant only for His immediate audience; they remain true for all ages. In the gospel of this 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Times, Year A (Matthew 25:1-13), Christ presents a parable that illustrates how people succeed or fail in the face of similar conditions and circumstances; how what we do in managing opportunities in life impacts upon success and failure; how readiness helps us tap into opportunities successfully baring obstacles, conditions, and unpredictable situations that may show up.

The first thing to notice in this parable is that it begins by categorizing the virgins into two groups—those who are wise and those who are foolish. This categorization is not about the good and the bad, nor is it about sinners and saints. Instead, it is about different characters and dispositions—the wise and the foolish, bearing in mind that character is the sum of our everyday choices. So, this story is about how our choices impact how we end up in life. My friends, destiny is mostly not a matter of chance but a matter of choices.

As human beings, we spend a lot of time planning our lives. We decide what kind of career to pursue, how to build a stable future, and even what life will be like for us ten or twenty years down the road. Yet, our lives often take twists and turns that we don't anticipate, and the ones who beat these odds become winners. Successful people did not become successful because they did not have unexpected challenges to overcome. They became successful because they were equipped in ways that enabled them to meet and overcome challenges on the way. They were

prepared for exigencies.

So, we always need to be mindful that we do not know what tomorrow will bring because we do not control all the exigencies that may come upon our efforts. As you may have noticed, the first thing that went wrong with the foolish virgins was that they brought enough oil to last them through the time they believed the bridegroom would show up. But the bridegroom tarried, and they ran out of oil. But the wise virgins brought enough oil just in case the bridegroom showed up late, which, by the way, they were accustomed to doing in those days, and he did.

Life is not about our time; it is about God's time. While God may seem late on our time, He is never late on due time. For God, time is, and we do not know the hour or the day. This means that we live on borrowed time and, therefore, cannot afford to wait for perfect conditions before we execute things in our lives. We cannot afford to be short-sighted and plan only for immediate needs, nor can we afford to be so long-sighted as to forget that tomorrow is not a promise. Our vision and horizon in life need to be wider than our self-centeredness, for the one whose focus is on today may never be prepared when tomorrow shows up, and the one whose focus is on tomorrow may never live to see it. Life is about balancing timing against available resources because opportunities can easily be wasted while waiting for perfect conditions. We always need to be prepared just in case. Those who are ready are most disposed to take advantage of emergent opportunities. May God grant us the grace of readiness and preparedness!

*Msgr. Anselm Nwaorgu*



## Stewardship of Treasure

### 2023 UNION OF SAINTS & NATIONS (USAN)

**GOAL:** \$100,000.00  
**As of 10/25/23** \$105,081.00  
\$ 5,081.00

On behalf of our Church, I sincerely want to thank all of you for your unwavering effort to help this parish reach our 2023 USAN goal of \$100,000.00. Anyone who is moved to drive us to this goal and beyond should do so through any of the various forms of donation we use in the parish. Please mark your envelope "USAN Donation" and remember to put your envelope number if you wish. May the good Lord continue to bless you and your family for your generosity and support of this Parish!

**Msgr. Anselm I. Nwaorgu**  
**Pastor**

"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

	<b>NEEDED WEEKLY</b>	<b>ACTUAL WEEKLY</b>	<b>OVER/UNDER</b>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			
Week 1	\$ 7,079	\$ 7,802	\$ 723
Week 2	\$ 7,079	\$	\$
Week 3	\$ 7,079	\$	\$
Week 4	\$ 7,079	\$	\$
Monthly SOS	\$10,040	\$ 7,374	\$ 2,666

*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.

### 2024 MASS BOOK IS NOW OPEN.

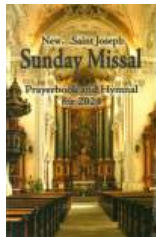
Please stop by the Parish Center (1211 Orange Ave.) to book your Mass Intentions for birthdays, wedding anniversaries, death anniversaries and any other special occasions. The Parish Office is open Monday to Friday, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

We still have several open Masses available in our 2023 Mass book.

## 6 Ways To DONATE

<p><b>ONLINE GIVING:</b></p>  <p>—SIGN UP FOR ELECTRONIC GIVING— stmichaelunion.org</p>	<p><b>BANK TRANSFER:</b></p>  <p>stmichaelunion@comcast.net  <small>In the Comment section, indicate where your donation should be accounted for, e.g., USAN (with your Group Name), Offertory, Tithe, etc.</small></p>	<p><b>CONTACT FREE: QR CODE</b></p>  <p>Scanning the code above with your mobile device directs you to the online donation page</p>
<p><b>MAIL IN:</b></p>  <p>1211 Orange Ave, Union, NJ 07083</p>	<p><b>DROP OFF: AT THE PARISH CENTER</b></p>  <p>1211 Orange Ave, Union, NJ 07083</p>	<p><b>DURING OFFERTORY: AT MASS</b></p>  <p>You can use designated envelopes OR use your envelope but indicate where your donation should be accounted for.</p>

### SAINT JOSEPH SUNDAY MISSALS 2024



We have a limited quantity available for purchase.  
**Cost \$6.00**

Please stop by the Parish Center (1211 Orange Ave) to pick up your copy.

### 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.

## Mass Intentions & Novenas

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### **SATURDAY**

#### **November 11**

8:30 am Joseph Grande, Trinidad Leodones  
Mkiruka Melie (Living)-Birthday  
5:30 pm Helena Fortunato, Joey Ruela  
Anthony John Ezpeleta (Living)

#### **SUNDAY**

#### **November 12**

7:30 am Agnes Briones  
Romy Briones  
9:00 am Aderola Adelusi (Living)-Birthday  
Rashed Espejon (Living)-Birthday  
10:30 am Philip Montalto, For the Parishioners  
12:00 noon Carmelo Valentino, Rogelio Chaves  
Thomas Ifedioramma Nnoli  
Rev. Fr. Chris Anyanwu

#### **MONDAY**

#### **November 13**

8:30 am All Souls, Rosa Pontoriero  
Rev. Bernard Jakubco (Living)  
12:00 noon Rodney Lucas  
Anna Pierre (Living)-Birthday

#### **TUESDAY**

#### **November 14**

8:30 am Serapio Dagat  
Maria Teresita Velez  
12:00 noon Jake Lopina (Living)-Thanksgiving  
Daven Lopia (Living)-Thanksgiving

#### **WEDNESDAY**

#### **November 15**

8:30 am Amoakon Mian, All Souls  
Marie Junita Francillon  
12:00 noon Antonio De Pinho Landeria

#### **THURSDAY**

#### **November 16**

8:30 am Phyllis Bordino  
Rosario Arnaldo (Living)-Healing  
12:00 noon Neremise Cadet, Marie Noel

#### **FRIDAY**

#### **November 17**

8:30 am Chisom Odoemena (Living)-Thanksgiving  
Maria Tavares  
12:00 noon Helen Phillips  
Delores Turner

#### **SATURDAY**

#### **November 18**

8:30 am All Souls, Carol Manzella  
5:30 pm Joey Ruela, Marlene Cababe

#### **SUNDAY**

#### **November 19**

7:30 am Phyllis Bordino, All Souls  
9:00 am Claude L. Auguste (Living)-Birthday  
Alton Famarin (5th Ann.)  
10:30 am For the Parishioners  
Manuel Fazendeiro  
12:00 noon Beatrice & Charles Eluwa (Living)  
35th Wedding Anniversary

#### **ALTAR OFFERINGS**

*The Altar Bread, Altar Wine & Sanctuary Lamp are offered in memory of the Deceased Members of St. Michael's Parish.*

### DECEASED PARISHIONERS NOVEMBER 2022-NOVEMBER 2023

Constance Moratay	Giovanni Bambacci
Sebastian Rana	Mark Frederickson
Gerald Giordano	Agnes Baldeno
Joan T. Bender	Arthur Bohse
Marie A. Michele	Helen Biancho
Lorenzo Bulos	Theresa Santoriello
Theresa Conley	Mary Cavetano
Joseph Petrick	Danielle Dobeszevski
Susan McMahan	Anthony Zarello
Barbara Ann Sibia	Margaret Pfeiffer
Angela Beusalacchi	Lorraine Swenson
Loretta Altmann	Bernard Cook
June Szalkowski	Lucille Lacson Arnaldo
Gilda Tobia	Violet Stavac
Vito Chementi	Amadeu Ribeiro
Frank Anthony Fernandez	Marie V. Riccio
Adeline Marino	Richard Laguna
Marie Rose Benjamin	Aida Sotto
Margaret G. Maltese	Joseph Ingaro
Susan M. Cavallo	Edwardo Fernandez
Yvose Rene	Frank E. Parziale
Richard Anthony Caggiano	Hilda Criado
Amy Gonzales Putzi	Amoakon Mian

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.  
Amen.*

### PRAYERS OF HEALING FOR

Grace Fortino, Dolores Rust, Lucy Nwauku, Judy Reid, Ana Torres, Rita Homiak, Stephen Berberabe, Norma Tuano, Jeff Pogorzelski, Virginia Attanasio, Mary Leeman, Marie Esposito, Jose M. DeJesus, Andre Graigwell, Nicole Pozeinick, Amy Dombroski, Samantha Lopes, Jacob & Jaxson Rivera, Ken Lang, Valarie Carter, Willie Green, Shirley Dobard, Joyce Toth, Maria Ferrara, Coady Brown, Alex Pretto, Paulo Goncalves, Frances Machado, Antoinette Agriloo, James Scholz, Giovanna Di Biase, Michael Nworu, Victoria Nworu, June Musa, Marivic del Rosario, Denise Lucarello Aliseo, James Mariusiak, Theresa Ojeawere, Kathleen Sarno, Kathy Chavez, John McEvoy, Sofia Teixeira, Carlos Dacruz, Anthony Staynings, Socorro Dagat

### 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 the Deceased Members of St. Michael's Parish**

## Ministry Happenings

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The **Religious Education Office** is open Monday through Thursday from 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 [smccd@comcast.net](mailto:smccd@comcast.net)

**Coordinator of Religious Education**  
*Clare Andriola*  
**Coordinator of Home-Based Religious Education**  
*Lois Scanio*

### CYO YOUTH MINISTRY



This upcoming week at CYO we will be collecting food for the food pantry. Every year our food pantry feeds numerous Union families in need for Thanksgiving, and we would like to contribute. We all have been blessed and would like to give back. All food can be dropped off in the Phil Matrale Hall (lower church) of St. Michael's on Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> from 7:00pm-8:30pm. (Please no baby food!) Please email us at [younionnj@gmail.com](mailto:younionnj@gmail.com) for a list of items. 1.5 hours of community service will be given to all of those who participate!

The CYO / Youth Ministry is excited to announce that we will be venturing back to Camp Lebanon for our annual teen retreat on the weekend of November 17th-19th! Any teen who is interested in attending, or anyone looking to sponsor someone who is attending, please contact us at [cyouionnj@gmail.com](mailto:cyouionnj@gmail.com). Thank you and God Bless!

### 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](mailto:dziedzic@comcast.net) and Deacon Michael Alfano at (201) 995-7211 or [michaeljalfano@aol.com](mailto:michaeljalfano@aol.com).

### CHARISMATIC RENEWAL PRAYER GROUP

**COME AND EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT PERSONALLY WITH ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH**  
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Prayer Group

**DAY: Wednesday**  
**TIME: 6 PM-7:30 PM**  
**VENUE: Murphy Room, Phil Matrale Hall (LC)**



### MIND AND SPIRIT MINISTRY

All of us within the Mind and Spirit Ministry team are excited to announce the beginning of our support groups.

These coping groups will provide tips that can help you or someone that you care for, find mental and spiritual support. These are not therapeutic groups but monthly opportunities to integrate the supportive qualities found through faith, community, and mental health strategies for a different mental health theme each month.

In addition to the useful resources that will be available to all those who attend, we will provide a welcoming atmosphere, refreshments, and necessary discussions on the different themes of mental health that affect many in our daily lives.

These sessions will be held once a month in the lower church starting with our first on **Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**. The theme for this session is **Coping with grief and loss**.

We look forward to seeing you all then.

#### Monthly Prayer

This month represents a time to remember those we have lost. This month can be a time to grieve and mourn those we have lost. Memories can trigger difficult feelings which makes support from others, and connection to God very important. In this time, we wanted to share with you a prayer to support you during times of need.

***Jesus, you who wept at the death of Lazarus and gave comfort to widows and orphans, be with us now as we mourn.***

***Comfort us in our sorrow, strengthen our faith and deepen our hope in the Resurrection. Help us experience your presence among us. Amen***

May these words be of comfort to you throughout this month. If there is an aspect of mental health that you would like us to pray for, please feel free to email us at [ourmindandspirit@gmail.com](mailto:ourmindandspirit@gmail.com)

### LINEN MINISTRY

St. Michael's Church is in need of new ministers to join the Linen Ministry. The Linen Ministry provides clean alter linens used at masses and spiritual celebrations.

**What do you need know to be a part of this worthwhile ministry?**

- You need to have a washing machine and iron (no starch please).
- Based on the size of our team you can expect to be asked every 3 to 4 months to launder the clothes.
- The linens are washed and pressed. The linens are usually picked up on the weekend and returned within the week of pickup.
- A typical wash consists of approximately 50 to 75 altar clothes.

Consider joining the **Linen Ministry** it will be a rewarding experience for you knowing the linens you cleaned are adding to the beauty of our alter and the celebration.

If you are interested in joining the **Linen Ministry** or have questions, please call or email Joann Pastewski at 908-688-8844 [jpastewski@aol.com](mailto:jpastewski@aol.com)

## Announcements

### WINDCREEK CASINO TRIP WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023

Cost: \$35, return \$25 in slot play  
Bus leave St. Michael's Parking Lot at 9:30 am

Please call Parish Office (908) 688-1232, ext 100  
for more information.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Blessed Iwene Tansi Feast**  
**Sunday, December 3, 2023**  
**12:00 noon Mass**  
**Fellowship after Mass**  
**Phil Matrale Hall (LC)**

### ST. ANN'S FOOD PANTRY

Please bring all holiday food donations to the  
Parish Center (1211 Orange Ave).

Thank you for your contributions.

Join the **HANDS OF GRACE (HUGS) MINISTRY** in  
celebrating "**Giving Bear Sunday**" every 3rd Sunday  
of the month. Look out for our Purple Bear in the  
vestibule with a basket for cards for family needs.  
Please stop by and pick a card or 2 to help ensure the  
ministries inventory never dries up.

The HUGS Ministry services 50 families in our parish  
and community by giving out Grace Bags monthly to  
mothers and children-newborn to age 5.



### WELLNESS MINISTRY

(FREE) **DANCE/EXERCISE** Class For  
the Family

**Saturdays 9:30—10:30 am Phil Matrale Hall (LC)**

### COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP SUNDAYS November 19, 2023



Our next Coffee and Fellowship Sunday will be on November 19 after all the Sunday Masses. It is our hope that you all can join us as we celebrate an advanced Thanksgiving as a Church family, thanking God for all the blessings received and blessings yet to be received.

### UPCOMING ADVENT EVENTS AT ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH ALL ARE INVITED!



#### December 1—6:30 pm

First Friday Eucharistic Adoration

#### December 3—6:30 pm

First Sunday Eucharistic Adoration

#### December 4—7:00-8:30 pm

Advent Presentation by our Guest Speaker: Fr.  
Paul Houlis for all Parishioners

#### December 5—7:00-8:30 pm

Advent Presentation by our Guest Speaker: Fr.  
Paul Houlis for Religious Education (CCD) &  
Youth Group (CYO) members will be present. All  
are welcome!

More information will follow in the coming weeks.



IT'S THE SEASON... Our parish **Giving Tree** will be greeting you once again during the Advent Season. As we prepare our holiday gifts, let us pray for others and bring comfort to those who are struggling through these difficult times. Our theme this year is **PEACE**. More information will follow.



Welcome  
to Our Church!



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