When I was hungry, you fed me...

The Hispanic Community and Fr. Fernando Carmona volunteer to provide Thanksgiving lunch to the homeless in Atlantic City on Thanksgiving day. This event was organized by the Parents that Pray for their Kids Ministry. See additional photos on page three.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 9
Advent Day of Reflection
- St. Nicholas Church 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
- Mass, lecture, lunch, music, and more
- Just show up

Dec. 9-10
Christmas Bazaar
- After all masses Saturday night and all day Sunday
- Super sale on Gift Shop items
- See story on page 4

Dec. 16
Christmas Toy Distribution
- St. Nicholas Church 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM
- Holiday musical presentation, live nativity
- Photos with Santa

CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish of Saint Monica • 2651 Atlantic Avenue • Atlantic City, NJ 08401
www.accatholic.org • phone 609-345-1878 • fax 609-348-0248
Our Lady Star of the Sea School • 15 North California Avenue • 609-345-0648
Catholic Charities • 9 North Georgia Avenue • 609-345-3448

First Sunday of Advent

The Parish of Saint Monica serves all of Atlantic City. It is the union of the city’s previously five Catholic parishes: St. Nicholas of Tolentine, Our Lady Star of the Sea, St. Michael, Holy Spirit, and St. Monica.
SACRAMENT OF PENANCE
Monday - Friday, 5 PM at Our Lady Star of the Sea. Saturday, 3:15 - 4 PM in both churches. Also available by appointment.

MARRIAGE
Couples planning marriage should set a date with a parish priest at least six months in advance.

INFANT BAPTISM
Preceded by a required baptismal preparation program. Speak to Fr. Pham.

WANT TO BECOME CATHOLIC?
Need to complete your initiation into the Church? Classes run September - June, Mondays at 6:30 PM. Speak to Fr. Pham.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK
Please call the office when a parishioner is seriously sick so one of the priests may visit.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Monday 5:45 PM to 6:45 PM for grades 1 - 6 and 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM for grades 6 - 12. Adults 6:00 - 7:00 PM

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA
Wednesday evenings after the 5:15 Mass.

ROSARY
Monday - Friday, after 7 AM Mass and before 5:15 PM Mass. Saturday after 8:00 AM Mass.

PARISH REGISTRATION
Letters of suitability cannot be issued to persons not registered with the parish. You can register in person in the office or online.

HOLY DAY SCHEDULE
Our Lady Star of the Sea
Vigil
5:15 PM English
7:00 PM Vietnamese
Holy Day
7:00 AM English
5:15 PM English
7:00 PM Spanish
St. Nicholas of Tolentine
8:00 AM English
10:00 AM Latin Mass
12 Noon English

SPECIAL TREAT: The day before Thanksgiving break the students and staff broke away from the typical lunch schedule and enjoyed a turkey dinner/lunch. This special treat was the result of the hard work of our kitchen staff and members of the PTO.

SAVE THE DATE: “All You Can Eat Holiday Breakfast Buffet”, sponsored by Friends of OLSS School on Sunday, December 10th 8 am - 1 pm at Quaremba Hall

Amazonsmile.com: As you do your online Christmas shopping please remember that when you order from Amazonsmile.com (same as Amazon) you can designate the “Depko Family Foundation” as recipient of a portion of your purchase. The monies donated to the Depko Family Foundation go directly to our students in the form of scholarships and financial assistance. Please consider this very easy way to help our students. Thank you.

To learn more visit us on Facebook: our lady star of the sea school acnj or call 609-345-0648.

PARISH STAFF
Rev. Jon Thomas
Pastor
Rev. Thanh Pham
Parochial Vicar
Rev. Fernando Carmona
Parochial Vicar
Rev. Robert Matysik
Hospital Chaplain
Joan Parker
Business Manager
Maria Isabel Duran
Religious Education Coordinator
Erick Duran
Facilities Manager
John Mooney
Outreach Director
Kathleen Given
Pastoral Associate
Maria Isabel Espinoza
Secretary
Laura Esparza
Asst. for Hispanic Ministry
Henry Porvaznik
Asst. for Special Projects

CONTACT
RECTORY
609-345-1878
RELIGIOUS ED
609-345-1878 Ext-24
SCHOOL
609-345-0648
SCHOOL CONVENT
609-347-0434
ST. MICHAEL’S CONVENT
609-343-1545
WEB SITE
accatholic.org
Advent: Christ is Coming

We attend Mass not only to witness the sacrifice of Christ but to become part of it.

"I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God." - Romans 12:1

"May he [Christ] make of us an eternal offering to you [the Father], so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect." - Eucharistic Prayer III

Above: The Atlantic City Fire Department contributes turkeys to families for Thanksgiving. The spirit of sharing and giving is what Jesus taught during His entire earthly ministry. Below: Members of the Hispanic community enjoy the Celebration Virgin of the Providence from Puerto Rico. Joy is one of four virtues realized by Catholics during Advent.
FOOD PANTRY
At St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church
1409 Pacific Avenue
Your donation of food, money and/or time are always welcome!
Come every third Monday of the month between 8:00 am & 11:00 am on Memorial Ave. (Rear of church property) Please come early.
NEXT DISTRIBUTION IS DECEMBER 18, 2017

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
In 2016, the Atlantic City Office was able to provide food assistance to 1,358 individuals. Over 500 individuals, 50 of whom were homeless veterans, received rent or utility funding in order to prevent homelessness and disconnection. The office has also provided over 1000 changes of clothing, fresh hygiene products, and sandwiches to the homeless on Fridays.
The Atlantic City office, located at 9 North Georgia Ave., is open on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM, and includes a food pantry, free baby supplies, and a thrift store.
Thrift Store Hours: 9:30-11:30 AM Mondays: Adult clothing, Wednesdays: Children & housewares, Fridays (except First Friday): Free clothing to those who provide proof of homelessness.
For more information and a full list of services, please visit: http://catholiccharitiescamden.org or call 609-345-3448.

WHAT WE GIVE
Bags of Food Monthly: 300
Children at Trunk or Treat: 1,000
Easter baskets Distributed: 200
House of Charity donations given by parishioners in 2017: $105,000
Christmas Toys Distributed: 250
To help with the Christmas Toy Program this year, contact Margaret Steadman at: 609-703-9093.

SERVING THE LORD
While the parish strives to serve the community, our first responsibility is to serve the Lord. One often overlooked way to do that is to say grace before and after each meal. This is particularly important when dining in a public eatery. What a great way to show the community that you are a committed Catholic.

Join Us

Women's Prayer Night
Women ages 18-35 are invited to a Handmaid's Prayer Night with the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal at St. Michael's convent on December 8th at 7:00 PM. The night includes Holy Mass, adoration, confession, music, Rosary, night prayer and social. For more information and to RSVP, please call the convent at 609-343-1545.

Advent Day of Reflection
You are invited to an Advent Reflection Day with the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal at St. Nicholas Church on December 9th from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Join us for Mass, a talk by a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal, lunch, adoration, confession, music, healing service, vespers and benediction. No cost or RSVP needed. We look forward to being with you and praying with you.

Christmas Bazaar & Breakfast
St. Michael Church. December 9 and 10, Quaremba Hall, North Georgia Avenue. Bazaar is after all masses Saturday night and all day Sunday. Crafters wanted, $25 per table. Breakfast is 8am-1pm Sunday, $5.00 children, $7 adults (11 & up). Hundreds of items for sale from the Saint Nicholas of Tolentine Gift Shop. Proceeds benefit Our Lady Star of the Sea School. Call 348-1878 Ext. 10 for details.

Volunteers Needed on Christmas Day at Seashore Gardens Living Center in Galloway, NJ
Shifts are available during the hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday, December 25, 2017. If you're interested in volunteering, contact Missy Rundio at rundiom@seashoregardens.org.

Christmas Toy Distribution
Our Children’s Christmas Ministry will be hosting our annual community event on Saturday, 12/16 beginning at 9:30 am at Saint Nicholas of Tolentine Church. The event is open at all and includes a holiday musical presentation, live nativity (10:30 am - 1:30 pm), photos with Santa and toys for children ages 12 and under. Donations of new, unwrapped toys or checks made payable to Parish of Saint Monica are being accepted at our Welcome Desks. For more information or to volunteer please contact Margaret Steadman at 609-703-9093.

Atlantic City Police Foundation
Designer Handbag BINGO
Date: Thursday December 7, 2017
Time: 5:30 pm to 10:30 pm
Place: St. Michael's Church (Quaremba Hall)
Price: $35.00 per person 10 Games!
Tickets: Eventbrite or Captain Sarkos
BY THE NUMBERS

**PARISH COLLECTION FOR NOV. 18 - NOV. 19**

- OFFERTORY: $12,500.00
- BUDGET: $12,506.00
- POOR BOX: $248.00

**PARISH COLLECTION FOR NOV. 25 - NOV. 26**

- OFFERTORY: $13,412.00
- BUDGET: $12,506.00
- POOR BOX: $65.00

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

**NUMBER OF REGISTERED HOUSEHOLDS**: 1977

DEAR VISITOR

I always thank God for time away, whether on a European vacation or on a day trip. I know many people do not have these opportunities. Therefore, when I attend Mass, I show my gratitude with a particularly generous gift to the local church. I am grateful for your generosity to us. Also, please tip

WHY A SECOND COLLECTION?

About 15 times a year, the US bishops ask parishes to take a second collection for a special cause of national or international significance. For the sake of simplicity, our parish always takes a second collection. On unassigned Sundays, the second collection supports our parish in the same way as the first.

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH

You can help ensure that Catholicism has a bright and solid future in Atlantic City. To the extent you are able, will you give to the parish from the blessings you have received from God? You can sponsor a school student, have a chalice engraved with the name of a loved one, have a memorial stone placed by the Mother Lewis statue, purchase a pew bible, even support building renovations. Giving is easy, quick, and secure if you use our online giving page. Go to [http://accatholic.org/how-you-can-help/66-giving-opportunities-01](http://accatholic.org/how-you-can-help/66-giving-opportunities-01)

Of course you can still call the office and mail in your donations.

RENOVATION UPDATE

The workers finished the main floor of the church. Now they are working on the altar. Continue to pray that the contractors finish in time for Christmas. See photo at right.

BLACK CATHOLIC MINISTRY

**The Road to Sainthood**: At the 2017 Day of Reflections, sponsored by the Diocese of Camden, Spirituality and the Saints were one of the priorities focused on by a specific group. The discussion went in the direction of the road to Sainthood and what it takes to be named a Saint. The process is called canonization and it is a four step process. This is a very high honor, and usually happen at least 5 years after a person dies (unless a special exception is made by the Pope).

A church or religious community can submit a request to the bishop with a list of reasons why. Witnesses are called to talk about the persons virtues. If the person passes, they will be named Servant of God. Next, questions are raised by a devil advocate with objections to the candidates sainthood. If all evidence is satisfied and the candidate has bee deemed virtuous & heroic in their faith, He or she is declare Venerable. If the person is a Martyr, they will be Beautified and named Blessed. If not, a miracle must occur and verified by the congregation. If this happens he or she is then Beautified and named Blessed. The final step is Canonization. After being beautified, another miracle must occurs as a result of the person’s intercession. The Pope received the cause and makes the final decision. Once a person is canonized, he or she is officially declared a Saint by the Pope. Next week we will talk about the 5 Black Catholics on the road to Sainthood.

STEWARDSHIP

**1st Sunday of Advent**

“Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come.” - MARK 13:33

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. Our lives are so busy, many of us are planning our time - our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today through your Stewardship thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to what God is saying to you.
Horarios de Atención Oficina Hispana
Martes, Miércoles y Jueves ........... 10am - 2pm
Viernes ......................... 11am - 2pm
Secretaria Laura Esparza
609-345-1878 ext.19 lesparza@accatholic.org

CLASES DE BAUTISMO
Las clases de bautismo en español se darán todos los primeros y terceros jueves de cada mes, empezando con la misa a las 6:30 pm y luego con la plática a las 7:30 pm. Por favor de traer el Acta de Nacimiento del su hijo (a).
Spanish Baptismal classes are held the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7:30 pm in the sacristy. The classes will follow the 6:30 am Mass. Please bring the child's Birth Certificate to the class.

Primera Oración
Diosito ayuda a los enfermos y cuidalos. Amen. De parte de la estudiante Paola Garcia S.

Segunda Oración
Thank you God for my family and I ask for peace on earth okay God. Amen.
De parte del estudiante Christopher.

Stewardship
"Miren, velen y oren; Porque no saben cuándo vendrá el tiempo." - MARCOS 13:33
Todos damos las cosas por sentadas. En particular, tomamos el tiempo por concedido. Nuestras vidas están tan ocupadas, muchos de nosotros estamos planeando nuestro tiempo - nuestros días, semanas, meses, incluso años con antelación. Recuerde, nuestro tiempo en la tierra es un regalo. Ninguno de nosotros sabe cuánto tiempo estaremos aquí. Empiece hoy y comience a agradecer a Dios por cada día. Tómese un tiempo en silencio, todos los días, y escuche lo que Dios le está diciendo.
Para que no demos por sentado nuestro tiempo en la Tierra y miremos cada día como un regalo de Dios.

Raffle for the Virgin of Guadalupe
Join us in Celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe! Win Great Prizes!
*All Prizes VISA Gift Cards * Tickets are $5.00 Donations
1st (US) $500.00
2nd (US) $400.00
3rd (US) $300.00
4th (US) $200.00
5th (US) $100.00
*For additional information please contact the Main Office at (609) 345-1878 (Ext. 19)
### St. Michael's Church

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Intention</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Dec. 2</td>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>Roy Halladay / A Fan</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4:15</td>
<td>Alex DiSomma (D) / John &amp; Annette DiSomma</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>Santos Rafaela Borja / Ofrece su Familia</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Dec. 3</td>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>Victoria Guy / Cecilia Magalong</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>9:00</td>
<td>Tomas Rodriguez Delgado / Emily Shaw &amp; Son</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Edith Galindo Sarmiento / Ofrece Familia Galindo</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Jalssa Magalong (L) / Cecilia Magalong</td>
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<td>2:30</td>
<td>Ramon Antonio Gonzalez / Ofrece Estela Montella &amp; Hijos</td>
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<td>6:30</td>
<td>Mass for the People</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Dec. 4</td>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>Benjamin &amp; Helen Kaczorow / Daughter Grace</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>5:15</td>
<td>Sister Mary Ignatius MSBT / Berni Lee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Dec. 5</td>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>Grace McGowan / Tom &amp; Clara Depko (L)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:15</td>
<td>Bobbie Flanigan / Marcie &amp; Jack</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Dec. 6</td>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>Rosemary Bechard / Delsa &amp; Alfred Bechard</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:15</td>
<td>Michael Carofallo / Healing / Bernie Lee</td>
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<td>7:00</td>
<td>Juvencia Gonzalez / Ofrece su Familia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Dec. 7</td>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>Kippy Weinrich / Birthday / Chipper &amp; John Doherty</td>
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<td>5:15</td>
<td>Amy Olegario / Healing / Bernie Lee</td>
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<td>6:30</td>
<td>Abigail Sanchez / Ofrece su Familia</td>
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### St. Nicholas Church

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<th>Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Dec. 8</td>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>Marie Keatin (Birthday) / Children</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:15</td>
<td>Margaret Kinsella (D) / Jack &amp; Marie McAvadoy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>Eudocia Lugos / Ofrece su Familia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Dec. 9</td>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>Rick Heiden (D) / Mom, Dad &amp; Family</td>
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<td>4:15</td>
<td>Chrissy (Ruane) Rush / Mary Ruane</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>7:00</td>
<td>Doloers Ronco / Ofrece su Familia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Dec. 10</td>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>Greta Kinsella / Dan &amp; Betty Jane</td>
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<td>9:00</td>
<td>Margaret Campbell / Family</td>
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<td>10:30</td>
<td>Edith Galindo Sarmiento / Ofrece Familia Galindo</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Basil Paparone / Cousins</td>
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<td>2:30</td>
<td>Mass for the People</td>
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<td>6:30</td>
<td>LH Phêrô và Anna / Ô.B. Bân xin</td>
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This First Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical year. Jesus opens our Gospel Reading from St. Mark by saying “Be watchful! Be alert!” And closes it with an intense “Watch!”