



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

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www.stmichaelunion.org

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

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

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



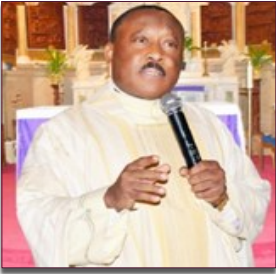
February 2, 2025

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD



a sign of
salvation

GUILTY BY ASSOCIATION: The Destructive Power of Bias



The gospel of this 4th Sunday in Ordinary Times, Year C, tells the story about the rejection of Jesus by His own people; a rejection that deprived the whole town from experiencing the

healing powers of Jesus Christ. The reason for this rejection was simply because of prejudice and bias. While in town, He taught them with power, insight, and authority, using stories from everyday life to engage the heart and minds of His listeners. One would have thought that his people would have come to believe in Him. But that was not the case. Rather, they found His wisdom, power, and vision offensive, and wanted to throw Him off the cliff.

So, what was the reason for this rejection? My friends, He was rejected because the cultural biases and beliefs of His people prevented them from seeing the truth about Him. He was “Guilty by Association”. Judging from His background, they believed He couldn’t be that good. His was not from a leading religious family, “Isn’t this the carpenter’s son”, and “Isn’t his mother, Mary?”, they asked? On the other hand, they thought of His family as commoners, “Are his brothers and sisters not here with us”? Sadly, clouded by this bias, they could not appreciate the one factor that mattered most about Jesus—that he was the Son of God. They couldn’t see this side of His identity all because of their prejudice. So, they treated Him as an upstart who has risen above expectations, and to level Him off and put Him where He belongs, they despised Him and even wanted to kill

him.

What is so sad about this situation is that this same dynamic—cynicism, prejudice, and bias—is very much alive in our society, today. Many a time people judge, dismiss, and write others off because of their race, color, creed, ethnicity, or gender. We can see this in play when color, race, zip code, and gender inhibit and prohibit certain groups of people from opportunities for development, upward mobility, and growth. It can be seen when people refuse to see the wealth of treasure that others can bring to our collective survival as a nation; when systemic conditions make it possible to distort, dislodge, and even dismiss evidences in the protection of some members of the society against others; when people think that they are superior to others and that other people’s growth is, somehow, a threat to their own identity and established mechanisms of control. My friends, when confronted with situations like these, remember who you are, and do not allow others to cause you to lose sense of who God has made and called you to be. Christ did not allow his people to do that to Him, and so should we not.

Msgr. Anselm Nwaorgu

Stewardship of Treasure

FEBRUARY EVENTS IN THE PARISH

Friday, February 7

First Friday Mass and Adoration, Upper Church

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

First Sunday Adoration, Upper Church

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

Sunday, February 16, after all Masses

Fellowship Sunday, LC

Sunday, February 22, 6:30 pm

Family Activity Committee—Paint Night

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

Wellness Ministry, Phil Matrале 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 | \$ 7,098 | \$ 1,363 |
| Monthly SOS | \$11,425 | \$ 9,285 | \$ 2,140 |

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:



- SIGN UP FOR ELECTRONIC 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:

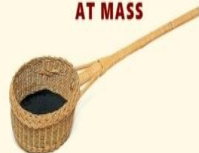
AT THE PARISH CENTER



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.

Mass Intentions & Novenas

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY

February 1

8:30 am Novena of Masses
Harry Tangkilisan (1st Ann.)
5:30 pm Vittorio Fazioli
Frank Condo, Sr. (30th Ann.)

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
For the Parishioners
12:00 noon Beverly Riccitelli
Jennifer Eluwa (Living)-Birthday

MONDAY

February 3

8:30 am Francis Kosar
12:00 noon Amelia Villar (40th Ann.)

TUESDAY

February 4

8:30 am Socorro Dagat (Living)-Healing
12:00 noon Librada Alviola
Novena of Masses

WEDNESDAY

February 5

8:30 am Amoakon Mian
All Souls
12:00 noon Danilo Mangunay

THURSDAY

February 6

8:30 am Novena of Masses
12:00 noon Lucille & Jose Arnaldo

FRIDAY

February 7

8:30 am Rose Falato
12:00 noon Julieta A, San Pascual
Eric Kovevi (Living) & Stephanie Kopke (Living)

SATURDAY

February 8

8:30 am Raymond Canares
5:30 pm Roger Boetsch

SUNDAY

February 9

7:30 am Maria Elaine Rojano
Rafael Vibar
9:00 am John Morris
For the Parishioners
10:30 am Stephanie Topke (Living)-For Protection
12:00 noon Carmel Salvatore
Living & Deceased Members of Magalhaes Family

ALTAR OFFERINGS

The Altar Bread, Altar Wine are offered for Lucy Scalgione family & friends.

The Sanctuary Lamp is offered in memory of Frank Condo, Sr., requested by his family.

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. | Illuminada Duyan |
| Almario Morales (Living)-Thanksgiving | |
| 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 | |

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, Michelle Dressel

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,
Richard Casmás

Ministry Happenings

CYO YOUTH MINISTRY



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

All teens are welcome to join us on February 11th for our Valentine's Day Service Project in the Phil Matrale Hall from 7-8:15pm! We will be making Valentine's Day cards for the Color A Smile Foundation and will be collecting items for the Hands of Grace (HUGS Ministry) who work to provide basic needs for mothers and their children. Please see the list of items to bring as a donation below. 1.5 hours of community service will be given to those who attend.

Diapers: Stages 3-6

Pull Ups: 3T/4T ; 4T/5T ; 5T/6T (Boys & Girls)

Baby Wash

Baby Shampoo

Baby Lotion

Baby Oil

Baby Wipes

Diaper Rash Ointment

Toothpaste (infant, toddler, adult)

Toothbrushes (infant, toddler, adult)

Women's Shampoo & Conditioner

Women's Deodorant

Women's Body Lotion

Women's Body Wash

Hand Sanitizer

Sanitary Napkins

School Supplies

No Baby Powder Please

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.

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

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

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!

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
ourmindandspirite@gmail.com



Volunteers are the pillar of our Church community. Please come and join and be a volunteer in our Family Activities Committee, Multicultural Committee, Social Events Committee and our Adult Faith Formation Committee. Please call the Parish Center (908) 688-1232, ext. 100 for more information.

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.