



December 1, 2019 | First Sunday of Advent

**THE PARISH OF  
SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL  
CLAYTON & FRANKLINVILLE**

**REV. LAWRENCE E POLANSKY, PASTOR**

**PARISH 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  
**Tuesday:** 9a at Nativity  
**Wednesday:** 9a at Nativity  
**Thursday:** 7p at Saint Catherine  
**Friday:** 9a at Saint Catherine

**WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE**

**Saturday:** 4p at Nativity  
**Sunday:** 8a at Saint Catherine  
10:45a at Nativity

**HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE**

**Vigil:** 7p at Saint Catherine  
**Holy Day:** 9a & 7p at Nativity  
*(Please confirm with  
Mass Intention Schedule.)*

**RECONCILIATION**

**Thursday** immediately following  
the 7p Mass at Saint Catherine  
**Saturday** 3-3:30p at Nativity  
*or by appointment.*  
*Please call the Parish Office.*

**OFFICE MANAGER**

Fran Carder  
PSMA.FranC@gmail.com

**PARISH E-MAIL ADDRESS**

PSMA.Rectory@gmail.com

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION E-MAIL**

religiousedsmap@gmail.com

**SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL**

Philip J. Gianfortune, Principal  
856-881-0067



**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 - 4p; Tuesday & Wednesday 8a - 4:30p; Thursday 8a - 12 noon; **CLOSED ON FRIDAY**

**SACRAMENT PREPARATION OR LETTERS OF ELIGIBILITY:** *Please contact the Parish Office.*

**NEW PARISHIONERS:** *Welcome!* Please stop by the Parish Office, take a look at our website, or call to register

*Please visit our new website at <https://www.psmaj.com>*



**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>** **ANDREW**

**4:00p** **Frances Cesanek** *by Her Loving Husband, Jim*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>** **1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**8:00a** **Thomas Austin** *by the Sandelier Family*  
**10:45a** **The People of the Parish**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>**

**9:00a** **No Intention**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>** **FRANCIS XAVIER**

**9:00a** **Richard Castellano** *by the Pilgrim Family*

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>** **JOHN DAMASCENE**

**9:00a** **No Intention**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>**

**7:00p** **James Palmer** *by Larry & Babe Bottaro*

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>** **NICHOLAS**

**9:00a** **Rosie Yacob** – *Birthday Remembrance*  
*by Val & Jim*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>** **AMBROSE**

**4:00p** **The People of the Parish**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>** **2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**8:00a** **Robert Sandelier** *by His Children*  
**10:45a** **Deacon Matthew Hanrahan**  
*by the Parishioners of PSMA*

**SANCTUARY CANDLE**



If you've been thinking about having the Sanctuary Candles burn in the memory of your loved one, envelopes are available in the Gathering Spaces of both the Nativity and Saint Catherine of Siena for your intentions and offering of \$10. Please contact the Parish Office with any questions at 856-881-9155.

*For the week of  
 December 1<sup>st</sup> through December 7<sup>th</sup>,*

*the Sanctuary Candle in Nativity  
 Burns for the Intentions & Healing of*

***Matt Healy***

*Requested by His Parents.*

*The Sanctuary Candle in Saint Catherine of Siena*

***No Intention***



**OUR MILITARY HERO PRAYER LIST**

If you have a family member serving in one of the branches of the military, please send their name, rank, and branch of service to the Parish Office (PSMA.Rectory@gmail.com or 856-881-9155).

*Please keep our brave service people in your prayers,  
 Especially those suffering from the effects of war.*

**US Army**

Cpl Austin Arledge, Specialist Bryan Jenkins,  
 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Shane W. McLaughlin, MAJ Eric Miller,  
 CPT Graham Miller

**US Navy**

AWR Daniel Carr, LS2 Alex Hirst, EM2 William Little

**US Marine Corps**

Gy Sgt Brad Davis, Cpl Nate McAllister, CPT James V. Tumolo

LT JG Dominic J. Tumolo, US Navy; US Army Medic



**PRAYER REQUEST**

Brenda Adams, George Bromwell, Rob Christian,  
 Margaret Cloak, Henry Cottelli, Jim Cesanek,  
 Janice Donahower, Judy Dutton, Mary Alyce Hagelstein,  
 Matt Healy, Ernest Henry, Ginny Hoffman,  
 Lorraine Kreiner, Pauline LoCicero, Steven Lord,  
 John Henry Mathiesen, Rosemary McBride,  
 Gerry McCloskay, Eileen Mulholland, Dot Myers,  
 Jack Nelson, Michele Resavage, Dennis Revelli,  
 Bob & Barbara Stroh, Kathryn Tanner, Karen J. Viola,  
 & Susan Webster

**STEWARDS TREASURE TIME**

*“Therefore, stay awake!  
 For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.”*

*~ MATTHEW 24:42 ~*

People who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But when you, as a Christian Steward, start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the miracles that happen daily and grow in gratitude for all that we have been given. You begin to see God's active presence in your life.

**THE PARISH OF SAINT MICHAEL  
THE ARCHANGEL**



**“God Loves a Cheerful Giver”**  
(2 Corinthians 9:7)

Winston Churchill once said, “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” So, what can we give? Well, a donation to our parish food pantry would certainly be appreciated. **Ramen noodles, mac & cheese, canned vegetables, tuna, canned chicken, peanut butter, jelly, oatmeal, pasta, pasta sauce and pancake mix** are examples of items needed at the pantry. Too busy to shop? **Monetary donations are always welcome!**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING  
GENEROSITY AND THANK YOU FOR BEING A  
“CHEERFUL GIVER”!**

***Immaculate Conception  
of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary***

Traditionally, December 8<sup>th</sup> is the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a Holy Day of Obligation. However, when the Solemnity falls on a Sunday, the Feast is transferred to Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> and it is **NOT** a Holy Day of Obligation in the United States. Mass will be celebrated at 9a in Saint Catherine of Siena, Clayton.



Eucharistic Adoration which normally takes place on First Friday **IS CANCELLED** for the month of December.

***Stewardship in Action***

*Due to the  
Thanksgiving Holiday Bulletin Deadlines,  
the Collection Totals  
for 11/23 & 24 were unavailable.*

*They will be printed in an upcoming bulletin.*



***It's that time  
of year once  
again ...***

The Giving Tree Project is going to be a bit different this year as we focus on specific groups of individuals and bring them some holiday cheer throughout the season of Advent.

Each Sunday, over the next couple of weeks, we will be gathering gifts for those in thought and prayer. No tags ... just bring an unwrapped gift for someone on our list.

**December 2<sup>nd</sup> through December 15<sup>th</sup>** – We’re collecting **baby goods** ... diapers, wipes, formula, onesies, clothing, etc. for the Acenda Integrated Health in Glassboro and the assistance they provide to new Moms who need it. We need your unwrapped gifts by **December 15<sup>th</sup>** so that we can get them to Acenda and the individuals who will benefit from them.

Your gifts can be placed in or near the bins in the Gathering Spaces of both churches or you can drop them off at the Parish Office in Clayton during normal business hours. **Thank you for your generosity!**



- ◆ **Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>** – Got Music? *The Traditional Choir* will practice from 9-10a in Saint Catherine of Siena, Clayton.
- ◆ **Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>** – The Evangelization Ministry will meet in the O’Meara Conference Center, Franklinville from 7-9p.
- ◆ **Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** – The *Knit & Crochet Ministry* will meet from 9:30-11a in the O’Meara Conference Center, Franklinville.
- ◆ **Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>** – Got Music? The *Contemporary Choir* will meet from 7-8:30p in Nativity Church, Franklinville.
- ◆ **Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>** – The *Knights of Columbus Council #6890* will meet from 6:30-10p in the Saint Catherine of Siena Church Basement, Clayton.
- ◆ **Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** – Check out the Parish of Saint Michael the Archangel table at *Franklinville’s “Christmas at the Center”* from 12 noon until 5p.





Many of us during the weeks of December prepare for the coming of guests into our homes at Christmastime. We clean, hang decorations, bake goodies, buy gifts, and prepare meals. What we can easily miss is that these preparations are our way of “coming” to our guests. Our very preparations are a kind of presence to and of attentiveness to our guests even long before they arrive on our doorstep. The care with which we prepare for Christmas celebrations is indicative of the care we have for our family and our guests and our desire to be truly present to them. It is also practice in how we *“stay awake”* for God’s comings to us and how we prepare ourselves to come to God. Attentiveness is an essential ingredient of presence. This is no less true of our discerning God’s Presence in our midst than it is of anticipating the presence of family and friends.

In this weekend’s Gospel for the First Sunday of Advent, Jesus warns us to *“stay awake.”* While He is directly speaking to the future event of the coming of the Son of Man (actually, He Himself in all His glory) at the end of time, we can also understand staying awake as related to present events. We know that many people recorded in the Gospels could not accept who Jesus was. They could not see Him for the divine Person He was, in spite of all the wonders He performed ... all the incredible teachings He presented ... all the invitations to embrace something greater that He represented. These people were not awake at all to the signs of the divine Presence in their midst.

*“As it was in the days of ... so will it be ...”* – with these words, Jesus points to patterns in human conduct. Humans have been both unfaithful and faithful to God’s ways ... they have not paid attention and have paid attention to God’s instructions ... have not been awake and have stayed awake to God’s comings. The people in the days of Noah did not know that the flood was coming. Jesus’ hearers did not know when the Son of Man would come. We, however, do know that Jesus has come. We know that He has taught us the way of faithfulness. We know that He has brought us salvation. We need only to *“stay awake.”* Advent is all about *our* coming to God. Our staying awake is a matter of preparing well for the divine Guest who dwells in our hearts always.

We largely remain oblivious to the deeper movement within us of the unfolding of time, unaware that in the midst of daily, mundane activities – like eating, drinking, marrying, grinding at the mill, etc. (see the Gospel) – God’s work of salvation is drawing nearer (see the Second Reading). Thus, time is not a “container” of mundane events. but it is advancing towards something new – Jesus Christ’s definitive coming and the fullness of salvation.

Our belief in Christ’s Presence compels us to “stay awake” by conforming our lives *now* to the ways of God. It is meeting God on *“the mountain of the LORD”* that brings us to faithfulness. Staying awake ... vigilance ... is about faithfulness. It is about coming to the Lord, welcoming Him into our hearts, and encountering His instructions to us. All of this unfolds in the ordinary circumstances of our daily living as we welcome not only our family members, but also the poor and needy into our Christmas preparations, as we extend our love and care for our family and friends to those who are alone and without family, as we root out whatever robs us of the kind of serenity and silence that enable us to prepare for Christ’s coming. Yes, Gospel living is a matter of staying awake in order that we may come to God.

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

~ Fr. Larry

## NEW JERSEY INDEPENDENT VICTIMS COMPENSATION PROGRAM

The Diocese of Camden – along with the other Roman Catholic dioceses in New Jersey – has established an Independent Victim Compensation Program (IVCP) to compensate those who, as children or young adults, were sexually abused by a priest of the Diocese.

The IVCP is independently administered by experienced victim compensation experts Kenneth R. Feinberg and Camille S. Biros.

The IVCP will handle the submission, evaluation and resolution of individual claims, and operates independently of the Diocese or any church-affiliated institution. The administrators of the IVCP have complete autonomy to determine the eligibility of a claim with the guidelines of the established Protocol. The amount of compensation for those who make a claim will be independently determined by the IVCP administrators. All victims – no matter when the abuse occurred – are eligible to participate, and all matters will be handled confidentially.

Victims of clergy sexual abuse of a minor can begin the process of utilizing the program by going to [www.njdiocesescvcp.com](http://www.njdiocesescvcp.com) and reviewing the protocol for submitting a claim.

Bishop Sullivan strongly encourages anyone who was sexually victimized by a priest of the Diocese to participate in the IVCP, and has asked that anyone who knows of someone who was abused to contact them so that they are aware of the IVCP and can participate in it.



## ADVENT HOLY HOURS WITH FELLOWSHIP ACROSS THE DIOCESE

The Diocese of Camden Office of Discipleship and Leadership is sponsoring Eucharistic Holy Hours throughout the Camden Diocese.

Please join us in community prayer asking for guidance from the Holy Spirit so our work within the Parish and the Camden Diocese is fruitful.

In our hour before the Blessed Sacrament, we seek grace, wisdom, and courage for all Catholics to possess a 1<sup>st</sup> century Christian mindset here in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

After the Holy Hour, we will gather for fellowship in the Parish Hall and hear the story of the transforming power of a life lived with Jesus!

**December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7p**

Saint Teresa of Calcutta, Collingswood

**December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7p**

Saint Mary of Mount Carmel, Hammonton

**December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7p**

Holy Family, Sewell

**January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7p**

Our Lady of the Angels, Cape May Courthouse



## Immaculate Conception Vigil Day of Recollection Program

**Saturday December 7, 2019**

**Hosted by: The Legion of Mary**

**Mary Mother of Mercy Parish**

**500 Greentree Road, Glassboro, NJ 08028**

**All are welcome!**

- ❖ RSVP by Wednesday December 4th to estimate food and participants' needs
- ❖ Registrars should notify: Vera Paoletti (856)-217-9350 / email: [verapaoletti@comcast.net](mailto:verapaoletti@comcast.net)
- ❖ Cost: \$10.00 includes breakfast and lunch  
Send checks to: Vera Paoletti (checks payable to **Mary Mother of Mercy Parish**)  
4 Venus Way, Sewell NJ 08080
- ❖ Blessed Rosaries Scapulars & Miraculous Medals are available for those who need them.
- ❖ Theme Reflections on St. Louis de Montfort

**"True Devotion to Mary with Preparation for Total Consecration."**

- 8:00 AM - Mass with Father Sanjai Devis assisted by Deacon Kevin Laughin
- 8:30 AM - Breakfast
- 9:00 AM - Rosary and prayers
- 9:45 AM - First Conference
- 10:30 AM - Questions, prayer and meditation.
- 11:00 AM - Second Conference
- 11:30 AM - Questions, prayer and meditation
- 11:50 AM - Angelus
- 12:15 PM - Lunch break
- 1:00 PM - Third Conference
- 1:30 PM - Questions, prayer and meditation
- 2:00 PM - Gathering in Church for Adoration Hour and Prayer
- 3:00 PM - Closing remarks and blessings (Church).
- 3:40 PM - Confessions / Quiet Individual Prayer. (Church).
- 5:00 PM - Vigil Weekend Mass Immaculate Conception. (Church).



**SOUTH JERSEY CATHOLIC CEMETERIES**  
Your Choice † Your Privilege † Your Right

## ADVENT MASSES – CEMETERY VISITATION & MASS

During this time of Advent in preparation for the celebration of the birth of our Savior, we will hold special Masses at the Diocesan-managed cemeteries in our mausoleum chapels. We encourage our families to visit our cemeteries and mausoleums and to pray for their dearly departed loved ones. All Masses are listed on our website. We wish you a joyous Advent Season and a Blessed Christmas.

For more information on these Masses and locations, please visit [SouthJerseyCatholicCemeteries.org](http://SouthJerseyCatholicCemeteries.org).

*"For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish, but might have eternal life."*

~ John 3:16 ~

## THE 2020 MASS BOOK OPENS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2019 AFTER THE 9:00 AM MASS

We have revised our current policy regarding requests for Mass Intentions. Last year, people could initially request six (6) Masses, with three (3) of those Masses at the same time, e.g. Saturdays at 4:00p, Sundays at 10:45a, etc. This was to accommodate requests such as an anniversary of a person's passing, a special birthday or a similar intention which could be planned in advance. At the same time, we hoped this would also allow for more immediate requests which arise at the time of special prayers for someone undergoing surgery, or when someone dies, or a similar life-event.

Over the past year, there have been a number of open intentions during the week. **A weekday Mass offers the same graces for the person it is offered for as does a weekend Mass.** However, given the current trend, we have found it necessary to once again revise our policy for weekday and Sunday Masses.

- Anyone may request **any number** of Masses during the week. Weekday Masses may be requested for anytime in 2020.
- **As of December 3<sup>rd</sup>**, weekend Masses (Saturday at 4p, Sunday at 8a and 10:45a) **are open through June 30, 2020.**
- Weekend Masses for the second-half of the year (July 5<sup>th</sup> through December 27<sup>th</sup>) will become available Tuesday, April 28, 2020. Individuals may request two (2) weekend Masses January 5<sup>th</sup> through June 28<sup>th</sup> and two weekend Masses July 5<sup>th</sup> through December 27<sup>th</sup>).
- Mass requests **will not be taken** via e-mail or over the telephone.
- A **\$15 stipend** is due for each Mass intention at the time of the request.

In June 2020, if all the weekend Masses fill during the first half of the year, we will also begin to offer a multiple Mass intention (two individuals for one Mass) which will rotate through the weekend Masses (4:00p Vigil Mass, 8:00a Sunday Mass, 10:45a Sunday Mass.) Diocesan Policy allows for one Mass a week to be a multi-intentioned Mass.

This policy is necessitated as a result of people who only request weekend Masses at the opening of the Mass Book each year. We are fortunate to have five (5) weekday and three (3) weekend Masses celebrated here each week, but 12 or more Masses requested per individual quickly fills the Book, especially the weekends. Hence, by mid-Spring to early-Summer, our weekend Mass Intention book is almost full. Thus, if Parishioners die mid-year to year-end, often there are no announced weekend Masses available for up to a year after their death and this is greatly upsetting to the surviving members of the family.

Before deciding on the above policy, a survey of Mass Book Intention policies of several parishes in the area was made. Some Parishes only open their Mass Intentions a few months at a time. Some Parishes restrict the number of weekend and weekday requests that can be made in a given year. Many Parishes are struggling with the same issues that are being encountered here at the Parish of Saint Michael the Archangel and are adopting similar policies.

We are doing all that is humanly possible to be fair and to accommodate everyone and to hopefully ensure that all of the Masses celebrated in the Parish have intentions.

Thank you for your understanding and kind cooperation in this matter!

## Advent & the Advent Wreath

- Advent, which begins the Church's liturgical year, begins today, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Advent encompasses the four Sundays and weekdays leading up to the celebration of Christmas.
- The Advent Season is a time of preparation for our hearts and our minds for the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas.
- The use of the wreath and candles during Advent are a long-standing Catholic tradition that was originally adopted by Christians in the Middle Ages as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas.
- The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ. Even the individual evergreens that make up the wreath have their own meanings that can be adapted to our faith. Laurel symbolizes victory over persecution and suffering. Pine, holly, and yew signify immortality and cedar signifies strength and healing. The pine cones that decorate the wreath symbolize life and resurrection. The wreath as a whole is meant to remind us of both the immortality of our souls and God's promise of everlasting life to us through Jesus Christ.
- The candles also have their own special significance. Three of the candles are purple because the color violet is a liturgical color that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice. The third candle is pink or rose and symbolizes joy. It is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached at the midpoint of Advent. Celebrate Advent and prepare for Him!