



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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www.stmichaelunion.org

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

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

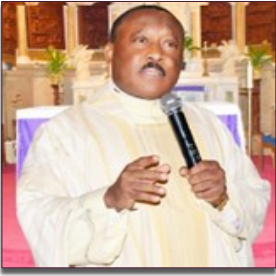
 [StMichaelChurch](https://www.instagram.com/StMichaelChurch)



LOVE
WITHOUT
LIMITS

Message From *The Pastor's Desk*

Love, Bless, Forgive, and Pray for Who?



In the gospel of this 7th Sunday in Ordinary Times, Year C (Luke 6:27-34), Jesus says, “Love your enemies and do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you and pray for those who despise you”. Now, I can hear people saying, “Yah right! Why should I love, do good, bless, and pray for my enemy—someone who has hurt me, lied against me, slandered my name, and hates me with passion?” Yap, we are not wired to be like that. We are wired for payback time, “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” We may react in this way, because, upon reading this passage, our mind immediately goes to someone who is the enemy, and us, the victim. Yet, you might be the enemy someone else is thinking of, as this passage is read; the one they should never forgive, love, bless, or pray for. My friends, we are quicker to blame others than to blame ourselves, to judge others than to judge ourselves, to forgive ourselves than to forgive others, and to excuse ourselves than to excuse others. When David took Uriah’s wife and got her pregnant and, to hide the act, killed Uriah, Nathan the prophet confronted him with a story, framed differently but directly related to what David had done. David’s response was, “the man who has done this must die”, and Nathan said to him, “You are the man” (2 Samuel 12:7). Many a time, my friends, “we are the man” that needs to be forgiven, to be bless, to be shown mercy, to be prayed for, and in need of compassionate judgement. Let us take it easy on others.

So, what Christ is asking us to do is not just for the benefit of others but for our own good. Scripture says that no unforgiving heart will ever see God. No one should have the power to hurt us, here on earth, and then cause us to act in ways that will lead us to eternal damnation. Scripture says, “If

you do not forgive your neighbor’s sins, who will forgive yours. I, the Lord, your God, will remember all your sins in detail” (Sirach 28:1-2). To the man of the flesh, Solomon speaks of the “vexation of his spirit...vexation of his heart, ...For all his days are sorrow, and his travail grief... [and] his heart never has rest at night”. Nothing gives more sleepless and restless nights like the spirit of unforgiveness, hate, vengeance, retribution, retaliation, and wrath. Moreover, if we live by the earthly rule of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, we will one day live in a world full of blind and toothless people, and we, also, could easily become one of the blind and toothless.

Therefore, Christ, in today’s gospel offers us the strategy to overcome these destructive tendencies. To love our enemy, to do good to those who hurt us, to bless those who curse us, and to pray for those who despise us is not weakness but strength. These are behaviors that produce the fruits of the Holy Spirit—joy, love, peace, patience, kindness, meekness, magnanimity, faithfulness, and temperance. These are virtues our primitive impulses cannot produce, and the death of our body cannot take away, because they are spiritual and heavenly, eternal and divine, and follow us after death, unto eternity. As Scripture says, “Blessed are those who die in the Lord for their good works follow them” (Revelation 14:13)

By this teaching, Christ is also asking us not to turn from being victors to becoming the vanquished. We cannot let the sins of others turn us into sinners. Remember what Scripture says, “Anger and wrath are hateful things, but the sinner hugs them tight”. Let go and let God.

Msgr. Anselm Nwaorgu

Stewardship of Treasure

TRAVELING STATUE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



The church has commissioned a traveling statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It will be commissioned for any parishioner's home for a week from Sunday to Saturday. Anybody who wants to take home the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, should indicate the week and the mass time you are taking the statue. The statue should be picked up on Sunday at a Mass time you requested, stays at your home for a week and dropped off on Saturday before the 5:30 pm Mass. There is a sign up sheet in the vestibule of the Church or call the Parish Office (908) 688-1232 for more information.

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.

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

	NEEDED WEEKLY	ACTUAL WEEKLY	OVER/UNDER
FEBRUARY			
Week 1	\$ 8,461	\$ 6,432	\$ 2,029
Week 2	\$ 8,461	\$ 6,305	\$ 2,156
Week 3	\$ 8,461	\$ 6,978	\$ 1,483
Week 4	\$ 8,461	\$	\$
Monthly SOS	\$11,425	\$ 9,967	\$ 1,458

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!

Mass Intentions & Novenas

MASS INTENTIONS

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
For the Parishioners
10:30 am Julia Durugo (Living)-Birthday
Roger Santos
12:00 noon Henry Mechado
James Leonardis

MONDAY

February 24

8:30 am Theresa Jones
Novena of Masses
Norma Lim
12:00 noon Grandeza Family (Living)-Thanksgiving
Mannelia Caram

TUESDAY

February 25

8:30 am Francisco Gonzales
12:00 noon Novena of Masses

WEDNESDAY

February 26

8:30 am For the Parishioners
12:00 noon Stephanie Tokpe (Living)-Thanksgiving

THURSDAY

February 27

8:30 am James Sipe (Living)-Birthday
Mary Grace Morales (Living)-Birthday
12:00 noon Francisco Gatchalian
Maria Tavares

FRIDAY

February 28

8:30 am Beatrice Eluwa (Living)-Birthday
12:00 noon Novena of Masses for Loved Ones

SATURDAY

March 1

8:30 am Margaret McGurgan
Ramon Timothy Omberte (Living)-Birthday
5:30 pm Illuminada Duyan (40th day)

SUNDAY

March 2

7:30 am Concepcion Pilapil
Clotilde Cardenas
9:00 am Joan Noonan (Living)-Thanksgiving
10:30 am Juan Espeleta, Sr.
Robert Gechtman
Kirsten Espeleta (Living)-Thanksgiving
12:00 noon For the Parishioners

ALTAR OFFERINGS

The Altar Bread, Altar Wine and Sanctuary Lamp are offered for the Leonardis 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
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 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 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,
Ruth Harrison

Ministry Happenings

CYO YOUTH MINISTRY

Cristina Manochio
(908) 688-1232, ext 3

Joseph Santillo
cyounionnj@gmail.com



Our service projects for this month include: ARC visit on February 22nd from 10:00am-11:30am and the Cheshire Home visit on February 25th from 6:00pm-8:00pm. Please sign up using our monthly service project google form or email us at cyounionnj@gmail.com for any questions.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 11th where we are excited to welcome back Justin Fatica, founder of Hard as Nails Ministry, as a special guest speaker! Doors will open at 6:30pm and the event will run until 9:00pm in the Phil Matrале Hall of St. Michael's Church. All youth in grades 8-12 of the community are welcome!

CYO will also be hosting its annual **Kids Night Fundraiser on Saturday, March 15th from 6-9pm** in St. Michael's Phil Matrале 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!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

IMPORTANT: REMINDER TO ALL COMMUNICANTS
The Blessing Cup Retreat will be on Saturday, February 22nd at 10:00 am in the Phil Matrале 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 cyounionnj@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

Announcements

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 Matrale 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

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.



COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY



Please join us this **Sunday, March 16, 2025** after all Masses for coffee and fellowship.

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!

SAVE THE DATE

HEALING MASS

SATURDAY MARCH 29, 2025 AT 11:00 AM

No registration required. Everybody is invited.

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).

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.

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 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.