



# 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

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

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



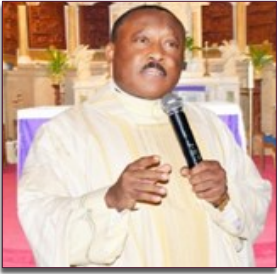
December 15, 2024

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## Message From *The Pastor's Desk*

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Rejoice, for "Akujobi 1" Is Here



In many traditional settings, names are powerful, and, many a time, have an embedded meaning; a meaning that tell a story, describes a situation, makes a statement, states an intention,

or even declares a wish. One of my friends, his name is "Akujobi", which means, "The reconciler, the one who softened the heart to peace. He was named "Akujobi" because his parents experienced great opposition to their marriage from both families. But being in love and western educated, they defiled the family opposition and got married. Anger, bitterness, and resentment ensued, and communication went south. When his mother took in and gave birth to him, his grandparents had to let go of their bitterness and angst to embrace their grandchild. So, his parents named him "Akujobi". My friends, there is no better name for Jesus Christ than "Akujobi I—the Reconciler in-Chief"— since He is the one who reconciled us with God and delivered us from His anger.

No wonder this Sunday is called "Rejoice Sunday", and the readings summon us to bask in spiritual joy, in worship and praise, and to glory in the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the Reconciler-in-Chief who has freed us from the bondage of sin and death and reconciled us with the Father. The first reading (Zephaniah 3:14-18) called for jubilation, "Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel! Be glad and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has removed the judgment against you". My friends, this Sunday reminds us that the Lord of Lords is in our midst and therefore, we should never again be afraid. Rather, we should sing and rejoice, shout aloud in His praise, and boast as loud as we can about God's grace and goodness. He is on our side! Scripture says, "For God did not

send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him" (John 3:17). What that means is that we must let go of the humiliations of our past; we should not let past sins embarrass us any longer. We should accept and celebrate God's reconciliation efforts toward us, in Christ Jesus, and move on. The second reading (Phil 4:4-7) gives us the same encouragement, "Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. Have no anxiety at all".

In the gospel reading, people came to John the Baptist and asked him "What shall we do so that we can bask in the joy of what Christ has come to do for us? John did not demand that they wear sackcloth and sit in ashes; he did not tell them to offer more sacrifices and do week-long fasting; he simply told them to work on the areas of their greatest weakness. To the public, he told them to overcome self-centeredness by sharing what they have with those in need (compassion and charity); to the tax collectors (traders and baters), he told them to avoid their occupational temptation of price gouging (CREED); to the soldiers (those in power), he told them to avoid lording it over their subjects (bullying, oppression, extortion, subjugation); and to you and me, he said..... What would John the Baptist say to you if you were to ask him, "How about me? What situations in your life will he point to that pose the greatest threat to your spiritual joy? The Word has taken flesh and now dwells among us. How is that indwelling of His word working out in us so that our Christmas will be merry. May the joy of this Christmas encompass our hearts and minds, Amen.

*Msr. Anselm Nwaorgu*

## Stewardship of Treasure

### DECEMBER EVENTS IN THE PARISH

**Sunday, December 1, 12:00 noon Mass**  
Blessed Iwere Tansi Feast

**Sunday, December 1, 7:00 -8:30 pm**  
First Sunday Adoration, Upper Church

**Tuesdays, December 3, 10, 17, 7:00 PM**  
Bible Study (Online)

**Wednesday, December 4, 11, 18, 2024, 6:00 – 7:30 pm**  
Charismatic Renewal Group Prayer Meeting, (LC)

**Wednesdays, December 4, 11, 18, 7:30 -8:30 pm**  
Marian Devotion: Rosary and Adoration, Upper Church

**Friday, December 6 at 6:30 pm**  
First Friday Mass and Adoration, Upper Church

**Tuesday, December 10 at 7:00 pm**  
CYO Festival of Lights, Church

**Thursday, December 12, 7:00-8:30 pm**  
Mind & Spirit Ministry, LC

**Sunday, December 15, after all Masses**  
Fellowship Sunday, LC

**Friday, December 20 at 8:00 pm**  
Simbang Gabi (Christmas Mass)  
Bishop Elias Lorenzo presiding

**Saturdays, December 7, 14, 21, 9:30 am**  
Wellness Ministry, Phil Matrале Hall (LC)  
Dance/Exercise/Self-Defense

### CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING ENVELOPE



**In your envelope package and at the vestibule of the Church, you will find envelopes for Christmas Flower Offerings. Please be generous in your donations to keep our Church beautifully decorated for Christmas. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Christmas Flowers Budget: \$3,500**

### 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



"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</u> <u>WEEKLY</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>WEEKLY</u>	<u>OVER/UNDER</u>
<b>DECEMBER</b>			
Week 1	\$ 7,307	\$ 7,748	\$ 441
Week 2	\$ 7,307	\$	\$
Week 3	\$ 7,307	\$	\$
Week 4	\$ 7,307	\$	\$
<b>Monthly SOS</b>	<b>\$10,040</b>	<b>\$ 6,108</b>	<b>\$ 3,932</b>

#### 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

**December 14**

8:30 am Jose Fernando Llanes  
Alan de los Santos  
Novena of Masses  
5:30 pm Ogechukwu Nwosuh (Living)-Birthday  
Rui Do Carma

#### SUNDAY

**December 15**

7:30 am Deceased Members of Lazcano Family  
For the Parishioners  
9:00 am Guerline Jean Mary (Living)-Healing  
Deceased Members of Janiola & Deligero Family  
10:30 am Carmen (Charlie) Tato-23rd Ann.  
Yolanda Lamosa  
Jose Percival Cruz  
12:00 noon Jean Cabibbo  
Mark Anthony Demetillo (Living)-Birthday

#### MONDAY

**December 16**

8:30 am Richard Uttaurnachit  
12:00 noon Casar Pastor Castillo  
Novena of Masses

#### TUESDAY

**December 17**

8:30 am Taisha Mathieu (Living)-Birthday  
Ana Mercedes Torres  
12:00 noon Rosemitha Royal  
Stephanie Tokpe (Living)-Thanksgiving

#### WEDNESDAY

**December 18**

8:30 am Ramon Bernardo  
12:00 noon Amoakon Mian  
Naomi Valiente

#### THURSDAY

**December 19**

8:30 am Vicente Lozano  
Karissa Drillon  
12:00 noon Julian Devera (Living)-Safe Travels

#### FRIDAY

**December 20**

8:30 am Novena of Masses  
12:00 noon Bernardita Resurrection (Living)-Healing  
St. Anthony Thanksgiving-Claudette (Living)

#### SATURDAY

**December 21**

8:30 am Thanksgiving-Dagat Family (Living)  
Cornelius & Wilma Silvey  
Norma Canares  
5:30 pm Living & Deceased Members of Boetsch  
& Gillick Families  
Juan Carlos Rego

#### SUNDAY

**December 22**

7:30 am Alarcon Family  
Dr. Emmanuel Nze (1st Ann.)  
9:00 am Emiliana Bujawe Rogales  
Jean Cabibbo  
10:30 am For the Parishioners  
Frank (Yorky) Salsano (21st Ann.)  
Anna Skoczylas (25th Ann.)  
12:00 noon Alejandro Cruz  
Isabel Marques  
Fredrick Dittemer  
Theresa & Giftus John (Living)-40th Wedding Ann.

#### ALTAR OFFERINGS

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

### Novena of Masses December 2024

Jose & Lucille Arnaldo	Phil Matrале
James Ford, Sr.	Jean Ford
Mary & Idolo Russomano	Abe Maksom
George Rinehart, Jr.	John McEvoy
Norma Canares	Connie Emery
Mike Fayad (Living)-Healing	Jose Percival Cruz
Josie Igna (Living)-Healing	Yolanda Lamoso
Stephanie Tokpe (Living)	Eric Kouevi (Living)
Pierre & Rubinetti Families	Frank & Helen Rubinetti
Joseph & Michelene Kmetz	
Matthew Boulin (Living)-Birthday	
Peter & Rebecca Aguh (Living)	
Jeff Pogorzleski (Living)-Healing	
All Souls in Purgatory	
George Sr., Ruth & Barbara Rinehart	
Living & Deceased Members of Santoriello Family	
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	
Living & Deceased Members of Araujo & Torres Families	
Living & Deceased Members of Durugo & Onyenanu 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 Dittemer, Pat Wittek, Sal Dovi, Kathy Doherty, Mary Ann Flynn, Roger Swadish, Jaime DeLeon, Angela Doug Heinzer, Leonard Stfalk, Sophia Zamudio, Anthony Stayning, Aida Polanco, Fr. Chuck McDermott, Remedios Mendoza, Bellevina Alexandre, Thomas McGarvey, Maria Ferrara, Barbara Donato, Kevin Kinsella, Mary Ann McGrath, Rev. Msgr. Charles Antonicelli, Anthony Terrezza, Homer Mereira

### 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,

**Bellevina Alexandre**



## Ministry Happenings

### CYO YOUTH MINISTRY



Our CYO Teen Retreat "From the Prison to the Garden" was a huge success for the Lord and we have many to thank for that. We will start with the young people who made it happen. Those listed below prepared for months writing and sharing about their Catholic Faith. They presented their speeches on retreat and they opened many hearts to Christ's love. They are listed below with their topics in order of presentation.

Frankie Galasso-Cabezas	From the Prison to the Garden
Matthew Almeida	Forgiveness
Sam Torres	Gift of Life/Self Image
Alyssa Monhale Parragas	Prayer
Ryu Javate	Community
Tolu Adesanya (CYO Alumni)	Imperfectly Me

We were also extremely blessed to have Lorraine Aberi, Brianna Delgado, Mariela Garcia, Josh Tavarez, Michelle Torres, Jasline Hernandez and Ana Ruiz run discussion groups on retreat. God Bless them all for their great works!

We would lastly like to give a special thanks to all of our Chaperones and Young Adults who attended and shared their faith with our teens and helped to keep them safe. We appreciate their support as well as the support of the community for their donations, prayers and love.

God Bless!

#### **Special CYO Christmas Presentation! -The Festival of Lights**

Once again, our CYO/Youth Ministry Program will present our **Christmas Festival of Lights!**

Join us on **Tuesday, December 10th** at St. Michael's Church! Our Festival is a night of Reflection, Music and Prayer to Celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. Our members will reenact the roles of Mary, Joseph, the Angel Gabriel, Shepherds and other Christmas Story Characters. It is truly an event to be experienced and all are welcome! The Festival will begin at 7:00pm, so please arrive by 6:45. (Doors will open at 6:30pm) Come see, hear and experience the beauty of Christmas!

### 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](http://www.stmichael.org).

Please see the Pink Christmas Giving Tree at the vestibule of the Church for children in need for Christmas.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:smreligiouseducation@gmail.com)

### MILLENNIALS WITH CHRIST (MWC)

#### Happy Holidays!



We're thrilled to share that meeting virtually has not changed how impactful our fellowship has been! October and November's virtual meetings have kept us engaged in insightful discussion while allowing members that could not meet due to time and location constraints to still take part in fellowship!

October's meeting centered around the dangers of envy and how it can have a negative influence on one's spirit.

As Jesus reminds us in Matthew 22:37-40 (NLT):  
*"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"*

November's meeting allowed us to dissect what preparation for the "End Times" looked like practically.

Mark's Gospel reads:  
*"However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the son himself. Only the Father knows. And since you don't know when that time will come, be on guard! Stay alert!"* Mark 13:32-33 (NLT)

Let's come together to embody these teachings in our lives and in our community.

To wrap up November, we met in person for our first official Theology on Tap where we had the opportunity to partake in authentic conversations and maintain the meaningful relationships we've built at our very own MWC Happy Hour!

As we approach the end of the year, we want to thank all members for your time and contribution to reigniting our young adult ministry!

We will not be meeting in December and will reconvene in the new year. We invite new members to join Millenials With Christ for more exciting opportunities for fellowship. We look forward to meeting you!

### WELLNESS MINISTRY

**(FREE) DANCE/EXERCISE/SELF DEFENSE Class**

**For the Family**

**Saturdays 9:30—10:00 am**

**Phil Matrale Hall (LC)**

# Announcements

## 2024 CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday, December 14

1:00-2:00 pm

Wednesday, December 18

Communal Penance Service with Confession

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

8:30 am, 12:00 noon

### Christmas Eve

5:00 pm Family Liturgy

8:00 pm Christmas Midnight Mass

### Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

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

Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am

### NEW YEAR MASSES

Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

8:30 am, 12:00 noon

### New Year's Eve

7:00 pm Vigil Mass & Prayer Service

### New Year's Day

January 1<sup>st</sup>

9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 noon

January 2<sup>nd</sup>

9:00 am



Thank  
you!

We would like to thank the following Marian Devotees for their donations towards refurbishment of the Blessed Virgin Mary grotto.

Van Phan  
Pat & Anna Pntoriero  
Anna Di Fabrzio  
James Ford, Jr.  
Anonymous  
Lucy Scalgione

Thank you for your continued support of our Parish.



## COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY Parish Family Christmas Celebration

Please join us after every Mass today at the Phil Matrale Hall (LC) as we celebrate Christmas with friends and family.

Coffee and hot chocolate along with delicious breakfast and lunch will be served.

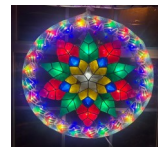
There will also be a photo booth and elf workshop for kids prepared by the G.I.F.T. (Grow in Faith Tea,) led by Erica Colbert.

We hope you can spend time with your Church family and make memories of our special celebration.

We thank Anthony Spina, Soque Dagat, Erica Colbert and Victoria Oyakhione for their generous donations to our November fellowship.

Once again, thank you to all the volunteer for always helping and making sure our Sunday fellowship go efficiently.

May God bless us all!



2024 "SIMBANG GABI/MISA DE GALLO  
December 20, 2024  
8:00 pm  
St. Michael's Church  
Bishop Elias Lorenzo will be presiding

## ATTENTION TO ALL MINISTRY COORDINATORS

If planning for a St. Michael's Parish activity in the Phil Matrale Hall (Lower Church), please **CONFIRM** with the Parish Office the availability of the space including set-up. Know that many big ceremonies need the previous day/night set-up and please consider this before you book. Please clear all bookings with the Parish Office not with Msgr. Anselm.

It is the ministry's responsibility to clean up, including garbage disposal, the Phil Matrale Hall (LC) after every event.