March 14, 2021 | 4th Sunday of Lent

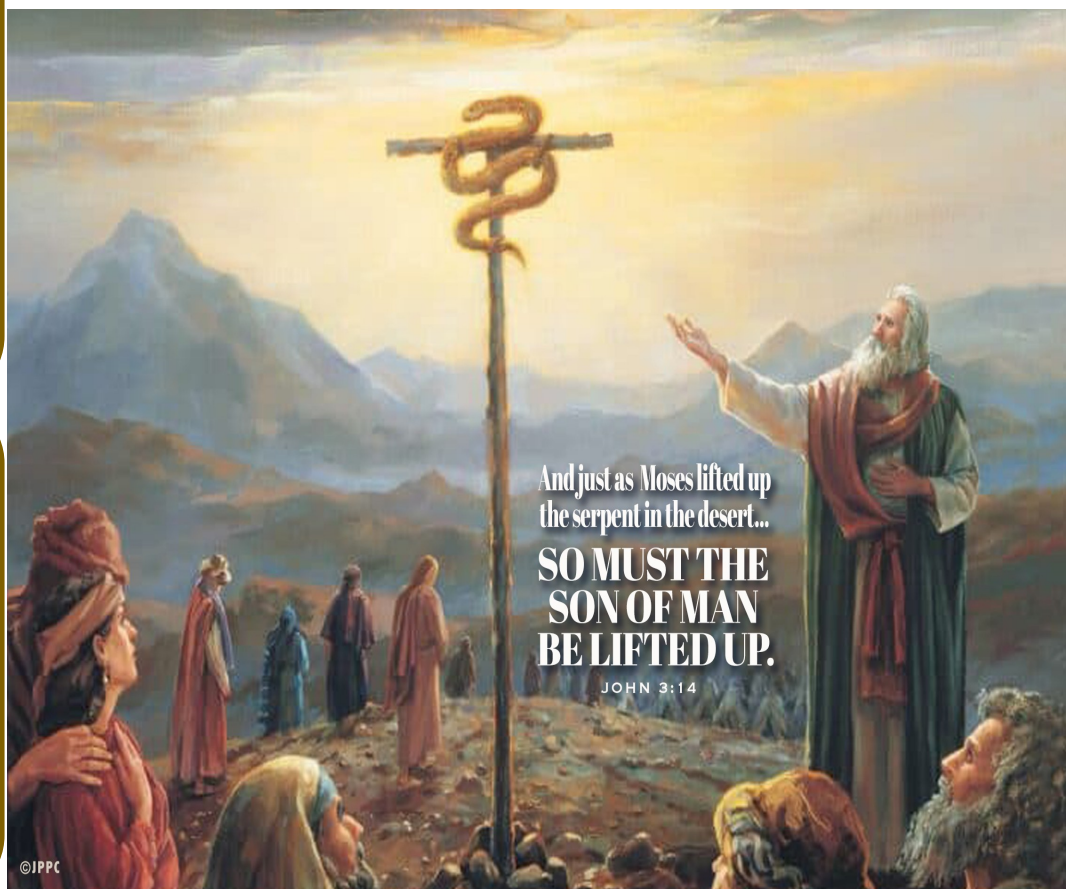
The Parish of Saint Michael the Archangel

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 Nativity
Tuesday: 9a at Nativity
Wednesday: 9a at Nativity
Thursday: 9a at Nativity

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4p at Nativity
Sunday: 8a at Nativity
10a at Nativity

Holy Day Mass Schedule

Vigil: 7p at Nativity
Holy Day: 9a & 7p at Nativity

(Please confirm with Mass Intention Schedule.)

Reconciliation

Due to COVID-19, by Appointment Please call the Parish Office.

Office Manager
Fran Carder
PSMA. FranC@gmail.com

Parish E-Mail Address
PSMA.Rectory@gmail.com

PREP 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, Tuesday, & Wednesday: 10:00a-2:00p **Thursday:** 10:00a-12:30p (*or by appointment, please call the Office)*

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.psma-nj.com

Mass INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, MARCH 13TH

4:00p (N) Paul Kratson

SUNDAY, MARCH 14TH
4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00a (N) Kathryne Lovell *by Rod & Louise Burgess*
10:00a (N) People of the Parish

MONDAY, MARCH 15TH

9:00a (N) Virginia Hoffman *by The Seniff Family*

TUESDAY, MARCH 16TH

9:00a (N) William J. Morris, Sr. *by The Morris Family*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17TH
PATRICK, BISHOP

9:00a (N) Thomas Austin *by The O'Hara Family*

THURSDAY, MARCH 18TH
CYRIL OF JERUSALEM, BISHOP & DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

9:00a (N) Martin Trapp *by Fr. Larry & Fran Carder*

FRIDAY, MARCH 19TH
JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

9:00a (N) ***No Parish Mass***

SATURDAY, MARCH 20TH

4:00p (N) People of the Parish

SUNDAY, MARCH 21ST
5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00a (N) Connie Johnson *by The Polansky Family*
10:00a (N) Mary Burns *by The Burns Family*

The Parish of Saint Michael the Archangel now has a Facebook page!

https://www.facebook.com/PSMA.clayton.franklinville

QUESTION

If you concentrate on prayer, faith and how much Jesus loves you, you are unable to concentrate on worry and fear, correct?

THINK ABOUT IT

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, Mary Alyce Hagelstein, Matt Healy, Ernest Henry, Sherry Jeffries, Lorraine Kreiner, Pauline LoCicero, Steven Lord, John Henry Mathiesen, Rosemary McBride, Gerry McCloskay, 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**

US Navy

AWR **Daniel Carr**, AG1 **Jamie Engleman** & 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

Lent

Confession Opportunities

Due to COVID-19 guidelines and regulations for social distancing & sanitizing, please call the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

No Confession on Holy Saturday, April 3rd

Stations of the Cross with Benediction at 7p

March 19th – Nativity
March 26th – Nativity

"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 spring forward into longer and warmer days, we continue to think of our neighbors here in Clayton and Franklin Township. If you would like to help by donating to our Parish Food Pantry, you may leave nonperishable items in the shopping cart located in the Gathering Space of Nativity Church, or, you may deliver them directly to the pantry at the O'Meara Conference Center **from 10:15 to 11:30a on Wednesday mornings.** Since we cannot allow you inside the pantry at this time, 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.

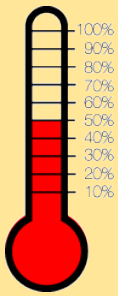
Please, leave your food donations outside the pantry on Wednesday mornings only. We are sorry, but, food left out in the elements for an unknown number of hours or days when we are not present at the pantry or when the church is not open cannot be used safely and must be discarded.

All nonperishable items are appreciated including such things as **canned vegetables, ramen noodles, rice, canned meats and stews, tuna, pancake mix, peanut butter and jelly.** Also, nonfood items such as **soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes** are always welcome. If you prefer not to shop, monetary donations are great, too.

Thank you for your very generous support of our Parish Food Pantry!

FACES OF HOPE

House of Charity Bishop's Annual Appeal



As of March 8, 2021 …

You have donated **$28,805** or **56.8%** of our goal of ***$50,700***

We're over half-way there! Let's keep it going!

Thank you for your generosity to the House of Charity!

STEWARDS GIVE BACK

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son…" ~ JOHN 3:16~

Of all the wonderful gifts that God has given to us, the gift of His own Son is truly the greatest. How can we ever thank God for a gift like that? God does not ask us to sacrifice our own precious firstborn, but He does ask that we are grateful and generous with our God-given gifts. That we nurture and develop our gifts, and in gratitude, generously give back in **Stewardship** – *with increase* – our time in prayer, our talent in charitable works, and our treasure to support the mission and ministry of our Parish and greater Church.

March 14, 2021 | Fourth Sunday of Lent

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23 | Eph 2:4-10 | Jn 3:14-21

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

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

We all have mementoes that we treasure – a handmade Mother's Day card, a delicate glass sculpture inherited from a relative, perhaps a fine piece of woodwork or beautifully woven quilt. We treasure them because they remind us of someone we love. Now, think about that we are God's "handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance"! Our God, rich in mercy, rich in love, treasures us so much that he created each of us in his image and gives each of us grace – a pure, free gift. As we look in the mirror, we may be tempted to see only our imperfections. But Paul reminds us that if we look at ourselves the way God does and accept the gift of his love and grace, and cooperate with it working in us, we can live in Christ in the here and now, by extending love and mercy to others, and in eternity, in God's loving embrace.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Reading the news and social media, the phrase in today's Gospel that "people preferred darkness to light" seems as true now as it was in John's time. Sinfulness and evil still cause great harm in our societies. The good news is that it is also as true for us as it was then that God sent his only Son, "not … to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." Clearly, the world is a work in progress. We are a work in progress. Yet today's readings remind us that we can choose light over darkness by accepting the gift of faith and grace that our patient and merciful God bestows on us. It doesn't mean that we should turn off the news or hide from the world, but instead do our part to bring light to the situations we encounter. We know the kingdom of God won't be built in a day, or even a millennium, but we take a step toward building the Kingdom when we allow God's light to enter our hearts and then share that light with others through our witness, words, and prayer.

GIVE Choose light! Respond to a troubling event in your community or state by seeking a concrete way to help – donate to a local Catholic Charities or relief organization, or contact your parish about possibly organizing a donation effort.

Dear Parishioners,

In our modern American culture, Sundays (especially in fall and early winter) are often punctuated with football. We know that Mass attendance can even be influenced by the time the Eagles are playing. The excitement, joy, and anticipation of the game can even distract otherwise intent Mass-goers! Perhaps you have even heard a homily incorporating a reference to Sunday football. It's become something of a national religion practiced in varying degrees by fans. Sometimes, in the end zones of various football games, dedicated believers displayed a simple message: "***John 3:16***." For those who were not familiar with their Scriptures, many might have gone to look it up in their Bibles later in the day. Maybe that was the point. And it is that verse that appears in this weekend's Gospel.

This Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally called "***Laetare*** Sunday," from the Latin, meaning "to rejoice" or "to be joyful." Though it might appear to be a football term (Rejoice Sunday), the term comes from the Introit or Entrance Antiphon for this weekend's Mass from Isaiah 66:10: *"Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning …"* It's unrelated to football. Still, it might seem odd to "rejoice" in the middle of Lent, but that counsel is a reminder, or rather a foreshadowing, of Easter. In addition to losing an hour of sleep and entering Daylight Savings Time, it is as though Easter itself is breaking into the Lenten Season this weekend

For the Gospel, we continue from last week with another reading from Saint John's Gospel that includes the famous passage cited in football end zones. During the first two Sundays of Lent this year we heard Saint Mark (the temptation of Jesus and the Transfiguration of Jesus). Last week, we heard Saint John's version of Jesus overturning the money changers in the Temple. This weekend, we have Jesus and Nicodemus, a story that is unique to the Gospel of Saint John.

The passage that many use to sum up the Gospel is this: *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son."* The greatness of this statement can be lost by its terseness. We proclaim a God of love, not a God of condemnation. And this love results in God sending His only Son, Jesus. The starting point of our theology is, then, love.

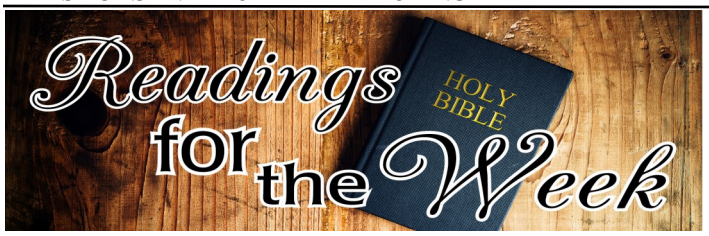
Though many today and throughout history seem to prefer a God of judgment, a God of condemnation, today we are reminded that our God is love. And God's love is eternal, expressed in a never-ending life He wants for each of us, where relationships and bonds we create in this life are never broken. On this Laetare Sunday, when we read John 3:16, may the joy experienced by those at a football game remind us of the joy we have at Easter, when the promise of eternal life is fulfilled.

This weekend's Gospel addresses eternal life quite clearly as God's intention for us. But prior to the famous passage of John 3:16, we hear Jesus tell Nicodemus that the Son of Man must be lifted up (crucified). Only by means of death is eternal life opened. Unique to Saint John's Gospel, Jesus' death is often referred to in metaphorical ways, like *"lifted up"* or even *"glorified."* For the Gospel of Saint John, Jesus on the cross was a moment of glory, almost devoid of explicit suffering. For example, John never mentions the scourging of Jesus. Even Jesus' final words from the cross, *"I thirst,"* can be taken more as metaphorical or symbolic than a literal expression of suffering.

Ultimately, Saint John doesn't focus on Jesus' pain, or "how much it hurt." Instead, the cross is glory and the path to eternal life. For His followers, belief in Jesus is the means by which they receive eternal life. As we continue to journey through Lent, it might be fruitful for us, too, to focus on Jesus and our belief in Him. He represents and is Himself the incarnation of God's love for the world. As followers of Jesus, how do we represent God's love to the world?

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

~ Fr. Larry



Monday: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12a, 13b; Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23; Jn 5:31-47

Friday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; PS 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Rom 4:13:16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12; Jn 7:40-53

Sunday: Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

Do you need to go to Confession? If your behavior has hurt others, if you've you'd be ashamed to have some of your actions made public, it's time to seek mercy and forgiveness. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will help you choose the right path forward.

As was discussed last weekend, due to a scheduling conflict, the Parish of Saint Michael the Archangel is unable to have Confession on Wednesday evenings as recommended by the Diocese; however, you can always call the Office to schedule an appointment.

If you wish to go to Confession on Wednesday evenings, the following parishes in the area can accommodate you:

Mary, Mother of Mercy Parish in Glassboro on Wednesdays beginning at 7:00p.

Our Lady of Peace Parish in Williamstown on Wednesdays: Eucharistic Adoration 5-6:15p, Confession beginning at 6:00p, and Mass at 6:30p.

Rice Bowl contributions can be made **any time** throughout the Season of Lent up to Divine Mercy Sunday, April 11, 2021. Please put your envelope in with the first collection. There will no special second collection for Rice Bowl envelopes. Thank you!

EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS

Due to bulletin publishing deadlines, if you haven't already done so, please make your Easter Flower Contributions by **Sunday, March 21st** in order to have your memorial printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Thank you!

The Difference You Can Make When You Pre-Plan Your Catholic Burial

Eliminating stress during life's most difficult time, is why pre-planning your Catholic burial is important and beneficial to all. Pre-planning removes the guesswork, and it makes it easier. Consequently, your loved ones are not making haste decisions when they are most vulnerable. Rather, they can focus on their love for you and the memories they cherish. Plus, you can relax knowing the choices are made. Moreover, you save money because you pay today's prices, and you receive pre-need discounts. Consider pre-planning. Give everyone peace of mind. Call 855-MyPrePlan (855-697-7375). Learn about your options, and then discuss your choices with your family.

"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 ~

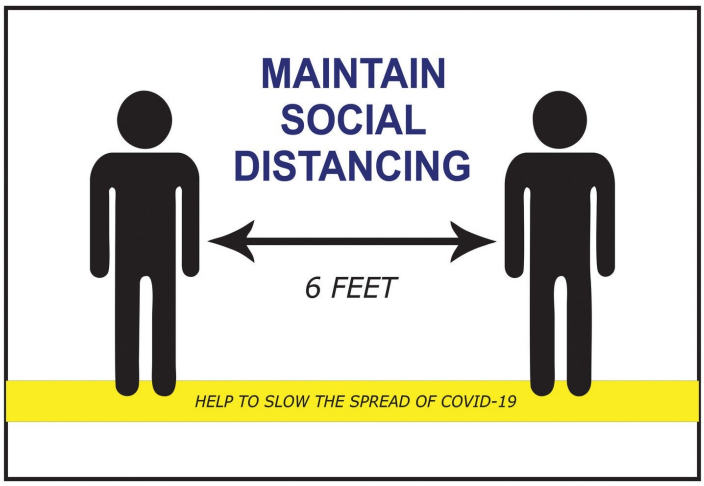
SOUTH JERSEY CATHOLIC CEMETERIES
Your Choice † Your Privilege † Your Right

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.

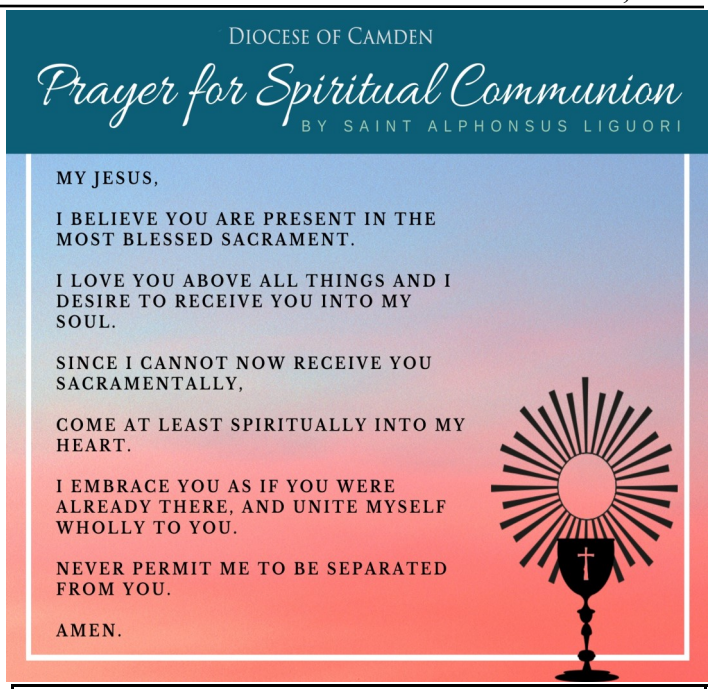
A special toll-free number has been established to help callers report cases of sexual abuse by priests, deacons, religious, employees and/or volunteers. In accord with state law, cases of child sexual abuse are reported to the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency.

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

THE DIOCESE OF CAMDEN



Please check out https://www.camdendiocese.org/live-stream-mass/ for Parishes in the Diocese and sites throughout the country that are live-streaming the Mass. If you are unable to attend Mass, but would like to continue watch it, this is for you!



UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

In re The Diocese of Camden, New Jersey
Case No. 20-21257 (JNP)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT on October 1, 2020, The Diocese of Camden, New Jersey, (the "Diocese") filed for protection under Chapter 11 of Title 11 of the United States Code.

The Bankruptcy Court has established June 30, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. (prevailing Eastern time) as the deadline to file proofs of claim against the Diocese (the "Bar Date").

If you have a claim against the Diocese including, without limitation, a claim related to sexual abuse committed by any person connected with the Diocese, you must file a claim on or before the Bar Date with Prime Clerk, the appointed Claims Agent.

Please visit https://cases.primeclerk.com/camdendiocese or call 877-465-8420 (Toll-Free) or 347-817-4096 (Local) for more information on how to file your proof of claim.

IF YOU DO NOT TIMELY FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM, YOU MAY FORFEIT YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE ON ANY PLAN OF REORGANIZATION AND TO SHARE IN ANY DISTRIBUTIONS TO CREDITORS IN CONNECTION WITH THE DIOCESE'S CHAPTER 11 CASE.