



December 5, 2021 | 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

# THE PARISH OF SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CLAYTON & FRANKLINVILLE

**REV. LAWRENCE E POLANSKY, PASTOR**

## PARISH MISSION STATEMENT:

*“To bear witness to **God the Father**,  
to follow the teachings of **Jesus Christ**,  
and to be guided by the **Holy Spirit**.”*

### DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

**Monday:** 9a at Saint Catherine

**Tuesday:** 9a at Nativity

**Wednesday:** 9a at Nativity

**Thursday:** 9a at Saint Catherine

### WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

**Saturday:** 4p at Nativity

**Sunday:** 8a at Saint Catherine

10a at Nativity

### HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE

**Vigil:** 7p at Saint Catherine

**Holy Day:** 9a & 7p at Nativity

*(Please confirm with  
Mass Intention Schedule.)*

### RECONCILIATION

**Saturday:** 3:00-3:30p at Nativity  
or by appointment

### OFFICE MANAGER

Fran Carder

PSMA. FranC@gmail.com

### PARISH E-MAIL ADDRESS

PSMA.Rectory@gmail.com

### PREP E-MAIL

religioussmap@gmail.com

### SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL REGIONAL SCHOOL

Philip J. Gianfortune, Principal  
856-881-0067



**NATIVITY:** 2677 Delsea Dr, Franklinville **SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA:** 700 N Delsea Dr, Clayton

**PARISH OFFICE:** 49 W North St, Clayton, NJ 08312-1114 **PHONE:** 856-881-9155 **FAX:** 856-881-9166

### **OFFICE HOURS:**

**Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday:** 10:00a-2:00p **Thursday:** 10:00a-12:00 noon

*(You may also call the Parish Office to schedule an appointment anytime outside of these hours.)*

**FOR SACRAMENT PREPARATION OR FOR LETTERS OF ELIGIBILITY: Please contact the Parish Office.**

**NEW PARISHIONERS: Welcome!** Please take a look at our website or call to register

**Please visit our website at <https://www.psm-nj.com>**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>**

*JOHN DAMASCENE, PRIEST & DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH*

**4:00p Gary Hanna & Robert Hanna, Jr.**  
*by Don & Mary Ellen Healy*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>**

*2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

**8:00a People of the Parish**  
**10:00a Joseph & Dolores Cairone** *by Joe & Kim Darminio*

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>**

*NICHOLAS OF MYRA, BISHOP*

**9:00a A Special Intention**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>**

*AMBROSE, BISHOP & DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH*

**9:00a William Morris, Sr.** *by The Morris Family*  
**7:00p Marianne Smaczylo** *by The Wielgus Family – (SCS)*

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>**

*THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY*

**9:00a People of the Parish – (N)**  
**7:00p Dennis Monzo** *by The Fote Family – (N)*

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>**

*JUAN DIEGO CUAHTLATZIN*

**9:00a Deborah Fergen-Albert** *by Maryanne Yurkonis*

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>**

**9:00a No Parish Mass**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>**

*DAMASUS I, POPE*

**4:00p Mary Alyce Hagelstein** *by John & Sharon Tombleson*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>**

*3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

**8:00a Carmen Visalli** *by His Loving Wife, Mary*  
**10:00a People of the Parish**

**STEWARDSHIP VALUES**

*“And this is my prayer:  
that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge  
and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value ...”  
~ Philipians 1:9-10 ~*

During the Christmas shopping season it is easy to get caught up in the frenzy of buying gifts. But, is that “gift” truly an expression of your love for the other person? Or, are you just fulfilling your “obligation” to give them something? To grow in friendship with someone, you need to spend time with them, to learn what is of value to them. Maybe this year, buy less “stuff” and spend more Stewardship time with those you love.

*The power of prayer!*  
PRAY FOR HEALING

Brenda Adams, George Bromwell, Nicholas & Rob Christian, Margaret Cloak, Henry Cottelli, Jim Cesanek, Janice Donahower, Judy Dutton, Anne Ellena, Matt Healy, Ernest Henry, Sherry Jeffries, Lorraine Kreiner, Pauline LoCicero, Steven Lord, John Henry Mathiesen, Rosemary McBride, Gerry McCloskay, Eileen Mulholland, Dot Myers, Jack Nelson, Michele Resavage, Bob & Barbara Stroh, Kathryn Tanner, Karen J. Viola & Susan Webster

*If you have a family member who you would like added to the Prayer List, please ask their permission (due to the HIPAA Privacy Act) and contact the Rectory by calling 856-881-9155 or e-mailing PSMA.Rectory@gmail.com. Thank you!*

**OUR MILITARY HERO PRAYER LIST**

If you have a family member serving in one of the branches of the military, please send their name, rank, and branch of service to the Parish Office (PSMA.Rectory@gmail.com or 856-881-9155).

*Please keep our brave service people in your prayers,  
Especially those suffering from the effects of war.*

US Army

Cpl Austin Arledge, Specialist Bryan Jenkins,  
1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Shane W. McLaughlin, MAJ Eric Miller, & CPT Graham Miller

US Navy

AWR Daniel Carr, AG1 Jamie Engleman & EM2 William Little

US Air Force

AB Jacob R Custis

US Marine Corps

COW3 Brad Davis, Stg Nate McAllister, & CPT James V. Tumolo

LT JG Dominic J. Tumolo, US Navy; US Army Medic



**SANCTUARY CANDLE**

If you’ve been thinking about having the Sanctuary Candles burn in the memory of your loved one, envelopes are available in the Gathering Spaces of both the Nativity and Saint Catherine of Siena for your intentions and offering of \$10. Please contact the Parish Office with any questions at 856-881-9155.

*This week, the Sanctuary Candle  
in Nativity Church  
Burns for the Health and Well-Being of  
Morgan Tribbett*

*Requested by Dan and Karen Seniff*

*This week, the Sanctuary Candle  
in Saint Catherine of Siena Church Burns in Memory of  
Robert Sandelier*

*Requested by His Loving Family*



*It's that time of year once again ...*

The Giving Tree Project is going to be a bit different this year as we focus on specific groups of individuals and bring them some holiday cheer throughout the season of Advent.

Thank you for the tremendous response for the Seminarians of the Diocese! Vocation Director Fr. Cichoski was overwhelmed by the outpouring of generosity for the young men studying for the Priesthood.

Beginning Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> We're collecting for our local **Toys for Tots** campaign. Please bring an unwrapped toy for a child four-years-old and up. There will be boxes in the Gathering Spaces of both churches so that we can give them to our local retired Marines for distribution to children in the area.



**Parish of Saint Michael the Archangel Food Pantry**

*“God loves a Cheerful Giver”  
2 Corinthians 9:7*

Once again the holiday season is upon us. From Thanksgiving through Christmas, there is so much to do in so little time! As you're making that mad dash through your favorite grocery store, please consider picking up an item or two for our parish food pantry. Here are some suggested items but anything **nonperishable** is appreciated: **stuffing, turkey gravy, canned yams/sweet potatoes, pasta, mac & cheese, ramen noodles, applesauce, canned vegetables, soups and broths, tuna, canned chicken, rice, peanut butter, jelly, cereal and crackers. Cookies for Christmas would be a nice extra.**

You may leave your nonperishable items in the shopping carts located in the Gathering Spaces of both Nativity and St. Catherine of Siena churches, or, you may deliver them directly to the pantry at the O'Meara Conference Center **from 10:15 to 11:30a on Wednesday mornings.** There will be a bench outside the pantry on which you may leave your donations. You may honk your car horn before driving away to alert us of your presence so that we may retrieve the items. **Please, leave your food donations outside the pantry on Wednesday mornings only.**

Prefer not to shop? Monetary donations are always welcome.

**THANK YOU FOR BEING A “CHEERFUL GIVER!”**



December 5, 2021 | Second Sunday of Advent  
Bar 5:1-9 | Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 | Lk 3:1-6

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

**GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE**

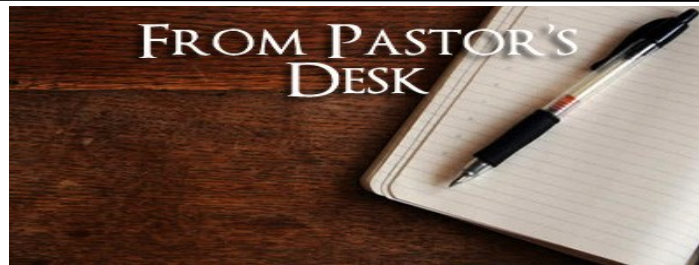
Today we have blogs and life coaches, Facebook groups and self-help books, all of which can help us become better human beings. These resources come to mind as I read St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians - I think St. Paul would be the ultimate life coach! All of his letters to the early Church offer wisdom, encouragement, and instruction, and the words we heard today are particularly significant as we prepare for Jesus' coming this Advent: "the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus." Unlike some of our modern-day resources, Paul's words go beyond simply helpful advice; they are rooted in faith and prayer, and in the truth of the Paschal Mystery. These words assure us that we are not alone on our journey, that what God has promised in the person of his Son will come to fruition: Christ will come again! And so, as John the Baptist did, we who are disciples are meant to witness to his coming, announcing the Good News and preparing for his - second - coming. Repent. Believe. "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." How do we do this? Engage with Scripture - read it and really hear what the Word of God is saying to you. Pray for insight, that the grace of God might transform you to go forth and announce the Gospel.

**ACTIONS** Re-read today's Gospel, and then consider how Saint Paul followed in John the Baptist's footsteps in his Letter to the Philippians. Think of ways you, like John and Paul, can encourage one another, and be a voice crying out in the desert. Participate in the sacrament of reconciliation and pray that God may cleanse your heart to welcome him at Christmas, and when he comes again.

**GO EVANGELIZE**

**PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

Even pre-Google, I spent more time than perhaps I should have hunting down the perfect gifts, especially for my young boys. I'd scour the ads, then get up early on Black Friday and hit the stores in search of deals and hard-to-find items. Perhaps that's why these words from St. Paul stopped me in my tracks: "And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value [italics added], so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ." During Advent, these words can both assure and challenge us - to grow in love, knowledge, and a sense of what really matters during our time on earth. For me the challenge will be to spend less time shopping this season and more time focusing on deepening my relationship with God, who is preparing to turn the darkness into light. This doesn't mean we can't take delight in finding that perfect gift; but we ought also to increase our recognition that all gifts come from God, including our ability to have access to and means to purchase material gifts. We can find joy in God's presence (and presents?) among us.



Dear Parishioners,

Saved by the bell! ... The firefighter saved the baby from sure death ... The relief pitcher saved the game ... We hear the word “save” frequently in our everyday chatter and know what it means: to be rescued from a bad situation, from danger, from an unwanted outcome. This weekend’s Gospel doesn’t use the word “save,” but instead “salvation.” What does it mean to “see the salvation of God” that Isaiah the Prophet foretold? Here the meaning of “save” is not quite so straightforward. Much more is promised than being rescued. In fact, what the Gospel is about is not so much being saved from as being saved by and for.

John quite clearly tells us how we are saved: seek “*repentance for the forgiveness of sins.*” We are to actively level out the mountains and valleys of our own lives. We are to “make straight” our relationship with God and with others. We sometimes don’t understand nor are we aware of the critical importance of repentance and forgiveness in our relationships with each other, and how critical they are for our salvation. Baruch’s prophesy of a glorious future was fulfilled when Israel returned from exile (First Reading and Responsorial Psalm). Isaiah’s prophesy of future glory quoted in the Gospel (“*all flesh shall see the salvation of God*”) is fulfilled when we return to God through repentance and forgiveness. “*Repentance for the forgiveness of sins*” is an essential requirement for us to “*see the salvation of God.*” We are saved by the actions of God for putting on “*the splendor of glory from God forever*” (First Reading).

The salvation of God is progressively revealed in repentance (our work) and forgiveness (God’s work). The meandering paths and winding roads of our lives are straightened, and the valleys filled, and mountains brought low when our lives are characterized by attitudes of repentance. To repent means to change one’s mind ... to change one’s life. This is how we reach the fulness that is promised. This is how we reach our true home. “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength ... and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.*” By increasing our love for one another, by discerning “*what is of true value,*” and by being “*filled with the fruit of righteousness*” (Second Reading). Our work of repentance is a matter of turning ourselves toward the God who embraces us in mercy and forgiveness and welcomes us home. Our work of repentance is our response to the word-invitation to “*see the salvation of God.*” We are to hear the “Word of God” and to act on it. **Do we? ... How well?**

Let’s be honest. It’s not just the busyness of Christmas preparations now in full December fury that distracts us from our ongoing work of repentance and forgiveness. Every day of the year we tend to be distracted by mountains of work, paths of indecision, and valleys of doubt and fear. Like John the Baptist, we are to hear “the Word of God” that comes to us ... that challenges us to embrace a more God-like way of living ... that not only promises salvation but shows us the path to it.

Changing our lives to live more faithfully Gospel values is not easy. Nor do we ever get to a point in our daily living when we have arrived at the mountain top and no longer need to act on God’s Word, change our minds about what is most important to us, open ourselves to God’s forgiveness of our wrongdoing, and learn how we in turn are to forgive others. This is the path to salvation. It is not an easy one. But it is a rewarding one.

May Saint Michael the Archangel defend, guide, protect, and intercede for us always!

Fr. Larry

<https://www.pasma-nj.com>

... is our Parish Website address. On it you can find a lot of information about our faith, about the Parish, a lot of useful "how-to's" ... to become a member of the Parish, to arrange for Baptisms or Weddings or what you need to do to obtain a Letter of Eligibility. There are also videos about the Sacraments and links for many useful and informative Catholic websites.

At the lower right-hand side of the main page is also a form where you can sign up to obtain periodic e-mails to keep you informed about Parish happenings. These "blasts" are sent out periodically to keep you up-to-date. If you would like to receive these e-mails, please sign up. If you've signed up in the past but haven't gotten an e-mail lately, please resubscribe to the site.



**Monday:** Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk 5:17-26

**Tuesday:** Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-2, 3, 10ac, 11-12, 13; Mt 18:12-14

**Wednesday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

**Thursday:** Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

**Friday:** Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6; Mt 11:16-19

**Saturday:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

**Sunday:** Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18



**Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**

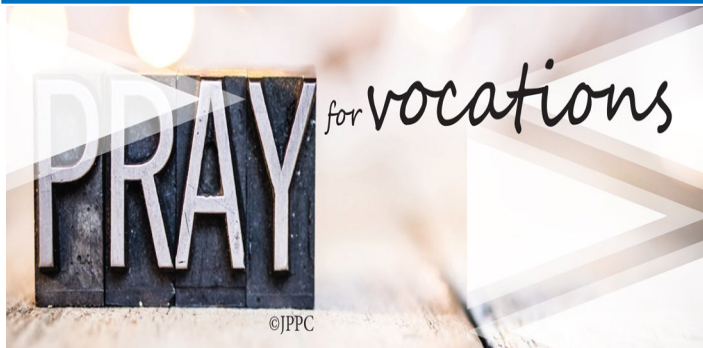
is the

**Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**  
and a **Holy Day of Obligation**.

**Masses for the Holy Day:**

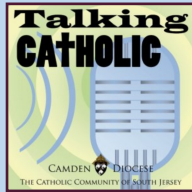
Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7p  
in Saint Catherine of Siena, Clayton.

Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 9a and 7p  
in Nativity Church, Franklinville.





This Special Collection will be December 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>.



Please know that you can easily find Diocesan audio podcasts and YouTube resources from local Catholic experts, produced by the Office of Communications with the Catholic Star Herald, to share with others at [talking.catholicstarherald.org/](http://talking.catholicstarherald.org/)

Subscribe to these YouTube channels to view all videos:

Subscribe to the Catholic Star Herald YouTube channel:

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCLK-2e35CrjDzJIprO6s4Q](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLK-2e35CrjDzJIprO6s4Q)

Subscribe to the Talking Catholic YouTube channel:

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCKPigUniIpN77DldUfyweow](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKPigUniIpN77DldUfyweow)

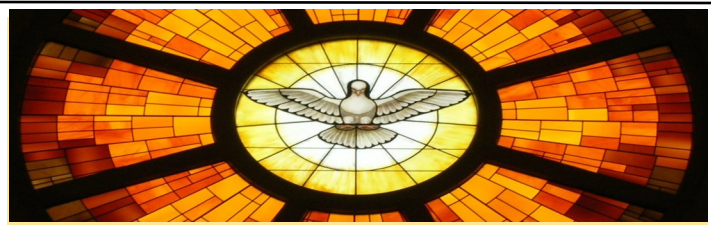
### **Catholic Charities Donation Drive for Afghan Families**

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Camden continues to work with newly-arrived families from Afghanistan, and we are expecting more families to be arriving soon. To prepare for their arrival, we welcome you to participate in our donation drive. We've created a Wishlist of items based on needs of the families who are coming, and it will be updated regularly. You can find the Wishlist and a flyer by visiting [www.CatholicCharitiesCamden.org/Afghan-Support](http://www.CatholicCharitiesCamden.org/Afghan-Support) and clicking the "Wishlist" button. We thank you for your generosity and for welcoming our new neighbors!



<https://camdendiocese.org/livestreammass/>

You can use the above link to for live-stream Masses in the Diocese, outside the Diocese, or on the radio.



We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
 as we gather together in Your name.  
 With You alone to guide us.  
 make Yourself at home in our hearts.  
 Teach us the way we must go  
 and how we are to pursue it.  
 We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.  
 Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
 nor partiality influence our actions.  
 Let us find in you our unity  
 so that we may journey together to eternal life  
 and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.  
 All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time,  
 in the communion of the Father and the Son.  
 forever and ever.  
 Amen.



**Sexual abuse is a crime that must be reported, investigated and responded to so that victims are protected and those who commit abuse are removed from ministry.**

**A special toll-free number has been established to help callers report cases of sexual abuse by priests, deacons, religious, employees and/or volunteers. In accord with state law, cases of child sexual abuse are reported to the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency.**

**For information or to inquire about counseling and support services, contact the Victims Assistance Coordinator at 1-800-964-6588.**

THE DIOCESE OF CAMDEN

