

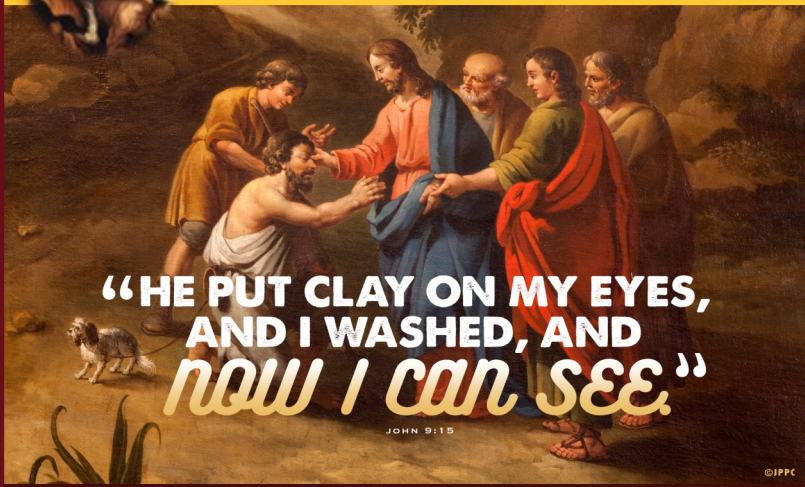


ST MICHAEL'S PARISH

A DIVERSE SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY IN ACTION

MARCH 29, 2020

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



"HE PUT CLAY ON MY EYES,
AND I WASHED, AND
now I can see."

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Msgr. Anselm I. Nwaorgu, *Pastor*
Rev. Camilo Lopez, *Parochial Vicar*
Rev. Charles B. McDermott, *Pastor Emeritus*
Deacon Michael Cavallo, *Permanent Deacon*
Mrs. Marilynn Dragone, *Coordinator of Religious Education*
Mr. Philip Matrale, *Pastoral Associate for Youth Ministry*
Mr. Peter Petrecca, *Music Director*
Ms. Fran Engleman, *9:00 am Choirmaster*
Mr. Patrick B. Phillips, *12:00 Noon Choirmaster*
Mrs. Rebekah Scicolone, *Principal*

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE Saturday 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK

Notify a priest of all who are hospitalized or home bound

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms: 2nd Sunday of the month at 1:30 pm
Baptism preparation: 2nd Friday evening at 7:30 pm
Call parish office to register (908-688-1232)

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE Contact a priest at the parish at least no less than eight months prior to booking your wedding date.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

Adults wishing to join the Catholic Church or who are baptized but have not made their First Communion/Confirmation should please contact the parish office for full information and guidance.

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (CCD)

Grade 1-8 religious formation for First Penance and First Communion please call the Parish Religious Education office (908-964-0965).

YOUTH MINISTRY

A comprehensive youth program for all teens from 9th to 12th grade. Our program prepares teens for Confirmation, promotes growth in Catholic values and morals, provides opportunities for Christian service and offers positive social activities. For further information call the Youth Ministry Office.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

All parishioners need to be registered.
Please call the Parish Office for registration or information.

Mission Statement

St. Michael the Archangel Parish is dedicated to growing disciples, drawing people to Christ and making church and worship matter. We do this through our liturgical worship, the proclamation of the Good News, and living out our stewardship of time, talent, and treasure.

Mass Schedule

SUNDAY

5:30 pm (Saturday Evening)
7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 Noon

DAILY

Monday ► Friday:

7:00 am, 8:30 am, 12:00 Noon

Saturday: 8:30 am

Holy Days: Announced in the bulletin

Address

1212 Kelly Street, Union, New Jersey 07083

Telephones

Rectory/Parish Center: 908-688-1232
Rectory/Parish Center Fax: 908-810-1076
School: 908-688-1063
Religious Education Office: 908-964-0965
Youth Ministry Office: 908-686-3762
Email: stmichaelunion@comcast.net
Stay Connected:



www.stmichaelunion.org



stmichaelparishunion



stmichaelunion



stmichaelchurch

Devotions

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATIONS

Every 1st Sunday and 1st Friday 6:30 pm

DEVOTION TO OUR BLESSED MOTHER

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

Wednesdays 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays, 1st, 2nd and 4th 7:00 pm

BOLD AND CATHOLIC REFLECTION

3rd Saturdays 9:00 am

ADVENT REFLECTION

Every Saturday of Advent 9:00 am

LENTEN REFLECTION

Every Friday of Lent 7:00 pm
Every Saturday of Lent 9:00 am

Wellness Ministry

Dance & Wellness Classes

Saturdays 9:30 am, Mondays 7:00 pm

Message From Our Pastor

DEALING WITH THE PRESENT DARKNESS: COVID—19

As the impact of coronavirus COVID-19 begins to unfold in all its present and future dimensions, the one thing we need right now, I believe, is some light in the darkness of this moment. The experience of darkness seem to be all over us; it seems to be one darkness after another—mass shootings, hurricanes, fire outbreaks, storms, ecological disasters, virus pandemics; you name it. Each darkness brings along with it all levels of brokenness—broken people, broken families, broken relationships, broken hearts, broken minds, broken spirits; in short, we are living in a broken world. It is in the midst of all this brokenness that coronavirus COVID-19 rears up its head.

To eradicate this present threat to humanity, we have responded with measures like—shot-downs, stay-at-home, keep social distancing, etc. These are very good measures that must be followed! Yet, I wonder about the new areas of darkness and brokenness that these solutions are about to create. A friend of mine said that it is better for him to stay outside and deal with coronavirus COVID-19 than to stay at home and deal with coronavirus COVID-30—referring to his spouse. Many couples are not used to spending time together in the same space and have not done so for so many years, and now they must do it 24/7—God have mercy. There are many single and married persons whose social lives revolve around work, church, and social groups and settings, who must now stay at home—talk about loneliness and disillusionment. Many kids are at home with no place to go and need to expend their excessive energies in very close quarters—May God deliver them from each other, and from driving their parents crazy.

My point is that, I worry about the psycho-social effects of this new arrangement. The longer we stay in it, the more the adverse effects will begin to manifest—heightened increase in family violence, rage, anger, impatience, unwholesome talk, bitterness, brawling, slander, all forms of malice, separation and divorce, depression, suicide, homicide, addiction, psychotic episodes; you name it—Counseling and Clinical Psychologists get ready. Sad to say, a heightened increase in abortion may also come into play as many more babies are going to be made during this period of stay-at-home; and on flip side, I hope that, 9 month from now, hospitals would be fully equipped to handle the number of children headed into our world—this is a blessing.

In the midst of all this possible brokenness and darkness, how do we respond? How do we seek and maintain hope? How do we source light, and where can we source this light from? Do we sit back, fight with each other and catastrophize the future, or do we find ways to turn this adversity into opportunity? Here, the Word of God gives us hope as Jesus declares, "I am the light of the World".

As Boy Scouts, we were taught that if you do not know your bearings and you are lost in the woods or at night, if per chance you see a glimpse of light in the distance, walk toward it because that light represents hope; it represents life; it represents the possibility of help. In the midst of our present darkness, there is light that we can follow and come into life; a light that can bring hope into this hopelessness; a light that can provide guidance in this moment of confusion; a light that can bring comfort and consolation in the midst of this disillusionment; a light that can call us to compassion and love in the present bubble of desperation and dissipation. That light, that power and energy is Jesus Christ, our Lord, our Savior, and our Redeemer.

If Jesus is the light of the world, then, He is also the light in the darkness and brokenness of my life. In that case, I can truly use this moment of time-off in two great ways. First, as an opportunity to reflect upon the areas of darkness in my life—darkness within myself, with relatives, friends and co-workers; darkness in the way I see and threat myself, my spouse, my children, my parents and others; darkness in my responsibilities and how I am responding to something that God is calling or asking me to do, etc. This can be a beautiful time for personal growth.

Secondly, it is also a time I can spend considering seriously where I am in my relationship with God and His Son, Jesus Christ. The questions to ask is: Am I one-on-one, side-by-side, shoulder-to-shoulder with Jesus? What role is He playing in my life right now, in my relationships, in my family, in my endeavors, in my decisions, in my aspirations, and in my person, as a whole? Is He on the periphery, or is He right on the center stage? Where am I with the spirit of forgiveness, compassion, mercy, kindness, faithfulness, generosity, and patience? Remember the words of Scriptures, "Tomorrow is not a promise" for "We neither know the day, nor the hour"

At the wedding in Cana, it was because Jesus' cousin kept Him close-by, through invitation, that He was able to help out by supplying needed wine when they ran out. The closer we are to the Lord, the closer we are to that light we desperately need to remedy the darkness in our times, and the darkness in our lives. The closer we are to the Lord, the more we can experience the power and deliverance that only His presence can provide. The further away we are from Him, the more vulnerable we are to the principalities and power of darkness. This may sound like a crèche, but believe me, it is not; it is a living truth.

Keeping Jesus close is as simple as calling upon His name as many times in a day as we can; invoking his presence in the environment of our life and work; invoking His power for our protection and the protection of our families; invoking His strength for our sustenance; invoking His wisdom for our guidance and understanding, invoking his mercy and compassion for the forgiveness of our sins; etc. Like the Publican, in the story of the Pharisee and the Publican in the Bible, we need to always pray: "Father forgive me for I am a sinner", and then do our best to constantly forgive everyone who has sinned against us. These are dangerous times, my friends, let no one carry unforgiveness in their hearts, for Scripture says that no unforgiving spirit will see God. Far more important than what Coronavirus is doing, is where we are in life with God, self and others. When it comes to coronavirus, this too shall pass!

Msgr. Anselm

MASS INTENTIONS & Stewardship of Treasure

Saturday 5:30 pm	March 28 Roger Boetsch
Sunday 10:00 am	March 29 For the Parishioners, Julian Pruzkowski, McMahon (34th Ann.), Angea Spalliero-Aviles
Monday 12:00 Noon	March 30 Charles A. Ericksen, Godwin Ubanii, Novena of Masses
Tuesday 12:00 Noon	March 31 Robert Votapek, Liz Scanlon, Emilia & Brenda Rumohr
Wednesday 12:00 Noon	April 1 Jose Calisin, Thomas Kachelriess (1st Ann.), Mark Dravis
Thursday 12:00 Noon	April 2 Novena of Masses, Manuela Preval, Patricia Dravis
Friday 12:00 Noon	April 3 Yvette Meehan (Living), Godwin Ubanii, Julieta D. Diamante, Anna Rogeste
Saturday (1st Ann.)	April 4 Luis & Manuel Alvero, Mario Cadena
Sunday 10:00 am	April 5 For the Parishioners, Anthony Walano, Anthony Marchitello, Elizabeth, Donato & Joe Pacicco

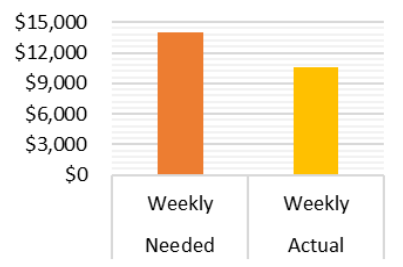
ALTAR OFFERINGS

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

"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**

3/8/2020	Needed Weekly	Actual Weekly	Deficit Weekly
Collection & SOS	\$14,090	\$10,708	(\$3,382)

As you can see what we needed to cover the cost of our operations this week is **\$14,090**. What we actually received is **\$10,708**, so we are short **\$3,382**. Do please consider what you can do to help cover this deficit.



Thank you for your continued generosity!

"SOS COLLECTION"

On the first weekend of each month, the first collection is the "SOS" collection. This collection is dedicated specifically for our utility bills and emergency Church repairs.

The next SOS collection is the weekend of April 4 & 5, 2020.

Thank you for blessing our Church.

Adorations, Devotions & Reflections

No Religious Education and No CYO until further notice.

No Stations of the Cross on Fridays and No Wednesday Marian Devotions until further notice.

No Tuesday Contemporary Choir Practice until further notice.

No Dance & Wellness Class until further notice.

Fifth Sunday of Lent Hymnal # 1028

First Reading

Ezekiel 37:12-14

God will open the graves and restore the people of Israel.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 130:1-8

With the Lord is forgiveness and mercy.

Second Reading

Romans 8:8-11

The Spirit of God dwells in you.

Gospel Reading

John 11:1-45 (shorter version John 11:3-7,17,20-27,33b-45)

Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

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.



MINISTRY Information

ALTAR SERVERS SCHEDULE

Time	March 21 - 22 4 th Sunday of Lent	March 28-29 5 th Sunday of Lent
5:30 pm	Angel Rodriguez Jonathan Rodriguez Morgan Labranche Jerome Fernandez Jianna Fernandez	Alyssa De la Cruz Alexis Artiga Blanca Salas Mariana Salas Ana Ruiz
7:30 am	Uguchi Adibemma Uzonna Adibemma Jarlene Estopia	David Bernot Cherry Vibar
9:00 am	Jean Felix Alisha James Aidan Perez Nathan De Guzman	Megan Felix Julian Felix Jewelz Massicot Joshua Laube Nicholas Laube
10:30 am	Johnnuel Magno Nwando Melie Joshua Omoruyi Samuel Ilagan Samuel Nnadi Precious Nnadi	Joshua Estoque Kamsi Emeh Carmella Mendoza Ian Galing Ryenne Ramah Aidan Perez
12:00 Noon	Ginika Ozurumba Gabriel Castano David Punzalan	Lance Fernandez Aimee Cabatu-Panlilio Reginald Mondesir

CYO/YOUTH MINISTRY News

cyounion@aol.com



Stay strong everyone and trust in the Lord!

Our CYO members are staying strong through our connections on social media, group chats and **especially through prayer!** Many of us have been able to connect, talk, share and pray even while physically not being together.

We've been in contact with our friends at the Cheshire Home (Quadriplegic Center) and the ARC (Disabled Children) as well. Let's continue special prayers for them and as soon as this passes we will restart our monthly visits. God Bless you all!

L.O.C.K.D.O.W.N. is a time to:

L-isten to God's voice and reflect. Let go and let God.
O-bey His Word and His teachings.
C-all on Jesus name and be calm.
K-now what is the purpose of all this.
D-well in His presence. Do not panic.
O-ffer a prayer for everyone's safety.
W-ait and be patient.
N-urture our personal relationship with Him.

MINISTRY Information

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE HOURS

Hours for the Religious Education Office are
Monday through Thursday from
9:00 am until 4:00 pm.

Other hours are available by appointment.
Contact Coordinator: Marilynn Dragone at
(908) 964-0965.

We can also be reached via e-mail at
smccd@comcast.net

PARENTS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STUDENTS:

Please make sure your child continues to work in the religious education books as they need to be completed before the end of the school year.

PARENTS OF CHILDREN PREPARING FOR FIRST COMMUNION:

I'm sure many of you are wondering if First Communion dates will be changed. It's too early to say whether or not they will be. Below is the latest statement from the Archdiocese:

"Under Cardinal Tobin's directive, all public celebrations of the Sacraments and other public forms of worship are also suspended until further notice. This includes, but is not limited to, previously scheduled Confirmations, celebrations of First Communion, penitential services, Communion services, and Liturgies of the Word."

Unfortunately we don't know how long this will last. As soon as I hear any updates, I will let you know.

RICE BOWLS

Rice Bowls are available in the Church.
Please consider taking one and donating to the missions that help people throughout the world.

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS!

Any parishioners who have experience running **BINGO AND CARNIVALS** please contact the Parish Center (908) 688-1232.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

SR. ANN'S FOOD PANTRY

Please consider donating some canned or non-perishable food items so we can help feed those in need. Food may be dropped off at the Church or at the Parish Center. Thank you!

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH MUSIC MINISTRY

St. Michael's Church offers a variety of musical styles at the following masses:

Saturday, 5:30 pm and Sunday, 10:30 am

Traditional and Contemporary Music

Sunday, 9:00 am and 12 noon

Gospel/Contemporary Worship Music



The 12:00 Noon Contemporary Band and Choir is looking for volunteers who can play the bass, guitar or sing.

Rehearsals: 7:30 pm on Tuesdays in the Church. Contact: Patrick B. Phillips at patrickphillips96@gmail.com

MINISTRY Information

HANDS OF GRACE (HUGS) MINISTRY

We are in need of clothing, sanitary and feeding items for children (**New born to Age 5**) and for mothers. Please call **Tania Massicot** at (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 our website at www.stmichaelunion.org (Click on the Parish Giving Icon).

"Drop Box"

The **New** Drop Box for the Hands of Grace Ministry is located at the Back Entrance of the Parish Center (**Red Door**).

Please call the Parish Center at (908) 688-1232 or the Ministry Chair, **Bisi Longe** at (908) 247-4461 if you have any questions.



Our next Grace Bags Distribution Day is Tuesday, March 24th, at the Parish Center located at 1211 Orange Avenue from **12:00 to 2:00 pm**.

ST. MICHAEL'S SENIOR NEWS

St Michael's Senior Club will meet on Monday, **April 20th**. Doors will open at 11:30 for coffee and social time. Our general meeting will begin at 12 Noon in the lower church.

Guest Speaker-Terri Maranda from the Union Tax Office. Ms. Maranda will speak on the Senior Freeze.

Upcoming Events:

May 4th- Attic Treasures shopping and meeting.

May 18th Senator Joseph Cryan will be our guest speaker.

Remember the '**Penny Jar**' to support parish initiatives.



"To Teach, To Guide, To Guard"

St. Michael School is a community of faith within the vibrant and diverse Saint Michael Parish. Our ministry of the Word is the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ - a message of hope. Each child is seen as a whole person on a developmental progression with individual differences, but with basically similar learning needs: spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional and physical. Our goal is to educate every child who enters our doors.

St. Michael School registration for September is now open for grades Prek-3, Prek-4 and kindergarten - 8th grade. To schedule an individual tour please contact the principal at rscolone@smsunion.org or call (908) 688-1063.

Come tour and explore our amazing school!

NOVENA of Masses

MARCH 2020

Ann L. Corrigan	Jose J. Arnaldo
Jurusik & Arner Families	Alejandro T. Cruz
Mary & Idolo Russomano	John & Augusta Mahon
George Rinehart	James Ford Sr.
Roger Boetsch	Special Intentions
Micheline & Joseph Kmetz	Craig Calix (Living)
Donna Hornig	Leopold Enwonwu
Pierre & Rubineti Families	Frank Rubineti, Sr.
Louis Sauro	Luigi Sauro
Jennie "Pat" Pruszkowski	Rev. Matthias Conva
Raizza Jean Gonzales (Living)	Susan De Jesus
Kathleen Turner (Living)	All Souls in Purgatory
Donna Davidson (1st Ann.)	
Felicitas Onday (Living) - For Health	
Victorino Mendoza (Living) - For Health	
Loi Panes (Living) - For Health	
Ann Marie Bentivegna (1st Ann.)	
George Sr., Ruth & Barbara Rinehart	
Deceased Members of the Galgo Family	
Living & Deceased Members of the Santoriello Family	
In thanks for God's blessings on the USA	
Living & Deceased Members of the Pruszkowski, Endler, Hornig & Macecsko Families	
Living & Deceased Members of the Czapla, Leniart & McMahon Families	
Patsy Scalgione & Deceased Family Members	
Special Intentions for the Nwosuh & Odoemene Families	
Lucila Sousa Araujo and Manuel Pereira Araujo	
Living & Deceased Members of Araujo, Pais & Cadenas Families	

PRAYERS OF HEALING FOR,

Please remember in your prayers all those who are sick especially Fr. Lawrence Murphy, Joanne Kalkus, Terry & Tony Russo, Joanne Milana Doman & Joseph Doman, Rakoczy Family, Mary Ann Flynn, Joyce Toth, Brian Phillips, Lucille Arnaldo, Barbara Lombardi, Manuel Crudo, Josephine Steinberg, Julia Astsalk, Frances Machado, Flossie Abrigo, Roselle Roux, Amanda D'Amato, Richard Abrigo, Jean Claude, Claubette Kallabeen, Carol Czapla, Stephen Czapla, Clarence Roberts, Thomasina Rodriguez, Harry Vendemia, Iluminda Duyan, Ruth Guido, Henry Cababe, Joseph Guid, Salve Ching, Maria Santiago, Dr. Vic Tan, Sam Vincent Milana, Beth Barto, Linda Atwell, Targelia Penafiel, Herlinda Castillo, Anthony Reo, Gregory Ward, Marie Mate, David Randolph, Fr. Roy Regaspi, Junia Perez & Virginia Hernandez.

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.

For this week, we especially remember
members of St. Michael's Parish.

Announcements

2020 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

VIRTUAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday, March 13, 20, 27, April 3
7:00 pm, Church

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday, April 4
1:00-2:00 pm – Individual Confessions

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Saturday, April 4 at 5:30 pm
Sunday, April 5 at 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am and
12:00 noon
Distribution of Palms at all Masses

Monday of the Week, April 6 at 8:00 pm

Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart,
Newark with Archbishop Cardinal Tobin

Wednesday of the Week, April 8

Penance Service with Individual Confession
7:00-8:30 pm

**No confessions on Holy Thursday, Good Friday
and Holy Saturday**

Holy Thursday, April 9

8:30 am – Morning Prayer
7:00 pm – Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by
Vigil & Adoration

Good Friday, April 10

8:30 am – Morning Prayer
2:00 pm – Walk of Our Lord (Stations of the Cross)
3:30 pm – Celebration of the Passion
7:30 pm – CYO Living Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday, April 11

8:30 am – Morning Prayer/Reflections
12:00 Noon – Blessing of Food
8:00 pm – Easter Vigil

No Confession/No 5:30 pm Mass

Easter Sunday, April 12

SAVE THE DATE: EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2020

10:30 am - 12:00 Noon

Church Grounds

Rain Location: Lower Church



UNION COLUMBIETTES

Union Columbiettes will be having a **Pocketbook Bingo/Tricky Tray Saturday, April 18 at Kenilworth VFW**. Doors open at 5 pm and calling starts at 7 pm. **Admission \$25.00** (includes a set of bingo boards for 10 games, dauber, coffee, tea and cake). For ticket info contact Dlupo41@aol.com or 908 577 6606.

Announcements

LENTEN SERIES SPEAKERS

Our Friday night **LENTEN TALKS** have been cancelled.

ALTAR SERVER CAPES

Dear Parishioners,

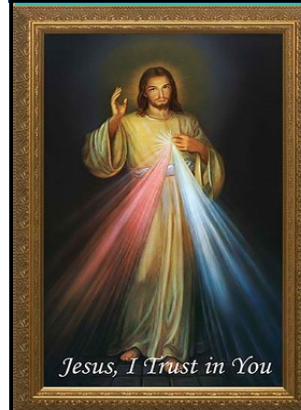
We are still in need of donors for the new Altar Server Capes. Please call the Parish Center Office (908) 688-1232, ext. 100 if you are interested in donating.

Thank you for your continued generosity!



THE FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY

The Feast of Divine Mercy will be celebrated at St. Michael's on **Sunday, April 19th at 3:00 pm** in Church.



SAVE THE DATE: 2ND DANCE FOR A CAUSE

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2020

4:00 - 8:00 pm

\$30 per person, includes FOOD and DRINKS

Music provided by: DJ Dano Lumanog

For more information, please contact:

Angie Zoleta — 908-265-2701

Resy Milora-Dilag — 908-416-2732



ATTENTION PARISHIONERS:

You can use the Altar Offerings -

Altar Bread, Altar Wine and Sanctuary Lamp can be used for Thanksgiving, in gratitude and special intentions.