



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
Music Director

Tiago Rodrigues
Property Manager

Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Charles McDermott

PARISH OFFICE

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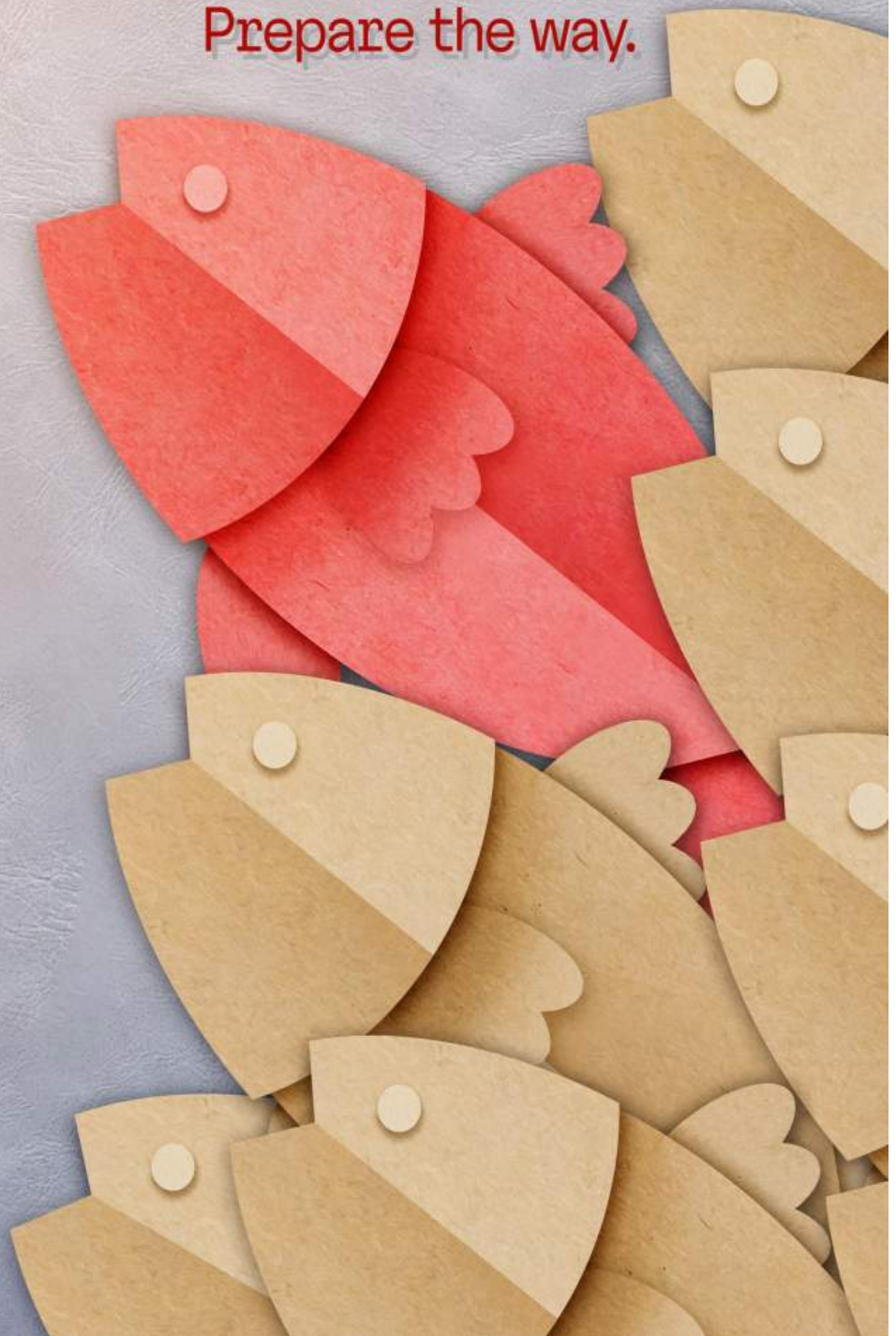
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January 21, 2024

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Prepare the way.



Epiphany Strategies: A light unto my path.



The narrative about the journey of the Magi who travelled from the Far East to Bethlehem to see the child Jesus is a very interesting story. This story uncovers power strategies that can combine to bring about success in any aspect of our lives. How did the Magi come to know that the Child Jesus has been born in Bethlehem when those who lived right there in Bethlehem did not know this fact;

not even the wise men in the court of King Herod? This same question can be stated in a different way. What can help one succeed when it comes to life goals and aspirations? The story of the Magi provides deep insights into this question and I would like to explore them as we begin our journey with Year, 2024.

Strategy One: Expectation

The Epiphany story clearly states that the Magi had **Expectation**—what they were looking forward to; what they were hoping for. They had a goal they were working toward—to visit the Child Jesus when He is born. Life goals and aspirations begin with Expectation—seeing something from the end-zone and then working toward it. Scripture says that faith is the evidence of things hoped for. There has to be something we hope for in this life; something we expect to be, something we would want to experience, something we would want to know about, before we can work toward it. Without expectations, without stated goals and objectives, it is difficult to attain success in life. Expectation generates interest, interest generates preparation, preparation leads to readiness, and readiness is what allows us to seize opportunity whenever it arises. It was the expectation of the Magi that got them ready to follow the Star when it appeared. Without expectation, our life will only be a revolving door. No matter where we are in life, having some expectations, something to look forward to, something to work and live for, is a good part of healthy living. Life should not just happen to us; we should make it happen for us, and that journey begins with expectation.

Strategy Two: Noticeability

Expectation goes with the ability to notice things that matter to our expectations. While everyone else saw stars in the heavens, the Magi saw in the midst of a zillion stars, the Star of David. Many a time opportunities abound around us but our inability to notice them can impair our dreams and goals. Two people can easily come upon a heap of scrapped iron; one sees a heap of garbage while the other sees materials for spare parts. Scripture says that in all circumstances, God does provide windows of opportunity to help us out (Ref. 1 Cor. 10:13). The ability to keep eyes and ears open to relevant facts and materials relative to expectations is a key ingredient in any successful endeavor. A mad man once said that he makes the sign of the Cross both in his frontal and in his backside directions, so that no matter which way the kingdom comes, he will be in it. It is important to develop the ability to pay attention to our environment, to notice the pain around us, and to be aware of the impact of our behavior on others. Paying attention to notice little details, little important things that matter, is truly important. Attention to detail is a key component in giving life to our dreams.

Strategy Three: Action

When the Magi saw the Star of David, they immediately swung into action; they headed out to Bethlehem. No matter what ideas, goals and dreams we have in life; no matter how many opportunities we encounter, without action, those ideas, goals and dreams will never grow bigger than the brain cells they occupy in our minds. It is at the level of action; at the level of doing, not words, that life happens.

One of my friends once said that the difference between those who get rich and those who are poor is that the poor man has an idea and does nothing about it while the rich man gets a small idea and pursues it with passion. Procrastination is a grave into which dreams are buried, and when married to excuses, constitutes the deadliest tool in the devil's arsenal for the annihilation of human dreams and aspirations. There is always something we can do today about our dream; something that can get us going toward a desired goal. The Magi mounted on their camels and set out toward Bethlehem. As the saying goes, visions succeed when followed by ventures. It is never about big steps in the future as it is about small steps taken just now. I truly believe that none of us have gotten to where we are today by great deeds planned; rather we are where we are today because of small deeds done. May the good Lord grant us the zeal for action.

Strategy Four: Flexibility

The Yew Rune tree is truly an amazing tree. The trunk is highly flexible even as its roots hold firmly to the ground beneath it. It can bend without losing tension, that is to say, it has the capacity to return to its upright shape as soon as pressure is released. The memory of its linear form is never erased by its conformity to being bent. There is a saying that goes "Blessed are the hearts that can bend, they shall never be broken." Life is full of ups and downs, and that is what makes detours an essential part of it. The Magi got stuck on the road; the star that was leading them to Bethlehem disappeared. They did not give up; rather they detoured to the king's palace and inquired about their way forward. The ability to adapt, to be flexible, to be open-minded, and to seek alternatives, is the wiggle room needed to get through the maze of life's unpredictability. While we must stay committed to our goals, we must be flexible in our approach. The knowledge of yesterday must find ways to marry the wisdom of today so as to develop insights for tomorrow. A friend once told me that only those who are willing to bend and to learn will eventually inherit the earth, and that those who already know it all will find themselves beautifully equipped to inherit a world that no longer exists. One thing I admire about the behavior of water is that no obstacle stops it. It will go through it, go around it, or flow over it. Like the Yew Rune tree, we always need to know how to bend without losing tension.

Strategy Five: Prayer/Adoration

Scripture says, "Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker" (Psalm 95:6). The reason why the Magi travelled such a long distance to Bethlehem was to do one thing: To behold the Child Jesus face to face, and to adore Him in worship. We are told that this was the first thing they did as they entered that manger full of animals. How lucky we are that we don't have to travel days and weeks to behold Jesus face to face. Christ has made it easy for us to behold Him face to face in the gift of the Holy Eucharist. When Christ took bread and wine and said: "This is my Body" and "This is my Blood," He meant exactly that. He is 100% real in the Eucharist as He was real when the Magi visited Him. The evidence of the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist abounds all over the world. On bended knees, we can visit and worship Christ in Eucharistic Adoration. Prayer is an important part in the accomplishment of dreams and goals. Scripture says, "Bring your work unto the Lord and your plans shall be established" (Proverbs 16:3). Praying over your dreams and aspirations; bringing them to the Lord for His guidance and blessings is a very wise thing to do. Miracles happen when we pray as though everything depends on God and work hard as though everything depends on us. Scripture tells us that blessed is the man whose hope is in the Lord; who puts his trust in the God our savior; for he shall be like a tree planted near running water that stays green all seasons, and even in the time of drought still bears fruit.

Stewardship of Treasure

Strategy Six: Thanksgiving

After the Magi bowed down and worshipped the Child Jesus, they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. I truly believe that a true measure of our thankfulness and gratitude is not just what we say about our blessings; but how we use them. Thanksgiving prepares the way for God to show us His fullest love; it unlocks the gates of heaven. The Bible says, "Be joyful always; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). To be thankful, even for a little, is an attitude that changes lives. Count your blessings and name them one by one and it will surprise you what the Lord has done. Use some of your time each day to thank God. Be purposeful and thoughtful when you make your offerings in Church. Pray over your offerings. The Magi were not casual about their offerings; they were thoughtful about it because they knew to whom their offerings were being made. Your offerings matter a lot to God; be intentional about it; be purposeful and respectful in offering it; and offer it with dignity and humility. When it comes to living a life of gratitude, a good practice is to keep a daily journal of three or more things for which you are thankful. Make it a habit to appreciate those who live and work with you; be regular with your tithes and purposeful in your offerings; make note of things you have done well each day and find ways to celebrate what you like about yourself. May the good Lord create in us a grateful heart.

Strategy Seven: Listen with Obedience

Isn't it amazing that while God is all-powerful, He refuses to coerce but always summons us to cooperate. An Angel informed the Magi to go home through a different road. They obeyed. How about us? As we embrace this New Year, let it be God's business to lead us, to command us, to impel us, to send us, and to determine how we live. Let it be our business to follow, to obey, to agree, to move, to respond, and to do as commanded. Obedience, as they say, is better than sacrifice. No amount of prayer or names we can call God can take the place of simply doing His will. For the Magi, it was a simple fact of taking a different road back home. Simple indeed, but the fact remains that if God does not reign over simple things in our lives, He does not reign at all. If we want God's promises to be fulfilled in our lives, we must first of all obey His word. The cost of following the gospel is the death of our will. Faith comes from God and He gives faith only to the obedient heart. If we allow ourselves to obey the impulses of the flesh; the impulses of fear, doubt and resentment, then, what will have authority over our lives will be fear, doubt and resentment. Scripture says, "Cursed is the one who trusts in man; who finds strength in human flesh and whose heart turns away from the Lord, for he is like a bush in a wasteland that produces no fruit" (Jer. 17:5-7). May the good God give us hearts that yearn for His will, minds that are clear about His love, wills that are obedient to His word, and unflinching determination to do His bidding!

Msgr. Anselm Nwaorgu

"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

	<u>NEEDED WEEKLY</u>	<u>ACTUAL WEEKLY</u>	<u>OVER/UNDER</u>
JANUARY			
Week 1	\$ 7,307	\$ 5,497	\$ 1,810
Week 2	\$ 7,307	\$ 8,482	\$ 1,175
Week 3	\$ 7,307		
Week 4	\$ 7,307		
Monthly SOS	\$10,040	\$ 4,872	\$ 5,168
Christmas Collection	\$25,000	\$24,220	\$ 520

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

6 Ways To DONATE

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

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

January 20

8:30 am Mary & Gino Ianiro
Isabella Espana (Living)-Birthday
5:30 pm Kathleen Boetsch (Living)

SUNDAY

January 21

7:30 am Mary & Gino Ianiro
Lorenzo Boulos (1st Ann.)
9:00 am Lorenzo Boulos (1st Ann.)
Thomas Melendez, Sr., Toribia Avila
10:30 am Rachel Ghiretti
Grace Badiola (Living)-Healing
Lorenzo Boulos (1st Ann.)
12:00 noon Leticia Sefia (Living)-Safe Journey
Lorenzo Boulos (1st Ann.)

MONDAY

January 22

8:30 am Mary & Gino Ianiro
Franca Asoya (4th Ann.)
Katherine Idiayem
12:00 noon Marjorie Catuncan (Living)-Birthday
Lise Mary Pierre

TUESDAY

January 23

8:30 am Brielle Villorente (Living)-Birthday
Bruna Briones
Mary & Gino Ianiro
12:00 noon Thomas Sipe (Living)-Birthday
Severina Lopez Cornelio
Carl Herbert (Living)
Jeffrey Alino (Living)

WEDNESDAY

January 24

8:30 am Deceased Members of Diaz Family
Amoakon Mian
12:00 noon Mary & Gino Ianiro
Rosa Mugavero & Antonino Mugavero

THURSDAY

January 25

8:30 am Nancy Jean Cadet (Living)-Birthday
Natalie Vital (4th Ann.)
Almario Morales (Living)-Birthday
12:00 noon Mary & Gino Ianiro
Delcia Pierre (Living)-Birthday

FRIDAY

January 26

8:30 am Mary & Gino Ianiro
Amadeu Pinto
12:00 noon Paul Brenner

SATURDAY

January 27

8:30 am Maria Tavares
Mary & Gino Ianiro
Marcos Diasen
5:30 pm Frank Karwowski

SUNDAY

January 28

7:30 am Albert Joseph Phillips
Barbara Dybas
9:00 am Ray Williamson (35th Ann.)
10:30 am Mary & Gino Ianiro
Oyenanu Family (Living)-Thanksgiving
12:00 noon Mathew & Mary Vazhayil
Charismatic Group-Growth in Numbers of Group

ALTAR OFFERINGS

The Altar Bread, Altar Wine and Sanctuary Lamp are offered for Parishioners of St. Michael's Parish.

NOVENA OF MASSES

January 2024

Jose & Lucille Arnaldo	Phil Matrale
Mary & Idolo Russomano	James Ford, Sr.
Eustaquia T. Acevedo	Cynthia Ticao
Belinda T. Cardoza	Dr. Felipe Estrella
Margarita E. Ezpeleta	
Michelene & Joseph Kmetz	
Antonio Simao DeMelo Madeiros	
Christopher Boulin (Living)-Birthday	
Jeff Pogorzelski (Living) - Healing	
Patsy Scalgione & Deceased Family Members	
Living & Deceased Members of the Orlando, Landolfi, Siciliano & LaManna Families	
Living & Deceased Members of Del Rosario & Perez Families	
Living & Deceased Members Onyenanu & Durugo	
Living & Deceased Members of Maddy & Boulin Families	
Rodrigues, Medeiros & Araujo Families	

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, Michael Nworu, Victoria Nworu, June Musa, Marivic del Rosario, Theresa Ojeawere, Kathy Chavez, John McEvoy, Sofia Teixeira, Carlos Dacruz, Anthony Staynings, Socorro Dagat, Peter & Cathy Fortunato, Anna Lepski, Nicole Ferlo, Therese Ferlo, Dolly Kramer, Junita Oktensbroer

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 Members of St. Michael's Parish



Volunteers are the pillar of our Church community. Please come and join and be a volunteer in our Family Activities Committee, Multicultural Committee, Social Events Committee and our Adult Faith Formation Committee. Please call the Parish Center (908) 688-1232, ext. 100 for more information.

Ministry Happenings

CYO YOUTH MINISTRY



Our next CYO meeting will be on Tuesday, January 23rd from 7:00pm-8:30pm in the Phil Matrале Hall. Sign-ups for our January service projects will be available at our next meeting. This month will be going to the Cheshire Home on January 18th, Rise Against Hunger on January 20th and the ARC of Union County on January 27th.

RCIA PROGRAM

Deacon Michael Alfano RCIA classes are every Saturday morning in the Phil Matrале 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 Dzedzic at (908) 418-3730 or dzedzict@comcast.net and Deacon Michael Alfano at (201) 995-7211 or 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 Matrале Hall (LC)

ST. ANN'S FOOD PANTRY

Please bring all holiday food donations to the Parish Center (1211 Orange Ave). Thank you for your generosity.
Thank you for your contributions.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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 smccd@comcast.net.

Coordinator of Religious Education

Clare Andriola

Coordinator of Home-Based Religious Education
Lois Scanio

HANDS OF GRACE (HUGS)

Please consider making donations to the Ministry. We are constantly in need of clothing, sanitary and feeding items for children (**New born to Age 5**) and for mothers.

Please call **Bisi Longe** (908)247-4461 or **Tania Massicot** (973) 420-8659 for a comprehensive list of items needed. All items must be **NEW**.

Please note that donations can also be made online on a one-time or recurring basis, on the parish website at www.stmichaelunion.org (Click on the Parish Giving Icon).

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 Matrале Hall (LC)



Announcements

LINEN MINISTRY

St. Michael's Church is in need of new ministers to join the Linen Ministry. The Linen Ministry provides clean altar 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 altar 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

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.



‘If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.’

Romans

Once again, the parishioners of St. Michael's have generously worked to bring peace and Christian love to our community by participating in our annual **Giving Tree**.

Gifts were abundant: warm clothing, games, puzzles and much more. This year gifts focused on science and technology, with projects for all ages.

Gift card donations were generous. These will be used to bring peace and comfort to our parishioners by giving the gift of independence and the ability to provide for their families.

St. Michael's remains an example of living in Peace and caring for each other.

Into a world that is so filled with violence and hate, Jesus sends us as Peacemakers. May our faith be strong, friendships many, and may we work to bring Light into darkness, Hope to those who despair, and Joy to those who experience sadness.

God bless you all!

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP SUNDAYS

January 21, 2024



Our next Coffee and Fellowship Sunday will be on January 21 after all the Sunday Masses at the Phil Matrale Hall (LC). We hope you can join us.

We sincerely thank Anthony Spina, Yakima Williams, David Bernot, Cheryl & Kermit Thompson, Febe & Hamid Boukhadcha, Jocelyn Absarulislam, Socoro Dagat and Dr. Madesa Espana for their support and generosity to our last year's Parish Christmas celebration.

And to all volunteers especially those who have newly joined our team, Maria Valera, Gizele Velez, Imelda Boulos, Socorro Dagat and Erika Mejia. Thank you very much for your selfless service to our Church.

To those who would like to volunteer to any of our fellowship, you are most welcome to join us. During fellowship Sunday, we will be there from setting up at 7:30 am until clean up which is about 2:30 pm. We understand, life can be very busy and hectic, so, time commitment is all up to you. For questions, you may contact the Parish Office (908) 688-1232, ext 100 or Cynthia Grandeza at (908)591-1065.

17th ANNUAL SANTO NIÑO FEAST

Saint Michael the Archangel Parish

1212 Kelly Street

Union, NJ 07083



January 28, 2024


Holy Mass at 3:00 p.m.

Fellowship at the Lower Church will follow the Mass

Celebrant: Fr. Wilson Paculan

Novena starts on Friday, January 19, 2024 after the 8:30 a.m. Mass on weekdays and Saturdays and before the 12 noon Mass on Sunday, January 21, 2024

Your special offering during the feast will benefit orphans and special needs children in Tarlac, Philippines



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