

# SAINT MICHAEL CHURCH

EST. 1889

*The First Italian Parish In Connecticut*

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

**Deacon:** Norman Singer

## Parish Office

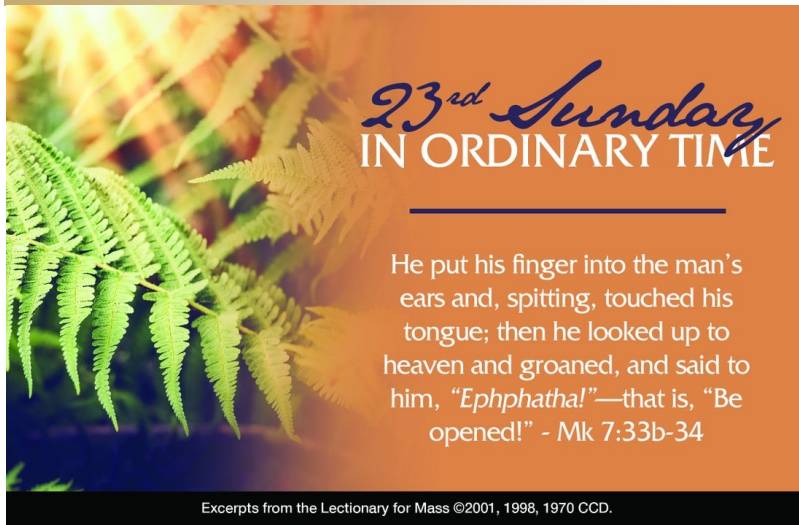
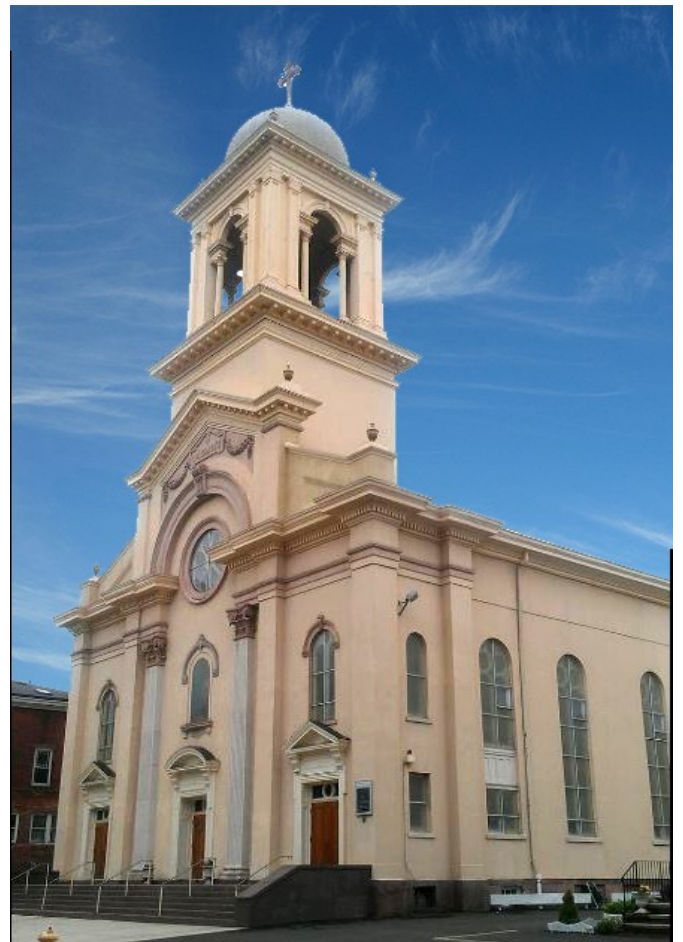
9:00am - 1:00pm Monday - Friday  
203-562-7178  
203-752-0157 fax  
smc1889@att.net  
stmichaelwoostersquare.org

## 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



*23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday*  
**IN ORDINARY TIME**

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He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!"—that is, "Be opened!" - Mk 7:33b-34

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**

**23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 5, 2021**

**Saturday, September 4th, Vigil of the Lord's**

**Day**

4:00 p.m. - Richard Sampietro, req. by Sampietro family

**Sunday, September 5th, 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:30 a.m. - Community Mass

**Monday, September 6th, Weekday**

8:00 a.m. - Joseph Mastriano & Jeffery Ponzio, req. by Agnellino family

**Tuesday, September 7th, Weekday**

8:00 a.m. -

**Wednesday, September 8th, Weekday**

8:00 a.m. - NO MASS

**Thursday, September 9th, Weekday**

8:00 a.m. - Linda Saracco, req. by family

**Friday, September 10th, St. Gregory the Great**

8:00 a.m. -

**Saturday, September 11th, Vigil of the Lord's**

**Day**

4:00 p.m. - Mother Theresa & Arthur McClure, req. by family

**Sunday, September 12th, 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:30 a.m. - Alice Ezold, req. by Rich & Esther Ezold

Isaiah's vision of the coming day of God reveals a world turned upside down. The blind see, the deaf hear, the mute speak and water spring up in the desert. This is a world of the unexpected and surprising. It is a result that is as unsettling as it is joyful, for it is not what nature has intended. In the presence of the divine, anything needs is provided; anything broken is made whole. The laws of nature, created by God, are suspended when God comes in glory.

Mark's account of the Gospel describes the living fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy when Jesus touches the deaf and mute man so that he hears and speaks. As in the other healing stories, Jesus demonstrates mastery over the limits of the human body. Already he has made the lame walk and the dead live. The next time he heals, he will cure a blind man. Where Jesus walks, life in its wholeness abounds. The astonishment of the people suggests that they remember the prophecy of Isaiah and wonder if this might be the sign that God has come to save them.

In what way might these texts illuminate the epistle from James? James addresses a particular fault of a Christian community in the first century. The people show favoritism to the rich and well-dressed. James reminds them that God's preference is for the poor and disenfranchised. God did, after all, rescue poor Israel from wealthy Egypt. In that act, God displayed a fondness' for turning upside down. James reminds the Church that God's power is not limited to healing the sick or sending manna. God also has control over economic and social injustices. A society that allows these things will be surprised, unsettled, and ultimately changed at the coming day of the Lord. Just as God will heal our broken bodies, God will heal the broken relationships caused by unjust uses of wealth. That will be good news to some, but for those who define themselves by their wealth and the privilege it buys them, it will be a painful transformation.

*How do we follow God in making a preferential option for the poor?*

***Sanctuary Lamp***

***Sunday, September 5, 2021***

***Richard Sampietro***

**In remembrance of those who died,  
Lisa Capone & Harold Proto  
May they rest in peace.**

**Weekend of August 29, 2021**

**Weekly Collection \$1611.00  
Online Collection \$85.00**

**Two Collection This Week  
Weekly Collection  
Monthly Collection**

**Two Collections Next Week  
Weekly Collection  
Haitian Earthquake Relief**

**Readings for the week of September 5, 2021**

**Sunday:** Isaiah 35:4-7a; James 2:1-5; Mark 7:31-37

**Monday:** Colossians 1:24—2:3; Luke 6:6-11

**Tuesday:** Colossians 2:6-15; Luke 6:12-19

**Wednesday:** Micah 5:1-4a or Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23

**Thursday:** Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 6:27-38

**Friday:** 1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14; Luke 6:39-42

**Saturday:** 1 Timothy 1:15-17; Luke 6:43-49

## PASTORAL REFLECTIONS SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

This Monday we celebrate Labor Day. According to Wikipedia, the free on-line encyclopedia, Labor Day “honors the American Labor movement and the contributions that workers have made to the development, growth, endurance, strength, security, prosperity, productivity, laws, sustainability, persistence, structure, and well-being of the country.”

For most of us, Labor Day is a day when we take a break from our labors, hopefully having the day off, to reflect on the true meaning and nature of our productiveness as human beings. Also, for many of us, the long Labor Day weekend signifies the unofficial end of summer as the “little dears” go back to school. But this year Labor Day will be different for many of us.

With the Coronavirus Pandemic and its social distancing, perhaps the usual, yearly family and friendly cookout, barbeque will not take place at all this year or if it does, it will probably be greatly modified and downsized to just a few close people. With so many people out of work because businesses have closed, or downsized, families and employers are struggling to make ends meet just to keep a roof over their heads or their doors opened. Because of so much uncertainty going on in our world today, Labor Day may seem like the last thing we want to celebrate and commemorate.

While our Labor Day celebration may be tone down this year, but let us not forget that it was and is the through the contribution of each and every one of us, using our gifts and talents, our labors that have made us the people, the country, the nation and the world that we are.

As human beings, we can and do reflect on many aspects of our life as regard their value and meaning and our labor, our work should be no different. In our Judeo-Christian background and heritage, with its religious view of creation and labor that we find in the Creation Accounts as contained in the *Book of Genesis*, these accounts can lead us to different perspectives on not only how we view our work as human beings but also shed light on its value and meaning to us as individuals and to society as a whole.

The first view that we can have concerning the work that we do as human beings can be found in the *Book of Genesis* wherein after the fall of Adam and Eve, God relegated them, [us] to working the land. He said to them, “*In toil shall you eat its yield all the days of your life. By the sweat of your face or brow shall you get bread to eat, until you return to the ground from which you were taken.*” Unfortunately, this view of work with its description of “toil and sweat” sheds a bad light on our productiveness as human beings because it makes us view the work that we do as a punishment, a drudgery; something that we have to do for the length of our days in “toil and sweat” until we return to the ground from which we are created. With this view in mind, it is no wonder that some people dislike their jobs and can’t wait to retire.

But if we view work as a participation in building up God’s creation not only for our own personal good, but also for the good of our brothers and sisters, then this gives a whole different meaning to the work that we do as a person. For God also told Adam and Eve, “Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it...The Lord God then took the man and settled him in the Garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it.” With this command to “cultivate and care for the garden,” God gave Adam and Eve, God them, [us] dominion over all his creation. He made them, [us] stewards over all he had created; he made them, [us] caretakers over his creation. In giving Adam and Eve the care of the garden, work then becomes for us a collaboration of man and woman with God in perfecting God’s visible creation. This is certainly a very different and more positive way of viewing what we do as human beings in our labors because we cooperate with God in building up his creation for the betterment of all humanity.

As the document *The Church in the Modern World*, paragraph 67 from the Second Vatican Council reminds us, “By his work a man ordinarily provides for himself and his family, associates with others as his brothers, [and sisters] and renders them service; he can exercise genuine charity and be a partner in the work of bringing divine creation to perfection. Moreover, we believe by faith that through the homage of work offered to God man is associated with the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, whose labor with his hands at Nazareth greatly ennobled the dignity of work.”

I don’t know about you, but this view of work certainly does not sound like a “punishment”, “curse” or a “drudgery” to me. This view of work not only places our work, our labors in a positive light but also as human beings spiritualizes our productive activities. It gives to our work a deeper spiritual meaning because our labors then become not something that we do just to earn a living for ourselves and to support our families, not something that is viewed as a “curse,” but it also becomes something that we do, in the cooperative work of God’s plan, through his son Jesus, in building a better world in charity, in love, not only for our brothers and sisters, but also in spreading and building up the kingdom of God on earth. In our work, although we may not always readily see the fruits of our labor, in the end we provide goods and services for one another that foster and build up the dignity of the human person by providing them with a better standard of living.

Whether we are personally doing well in these so called economic prosperous times or not, as human beings, we do worry about what we are going “to eat, drink and wear.” We do worry about tomorrow, but as Jesus reminds us in the gospel, as Christians we have to keep our balance as we go through life. As human beings, we are more than our jobs, and our Heavenly Father knows all that we need to sustain us as human beings. He reminds us that while; “yes” we have to work for a living, our primary purpose for being here on earth, our primary purpose for sharing in God’s creation is “to seek first the kingdom of God in our lives, his way of holiness, and all these things will be given us besides.” Happy Labor Day!

Fr. Roy



The Parish office will be closed on Monday, September 6, 2021, in observance of Labor Day. The office will reopen on Tuesday, September 7th.

**SPECIAL COLLECTION**

Emergency Relief and Recovery on August 14, 2021, a 7.2-magnitude earthquake struck Haiti at 8:30 a.m. GMT, about 80 miles west of Port-au-Prince, in Nippes department. Catholic Relief Services and our partners are already at work to meet people’s immediate needs for food and shelter.

There will be a special collection on September 11th and 12th, for the Earthquake victims of Haiti. Please put your donations in a separate envelope marked Haitian Earthquake Relief.

**2021 CT CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE**

Attention men of the parish, the theme for the 14th Annual CT Catholic Men’s Conference is The Most Holy Rosary. As usual there are 4 tremendous speakers that will challenge all who attend plus a gust homilist!

You can be part of it on Saturday, September 25, 2021 at the New Britain Baseball Stadium for an amazing day that will have a tremendous impact on you. You can purchase tickets and read the details ONLINE at [www.ctcatholicmen.org](http://www.ctcatholicmen.org)

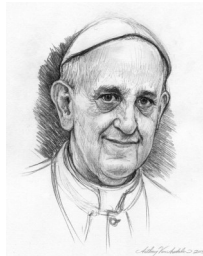
Sign up today, don’t delay.

**Question of the Week**

Am I open to hearing God’s word, even from unexpected sources? How do I live out my baptismal call to proclaim God’s word?

**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.**

**From the Twitter Account of Pope Francis**



*What is the secret of a blessed life, a happy life? Recognizing Jesus as the living God. For it is not important to know that Jesus was great in history. What matters is the place I give him in my life.*

**Twenty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time  
September 5, 2021**

*If two of you join your voices on earth to pray for anything whatever, it shall be granted you by my Father in heaven.* Where only a few come together in Christ’s name on earth, Christ is present with them. Pray for an increase in vocations to priesthood and religious life. To discern a vocation, call **Fr. Michael Casey**, Director of Vocations, Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, Tel. 860-761-7456, e-mail [vocations@aohct.org](mailto:vocations@aohct.org) or visit the web at [www.hartfordpriest.com](http://www.hartfordpriest.com).

**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.**

**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.**



## SAVE THE DATE

September 26, 2021  
St. Michael Church  
132nd Anniversary

Mass at 9:30 a.m.  
Brunch at Anthony's Ocean  
View Restaurant  
11:00 a.m.

This year we are offering a souvenir program with sponsorship opportunities.

<b>Gold Sponsor</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>Silver Sponsor</b>	<b>\$250</b>
<b>Bronze Sponsor</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>Patron</b>	<b>\$25</b>

Cost is \$55.00 for adults, \$20.00 for children 12 and under for the brunch. Wine and entertainment are included. For reservations and information call the rectory at 203-562-7178.

### The Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 5, 2021  
Include Sharable image  
Happy Labor Day!

Monday, September 6, 2021

In the Catholic tradition, work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continued participation in God's creative action. We pray for the men and women whose jobs have been impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Patriot Day

Saturday, September 11, 2021



A People Changed by 9/11

"The years have gone by, but the memories remain for all who were involved in that one single day and its aftermath that changed the lives of so many and of our nation."

-Monsignor Robert J. Romano

We remember all those who lost their lives in the 2001 attacks. We pray for all victims of violence and terrorism around the world, and for their families, that they may find comfort and peace.