

SAINT MICHAEL CHURCH

EST. 1889

The First Italian Parish In Connecticut

Pastor: Rev. Robert P. Roy

Deacon: Norman Singer

Parish Office

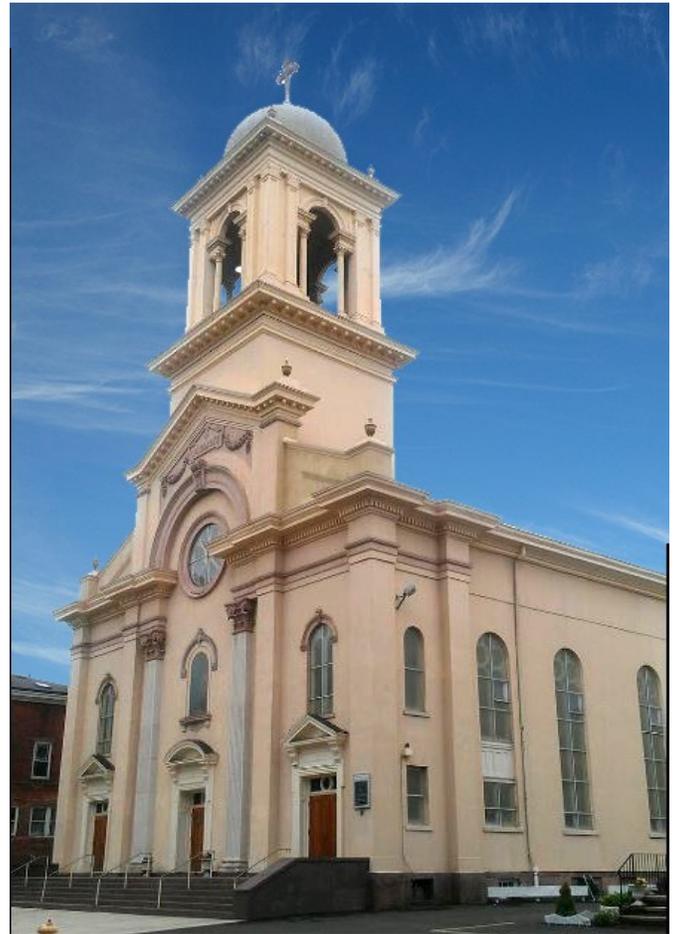
9:00am - 1:00pm Monday - Friday
203-562-7178
203-752-0157 fax
smc1889@att.net
stmichaelwoostersquare.org

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



6th Sunday IN ORDINARY TIME

He said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them." - Mk 1:44

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.





**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
February 14, 2021**

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

Monday, February 15th, Weekday

8:00 a.m. - William, William C & Stella Candela, req. by family

Tuesday, February 16th, Weekday

8:00 a.m. - Gods grace health & happiness, req. by Anastasio family

Wednesday, February 17th, Ash Wednesday

8:00 a.m. -
12:10 p.m. -

Thursday, February 18th, Thursday after Ash

Wednesday

8:00 a.m.-

Friday, February 19th, Friday after Ash

Wednesday

8:00 a.m. -

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

For lepers, the law of Leviticus must have seemed very harsh. They could not live in the camp with anyone. They had to warn people that they were coming. Actually, any skin disease was considered leprosy unless proven otherwise. The Book of Leviticus devotes two chapters (13 and 14) to laws requiring a period of separation and examination before anyone with a skin lesion is allowed back into the camp. Leprosy was worse than other ailments because the opening on the skin often exposed blood, the source of life, and any contact with blood made a person unclean.

Every Jew reading Mark's account of the Gospel would have been familiar with the laws regarding leprosy. When Jesus touched the leper to heal him, Jews collectively gasped. Not even the prophet Elisha (2 Kings 5) cured a leper this way. Touching the leper made Jesus unclean, yet neither he nor Mark seemed concerned. The encounter with the leper again shows Jesus confronting the conditions that separate people from each other. The possessed man was disturbed and frightening; Peter's mother-in-law could not fulfill her place in the family; the leper is alienated by the unclean nature of his disease. In each case, by word or touch, Jesus restores the person to the family and the community.

Mark adds two interesting details to this story. First, Jesus is moved "moved with pity" for the man. Mark, who tells the story of Jesus more simply than the other Gospels, described Jesus' emotional state. This makes Mark's portrayal of Jesus very human. But he also emphasizes the healing power of Jesus to show his divine identity. Second, as he did with the demons, Jesus urges the leper to tell no one. Jesus did not want followers based solely on his ability to heal. If we were to hear all of verse 45 in this reading, we would understand what Jesus feared. He is no longer able to move about openly because people flock to him seeking healing. In the face of their preoccupation with physical healing, his message may well be lost.

Sanctuary Lamp

Sunday, February 14, 2021

In Memory of

Deceased Members of St. Michael Parish

**In remembrance of those who died,
Lucy Proto Sasso
May she rest in peace.**

Weekend of February 7, 2021

Weekly Collection \$1884.00

Monthly Collection \$334.00

**One Collection This Week
Weekly Collection**

**One Collection Next Week
Weekly Collection**

Readings for the week of February 14, 2021

Sunday: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Corinthians 10:31—11:1; Mark 1:40-45

Monday: Genesis 4:1-15, 25; Mark 8:11-13

Tuesday: Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Mark 8:14-21

Wednesday: Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25

Friday: Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15

Saturday: Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke 5:27-32



PASTORAL REFLECTIONS
“REPENT AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL”
“REMEMBER YOU ARE DUST AND DUST YOU WILL RETURN!”

With these words, this Wednesday, February 17th, Ash Wednesday, the Church officially begins the Holy season of Lent. Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox and can be celebrated as early as March 22nd or as late as April 25th. Ash Wednesday is 46 days before Easter Sunday, but Lent is considered a liturgical season of 40 days because the 6 Sundays during this period are exempt from the Lenten calendar. The early Christians recognized the need to prepare spiritually and physically for the great feast of Easter, the Resurrection of the Lord, by prayer and fasting, but in various areas of the world, as Christianity spread, initially different Christian communities developed different practices. Some communities prayed and fasted for just one day, some for 2 days, others for 40 hours, and still others for a full week. By the eighth century, Lent as we know it today, beginning with Ash Wednesday, ending on Holy Thursday and not including Sundays, became the established practice for the entire faith community, for the entire Church. The custom of marking the foreheads of everyone in the community with ashes is thought to have originated during the papacy of Pope St. Gregory the Great (590-604). The ashes, being a symbol of repentance and sorrow for sin since Old Testament times, are an external sign of an interior disposition that is expressing sorrow and repentance for one's sins.

Lent is really a time when we can all enter a “spiritual desert” and listen to what God is asking of us and then respond by changing our personal lives. Throughout the scriptures God is always calling his people to return to Him and receive His mercy. Sometimes as Catholics, we can get so caught up in the busyness of life that we can forget the importance of the Sacraments, and how the Sacraments help us “return to the Lord” especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is in the Sacrament of Reconciliation wherein we not only “return to the Lord” by “rending our hearts and not our garments” but we also wherein we encounter the love, mercy and forgiveness of God. Like I tell people, “There is no sin that cannot be forgiven provided we are truly sorry for what we have done and have a firm purpose of amendment not to commit that sin any more. As the Lord tells us in the scriptures, “I do not desire the death of a sinner but that they turn to me and live.”

The door of faith is always open for us, ushering us into the life of stronger Communion with God and offering entry into His Church. One of the best ways to prepare for Easter is by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Note: Because of the pandemic, people are still exempted from attending Mass.

Also Please Note: That Ash Wednesday is NOT A HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION.

The Mass Schedule for Ash Wednesday is as follows; 8:00 am, 12:10 with the distribution of Ashes.

There is NO 5:30pm Mass.

On Wednesdays during Lent, we will have a 12:10 Mass.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND BENEDICTION WILL BE PRAYED EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT AT ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH AT 7:00 PM. (Booklets will not be distributed and there will be no singing).

**ASH WEDNESDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY ARE DAYS OF FAST & ABSTINENCE -----
THE FRIDAY'S OF LENT ARE DAYS OF ABSTINENCE.**

Just a reminder, about the fasting and abstinence regulations during Lent, every person from 14 years of age or older must abstain from, that is not allowed to eat meat, (and / or items made with meat or meat products) on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent.

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Every person between the ages of 18 and 59 (beginning of 60th year) **must fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday** that is a person, between the ages of 18 and 59, is only permitted to eat one full meal that day. Two other smaller meatless meals, sufficient to maintain one's strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating and / or snacking between meals is also not permitted. However, when health or ability to work would be seriously affected by this, the law does not oblige. In the end, Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed minimal penitential practices.

In short, here are the church's regulations regarding fasting and abstinence during Lent that you can cut out and post in a prominent place for a reminder.

Everyone 14 years of age or older is bound to abstain from meat that is not eat meat or anything made from meat products on Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.

Everyone 18 year of age or older, and under the age of 59 years, is bound to fast that is to limit the amount of food one consumes on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals and or snacking between meals is not permitted. However, when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.

But Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed minimal penitential practices. Since FASTING, prayer and almsgiving make up the three pillars of Lenten practices it should not be taken lightly.

Have a blessed and holy Lent! Also, Happy Valentine's Day!

Fr. Roy

VOCATION REFLECTIONS

Feb. 14th – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Make the story public! Tell the world what Jesus has done for you. Consider a life of preaching, teaching, and service as a priest, deacon, sister or brother. 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.

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

What strained bond can I help heal this week?
What barrier can I break down?

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 14, 2021
The Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time
Today is World Marriage Day!



On this World Marriage Day, we thank our heavenly Father for the gift and blessing of marriage and the family. As we strive to live our particular vocations and respond to the Lord's grace in our lives, let's also consider how we might dedicate renewed prayer and attention to marriage and the family.

As a start, here are possible areas we might consider:

First, we begin with prayer: Let's remember to pray with and for marriages and families throughout our nation: for marriages in crisis, for families struggling with unemployment, for broken or wounded family relationships.

Second, let us reclaim Sunday as the Lord's Day, a day of rest when we can focus on being together as a family. The celebration of Holy Mass together is the first essential way to honor this day. But is there something more the Lord is inviting us to when we go back home? Set aside some time to pray a decade of the rosary, enjoy the outdoors together, play ball, eat dinner together, have a game night!

And third, let us remember that the Church is the family of God and a family of families. As a family, how can we share Christ with other married couples and families? Do we have any friends and family members who are struggling in their marriage, alone during this time of isolation, or particularly afflicted by this pandemic? When was the last time we checked on our elderly neighbors? Is there someone in the parish that we haven't seen in a while? How can we – as a family – reach out to those who are in need?

Ash Wednesday is February 17!

