November 29, 2020 | 1st 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 Nativity
Tuesday: 9a at Nativity
Wednesday: 9a at Nativity
Thursday: 9a at Nativity

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4p at Nativity
Sunday: 8a at Nativity
10:45a 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)*

Sacrament Preparation or 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, NOVEMBER 28TH
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY ON SATURDAY

4:00p (N) Deceased Members the Seniff Family
by The Seniff Family

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00a (N) Ginny Hoffman *by Fr. Larry*
10:45a (N) People of the Parish

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH
ANDREW

9:00a (N) Frances & Homer Albert
by Mary Ann Yurkonis

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1ST

9:00a (N) William J. Morris, Sr. *by Bill & Elaine Morris*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

9:00a (N) The Holy Souls in Purgatory
by The Wright Family

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

9:00a (N) Dennis Revelli *by The Revelli Family*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4TH
JOHN DAMASCENE

No Mass

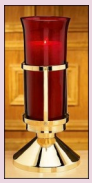
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

4:00p (N) People of the Parish

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00a (N) Virginia Hoffman *by John & Sue Fitzgibbon*
10:45a (N) Genowefo & Wojciech Karpiel
by The Karpiel 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 $10. Please contact the Parish Office with any questions at 856-881-9155.

This week, the Sanctuary Candle in Nativity Burns in Memory of Ann Craig

Brenda Adams, George Bromwell, 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** & 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

Monday: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Mt 4:18-22

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt 9:35–10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

THANKFUL STEWARDS

"Take heed, watch and pray;
for you do not know when the time will come."
~ Mk 13:33 ~

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our time, our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God through your ***Stewardship*** for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His kingdom on earth.

Beginning the weekend of **January 2 & 3, 2021**, our Mass Schedule will be changing. Masses will be: 4:00p on Saturday 8:00a & **10:00a** on Sunday.

Please take note of the coming changes!

"God loves a Cheerful Giver"
~ 2 Corinthians 9:7 ~

Would you like to donate to our parish food pantry during this holiday season? Nonperishable items may be placed in the shopping cart located in the Gathering Space of Nativity Church or, if you prefer, you may bring 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 entrance on which you may leave your donations. We will periodically come outside and retrieve the items, but feel free to honk your horn before driving away if you wish to alert us of your presence.

Don't know what to give? The best idea is to give what you would like to receive! The only necessity is that the items be nonperishable. Here are some suggestions: **1 or 2 pound bags or boxes of rice, canned yams/sweet potatoes, gravy, stuffing (such as Stove Top), pasta, canned fruit, applesauce, ramen noodles, canned vegetables, tuna, canned chicken, pancake mix, cereal, and, especially, SOUPS OF ALL KINDS.**

Prefer not to shop?
Monetary donations are always welcome.

November 29, 2020 | First Sunday of Advent

Is 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7 | 1 Cor 1:3-9 | Mk 13:33-37

Written by
THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

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

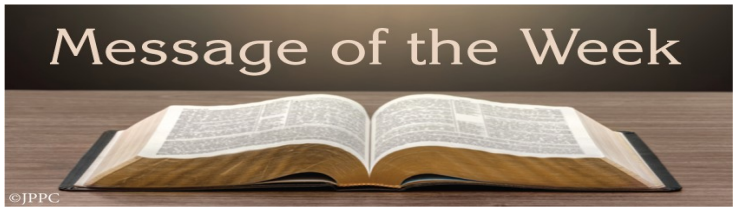
Sometimes I grow nostalgic for the laid-back Advents of my childhood: making a list for Santa, digging into the perforated cardboard Advent calendar for chocolate for breakfast, and lighting the Advent wreath (fire!) each Sunday. We all know, however, that the season can quickly become usurped by things to do – shopping, family, cleaning, etc. Today's readings remind us that this is not what Advent is about. The tone in our Scriptures which begin the Advent season is not subtle. Isaiah asks God to return, to "rend the heavens and come down" – to save and deliver his people. The psalm is equally adamant: "Lord, make us turn to you." We, as a Church, are waiting for the fullness of the Kingdom on earth, and we must prepare.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I'm a cradle Catholic, but for me, Advent was always about waiting to celebrate the birth of Christ. I love pulling out the Nativity scene and lighting the candles each week leading to the celebration of Christ's birth. Only in recent years have I grown in awareness of the dual meaning of Advent – that we Christians also are waiting for Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. I admit, it's always seemed to me something far into the future and perhaps not applicable to my lifetime here on earth. However, as Jesus reminds us in the Gospel, "You do not know when the Lord of the house is coming." And while this is true, it not something to fear, but something to prepare for and look forward to! We wait in joyful hope, asking for the grace to remain faithful to our baptism and to live in a way that makes Christ's presence known to others.

STUDY Remember the pre-pandemic holidays? Chances are, you've got some extra time on your hands this season. Why not use it to take a deeper dive into Advent this year, by participating in an online Bible study or reading and praying with the Scriptures each day of Advent.



Dear Parishioners,

We are plunged into the First Sunday of Advent and a new liturgical year with a reading from Saint Mark's Gospel, Chapter 13. Jesus speaks about the coming end time, encouraging Peter, James, John, Andrew, (and all of us) to be watchful, to be prepared, and to recognize the signs of the times. The passage concludes this ominous chapter with the key word "watch" that occurs in all the verses but one. "Watch" is an appropriate word to begin our Advent season. We are to be prepared for the Lord's coming, not knowing precisely when that will be. We, like the gatekeeper, keep watch in the evening, at midnight, at dawn, and in the morning. Like the early disciples, we know not when He comes, but that ***He is coming***. Many novelists have written books using this Gospel chapter to discern precisely when the end time will be. Though Sacred Scripture clearly states that nobody knows the day or the hour, these charlatans claim to know the month and year … *and you can too if you buy their books!*

This weekend (today) we read or hear this passage from Saint Mark's Gospel not as a code book to discern the exact "when" of the end time, while wondering what the "desolating abomination standing" is and when that might occur. Rather, we recognize that Saint Mark wrote at a time when the early Christians expected Jesus' imminent return. The four Apostles in the story were likely dead by the time the Gospel was written. It might have seemed that Jesus was not coming back as He had promised. So the readers of Saint Mark's Gospel were given a new promise … *"this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place"* (Mk 13:30, NABRE). These early Christians saw in the events of their time *"nation … rising against nation," "earthquakes,"* and *"famines,"* as the *"beginning of the labor pains"* signifying the end was near (Mk 13:8, NABRE). But unfortunately, we know these kinds of cataclysmic events happen with some regularity. We could also read some of the events of 2020 into the equation … the pandemic caused by COVID-19, groups of people in our own country rising against their neighbors, wildfires around the world, and a hurricane season for the record books. The generation in Saint Mark's time did in fact pass away. The early Christians did not imagine we would be reading this Gospel some two thousand years later. *Will future generations think the same about us?*

Still, we can discern the signs of our own times and recognize the Lord's coming, perhaps not in an apocalyptic sense, but in the Christmas Incarnation. That is Jesus, the Word of God, coming to us in flesh and blood. Jesus is the incarnation of God and He comes to us sacramentally every time we celebrate Mass in the Eucharist. Each generation seems to say that the end is near. While we are looking to the sky for signs of the end of time,. the Lord is in our midst in weakness and vulnerability. Do we see Jesus present in that disguise? Or is it easier and "more fun" to be caught up with a code book discerning the end time and seeking the "abomination standing"? Instead, we see that God is in our midst. The key word for this weekend might be "watch," but we might also say "recognize."

In many instances we are impressed by big events, fireworks, theme parks, light shows, and more. We mark special events with parties, celebrations, dinners, family, friends, and loved ones. While these are natural tendencies, Christianity is also about finding meaning in the small, seemingly inconsequential events of our lives. Changing a diaper is a routine task for parents with a baby / small child, but it is also an act of charitable love. Preparing a meal for a family gathering can be tedious and time-consuming, but it, too, is an act of charitable love. Being fully present to another can be difficult for us who are accustomed to checking our cell phones several times an hour, but it is a charitable act of love. Most of us are not going to do grandiose acts of charity for which we are praised and thanked on the evening news. But it is our everyday tasks done with intention and meaning that can make the difference between the routine and a day filled with self-giving love.

May Saint Michael the Archangel defend, guide, protect, and intercede for us always! May you and your families be well and safe! Have a great week!

~ Fr. Larry

THE 2021 MASS BOOK OPENS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2020 AT 10:00A

We have revised our Mass times beginning in January while maintaining our policy regarding requests for Mass Intentions. Individuals may initially request ten (10) Masses, [eight (8) weekday and two (2) weekend]. Beginning January 4, 2021, individuals can request additional weekday Masses and after the weekends for the second half of the year open on April 25, 2021, an additional three (3) weekend Masses may be requested. Hopefully, this will accommodate requests such as an anniversary of a person's passing, a special birthday, or a similar intention which could be planned in advance. At the same time, we hoped this would also allow for more immediate requests which arise at a particular time for special prayers (i.e. for someone undergoing surgery, or when someone dies, or a similar life-event). We would also like to be able to offer families weekend Masses if their loved one passes later in the year.

Over the past year, there have been a number of open intentions during the week. Please note: **A weekday Mass offers the same graces for the person it is offered for as does a weekend Mass**.

- Anyone may request **any number** of Masses during the week. Weekday Masses may be requested for anytime in 2021.
- As of December 1st, weekend Masses (Saturday at 4p, Sunday at 8a and 10a) **are open through June 30, 2020**.
- Weekend Masses for the second-half of the year (July 4th through December 26th) will become available Monday, April 19, 2021. Individuals may request two (2) weekend Masses January 3rd through June 27th and three (3) weekend Masses July 4th through December 26th).
- Mass requests **will not be taken** via e-mail or over the telephone.
- A **$15 stipend** is due for each Mass intention at the time of the request.
- Canon Law states that a Pastor / Administrator of a Parish *"is obliged to have one "Pro Populo" Mass (a Mass for the intentions of the people of his Parish) each Sunday and each Holy Day of Obligation."* The Mass for the **"People of the Parish"** is not a *filler* Mass because no one has taken the intention. It is required (Canon 534, Code of Canon Law, 1983). At the Parish of Saint Michael the Archangel, this Mass is rotated through the weekend Masses.

In June 2021, if all the weekend Masses fill during the first half of the year, we will also begin to offer a multiple Mass intention (two individuals for one Mass) which will rotate through the weekend Masses (4:00p Vigil Mass, 8:00a Sunday Mass, 10a Sunday Mass.) Diocesan Policy allows for one (1) Mass a week to be a multi-intentioned Mass.

This policy is necessitated as a result of people who only request weekend Masses at the opening of the Mass Book each year. We are fortunate to have four (4) weekday and three (3) weekend Masses celebrated here each week, but 12 or more Masses requested per individual quickly fills the Book, especially the weekends. Hence, by mid-Spring to early-Summer, our weekend Mass Intentions were almost full. Thus, if Parishioners die mid-year to year-end, often there are no announced weekend Masses available for up to a year after their death and this is greatly upsetting to the surviving members of the family.

Before deciding on the above policy, a survey of Mass Book Intention policies of several parishes in the area was made. Bishop Sullivan and the Diocese of Camden issued guidelines regarding Mass intentions. Some Parishes only open their Mass Intentions a few months at a time. Some Parishes restrict the number of weekend and weekday requests that can be made in a given year. Many Parishes are struggling with the same issues that are being encountered here at the Parish of Saint Michael the Archangel.

We are doing all that is humanly possible to be fair and to accommodate everyone and to hopefully ensure that all of the Masses celebrated in the Parish have intentions.

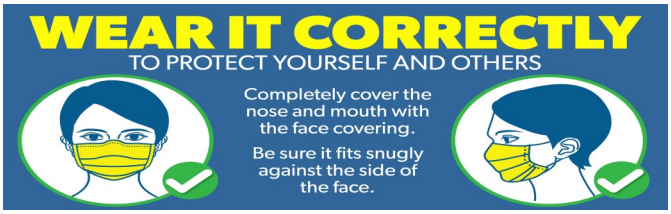
Thank you for your understanding and kind cooperation in these matters!

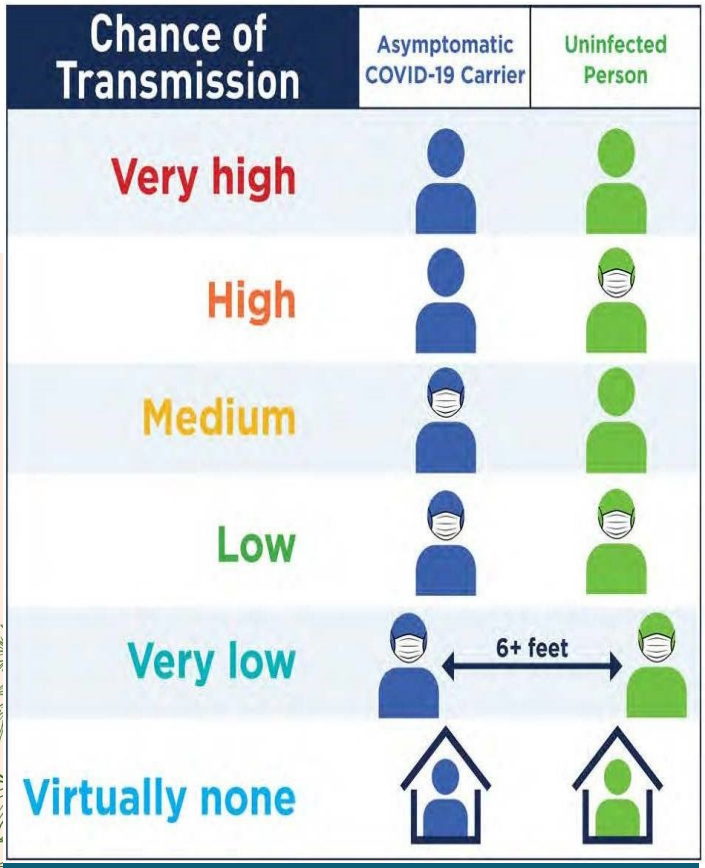
Please Note

If you handle any bulletins, literature, prayer cards, etc., please take whatever you touched home with you.

Doing so will decrease the spread of germs through contact. ©JPPC

Thank you





DIOCESE OF CAMDEN

Coronavirus Prayer

Lord Jesus, you heal the sick.
We pray that the coronavirus that has affected so many in our world can be contained, controlled, and cured.

We lift up to your mercy all those affected, all those working hard to study and cure this illness, and all health care professionals and emergency management teams that are working day and night to keep us safe.

Help us, Lord, to trust in your merciful care.

Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.
Amen.

DIOCESE OF CAMDEN

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

BY SAINT ALPHONSUS LIGUORI

MY JESUS,

I BELIEVE YOU ARE PRESENT IN THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT.

I LOVE YOU ABOVE ALL THINGS AND I DESIRE TO RECEIVE YOU INTO MY SOUL.

SINCE I CANNOT NOW RECEIVE YOU SACRAMENTALLY,

COME AT LEAST SPIRITUALLY INTO MY HEART.

I EMBRACE YOU AS IF YOU WERE ALREADY THERE, AND UNITE MYSELF WHOLLY TO YOU.

NEVER PERMIT ME TO BE SEPARATED FROM YOU.

AMEN.

LIVE STREAMING

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!