



# 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

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[www.stmichaelunion.org](http://www.stmichaelunion.org)

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January 14, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*Come & you will see.*

JOHN 3:9



## Message From *The Pastor's Desk*

### **The Baptism of the Lord**



Last Monday, we celebrated the Baptism of our Lord, which holds great importance for us as Christians. So, we will reflect on it on this 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in ordinary time.

We are taught that Baptism is the Sacrament that cleans us of Original Sin and brings us into the family of God's children. We also know that Christ is the sinless Son of God, born by a virgin, and born without original sin. So, why was Christ baptized?

The Baptism of the Lord can be called the Epiphany of the Lamb, the manifestation of the identity of Jesus as the Messiah, the Lamb of God, and the one who will take away the sins of the world. John the Baptist said: "So that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water and He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit' (John 1:30-33). All the gospel writers reported that when all the people were being baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased." (Matthew 3:16-17, Mark 1:9-11, Lk 3:21-22). Notice that this phenomenon happened only to Jesus Christ to single Him out as the Messiah, as John the Baptist noted, "I, myself, have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God" (John 1:34).

Also, by His Baptism, Christ identified with us sinners so that we could gain a rightful place with God through His righteousness. So by His baptism, Christ took on our sinfulness, guilt, punishment, and condemnation so that through

baptism, we can be clothed with his sinless life, death, resurrection, and ascension to the Father. Scripture says, "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Cor. 5:21). Again, Scripture says, "Having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:7).

The baptism of our Lord also turned the baptism of John, a baptism of repentance, into a Sacrament of grace, redemption, and salvation, an admission into the community of God's people, and a passport and gateway into the kingdom of God. It ended the claim of Judaism and circumcision as the criteria for being a child of God. The Bible says, "Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith (faith in Christ Jesus) who are sons of Abraham.... so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles... (Galatians 3:7-9, 14).

Christ's baptism also served to reveal the true nature of God as Trinity—Three Persons in one God—the Father who spoke of His Son; the Son who was being baptized and on whose behalf the Father testified, and the Spirit who descended on the Son in preparation for the Father's testimony.

My friends, the baptism of our Lord is an assurance that we are following the right One, the Lamb of God, the Savior, the Redeemer, the one who died, once and for all, for our sins. What a privilege to know that we, baptized into His death and resurrection, will be raised into everlasting life. To Him be praise, honor, glory, and adoration forever and ever, Amen.

*Msgr. Anselm Nwaorgu*

# 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 1/8/24** \$2,777

## 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	\$ 9,601	\$ 2,522
Week 5	\$ 7,079	\$ 8,500	\$ 1,421
Monthly SOS	\$10,040	\$ 9,610	\$ 2,984
<b>JANUARY</b>			
Week 1	\$ 7,307	\$ 5,497	\$ 1,810
Monthly SOS	\$10,040	\$ 4,872	\$ 5,168
Christmas Collection	\$25,000	\$24,220	\$ 780

### 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

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

## 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 Uzoma Ubani & Family (Living)  
5:30 pm Mary & Gino Ianiro  
Juan Ezpeleta, Jr. (Living)-Thanksgiving

#### **SUNDAY**

7:30 am Felicidad Aala  
9:00 am Brian Merke, For the Parishioners  
10:30 am Mary & Gino Ianiro  
Jaida Verga (Living)-Birthday  
Augustin Narciso (Living)-Birthday  
Hermamelo & Annamae Verga (Living)-15 Wedding Ann  
12:00 noon Uzoma Ubani & Family (Living)-Birthday

#### **MONDAY**

8:30 am Mary & Gino Ianiro  
12:00 noon James Marusiack

#### **TUESDAY**

8:30 am Mary Byrne (Living)  
12:00 noon Lucy Scalgione (Living)  
Mary & Gino Ianiro

#### **WEDNESDAY**

8:30 am Amoakon Mian, Heidi Wright  
12:00 noon Erin Famarin (Living)  
Mary & Gino Ianiro

#### **THURSDAY**

8:30 am Fredolinda Briones  
12:00 noon Mary & Gino Ianiro

#### **FRIDAY**

8:30 am Mary & Gino Ianiro  
Rigie & Mae Villorente (Living)-16th Wedding Ann  
12:00 noon Chinewe Melie (Living)-Birthday

#### **SATURDAY**

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

#### **SUNDAY**

7:30 am Mary & Gino Ianiro  
Lorenzo Boulos (1st Ann.)  
9:00 am Lorenzo Boulos (1st Ann.)  
10:30 am Rachel Ghiretti  
Lorenzo Boulos (1st Ann.)  
12:00 noon Leticia Sefia (Living)-Safe Journey  
Lorenzo Boulos (1st Ann.)

#### **ALTAR OFFERINGS**

The Altar Bread, Altar Wine and Sanctuary Lamp are offered for Parishioners 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.

### 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, 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 Gemma Gerstorfer, Paul Brenner, Mary Fusco**



**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 9<sup>th</sup> from 7:00pm-8:30pm in the Phil Matrale 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 18<sup>th</sup>, Rise Against Hunger on January 20<sup>th</sup> and the ARC of Union County on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

## 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**

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Catholic Charismatic Renewal Prayer Group

DAY: Wednesday

TIME: 6 PM-7:30 PM

VENUE: Murphy Room, 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 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](mailto: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](http://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 our 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

### 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)

### 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, Socorro 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.

### 17<sup>th</sup> 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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