



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

Fax: 908-810-1076

stmichaelunion@comcast.net
www.stmichaelunion.org

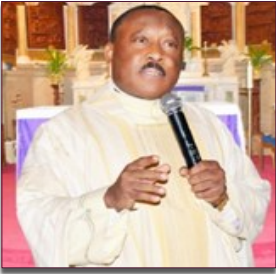
 [StMichaelParishUnion](https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelParishUnion)

 [stmichaelunion](https://twitter.com/stmichaelunion)

 [Stmichaelchurch](https://www.instagram.com/Stmichaelchurch)



THE JOY OF THE LORD



In the first reading of this 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C, Nehemiah told the people, “Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the LORD must be your strength!” because “This day is holy to

our Lord” (Nehemiah 8:9-10). Yes, every day, every hour, every minute, every second of our lives is holy to our God and so we must rejoice in the Lord.

Sad to say, many a time, we tend to separate joy and gladness from holiness, religion, and church, and often, think of religion the way we think of healthy food—it may not taste good, but it is good for you, so endure it. Joy and gladness are more likely associated with an evening at the local pub than with a morning in the church. But Scripture says, “In the presence of God is the fullness of joy; at His right hand, happiness forever”.

Nehemiah’s words of encouragement came because the people were weeping and crying in repentance for their sins, after hearing the Word of God read to them by Ezra and the Scribes. So, Nehemiah urged them not to mourn or weep, but rather to enjoy and to rejoice for “The joy of the Lord must be their strength”.

Joy, here, is not the joy that comes from being naturally disposed to be bouncy “Tigers”, nor is it the joy that comes from experiencing happy circumstances, e.g. winning the lottery, getting a promotion, etc. Rather, the Joy of the Lord comes from a settled conviction that God is in charge of my life, that He is faithful to His promises, and that He cares about me, no matter what. Habakkuk expressed this kind of joy when he wrote, “Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I

will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior. The Sovereign Lord is my strength” (3:17-19)

So, the joy of the Lord comes from knowing that no matter what comes my way – be it personal or family hardship, the routine ups and downs of life, a failing health or weaning finances, that I have, through it all, a God whose strength is overwhelmingly limitless. It is the joy that comes from knowing that God is more than able to provide me with everything I need, if only I can trust and believe in Him and believing that God’s grace and strength is sufficient for me in everything. Nehemiah encouraged the people to remember that the power of God is greater than those that threatened them, and, as the apostle Paul puts it, God is greater than what we can offer. So, the joy of the Lord come from knowing and trusting that God’s power is stronger than that which can come against me, from recognizing that God is with me in all things, from appreciating the righteousness that God has conferred on me in Christ Jesus and the pledge of His covenantal love for me, for all eternity, from being able to be part of what builds up the body of Christ by devoting my time to communal worship, bible study, and encouraging and sharing godly fellowship with others.

Rejoicing in the Lord is a lifestyle! It gives us the strength to face life’s challenges by helping us focus on God instead of our fears. It allows us to put God first in our lives, to be immersed in the things of God, and to love God above all things. The joy of the Lord is the beginning of our peace with the world. Let us go ahead and infect ourselves with the joy of the Lord and we will see our lives change for the better.

Msr. Anselm Nwaorgu

Stewardship of Treasure

JANUARY EVENTS IN THE PARISH

Wednesday, January 1
New Year's Day Mass—9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 noon

Friday, January 3
First Friday Mass and Adoration, Upper Church

Sunday, January 5, 7:00 -8:30 pm
First Sunday Adoration, Upper Church

Wednesday, January 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 6:00 – 7:30 pm
Charismatic Renewal Group Prayer Meeting, (LC)

Wednesdays, January 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 7:30 -8:30 pm
Marian Devotion: Rosary and Adoration, Upper Church

Thursday, January 9, 7:00-8:30 pm
Mind & Spirit Ministry, LC

Sunday, January 21, after all Masses
Fellowship Sunday, LC

Sunday, January 26, 3:00 pm
Feast of the Santo Nino (Child Jesus)

Saturdays, January 4, 11, 18, 25, 9:30 am
Wellness Ministry, Phil Matrale Hall (LC)
Dance/Exercise/Self-Defense

"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

	NEEDED WEEKLY	ACTUAL WEEKLY	OVER/UNDER
JANUARY			
Week 1	\$ 8,461	\$ 8,492	\$ 31
Week 2	\$ 8,461	\$ 8,169	\$ 292
Week 3	\$ 8,461	\$ 6,981	\$ 1,480
Week 4	\$ 8,461	\$	\$
Monthly SOS	\$11,425	\$ 8,310	\$ 3,115

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.

Msgr. 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!

6 Ways To DONATE

ONLINE GIVING:



stmichaelunion.org

BANK TRANSFER:



stmichaelunion@comcast.net
In the Comment section, indicate where your donation should be accounted for, e.g., USAN (with your Group Name), Offertory, Tithe, etc.

CONTACT FREE:

QR CODE



Scanning the code above with your mobile device directs you to the online donation page

MAIL IN:



1211 Orange Ave, Union, NJ 07083

DROP OFF:

AT THE PARISH CENTER



1211 Orange Ave, Union, NJ 07083

DURING OFFERTORY:

AT MASS



You can use designated envelopes OR use your envelope but indicate where your donation should be accounted for.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING ENVELOPE

It is not too late to donate for our Christmas Flowers. Christmas Flower Envelopes are available in the Church vestibule. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Christmas Flowers Budget: \$3,800

Mass Intentions & Novenas

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY

January 25

8:30 am Patrick Eltouny (Living)-Birthday
Amadeu Pinto
Pat & Mafe Querubin (Living)-20th Wedding Ann
5:30 pm Almario Morales (Living)-Birthday
Hernando Ramon

SUNDAY

January 26

7:30 am Peter J. Janke, Jr.
Felicidad Albinto
9:00 am Emmanuel Egwuonwu
For the Parishioners
10:30 am Carmen M. Gancia
Emily Blaza (Living)-Thanksgiving
12:00 noon Manuel Aguda (40th day)
Henry Machado
Living & Deceased Members of Magalhaes Family

MONDAY

January 27

8:30 am Novena of Masses
Maria Tavares
12:00 noon Ramona Valera
Berndette Alexandre (Living)-Thanksgiving

TUESDAY

January 28

8:30 am Raymond Williamson (36th Ann.)
Albert Joseph Phillips
12:00 noon Maria Vada Grace Araga

WEDNESDAY

January 29

8:30 am Amalija Knavs
Maury Rutch
Illuminada Duyan
12:00 noon Chinwe Melie (Living)-Birthday

THURSDAY

January 30

8:30 am Dena Eltouny (Living)
Miberly Cardenas (Living)
12:00 noon Novena of Masses
Juana Castillo Punzalan

FRIDAY

January 31

8:30 am Kai Jordan Jugarap (Living)-Thanksgiving
Jean Waldner Domond (Living)-Healing
12:00 noon Kim Herbert (Living)-Healing

SATURDAY

February 1

8:30 am Novena of Masses
Harry Tangkilisan (1st Ann.)
5:30 pm For the Parishioners
Vittorio Fazioli

SUNDAY

February 2

7:30 am Abigail Kristine Weber
Genevieve McEnroe (55th Ann.)
9:00 am Alan Jose
Jose Kandavanam & Family (Living)-Thanksgiving
10:30 am Rebecca Bower
12:00 noon Beverly Riccitelli
Jennifer Eluwa (Living)-Birthday

ALTAR OFFERINGS

The Altar Bread, Altar Wine and Sanctuary Lamp are offered St. Michael's Parishioners

Novena of Masses January 2025

Jose & Lucille Arnaldo	Phil Matrale
Mary & Idolo Russomano	John Mc Evoy
Stephanie Tokpe (Living)	Eric Kouevi (Living)
Joseph & Michelene Kmetz	Miriam Perez
Erlinda Pradas	Luis Evalle
Jagadeesan Ragavan	Julieta A. San Pascual
Mary & Idolo Russomano	Isabel Urria (Living)
James Ford, Sr.	Jean Ford
Carminia Bascon	
Christopher Boulin (Living)-Birthday	
Dr. Magdalena Canag Cabaraban	
Alberta Phillips (Living)-Healing	
Jeff Pogorzleski (Living)-Healing	
Living & Deceased Members of Maddy & Boulin Families	
Patsy Scalgione & deceased family members	
Living & Deceased Members of Orlando, Landolfi, Siciliano & LaManna Families	
Lucille Sousa Araujo & Manuel Periera Araujo	

PRAYERS OF HEALING FOR

Grace Fortino, Dolores Rust, Lucy Nwauku, Judy Reid, Jeff Pogorzleski, 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 Dittemer, 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

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,

John Morris, Frank J. Lawrence

Ministry Happenings

CYO YOUTH MINISTRY



Cristina Manochio
Joseph Santillo
(908) 688-1232, ext 3
eyouunionnj@gmail.com

Sign-ups for our January service projects will be ongoing. This month will be going to the ARC of Union County on Saturday, January 25th, and the Cheshire Home on Tuesday, January 28th. Our next general body CYO meeting will be Tuesday, February 11th from 7:00-8:15pm.

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

All who are willing to help our community please go to our website and submit a volunteer application and send an email to the Religious Education Department to 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!

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).

"Come and experience the power of the Holy Spirit."

Hope to see you all. Please invite your family, friends, fellow workers, and/or anyone you know in our fellowship. Thank you, best regards and a blessed week ahead.

*The prayer meeting is followed by the Marian Devotion—Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary in the Church.

WELLNESS MINISTRY

(FREE) DANCE/EXERCISE/SELF DEFENSE Class
For the Family

Saturdays 9:30—10:00 am
Phil Matrale Hall (LC)



Announcements

18TH ANNUAL SANTO NIÑO FEAST

Saint Michael the Archangel Parish

1212 Kelly Street
Union, NJ 07083



Sunday, January 26, 2025
3:00 pm, Upper Church

Main Celebrant: Fr. Ranulfo Docabo

Hermanas: Pet Espiritu and Margie Du

Novena starts on Friday, January 17, 2025, after the 8:30 a.m. Mass on weekdays and Saturdays and before the 12 noon Mass on Sunday, January 19, 2025

The 2nd collection during the feast will benefit children in an orphanage or in a home for children with special needs in the Philippines. Thank you for your generosity.

Fellowship and reception will follow at the Lower Church after the Mass

For information, please contact: Luz Gonzalez (908) 774-7368
Madesa Espana (908) 391-5990
Cynthia Grandeza (908) 591-1065

2025 MASS BOOK IS OPEN

Please stop by the Parish Center (1211 Orange Ave.) to book your Mass Intentions. The Parish Office is open Monday to Friday, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

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



Our next Coffee and Fellowship Sunday is February 16, 2025 after all Masses.

We are very grateful for the generosity of all our donors and who selflessly shared their time, talent and treasure. You have all tremendously made a difference!

We especially thank Betty Falcon, Victoria Oyakhime, Soque Dagat, Erica Colbert, Clara Asoya, Jane Mrugal, Maria Valera, Mary Anaamdi, Babs Ordonez & Cheryl Thompson for their generous donation to our December fellowship and Christmas celebration.

We wish you all a very Happy, prosperous and peaceful New Year.

God Bless you All!

ACCOUNTABILITY WITH HEARTFELT THANKS



Catholic Charities received **\$5,926** as a result of your generosity to our Donation Bin(s) at your Church from June 1, 2024 to November 30, 2024. These funds combined with monies from other parishes in the same program throughout the Archdiocese enable Catholic Charities to provide shelter to 590 people every night at our seven homeless shelters throughout the Archdiocese (FY23/24). The advent of the cold weather increases the demand for our services at these shelters. Thank you for being our partner and enabling us to bring Christ's love to the most vulnerable in our society.

RCIA PROGRAM

Deacon Michael Alfano RCIA classes are every Saturday morning in the Phil Matrile 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.