

# SAINT MICHAEL CHURCH

EST. 1889

*The First Italian Parish In Connecticut*

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

**Deacon:** Norman Singer

## Parish Office

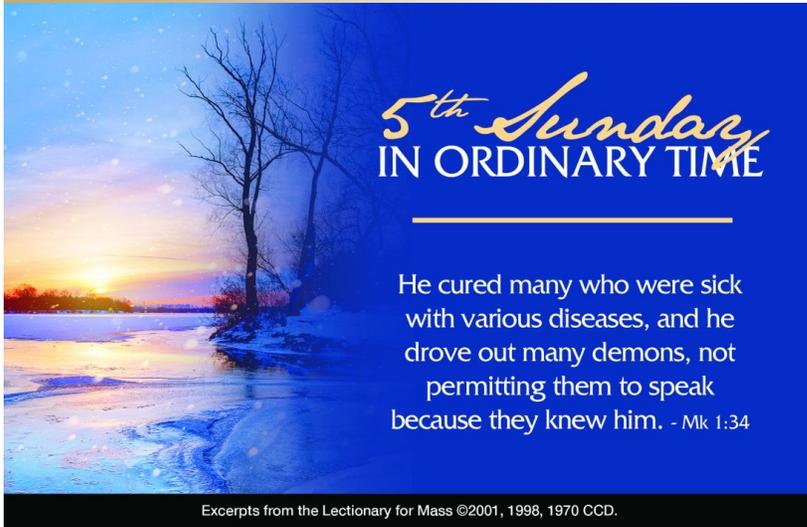
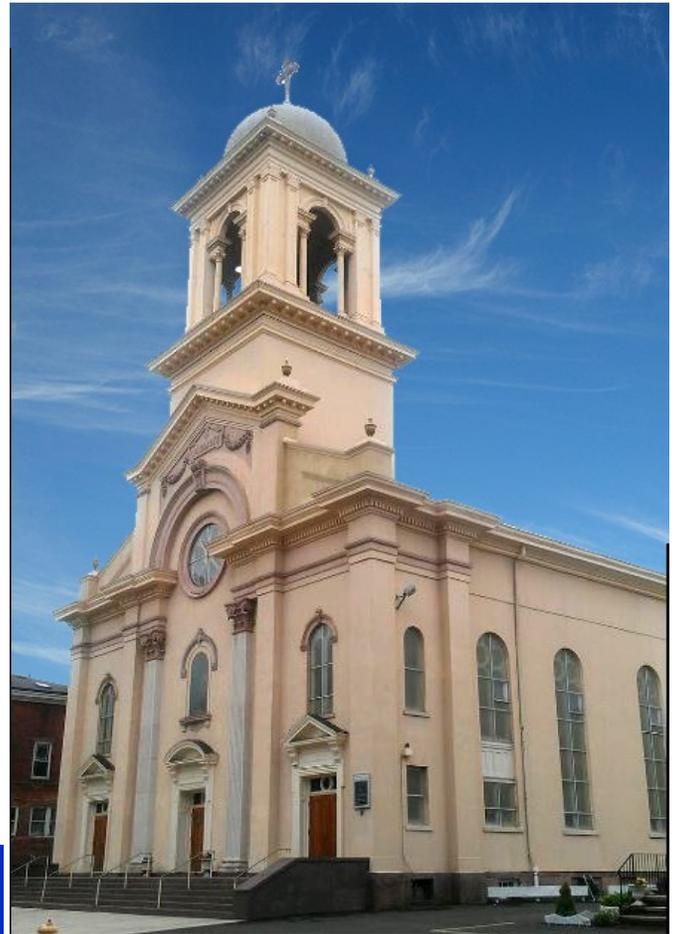
9:00am - 1:00pm Monday - Friday  
203-562-7178  
203-752-0157 fax  
smc1889@att.net  
stmichaelwoostersquare.org

## 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.





FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
February 7, 2021

After the exorcism that is the first of Jesus’ miracles. Jesus performs a physical healing to Peter’s mother-in-law. Mark shows that Jesus exercised authority over both demonic possession and physical illness. Indeed, Jesus’ ability to cast out demons and to heal the sick becomes the way in which the world first knows him.

The difference in the details of the two healings is significant. Jesus orders the demon out; he touches the mother-in-law, and the fever leaves her. For Mark, exorcism is accomplished through verbal authority (demons respond to command), and it is often an instrument for teaching and preaching. By contrast, physical healing is brought about by the touch of one who is holy. In both of these incidents, by command and by touch. Jesus is authoritative. His cure of both victims is total.

In the evening exorcisms that follow, Jesus will not allow the demons to speak, because they know him. Mark will show this many more times as Jesus seeks to be known in the full context of the passion and Resurrection and not just in a handful of miraculous healings. This “messianic secret” of Mark’s account of the Gospel places the full revelation at the end of Jesus’ public life, not at the beginning.

Night is the traditional time for confrontation with, and here the sick and possessed are brought to Jesus at sundown. The power that Jesus wields is not diminished by darkness. In fact, it offers a way to encounter God with no distractions. Jesus seizes the opportunity to pray in a deserted place apart from his disciples and the crowds. Mark connects Jesus’ power to his prayer by interrupting the healings to narrate this incident. When the disciples search him out, though, he immediately returns to his work, extending his mission to the neighboring towns, proclaiming the message and exorcising demons. Jesus’ fame spreads, but it also attracts the attention of the Jewish leaders who will begin to question him.

**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

**Monday, February 8th, St. Jerome Emiliani**

8:00 a.m. – Norma Bailey, req. by Mary & Jeff Eastman

**Tuesday, February 9th, Weekday**

8:00 a.m. -

**Wednesday, February 10th, St. Scholastica**

8:00 a.m. - NO MASS

**Thursday, February 11th, Our Lady of Lourdes**

8:00 a.m.–

**Friday, February 12th, Weekday**

8:00 a.m. -

**Saturday, February 13th, Vigil of the Lord’s Day**

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

**Sunday, February 14th, 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:30 a.m. - Carol Acampora, req. by husband Al

*Sanctuary Lamp*

*Sunday, February 7, 2021  
In Memory of  
Norma Bailey*

In remembrance of those who died,

Carol Onofrio Morbidelli

May she rest in peace.

Weekend of January 31, 2021

Weekly Collection \$1158.00  
Monthly Collection

One Collection This Week  
Weekly Collection

One Collection Next Week  
Weekly Collection

**Readings for the week of February 7, 2021**

**Sunday:** Job 7:1-4, 6-7; 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23; Mark 1:29-39

**Monday:** Genesis 1:1-19; Mark 6:53-56

**Tuesday:** Genesis 1:20—2:4a; Mark 7:1-13

**Wednesday:** Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-17; Mark 7:14-23

**Thursday:** Genesis 2:18-25; Mark 7:24-30

**Friday:** Genesis 3:1-8; Mark 7:31-37

**Saturday:** Genesis 3:9-24; Mark 8:1-10

**PASTORAL REFLECTIONS**  
**February 7, 2021**

As Christians, the Holy Season of Lent is just a week and one half away. To some it may seem too early to start talking about Lent or even its consideration. In reality, it is not! In preparation for this holy season, I would like to offer some consideration on the Mercy of God. After all, isn't the salvation that we as Christians celebrate a great act of God's Mercy?

In talking about the justice and mercy of God, St. Thomas Aquinas, in his *Summa Theologiae*, states that "Mercy starts all God's work and grows in all that follows, God always giving beyond the measure of a creature's due."<sup>1</sup>

It was in mercy and love that God chose to create the universe and all that it holds, to create us in the divine image and likeness, making us male and female that we might share in the very divine nature and life of who and what God is. As the scriptures tell us, "God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good." Yet, even when Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the original sin by eating of the fruit of the tree of life, God did not turn his back on his creation nor on us. He could have said to Adam and Eve, "I created you in justice and truth to share my divine life and love with you, but you refused to listen to me; therefore, I am abandoning and condemning you to your own devices." God would have had every right to condemn us because of their disobedience. It would have been divine justice. But it was only by the mercy of God that He promised to come to our rescue by sending us a redeemer His Son Jesus who would not only reconcile us with God, His Father, but also to one another. Because of an act of disobedience, in justice God was under no obligation to promise and to send a redeemer.

This whole scenario about God's incredible mercy makes me think of a story that I came across many years ago. I don't recall from where I got it from, but during the Napoleonic Wars, a young, battle-weary French soldier fell asleep while on guard duty. This was such a grave offence that he was court-marshaled, found guilty and sentenced to death. His widowed mother appealed her son's case to every level of command, and in her persistence; she managed to obtain an audience with the Emperor Napoleon himself. Falling at his feet, the woman begged him to spare her son's life, explaining he was her only child and her sole means of support. The son was everything to her, all that she had left in this life.

"I do not ask for justice," she said to the Emperor, "I plead for mercy."

"Madam, your son does not deserve mercy. He deserves to die," Napoleon responded coldly.

The mother immediately replied, "You are right, sire, of course. That is why I am asking you for mercy. If he were deserving of it, it would not be mercy."

The emperor was so touched by the logic of her words that he pardoned the soldier.

I have used this story, as we approach the Holy Seasons of Lent and Easter, because I really believe that this story encapsulates what salvation is all about, what God's mercy is all about, especially after the fall of Adam and Eve. Clearly in view of their disobedience and according to the divine justice of God, they and we clearly deserved death. But God would have it otherwise. By the promise to send a redeemer, God, in his great mercy and love, steps in to do for us what we could not do for ourselves, that is namely to destroy sin and death and to restore our divine relationship as sons and daughters of God. That is what Easter is all about that is what salvation is all about. As St. Paul reminds us that faith and salvation are God's free gift to us. We did not earn it nor was it some type of reward for something we have done.

In his encyclical letter "On the Mercy of God," our late Holy Father, St. Pope St. John Paul II wrote, "In and through Christ, God becomes remarkably visible in His mercy." In speaking of the mystery of the Incarnation, Pope St. Leo the Great states in his letter on the mystery of man's reconciliation with God, "He emptied himself; though invisible he makes himself visible, though Creator and Lord of all things he chose to be one of us mortal men. Yet this was the condescension of compassion not the loss of omnipotence." The word "compassion" can also suggest sympathy, concern, empathy and care. Certainly, we see this in the ministry of Jesus, for the word compassion means to "suffer with." By becoming one of us, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity becomes God's Mercy made flesh for us. As St. John tells us "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." God in his great mercy comes to redeem his creation and his people. It is precisely because of this redeeming quality of God's incredible mercy that Jesus tells the Pharisees who were upset because He was associating tax collectors and breakers of the law, **'It is mercy I desire and not sacrifice.'** I have come to call, not the self-righteous, but sinners." MT 9:13

Fr. Roy

<sup>1</sup>St. Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae, a Concise Translation*, Edited by Timothy McDermott, Christian Classics, Westminster, Md., 1989 pg. 55.

**LENT 2021**

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

**Ash Wednesday,  
February 17, 2021**  
8:00 AM - Mass and ashes  
12:10 PM - Mass and ashes

**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.

***Question of the Week***

How do I serve God and serve my neighbor? Will I commit to doing all I can?

**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 Lord does not call us to be soloists, but to be part of a choir that can sometimes miss a note or two, but must always try to sing in unison.*

**VOCATION REFLECTIONS  
Feb.7th– Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Healing, reconciling, and proclaiming good news: the tasks of Jesus, after which he withdraws to the desert to pray. Spend time in prayer to learn if God is calling you to be a healer, reconciler, proclaimer of good news as a priest or religious. 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, [StMichael-WoosterSquare.org](http://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.**

February 7, 2021  
The Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time  
**National Marriage Week**



**February 7-14, 2021**

This year's theme is "To have To Have, To Hold, To Honor." This is a wonderful opportunity to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family.

This week we pray for all married and engaged couples, that they may strive daily to faithfully and lovingly live out their marriage vows, bearing witness to the love God has for each of us.

**International Day of Prayer and  
Awareness Against Human Trafficking**

**February 8, 2021**

With encouragement from Pope Francis, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General designated February 8th as an annual day of prayer, reflection, and action against human trafficking. On this day, we remember and pray for survivors and victims of modern-day slavery. We pray that we may work together to remove the causes of this disgraceful scourge that is present in all our cities and neighborhoods.

**February 8th** is also the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita. Born in the Darfur region of Sudan in 1869, St. Bakhita was kidnapped and enslaved as a child. Eventually she was sold to an Italian diplomat and taken to Italy, where she valiantly asserted her freedom with the help of the Cannossian Sisters of Venice. Through her faith, St. Bakhita realized the promise of liberty inherent in the human spirit. She lived out the rest of her life as a Cannossian sister, sharing her empowering testimony of human freedom and dignity. In 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized Josephine Bakhita, noting that in this saint, "we find a shining advocate of genuine emancipation.

**World Day for the Sick**

**February 11, 2021**

We pray for all those suffering from illness, especially those whose health has been impacted by the Coronavirus. We also pray for their caregivers and family members.