



December 4, 2022 | 2nd 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: 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

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 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-nj.com>
or on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/PSMAinDoC>

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3RD****4:00p Robert and Gary Hanna** by Don & Mary Ellen Healy**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH – 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT****8:00a Lynda Bancroft** by Pat Pannullo**10:00a The People of the Parish****MONDAY, DECEMBER 5TH****9:00a Millie Polansky** by Grandson, Larry**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH – NICHOLAS****9:00a Holy Souls in Purgatory** by The Wright Family**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7TH – AMBROSE****9:00a The Health & Well-Being of Deacon John & Pat Luko**
by Dan & Karen Seniff**7:00p (SCS) Joie Cosenza** by Sally & Ron Bonner**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8TH – THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION****9:00a (N) Jared Gattuso** by The McCann Family**7:00p (N) The People of the Parish****FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9TH – JUAN DIEGO CUAUHLATZIN****~ No Parish Mass ~****SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10TH****4:00p The People of the Parish****SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH – 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT****8:00a Lynda Bancroft** by Mary Visalli**10:00a Robert Barcus** by Sally & Ron Bonner**Monday:** Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14;

Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13;

Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30**Thursday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3bc-4;

Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6; Mt 11:16-19**Saturday:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19;

Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 5:7-10;

Mt 11:2-11

**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.

CHRISTMAS STEWARDSHIP

*"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit
will be cut down and thrown into the fire."*

~ Matthew 3:10 ~

Do you bear good fruit for Jesus? Do you spend time in prayer or do you waste it with mindless activity? Do you use your talent to help others or are you too busy? Do you use your treasure to support the Church or do you buy more things that go unused? Our time, talent and treasure are gifts from God. What we do with our **Stewardship** is our gift back to Him. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

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

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



Dear Parishioners,

In the Gospels, we are first introduced to John the Baptist as the aged Elizabeth's and Zechariah's miracle baby boy. We read about his leaping for joy in Elizabeth's womb when Mary visits her cousin. Now in this weekend's Gospel, we jump ahead in time to the adult John, a seemingly odd character for sure. He is a desert-dweller wearing strange clothes and eating strange food. He is a fiery character with a challenging, revealing, and life-changing message. He is a charismatic prophet who attracts crowds to hear his message and instills in them the desire to acknowledge their sinfulness, to repent, and to be baptized by him. But not all who encounter him are able to hear, to respond, or to repent.

The harshness of John the Baptist's preaching to some of the Pharisees and Sadducees in this weekend's Gospel – "*You brood of vipers!*" – is a scathing judgment, indeed. John's harsh language, unrelenting judgment, and uncompromising challenge demand a wholehearted response: **Repent!** It is not good enough to claim, "*Abraham as our father.*" Repentance is a wholly personal choice, a personal act, a personal demand to change.

Repentance always changes one's life. Changing our lives is very concrete and visible. Our attitudes and behaviors noticeably change for the better when we choose to repent. Repentance at the root means to change one's mind. Only then can one act according to God's plan, thus changing our lives. When each of us changes our mind – repents – by conforming our will to God's, then there will be "*no more harm or ruin*" (First Reading), but rather the peace and harmony described by the Prophet Isaiah.

Repentance brings not the poison of striking vipers, but the "good fruit" of counsel, strength, knowledge, and delight in the Lord (see First Reading). Repentance brings the favorable judgment that not only invites us to the Kingdom of Heaven but is the peace and harmony portraying the already "at hand" of God's reign. The choice to repent has consequences beyond the immediate. To repent takes us beyond John's baptism of water which brings a new human way to live. To repent is to embrace Jesus' baptism "with the Holy Spirit and fire" which brings us to a new way to live in God.

John directs to everyone his strong warning to repent. Some "*acknowledged their sins,*" and expressed their desire to live "*in the Kingdom of Heaven*" by submitting to John's baptism with water. The "Pharisees and Sadducees" resisted repentance, claiming their descent from Abraham was enough for them to belong to "*the Kingdom of Heaven.*" John's challenge to repent elicits two responses. Which response do we choose? Whether Jesus will gather as wheat or burn us as chaff depends on our God-given free will and free choice.

We shouldn't dismiss the Pharisees and Sadducees of the Gospel too quickly. John's harsh judgment of them must bring us to look at what is within us that opposes God's ways. One good way to discover what needs to change within us is to listen to the judgments others make about us. Whenever we hear negative things about ourselves, we tend to be hurt and defensive, which is quite natural. Perhaps the hurt would be eased if we remember that such judgments may reveal to us ways we need to repent. Here is the Paschal Mystery reality of our lives. True, we *already* share in the new Life of Jesus' Resurrection. At the same time, we have **not yet** rid ourselves of all that opposes God's ways and for which we must repent.

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

Fr. Larry

It's the most wonderful time of the year ...



Our Giving Tree Project tradition continues 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.

We're currently collecting for our local **Toys for Tots** campaign. Please bring an unwrapped toy for a child four-years-old and up. There will be boxes in the Gathering Spaces of both churches through **Sunday, December 11th** so that we can give them to our local retired Marines for distribution to children in the area.



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."



December 4, 2022 | Second Sunday of Advent

Is 11:1-10 | Rom 15:4-9 | Mt 3:1-12

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE

PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Harmony. It can seem so elusive in these times when our newsfeeds bombard us with reminders of what's wrong with our world: war, political conflicts, hunger, injustice, violence. We may also experience discord in our homes or within our hearts. Perhaps that is why the beautiful imagery in Isaiah's prophecy, where Isaiah envisions a world transformed by the coming of the Messiah, strikes a chord as we prepare for Christ's coming: We picture the wolf lying beside the lamb, and the calf with the lion. All will be right with the world. As we reflect on the areas in our lives that lack harmony, we are reminded to focus on Jesus and the Father, the source of all good. Through prayer and reflection on our Advent readings, we can "prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."



PRAY St. Paul's words above give us pretty clear instruction for how to live out our faith by welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us. Reflect on these words during daily Advent reflection this week: When have we welcomed others in our lives - and truly loved them? How can we do that for someone in the coming days?

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I have a "smart" alarm clock. To shut it off, I just have to say, "Alexa, turn off my alarm." Easy, right? Well, too easy, it turns out, because lately I've slept right through the one-sided conversation. But it's hard to miss John's wake-up call: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" Perhaps, though, we've become complacent; we've heard it so often that we skip right past it. That can happen during Advent, this season of preparation and, yes, repentance. I love our family traditions - candy every day, in the morning!; our well-worn Nativity set; lighting the Advent candles; Christmas concerts and gatherings. None of those are bad, of course, but in the blur of the season we must be challenged by John the Baptist's words to prepare not only our homes but our hearts for Christ's coming. During this season, we can examine our lives to separate the wheat from the chaff, focusing on those things that bring us closer to the Lord and one another. As St. Paul encourages the Romans, "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God."

Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.



retiredreligious.org

The collection for the Retired Fund for Religious
will be the weekend of December 10th and 11th.



The Rowan Princess Party

At Saint Bridget' University Parish
125 Church Street
Glassboro, NJ 08028

Friday December 2nd @7pm
Doors open at 6:15

All Proceeds Go to the Make A Wish
Foundation

Feel free to come dressed in your
favorite Disney attire! There is no
entrance fee. Food, drink, and prizes
will be available by donation.

This is a senior project for one of the Rowan Catholic students.
Admission is FREE, but donations are welcomed and will go to
Make A Wish Foundation!

SPACE IS LIMITED! You must pre-register to attend. Register at:
<http://rowanprincessparty.ticketleap.com/rowanprincessparty/>



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

Advent Mass – Cemetery Visitation

During this time of Advent, in preparation for the celebration of the birth of our Savior, we will hold a special mass at Holy Cross Cemetery & Mausoleum on Wednesday, December 7th, at 10:00a. We encourage our families to visit Holy Cross and all of our cemeteries and mausoleums and pray for their dearly departed loved ones. This mass and future Christmastide masses held at other diocesan-managed cemeteries are listed on our website. We, the staff of South Jersey Catholic Cemeteries, wish you a joyous Advent Season.

Visit SouthJerseyCatholicCemeteries.org to learn more or call us at 855-MyPrePlan (855-697-7375) and a member of our staff will gladly assist you.

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

~ John 3:16 ~



Is It Wrong to Separate Cremains?

Under Vatican Council II in 1963, the Church recognized cremation as a simple, dignified, and more affordable option to accommodate Catholic families in a changing world. In 2016, Pope Francis clarified that human ashes, in line with the pious tradition of Catholic funerary rites, must be buried in sanctified ground, or entombed fully intact, in columbaria (niches where cremated remains are put to rest). But why is it so important for them to be buried or entombed, rather than kept at home, scattered, or divided between family members?

The Church views human ashes much the same way they view a body in a casket. Both are deserving of respect. You wouldn't take a body and divide it amongst family members for keepsakes, and cremated remains are no different. The **Order of Christian Funerals**, published in 1990, states that divided ashes are "*not the reverent disposition that the Church requires.*" Keeping the ashes intact holds to the practice of showing reverence and the belief in the Resurrection. Catholics are baptized, receive the Eucharist, and perform the works of the Holy Spirit, and as such should be treated with respect.

So all in all, Catholic belief says it's best to keep your ashes intact and not be separated.

PRAY FOR UKRAINE

**JESUS IS STILL HERE:
THE FULFILLMENT OF
MATTHEW 28:20**

**DEC
7
7:00 PM**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Father
Jon
Thomas**

Presented in English

Christ the King Parish
200 Windsor Ave
Haddonfield, NJ 08033



EUCCHARISTICREVIVALSOUTHJERSEY.ORG

CATHOLIC CHARITIES, DIOCESE OF CAMDEN

Prison Ministry's **UNDERWEAR & SOCK DRIVE**



Catholic Charities' Prison Ministry is collecting items for inmates in the Camden Diocese who are in need of clothing. Some correctional facilities only supply jumpsuits, and many inmates have no means to buy clothing to wear under the jumpsuits.

The following is greatly needed in all sizes (new and unused only):

MALES: white tee-shirts and white boxers

FEMALES: white sports bras and white cotton briefs

MALES & FEMALES: white crew socks

DROP OFF/MAILING ADDRESS:

Catholic Charities' Camden office
1845 Haddon Avenue,
Camden NJ, 08103
Anytime Monday - Friday
between 8:30 AM & 4:00 PM.

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT:

Sister Mary Cronin,
Prison Ministry Coordinator
Mary.Cronin@CamdenDiocese.org
856-342-4106

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these
brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."
Matthew 25:40

Catholic  *Charities*
Diocese of Camden



Sexual abuse is a crime that must be reported, investigated and responded to so that victims are protected and those who commit abuse are removed from ministry.

A special toll-free number has been established to help callers report cases of sexual abuse by priests, deacons, religious, employees and/or volunteers. In accord with state law, cases of child sexual abuse are reported to the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency.

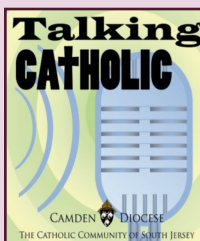
For information or to inquire about counseling and support services, contact the Victims Assistance Coordinator at 1-800-964-6588.

THE DIOCESE OF CAMDEN



The **Cathedral Clothing Ministry** is in need of size 34 and 36 men's long pants and jeans. Women and Men's winter **CASUAL** clothing is also needed. **Items may be dropped**

off at 128 Broadway in Camden NJ 08102 Wednesdays from 10a to 1p, when the clothing center is open. For more information contact Tom Fisher at: 856-952-0837. PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF CLOTHING OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH OR RECTORY.



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/UCKPigUnilpN77DidUfyweow)

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