



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

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July 7, 2024

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*A prophet is not without honor
except in his native place and among
his own kin and in his own house.*

Mark 6:4



The Destructive Power of Bias



The gospel of this 14th Sunday in Ordinary Times, year B (Mark 6:1-7), tells the story of the rejection of Jesus by His own home people; a rejection that cost them direly, for he could not perform any miracles there. The reason for this rejection was bias and prejudice.

By the time of this visit, Jesus was already a celebrity with many miracles under His belt. One would have thought that His own people would be excited and hold a parade of welcome for Him. But that was not to be. Also, while He was in town, He taught with such insight and authority, using stories from everyday life to engage the heart, mind, will, and consciences of His listeners, that one would have thought that His people would have admired Him. But that was not to be either. Rather, they found His wisdom, power, and vision very offensive, and rejected Him.

The question then is, why the rejection? He was rejected because the cultural bias and beliefs of His people prevented them from seeing the truth about Him. He was “Guilty by Association”, for the people believed that judging from His background, He couldn’t be that smart. “Isn’t this the carpenter’s son”? In another reference, they said, “Isn’t this Mary’s Son?” (insinuating that He was an illegitimate son because in Jewish culture, you are not the son of your mother, but the son of your father). They associated His family as commoners, “Are his brothers and sisters not here with us?” and questioned his wisdom, “Where did he get this wisdom from?” Sadly, they had judged Jesus on various factors, except the one factor that mattered most—that He was the Messiah, the Son of Living God. They were blinded to this identity all because of their cultural bias and prejudice. So, they treated Him as an upstart who had risen above expectations and, to level Him off and put

Him where He belonged, they rejected Him and put Him down as an imposture.

What is so sad is that this kind of cynicism is presently operative in our society today. Many a time people are judged, dismissed, and written off or denied opportunities for upward mobility because of their race, color, creed, zip code, ethnicity, gender, etc. It is not uncommon to find systemic conditions put in place to hinder accountability or even make some segments of the society think and feel that they are superior to others, or that the continued growth of others somehow presents a threat to their identity and control.

My friends, bias and prejudice blind people to the depths, the gifts, the talents, and the dreams that others can bring to the table. There are depths in each one of us that only God knows. The irony of the matter is that when we look at others and despise who they are, even before we come to know them or just because of their race and ethnicity, our behavior speaks more about who we are than about who they are. It reflects a begrudgingly small heart and blinds us to our own pride.

So, never let anyone make you feel less than who God has made you to be. There is a beauty in each one of us that, even though others may refuse to see it, we cannot become part of what satisfies their error, either by not seeing it ourselves or by becoming “a fulfilling prophesy of negativism”. As St. Paul puts it, “I am who I am by the grace of God”. No matter what the nay- sayers are doing, we need to continue to work ourselves into our best version.

Msgr. Anselm Nwaorgu

Stewardship of Treasure

2024 UNION OF SAINTS & NATIONS (USAN)

Different ways to remit a donation

Submit a donation to your group facilitator.

Mail donation to parish office using an envelope marked USAN 2024.

Drop off donations at the parish center or in any of the collection boxes in the Church Vestibule in an envelope marked "USAN 2024". Be sure to have your name, group name, or group number on the envelope.

Use our church online giving in our website, www.stmichaelunion.org or Zelle to stmichaelunion@comcast.net and write USAN 2024 in the comment.

All checks and money orders are to be made payable to St. Michael's Church, and write "USAN" and group name in the Memo.

Duration of fundraiser:

This year's fundraiser will actively begin on **April 15, 2024**, and **officially end on July 31, 2024**. You can continue to remit money through Sept 30, 2024.

For more information, please call the office at (908) 688-1232 or talk to any priests, Cynthia Grandeza, David Bernot or a "Group Facilitator."

I urge all our parishioners to stand tall and steadfast and commit to this blessed effort. We can accomplish any goal if we do it together. The good news is that we can, and by the grace of God, we will. At this point, our motto is forward ever, backward never.

In the vestibule of the Church, you will see the Plaques for the past two years of our USAN Mission with the names of the various groups and their facilitators. We intend to create a history out of this venture because it is proving to be a life-wire for the survival of our parish.

Please pray that the good Lord may grant success to the work of our hands.

Msgr. Anselm Nwaorgu

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK ANNUAL APPEAL ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

2024 Base Goal: \$43,473.00
2024 Stretch Goal: \$46,240.00
As of: 6/25/24
Donor Pledge: \$41,138.00
Donor Received: \$33,648.25

"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
JUNE			
Week 1	\$ 7,307	\$ 8,324	\$1,017
Week 2	\$ 7,307	\$ 7,779	\$ 472
Week 3	\$ 7,307	\$ 8,014	\$ 707
Week 4	\$ 7,307	\$ 8,204	\$ 897
Monthly SOS	\$10,040	\$ 9,840	\$ 200

2024 USAN UPDATE

GOAL \$100,000.00
As of 6/5/24 \$ 30,464.00
NEED: \$ 69,536.00

Facilitators are still needed. Please contact Cynthia & David. Thank you for your support and generosity.



Our parish will be taking a cruise around New York City as part of the celebration of St. Michael's Feast Day 2024.

Cruise Date: Friday, September 27, 2024
Ship Boarding: 6:30 pm
Cruising: 7:00 pm—9:30 pm
Vessel: Spirit of New Jersey
Departing: Lincoln Harbor
 1500 Harbor Blvd. Weehawken, NJ

COST:

Option 1: \$170 per person includes cruise, dinner, round trip bus from St. Michael's Church to Lincoln Harbor and back. No beer or wine.
Option 2: \$178 per person includes cruise, dinner, drinks (1 glass of wine or bottle of beer), round trip bus from St. Michael's Church to Lincoln Harbor and back.
Option 3: \$150 per person includes cruise and dinner only. No bus transportation nor wine or beer.

Bus boarding at St. Michael's Parking Lot at 5:00 pm sharp.

Tickets are first come first serve basis. **Deadline to purchase tickets—August 5th.** Only 150 tickets will be sold. No refund will be issued for cancellation after August 5th.

Tickets are now available for sale at the Parish Center and Church vestibule during Sunday Masses. Tickets can also be purchased from Luz Gonzales or Cynthia Grandeza. Please call Parish Office (908) 688-1232 for more information.

Mass Intentions & Novenas

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY

July 6

8:30 am Juan Ezpeleta, Sr.
Allan Schwer (2nd Ann.)
5:30 pm Erminio Ciampa
Thelma Marasigan-Alex

SUNDAY

July 7

7:30 am Ed Stonack, Leonardo Fernandez
9:00 am Marcus Belmonte, John Mejorada
10:30 am Jerry Crincoli, For the Parishioners
Clare Cepe (Living)-Birthday
12:00 noon Pantaleona Magbanua (6th Ann.)
Riley Rumohr (Living)-Birthday

MONDAY

July 8

8:30 am Alfredo C. Samson
Norma Pascual Ignacio
12:00 noon Ildie Huie Alzamer
Novena of Masses

TUESDAY

July 9

8:30 am Roger Boetsch
12:00 noon Efren C. Pizarro, Mary McDermott

WEDNESDAY

July 10

8:30 am Amelia Cepe (Living)-70th Birthday
Amoakon Mian
12:00 noon Luther Boulin (Living)-Birthday

THURSDAY

July 11

8:30 am Rosemary Ramos (Living)-88th Birthday
12:00 noon Alejandro Cruz, Michael Clifford

FRIDAY

July 12

8:30 am Robert Vilela, Winona Jobe
Novena of Masses
12:00 noon Pacita Pena

SATURDAY

July 13

8:30 am Cash Campbell (Living)-Birthday
Rosalina Bernal (9th Ann.)
5:30 pm Engracia DeLeon-Cumahig
Marc Belmonte

SUNDAY

July 14

7:30 am For the Parishioners
9:00 am Melecio & Anatolia DeLigero
10:30 am Julia Ernst
Tomaso Roque
12:00 noon Anthony Toussaint

ALTAR OFFERINGS

The Altar Bread, Altar Wine and Sanctuary Lamp are offered for Ed Stonack, requested by his wife Rosemary.

NOVENA OF MASSES JULY 2024

Jose & Lucille Arnaldo	Phil Matrale
James Ford, Sr.	Jean Ford
Mary & Idolo Russomano	Abe Maksom
Pierre & Rubinetti Families	Fritz Maddy
Frank & Helen Rubinetti	George Rinehart, Jr.
Amalia Cachola Corales	Melanie Pikula
Rev. Fr. Ambrose Udeze	Joseph Chura Anamdi
Fr. Isaiah Agochukwu	Amoakon Mian

Luther Boulin (Living)-Birthday
Stephanie Tokpe (Living)-Thanksgiving
Kosiso Akporji (Living)-Special Intentions
Chisom Odoemene (Living)-Special Intentions
Ogechizara Chika-Nwosuh (Living)-Special Intentions
Chukwuebuka Odoemene (Living)-Speical Intentions
Michellene & Joseph Kmetz
Chinyere Odoemene & Family (Living)-Special Intentions
George Sr., Ruth & Barbara Rinehart
Jeff Pogorzelski (Living) - Healing
Manuel Pereira Aarujo & Lucilia Silva Sousa Araujo
Patsy Scalgione & Deceased Family Members
Living & Deceased Members of the Orlando, Landolfi, Siciliano & LaManna Families
Living & Deceased Members of Maddy & Boulin Families
Living & Deceased Members of Santoriello Family

PRAYERS OF HEALING FOR

Grace Fortino, Dolores Rust, Lucy Nwauku, Judy Reid, Ana Torres, Rita Homiak, Stephen Berberabe, Norma Tuano, Jeff Pogorzelski, Virginia Attanasio, Mary Leeman, Marie Esposito, Jose M. DeJesus, Andre Graigwell, Nicole Pozeinick, Amy Dombroski, Samantha Lopes, Jacob & Jaxson Rivera, Ken Lang, Valarie Carter, Willie Green, 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

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 Parish

FREE & AVAILABLE

**An outdoor grotto that will hold a statue.
Please contact the Parish Office (908)
688-1232, ext. 100 if interested.**

Ministry Happenings



CYO YOUTH MINISTRY

The CYO / Youth Ministry would like to thank all of its members for an amazing year! Congratulations to all of our seniors who are graduating, and we wish you the best of luck! We wish everyone a safe, healthy and fun summer and we look forward to seeing the rest of our members back in September!

We are also excited to announce that Bible School will be from July 22nd – 26th this year. Please see the flyer in the bulletin for more information. Any CYO teen member interested in being a Bible School Counselor, please email us at yunionnj@gmail.com.

LINEN MINISTRY

do you need know to be a part of this worthwhile ministry?

- You need to have a washing machine and iron (no starch please).
- Based on the size of our team you can expect to be asked every 3 to 4 months to launder the clothes.
- The linens are washed and pressed. The linens are usually picked up on the weekend and returned within the week of pickup.
- A typical wash consists of approximately 50 to 75 altar clothes.

Consider joining the **Linen Ministry** it will be a rewarding experience for you knowing the linens you cleaned are adding to the beauty of our altar and the celebration.

If you are interested in joining the **Linen Ministry** or have questions, please call or email Joann Pastewski at 908-688-8844 jpastewski@aol.com

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL PRAYER GROUP

COME AND EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT PERSONALLY WITH ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Prayer Group



DAY: Wednesday
TIME: 6 PM-7:30 PM
VENUE: Murphy Room, Phil Matrale Hall (LC)

WELLNESS MINISTRY

(FREE) DANCE/EXERCISE Class For the Family
Saturdays 9:30–10:30 am
Phil Matrale Hall (LC)

Exciting News!

I am thrilled to announce my involvement in St. Michael's Wellness Ministry, where I will be incorporating the integration of self-defense classes with our beloved Dance Classes every Sunday morning at 9:30 am.

As we embark on this journey together, I am eager to blend the artistry of dance with the practicality of self-protection, fostering a space where both mind and body can flourish.

Join me in this empowering endeavor as we prioritize holistic wellness and community safety.

Let's dance our way to strength, confidence and unity at St. Michael's!

Rey Seida & Lucy

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Religious Ed. Is looking for:
Hall monitors – volunteers
Catechists – who faith is so strong and would like to pass it on to our younger generation
Catechists Aides
Sub-Catechist
Bakers

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

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 smccd@comcast.net.

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.stmichaelunion.org (Click on the Parish Giving Icon).

Join the **HANDS OF GRACE (HUGS) MINISTRY** in celebrating "Giving Bear Sunday" every 3rd Sunday of the month. Look out for our Purple Bear in the vestibule with a basket for cards for family needs. Please stop by and pick a card or 2 to help ensure the ministries inventory never dries up.

The HUGS Ministry services 50 families in our parish and community by giving out Grace Bags monthly to mothers and children-newborn to age 5.



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.

Announcements



**ST. ALPHONSA FEAST DAY
MASS—July 28, 2024 @ 12:00 noon
Fellowship after the Mass at
Phil Matrale Hall (LC)**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Mind & Spirit Ministry

We at Mind & Spirit Ministry are committed to providing spiritual accompaniment for people experiencing mental health challenges as well as those who care for them.

We are looking for people who have a high dedication to helping those seeking support. Please see below the different ways to become part of the Mind & Spirit Ministry team.



WE NEED YOUR HELP IN

- Providing the Eucharist for parishioners with health issues
- Designing and managing the information on our webpage
- Engaging community social and mental health services
- Marketing our events to the Archdiocese of Newark and those in need

For all enquiries contact ourmindandspirit@gmail.com

FOR THE PARISHIONERS AT
ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH UNION, NJ

RECEIVING THE EUCHARIST



Are you or a loved one unable to attend mass due to an illness or other health issues?

Through the **Mind & Spirit Ministry**, receive The Eucharist at home by trained Eucharistic Ministers.

For more information
Contact **Jonathan Estwick** at
ourmindandspirit@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE BUS TRIPS

Tuesday, July 23, 2024- Bus trip to **Wind Creek Casino**. Bus leaves parking lot at 9:30 am. Cost is **\$35** with a \$25 slot play return.

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 but payment will not be required till 2025.

ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH 2024 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
July 22-July 26 (Monday-Friday 9:00 am –12:00 noon)
Our program is for children ages Pre-K to 8th Grade
Price: \$60 per child (3rd child in a family is 1/2 price)

Child's Name _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

School child attends: _____ Grade in Sept.: _____

Parents Name & Signature: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

(Name) (Phone) (Relations)

Please circle any of the following if your child is allergic to:

Dairy Peanuts Bee Sting

Does your child have any special concerns we should be aware of. This includes any allergies, diabetes, etc.

Pictures from Bible School are 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 fee is \$60.00 (cash or check)

Total: \$ _____

All children will receive a Bible School T-shirt. Circle size

Small Medium Large


Please return this form to St. Michael's Parish Center, 1211 Orange Ave. , Union, NJ 07083. Mail or drop or drop off. Please put St. Michael's Vacation Bible School.

CYO Office (908) 688-1232, Ext 3

DO NOT DELAY! REGISTRATION DUE BY FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2024

ARE YOU GOING AWAY THIS SUMMER?

Many of our parish families are planning to get away for some summer fun and relaxation in the next few months. We pray that your vacation time will be safe and a source of many happy memories. However, please do not take your parish offering with you. Each summer our parish office struggles to juggle the bills as Sunday offerings decrease significantly. If you find that you tend to forget your envelope more often during the less structured weeks of summer, please consider our electronic giving program. Go to our website, stmichaelunion.org, to sign up for electronic giving. It's simple! It's safe! And it keeps God at the top of your giving list even when you are away.



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 Text MALLORYSARMY to 22828 to get started.

 Message and data rates may apply.

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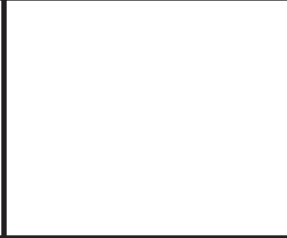
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