

SAINT MICHAEL CHURCH

EST. 1889

The First Italian Parish In Connecticut

Pastor: Rev. Robert P. Roy

Deacon: Norman Singer

Parish Office

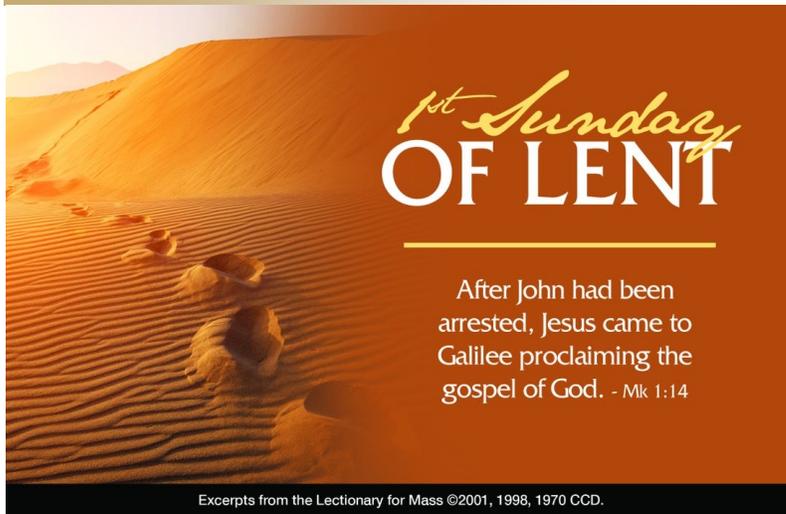
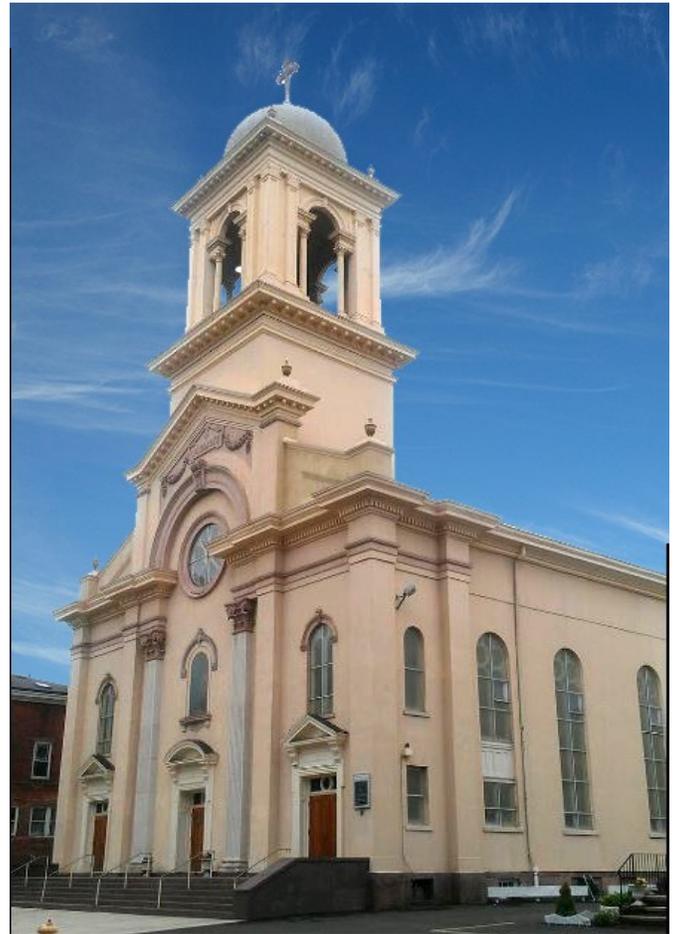
9:00am - 1:00pm Monday - Friday
203-562-7178
203-752-0157 fax
smc1889@att.net
stmichaelwoostersquare.org

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



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.





Saturday, February 20th, Vigil of the Lord's Day

4:00 p.m. - Lucy Sasso, req. by Marie Notarino

Sunday, February 21st, 1st Sunday of Lent

9:30 a.m. - Raymond & Linda Saracco, req. by Anna & Christian Festa and family

Monday, February 22nd, Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. -

Tuesday, February 23rd, Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. -

Wednesday, February 24th, Lenten Weekday

12:10 p.m. -

Thursday, February 25th, Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. - Norma Bailey, req. by Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Consiglio

Friday, February 26th, Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. -

Saturday, February 27th, Vigil of the Lord's Day

4:00 p.m. - Deceased members of St. Michael Parish

Sunday, February 28th, 2nd Sunday of Lent

9:30 a.m. - Lucy Proto Sasso, req. by Louise, Ernie & Gabriel Scrivani

Sanctuary Lamp

Sunday, February 21, 2021

In Memory of

Deceased Members of St. Michael Parish

In remembrance of those who died,

**Mario Minutillo, Rosalyn Gargano,
Anthony Criscuolo & Louis Wordie
May they rest in peace.**

Weekend of February 14, 2021

Weekly Collection \$1437.00

**One Collection This Week
Weekly Collection**

**One Collection Next Week
Weekly Collection**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
February 21, 2021**

The Genesis passage comes from the priestly writer, a postexilic compiler with a special interest in worship and obedience to the law. This writer sees God as all-powerful, creative, transcendent, holy, and orderly. Notice that perspective in the first creation story of Genesis 1:1-2:4a. God creates by the power of the Word, creatures appear in the orderly array, and God rests on the Seventh day as if the Sabbath were written into the very order of the cosmos.

For this writer, then, the flood represents a mighty tearing of the fabric of creation, which God had originally pronounced "very good". After sin causes the wrath of God to break forth, God forswears the violence of the flood by making a covenant. This seems to anticipate the unconditional covenant made with Abraham. God promises never to destroy creation and sets a sign of the covenant in the heavens: a rainbow. Alongside the dove, the rainbow becomes a sign of peace. So, despite the terrors of war, the upheavals of nature, the catastrophes of human judgment, God's graciousness ensures stability "for all future generations." The reestablishment of God's orderly rule after the flood would have had a strong impact on the community hoping to regroup after the disaster of the exile.

Mark's account of the Gospel pictures Jesus being tempted in the wilderness following his baptism. But the most striking parallel today is between Jesus' proclamation of the Gospel and God's good news of repudiating vengeance. The "good news of God" is thus a message of reconciliation.

Readings for the week of February 21, 2021

Sunday: Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15

Monday: 1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19

Tuesday: Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32

Thursday: Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7:7-12

Friday: Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26

Saturday: Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS



This past Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, we began our Lenten Journey, 40 days of prayer, fasting and almsgiving to help us to prepare for, to lead up to, and to culminate in the great and saving mysteries of our faith – none other than the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Throughout his whole ministry, Jesus constantly challenged people to examine their lives and to get rid of those things in their lives that were not of God. He constantly challenged them to “repent and believe in the gospel,” turning their hearts evermore towards God. Many times in the gospels, before Jesus granted a person a physical healing, he would heal their souls by telling them that their “sins are forgiven.” He knew that sin is a greater illness that afflicts us.

If Jesus’ call to salvation involves the changing of one’s heart, then it would only make sense that Jesus would give us a means by which we could express our repentance and sorrow for sin and a way to turn our hearts back to God. This he has done by giving us the sacrament of reconciliation or confession. So important is this sacrament to our spiritual help and salvation that Jesus gave it to us on the very night he rose from the dead, Easter Sunday. If the whole purpose of Jesus’ coming – his suffering, death, and resurrection – was to save us from sin and death, this was accomplished by his passion, death and resurrection. Through his death, sin was atoned for in order that our sin, sins could be forgiven. When we look at the sequence of these events, it just makes sense that this would be one of the first and most important of the sacraments that Jesus would give us after his resurrection from the dead.

But Jesus also knew that as sense beings, we as a people need to hear certain things in our lives, like “Honey, I love you.” “I forgive you.” “I am sorry!” Did Jesus just mean for people in his time to hear his words of healing, peace and forgiveness when he said to them “go in peace, your sins are forgiven”? The obvious answer is “No!” He meant it for all of us to hear, and that is why he gave the apostles, on that first Easter Night, the power to forgive sin when “he breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.’”

To illustrate this point, I’d like to use an analogy from the book *The Faith of Millions*, by Rev. John A. O’Brien, published by *Our Sunday Visitor* in 1974. I tell people that, as a person, I do not possess the power or the authority to make or proclaim myself ambassador to, say, Canada. I cannot give it to myself, no matter how much I want to be the ambassador the power to do so because I do not possess that power or authority in the first place. But if President Biden, who has that authority and the power to do so, calls me and says to me, “Robert, by the authority and power invested in me I have decided to make and declare you to be the ambassador to Canada than I am. I will have the authority to represent the USA in certain diplomatic instances” then I have that authority. So it is the same with the sacrament of reconciliation. Only God can forgive sins, but if that authority and power is granted to us as priest by one who has the power to forgive sin, by Jesus himself as we are told in John’s Gospel, then that authority is given to us. So when the priest says the words of absolution “...and I absolve you from your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” then we can be sure that our sins are forgiven and go in peace because it is the priest, acting in the person of Jesus, who forgives and absolves of our sins.

When all is said and done, the sacrament of reconciliation provides us with a great opportunity to examine our relationship not only with God, but also with others and ourselves because if we are truly honest with ourselves we readily know that there are times in our lives when we do not always love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and our neighbor as ourselves. The sacrament of reconciliation helps us to start over again, to put things right and straight again in our lives. As Jesus’ tells us in today’s Gospel, “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

Fr. Roy

LENT 2021

“Return to the Lord with all your heart”
(Joel 2:12)

Lenten Daily Mass

8:00 AM on
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
12:10 PM Mass on Wednesday.

Stations of the Cross and Benediction

Friday – 7:00 PM

TO ALL PARISHIONERS

The winter is upon us and the outcome for bad weather is unpredictable . For the safety and well being of our parishioners, St. Michael Church will be following the New Haven Public Schools delays and cancellations schedule.

Mass will not be held when the New Haven Public Schools are on delay or closed.

Please watch the news for closings and delays.

MASS BOOK

The Mass Book is now open for all registered parishioners for 2021. Weekend, weekday masses and Sanctuary candles 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.

Question of the Week

What cross have I been avoiding that I should accept during this time in the Lenten desert?

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, StMichael-WoosterSquare.org, under the Parish Life tab.

From the Twitter Account of Pope Francis



We are now embarking on our Lenten Journey, which opens with the words of the prophet Joel. They point out the path we are to follow. We hear an invitation that arises from God: “Return to me with all your heart” (Joel 2:12). Lent is a journey of return to God.

VOCATION REFLECTIONS

Feb. 21st – First Sunday in Lent

*This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand. Let us reform our lives and believe in the Good News. Consider becoming an instrument of God’s Good News through the ministry of priesthood. Call **Fr. Michael Casey**, Director of Vocations, Pastoral Center, 860-761-7456, e-mail vocations@aohct.org or visit the web at www.hartfordpriest.com.*

Food Bank – Each week there is a box in the rectory entrance to receive donations of non-perishable foods that are brought to the Saint Ann Church Food Bank in Hamden. **(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**.

Please mail me/us a registration form for Saint Michael Church

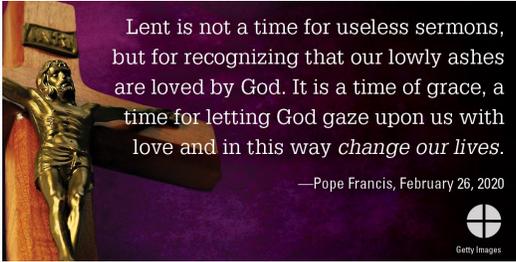
Name _____

Address _____

Telephone No. _____

**Send this request to:
Saint Michael Church Office:
29 Wooster Place
New Haven, CT 06511
Or place in offertory basket.**

February 21, 2021 The First Sunday of Lent



On the First Sunday of Lent, begin your journey with self-reflection and allow yourself to experience the mercy of the Lord. How will you renew your commitment to prayer, fasting and almsgiving this season?

Copyright © 2021, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.

VIRTUAL “ABCs OF ANNULMENT”

Sponsored by the Metropolitan Tribunal, Bloomfield Father John Dietrich, Pastor of Saint Matthews Parish at 20 Church Avenue, Forestville, in collaboration with Father George Mukuka, the Judicial Vicar from the Metropolitan Tribunal in Bloomfield, will host the second Virtual “The ABCs of Annulment” on Saturday of March 20th, 2021, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on ZOOM. An updating of the process initiated by Pope Francis as well as updates made in the Archdiocese of Hartford will be discussed by Brother Larry Lussier C.S.C., and Jim Tottenham, of the Annulment Team. Included will be a complete review of the Archdiocesan Application Form or Petition.

The “ABCs of Annulment” event is open to all. Registration (below) is required so that we can email the details of the meeting. Potential applicants also need to download the application form from the Archdiocesan Website at <https://archdioceseofhartford.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Petition-revised02-15-2017.pdf>

After the workshop, participants can sign up for one-on-one virtual assistance at their convenience with Br. Larry Lussier, at 475-221-8464, or James Tottenham, at 203-859-4195. For further information call Br. Larry at 475-221-8464 or email him at larlus300@sbcglobal.net.