



# 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](mailto:stmichaelunion@comcast.net)

[www.stmichaelunion.org](http://www.stmichaelunion.org)

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

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

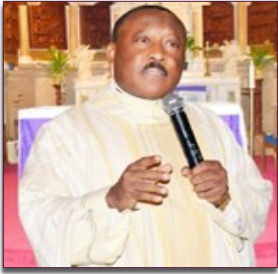
 [Stmichaelchurch](https://www.instagram.com/Stmichaelchurch)



December 22, 2024 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



**Fourth Sunday of Advent:” You Are Mightier Than You**



The first reading on this 4th Sunday of Advent, Year C, begins with this statement: “You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, **from you shall come forth for me one**

**who is to be ruler in Israel”** (Micah 5:2).” For the Israelites, Bethlehem was a town too small to be counted among the cities of Judah, but for God, it was the town that would produce a king. This recalls the story of when God sent Samuel to go and anoint one of the sons of Jesse as king, and all his big and handsome sons came out. None was chosen but the little shepherd boy who was in the field with the sheep, whom everybody thought was nobody, and yet, Samuel, instructed by God, had this to say: “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives,” (1 Sam 16:11). It also brings to mind, the story in the Book of Judges, where an angel of the Lord called upon Gideon to rise up and deliver the Israelites from the hand of the Midianites, and Gideon responded, “My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family,” and the angel responded, “You are a mighty warrior. Go in the strength you have and save Israel.” (Cf. Judges 6:1-11).

My friends, it is not about who people think we are but who God knows us to be. We often tend to care more about what people think of us than what God thinks of us. Truthfully, we are not what others think we are; we are what God knows us to be. What God knows us to be is that we are wired with the ability and inner strength to do great things, to stand firm in the face of opposition, to call forth the David within us in the face of life-Goliaths, to go further than we thought we could, and to live a life beyond our perceived limits. When we focus on what others think of us, we risk not becoming who God knows us to be and who God wants us to be. Focusing on what others think

of us can box us into the corner of their judgment, only for us to, consciously or unconsciously, act and behave in ways that line with their prejudice, and like Gideon, begin to look down on ourselves, doubt our own abilities, and possibly end up living a life that we were not created to live. No wonder Scripture says, “It is dangerous to be concerned with what others think of you” (Proverb 29:25). Using the opinions of others as the measuring stick of our worth is always a losing battle. We would never please God nor maximize our potential if we were disgusted with the person looking back at us in the mirror.

God thinks good thoughts about us, so let us also think good thoughts about ourselves. We should never look down on ourselves, no matter where we come from, who we are, our profession, or our imperfections. Someone always looks up to us to be great—God, our creator. We know that beliefs are compelling because beliefs have the power to create and the power to destroy. So, we should always believe in ourselves, acknowledge that we are endowed and capable of bringing us to our destiny, and stand with St. Paul when he says, “I am who I am by the grace of God.” We also need to remember that because we are who we are by the grace of God, other people are who they are by the grace of God. We, therefore, should never look down on anyone because only God sits high enough to do so.

*Msgr. Anselm Nwaorgu*



# Stewardship of Treasure

## 2024 CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

#### CHRISTMAS MASSES

**Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
8:30 am, 12:00 noon

**Christmas Eve**  
5:00 pm Family Liturgy  
7:30 pm Christmas Concert  
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



## 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**

"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

	<b>NEEDED WEEKLY</b>	<b>ACTUAL WEEKLY</b>	<b>OVER/UNDER</b>
<b>DECEMBER</b>			
<b>Week 1</b>	\$ 7,307	\$ 7,748	\$ 441
<b>Week 2</b>	\$ 7,307	\$ 8,949	\$1,642
<b>Week 3</b>	\$ 7,307	\$	\$
<b>Week 4</b>	\$ 7,307	\$	\$
<b>Monthly SOS</b>	<b>\$10,040</b>	<b>\$ 9,126</b>	<b>\$ 914</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.

*Msr. Anselm*

## 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:



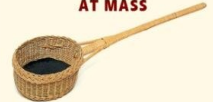
1211 Orange Ave, Union, NJ 07083

### 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

**December 21**

**SATURDAY**

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 Dittermer  
Theresa & Giftus John (Living)-40th Wedding Ann.

**MONDAY**

**December 23**

8:30 am Adam Mosejchuk (52nd Ann.)  
Reynaldo & Concepcion Ticzon  
Anelito Almsa, Sr. (19th Ann.)  
12:00 noon Angelica Villoriente (Living)-Birthday  
Victoria Espiritu, Emiliana B. Rogales

**TUESDAY**

**December 24 Christmas Eve**

8:30 am Madeline Nolan, Christmas Novena  
12:00 n Angelita Cruz (1st Ann.), Christmas Novena  
5:00 pm Family Liturgy, Christmas Novena  
8:00 pm Christopher Morales (Living)-Birthday  
Marylu Morales (Living)-Birthday  
Albert Phillips & Family  
Christmas Novena

**WEDNESDAY**

**December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY**

7:30 am Jose & Lucille Arnaldo  
Sipe Family (Living)-Thanksgiving  
For the Parishioners, Christmas Novena  
9:00 am Melanie Pikula, Christmas Novena  
Eric Kouevi (Living) & Stephanie Tokpe (Living)  
10:30 am Fanta Mian & Family (Living)-Thanksgiving  
Jorge L. Cadenas (Living), Christmas Novena  
12:00 noon Wellbring of Priest, Christmas Novena  
Antonio Campos

**THURSDAY**

**December 26**

9:00 am John Mejorada  
Esteban & Dolores Bernadro  
Novena of Masses

**FRIDAY**

**December 27**

8:30 am Doug & Mary Jo Sipe (Living)  
Michael & Marjorie Catuncan (Living)-21st Wedding Ann  
12:00 noon Maria Tavares  
Emilia Roque (25th Ann.)

**SATURDAY**

**December 28**

8:30 am Mary Ann Campos (Living)-Birthday  
Luz Cruz (10th Ann.), Novena of Masses  
5:30 pm Fabrico S. Marques (Living)-Healing  
Hugo Galarza, Edgardo Belino

**SUNDAY**

**December 29**

7:30 am Rory King, Sita Kone, Adam Coulibaly  
9:00 am Mark Fredrickson (1st Ann.)  
For the Parishioners  
10:30 am Jean Cabibbo, Gerardo Crincoli  
12:00n Charismatic Group-Thanksgiving, Luz Mary Lozada  
Paul & Lucy Sefia (Living)-Wedding Ann.

### ALTAR OFFERINGS

*The Altar Bread & Altar Wine are offered for St. Michael's Parishioners.*

*The Sanctuary Lamp is offered for Apuzzio & Bernardo Families.*

### 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 Liamoso
Stephanie Tokpe (Living)	Eric Kouevi (Living)
Pierre & Rubinetti Families	Frank & Helen Rubinetti
Joseph & Michelene Kmetz	Miriam Perez
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 Dittermer, 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, Alberta Phillips

### 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 Church**

# Ministry Happenings

## CYO YOUTH MINISTRY



We'd like to congratulate our CYO members on their presentation of the **FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS** for all of us to enjoy this Christmas Season! They presented the true meaning of Christmas for all of us!

### FESTIVAL CAST

Mary.....Sam Torres  
Joseph .....Frankie Galasso-Cabezas  
Angel Gabriel.....Ryu Javate  
Elizabeth.....Alyssa Monhale Parragas  
Angels.....Lorraine Aberi & Natalia Panciello  
Inn-Keeper.....Ryan Parmenter  
Servant Girl.....Karina DaSilva  
King Herod.....Matthew Almeida

### WISE MEN

Julianna Silverio, Gabriel Spassione & Brianna Delgado

### SHEPHERDS

Gabriella Tubio-Rodriguez, Daniela Delgado, Natalia Castano & Monica Durugo

### READERS

Abigail Sheridan, Alyanna Hooke, Gabriel Nunez, Daniela Rojas, Gabriella Resende, Nicole Moreno, Carl Nagamos, Maya Mincolelli, Bight Nnadi, Precious Nnadi, Julian Felix, Logan Concepcion, and Carmella Mendoza

**Lights / Stage**.....Ivy Mendoza

A special THANK YOU to all those who shared their musical talents with us! The music shared was Beautiful and Inspirational!

Our final CYO meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> for a night of hot cocoa and Christmas Color a Smile. CYO will resume on Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. Have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year Everyone!

## 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.

## 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



### Family Christmas Prayer

Let us pray

God of all creation, we welcome Christ Jesus Your Son who is our light, our guide, our hope, and our way into eternal kingdom. As we celebrate His birth, may Your blessings come upon us so that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds and the worship of the wise men! May His presence illuminate our hearts to become agents of hope, agents of faith, and agents of love in our broken world! May it shatter the darkness of hatred, division and violence and open in our hearts the doors of love for all peoples so that we may reach out to those who are hungry, alone, sick, brokenhearted, or suffering from the destructive forces of evil made man in our communities. May this Christmas celebration help us to answer the call of God to become Christ to all those we meet in this life's journey. We ask this of You, Oh God, in the name of Jesus Christ, Your only begotten Son, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

*Msgr. Anselm I. Nwaorgu*

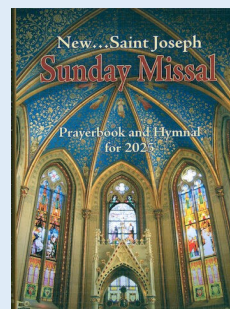
### 2025 MASS BOOK IS OPEN

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.



### 2025 SAINT JOSEPH SUNDAY MISSAL

Please come to the Parish Center (1211 Orange Ave) to purchase your copy.

**Cost: \$6.00 each**

### COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY



The next Coffee & Fellowship is **January 21, 2025**.

Thank you to all the donors and volunteer for always helping and making sure our Sunday fellowship go efficiently.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year!

### ATTENTION TO ALL MINISTRY COORDINATORS

If planning for a St. Michael's Parish activity in the Phil Matrале 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 Matrале Hall (LC) after every event.

**The Columbiettes of Union invite you to become ad member. We will be having an initiation ceremony on January 9, 2025. This will start at 6:30 pm at the Union Knights of Columbus Hall on Jeannette Ave. All women 18 years or older are welcome. For additional information and application, please contact Fran Corcione at 973-454-4145 or email at [mrsc417@hotmail.com](mailto:mrsc417@hotmail.com).**