

# St. Michael the Archangel Church

310 Pulaski Street, Bridgeport, CT 06608



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Bridgeport, Nov 24-25

## Dear Parishioners and Friends of our Parish:

We will soon begin Advent, which is the beginning of the new church year, and at the same time we are waiting for the coming of Jesus. In our church, in a special way, we will pray during this Advent the so-called Marian Mass. "Rorate" (in English daily at 8 am). The Advent evening masses will be a novelty, which we celebrate throughout the Advent every Friday at 7 pm. For the masses on Fridays, I especially invite all **children with lanterns**.

This year's Advent, however, also begins a special time - **The Jubilee Year of 120 years of our Parish**. I would like this jubilee to be an opportunity for us to entrust to the Immaculate Mary all families, groups, organizations, initiatives, and above all you – our dear Parishioners and Friends. In connection with such an important event, this year should be made our joint preparation for entrustment. The next twelve months will be an opportunity to give the Mother of God individual groups of our parish, following the model of The Twelve Stars in the Crown of Mary. The trust program will be available on separate posters and on the Internet.

## What measures are given to us to fruitfully experience the jubilee of our parish?

1. Personal prayer life, receiving the sacraments, regular confession and working on personal prayer in the Marian spirit (during the year we will receive many materials that can help us in this endeavor).
2. Participation in devotional services connected with the next Marian holidays during the year (called "Stars in the Crown of Mary"). Although particular entrusts will concern a selected group of parishioners, everyone is invited to participate in this experience.
3. Participation in parish retreats: Advent (December 2018), Lent (April 2019) and parish missions (December 2019). In autumn, the Marian Evangelization Retreat "REO" will also be held for those seeking or wishing to renew their relationship with God. We want to bring everyone to Mary with Jesus.
4. Invite Mary to your home and family. An external sign of this prayer will be a pilgrimage of the image of Our Lady of Mercy from Vilnius. Soon, a list will appear, which you can sign up for and take the image for a week at home from Sunday (Mass at 9 am or 11 am) to Friday or Saturday and return the painting to the rectory or church. You can subscribe to the list together with other families (living nearby) and take the picture together.
5. For children, we have prepared many beautiful experiences, including collecting parts of the puzzle for the next 12 months, from which a Marian image will be created as a memorial of the Jubilee Year. Puzzles will be given out to children on subsequent weekends associated with the entrustment.

I encourage everyone to personally pray and to join our Jubilee and Entrustment, this is great work and the implementation of which will only be possible with the participation of all of us. Let us open our hearts to the presence of Mary, who constantly invites her blessing to her children.

*Fr. Norbert M. Siwinski*

"Totus Tuus" - Entirely Yours Mary