

# SAINT MICHAEL CHURCH

EST. 1889

*The First Italian Parish In Connecticut*

**Pastor:** Rev. Robert P. Roy

**Deacon:** Norman Singer

## Parish Office

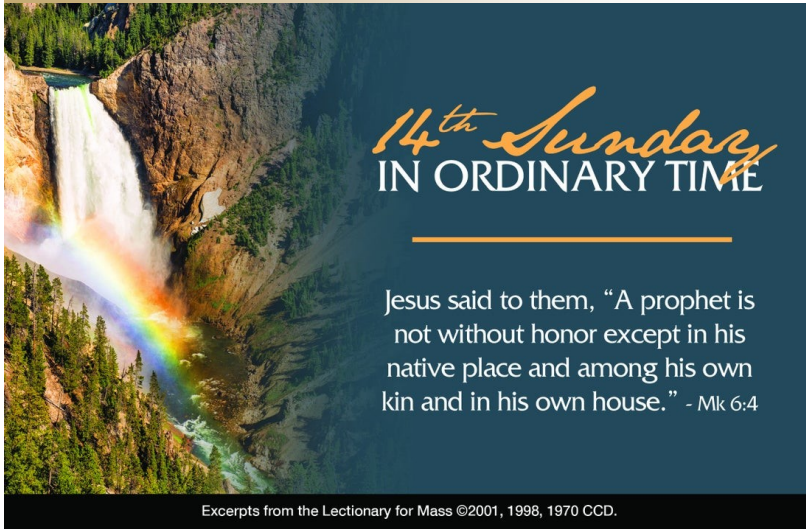
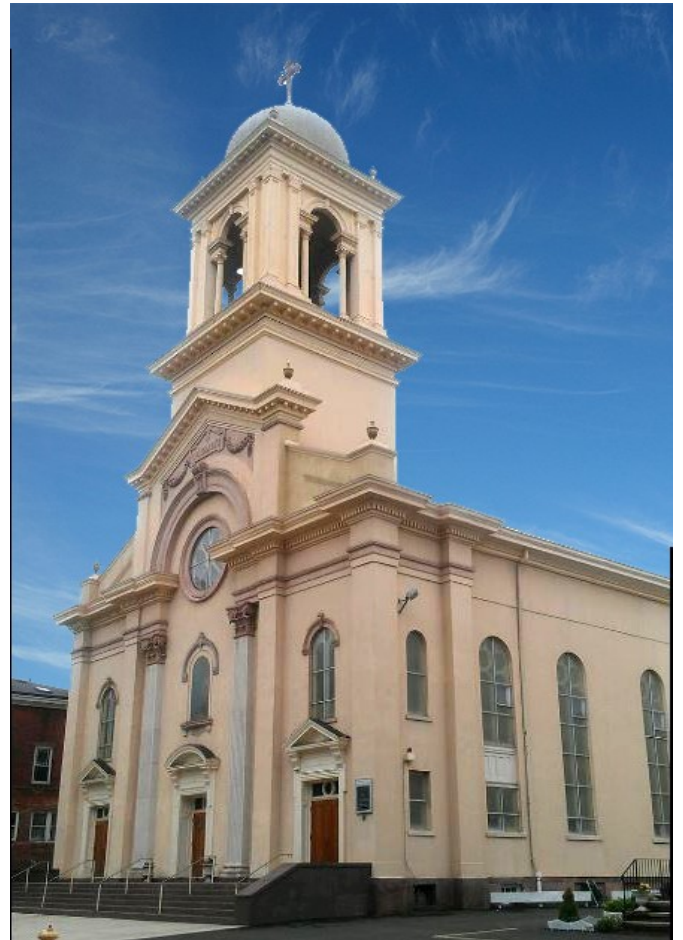
9:00am - 1:00pm Monday - Friday  
203-562-7178  
203-752-0157 fax  
smc1889@att.net  
stmichaelwoostersquare.org

## Weekday and Weekend Masses

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:00am  
Saturday vigil—4:00 p.m. Sunday—9:30 a.m.  
No mass on Wednesday's (only during Lent)

**Holy Days:** 8:00am, 12:10pm, 5:30pm

**Confessions:** Saturday 3:00pm to 3:30pm



## 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house." - Mk 6:4

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

## *Our Mission Statement*

Our parish is open to all people who seek to give glory to God through the centrality of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and in sharing the gifts and traditions of the Roman Catholic faith. Enlivened by the Holy Spirit, we strive to create a vibrant, welcoming faith community for worship, education and outreach to our neighbors, community, and the Southern Italian Religious Societies through the Lordship of our Savior Jesus Christ.





**Mass Intentions  
for the Week**

**Saturday, July 3rd, Vigil of the Lord's Day**

4:00 p.m. - Philomena Esposito & family, req. by Rocco & Ann Candela & family

**Sunday, July 4th, 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:30 a.m. - Community Mass

**Monday, July 5th, St. Elizabeth of Portugal**

8:00 a.m. - James Cretella, req. by Kathy Miceli

**Tuesday, July 6th, St. Maria Goretti**

8:00 a.m. - Emilio & Anna Agnellino, req. by Agnellino family

**Wednesday, July 7th, Weekday**

8:00 a.m. - NO MASS

**Thursday, July 8th, Weekday**

8:00 a.m. - Rev. Ralph Colicchio, req. by friend

**Friday, July 9th, St. Augustine Zhao Rong**

8:00 a.m. - Norma Bailey, req. by Joan & Al Spadaro

**Saturday, July 10th, Vigil of the Lord's Day**

4:00 p.m. - James Plano, req. by wife & children

**Sunday, July 11th, 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:30 a.m. - St. Trofimenia Society

**Sanctuary Lamp**

**Sunday, July 4, 2021**

**Mary Ann Ezold**

**In remembrance of those who died,**

**Lori Ann Simon**

**May she rest in peace.**

**Weekend of June 27, 2021**

**Weekly Collection \$1334.00**

**Online Collection \$75.00**

**Peters Pence \$ 347.00**

**One Collection This Week**

**Weekly Collection**

**Monthly Collection**

**One Collections Next Week**

**Weekly Collection**

**Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**July 4, 2021**

Ezekiel is the last of the major prophets, preaching in the period of the exile in Babylon (approximately 597 to 537 BC). In fact, he had already been taken captive to Babylon when he received his call. Ezekiel's prophecies stand out from those of the other prophets. The visions he reports are especially vivid and surreal: the wheel within the wheel and the four living creatures with faces like an ox, a lion, an eagle, and a human being. (these would later be associated with the four evangelists, Mark, Matthew, John, and Luke, respectively.) Finally, Ezekiel speaks in the first person, as though he is relating his conversation with God as it happens, whereas most other prophets repeat what God has told them: "Thus says the Lord..."

We do not hear the subject of his preaching in this passage. In general, he prophesied the further destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians, an unpopular topic. When the Temple was destroyed in 587 BC., Ezekiel's prophecy was fulfilled. The subject of his preaching, however, is not as important as the outcome. The Lord tells Ezekiel to preach so that "they shall know that a prophet has been among them." Later in the prophecy, God tells Ezekiel: "they shall know that I, the LORD their God, am with them." In the similarity of phrases, the reader can sense the close relationship between God and God's prophet.

In his hometown, Jesus faces similar issues. He must preach the good news whether people listen or not. Unlike Ezekiel, who expected a stubborn and rebellious people, Jesus is amazed and perplexed when people do not believe him. We readers, who have been following Mark's story as Jesus touches and heals every kind of separation that people experience, from sin to illness to death, are also surprised. And yet, in spite of firm disbelief, Jesus is able to effect some healing for those who sought it. It is enough. He continues teaching in every town that will have him.

Why does the crowd discuss Jesus' background and family? What does that have to do with their lack of belief?

**Readings for the week of July 4, 2021**

**Sunday:** Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24; 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15; Mark 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35b-43

**Monday:** Genesis 18:16-33; Matthew 8:18-22

**Tuesday:** Vigil: Acts 3:1-10; Galatians 1:11-20; John 21:15-19

**Wednesday:** Genesis 21:5, 8-20a; Matthew 8:28-34

**Thursday:** Genesis 22:1b-19; Matthew 9:1-8

**Friday:** Genesis 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67; Matthew 9:9-13

**Saturday:** Ephesians 2:19-22; John 20:24-29

## Pastoral Reflection



This weekend, we as Americans will celebrate and commemorate a most historic day which changed the lives of our founding ancestors and the future of this country forever and that is none other than the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. For it was on this history making day, 245 years ago in 1776 when the Declaration of Independence was adopted and signed by the members of the Continental Congress and its President, John Hancock.

As we celebrate our Nation's 245<sup>th</sup> Birthday, and still experiencing the growing pains in our realization of the importance of the words as expressed in the Declaration of Independence concerning our God-given "unalienable rights" as an expression of freedom and rights for all peoples in our nation, I am reminded of Pope Benedict XVI's historic visit to the United States back in April of 2008. Although Pope Benedict XVI's memorable visit was some thirteen years ago, I believe that his words of inspiration, encourage and hope still hold true for us as a nation even to this day.

Throughout his visit, our Holy Father gave a kind of "catechesis, a teaching on America" and explained some of the reasons why he considers "America great". These were the Pope's words not former President Trump's. His Holiness explained that one of the reasons for this "greatness" is that America connects "freedom with faith." Many times, when we as a people hear the word "freedom," we think of freedom from something or someone. Certainly, this is true in the sense of "freedom" from tyranny and or oppression, but the word "freedom" also means freedom to do something positive, freedom to do something good for and to our brothers and sisters. I am not talking about a "freedom" that just lets us do whatever we want and desire, whenever we want and desire regardless of other people's rights or at the expense of other people's safety and life that is not true "freedom." As a society of individuals, we do need order; we do need laws and regulations to govern us in our relationship with each other in order that we may live in harmony and peace with each other which enables us to function together as a society. But our "freedom with faith" is a "freedom" that allows us as a people to pursue the good, to do the good that which is just, right, noble, and virtuous, the freedom to worship God without government interference. This is the type of "freedom" that our Holy Father was referring to.

In the drafting of the Declaration of Independence, our founders knew that there were certain principles that govern and apply to all peoples given to them by their Creator, "unalienable rights" which "among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Because of this founding principle of "unalienable rights", Pope Benedict stated, "American's quest for freedom has been guided by the conviction that the principles governing political and social life are intimately linked to a moral order based on the dominion of God the Creator." Thus, from its beginning, our American "freedom" has always been tied to morality and to religion." As we say in our Pledge of Allegiance, "One nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all."

The Pope also linked "freedom" with virtue. He said, "Freedom is not only a gift but also a summons to personal responsibility, of self-discipline, sacrifice for the common good and a sense of responsibility towards the less fortunate." "We are our brother's and sister's keepers." As human beings, as a nation, what affects one of us affects all of us. In God's eyes, "All lives matter!"

As a people, as a nation, we have a long history of taking care of our brothers and sisters in need, especially during this past year with the pandemic, not only in our own country but throughout the world following the words of the Lord, "As long as you did it to one of these the least of my brothers and sisters you did it to me."

The Holy Father went on to say "America is great because it has welcomed immigrants. We are a nation of immigrants. Many of our family members, great grandparents, grandparents, fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters came to this land from other countries. Often bringing with them very little except the clothes on their backs but with their culture, their faith and their hearts filled with dreams and new hope seeking a better life for themselves and their families." We have truly become a melting pot.

It was the immigrant Church in this country that build up many great cities in our nations. How true the inscription on the Statue of Liberty, "Give me your tired, your poor and your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." While most of us may have been born in this country, our ancestry has its roots in other countries and cultures of the world. We have always been a people of hope and a land of dreams. And that is why many people still come to our country this day filled with hopes and dreams for a better life, a better future.

Although he was not specifically addressing us on this Fourth of July, whereon we celebrate our day of independence, I think that Pope Benedict XVI remarks made during his historic visit thirteen years ago still ring true for us this day. "In the land of religious liberty, Catholics found freedom not only to practice their faith but also to participate fully in civic life, bringing their deepest moral convictions to the public square and cooperating with their neighbors in shaping a vibrant, democratic society" for all.

"Today's" Fourth of July celebration "is more than an occasion of gratitude for graces received" and blessing bestowed on our county. "It is also a summons to move forward with firm resolve to use wisely the blessings of freedom, in order to build a future of hope for coming generations" and for all peoples. Thank you Pope Benedict XVI for your words of encouragement, inspiration and hope as we celebrate the 245<sup>th</sup> founding of our nation. Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!!!

Fr. Roy



**Congratulations**

*Nicholas Simone*

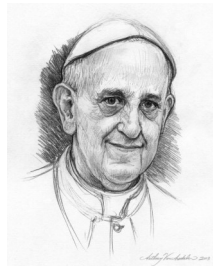
*Mila Buontempo*

*Reagan Morrell*

*Catalina Maria Giannotti*

Who have received their First Holy Communion on Sunday June 27, 2021.

*From the Twitter Account of Pope Francis*



*Peter and Paul did not believe in words, but in deeds. Peter did not speak about mission, he was a fisher of men; Paul did not write learned books, but letters of what he experienced as he traveled and bore witness.*

**The Parish office will be closed on Monday, July 5, 2021, in observance of Independence Day. The office will reopen on Tuesday, July 6th.**

**Question of the Week**  
How is Christ made manifest in me through my own weaknesses?

**MASS BOOK**  
The Mass Book is open for all registered parishioners for 2021. Weekday masses, Sanctuary candles and Community Masses are available. Come to the rectory from 9:30am – 12:00 noon Monday thru Friday, or call the Rectory at 203-562-7178 to book your masses.  
**All Masses must be paid in full at the time of booking.**

**VOCATION REFLECTIONS**  
**14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**July 4, 2021**  
Jesus said “Whoever does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me and whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me”. Are you willing to embrace the cross and follow Jesus as a priest? Call **Fr. Michael Casey**, Director of Vocations, Pastoral Center, 860-761-7456, e-mail [vocations@aohct.org](mailto:vocations@aohct.org) or visit the web at [www.hartfordpriest.com](http://www.hartfordpriest.com)

**On Line Giving**  
Realizing that the Coronavirus has affected us in many ways, even financially, I would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all the parishioners of St. Michaels’s Church who have remembered St. Michael financially by mailing or dropping off your weekly envelopes. We now offer on-line giving through our website, [StMichaelWoosterSquare.org](http://StMichaelWoosterSquare.org), under the Parish Life tab.

**Please mail me/us a registration form for Saint Michael Church**  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_  
**Send this request to:**  
**Saint Michael Church Office:**  
**29 Wooster Place**  
**New Haven, CT 06511**  
**Or place in offertory basket.**

**FOOD BANK** – Each week there is a box in the rectory entrance to receive donations of non-perishable foods that are brought to various non-profit agencies in the New Haven area. **(PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE OPEN AND EXPIRED FOOD)**. Your donation of these items are appreciated greatly by those who receive them. Please consider bringing one or two non-perishable items per month as a way of fulfilling the Corporal Work of Mercy, **To Feed the Hungry.**

The Fourteenth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
July 4, 2021



**Happy Fourth of July!**  
**A Prayer for Independence Day**

God, Source of all freedom,  
This day is bright with the memory  
Of those who declared that life and liberty are  
your gift to every human Being.

Help us to continue a good work  
Begun long ago.

Make our vision clear and our will strong:  
That only in human solidarity will we find liberty,  
and justice only in the honor that belongs to  
every life on earth.

Turn our hearts toward the family of nations:  
To understand the ways of others, to offer  
friendship and to find safety only in the  
common good of all.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
R/. Amen