



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

stmichaelunion@comcast.net

www.stmichaelunion.org

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October 22, 2023

TWENTY NINE SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

perspective



Message From *The Pastor's Desk*

Give to Caesar what Belongs to Caesar and to



The Gospel of this 29th Sunday in Ordinary Times, Year A (Matthew 22:15-21) is about how the Pharisees and the Sadducees, in spite of their long-lasting hatred for each other, came together to

entrap Jesus, by posing to him a question about whether Jews should pay taxes to Caesar or not; a question to which, if he answers yes, the Pharisees would condemn him for being a traitor to the Jewish Nation, and if he says No, the Sadducees would condemn him for leading a rebellion against Caesar. My friends, this story is not about then; it is about now, a story about how we deal with others when spite and hate engulf our souls.

In the story, these emissaries began their snare by being highly complementary of Jesus: "Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. And you are not concerned with anyone's opinion, for you do not regard a person's status" (vs. 16). How common it is for most spiteful projects to be covered with the most specious pretenses; hatred covered with deceit, just like Judas, who kissed, and betrayed, and like Joab, who kissed, and killed. Yet, in spite of their evil intent, they did, however, reveal the true character of Christ—one who stood firm on justice and fairness; did not suppress, pervert, or stretch the truth for favor or affection, hatred or goodwill, either out of a desire to please or out of fear to offend; something we should all emulate as Christians. Our present climate of political correctness has become a new avenue of masking social evils, where alternate truths are crafted, told, and accepted.

But amazingly, it was these same characteristics, for which they complimented Jesus, that they also wanted him killed. That is pretty telling. Life experiences continue to tell us that no matter how good or innocent we are, it is difficult to escape some people's hatred and ill will or the malice and strife of evil tongues.

In this encounter, the plan was to make Jesus fall into a trap—make Himself an enemy of the Jewish multitude by saying to pay taxes to Caesar or to the Roman magistrates, by saying do not pay the toll taxes. Unfortunately, when evil is contrived, it is easy to make one an offender for a word, a word misplaced, mistaken, or misunderstood; a word, though innocently said, becomes perverted by strained innuendos. The truth is that the more there is an evil wit in the contrivance of sin, the more there is a wicked will in the commission of it. Setting traps for people to fall into is not a Christian way to live.

Fortunately, he discovered their plot. My friends, a temptation perceived is a temptation half conquered, for our greatest danger lies from snakes under the green grass. No wonder Scripture calls us to be vigilant. Our vigilance lies in being married to the word of God, devotions to our Blessed Mother, Eucharistic Adoration, prayers, and acts of charity. This is how we build a formidable dome against the tactics of Satan, as Scripture says, "Therefore, put on the armor of God, that you may be able to resist on the evil day and, ...in all circumstances, hold faith as a shield, to quench all [the] flaming arrows of the evil one...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Ephesians 6:12-17)

Christ's answer to their question took them unawares—"Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." Our consciences belong to God, for Scripture says, "My son, give me thy heart." Caesar can get our purse, but God must have the innermost and uppermost place in our lives. So, if Caesar's commands interfere with God's commands, we must obey God rather than men. The question, then, is, Where do I stand? May the good Lord grant us the grace to submit to His truth and guidance, Amen!

Msrgr. Anselm Nwaorgu

Stewardship of Treasure

2023 UNION OF SAINTS & NATIONS (USAN)

GOAL: \$100,000.00
As of 10/11/23 \$102,306.00
\$ 2,306.00

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

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.



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.

"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
OCTOBER			
Week 1	\$ 7,079	\$ 6,186	\$ 893
Week 2	\$ 7,079	\$ 7,999	\$ 920
Week 3	\$ 7,079	\$ 8,216	\$ 1,137
Week 4	\$ 7,079	\$	\$
Monthly SOS	\$10,040	\$ 10,417	\$ 377

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.

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 <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>Scanning the code above with your mobile device directs you to the online donation page</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>You can use designated envelopes OR use your envelope but indicate where your donation should be accounted for.</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

October 21

8:30 am Msgr. Anselm Nwaorgu (Living)
Fr. Miles Lopez (Living)
Manuel Toral
5:30 pm James McEnroe (Living)-Birthday
Joey Ruela, Giovanna DiBiase

SUNDAY

October 22

7:30 am Charles Onwuka, For the Parishioners
9:00 am Lorenzo Rodriguez, Giovanna DiBiase
Gilda & Andrew Tobia, Ramon Valera
Jorge & Hilda Criado
10:30 am Patrick Tyrone Phillips
12:00 noon Annuziata Bitetti, Alejandro Cruz

MONDAY

October 23

8:30 am Giovanna DiBiase
12:00 noon Lydia Cabeguín
Anna Cocco

TUESDAY

October 24

8:30 am Jesus Duena
Pasquale Pontoriero
12:00 noon Novena of Masses
Giovanna DiBiase

WEDNESDAY

October 25

8:30 am Giovanna DiBiase
Amoakon Mian
12:00 noon Bernadette Laine
Maria Amelia Rodrigues Medeiros (Living)-healing

THURSDAY

October 26

8:30 am Deliana Arias (Living)-Birthday
Giovanna DiBiase
12:00 noon Lois & Rich Scanio (Living) 55th Wedding Ann.

FRIDAY

October 27

8:30 am Novena of Masses
Luis & Manuel Alvero
12:00 noon Maria Tavares
Giovanna DiBiase

SATURDAY

October 28

8:30 am Oliva Rumohr (Living)-2nd Birthday
Ed Stonack
5:30 pm Georgina & Abdon (Living)-5th Wedding Ann.
James F. Ford, Sr., Galo Proano Cabo
Joey Ruela, Giovanna DiBiase

SUNDAY

October 29

7:30 am For the Parishioners
Lorenzo Bulos
9:00 am Giovanna DiBiase
Lorenzo Bulos
Jose Maria Cebrian
10:30 am Manuel Fazendeiro
Lorenzo Bulos
12:00 noon Louis Cavallo, Lorenzo Bulos
Charismatic Group Repose of Souls

ALTAR OFFERINGS

The Altar Bread, Altar Wine and Sanctuary Lamp are in memory of Thomas & Mary Ann Canavan, requested by the Kip Family.

NOVENA OF MASSES

October 2023

<p>Jose & Lucille Arnaldo James Ford, Sr. James Williamson Pierre & Rubinetti Families Mary & Idolo Russomano George Rinehart, Jr. Marita Chisaokwu Nwaogu Micheline & Joseph Kmetz Michelle Sumabat (Living) Att. David Leigh (Living) Abigaëlle Boulín (Living) Anthonia Emeana James Sipe (Living) Sofia Teixeira (Living)-Healing Georgina & Abdon (Living)-5th Wedding Anniversary Benson & Renzi Del Rosario & Family (Living) Tom & Heidi Esmores & Family (Living) Living & Deceased Members of Santoriello Family George, Ruth & Barbara Rinehart Jeff Pogorzelski (Living) - Healing Filipe Manuel Araujo Pais (Living) Grace Marie Araujo Cadenas (Living) Anamaria Araujo Pais (Living) Christopher, Mary Grace, Mary Kate Morlaes (Living) Patsy Scalgione & Deceased Family Members Living & Deceased Members of the Orlando, Landolfi, Siciliano & LaManna Families Manuel Pereira Araujo & Lucilia Sousa Araujo Living & Deceased Members of Furnari & Potignano Families Living & Deceased Members of Santoriello Family Living & Deceased Members of the Del Rosario & Perez Families Living & Deceased Members of the Joseph & Royal Families Melissa Famarin (Living) & Chris Lomotan (Living) Living & Deceased Members Onyenanu & Durugo Families</p>	<p>Phil Matrale Jorge & Hilda Criado Fritz Maddy Frank Rubinetti Artemia Tan Abe Maksom Ramon Valera Thomas Donohue Boniface Emeana Paulino Cruz Jerry Reyes Bernardo Boac</p>
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PRAYERS OF HEALING FOR

Grace Fortino, Dolores Rust, Lucy Nwauku, Judy Reid, Ana Torres, Rita Homiak, Stephen Berberabe, Norma Tuano, Marlene Cababe, 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, Socorro Dagat, Denise Lucarello Aliseo, James Mariusiak, Theresa Ojeawere, Kathleen Sarno, Kathy Chavez, John McEvoy, Sofia Teixeira, Carlos Dacruz, Anthony Staynings

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 Amy Gonzales Putzi & Amoakon Mian

Ministry Happenings

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We are no longer accepting registrations for the 2023-24 school year. Call the Religious Education Office if you would like to be put on a waiting list for next year.

Religious Education begins in Grade 1 and continues through Grade 8. First Communion candidates must complete two years of Religious Education before receiving the sacrament. Confirmation is typically received in Grade 9 after completing the Religious Education program. **Missed years of Religious Education will require make-up assignments and assessment of readiness which may delay the reception of the sacrament in Grade 9.**

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

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

CYO YOUTH MINISTRY



All teens are welcome to join us this upcoming Tuesday for a Halloween Service Project! We will be coloring Halloween themed pages for the Color A Smile Foundation. We will also be running a Smile Drive. One of our senior Core Team members and Executive Board Secretary, Angelina Holandez, will be collecting dental hygiene products for her Girl Scout Gold Award project, Smiles for Miles. Please bring the following items as a donation: toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss and mouthwash. All supplies will be donated to local homeless shelters.

Our service projects for the next month include: The Knights of Columbus Children's Halloween party on October 28th from 2:30pm-6:00pm, ARC visit on November 4th from 10:00am-11:30am and the Cheshire Home visit on November 9th from 6:00pm-8:00pm. Transportation will be provided if needed. Sign up sheets will be at next week's meeting.

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. 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 and Deacon Michael Alfano at (201) 995-7211 or michaeljalfano@aol.com.

MIND AND SPIRIT MINISTRY

The Mental Health Ministry was formed in recognition of the connection between spiritual and mental health. The Archdiocese identified that struggles with mental health come with personal struggles in faith and even disengagement from the Church. With this in mind, we have changed our name to Mind and Spirit Ministry, which aligns better with our goals of support for the Parish.

Our goal is to support the mind and spirit of parishioners from all ages and backgrounds who may have their spiritual health impacted by difficulties experienced in their daily life.

We've previously introduced "Blue Christmas" and our next step in support of parishioners is through spiritual support groups. These groups will be held for parishioners in attendance to share, reflect and pray together. We will also share a prayer in the bulletin each month dedicated to individual themes of mental health to remind us and those in need of God's grace and love.

Monthly Prayer

This month represents the time of transition and isolation. The season change, the climate gets colder, and the night gets longer. For many parishioners we might be adjusting back to work or back to school and the time we have for others as well as the time we receive from others might be reducing. In this time of transition and loneliness we wanted to share with you a prayer to support you during times of need.

Heavenly Father, there are days when I feel that You have forgotten about me. When I need You most, it seems I cannot reach You. Yet I do believe, You are present during time of loneliness and when my heart feels empty. Teach me to find You even in my darkest hours. Amen.

May these words be of comfort to you throughout this month. If there is an aspect of mental health that you would like to pray for, please feel free to email us at ourmindsandspirit.com

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



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)

Announcements

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.



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.

RCIA PROGRAM

Deacon Michael Alfano has started the RCIA classes 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.



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



WELLNESS MINISTRY

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

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

SAVE THE DATE BLUE AND WHITE MASS

On **Saturday, November 11, 2023 at 10:00 am**, St. Michael's Church will be having a combined Blue and White Mass dedicated to all our first responders and healthcare workers. Please invite friends and family as we pay them tribute and offer prayers for blessings and protection for their service and commitment to the public safety and health. There is no registration required. You are welcome to wear your uniform. All are welcome!

For more information, please contact
Parish Office: (908) 688-1232, ext. 100
David Bernot (908)472-8858
Cynthia Grandeza (908)591-1065

4TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FILIPINO PRIEST IN NORTH AMERICA

Mass: Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 3:00 pm at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark
Presided By: His Excellency, Most Rev. Archbishop Gabriele Caccia, D.D., Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, New York
Mass will be preceded by a pageantry of Filipino Catholic Traditions and popular religious practices which will promptly begin at 1:30 pm.



SOLD OUT- WAIT LIST ONLY

Bus trip to Sight & Sound to see Miracle of Christmas on December 21, 2023. Bus leaves at 7:15 am. Breakfast snack and lunch included. Cost: \$155.00. Treat yourself to a spiritual Christmas present. Please call the Parish Center for more information. 908-688-1232, ext. 110.

Welcome
to Our Church!



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