



January 1, 2023 | Mary, the Holy Mother of God

THE PARISH OF SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

CLAYTON & FRANKLINVILLE

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)

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
 religiosedsmap@gmail.com

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL
REGIONAL SCHOOL
 856-881-0067
 office@smrsonline.com

PRINCIPAL
 Mr. Ronald Ferraro

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**.”*



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 31ST – SYLVESTER

4:00p The People of the Parish

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

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 2ND – BASIL THE GREAT & GREGORY NAZIANZEN

9:00a Yolanda Wing by Judy Guzy

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3RD – THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

9:00a Erin Gatier by Evelyn Sheppard & Family

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4TH – ELIZABETH ANN SETON

9:00a The U.S. Navy Seals

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5TH – JOHN NEUMANN

9:00a Michael & Marie Waldron

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6TH – ANDRE BESSETTE

9:00a (SCS) Judith E. Allen

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7TH – RAYMOND OF PENAFORT

**9:00a (SCS) Jerome & Magdalene Blickley
4:00p Nancy Kerr** by Michael & Terri Burns

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8TH – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

**8:00a The People of the Parish
10:00a John Wesley Joseph Lewis** by The Lewis Family



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 Parish Office
will be closed
Monday, January 2nd.
It will reopen
Tuesday, January 3rd
at 10:00a.**



IDEAL STEWARD

*“And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.”
~ LUKE 2:19 ~*

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal **Steward**. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. She heard God's message, and immediately said “yes.” Mary teaches us to live with joy and gratitude for the many blessings God has given us. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world. We do this through lives of gratitude and generosity.

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

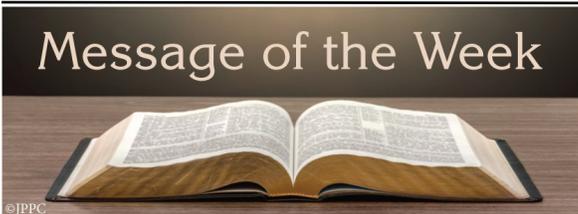
- AWR Daniel Carr, AG1 Jamie Engleman, EM2 William Little, & Kurt Reinhold, US Navy

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



Dear Parishioners,

We never quite lose our need for affirmation. This can be a destructive need or a healthy need. A destructive need for affirmation, for example, might present itself as seeking inordinate approval, or manipulating others for undeserving compliments, or fawning to be the center of attention. A healthy need for affirmation might present itself as seeking the counsel of another as to how we're making good choices for everyday living, or reflecting on how we can interact with others, or by recognizing our contributions to family, work, church, or neighborhood. Both the shepherds and Mary show a need for affirmation in this weekend's, this Solemnity's Gospel. A healthy need, to be sure. A need that shows their encounter with the "infant lying in the manger" makes them who they are and calls them to hear and see beyond their expectations to embracing the newness of Life.

The shepherds came to the manger, encountered the newborn infant, left the stable to make "known the message," then "returned, glorifying and praising God." The passage is unclear about to where they "returned." Probably, they returned to their flocks and fields, the same shepherds, yet different for all they had "heard and seen." Possibly, however, they returned to the stable seeking further affirmation for "all they had heard and seen," once again encountering this "infant lying in the manger," who surprised them, affirmed them, and called them to proclaim to all they met a most astounding message. The shepherds show us how to be affirmed in our own encounters with Jesus the Christ and how we are to reflect on this mystery of Jesus' birth and life. It becomes clear ... before we can "make known the message," we must encounter Jesus. To affirm that it is His message we make known to others, we must keep coming back to Him to encounter Him anew.

Mary's need for healthy affirmation is evidenced by her taking the events surrounding the birth of her firstborn Son into her heart and reflecting upon / pondering them. This mother evidences contemplative love flowing from her heart. Mary was present to her Son and present when the shepherds encountered Him. Likewise, Mary is present when we encounter her Son, reflect on the Gospel, on the Good News, in our hearts, and make known the message of Life to all we meet. Mary is not only the Mother of God. She is the mother of the shepherds. She is also our mother, who mothers us into contemplative love, who mothers us into the affirmation that we too can make "known the message" that the Savior of the world has come.

Mary faced a great mystery she could not understand, reflected on God's will for her, and was affirmed in her yes to become the mother of the Savior. We face many challenges during life, must ponder God's will for us, and be affirmed in our yes when we encounter the One who comes to save. The name Jesus (=Savior) already points to a life of self-giving and suffering that Mary as Jesus' mother will experience. The surprise suggested by the first two readings is that we who are God's children (Second Reading) also participate in this experience of self-giving and suffering. This is how we receive blessing (First Reading). The yes all of us must make to do God's will necessarily means that we cannot escape without dying to ourselves. We are affirmed by this festival's readings, however, in that we are given the grace to place ourselves in God's hands and to do God's will. Like both the shepherds and Mary, we seek healthy affirmation by returning over and over again to encounter the divine Son.

May Saint Michael the Archangel defend, guide, protect, and intercede for us always! May you and your families continue to have a Blessed Christmas Season!

Fr. Larry



**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.”***



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.

***This information can also be found on our Parish website: <https://www.psmaj-nj.com>.
Click “How Do I?” in the main header.***

**Read and Understand the Bible
with *The Bible in a Year* Podcast
with Fr. Mike Schmitz!**

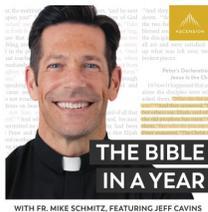
“As cradle Catholics, we hear Scripture at Mass and occasionally in self study but never like this. *The Bible in a Year* brings it all together.”
—Ignacio G.

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**Understand Your Catholic Faith with
The Catechism in a Year Podcast
with Fr. Mike Schmitz!**

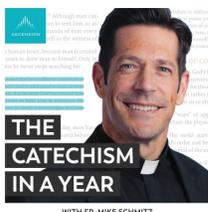
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- Understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter
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Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Have you “pondered” anything lately? That means, have you thought really deeply and long over certain happenings in your life? That could refer to conversations, concepts presented to you, or any number of ideas that came to your mind. True pondering requires a prior attention, a certain “full bore” listening to someone else, and not any distracted half-hearing.

For example, a known dullard of your acquaintance might have been boring you to death describing his medical experiences so that your mind drifted and you started planning your lunch as he rattled on. You certainly were not pondering.

Another non-example of pondering might be your strong focus on the wrecks of a highway accident and the distraught faces of the victims by the road, so much so that you missed the warning about a dangerous physical problem your doctor just pronounced. You were not pondering over the doctor’s words.

But there was that announcement by your doctor amid what you thought was a routine examination when she said: “*Such and such is a quite common occurrence for someone your age.*” “*Wow! What does that mean, and have I suddenly arrived at that age?*” Later, driving home or sitting in your recliner, you start to ponder. You ponder over that and what it means for your immediate future and beyond.

Pondering admittedly takes up time and leads to an inner perspective of mind and heart about this adventure we call “life.” Well did Saint Luke write about Our Blessed Lady’s reaction to news about her Son as reported by local shepherds.

Mary knew nine months prior that her Child was unique and special. After all, wasn’t that what the Archangel who called himself Gabriel had told her? Then there were the difficult moments when she had to break the news to Saint Joseph. Now, after the Child’s birth, still more angels had “gone public,” as we might say, with their news about the Child for the unsuspecting shepherds. Mary did not cry or protest, much less contradicted the shepherd-reporters. She just pondered.

We are amid the fast-paced days of the Christmas season. Celebrating, visiting one another, strengthening family ties. This past week, the Liturgy put us on an emotional “roller coaster” attached to Christmas week. Saint Stephen’s martyrdom gave us a jolt on the 26th. Two days later, the awful slaughter of the Holy Innocent babies by King Herod’s brutes. All that and more.

So I pondered a bit myself this past week. That led me to ask you to “steal” some moments in the weeks ahead and many more times in the New Year, to ponder what happens to you. It’s one healthy and spiritually profitable way to do what Our Mother Mary did all her earthbound days enroute to heaven.

God love you and give you His peace all through 2023!

PRAY FOR UKRAINE

*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

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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**

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*



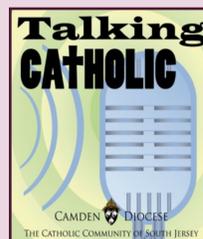
Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (*pronounced Retro-vy*). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program begins the weekend of February 10 - 12, 2023 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA.

For more information, or to register, please visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.



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:

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

Subscribe to the Talking Catholic YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCKPigUnilpN77DidUfyweow