



Hark!

*...the herald
angels sing,
glory to the
new born*

King!

Painting by William Bouguereau
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PARISH OF SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL 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
First Fridays: 9a at Saint Catherine
First Saturdays: 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)



The Parish Office will be **CLOSED**

Monday, December 26
 through
Tuesday, January 2nd.

During this time,
 if you need anything from the Parish Office,
 please call 856-881-9155 to schedule an appointment.

*May you and your families have a Blessed
 Christmas Season and a Happy, Holy New Year!*

Homebound? Sick? In the Hospital? Having Surgery?

If one of these conditions applies to you and you would like a visit from Fr. Larry, please call the Parish Office to arrange a visit to receive Holy Communion, Confession, or Anointing of the Sick. Please remember, that due to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), only you or a family member can share your medical status / information. The Sacrament of Anointing is a Sacrament of Strengthening. Please let hospital staff know you are Catholic so that the Chaplain and Eucharistic Ministers can visit during your stay.

PASTOR

Rev. Lawrence E. Polansky
 PSMA.Pastor@gmail.com

OFFICE MANAGER

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 PSMA.FranC@gmail.com

BOOKKEEPER

Cindy Simpson
 PSMA.CSimpson@gmail.com

PARISH E-MAIL ADDRESS

PSMA.Rectory@gmail.com

PREP E-MAIL

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SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

REGIONAL SCHOOL

51 West North St
 Clayton, NJ 08312
 856-881-0067
 office@smrsonline.com

PRINCIPAL

Mr. Ronald Ferraro

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION ...

The Sacrament of Baptism: Held during the 4p Mass on Saturday; during the 8a or 10a Mass on Sunday. Also held Saturday morning or after Mass on Sunday at the convenience of the family.

Pre-Baptism Class: Required for parents / guardians who have not attended a class in the previous two (2) years. The Parish of Saint Michael the Archangel generally offers its class throughout the year on the third (3rd) Monday of the month at 7p in the Rectory Conference Room. Please call the Parish Office **at least two (2) weeks** in advance to register for a class.

Funerals: To be arranged through the Funeral Home of your choice. Your Funeral Director will contact the church.

Sacrament of the Sick: Anytime, however, due to the HIPAA Privacy Act, the individual needing the Sacrament or a family member needs to call the Parish.

Communion to the Sick / Homebound: Please call the Parish Office.

Marriage: Arrangements should be made one (1) year in advance, *prior to making any reception plans.*

Certificates of Eligibility: For those asked to be a Godparent or Sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation. Canon law (Church law) requires that you need to be at least sixteen (16) years of age **OR** you have received all of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation). You are living a chaste life (not living with someone) and, if married, you were married according to the laws and teachings of the Catholic Church. Finally, you are a practicing Catholic, registered in the Parish and actively participate in the Sacramental life of the Church (you attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days). Certificates of Eligibility are given by the church where you are registered and active, *not where you made your Sacraments.* If you are an adult (25+) still living at home, it is a great idea to register in your parish under your own name, not simply to be registered under your parents.

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 any time 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.psmaj.com>
 or on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/PSMAinDoC>**

PRAY for the SICK

Please pray for the sick & those that care for them

Harriet Bajewicz, George Bromwell, Brian Checkley,
 Nicholas & Rob Christian, Margaret Cloak,
 Henry Cottelli, Jim Cesanek, Janice Donahower,
 Judy Dutton, Anne Ellena, Mimi Hall, Don & Matt Healy,
 Lorraine Kreiner, Pat Luko, Rosemary McBride,
 Eileen Mulholland, Dot Myers, Bob & Barbara Stroh,
 Kathryn Tanner, and Karen J. Viola

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,
 & Kurt Reinhold, US Navy

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 RELATIONSHIP

*"And the Word became flesh
 and made His dwelling among us ..."*
 ~ John 1:14 ~

God made His **Stewards** to be in relationship with Him. He loves each of us individually. Through sin, our relationship with God was broken. He gave us Jesus to restore our relationship with Him. Being a disciple of Jesus, we are given the model to obtain eternal life in Heaven. Christmas isn't about the material gifts we receive, it's about the love that God, our Father, gave us by giving us His Son, Jesus – the best gift we could ever receive.

MASS Intentions

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

4:00p (N) Brandon McConnell
by Robert & Denise Hennessey
9:00p (SCS) The Polansky & Kratson Families

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH – THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

8:00a (SCS) The Sinclair & Schiffer Families
10:00a (N) The People of the Parish

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26TH – STEPHEN

~ No Parish Mass ~

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27TH – JOHN

9:00a Donald & Agnes Healy *by Don & Mary Ellen Healy*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28TH – THE HOLY INNOCENTS

9:00a Tony, Lucy, & Barbara Jean
by The Kronberger Family

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29TH

9:00a Angelo Speranza *by The Kronberger Family*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30TH – THE HOLY FAMILY

~ No Parish Mass ~

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

4:00p The People of the Parish

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1ST – MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

8:00a Roger Sorino
10:00a Joseph Ucciferri

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 \$15. Please contact the Parish Office with any questions at 856-881-9155.

*The Sanctuary Candle in Nativity Church
 burns in Memory of*

Robert J. Carder, Jr.

Requested by Fran, Kathy, and Bobby



©JPPC



“And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us ...”

My Dear Friends,

Welcome Home! Christmas is upon us once again!

The trees get decorated, gifts are purchased and exchanged, various foods are prepared, businesses have their Christmas (or Holiday) parties, cards are sent, students return **home** from college, families get together from far and wide to share good times, etc., etc., etc..

Part of the routine for many is attendance at Mass. By the way, did you ever take the time to examine the last part of the word, Christmas? The word itself comes from the Old English for **Christ's Mass**.

Usually, the earliest possible Masses on Christmas Eve (here at the Parish of Saint Michael the Archangel, it's the 4p) are best attended. They are filled with children and maybe with a re-enactment of the Christmas story in some fashion.

Even if its current chosen date was a Christianizing of the pagan winter solstice, as some contend, Christ was born at a particular point in time. That is what we celebrate. God became man and was born.

Christmas is about Christ. Although things can get rather complicated and convoluted for some, Christmas is still about Christ.

“Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David, a Savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord” (Lk 2:10-11).

God chose to become a man for us. *“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (Jn 1:14).* Timelessness entered into time. The almighty and all-powerful God became a helpless, vulnerable infant. The creator of all life became subject to suffering and death. The infinite majesty of God became finite. God walked this very earth. He could be seen, felt, and touched.

When you peer into the manger this Christmas, realize that before you is a glimpse of the tremendous love that God has for you and for me, as evidenced through the Incarnation of His only-begotten Son.

On behalf of the myself, the Sisters, and Staff that serve our Parish and School, we wish you and your families a happy, holy Christmas season and a blessed New Year! May the love of God which took human form in the person of Jesus be honored and revered in every human person that we meet.

I thank God that you have made the Parish of Saint Michael the Archangel your spiritual home!

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

~ Fr. Larry Polansky, Pastor

P.S. ... Be an ambassador for Christ and wish people a **Merry Christmas!**

**Parish of
Saint Michael the Archangel
Food Pantry**



“God loves a cheerful giver.”

~ 2 Corinthians 9:7 ~

Once again the holiday season is upon us. From Thanksgiving through Christmas, there is so much to do in so little time! As you are making that mad dash through your favorite grocery store, please consider buying an item or two for our Parish Food Pantry. At this time of year, we would like to add “holiday” type items such as **stuffing, cranberry sauce, canned sweet potatoes /yams, gravy, applesauce/canned fruit, cake / fudge mixes, cookies, crackers**, etc. to our usual bags of groceries. Of course, we continue to need such items as **instant potatoes, ramen noodles, canned vegetables, canned potatoes, tuna, canned chicken, rice, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, soups and broths**. Also, we would appreciate new or clean, gently-used, reusable shopping bags. No time for shopping? Monetary donations are always welcome.

Your nonperishable food donations may be left in the Gathering Spaces of both Nativity Church and Saint Catherine of Siena Church, or they may be delivered directly to the pantry at the O'Meara Conference Center from 10:15 to 11:30a on Wednesday mornings.

**Thank you for your continuing generosity
and thank you for being a “cheerful giver.”**



Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or Col 3:12-17; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13; Jn 1:1-18

Sunday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21



The **Season of Christmas** begins on Christmas Day, December 25th, and extends to January 8th this year, the **Epiphany**, also known as “Three Kings Day,” even though the traditional date for the Epiphany is January 6th. In any case, the celebration of Christmas and the Christmas Season is well beyond celebrating one day, going well beyond December 25th ... just remember the **“12 Days of Christmas.”**

A possible Christian interpretation of the song continues below:

- 1 – 12/25 – **“A Partridge in a Pear Tree”** – True Love refers to God ... Jesus Christ becoming man ... God becoming man.
- 2 – 12/26 – **“2 Turtle Doves”** – refers to the Old and New Testaments
- 3 – 12/27 – **“3 French Hens”** – refers to Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues
- 4 – 12/28 – **“4 Calling Birds”** – refers to the Four Gospels and / or the Four Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John
- 5 – 12/29 – **“5 Golden Rings”** – refers to the first Five Books of the Old Testament, the “Pentateuch,” which gives the history of man’s fall from grace.
- 6 – 12/30 – **“6 Geese A-laying”** – refers to the six days of creation
- 7 – 12/31 – **“7 Swans A-swimming”** – refers to the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and / or the seven Sacraments
- 8 – 01/01 – **“8 Maids A-milking”** – refers to the eight beatitudes
- 9 – 01/02 – **“9 Ladies Dancing”** – refers to the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- 10 – 01/03 – **“10 Lords A-leaping”** – refers to the Ten Commandments
- 11 – 01/04 – **“11 Pipers Piping”** – refers to the eleven faithful Apostles
- 12 – 01/05 – **“12 Drummers Drumming”** – refers to the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles’ Creed

Another point of interest ... if you were to purchase all of the gifts in the 12 Days of Christmas today in 2022, you would spend approximately **\$197,071.09**.

With Much Appreciation and Thanks!

I would like to express my deepest appreciation and thanks to all of the wonderful parishioners who volunteered their Time, Talent, and Treasure to make our Parish an extra-special place to spend time during this Advent and Christmas Season!

Thank you to the Sally Bonner and the Music Ministry, to all of the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, and Ushers for always making our Masses so beautiful!

Thank you to all of you, our very generous Parishioners who made the season brighter for our Seminararians, for those who benefit from our Food Pantry, and for the children in the area assisted by the “Toys for Tots” program. Your generosity is amazing!

May you all have a wonderful Blessed Christmas and Christmas Season and a Happy Holy New Year!

~ Fr. Larry



December 25, 2022 | The Nativity of the Lord

Is 52:7-10 | Heb 1:1-6 | Jn 1:1-18

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

The day we have been awaiting has arrived: Christ is born! All of our Christmas preparations - wrapping gifts and preparing holiday meals to be shared among family and friends - are meant to glorify and reflect God's own work for and in us. That is, God's greatest gift of himself, clothed in mortal flesh, who would one day offer himself as the bread of life: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." Jesus came to the world in the form of the most helpless of us all, a newborn infant, so that through him we would be reconciled to the Father, for "to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God." We celebrate the Incarnation of the Lord, for Christ is our salvation! It is through Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit that we are adopted into God's family and receive the fullness of his grace. The fullness of God's truth is revealed in Jesus Christ. "The Lord has made his salvation known"; "he has spoken to us through the Son." Let us give thanks and rejoice this day!



GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The Good News of Jesus Christ is not meant to be kept to ourselves. Today's Gospel reading reminds us that John the Baptist testified to the light of Christ before Christ had yet publicly appeared. Sharing the Good News is not optional! Even the earth proclaims the Good News in Isaiah, "announcing salvation, and saying to Zion, 'Your God is King!'" Indeed, Christ the King - God in human flesh - has arrived. Just as John was sent before the Lord to proclaim his coming, so are we charged: Sent out to the world to go and announce the Gospel of the Lord, "so that all might believe."



WITNESS How might you go out and proclaim the coming of the Lord? Don't forget: sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ isn't limited just to speaking to others. It includes *living* as Christ did - feeding the hungry, caring for the sick and the poor, defending the helpless - because we are Christ's body in the world.

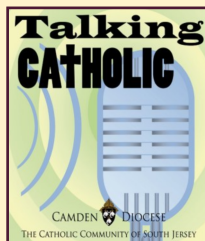
**MARRIED COUPLES ...
WANT TO GIVE A GIFT THAT KEEPS
ON GIVING?**

Register for a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend - it's the best gift you'll ever give to each other and your marriage! The next weekend is **March 3-5, 2023**.

Questions? Need more information? Please call our application couple at 609-741-8012 or email applications@wwme-southjersey.org

Please visit our website wwme-southjersey.org

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:](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLK-2e35CrjDzJlprO6s4Q)

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

[Subscribe to the Talking Catholic YouTube channel:](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKPigUnilpN77DldUfyweow)

www.youtube.com/channel/UCKPigUnilpN77DldUfyweow

*Celebrate Your
Milestone Anniversary!*
*Weddings and Engagement
Edition*
Feb. 10, 2023

PHOTO AND TEXT LISTING
Send us your wedding portrait, the couple's names, anniversary date and a 20-word personal message.
\$80
Scan QR code

or visit Catholicstarherald.org/advertise
to upload your information.
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS JAN. 27!

Contact:
Neal Cullen • Neal.Cullen@camdendiocese.org • 1-856-583-6139
Paul Worthington • Paul.Worthington@camdendiocese.org • 1-856-583-6166

**CATHOLIC
STAR HERALD**

**PRAY FOR
UKRAINE**