

SAINT MICHAEL CHURCH

EST. 1889

The First Italian Parish In Connecticut

Pastor: Rev. Robert P. Roy

Deacon: Norman Singer

Parish Office

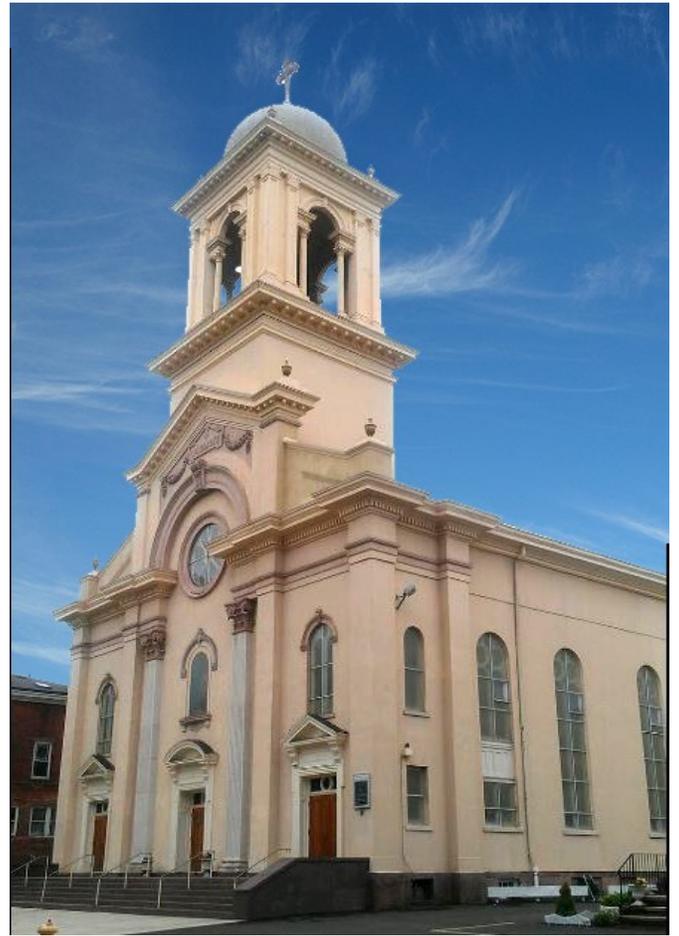
9:00am - 1:00pm Monday - Friday
203-562-7178
203-752-0157 fax
smc1889@att.net
stmichaelwoostersquare.org

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



4th Sunday
IN ORDINARY TIME

He cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" - Mk 1:24

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

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.





**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
January 31, 2021**

Jesus' first miracle is an exorcism set in the context of his teaching. Why is this so important? When Jesus entered the synagogue and spoke, the people were amazed at the power and authority with which he taught. The scribes quoted previous experts and authorities for important interpretations of Scripture and the Law. The Greek word used to describe Jesus' teaching, *exousia*, means that he taught "out of himself." In other words, he did not use other authorities to strengthen his argument.

Into this context wander the possessed man. The unclean spirit, a demon in other translations, reveals the identity of Jesus as the holy One of God. In the Old Testament, particularly in the prophecy of Isaiah, God is the Holy One of Israel. In this passage, in Acts 3:14 and in 1John 2:20, Jesus is the "Holy One." these similar phrases imply a connection between Jesus and God. Jesus silences the demon, not because it is wrong about his identity, but because the time has not yet come for Jesus to be revealed.

With the confidence of authority, he commands the unclean spirit to come out. The crowd watches in amazement—often a signal that they do not understand what is happening. Their remarks about a new teaching are meant for the reader. Jesus' power is greater than any other power even the demons obey him.

Throughout Mark's account, Jesus' identity is revealed by demons who are silenced, while the people with Jesus come to know who he is only slowly, if at all. The remarkable exorcisms and healing of Jesus defeat the powers of evil that oppose God. But they will soon lead to a greater question for both his followers and his detractors: what is the source of Jesus' authority?

In Mark's account, things happen very quickly. Consequently, when Mark slows down enough to tell the details of the story, the readers pay more attention. What do the details have to say about the nature of Jesus or the unclean spirits?

Saturday, January 30th, Vigil of the Lord's Day

4:00 p.m. - People of St. Michael Parish

Sunday, January 31st, 4th Sunday in Ordinary

Time

9:30 a.m. - Deceased members of St. Michael Parish

Monday, February 1st, Weekday

8:00 a.m. - Ralph & John Borelli, req. by Anastasio family

Tuesday, February 2nd, Presentation of the Lord

8:00 a.m. -

Wednesday, February 3rd, St. Blaise

8:00 a.m. - NO MASS

Thursday, February 4th, Weekday

8:00 a.m. - Peter Gambardella, req. by Charlotte, Peter Jr., & Melissa Gambardella

Friday, February 5th, St. Agatha

8:00 a.m. - Frank & Pasqualina Cinque, req. by family

Saturday, February 6th, Vigil of the Lord's Day

4:00 p.m. - People of St. Michael Parish

Sunday, February 7th, 5th Sunday in Ordinary

Time

9:30 a.m. - Community Mass

Sanctuary Lamp

Sunday, January 31, 2021

In Memory of

Deceased Members of St. Michael Parish

In remembrance of those who died,

Norma Bailey & Charlotte Gambardella

May they rest in peace.

Weekend of January 24, 2021

Weekly Collection \$997.00

**One Collection This Week
Weekly Collection**

**Two Collections Next Week
Weekly Collection
Monthly Collection**

Readings for the week of January 31, 2021

Sunday: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1:21-28

Monday: Hebrews 11:32-40; Mark 5:1-20

Tuesday: Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Wednesday: Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15; Mark 6:1-6

Thursday: Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24; Mark 6:7-13

Friday: Hebrews 13:1-8; Mark 6:14-29

Saturday: Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21; Mark 6:30-34

Pastoral Reflection

A couple of weeks ago, I opened a piece of mail from a lawyer's office that was addressed to St. Michael Church. In the envelope, there was a letter and a check, made payable to St. Michael Church, which to my surprise was made out for \$50,000.00 that is right, fifty-thousand dollars. At first glance, I could not believe my eyes. I looked at the name on the check and the amount a second and third time to make sure that I was not misreading either. In the letter that accompanied the check, the lawyer stated the check was from a woman had passed away and that she and especially her husband loved St. Michael's Church so much that they wanted to show their gratitude and to remember the church in a special way by making a generous donation. As I looked over the letter again, in wonder and awe, the name of the person who made the donation to the church did not look familiar to me. Not that I know every parishioner by name but this one seemed different, not one of your usual Italian names as it were. I showed the letter to Terry, the parish secretary, asking if the name looked familiar to her. She said, "no." So, I called the lawyer's office and spoke to the lawyer who wrote the letter and asked, "if this donation to our St. Michael Church was a mistake." To make a long story short, the check was meant for the other St. Michael Church in New Haven our Catholic Ukrainian brothers and sisters. With a sunken, heavy heart, I sent the letter and check back to the lawyer wherein she forwards it to the right St. Michael Church. Some churches have all the luck!

The reason why I relate this story, is that I could not help but wonder about our St. Michael Church, our St. Michael Parish. For a church and a parish that makes the claim of being "the first Italian Church, the first Italian Parish in the State of Connecticut" aren't there some parishioners past or present out there who would also like to show their gratitude and special remembrance to our St. Michael by making a generous donation in their will or in special remembrance of the loved one to our church. For a parish that has been at the very heart and foundation of Italian worship and culture in historic Wooster Place for almost 132 years, being there for generations of Italian immigrants and their families in educating our young people in the former St. Michael School and handing on the faith to thousands of Italians through the sacraments and Mass and of which various Italian Societies still make St. Michael's the church, the center of their religious celebrations and worship base, one would think that possible St. Michael's Parish would be remembered more often in bequests, donations or other monetary gifts than it is. While \$50,000.00 is certainly a very generous donation, in reality all donations are gladly accepted.

There is no doubt about it that the Church of St. Michael's certainly does have its share of funerals. We average over one hundred a year. Because people have made their sacraments here, like baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, marriage, because their spiritual roots are at St. Michael's, it is not unusual for people to come back to St. Michael's Church for their final prayer and sacrament, their Funeral Mass. And while it is commendable, remembering their spiritual roots when we read in the obituary, that contributions or donations can be made to the deceased person's favorite charity, or the charity of one's own choosing, we very seldom read or hear that donations, in remembrance of the deceased person, can be made to St. Michael's Parish. After all, would it not make sense to request people to make a donation the parish in thanksgiving wherein our deceased loved one received the faith and was nourished in the faith and where the final prayer, the Sacrifice of the Mass was offered for the repose of their soul?

Fr. Roy

**Archdiocesan Marriage
Enrichment Celebration.**

The Archdiocesan Office of Family Life will hold its 14th annual Marriage Enrichment Celebration on Sat., Feb. 6, 2021, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Please join us for an evening of prayer, reflection and fun centered on the theme: "The Unforeseen of Quarantine: Viewing our Sacrament with 2020 Vision." Due to ongoing pandemic restrictions, this year's program will be virtual and conducted over the internet. Participants can join with either video/audio or just audio connections. There is no cost for the program, however, if your circumstances allow, please consider a donation to local family-centered charities negatively impacted by COVID-19. Instructions for signing into the program will be provided with your registration confirmation. To register or obtain more information, contact Tom and Donna Finn at 860-302-1110, or email to tfinnphd@gmail.com. Please R.S.V.P. by February 4th, 2021.

Question of the Week

What unclean spirits need to be driven out of my life? How can Jesus, within me and among us, defeat them?

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.

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.**

***From the Twitter Account of
Pope Francis***



The word of God is the antidote to our fear of having to face life. In speaking to us, the Lord reminds us that we are in his heart, that we are precious in his eyes, and that he holds us in the palm of his hand.

VOCATION REFLECTIONS

Jan. 31st – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

People were spellbound by the teachings of Jesus. Jesus' teaching was extraordinary in that he taught with authority. The church needs bold teachers and preachers today. Consider a vocation to priesthood or religious life to teach as Jesus taught. 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.

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. Michael'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.

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.**

Catholic Cemeteries Association

OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD, INC.

All Saints Cemetery-Corporate Office

Website: www.ccacem.org

Barbara Gode, Outreach Coordinator 203 780-8418

**Mark your calendar!
Join us as we embark on a
NEW Lenten Journey...**

The Way of the Cross

Join us as we pray, reflect and walk the **Way of the Cross** during Lent.

Our Lenten Walk will begin **at 3:00 pm** (the hour of Mercy) **and will take place every other Tuesday**:

February 16th (Tuesday the week Lent begins)

March 2nd

March 16th

March 30th

All are welcome to meet by the Mausoleum main entrance at **All Saints Cemetery** in North Haven located at 700 Middletown Ave. Weather permitting, we will be walking outside. Please dress accordingly for this event.

Programs with prayers and meditations will be provided.

We will follow CDC guidelines to ensure a safe environment for all. We encourage proper distancing as we walk. Our Coordinator, will be using an amplifier for your convenience. Masks are encouraged, but not necessary outdoors. Masks will not be provided.

NOTE: Be sure to check our website often for any changes to this event schedule.



**700 MIDDLETOWN AVE.,
NORTH HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06473
TELEPHONE 203-239-2557**