

# SAINT MICHAEL CHURCH

EST. 1889

*The First Italian Parish In Connecticut*

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

**Deacon:** Norman Singer

## Parish Office

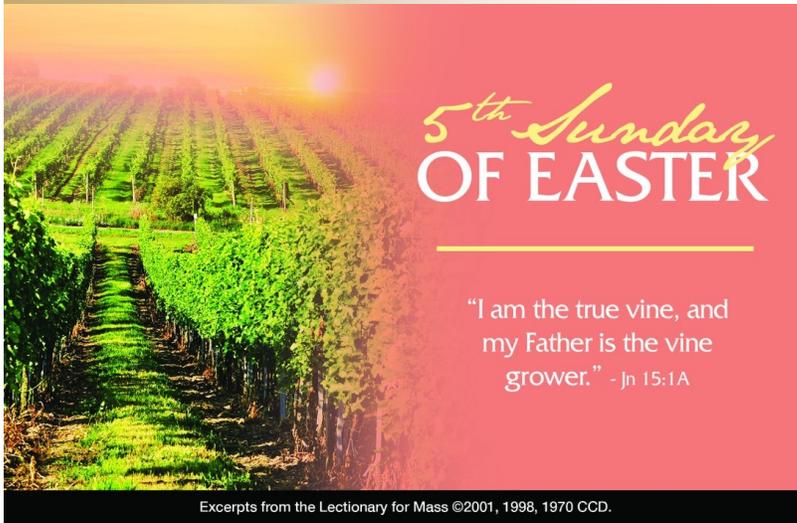
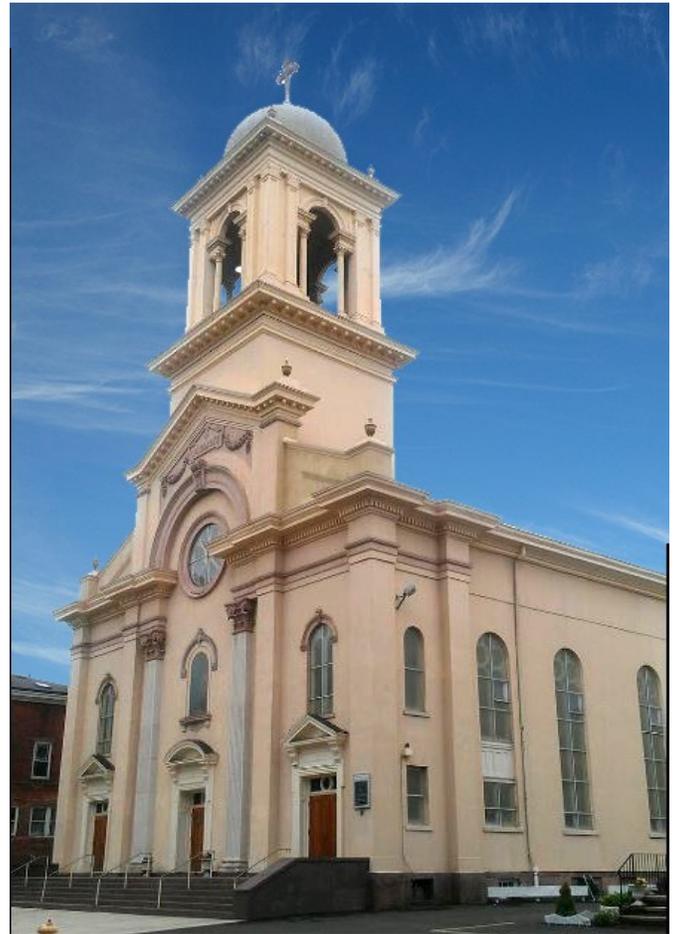
9:00am - 1:00pm Monday - Friday  
203-562-7178  
203-752-0157 fax  
smc1889@att.net  
stmichaelwoostersquare.org

## 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, May 1st, Vigil of the Lord's Day**

4:00 p.m. - Fortunato & Trofimenia Apicella, req. by daughter

**Sunday, May 2nd, 5th Sunday of Easter**

9:30 a.m. - Community Mass

**Monday, May 3rd, Sts. Philip & James**

8:00 a.m. - Alice Hamel, req. by Knights of Columbus, Russell Council #65

**Tuesday, May 4th, Easter Weekday**

8:00 a.m. - Fred Quartiano, req. by Patti & Serge Toni

**Wednesday, May 5th, Easter Weekday**

8:00 a.m. - NO MASS

**Thursday, May 6th, Easter Weekday**

8:00 a.m.-

**Friday, May 7th, Easter Weekday**

8:00 a.m. - Charles Piasecki, req. by wife

**Saturday, May 8th, Vigil of the Lord's Day**

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

**Sunday, May 9th, 6th Sunday of Easter**

9:30 a.m. - In Honor of Antoinette Proto, req. by Frank R. Proto & family

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**May 2, 2021**

When he brought Saul to the Apostles, Barnabas told the story of how in Damascus Saul “had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.” The phrase “spoken out boldly” uses a form of the Greek *parrhesia*, often translated in the New Testament as “boldness.” It combines the words for “everything” (*pan*) and “speaking” (*rhesis*). Words spoken with *parrhesia* say everything there is to be said. *Parrhesia* suggests the act of communicating ideas directly, bluntly, without elaborate logic and vague metaphors—plain speaking.

*Parrhesia* suggests not so much a talent for speaking as a habit of speaking candidly, born of honesty and simplicity. The word also came to be used for the inner attitude of confidence that lay behind this practice of plain speaking. Intimate friends and family normally speak with *parrhesia* because they can speak without shame or fear of embarrassment or recrimination.

Preaching the Gospel with *parrhesia* was prized in the early Church as strong evidence that the Holy Spirit had certified one’s authenticity as a disciple. This is what Barnabas saw in Paul. It is also something Luke himself saw and admired in the apostle, as we can see in his stories of Paul’s courage speaking in the latter half of Acts. Paul himself once described the effect of this of boldness. When he found himself posed to receive a Roman sentence of death, he wrote confidently; “with all boldness [*parrhesia*], now as always, Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.”

These uses of *parrhesia* help illumine the theme of confidence in prayer in today’s other texts. John’s letter says that Christians who act in love receive new assurance of God’s love that swallows up self-condemnation. Freedom from self-condemnation in turn nurtures courageous boldness—John uses the word *parrhesia*—in prayer to God. This creates the confidence that we received whatever we ask for from God. The passage from John’s account of the Gospel grounds this confident prayer in the indwelling life of Jesus.

**Sanctuary Lamp**  
**Sunday, May 2, 2021**  
**In Memory of**  
**Deceased Members of DeLillo Family**

**In remembrance of those who died,**

**Josephine Murgo**  
**May she rest in peace.**

**Weekend of April 25, 2021**

**Weekly Collection \$ 1079.00**  
**Online Collection \$75.00**

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

**Two Collection Next Week**  
**Weekly Collection**  
**Mothers Day**

**Readings for the week of May 2, 2021**

**Sunday:** Acts 9:26-31; 1 John 3:18-24; John 15:1-8  
**Monday:** 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; John 14:6-14  
**Tuesday:** Acts 14:19-28; John 14:27-31a  
**Wednesday:** Acts 15:1-6; John 15:1-8  
**Thursday:** Acts 15:7-21; John 15:9-11  
**Friday:** Acts 15:22-31; John 15:12-17  
**Saturday:** Acts 16:1-10; John 15:18-21

## PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

For centuries, the Catholic Church has dedicated the month of May as a special month when we pay special tribute and honor to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. One way we do this is by the recitation of the Rosary.

The word “rosary” comes from the Latin word meaning “rose garden or garland” and the whole concept behind the rosary, with its string of beads, is that whenever any prayer had to be repeated a large number of times, people needed another way of keeping count of these prayers other than just trying to count them upon their fingers. As we all know, it is easy to get distracted and lose our count. This method of keeping track of the number of prayers, by a string of beads, is not uncommon. In almost all countries and within various religions and beliefs throughout history; that we meet with something in the nature of prayer-counters, be they individual stones or beads and or prayer (rosary) beads, which are beads strung together. For example;

**In ancient Nineveh** – a statue was found of “Two winged females standing before the sacred tree in an attitude of prayer with their right arm and hand extended out in an upper position holding a garland or type of prayer rosary.”

In the **4th century**, a person known as **Paul the Hermit**, had imposed upon himself the task of repeating 300 prayers according to a set form every day. To do this, he gathered up three hundred pebbles and threw one away as he said each prayer.

Even the **Mohammedans, Muslims**, the **Tasbeeh** have beads on a string or wire, consisting of 33, 66, or 99 beads, which is used for the counting devotionally the names of Allah, which is the name of God in Arabic. For the **Tasbeeh** believers this type of prayer method has been in use for many centuries.

When **Marco Polo**, was visiting the **King of Malabar**, which is in **India**, in the **13th century**, he found to his surprise that the king used a rosary of 104 -108 precious stones to count his prayers.

When **St. Francis Xavier** and his companions went to **Japan in the 16th century**, he was surprised to see that the method of using beads to keep track of prayers was used by the **Buddhists**, a religion which goes back as far as 500 B.C.

**Monks of the Greek Church** use what is called a **kombologion, or komboschoinion**, which is a cord with 100 knots used to count genuflections and signs of the cross. It is also used to recite the Jesus Prayer, which is “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”

In centuries past, religious brothers and sisters were required to say fifty psalms as a part of their daily prayer life. If they could not pray the psalms, they were required to repeat fifty Our Fathers which they kept track of by using some type of rosary. To count these prayers accurately there is every reason to believe that already in the 11th or 12th centuries a practice of using of pebbles, berries or discs of bone threaded on a string had come into use.

It was only in the year 1214, however, that the Church received the Rosary in its present form and according to the method we use today. It was given to the Church by St. Dominic, who had received it from the Blessed Virgin as a means of converting the Albigensians and other sinners. This is the format:

Prayers – Apostles Creed, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.

**Joyful Mysteries:**

The Annunciation, The Visitation, The Birth of Jesus, The Presentation in the Temple, The Finding in the Temple

**Sorrowful Mysteries:**

The Agony in the Garden, The Scourging, The Crowning with Thorns, The Carrying of the Cross, The Crucifixion and Death.

**Glorious Mysteries:**

The Resurrection, The Ascension of Jesus into Heaven, The Descent of the Holy Spirit, The Assumption of Mary into Heaven, The Coronation of Mary.

**Luminous Mysteries:**

The Baptism of the Lord in the Jordan by John, The Wedding Feast at Cana, Jesus preaching and proclaiming the Kingdom of God, The Transfiguration, The Institution of the Eucharist.

Many saints have declared that the “Rosary is a very powerful prayer.” As we continue to struggle with this pandemic and finally seeing some light at the end of the tunnel, during the month of May, may we fly to the protection and intercession of the Blessed Virgin asking her to watch over us and keep us safe always.

Fr. Roy

***Catholic Charities***

Like our local Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Catholic Charities USA works to provide services to people in need, to advocate for justice in social structures, and to call the entire Church and other people of good will to do the same. With great difficulties facing people in many places across the country, the organization helps to offer assistance surrounding immigration and refugee services, affordable housing, mental and physical healthcare, food assistance and nutrition, advocacy and social policy, and additional fields, doing so in places where such aid is of the greatest need.

All parishes are invited to remind their community of the critical work being done by Catholic Charities in support of these efforts.

Donations can be made to help children, families, and those who need this assistance by going to our website at <https://www.ccaoh.org/> to support Catholic Charities USA.

**Bishop Peter Rosazza  
Social Justice Virtual Conference**

**June 5 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm |Free**

**Bishop Peter Rosazza Social Justice  
virtual Conference; Opening Wide our  
Hearts – Walking Humbly with God**

The conference includes a keynote address by New Orleans Auxiliary Bishop Fernand Cheri, prayer, and workshop options. It will provide a broadened understanding of racism as a life issue and our role and responsibility in developing and nurturing anti-racist attitudes to address the sin of racism. Free; Register at: <http://www.catholicsocialjustice.org/>

**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.

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



*In daily life, we can find the Risen One in the faces of our brothers and sisters above all in the poor and those on the fringes. We will be amazed how the greatness of God is revealed in littleness, how his beauty shines forth in the poor and simple.*

***Question of the Week***

In order to flourish and bear fruit, the vine needs to be pruned. What in me needs to be pruned so that I can bear fruit to the fullest extent possible?

**VOCATION REFLECTIONS**

**5th Sunday of Easter**

“Behold!” This opening statement urges us to give full attention to the proclamation that follows: “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last.” If you want to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ as a priest or religious, call Fr. Michael Casey, Director of Vocations, Pastoral Center, Tel. 860-761-7456, e-mail [vocations@aoht.org](mailto:vocations@aoht.org) or visit the web at [www.hartfordpriest.com](http://www.hartfordpriest.com)

**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.**



## Respect Life Ministry Archdiocese of Hartford

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### **LIFE PREVAILED! Assisted Suicide Bill Dies in Committee**



Today, the Judiciary Committee failed to take action on House Bill 6425 "An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients", resulting in the death of the bill for this legislative session.

The bill passed out of the Public Health Committee and then was referred to the Judiciary Committee for further review. The deadline for the Judiciary Committee to take action was yesterday, April 20th.

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Thank you to all who made calls and submitted testimony to defeat this legislation over the last several months.

Respect Life Ministry Archdiocese of Hartford  
203-213-5079  
sistersuzanne@prolifeministry.org  
sisteramaris@prolifeministry.org  
prolifeministry.org

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**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.**