



ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

1212 KELLY ST, UNION, NEW JERSEY 07083

Mission

A diverse spiritual community in action, dedicated to drawing people to Christ and making church and worship matter. We do this through our liturgical worship and living out our stewardship of time, talent, and treasure.

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Mass: Monday—Friday
8:30 am, 12:00 Noon

Saturday

Mass: 8:30 am
Confession: 1:00 pm—2:00 pm
Saturday Vigil Mass—5:30 pm

Sunday

7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am,
12:00 Noon

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Msgr. Anselm I. Nwaorgu
Pastor

Rev. Camilo Lopez
Parochial Vicar

Deacon Michael Alfano
Permanent Deacon

Margaret Kazan
Principal

Mary Jo Arnaldo-Sipe
Parish Secretary/Bookkeeper

Stephanie Marulanda
Lois Scanio
Religious Education

Cristina Manochio
Joseph Santillo
Youth Ministry

Fran Engleman
Music Director

Tiago Rodrigues
Property Manager

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Charles McDermott

PARISH OFFICE

Tel.: 908-688-1232

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stmichaelunion@comcast.net

www.stmichaelunion.org

 [StMichaelParishUnion](https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelParishUnion)

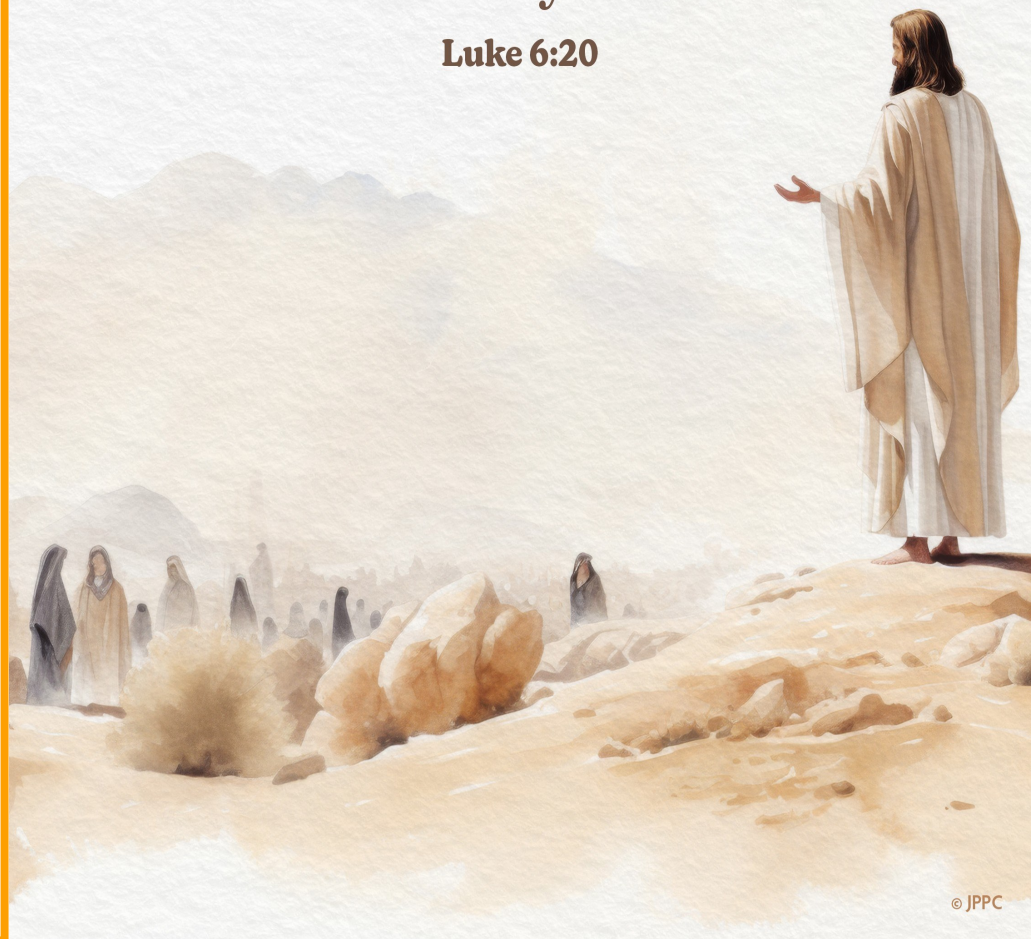
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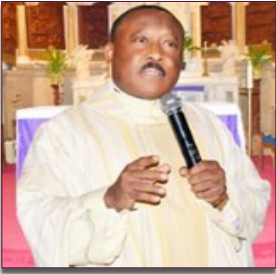


Blessed are you who are
poor, for the kingdom of
God is yours.

Luke 6:20



The Flesh or the Spirit



Building life on stable foundations; pillars of trust that can hold us in place, just in case, is what most people desire. Such a pillar could be God, a person, or a thing. In the first reading on this 6th Sunday in Ordinary Times, year C, the prophet Jeremiah contrasts casting our hope and trust in human strength and effort and casting our hope and trust in the Lord. He writes, *“Cursed is the one who trusts in human beings, who seeks his strength in flesh, whose heart turns away from the LORD. He is like a barren bush in the desert that enjoys no change of season, but stands in a lava waste, a salt and empty earth. Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose hope is the LORD. He is like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream: it fears not the heat when it comes; its leaves stay green; in the year of drought, it shows no distress but still bears fruit”*.

We all have the natural tendency to rely on each other for many things. Yet, our daily dealings with fellow humans show that the flesh is feeble and unreliable and, even when we do not mean to fail, we often do, driven by our self-centered needs and appetite. There is the story of an old man who was about to die. He badly wanted to take some of his money with him for the journey. In trust, he called his priest, his doctor, and his real estate agent to his bedside and gave each of them an envelope with \$30,000 cash and urged them to put it inside his coffin when he dies. At the funeral, each of them put an envelope in the coffin. Riding back home together in a car, the priest suddenly broke into tears and confessed, “I had only \$20,000 into the envelope because I needed \$10,000 for a new baptistery.” Moved by this confession, the doctor confessed, “I only put \$10,000 in the envelope because we needed a new machine at the hospital which cost \$20,000. Aghast by their confessions, the real estate agent said, “I am ashamed of both of you, and I want you to know that my envelop had the full amount of \$30,000 made out to him in my personal

check.”

No wonder, Jeremiah said that those who put their trust in human strength are like a dry, malnourished, and impoverished desert-plant condemned to a hard and unfruitful existence and described them it “cursed”. When our trust is in the flesh, security and assurance become very unpredictable. Human beings, intentionally or unintentionally, are so unreliable. A science teacher told me that he doesn’t trust atoms because if you run them through a background check, you’ll see they always carry charges. Another friend said to me that One thing he has learnt is to never trust acupuncturists because they’ll stab you in the back the first chance they get. Yes, while these are jokes, they say a lot about human beings. Moreover, man is alive today and could be dead the next minute.

On the other hand, there is the choice to anchor our hope and trust in God; a promise-keeping God; the God of unfailing grace. Jeremiah describes those who make this choice as ‘blessed’ and ‘happy’ because God has them covered, providing them an endless source of blessing and strength to the extent that, even though the times of draught come, they will not experience distress or unfruitfulness because the channels of God’s grace will continue to flow to provide windows of opportunity, sustenance, forgiveness, power, wisdom, graces, and blessings for needed help. So, the question is “How do we want to choose?” A deep relationship with God with total dependence on His Word or an attachment to human strength and its brokenness. Is it God and His word or Hollywood, social media, and liberal outlets that guides our human choices. Remember what Scripture says, “Cursed is the man whose hope is in the flesh” and “Blessed is the man whose hope is in the Lord”.

Msgr. Anselm Nwaorgu

Stewardship of Treasure

FEBRUARY EVENTS IN THE PARISH

Friday, February 7, 6:30 pm

First Friday Mass and Adoration, Upper Church

Sunday, February 9, 7:00 -8:30 pm

First Sunday Adoration, Upper Church

Monday, February 3, 10, 17, 24, 7:00 pm

Online/Virtual Rosary/Family Prayer

Wednesday, February 5, 12, 19, 26, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Charismatic Renewal Group Prayer Meeting, (LC)

Wednesdays, February 5, 12, 19, 26, 7:30 -8:30 pm

Marian Devotion: Rosary and Adoration, Upper Church

Thursday, February 6, 7:00-8:30 pm

Mind & Spirit Ministry, LC

Friday, February 14, 21, 28, 7:00 pm

Online/Virtual Rosary/Family Prayer

Saturdays, February 1, 8, 15, 22, 9:30 am

Wellness Ministry, Phil Matrале Hall (LC)

Dance/Exercise/Self-Defense

Sunday, February 16, after all Masses

Fellowship Sunday, LC

Card Making/Hot Cocoa

Sunday, February 22, 6:30 pm

Family Activity Committee—Paint Night

Monday, February 24, 9:30 am

Wind Creek Casino Bus Trip

ANNUAL ²⁰²⁵ APPEAL

The 2025 Annual Appeal has begun! You should have received an invitation in the mail from Cardinal Tobin to consider making a financial sacrifice to support this year's Annual Appeal. We are grateful for your generosity and we rely on it because it helps support essential ministries and programs of our Archdiocese, which are also centric to our faith. Your support to the Annual Appeal helps us accomplish across the Archdiocese what we would not be able to do alone.

Our Parish Base Goal for 2025 is \$47,850 and our Stretch Goal is \$57,420. There are two financial benefits to our Parish if we achieve this goal. First, if we reach this goal in cash by June 30th, our Parish is eligible for assessment savings on our fiscal obligations to the Archdiocese. Second, if we go over goal in pledges as of June 30th, we will be eligible for a rebate, which comes back to our Parish, unassessed, to be used at our own discretion.

Please consider taking a step with me on this Stewardship journey by responding to Cardinal Tobin's invitation to support the Appeal, or you can make your commitment at Mass on March 1-2, which will be our In-Pew Weekend. You can also make a gift online by going to rcan.org/sharing. Thank you for your time and consideration. You are in my prayers. Please pray for the success of the Annual Appeal.

"Give and gifts will be given to you ...
the measure with which you measure will in turn be
measured out to you." **Luke 6:38**

COLLECTION & SOS

	<u>NEEDED WEEKLY</u>	<u>ACTUAL WEEKLY</u>	<u>OVER/UNDER</u>
FEBRUARY			
Week 1	\$ 8,461	\$ 6,432	\$ 2,029
Week 2	\$ 8,461	\$ 6,305	\$ 2,156
Week 3	\$ 8,461	\$	\$
Week 4	\$ 8,461	\$	\$
Monthly SOS	\$11,425	\$ 9,321	\$ 2,104

Dear Parishioners,

In order for us to stay in the GREEN, it is important that we meet our weekly budget collections and SOS. Please let us continue to support the weekly Sunday collection so that we can achieve our goals of balancing the budget going forward.

Thank you for your support of the parish and your continued generosity.

Msr. Anselm

ST. MICHAEL'S COLLECTIONS

Below is an explanation of some of the different St. Michael's Collections:

S.O.S. Collection - This is a monthly "restricted" collection dedicated to paying our utility bills. *Restricted collections are not assessed by the Archdiocese of Newark and therefore all funds are used solely by St. Michael's to pay our bills.* S.O.S. collections are appreciated at all times.

Tithing - This is a monthly "restricted" collection dedicated to paying for the new the upkeep of the Church boiler and air conditioner. *Restricted collections are not assessed by the Archdiocese and therefore all funds are used solely for St. Michael's needs.* Tithing collections are appreciated at all times.

Assessment Collection - The Archdiocese of Newark assesses all parishes in the Archdiocese, and a percentage of the parish's annual unrestricted revenue, is paid monthly. This assessment is used by the Archdiocese to support administrative services. St. Michael's has instituted a monthly "restricted" collection that is used solely for paying our monthly assessment.

All Assessment Collection funds are sent directly to Archdiocese of Newark, monthly, to pay our Assessment Obligation. No funds are used for St. Michael's needs.

National Collections - the Archdiocese of Newark has ten collections during the year to benefit various organizations such as the retired priest's fund, the church in Eastern Europe, the religious retirement fund, and mission appeals. **Money from the national collections go directly to the Archdiocese of Newark.**

St. Vincent De Paul Collection - money donated to St. Vincent De Paul is distributed prior to Thanksgiving and prior to Easter to local foodbanks, soup kitchens and social centers that provide food and shelter for those in need.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support to our Parish!

Mass Intentions & Novenas

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY

February 15

8:30 am Marie Jo Inoue (Living)-Thanksgiving
Nestor Fadriquella
5:30 pm Georgina Dakiche (Living)-Thanksgiving
Maria Da Silva
Maya & Kayla Guimaraes

SUNDAY

February 16

7:30 am Felicidad Albinto
Novena of Masses for Loved Ones
For the Parishioners
9:00 am Novena of Masses for Loved Ones
Carmen M. Gancia
10:30 am Novena of Masses for Loved Ones
Lourdes Marasigan
12:00 noon Novena of Masses for Loved Ones

MONDAY

February 17 President's Day

9:00 am Novena of Masses
Ferdinand Ramos
Mattie Ordonez
Trinidad Ombrete
Rommel San Victores

TUESDAY

February 18

8:30 am Jose Arnaldo
Raychiezl Belmonte (Living)-Birthday
12:00 noon Hendrick Percy (Living)-Birthday
Ann Kaila Percy (Living)-Birthday
Theresa Pogorzelski (Living)-Birthday

WEDNESDAY

February 19

8:30 am Lucille Arnaldo
12:00 noon Rosa Mugavero & Antonino Mugavero
Vita Ficalla

THURSDAY

February 20

8:30 am Marife Rangel (Living)-Birthday
12:00 noon Novena of Masses

FRIDAY

February 21

8:30 am Brenda Gerong Jacobs
12:00 noon Eric Kouevi (Living)

SATURDAY

February 22

8:30 am Jean I. Cham
St. Norte Dame DuRosaire
5:30 pm Emilia Rumohr (5th Ann.)
Brenda Rumohr (5th Ann.)
Luci Silvero (2nd Ann.)

SUNDAY

February 23

7:30 am Policarpio de Leon
9:00 am John Morris
10:30 am For the Parishioners
Roger Santos
12:00 noon Henry Mechado
James Leonardis

ALTAR OFFERINGS

The Altar Bread, Altar Wine and Sanctuary Lamp are offered for the parishioners of St. Michael's Parish.

Novena of Masses February 2025

Jose & Lucille Arnaldo	Phil Matrale
Mary & Idolo Russomano	John Mc Evoy
Stephanie Tokpe (Living)	Eric Kouevi (Living)
Joseph & Michelene Kmetz	Carminia Bascon
James Ford, Sr.	Jean Ford
Raymond Canares	Rebecca Bower
Evelyn Spital (Living)	Pacita Dolina (Living)
George Rinehart, Jr.	Iluminada Duyan
Carminia Monfort	Pacita Dolina
Nestor Fadriquella	
Almario Morales (Living)-Thanksgiving	
Babe Pajarillo (Living)-Birthday	
Teodora DeLeon (Living)-Birthday	
Maria Filemona "Baby" Sevilla	
Jeff Pogorzleski (Living)-Healing	
Patsy Scalgione & deceased family members	
Living & Deceased Members of Orlando, Landolfi, Siciliano & LaManna Families	
Lucille Sousa Araujo & Manuel Periera Araujo	
Living & Deceased Members of Thomas J. McEnroe & Family	
Living & Deceased Members of Boulin & Maddy Families	

PRAYERS OF HEALING FOR

Grace Fortino, Dolores Rust, Lucy Nwauku, Judy Reid, Jeff Pogorzelski, Virginia Attanasio, Mary Leeman, Marie Esposito, Jose M. DeJesus, Shirley Dobard, Joyce Toth, Maria Ferrara, Alex Pretto, Paulo Goncalves, Frances Machado, Antoinette Agriloo, James Scholz, Michael Nworu, Victoria Nworu, June Musa, Marivic del Rosario, Theresa Ojeawere, Kathy Chavez, John McEvoy, Sofia Teixeira, Carlos Dacruz, Anthony Staynings, Socorro Dagat, Peter & Cathy Fortunato, Anna Lepski, Nicole Ferlo, Therese Ferlo, Dolly Kramer, Junita Ottenstroer, Baby Sophia Alfano, John Dittmer, Pat Wittek, Sal Dovi, Kathy Doherty, Mary Ann Flynn, Roger Swadish, Jaime DeLeon, Doug Heinzer, Leonard Stfalk, Sophia Zamudio, Anthony Stayning, Aida Polanco, Fr. Chuck McDermott, Remedios Mendoza, Bellevina Alexandre, Maria Ferrara, Barbara Donato, Kevin Kinsella, Mary Ann McGrath, Rev. Msgr. Charles Antonicelli, Anthony Terrezza, Homer Mereira, Alberta Phillips, Annamae McKnight, Liza David, Kate Hurley-Dandekar, Michelle Dressel, Jose Espiritu, Cristina Sarmiento

DECEASED RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

Please remember in your prayers our parish, friends and family members who have passed on to the Lord, that they may inherit the promise of everlasting life in heaven.

Especially,
Members of St. Michael's Parish

Ministry Happenings

CYO YOUTH MINISTRY

Cristina Manochio
(908) 688-1232, ext 3

Joseph Santillo
cyunionnj@gmail.com



Next Tuesday, **Feb 18th** we will be hosting our second annual **CYO Charity Basketball Game** in the St. Michael's School gym from 7:00pm-9:00pm. Please bring \$10 to donate if you are playing or \$5 if you are watching. Snacks and beverages will be sold separately. All proceeds will be going towards funding our annual retreat as well as our service projects. Community service hours will be offered to those who attend!

If any teen would like to play and hasn't signed up, please email us at cyunionnj@gmail.com

CYO will also be hosting its annual **Kids Night Fundraiser on Saturday, March 15th from 6-9pm** in St. Michael's Phil Matrale Hall (Lower Church). Children in grades K-8 are welcome to come and enjoy a night full of art and crafts, games, movies, pizza, snacks, fun and more run by the teen members of our CYO program! The price is \$20.00 per child and money/permission slips can be dropped off at the Parish Center of St. Michael's (1211 Orange Ave) by March 1st. Do not delay as spots are limited and there will be no walk ins this year!

Please email us at cyunionnj@gmail.com for any questions!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

IMPORTANT: REMINDER TO ALL COMMUNICANTS
The Blessing Cup Retreat will be on Saturday, February 22nd at 10:00 am in the Phil Matrale Hall (LC). Only 1 parents can attend with their child.

The **Religious Education Office** is open Monday through Thursday 9:30AM to 2:30PM (except holidays) or by appointment. We are located in the Parish Center at 1211 Orange Avenue. You can also contact us by phone 908-964-0965 at any time and leave a message or via email at smreligiouseducation@gmail.com

MILLENNIALS WITH CHRIST (MWC)

Join Us for Fellowship and Faith!



Attention all parishioners aged 25-40! We invite you to connect with fellow young adult Catholics in our community through Millennials with Christ (MWC). Our mission is to inspire and empower each other to live out our faith boldly and authentically, fostering a vibrant Catholic presence among our peers.

For more information or inquiries, please contact us at:

MillennialswithChrist@gmail.com

Let's grow in faith and fellowship together!

Kids Night Registration Form

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____ Please circle: Boy Girl

Parent Cell Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

Parent Name and Signature: _____

Emergency Contact: _____
(Name) (Phone) (Relationship)

Please circle any of the following your child is allergic to: Peanuts Gluten Dairy

Does your child have any special concerns we should be aware of? This includes any allergies, diabetic, etc.

Pizza will be served for dinner. Please circle "Yes" or "No" if your child would like pizza.

Registration fee is \$20.00 per child.

Total Enclosed _____

Please return this form to the St. Michael's Parish Center (1211 Orange Ave) in person or by mail. If mailed, please write "CYO Kids Night" on envelope.



Youth Ministry Office: (908)688-1232 ext. 3 or email us at cyunionnj@gmail.com

Pictures from Kids Night will be used on our Website, for advertising and on our Church Bulletin Boards. No names or personal information is ever used or given out on any child. If you **do not** want pictures of your child used sign here.

Registration is due by 3/7/25. First come, first serve! Limited spots and there will be no walk-ins this year!

HANDS OF GRACE (HUGS)

Please consider making donations to the Ministry. We are constantly in need of clothing, sanitary and feeding items for children (**New born to Age 5**) and for mothers.

Please call **Bisi Longe** (908)247-4461 or **Tania Massicot** (973) 420-8659 for a comprehensive list of items needed. All items must be **NEW**.

Please note that donations can also be made online on a one-time or recurring basis, on the parish website at www.stmichael.org.

MIND AND SPIRIT MINISTRY

IN THE LOWER HALL OF ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH,
1212 KELLY STREET, UNION, NJ

Non-therapeutic groups integrating listening support with spiritual reflection. Available to anyone who wants to attend.

**MONTHLY GROUP SESSIONS
THURSDAYS 7PM - 8.30PM**

2024

October 10th: Grief & Loss

November 14th: Shame & Inner Criticism

December 12th: Coping with Stress

2025

January 9th: Gratitude & Self-care

February 6th: Managing Anger

March 6th: Relational conflict

April 3rd: Finding Self-forgiveness

May 8th: Living with Anxiety & Fear

June 12th: Personal tribulations

July 10th: Life after Past Experiences

COME AND JOIN US

Contact Ginnie, Jonathan, Ylani and Taisha at
ourmindandspirit@gmail.com

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL PRAYER GROUP

St. Michael's Parish Catholic Charismatic Renewal Prayer Group invites you to join us this Wednesday evening's Testimony Night, at 6:00 PM, in Phil Matrale Hall (LC).

Announcements

Paint Night

FEBRUARY 22 6:30PM

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH / UNION, NJ
LOWER CHURCH



JOIN US FOR A FUN NIGHT OF PAINTING AND
SNACKS FOR ALL AGES!

\$10 FEE PER PERSON.

RSVP STRONGLY RECOMMENDED BY 2/15

CHILDREN 3 AND UNDER PAINT FREE

RSVP TO FACSTMICHAELS@GMAIL.COM

SAVE THE DATE

**Bus Trip to Wind Creek Casino, Bethlehem, PA
Monday, February 24, 2025**

Bus leave St. Michael's Parking Lot at 9:30 am

Cost: **\$35** with a \$25 slot play return

SEATS AVAILABLE

Tuesday, April 1, 2025— Join us for the 30th Anniversary show of **Noah at Sight and Sound**. Luncheon buffet will be at the newly built Hershey Farms restaurant. **Cost for the trip & lunch is \$170.** Reservations are needed.



Prayer to **ST. MICHAEL**



St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY



Please join us this **Sunday, February 16, 2025** after all Masses for coffee and fellowship. You are also invited to join the GIFT Ministry led by Erika Colbert in making handmade cards for your homebound parishioners. Hot cocoa will also be served.

We gratefully acknowledge the following for their generous donation to our January Sunday Fellowship. We thank Delia Famarin, Soque Dagat, Amanda Omuka, Victoria Oyakhione, Med Domingo and an anonymous donor for the fruit platter. And to all the many dedicated volunteers who helped from setting up the hall, making coffee, food serving, washing dishes, clean-up, etc. We truly appreciate your hard work. May you all be blessed.



GIFT MINISTRY PRESENTS

CARD-MAKING & HOT COCOA

Join us in creating handmade cards
for our homebound parishioners.

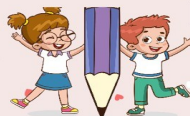
LET'S SPREAD LOVE AND JOY TO THOSE

IN OUR COMMUNITY .

FEBRUARY **16** AFTER ALL
MASSES

SAINT MICHAEL'S CHURCH UNION, NJ
LOWER CHURCH

FREE EVENT



WELLNESS MINISTRY

(FREE) DANCE/EXERCISE/SELF DEFENSE Class

For the Family

Saturdays 9:30–10:00 am

Phil Matrale Hall (LC)



RCIA PROGRAM

Deacon Michael Alfano RCIA classes are every Saturday morning in the Phil Matrale Hall (LC) - Murphy Room at 10:30 am. Please contact Deacon Michael at michaeljalfano@aol.com if you want to learn more about the program.