



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

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Rev. Charles McDermott

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First
Sunday
in Lent

DEVOTIONS: A LENTEN PRACTICE TO BEHOLD



As we begin this solemn season of Lent, I would like to encourage our parishioners to make the practice of Catholic devotions a permanent part of our prayer life. Devotions have deep and powerful roots

in Catholic spirituality and a millions of people, over the ages, have found divine favors, spiritual strength, and growth through these devotions.

The Stations of the Cross: The Stations of the Cross is a powerful and unique way of contemplating and entering into the mystery of Jesus' gift of Himself to us. It takes the reflection of Jesus' passion out of our heads and turns it into an imaginative and visual exercise, thereby allowing our senses, experiences, and emotions to get involved. It allows us to make the Passion of Our Lord as personal an experience as one would like it to be. It helps us to realize that Jesus is with us as one who knows our sufferings and tribulations. We have Stations of the Cross every Friday, at 7:00 pm during Lent.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus: The devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is one of the most well-known and widely practiced Catholic devotions ever. It centers on the physical Heart of Jesus as a symbol of God's boundless love for us. On December 27th, 1673, Jesus, in an apparition to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, charged her to spread this devotion so that people may be enriched with its precious treasures of sanctifying graces and its protective power against eternal damnation. In that apparition, Jesus made 12 promises with regard to devotion to his Sacred Heart. The twelfth promise says, "I promise thee, in the excessive mercy of My Heart, that My all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Friday of nine consecutive months, the grace of final penitence; they shall not die in My disgrace nor without receiving their Sacraments; My Divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment." What a promise!

The Rosary: One of the last things Jesus said on the Cross was, "Son, [Children] behold your mother; mother behold your son [children]. In an apparition to Fr. Cobbi, on Oct 7th, 1983, Our Lady said: "Beloved sons, on the battle in which you are daily engaged against the mighty armies of evil,... it is necessary for you to employ a weapon which is both secure and invincible. This weapon is prayer," and she goes on to say that the prayer most dear to her heart is the Rosary. The Rosary is a weapon against sin and evil and a prayer that allows us to reflect on specific events in the life of Jesus and through this reflection come to understand more about Jesus, His great love for us, and our need to be more like Him.

Eucharistic Adoration: The richest gift in the Catholic Church is the Blessed Eucharist where Jesus Christ is wholly and truly present — body, blood, soul, and divinity—and is not only adorable but also entreatable. Eucharistic adoration is known to have the power to illuminate the mind, provide abundant graces, and give ordinary people supernatural power to accomplish extraordinary deeds.

My friends, I pray that our parishioners will begin to find, in these devotions, tremendous source of spiritual and temporal graces. Every First Friday of the month, we have devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus beginning with Mass at 6:30 pm. We have Eucharistic Adoration every first Friday and every first Sunday of the month beginning at 7:00 pm. We have devotion to our Blessed Mother every Monday and Friday on our online platform (www.gotomeeting.com, ID: 574150285) at 7:00 pm and every Wednesday, in the Church, with Eucharistic Exposition at 7:30 pm. I pray that we will deeply consider embracing these devotions beginning from this Lent. They are very helpful in giving God priority in our lives and in helping us grow in our Christian commitment.

Msgr. Anselm

Stewardship of Treasure

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK ANNUAL APPEAL ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

2024 Base Goal: \$43,473
2024 Stretch Goal: \$46,240

As of:

Donor Pledge:

Donor Received:

The Church is looking for donations for the purchase of a White, Green, Red and Purple Chasubles. Please contact the Parish Office (908) 688-1232, ext 100 if you are willing to contribute.

Thank you for your continued generosity to the Church.



EASTER FLOWER OFFERING ENVELOPE

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

Easter Flowers Budget: \$3,500

"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>
February			
Week 1	\$ 7,307	\$ 8,294	\$ 987
Week 2	\$ 7,307	\$ 8,488	\$1,181
Week 3	\$ 7,307	\$	\$
Week 4	\$ 7,307	\$	\$
Monthly SOS	\$10,040	\$ 8,338	\$ 1,702

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

February 17

8:30 am Marie Jo Inouie (Living)-Thanksgiving
5:30 pm Carl Ladera

SUNDAY

February 18

7:30 am Jose J. Arnaldo, For the Parishioners
Raychiezl Belmonte (Living)-Birthday
9:00 am Charles Agu (1st Ann.)
Henrick Percy & Anna-Kaila Percy
10:30 am Luci Silverio
Carmen M. Gancia (25th Ann.)
Theresa Pogorzelski (Living)-Birthday
12:00 noon Barbara Lombardi
Grandeza Family (Living)-Thanksgiving

MONDAY

February 19

8:30 am Leonila de Justo
12:00 noon Lucille Arnaldo

TUESDAY

February 20

8:30 am Patricia Palermo
12:00 noon Alejandro Cruz

WEDNESDAY

February 21

8:30 am Amokon Mian
Rosamma Joseph
12:00 noon Novena of Masses

THURSDAY

February 22

8:30 am Julieta Diamante, Jean Cham, Tina Cham
12:00 noon Novena of Masses

FRIDAY

February 23

8:30 am Emilia Rumohr, Brenda Rumohr
Chinyere Odemene & Family (Living)Special Intentions
12:00 noon Antonio Perida So
Lenten Novena of Masses

SATURDAY

February 24

8:30 am Juan Duyan
5:30 pm Manneli Caram

SUNDAY

February 25

7:30 am Policarpio de Leon
9:00 am For the Parishioners
Leonardo Irizarry (1st Ann.)
10:30 am Paul Grosso
12:00 noon James Leonardis
Charismatic Group-Salvation of Souls

ALTAR OFFERINGS

The Altar Bread, Altar Wine & the Sanctuary Lamp are offered for members of St. Michael's Parish.

NOVENA OF MASSES FEBRUARY 2024

Jose & Lucille Arnaldo	Phil Matrale
Mary & Idolo Russomano	James Ford, Sr.
Pierre & Rubinetti Families	Frank Rubinetti
Jorge & Hilda Criado	Margarita E. Ezpeleta
Ramon Valera	Paul Brenner
John Dittemer (Living) - Healing	
Gwendolyn Simms	
Antonio Simao DeMelo Madeiros	
Christopher, Mary Grace & Mary Kate Morales-Living	
Special Intentions-VG	
Jeff Pogorzelski (Living) - Healing	
Manuel Pereira Aarujo & Lucilia Silva Sousa Araujo	
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 Families	
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, 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 Ottenstroer, Baby Sophia Alfano, Jean Ford, John Dittemer

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

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.



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



CYO will also be hosting its annual **Kids Night Fundraiser on Friday, March 8th from 6-9pm in St. Michael's Phil Matrale Hall (Lower Church)**. Children in grades K-8 are welcome to come and enjoy a night full of art and crafts, games, movies, pizza, snacks, fun and more run by the teen members of our CYO program! The price is \$20.00 per child and money/permission slips can be dropped off at the Parish Center of St. Michael's (1211 Orange Ave) by March 1st. Do not delay as spots are limited and there will be no walk ins this year!

Please email us at cyouionnj@gmail.com for any questions!

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

Come and join us on **Thursday, March 14th at 7pm**, in the Phil Matrale Hall (LC), to be together in prayer and discussion regarding **Forgiveness of Self and Others**. Let us unite and reflect on the love God has for us all, no matter what we go through.

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)



SISTER ANN'S FOOD PANTRY

We thank you our parishioners for your generous contributions during the past holiday season. God Bless you all.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Upcoming Events for 1st Communion Candidates:

Blessing Cup Retreat – Saturday, Feb. 24 at 10AM in Phil Matrale Hall (lower church). Potter Ray Boswell will speak to the children who are preparing to receive 1st Holy Communion for the first time this spring. By using his pottery wheel, clay and a multimedia presentation, the children are called to recognize God as the divine potter shaping our lives.

First Penance & Reconciliation (confession) - Saturday, Mar. 2 at 10:00AM in Church

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 Matrale Hall (LC)

Announcements

LENLEN REFLECTION SPEAKER

Lenten Reflections: By Sister Eileen Smith

I am excited to announce, that for this year's Lenten preparation, we will have Lenten reflections, immediately following the Stations of the Cross, on **Friday February 23rd and March 15th 2024**. Our presenter will be Sr. Eileen Smith, RSM. On February 23rd, she will reflect on: **Lent: A Time to Be Transformed into Christ** and on March 15th, **Journeying with Jesus to Jerusalem**.

Sister Eileen P. Smith is a **Sister of Mercy of the Americas**, a **Co-Director at Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer—a retreat and spiritual center in Watchung, NJ**. At the retreat center she develops programs of Scripture and faith formation for adults. Over the years, Sr. Eileen has worked as a spiritual and retreat director, formation director for the Sisters of Mercy, pastoral minister, and work with children with HIV/AIDS. She has a **B.A in Modern Languages from Georgian Court University, Lakewood, New Jersey; M.A in Theology from Providence College, Rhode Island; Certificate in Spiritual Direction and Certificate in Directing Spiritual Exercises from the Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth; and a Certificate in Supervision of Spiritual Directors from Upper Room Spiritual Center, Neptune New Jersey**. We welcome Sr. Eileen Smith to our Parish and look forward a very rich Lenten reflection.

2024 LENLEN REGULATIONS

1. The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday (February 14) and Good Friday (March 29). If possible the fast on Good Friday is continued until Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence.
On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted **and two (2) smaller meals, which, if added together, would not exceed the main meal in quantity**. Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obligated to fast.
On a day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by law of abstinence.
2. The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence "substantially", or as a whole, is a serious obligation.
3. The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.
4. The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty) extends from the **First Sunday of Lent, February 18 to The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, May 26, 2024**.

Canon 920, §1. All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION / LOCAL SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR

Status: Part Time: 25-28 hours per week, flexible schedule

Supervisor: Pastor

Position Summary - The Director of Religious Education (DRE) oversees and directs the parish religious education program grades 1 through 8, including sacramental preparation for 1st Reconciliation and 1st Holy Communion; recruits, trains and supervises volunteer catechists. The DRE is also the Local Safe Environment Coordinator (LSEC),

Position Specific Requirements

Practicing Catholic in good standing with the Catholic Church
Must have vision and a demonstrated ability to plan, develop, coordinate, manage and implement a parish catechetical program within the parameters of the Catholic Church
Current credentials as a Catechetical leader and participation in the Archdiocesan ongoing certification and mentoring process
An ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with youth, diverse individuals, and teams of volunteers
Basic computer and technology skills
As LSEC, to ensure the volunteers (in ministry with minors) and employees in the Parish have the required safe environment documentation on file.

Interested candidates are invited to send cover letters and resumes to the attention of:

Msgr. Anselm I. Nwaorgu
St. Michael's Parish
1212 Kelly Street
Union, NJ 07083

Email: stmichaelunion@comcast.net

SAVE THE DATE HEALING MASS

**Saturday, March 16, 2024 at 11:00 am
Phil Matrale Hall (LC)**

Light refreshments will be served following the Mass.
For more information, please call Parish Office (908) 688-1232, ext. 100

SAVE THE DATE BUS TRIPS


Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Bus trip to **Wind Creek Casino**. Bus leaves parking lot at 9:30 am. Cost is \$35 with a \$25 slot play return.

**Tuesday, May 21, 2024—SOLD OUT
(WAITING LIST)**

Sight & Sound Trip to see **Daniel**. Bus boarding at St. Michael parking lot at 7:15 am, departure 7:30 am sharp. Cost:\$170 includes show ticket, lunch, breakfast





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