

The Church of Saint Michael

Sunday, December 20, 2015

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Please remember in your prayers those who have died.

Please remember in your prayers the sick of our parish:

Rose DeSantis, Edmond DeSantis Jr., Emma Jane Fenimore, Rosemarie DiRupo, David Pope, Jennie Sommer, Brian Bergeson, Eileen Bergeson, Jaydon Franklin, Paula DiElsi, Michael Parker, Evelyn and Vivian Dumpert, Sam Rosa Pat Leone, Simon Harvey, Robert Newton, Robert White, Phil Grella, Vincent D'Alessandro, Diana Palumbo, Patricia Heady, Elaine Dietz, Thomasina Grogan

Weekly Memorial

Altar Bread & Sacramental Wine:

Nicholas Costanzo

Sacuary Lamp:

Andrew Weaver

Weekly Devotions

Monday:..... Charismatic Prayer Group 7:00 pm
(not on the last Monday of the month)

Wednesday:..... Rosary Group 7:30 pm

Friday:..... Divine Mercy 3:00 pm

Friday:..... Under Mary's Mantle 7:30 pm

Saturday:..... Rosary (after 8 am Mass) 8:30 am

Readings for the week

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday

Mi 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

Monday

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday

1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

Thursday

Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79

Friday

Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Saturday

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, December 19, 2015

8:00 a.m. Walter Adonis, John Vara, Joseph Vara Jr.

5:00 p.m. John Michael Barbato Jr., Richard McCarthy

7:00 p.m. Martha Mendoza

Sunday, December 20, 2015

7:00 a.m. James & Catherine DeMuccio,
Mr. & Mrs. Pintos, Mr. & Mrs. Nazzaro &
Baby Michael

8:45 a.m. Louis Lamberto, Helen Hartman

10:30 a.m. Jane Grogan, Rita Boyle

12:00 p.m. Necelia Polianchik, Carmella Marana

5:00 p.m. All Parishioners of St. Michael Church

Monday, December 21, 2015

7:00 a.m. Rocco & Louise Simmerano,
Carmella M. Esposito, Barbara Ryan

Tuesday, December 22, 2015

8:00 a.m. Respect For Life, Special Intention

Wednesday, December 23, 2015

7:00 a.m. Necelia Polianchik, Theresa & David Weaver,
Mary & Ernest Palanchi

Thursday, December 24, 2015 Christmas Eve

8:00 a.m. Fred & Grace Grogan & Deceased Family
Members

5:00 p.m. Elwin & Mary Burd, John J. Bauer,
Grace & Albert Costanzo

7:00 p.m. Samuel D. Palumbo Jr. &
Adeline & Joseph Bencivenga

11:00 p.m. Frances & Matthew Soccio

Friday, December 25, 2015 Christmas Day

7:00 a.m. Nicholas, Marie, Elizabeth Barbato,
Josephine, Emilio, Sam, Vincent Rea,
Louis Castaldi

8:45 a.m. Margaret Flynn, Robert & MaryAnn Weldon

10:30 a.m. Alfred & Carmella Esposito, Aniello, Laura,
Robert, Geri Brodo

12:00 p.m. Joseph Esposito

Saturday, December 26, 2015

9:00 a.m. Special Intention

5:00 p.m. Jack Norgard, Aniello, Laura, Robert,
Geri Brodo

7:00 p.m. Raymond VanSaun

Sunday, December 27, 2015 Feast of the Holy Family

7:00 a.m. David Weaver

8:45 a.m. Louis Lamberto, John Dimino Jr.

10:30 a.m. Gus & Josephine Rampone, Louis Lamberto

12:00 p.m. Carmella DeSantis, Concetta Vassallo

5:00 p.m. Mary Ruf

TITHING – GOD’S PLAN FOR GIVING

ST. MICHAEL’S HAS BEEN A TITHING PARISH SINCE 1988.

Sunday 12/13/15 **\$7,629.00**

Retired Religious **\$2,642.00**

Immaculate Conception **\$4,102.00**

Online **\$ 822.00**

Amount Needed Weekly *\$9,651.00*

To run our parish properly we need \$9,651.

Please consider helping a little bit more if you can.

FROM THE PASTOR

With deep joy and gratitude, we extend to you our prayerful best wishes for a holy and blessed Christmas. During this Advent Season, it has been our prayer that each of you would find opportunities to reflect on your own faith and relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church. Whatever it is that our hearts and souls desire, whether we realize it or not, our ultimate desire is Jesus Himself, for this reason, we are filled with joy and consolation at Christmas to know that all that we hoped for has been fulfilled in the person of the Christ Child.

In the midst of all our current challenges, the love of God the Father is made manifest to us in the wonderful gift of His Son, Jesus. With the angels in Bethlehem, our faith moves us to sing: “Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth!” We recognize that true peace on earth flows from our recognition and praise of God in our lives.

Christmas has a way of bringing to Church individuals and families who, for various reasons, have not been to Mass or the Sacraments for months or years. What a wonderful and grace-filled opportunity to put aside past differences and old habits and begin anew that prayerful relationship with the Lord and His Church community. We extend to all of you an open, grateful heart of welcome. Together, may we grow in strength and grace to know and celebrate together God’s presence in our lives and His dominion over all things of this world.

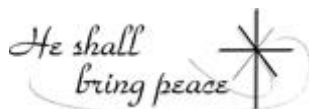
May our Lord Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, bless you, your families and loved ones at this blessed time of hope and grace. May Mary, the Mother of the Child Jesus and our Mother, watch over you and our beloved St. Michael Parish and St. Michael School always.

We thank you for your love and kindness to us, thank you for all your beautiful cards and gifts that you offered to us and to the parish.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We hope to meet each of you in the Church. May Christ abide in your hearts always!

Many Blessings!

Fr. Leonardo and Fr. Adam



Healing Mass

Our next Healing Mass is on December 29th at 7pm, with Rosary/Chaplet at 6:30pm

Youth/Family Mass

Our next Youth/Family Mass will be on January 3rd at 7pm.

Holy Father’s Prayer Intentions for December

Universal: That all may experience the mercy of God, who never tires of forgiving.

Evangelization: That families, especially those who suffer, may find in the birth of Jesus a sign of certain hope.



Giving couldn’t be easier!

Click on the Donate tab or the link on the home page on our website (www.stmichaelnetcong.org). If you have questions or need help setting it up, email smonlinegiving@gmail.com! We’d be happy to help.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

NEWS

Classes for Gr. K-7 are in session this week!

After Christmas---

Gr. 1-6 resumes:

- FOR MONDAY: Jan. 4
- FOR SUNDAY: Jan. 10 (NO CLASS 1/3)

Gr. 8 sessions resume Jan. 4 at 6:45 pm (and every Mon. night through 2/1)

Gr. 7 sessions resume Feb. 8

Confirmation I: next large group meeting **1/10**, 1-3 pm. Small group meetings will begin in second half of January. Schedules were distributed at 12/13 large group session. It is each candidate’s responsibility to remember to attend the first small group session in January—no reminder phone calls will be made!

- If you did not hand in a service form in Dec. please drop it off at the Rel. Ed. Office this week

Confirmation II:

- CORRECTION: **Next large group meeting: January 17**, 1-3:20 pm
- † Service forms due: Jan. 10 (covering all service done since 9/30). Please note all make up service is to be completed by Jan. 10. If you need help, please contact Mrs. Rogalo, 073-347-1465.

ACRE Evaluations for Grades 5, 8 and 10

As per the calendar and the letters sent home with every student (Gr. 5,8,10) ACRE Religion Assessment mandated by Bishop Serratelli will take place as follows:

Grade 5: During regular class sessions 1/24 and 1/25

Grade 8: During regular class session 1/25

Grade 10: During the large group session scheduled for 1/17, 1pm in church basement. Please note the assessment will only take part of the time; the balance of the session will be a regular meeting ending at 3:20pm.

Any young person who is absent the day of the evaluation will take it the day he/she returns to class.

Youth Ministry News

Fr. Leonardo 973-224-6693 or 973-347-0032

Our Mistakes

Thomas Edison tried two thousand different materials in search of a filament for the light bulb. When none worked satisfactorily, his assistant complained, "All our work is in vain. We have learned nothing."

Edison replied very confidently, "Oh, we have come a long way and we have learned a lot. We know that there are two thousand elements which we cannot use to make a good light bulb."

Moral: We can also learn from our mistakes. Ephesians 5:15-17 so be careful how you live. Live as men who are wise and not foolish. Make the best use of your time. These are sinful days. Do not be foolish. Understand what the Lord wants you to do.

Christmas Family Movie Night

On Sunday, December 20th at 7pm in the church basement, we will be showing Kirk Cameron's "Saving Christmas." The movie brings to the forefront the true reason we celebrate Christmas and explains the Biblical basis for the symbols and decorations we use. Feel free to bring the family and your own snacks/drinks!

St. Michael's Prayer Group

PLEASE NOTE:

This Monday, Dec. 21st the presentation "Genesis to Jesus" has been cancelled. The DVD series by Scott Hahn will resume on Monday, January 4th, 2016.

St. Michael School News

St. Michael School Annual Calendar Raffle Tickets On Sale NOW!

St. Michael School's annual calendar raffle ticket sale has begun. The drawing will have daily monetary wins for 65 days starting January 1st through March 6, 2016. A winning ticket is placed back in the raffle so there are *65 chances to win with just one ticket!* Tickets are \$10 each. If you would like to purchase a ticket(s), please contact St. Michael School office at 973-347-0039 x10. We will make arrangements for you to receive. St. Michael School students and parents will also be selling tickets at Masses on 12/12 and 12/13. They make great Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers!

SAINT MICHAEL'S OUTREACH PANTRY

We want to thank all of you for all your generosity! We were able to supply food to so many families. Merry Christmas!

St. Michael's Giving Tree



Thank you all so much for helping us to provide gifts for so many families. God Bless you.

Knights of Columbus 3665

2015 Monthly Blood Drive

Monday, December 28th

3pm – 9pm

140 Ledgewood Avenue, Netcong

No Appointments necessary

Walk-ins welcome

ADORATION

"When we worship you in the form of bread...we always see you as an adult. But every year at Christmas, you reveal yourself to us as a child born in a crib. We stand in silent amazement...In silent adoration we stand before this mystery, like Mary when the shepherd came and told her what they had seen and heard: 'She kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.'" (Chiara Lubrich)

Snow Shoveling Help at Church

Fr. Adam will be away for Army boot camp from January through March. We do not have a custodian to help us shovel the walkways. Can you give us a hand? Please call the rectory 973-347-0032. Thank you.

Respect Life Committee



If anyone would like to join us, please call Andrina at 973-609-4012. We need your help and your ideas... The Respect Life Meeting will be held the first Saturday of the month at 11:30am in the rectory basement. Holy Hour will be the third Tuesday of the month at 7pm in church. (Crisis Pregnancy Hotline – 800-848-5683)

Spiritual Adoption - Special Prayer

As the pregnancy part of our spiritual adoption comes to a close with the anticipated births of the babies we prayed for, please remember to pray a special birthday prayer for them on Christmas and for their continued life with Christ.

-Please join us at Planned Parenthood in Newton for one hour of prayer – First Saturday of each month at 10am. All are welcome. We need to end these atrocities against life.

CHRISTMAS MAGNETS

“Keep Christ in Christmas” magnets, new design, will be on sale after Masses this and next weekend. Additionally, they will be on sale at the Knight’s Santa Breakfast. Cost is \$3. Please contact John Matits at [973] 248 - 5265 for details or magnets.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4a

Micah speaks of the ruler who will come from Bethlehem. He discusses how the people of Israel will be saved from corruption and live in peace.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Paul describes to the Hebrews how Jesus came into the world and offered to do God's will. We were saved through his sacrifice, the only offering sufficient for the sins of the world.

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Mary paid a visit to Elizabeth, whose baby stirred in her womb upon hearing Mary's greeting. Elizabeth filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Elizabeth was deeply overjoyed that the words God had spoken to Mary had now been fulfilled.

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20, 2015

“Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, but who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me? The moment your greeting sounded in my ears, the baby stirred in my womb for joy. Blessed is she who trusted that the Lord’s words to her would be fulfilled.”

At this time of the year people fill the airports, travel the highways, and spend time visiting relatives and friends. It is a time to come together to share special moments, life and love.

How true it was with the visitation of Mary to the house of Zechariah and the meeting of the two pregnant women. A special moment takes place with the encounter of John and the unborn Christ. We continually recite the recorded words of Elizabeth when we pray the Hail Mary. We honor her with a scripture quote. Her question of awe and wonder follows... ‘But who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?’

Pope Francis insists that to be a disciple, we must, like John, encounter Jesus. We find Him in history, but He lives history with us today. We too turn to him, learn more about Him, and then we too go out to announce our experience to others.

This is the joy of the gospel which we will celebrate before this week ends. Go back to the home of Elizabeth, listen to the conversation, reflect on its meaning in our present day, in your home, and make this fourth week of advent memorable.

*Merry
Christmas*