



# 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*

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

### PARISH OFFICE

Tel.: 908-688-1232  
Fax: 908-810-1076

stmichaelunion@comcast.net  
www.stmichaelunion.org

**StMichaelParishUnion**

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January 7, 2024

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD





This Sunday, we celebrate the visit to Bethlehem of the three Wise Men from the East. I have always wondered why these rich and non-Jewish merchants left Persia and traveled hundreds of miles to Bethlehem in search of this newborn king. There is truth in the saying that one may have more than enough to live on but not enough to live for. Were they in search of someone who could give meaning to their lives? Scripture says, "I have come that they may have life and have it in its fullness" (John 10:10). The Old Testament has about 300 prophecies regarding the birth of the Messiah, all fulfilled in Christ Jesus. George Heron, a French mathematician, calculated the odds of one man fulfilling only 40 prophecies and said it would be 1 in 10 to the power 157, 1 followed by 157 zeros. So, this new-born king was not an ordinary king; there was something special about Him. No wonder a special star appeared that guided the Magi to Bethlehem. What can we say about this star?

It is a star of hope for forgiveness, salvation, redemption, and becoming friends with God again because the "Reconciler In-Chief" is now here. This is why they risked it all to follow the star to wherever it led. How willing am I to do whatever it takes to let my life be drawn to Jesus Christ?

It is also a star of challenge and victory—a challenge that invites us to new directions, purpose, and destiny; a challenge that invites us to break away from rigidity, guilt, shame, defeat, feelings of unworthiness, and rejection

### My Epiphany

as it invites us into a newness of life. Scripture says, "Come to me all you who are weary and tired [worn out, burned out, rejected, rejected, dejected, overburdened, overwhelmed], and I will give you rest." That is to say, walk and work with me, and I will show you the way to real rest, joy, and victory, and you will discover and experience the rhythms of grace and recovery of life. My friends, this star, the guiding light of Jesus Christ, is heaven's answer to earth's dilemmas.

It is also a star that invites us into the humanity of Christ. We are told that when the Magi arrived and saw the Child Jesus, "They kneeled and worshiped him. Then, they opened their luggage and presented Him with gifts—gold, frankincense, and myrrh" (Matt 2:11). My friends, "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom" (Luke 6:38).

It is also a star of divine guidance. Scripture says, "After their audience with the king, they set out. And behold, the star they had seen at its rising preceded them until it came and stopped over the place where the child was". In Isaiah 60 we read: "Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance." David was wise when he prayed, "Order my steps, oh Lord, by your word, and do not let iniquity overtake me". May the Star of David lead and guide us to the true essence of life and Christian living. Amen!

*Msgr. Anselm Nwaorogu*

# Stewardship of Treasure



## CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING ENVELOPE

In your envelope package and at the vestibule of the Church, you will find envelopes for Christmas Flower Offerings. Please be generous in your donations to keep our Church beautifully decorated for Christmas. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

**Christmas Flowers Budget:** \$3,500  
**Actual as of 12/11/23** \$2,029

### ST. MICHAEL'S COLLECTIONS

Below is an explanation of some of the different St. Michael's Collections:

**S.O.S. Collection** - This is a monthly "restricted" collection dedicated to paying our utility bills. **Restricted collections are not assessed by the Archdiocese of Newark and therefore all funds are used solely by St. Michael's to pay our bills.** S.O.S. collections are appreciated at all times.

**Tithing** - This is a monthly "restricted" collection dedicated to paying for the new the upkeep of the Church boiler and airconditioner. **Restricted collections are not assessed by the Archdiocese and therefore all funds are used solely for St. Michael's needs.** Tithing collections are appreciated at all times.

**Assessment Collection** - The Archdiocese of Newark assesses all parishes in the Archdiocese, and a percentage of the parish's annual unrestricted revenue, is paid monthly. This assessment is used by the Archdiocese to support administrative services. St. Michael's has instituted a monthly "restricted" collection that is used solely for paying our monthly assessment. **All Assessment Collection funds are sent directly to Archdiocese of Newark, monthly, to pay our Assessment Obligation. No funds are used for St. Michael's needs.**

**National Collections** - the Archdiocese of Newark has ten collections during the year to benefit various organizations such as the retired priest's fund, the church in Eastern Europe, the religious retirement fund, and mission appeals. **Money from the national collections go directly to the Archdiocese of Newark.**

**St. Vincent De Paul Collection** - money donated to St. Vincent De Paul is distributed prior to Thanksgiving and prior to Easter to local foodbanks, soup kitchens and social centers that provide food and shelter for those in need.

**Thank you for your continued generosity and support to our Parish!**

"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
<b>DECEMBER</b>			
Week 1	\$ 7,079	\$ 8,171	\$ 1,092
Week 2	\$ 7,079	\$ 9,141	\$ 2,062
Week 3	\$ 7,079	\$ 8,060	\$ 981
Week 4	\$ 7,079	\$	\$
Monthly SOS	\$10,040	\$ 7,056	\$ 2,984
Christmas Collection	\$25,000	\$ 2,395	\$22,605

### 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

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



### 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

8:30 am Socorro Dagat (Living)-Healing  
5:30 pm Mary & Gino Ianiro  
Uzoma Ubanii & Family (Living)  
Milagros Obispo

#### SUNDAY

7:30 am For the Parishioners  
9:00 am Mary & Gino Ianiro  
10:30 am Jose & Lucille Arnaldo  
Cornelio Magbanua  
12:00 noon Uzoma Ubanii & Family (Living)  
Evelyn Rene (Living)-Thanksgiving

#### MONDAY

8:30 am Uzoma Ubanii & Family (Living)  
12:00 noon Jeff Pogorzelski (Living)-Healing

#### TUESDAY

8:30 am Roger Boetsch  
Uzoma Ubanii & Family (Living)  
12:00 noon Mary & Gino Ianiro

#### WEDNESDAY

8:30 am Uzoma Ubanii & Family (Living)  
Lupo Ramos (6th Ann)  
All Victims of War  
Amoakon Mian  
12:00 noon Mary & Gino Ianiro

#### THURSDAY

8:30 am Uzoma Ubanii & Family (Living)  
Thomas Coullahan  
Rafael Gonzalez  
12:00 noon Brian Phillips (2nd Ann.)  
Mary & Gino Ianiro

#### FRIDAY

8:30 am Uzoma Ubanii & Family (Living)  
Marley Keem Espejon (Living)-3rd Birthday  
12:00 noon Felicidad Aala  
Mary & Gino Ianiro

#### SATURDAY

8:30 am Uzoma Ubanii & Family (Living)  
5:30 pm Mary & Gino Ianiro

#### SUNDAY

7:30 am Felicidad Aala  
9:00 am For the Parishioners  
10:30 am Mary & Gino Ianiro  
12:00 noon Uzoma Ubanii & Family (Living)

#### ALTAR OFFERINGS

*The Altar Bread, Altar Wine and Sanctuary Lamp are offered for Lucy Scalgione, Family & Friends.*



### NOVENA OF MASSES January 2024

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



**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



There will be no CYO meeting on Tuesday January 2<sup>nd</sup>. CYO will resume on Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. We hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!



## 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](mailto:michaeljalfano@aol.com) if you want to learn more about the program.

## EUCARISTIC 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 [dziedzict@comcast.net](mailto:dziedzict@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)



## WELLNESS MINISTRY

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

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



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



**Christmas Blessings from the staff of the Religious Education Office**  
**Clare Andriola and Lois Scanio**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STUDENTS:** There are **no religious education classes** on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>; Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>; and Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Classes will resume beginning Sunday, January 7, 2024.

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](mailto:smccd@comcast.net). **The office will be closed the week between Christmas and New Year's.**



"Behold, I make all things new." **REVELATIONS 21:5**

**May God bless you in the New Year!**



## HANDS OF GRACE (HUGS)

**HUGS Giving Tree** has been decorated and lit! Please stop by the Church vestibule to pick a gift request. Your help keeps our inventory going. Presently we distribute grace bags to 50 families in our community.



## ST. ANN'S FOOD PANTRY

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

## Announcements

### 2024 MASS BOOK IS 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.

### 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-

### **TO ALL OUR PARISHIONERS:** **PREVENTING SCAMS IN OUR PARISH**

There is increasing use of many Pastor's names, via email or text message, to try to scam parishioners. They have tried it severally with many pastors in our diocese. Please do not be scammed. You can prevent this by taking a few things in consideration.

- A. If you receive a text message or email and you don't know your pastor's phone number or email, do not reply to the message sent in his name unless it comes from the Parish Office. **You need to call the Parish and verify the message.**
- B. If someone texts, emails or calls you in a way that implies urgency, attempting to get you to act quickly before you have time to carefully read and examine the message. Be careful how you respond. Verify first.
- C. If you receive any text, email, or call pressuring you to send funds via gift cards for whatever reason, by asking you for the code numbers or PINs on the back of the cards so that the card can be redeemed immediately, be careful how you respond. Verify first.
- D. If you receive any text or email, or call telling you a story about the urgent need of your pastor or someone you don't relate with at that level, that involves a medical emergency, being stranded somewhere, or for travel needs, be careful how you respond. Make sure the phone number or email address is verified.

We just need to be smart and we can beat these attempts at scamming parishioners. It is nearly impossible to locate where the scam is originating from or the number being used. What we can do is to be watchful. Always look at the number and email from which the message is being sent. If it is not a number or email address you are familiar with, your best bet is not to respond or verify before you respond.

*Msgr. Anselm*

### Mind and Spirit Ministry

The month of December is a time of new beginnings, a time for family but also a time to reflect on the year as it comes to an end. While there is a strong emphasis on family, togetherness, and community during the holidays, all of us at Mind and Spirit Ministry understand that this time of year can bring up a lot of mixed emotions, as well as being very busy in the Church calendar.

As we move through Advent, we have opted not to host a group session in respect of the many commitments afforded to all of us during this time. Our next group meeting will be after the Christmas and New Year period on **Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**. We will share more information about that group session in due course.

For any parishioners experiencing difficulty, we ask that you reach out to available local and emergency support services when you require. We also encourage parishioners to attend mass and the numerous activities hosted by St. Michael. This is also a good time to volunteer and support others as these things can often uplift and where possible, seize the opportunity to take restorative time for yourself also.

Please do email us at [ourmindandspirit@gmail.com](mailto:ourmindandspirit@gmail.com) if there are things you would like us to pray for, or for us to keep you in mind during this time. We would like to share with you this prayer sent to us from our friends in the Sanctuary Team. May these words be of comfort to you throughout this time.

### A Prayer for Hope at Christmas

*God of all seasons, as we move through Advent and Christmas, we look for you. You ask us to hold onto hope: the hope that Jesus truly is Emmanuel, God with us; the hope that you will bring light to the darkness; the hope that this good news will reach everyone, even our own hearts.*

*It can be so hard to live in hope—to wait and wait, through seasons of flourishing and seasons of languishing.*

*If we are able now to lean into hope, may we hold hope for our neighbors who cannot. And if we feel hopeless, may we trust in the truth that our hope is held by you and by our fellow saints on our behalf.*

*Jesus, as we hear the story of your coming, and we wait on your promise to come again, we ask that you show your presence among us here and now.*

*Help us to find our rest in you. Be our strength and consolation and bring joy to our longing hearts.*

*By the power of the Holy Spirit, fill us with your joy and peace, and help us to abound in hope.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen.*



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