

March 31, 2019 | 4th Sunday of Lent

THE PARISH OF SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

CLAYTON & FRANKLINVILLE

REV LAWRENCE E POLANSKY, PASTOR

DEACON MATTHEW HANRAHAN, RETIRED

DEACON JAMES N HOGAN, RETIRED

PERMANENT DEACONS

MISSION STATEMENT: *"To bear witness to **God the Father**, to follow the teachings of **Jesus Christ**, and to be guided by the **Holy Spirit**."*



DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday: 9a at Saint Catherine of Siena

Tuesday: 9a at Nativity

Wednesday: 9a at Nativity

Thursday: 7p at Saint Catherine of Siena

Friday: 9a at Nativity

Saturday: 9a at Saint Catherine of Siena

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 4p at Nativity

Sunday: 8a at Saint Catherine of Siena

10:45a at Nativity

HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Vigil: 7p evening before at Saint Catherine

Holy Day: 9a at Nativity

7p at Nativity

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 9:30 – 10a at Saint Catherine of Siena

3 – 3:30p at Nativity

or by appointment.

Please call the Rectory Office

OFFICE MANAGER

Fran Carder

PSMA.FranC@gmail.com

COORDINATOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Gina Wheeler

religioussmap@gmail.com

PARISH E-MAIL ADDRESS

PSMA.Rectory@gmail.com

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

REGIONAL SCHOOL

Janice Bruni, Principal

856-881-0067



4th Sunday
OF LENT

"He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours.'" - Lk 15:31

NATIVITY: 2677 Delsea Dr, Franklinville **SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA:** 700 N Delsea Dr, Clayton

PARISH OFFICE: 49 W North St, Clayton, NJ 08312-1114 **PHONE:** 856-881-9155 **FAX:** 856-881-9166

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 12 - 4 PM; Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM; **CLOSED ON FRIDAY**

SACRAMENT PREPARATION: Please contact the Parish Office.

NEW PARISHIONERS: ***Welcome!*** Please stop by the Rectory Office or call to register.

Parishioners requesting sponsor eligibility certificates for Baptism or Confirmation need to visit the Rectory Office.

Please visit our website and sign-up for our newsletter at www.parishofstmichaelthearchangel.com



APRIL

Month of the
Blessed Sacrament

CPLA

A red candle in a silver holder.

Msgr. Louis P. O'Meara



Prayer List

If you have a family member who you would like to see added to the Prayer List, please ask their permission (due to the HIPPA Privacy Act) and contact the Parish Office by calling 856-881-9155 or e-mailing PSMA.Rectory@gmail.com. Thank you!



STATIONS OF THE CROSS WITH BENEDICTION

Fridays of Lent at 7pApril 5th – Saint Catherine of SienaApril 12th – NativityApril 19th – Saint Catherine of Siena (no Benediction)

Confession to follow Stations on Good Friday

CONFESSION OPPORTUNITIES*

Saturdays of LentApril 6th & 13th

9:30-10:30 AM – Saint Catherine of Siena, Clayton

2:30-3:30 PM – Nativity, Franklinville

No Confession on Holy Saturday, April 20thSundays in LentApril 7th & 14th

9:15-9:45a – Saint Catherine of Siena, Clayton

12:00-12:30p – Nativity, Franklinville

* (or by appointment)

OPEN HOUSE

Saint Michael the Archangel Regional School, Clayton, is extending a welcome to all interested Pre-K3 through 8th grade students, their parents, and family to join us for our **2019 Open House**, on **April 30th 6-7:30p**. Tour our campus meet the members of our administration, faculty and staff. We are still accepting applications for 2018-2019 school year. Private tours and shadow days are available by appointment. To attend please contact Sheri Klein at 856-881-0067 ext 213.

SUMMER CAMP

We are now accepting Summer Camp Registrations. Nine (9) themed weeks are available from June 24th until August 23rd. Spots are filling quickly. For more information please contact warriorcamp@smrsonline.com.

400 CLUB AND SOCIAL EVENT

Get your tickets now for the SMRS 400 Club and Social numbers are going fast! The tickets are numbered 1 to 400 and you can select your number (based on availability) at the time of purchase. **Tickets are \$50 per number selected.** You do not need to be present to win. Join us for the drawing which will be held on April 6th from 6-10:30 in the school social hall. **The cost to attend is \$15 per person.** Ticket includes dinner, dessert, live music, dancing, and other raffles. Every ½ hour, starting at 6:30pm, a portion of the numbers will be eliminated. The top 10 prizes will be called during the final drawing at 10:30. If all 400 numbers are sold the top prize will be \$5,000!!! For more information contact Vida Friel at 609-707-5402 or vidafriel@verizon.net



PSMA MINISTRY HAPPENINGS ...

... for the Week of March 31st

- ◆ **Sunday, March 31st** – Got Music? *The Traditional Choir* will practice from 9-10:15a.
- ◆ **Sunday, March 31st** – *PREP (Religious Ed)* will meet in Saint Michael the Archangel Regional School, Clayton from 9-10:15a.
- ◆ **Tuesday, April 2nd** – The *Knit & Crochet Ministry* will meet in Nativity Conference Center, Franklinville, from 9:30-10:30a.
- ◆ **Tuesday, April 2nd** – *PREP (Religious Ed) Grade 8* – Those preparing for Confirmation will have a Formation Class from 6:30-8:30p in Nativity Church, Franklinville.
- ◆ **Wednesday, April 3rd** – The *KoC Council #6890* will meet in Saint Catherine of Siena Church Basement, Clayton from 6:30-10p.
- ◆ **Wednesday, April 3rd** – Got Music? *The Contemporary Choir* will practice from 7-8:30p in Nativity Church, Franklinville.
- ◆ **Thursday, April 4th** – The *Stewardship & Evangelization Ministry* will meet in the Nativity Conference Center, Franklinville, from 7-10p.
- ◆ **Saturday, April 6th** – *PREP (Religious Ed) Grade 8* – Those preparing for Confirmation will be on Retreat in Nativity Church, Franklinville.



Knights of Columbus Council 6890 Scholarship Application

Due to the continued success of our fundraisers, the KoC will again award two (2) one-time scholarships for the 2018-2019 school term. The first scholarship of \$1,500 will be awarded to any high school graduate with a 2.5-grade-point average or above who has demonstrated outstanding achievements in their school, church, and community who will be attending any four-year or two year accredited college or university. The second scholarship of \$1,000 will be awarded to any eighth-grade student who plans to attend a Catholic high school. Please see your school guidance counselor for an application. Applications are due by April 30, 2019. Please contact Ed Waligore with any questions at 856-881-2484 or 609-313-8680.

THE PARISH OF SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL FOOD PANTRY

*"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have;
God is pleased by sacrifices of that kind."* (Heb 13:16)

Neighbors helping neighbors is a very nice sentiment. But how? What can we do? Well, one-on-one may be difficult, but, as a caring faith community working together, helping becomes somewhat easier. Monetary donations as well as donations of non-perishable food items contributed to our Parish Food Pantry allow our Parish to provide assistance to our neighbors here in Clayton and Franklin Township.

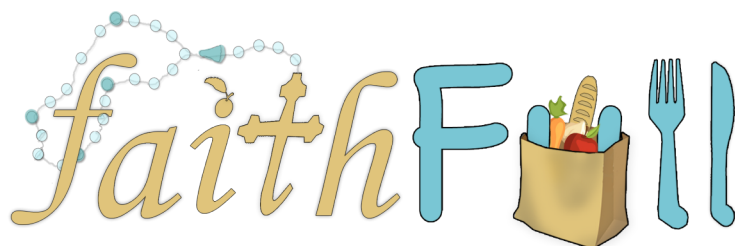
Currently, the Pantry could use such items as **canned fruit, applesauce, tuna, canned chicken, canned pasta meals (Chef Boyardee, Great Value, etc.), peanut butter, mac & cheese, cereal, and crackers** are some suggestions but any and all nonperishable food items are appreciated. Currently, **toothpaste** and **toothbrushes** are also needed.

*Your support of the Parish Food Pantry
makes helping neighbors a reality ...
Thank you!*

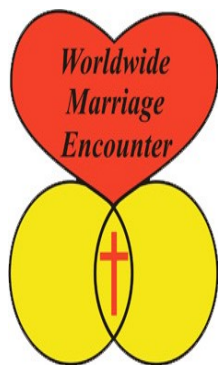


DIOCESE OF CAMDEN

Around the Diocese ...



Here in South Jersey, 1 in 6 people, and 1 in 5 children, suffer from food insecurity, which means they might not know where their next meal is coming from. In response, the Diocese of Camden is organizing the sixth annual FaithFULL Food Drive. On **Sunday, March 31st and Sunday, April 7th**, every parish and school in the Diocese will collect food for local pantries. Please bring food donations to Mass with you on **March 31st and April 7th**. Our goal this year is to collect as much food as possible for those who go hungry here in South Jersey



Pope Saint John Paul II said, *"I place much of my hope for the future of marriage in Worldwide Marriage Encounter."*

Bells are ringing for married couples! Not church bells, not school bells, not maybe not even wedding bells, but faith, knowledge, and married love will grow if you hear the wake-up bell reminding you to go on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend! The next weekends are April 5-7 and October 25-27. Questions? Need more information? Please call our application couple at 609-741-8012 or e-mail applications@wwme-southjersey.org. You can also visit our website at wwme-southjersey.org.



Rediscover the Love in Your Marriage!

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (Retro-VIE). If you know of anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass it on. Couples learn to build communication skills and rediscover intimacy. Retrouvaille provides helps for marriage problems, difficulties, or crises. **The next program in your area begins on the weekend of April 26th at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA.** Another weekend will be held in August. For more information, or to register for one of our weekends, please visit our web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Loving someone struggling with addiction can be very difficult, painful, and chaotic. A community support group can help by offering peer support for anyone affected by drug addiction. Please join us on Saturday mornings at 9:30a at The Church of the Incarnation, 240 Main Street in Mantua. All are welcome to attend, including those suffering from addiction / alcoholism, family members, and those who have experienced a loss from the disease. For more information, please call 609-617-9959.



SOUTH JERSEY CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

Your Choice † Your Privilege † Your Right

LENTEN MASS – CEMETERY VISITATION – HOLY WEEK

We encourage our families to visit our cemeteries and mausoleums to pray for their dearly departed loved ones and all souls who have gone before us. We invite you to celebrate Holy Week with us in our chapel mausoleums.

Mass schedules can be found on our website at SouthJerseyCatholicCemeteries.org.

All are welcome! Wishing you many blessings during this most Holy Season!

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in His great mercy gave us new birth to a living hope Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (1 Peter 1:3)

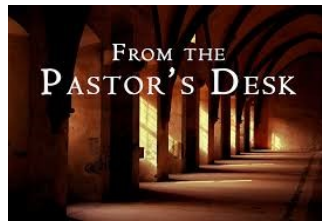


Bishop Sullivan invites the Faithful of the Diocese to join him and his Priests for the Chrism Mass at **4p on Tuesday, April 16th**, at Saint Agnes Church (Our Lady of Hope Parish) in Blackwood.

The Chrism Mass is a celebration of the Priesthood and the occasion at which the Bishop consecrates the sacred oils used in the sacramental life of the Church. Your presence and your prayerful support will be greatly appreciated.

Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass

If in this calendar year (01/01/2019 through 12/31/2019), you are celebrating a milestone wedding anniversary of 25, 50, 60 or 70 years or more of marriage, please join us in celebrating on **SUNDAY, June 16, at 3p** at Mass in Absecon, at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. Bishop Sullivan will be the main celebrant. A light reception will follow in the Parish Hall. Registration forms are available at all Parish Offices. Registration deadline is **May 6, 2019**. For more information please contact your Parish Office.



Most young adults chomp at the bit to leave home and to get out on their own, thinking this is the way they can do what they want. No more adults in authority telling them what to do – they are quite capable of ordering their own lives (*or so they think*). Frequently, these young folks find out just how expensive living on one's own is ... paying for rent, food, utilities, transportation, etc. It isn't as easy as it looks. Some of them, quite chagrined, are forced to move back home to get out of debt and to begin again. So perhaps we can readily identify from experience with the prodigal son in this weekend's Gospel who is chomping at the bit to leave home. He is even bold enough to ask for his share of the inheritance! How little he knows about life ... and how little he knows his father!

This weekend's Gospel begins with the Pharisees and the scribes complaining that Jesus welcomes and eats with sinners – how little they understand God! So, Jesus tells a parable. When the prodigal son “*came to his senses*” and returned home, the most he hoped for was that his father would give him a place as a servant so that he would have adequate food to eat. But the merciful father was extraordinary; he embraced him, clothed him in dignity, and honored him with a feast. Sinners though we are, our merciful Father longs to embrace and to celebrate with us. We have only to return to Him.

Expecting, hoping, and anticipating a minimal response from his father, the son returned home to receive lavishly from his father. The father didn't even answer the son's plea for minimal acceptance. He simply began the concrete events of showing mercy and welcome. **The point:** Jesus' welcome of sinners makes visible the love and mercy of God our Father ... a love and a mercy we all need because we are all sinful. Further, the “ministry of reconciliation” (Second Reading) given us by God places us in the role of the merciful father, reminding us of not only the value, but the necessity of forgiveness. Forgiveness brings us to accept others (and ourselves) as weak human beings who often hurt others and cause them anguish. We are like the forgiving father when we are compassionate and forgiving toward those who have harmed us. Then we are like our merciful God who treats us in just this same way.

The father of this weekend's Gospel is a model of mercy and reconciliation. It is the father who models for us Paschal Mystery living. It is the father in the parable who models for us the mercy of our heavenly Father – mercy that not only forgives and reconciles but offers a feast as well.

Our human tendency is to think we can make a go of life on our own. If we are happy to settle for minimums, some of us can muddle through life reasonably happy. This weekend's parable reminds us that God offers much, much more.

If we chose to die to self (“*coming to [our] senses*”) and return to God, we are greeted with forgiveness and feasting. Even more, at our heavenly Father's Feast we aren't simply welcomed back as the sons and daughters we were, but we are transformed into more perfect sons and daughters sharing in divine life. We feast on much more than a fattened calf. The Feast to which we are invited is nothing less than the Body and Blood of the Son. Receiving God's forgiveness and mercy, and offering the same to one another, is how we pass from Wednesday ashes to Easter feasting.

May Saint Michael the Archangel defend, guide, protect, and intercede for us always!

Fr. Larry