

ST. MICHAEL & ST. JOSEPH PARISHES



189 Essex Street, Fall River, MA 02720
 TELEPHONE: 508.672.6713
 WEBSITE: www.smpfr.org
 FACEBOOK: "St. Michael's Church and School"



1335 North Main Street, Fall River, MA 02720
 TELEPHONE: 508.673.1123
 WEBSITE: www.stjosephschurchfr.com
 FACEBOOK: "St. Joseph's Church"

Parish Office at St. Joseph's Rectory, 1335 North Main St., Fall River
 Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00AM-3:00PM Friday 9:00AM-12:00PM

<u>ADORATION</u>	<u>HOLY MASS</u>		<u>CONFESSION</u>
<p><u>St. Michael's</u></p> <p>Daily Adoration Chapel Open 8AM-8PM</p> <p><u>St. Joseph's</u></p> <p>Tuesdays 6:00-7:00PM Benediction 6:45PM</p>	<p><u>St. Joseph's</u></p> <p><u>Daily Mass (9AM)</u> Tuesday Thursday Saturday</p> <p><u>Weekends</u> Saturday 5:15PM Sunday 7:00AM 10:45AM</p> <p>* NO 7PM Mass Memorial Day - Labor Day.*</p>	<p><u>St. Michael's</u></p> <p><u>Daily Mass</u> Monday (Eng) 9AM Wednesday (Eng) 8:30AM Friday (Port) 9AM</p> <p><u>Weekends</u> Saturday 4:00PM (Eng) Sunday 9:30AM (Eng) 12PM (Port) * 7PM (Eng)</p>	<p><u>St. Michael's</u></p> <p>Wednesdays 5-5:30PM Saturday 3-3:30PM</p> <p><u>St. Joseph's</u></p> <p>Tuesdays 6-6:45PM Saturday 9:30-10:30AM</p> <p>Any time by appointment.</p>

DECEMBER 17, 2023

WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL'S AND ST. JOSEPH'S

St. Michael's and St. Joseph's in the North End of the city of Fall River are two parishes that have come together to share our resources to effectively accomplish our common mission—to preach, teach and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for His glory and the salvation of souls. If you are visiting or are new to our parish, please introduce yourself to our Pastor, Fr. Jay. Please know how welcome you are here. God bless

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Jay Mello, Pastor [frjmello@diocese-fr.org]

Deacon Paul Levesque [paul.levesque@comcast.net]

Mrs. Shanna Lubold, Director of Pastoral Services [stjosephsfallriver@gmail.com]

Mrs. Lisa Ouellette, Director of Religious Education [louellette@smsfr.dfrcs.org]

Mrs. Ana Lucy Mello, Confirmation Coordinator [analuciamello910@gmail.com]

Mr. Ryan Klein, Principal [rklein@smsfr.dfrcs.org]

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve

4PM - St. Joseph's

5:30PM - St. Michael's

Christmas Day

12AM Midnight Mass - St. Michael's
(bilingual)

7AM - St. Joseph's

9AM - St. Michael's (Portuguese)

11AM - St. Joseph's

WELCOMING PEOPLE TO MASS AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a wonderful opportunity for us to be witnesses of our Catholic Faith and to invite others to share our joy. As we prepare for the celebration of Christmas, I invite you to consider two things: First, making a deliberate point to invite people to join you for Mass this Christmas. We have all heard the expression, "Keep Christ in Christmas" but let us also remember to "Keep Mass in Christmas" (Christmas is Christ's Mass). Your simple invitation can have a huge impact on one's life. Second, let us remember the virtue of hospitality. There are many guests who will be joining us for Mass on Christmas who are not normally here. Let us give them a reason to want to come back next Sunday - a warm welcome to our Church and parish community. Please extend that hospitality to the parking lot as well! Be joyful! Be welcoming!

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISHES

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events at Saint Michael's (SM) and Saint Joseph's (SJ)

December 18th - Study Group, 10AM (SJ)
- Portuguese Confessions, 6PM
(Espirito Santo Church)

December 19th - Bible Study, 9:30AM (SJ)
- Portuguese Confessions, 11AM
(Santo Cristo Church)
- Adoration/Confessions, 6PM (SJ)

December 20th - Rel. Ed. Class, 6:15PM (SJ)

December 21st - School Christmas Concert,
1PM (SM)

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

It's just the way the calendar works! Next weekend we celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent on Saturday evening and Sunday Morning as normal. However, because Christmas (December 25th) falls on a Monday, Christmas Eve Masses will begin on Sunday evening. Practically speaking, this means that next week all Catholics are to attend Mass TWICE - once for the 4th Sunday of Advent and once for Christmas - even if that means attending Mass twice on Sunday (once in the morning and then the Christmas Eve Vigil). I know that might seem like a lot but what better way to celebrate Christmas. Say a prayer for me, it also means a LOT of Masses for me to celebrate.

BLESSING OF BABY JESUS STATUES

There is a beautiful tradition in the church of having a blessing of the Baby Jesus figures for nativity scenes in the days leading up to Christmas. I invite anyone who would like to have their baby Jesus blessed to bring them to Church next weekend, December 16th and 17th and I will bless as you leave Mass. Nativity sets in our homes are such a beautiful way to bring the true meaning of Christmas into our daily lives.

NEW PASTORAL LETTER FROM FR. JAY

With the start of Advent and the beginning of a new liturgical year, I take this opportunity to make available a letter I have written to each parishioner with the hope that it might enhance your life of faith and devotion. Following the theme of my last two letters and in keeping with the efforts of the National Eucharistic Revival, this letter is about our worthy reception of Holy Communion. Copies are available at the entrance of each Church.

MONDAY MORNING STUDY GROUP

Deacon Paul leads a study group for those searching to get more out of their faith. Through Scripture stories, commentary, and questions for reflection and discussion, we'll learn how to receive the freedom and the new life Jesus died to give us. These sessions take place every Monday at 10AM.

BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible Study, led by Deacon Paul, takes place on Tuesdays at 9:30AM at St. Joseph's School. The focus will be on the following week's readings. For more information, please see Deacon Paul.

RECENTLY MARRIED

Congratulations to Katheryn Ferreira and Jonathan Ferreira who recently had their marriage blessed at St. Joseph's Church. May the Lord grant them a happy and holy marriage! Anyone interested in getting married, or having their civil marriages blessed by the Church, they should see Fr. Jay or call the rectory.

SAVE THE DATE - WINE TASTING

Save the date of Saturday, February 3rd for the 12th annual St. Michael School Wine and Appetizer Tasting fundraiser. The event features wine, beer, spirits and appetizer tasting, as well as dancing, raffles and a silent auction. Please contact the parish office if you would like to sponsor this event.

HOLY SEASON OF ADVENT

ADVENT CONFESSIONS

What better way to prepare for Christmas than by examining our consciences and going to confession to receive our Lord's mercy and forgiveness. Our regular confession schedule is Tuesday from 6-7PM and Saturday from 9:30-10:30AM at St. Joseph's, and from 5-5:30PM on Wednesday, and 3-3:30PM on Saturday at St. Michael's Church. Confession guides and Examination of Conscience guides are available on the parish websites.

"GIVING TREE" TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

This Advent, please visit the Giving Tree at the entrance of each church to drop off a gift card of any denomination for Walmart, Target or Amazon to help a family in need. Please return all gift cards no later than this Sunday, December 17th. No toys or other gifts will be expected this year, only gift cards please. Please let us know if you are in need of assistance.

ASSISTANCE DURING THE HOLIDAYS

If you are in need of assistance during the holiday season and winter months, please contact the parish office or Fr. Jay directly. Our parishes have a very active Outreach Committee that works those in need.

CHOIR REHEARSALS FOR CHRISTMAS

If you would like to sing in the choir for our Christmas Masses, rehearsals will be as follows:

St. Michael Midnight Mass - 5:30-6:30PM
December 19th and 21st

St. Joseph Vigil Mass - 6:45-7:45PM
December 19th and 21st

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

During December, in both the collection envelope mailings as well as in the back of the church, you will find Christmas Memorial envelopes. With these envelopes, your donation is asked as an offering for flowers to decorate our sanctuary during the Christmas season in memory of a loved one. The list with all the names of those remembered will be published on Christmas Day.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CATECHESIS ON HOLY MASS

Some people like to say a prayer of thanksgiving after Mass. If we see someone praying quietly, we should respect their silence and move away before we speak with people as we leave. Do unto others...! Finally, we should try to exercise proper behavior as we drive away. Avoid “the sins of the parking lot.” By this I mean that just after we have spent an hour worshipping God at Mass, as we begin to drive home, we can be tempted to lose our temper as we leave the parking lot: if we are cut off or if we are subjected to the rude manners of others. Life is too short! Say a prayer for the other person and move on. With this I close out this series. As I wrote it each week, I wondered whether I was just being a pain, but many people have thanked me. If I have offended, I ask pardon. My first purpose was not to rail or complain, but rather to improve our experience of parish worship at Holy Mass. That’s what it’s all about!

PRAYER OF 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.

YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

The following dates have been scheduled for our Jr. Youth Group and High School Youth Group events.

Junior Youth Group -
Friday, January 26th, 7-9PM at St. Michael’s

High School Youth Group -
Friday, January 19th, 7-9PM at St. Michael’s

ONLINE GIVING

Online Giving is now available for parishioners with WeShare, an easy and convenient way to save time and support the church. Donating is simple, safe, and completely secure. If you have any questions or concerns about the program, contact the parish office. To enroll in Online Giving, please visit:

St. Joseph’s: stjosephschurchfr.weshareonline.org
St. Michael’s: smpfr.weshareonline.org

**CHURCH SUPPORT
ST. MICHAEL’S**

December 9-10, 2023

First Collection: \$3,359.00
Retired Religious Collection: \$ 522.00

Next Weekend’s Second Collection
Church Maintenance Collection

**CHURCH SUPPORT
ST. JOSEPH’S**

December 2-3, 2023

First Collection: \$4,898.00
Retired Religious Collection: \$ 572.00

Next Weekend’s Second Collection
Church Maintenance Collection

ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL



Mr. Ryan Klein, Principal - rklein@smsfr.dfrcs.org

Lisa Ouellette, Office - louellette@smsfr.dfrcs.org

School Office: 508.678.0266

Website: www.smsfr.org

Facebook: "St. Michael's Church and School"

Instagram: [saint_michael_school](https://www.instagram.com/saint_michael_school)

FOLLOW SMS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow all the great things going on at St. Michael School on our social media accounts, "like" our Facebook page: St. Michael's Church and School, and our Instagram page: [@saint_michael_school](https://www.instagram.com/saint_michael_school)

SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE—SAVE THE DATE

There will be an Open House at St. Michael's School on Sunday, January 28th from 11AM-1PM. Please pass along this information to families with young children that you may know and might be interested in our parish school. We appreciate everyone's effort to spread the word about our parish school, especially among families in our own parish.



Religious Education News

Religious Ed Grades 1-7 Class

Wednesday, December 13th - 6:15PM

St. Joseph's Parish Center

Religious Ed Grades 1-7 Class

Wednesday, December 20th - 6:15PM

St. Joseph's Parish Center

Religious Ed Grades 1-7 NO Class

Wednesday, December 27th - NO CLASS

Christmas Break

Confirmation Grade 9 Class

Monday, January 8th - 7PM

St. Michael's Hall

Confirmation Grade 8 Class

Monday, January 22nd - 7PM

St. Michael's Hall

For questions, contact Lisa Ouellette for grades 1-7 at 508.567.6358, or Ana Lucy Mello for grades 8-9 at 508.494.3916.

PROJECT RACHEL FOR MOTHERS

At the core of Project Rachel (post-abortion healing), the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a place where we have the amazing opportunity to encounter God's endless and loving Mercy, which is the ultimate source of all healing. If you desire, you will be able to meet with one of our priests who will welcome and counsel you in a prayerful environment with an atmosphere of respect, sensitivity and confidentiality. If you would like support from a counselor, contact 508.617.3230.

Mass Intentions - St. Joseph's

Tuesday, December 19th

9:00AM - For the People of our Parish

Thursday, December 21st - St. Peter Canisius

9:00AM - Gilberto Vieira, Sofia Aguiar and family

Saturday, December 23rd - St. John of Kanty

9:00AM - Robert Mello

Saturday, December 23rd - Vigil Mass

5:15PM - Louis, Mary Jo and Manuel
Fernandes, Louis, Aaron, Manuel &
Celeste Nunes

Sunday, December 24th - 4th Sunday of Advent

7:00AM - George Arruda

10:45AM - Michael Roussel, Arthur Brouillard,
Elaine Capeto, Anna Machado,
Diane Maria Silvestre, Joseph L.
Rutkowski, Francis Joseph
Rutkowski

Mass Intentions - St. Michael's

Monday, December 18th

9:00AM - For the People of our Parish

Wednesday, December 20th

9:00AM - For our Parish & School Community

Friday, December 22nd

9:00AM - Pelas Almas mais Aflitas

Saturday, December 23rd - Vigil Mass

4:00PM - Mr. and Mrs. Antonio and Maria
Aguiar and family

Sunday, December 24th - 4th Sunday of Advent

9:30AM - Peter C. Rego, Liberio Barbosa,
Joao Barbosa, Miguel Medeiros,
Sandra Barbosa, Hermano and
Maria Isabel Barbosa, John Pereira

12:00PM - Susanna Cabral

7:00PM - NO MASS

MASSES AND CANDLES

To book a Mass, or have the candles in our sanctuary or Blessed Sacrament Chapel lit in memory or for the intentions of a loved one, please contact the parish office.

WHAT ARE MASS INTENTIONS?

At each Mass, during the Prayer of the Faithful, we hear that prayers are requested at this Mass for... This is referred to as a "Mass Intention." This means that this Mass is being offered for the repose of the soul of someone who has died, or for the special intentions of someone who is still living but requesting prayers for a particular intention.

SANCTUARY LAMPS

St. Joseph's - Michael Dubeau

St. Michael's - João Jacinto Raposo,
Luis H. Raposo

Blessed Sacrament Chapel -
Lydia Gonsalves

MISSAS DO PRÓXIMO FINAL DE SEMANA

É assim que o calendário funciona! No próximo fim de semana celebraremos o 4º Domingo do Advento no Sábado à noite e no Domingo de manhã normalmente. No entanto, como o Natal (25 de Dezembro) cai numa segunda-feira, as missas da véspera de Natal começarão no domingo à noite. Em termos práticos, isto significa que na próxima semana todos os católicos deverão assistir à Missa DUAS VEZES - uma no 4º Domingo do Advento e outra no Natal - mesmo que isso signifique assistir à Missa duas vezes no domingo (uma de manhã e depois na Vigília de Natal). Eu sei que pode parecer muito, mas que melhor maneira de comemorar o Natal. Faça uma oração por mim, isso também significa MUITAS missas para eu celebrar.

ENSAIOS DO CORO DE NATAL

Se gostava de cantar no coro de Natal, os ensaios haverão nos dias 19 e 21 de Dezembro.

S. Jose - Missa das 4PM - ensaio as 6:45PM

S. Miguel, Missa da Meia Noite - ensaio as 5:30PM

NOVA CARTA PASTORAL DO PE. JAY

Com o início do Advento e o início de um novo ano litúrgico, aproveito esta oportunidade para disponibilizar uma carta que escrevi a cada paroquiano com a esperança de que possa melhorar a sua vida de fé e devoção. Seguindo o tema das minhas duas últimas cartas e em consonância com os esforços do Reavivamento Eucarístico Nacional, esta carta é sobre a nossa digna recepção da Sagrada Comunhão. Cópias estão disponíveis na entrada de cada Igreja, em inglês e português, bem como nos sites das nossas paróquias.

MISSAS DE NATAL

Véspera de Natal, Dec. 24

4PM - S. Jose

5:30PM - S. Miguel

Dia de Natal, Dec. 25

12AM Meia Noite - S. Miguel (bilingual)

7AM - S. Jose

9AM - St. Miguel (Portuguese)

11AM - S. Jose

RECEBENDO AS PESSOAS À MISSA NO NATAL

O Natal é uma oportunidade maravilhosa para sermos testemunhas da nossa fé católica e convidarmos outros a partilhar a nossa alegria. Ao prepararmo-nos para a celebração do Natal, convidamos a considerar duas coisas: Primeiro, fazer questão deliberada de convidar pessoas para se juntarem a vós na Missa neste Natal. Todos nós já ouvimos a expressão “Guardar Cristo no Natal”, mas lembremo-nos também de “Celebrar a Missa no Natal” (Natal é a Missa de Cristo). Seu simples convite pode ter um grande impacto na vida de alguém. Em segundo lugar, lembremo-nos da virtude da hospitalidade. Há muitos convidados que se juntarão a nós na missa de Natal e que normalmente não estão aqui. Vamos dar-lhes uma razão para quererem voltar no próximo domingo - uma recepção calorosa à nossa Igreja e comunidade paroquial.

CATEQUESE SOBRE SANTA MISSA

Algumas pessoas gostam de fazer uma oração de agradecimento depois da missa. Se virmos alguém rezando calmamente, devemos respeitar o seu silêncio e afastar-nos antes de falar com as pessoas ao sairmos. Fazer aos outros...! Finalmente, devemos tentar exercer um comportamento adequado enquanto nos afastamos. Evite “os pecados do estacionamento”. Com isto quero dizer que logo depois de termos passado uma hora adorando a Deus na missa, quando começamos a dirigir para casa, podemos ser tentados a perder a paciência ao sair do estacionamento: se estivermos isolados ou se formos submetidos a as maneiras rudes dos outros. A vida é muito curta! Faça uma oração pela outra pessoa e siga em frente. Com isso encerro esta série. Ao escrevê-lo todas as semanas, me perguntava se estava apenas sendo um chato, mas muitas pessoas me agradeceram. Se ofendi, peço perdão. O meu primeiro propósito não foi criticar ou reclamar, mas sim melhorar a nossa experiência de culto paroquial na Santa Missa.

CONFISSÕES DO ADVENTO

Que melhor maneira de se preparar para o Natal do que examinar nossas consciências e confessar para receber a misericórdia e o perdão de nosso Senhor. Haverá confissões ouvidas 18 de Dezembro, as 6PM na Igreja de Espírito Santo e no dia 19 de Dezembro as 11 horas da manhã na Igreja de Santo Christo. Haverá padres que falam Portugues disponível para ouvir confissões.