



March 20, 2022 | 3rd Sunday in Lent

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: 9a at Saint Catherine

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 4p at Nativity

Sunday: 8a at Saint Catherine

10a at Nativity

HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Vigil: 7p at Saint Catherine

Holy Day: 9a & 7p at Nativity

*(Please confirm with
Mass Intention Schedule.)*

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:00-3:30p at Nativity
or by appointment

OFFICE MANAGER

Fran Carder

PSMA.FranC@gmail.com

BOOKKEEPER

Cindy Simpson

PSMA.CSimpson@gmail.com

PARISH E-MAIL ADDRESS

PSMA.Rectory@gmail.com

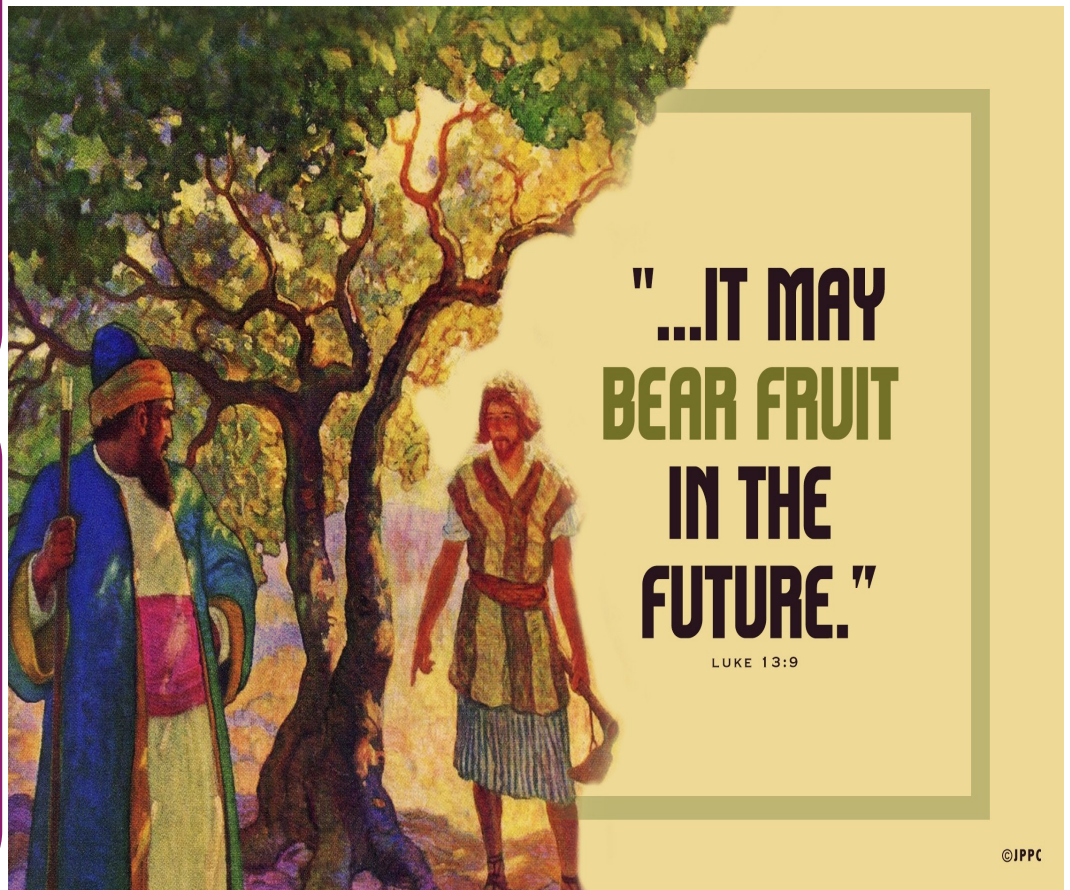
PREP E-MAIL

religioussmap@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, Tuesday, & Wednesday: 10:00a-2:00p **Thursday:** 10:00a-12:00 noon

(You may also call the Parish Office to schedule an appointment anytime outside of these hours.)

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

NEW PARISHIONERS: Welcome! Please take a look at our website or call to register

Please visit our website at <https://www.pdma-nj.com>

Mass INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH

4:00p Edward & Wanda Polansky

SUNDAY, MARCH 20TH
3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00a The People of the Parish

10:00a Anita Smith by Mario & Gail Clement

MONDAY, MARCH 21ST

9:00a Joseph Lodovico by Fred & Donna Ruberti

TUESDAY, MARCH 22ND

9:00a J. Craig Fenimore by Sally Bonner

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23RD
TURIBIUS OF MOGROVEJO, BISHOP

9:00a Peace in Ukraine by Ron & Sally Bonner

THURSDAY, MARCH 24TH
OSCAR ROMERO, BISHOP & MARTYR

9:00a Frank Jones by The Kozachyn & McDevitt Families

FRIDAY, MARCH 25TH
THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

7:00p (N) – Stations of the Cross

SATURDAY, MARCH 26TH

4:00p Philip Aruffo, Sr. by Steve & Jodi Coates

SUNDAY, MARCH 27TH
4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00a Kathleen "Babe" Bottaro

by David, Jeanne, & Susan Schoellkopf

10:00a The People of the Parish



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.

The power of prayer!

PRAY FOR HEALING

Brenda Adams, George Bromwell, Nicholas & Rob Christian, Margaret Cloak, Henry Cottelli, Jim Cesanek, Janice Donahower, Judy Dutton, Anne Ellena, Debbie Fazzio, Matt Healy, Ernest Henry, Sherry Jeffries, Lorraine Kreiner, Pauline LoCicero, Steven Lord, Pat Luko, John Henry Mathiesen, Rosemary McBride, Gerry McCloskey, John Mitchell, Eileen Mulholland, Dot Myers, Jack Nelson, Michele Resavage, Bob & Barbara Stroh, Kathryn Tanner, Karen J. Viola & Susan Webster

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



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, 1st SGT Shane W. McLaughlin, MAJ Eric Miller, CPT Graham Miller, & PFC Vincenzo Taormina

US Navy

AWR Daniel Carr, AG1 Jamie Engleman & EM2 William Little

US Air Force

AB Jacob R Custis

US Marine Corps

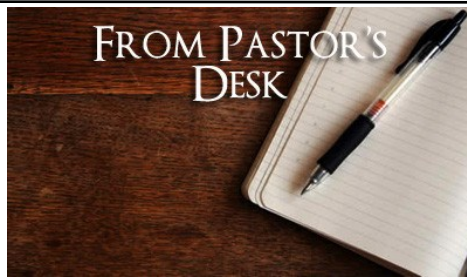
WO3 Brad Davis, SGT Nate McAllister, & CPT James V. Tumolo

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

STEWARDSHIP ALIVE

"...He said to the gardener,
'For three years now I have come in search of fruit
on this fig tree but have found none.'
~ Luke 13:7 ~

We can all be like the barren fig tree at times. Do you cling to what you have or do you live Stewardship by generously sharing with others? How will you respond when God asks you what you have done with all the gifts He has given you? Remember, not only are we called to be generous, we are called to develop and nurture our gifts, and return them with increase. Remember, we are called to be generous with all of our gifts; especially the ones that means the most to us.



Dear Parishioners,

The first part of this weekend's Gospel leaves a lot of room for us to fill in the blanks! We don't know anything about the two tragic events reported in the Gospel. Jesus doesn't reply to the people by filling in more information; rather, He uses these probably recent events that are very much on the minds of the people as a "teachable moment."

These events involve tragic death, and Jesus uses these tragedies to make absolute that unless we repent, we will also die. Then in the parable of the fig tree, Jesus reveals the patience of God with us, despite our slowness to repent. **"The Lord is kind and merciful."** (See the Responsorial Psalm.) This is God's work of mercy: to take what is almost dead and coax it to new life. This is our work of repentance ... to turn from sinfulness toward God's transforming mercy.

Jesus redirects the people from idle speculation about the meaning of the tragic fate of others to the serious work of their own repentance. As the Second Reading reminds us, *"standing secure"* in the graciousness of the new life God offers us does not mean that, because God gives us everything needed for our journey toward salvation, we don't need to cooperate with God to "cultivate" and to "fertilize" our spiritual lives. We sometimes "grumble" our way through life – we judge others, we fail to live up to our baptismal commitments, we do not heed all the warnings given us. Jesus is quite clear in His message: "bear fruit" or be "cut ... down." Our encouragement is that God is ever patient, ever merciful. God never gives up on us.

Suffering for suffering's sake is not what transforms us so that we can bear fruit – the dying that leads to new life is how we bear fruit. The dying that repentance requires forestalls meaningless dying. The dying we do in order to bear fruit is the result of cultivating an attitude of openness to constant transformation. The "fertilizer" is charity, fasting, and prayer ... our Lenten (and our Christian) penance.

Repentance is changing one's mind, of letting go of the narrowness of our own perception of how life should be and embracing the expansiveness of God's plan for salvation. Repentance, in terms of changing one's mind, is really the same as conversion. The dying to self of repentance and coming to new life through God's gracious mercy characterize our Christian living and make real and concrete our baptismal commitment. If we wish to bear fruit we must die to ourselves. Here is an interesting paradox: if we don't bear fruit, we die, but we must die to bear fruit. The choice before us is about dying: meaningless dying (selfishness) or fruitful dying (to self for the sake of others).

The Gospel parable says for "three years" the owner of the fig tree had been waiting for good fruit. God waits more than three years for us to bear fruit – God waits each and every day of our lives for us to bear fruit. The good news is that God never gives up on us. God continually cultivates and fertilizes – especially by the ongoing proclamation of God's Word and the invitation to God's Table. All we need to do is respond by dying to self. God then brings forth new life in each and every one of us.

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

Fr. Larry



March 20, 2022 | Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15 | 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12 | Lk 13:1-9

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE**GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE**

Several years ago, my family gave me a blueberry bush for Mother's Day. It has yet to produce a single berry. However, I can't bring myself to remove it, and today's Gospel encourages me to be patient (a Google search reveals that it can take several years for a blueberry bush to produce a harvest!). The parable of the fig tree shows us how patient God is with us. Like the fig tree, we may not bear fruit or feel as if we're growing spiritually, even as we enter the second half of Lent. Yet Jesus teaches us that if we nurture our faith through prayer and repentance of our sins, we can always grow and blossom. Like the gardener, we need to be patient with ourselves as God is patient with us.

**GO EVANGELIZE****PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

It strikes me that in the parable of the fig tree, the gardener offered to cultivate *the ground around it*. Just as a tree needs light and water and a little individual TLC, it needs good soil. I think for us Catholics, that can be where our parish community and the broader Church come in. Through small actions such as greeting newcomers at Sunday Mass or volunteering in a parish ministry, we can become the fertile soil that nourishes not only our own faith, but that of the entire community. The 2021-23 Synod on Synodality invites us to share our faith and also to listen without judgment to the experiences of others. In doing so, we as a Church can grow stronger. As Pope Francis said in his opening prayer, "May this Synod be a true season of the Spirit! For we need the Spirit, the ever new breath of God, who sets us free from every form of self-absorption, revives what is moribund, loosens shackles and spreads joy."

STUDY Learn about the Synod on Synodality: www.usccb.org/synod. Check your parish bulletin to see how you can get involved.

A Reflection on the Parts of the Mass ... (continued)

The Creed

THE CREED may not be the most boring part of Mass, but in many churches, it contends mightily. It's long. It's the same thing week after week. It's hard to understand. People mumble it. You may hear people praise their church for its great music, an insightful preacher, outstanding lectors, beautiful art, or even convenient parking. But no one brags that their church has a rip-roaring experience at the Creed.

What to do? Some places just skip it. Others take the bull by the horns and sing the darn thing. You can even hear it sung in Latin if you know where to go.

The liturgy itself offers a couple ways to break the monotony. During Lent and Easter and at children's Masses, for example, we may recite the Apostles' Creed instead. You probably know the Apostles' Creed as the one that begins the Rosary. It's shorter than the Nicene Creed. That's supposed to make it more appealing to children.

Legend has it that the Apostles formulated the one named for them. History has it that the Council of Constantinople (381) formulated the beliefs proclaimed by the Council of Nicaea in 325. The Nicene Creed found its way into the weekly liturgy between the fifth and the eleventh centuries.

One way to add variety to the Creed is by turning it into a question and answer device. This happens at the Easter Vigil, and, in the United States, on Easter Sunday Masses. This practice restores the Creed to its most ancient structure. Back in the second and third centuries, creeds took this form at the Baptism of new Christians. "Do you believe . . . ?" "I do." And down they'd go into the water. Ever since Matthew closed his Gospel with Jesus urging us to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, creeds have taken this three-part structure.

The purpose of the Creed is to express with conviction the heart of what we believe. It doesn't include Catholic issues the media like to chew on: celibacy, all-male leadership, and the Church's positions on morality. Some elements of Catholic life have changed over the years and could change again. The Creed stays the same. Sadly, the secular press never gives us Easter headlines boasting, "Thousands Profess Faith in Christ at Easter Vigil." That's not news.

We know better. It's good news. It's worth saying over and over again, week after week, in a long mantra that gives us unity, pride, and faith.



FROM MANY ...One Body



Parish of Saint Michael the Archangel Food Pantry



*"Keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who Himself said,
'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"
~ Acts 20:35 ~*

As we move forward into spring, a season of renewal and rebirth, our parish food pantry continues to provide assistance to those who come to our church seeking a helping hand. If you would like to help, you may leave your donations of nonperishable items in the Gathering Spaces of both Nativity and Saint Catherine of Siena churches, or you may deliver them directly to the pantry at the O'Meara Conference Center **from 10:15a to 11:30a on Wednesday mornings.** There will be a bench outside the pantry on which you may leave your donations. You may honk your car horn before driving away to alert us of your presence so that we may retrieve the items. **Please, leave your food donations outside the pantry on Wednesday mornings only.**

Here are some suggested items: **pasta, ramen noodles, mac & cheese, instant potatoes, tuna, canned chicken (or other canned meats), rice, pudding, peanut butter and jelly.** Also, nonfood items such as **soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes** are appreciated.

*Thank you
for your continued support and generosity!*



in the Parish of Saint Michael the Archangel

Confession Opportunities*

SATURDAYS IN LENT AT NATIVITY

March 26th

3-3:30p

April 2nd and 9th

2:30-3:30p

No Confession on Holy Saturday, April 16, 2022

** (or by appointment)*

Stations of the Cross with Benediction

7:00p

March 25th – Nativity

April 1st – Saint Catherine of Siena

April 8th – Nativity



March 2-April 10
40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

HELP SAVE LIVES IN SOUTH JERSEY!

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000+ volunteers!

With God's help, here are the proven results in 30 coordinated campaigns:

Over **20,000 babies** saved from abortion

Over **200 abortion workers** converted

Over **100 abortion centers** closed

Here's how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:

Vigil location: Outside Cherry Hill Women's Center: 502 Kings Hwy N, Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Vigil hours: 7 am to 7 pm daily

Local contact: Claire Howson

856-313-9861 or claire@helpersnj.org

Learn more ... get involved ... and sign up for prayer times by visiting our campaign at the web address shown

www.40daysforlife.com/cherryhill



Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35

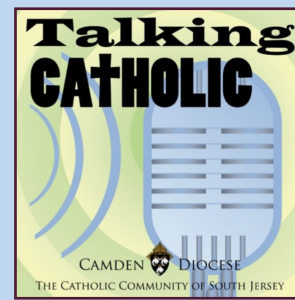
Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab; Lk 18:9-14

Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32



Please know that you can easily find Diocesan audio podcasts and YouTube resources from local Catholic experts, produced by the Office of Communications with the Catholic Star Herald, to share with others at talking.catholicstarherald.org/

Subscribe to these YouTube channels to view all videos:

Subscribe to the Catholic Star Herald YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCLK-2e35CrjDzJlprO6s4Q

Subscribe to the Talking Catholic YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCKPigUniIpN77DldUfyweow

**PARISH MASSES
LIVE STREAMING**



<https://camdendiocese.org/livestreammass/>

You can use the above link to for live-stream Masses in the Diocese, outside the Diocese, or on the radio.

Mass Schedule for the Season of Lent and Easter Held at Cemetery Chapel Mausoleums

We encourage our families to visit our cemeteries and mausoleums and pray for their dearly departed loved ones and all souls who have gone before us. We invite you to celebrate Mass with us during the season of Lent and Easter. All Masses are held at 10 AM in our chapel mausoleums. More information can be found on our website at SouthJerseyCatholicCemeteries.org.

Mass Schedule

Date	Cemetery	Location
Wednesday, April 6	Holy Cross	Mays Landing
Tuesday, April 19	All Saints	Newfield
Wednesday, April 20	Sacred Heart	Vineland
Wednesday, April 20	Calvary	Cherry Hill
Wednesday, April 20	New St. Mary	Bellmawr

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



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