

SAINT MICHAEL CHURCH

EST. 1889

The First Italian Parish In Connecticut

Pastor: Rev. Robert P. Roy

Parish Office

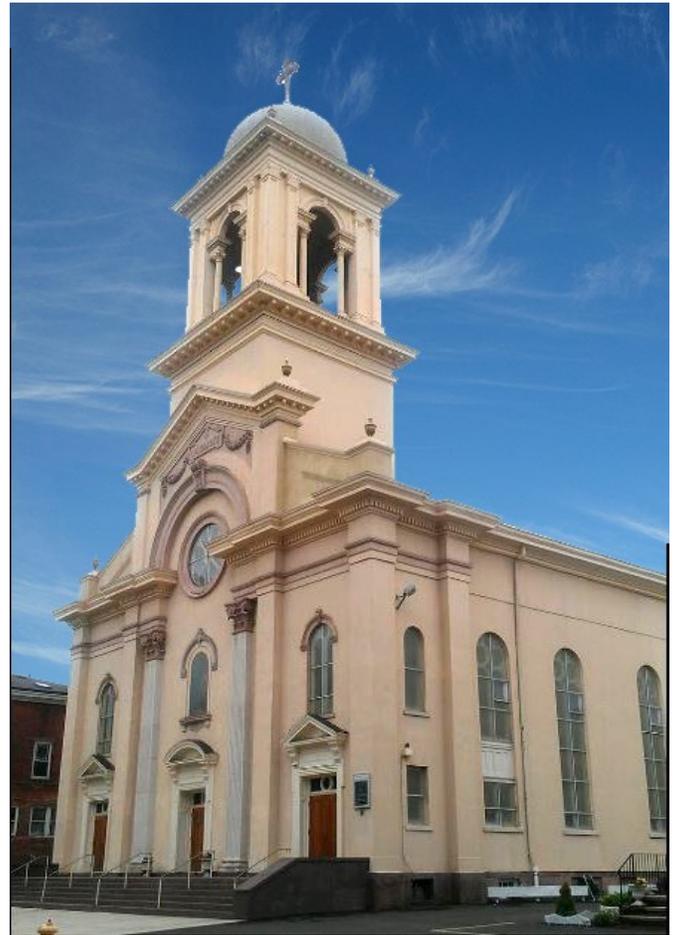
9:00am - 1:00pm Monday - Friday
203-562-7178
203-752-0157 fax
smc1889@att.net
stmichaelwoostersquare.org

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)

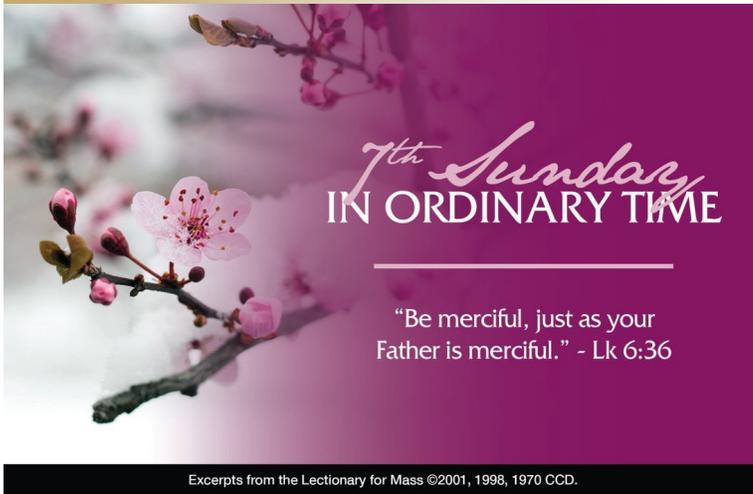
Holy Days: 8:00am, 12:10pm, 5:30pm

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.





**Mass Intentions
for the Week**

Saturday, February 19th, Vigil of the Lord's Day

4:00 p.m. - Michael & Gabriella DeLillo, req. by daughters

Sunday, February 20th, 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 a.m. - Raymond & Linda Saracco, req. by family

Monday, February 21st, St. Peter Damian

8:00 a.m. -

Tuesday, February 22nd, The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

8:00 a.m. -

Wednesday, February 23rd, St. Polycarp

8:00 a.m. - NO MASS

Thursday, February 24th, Weekday

8:00 a.m. -

Friday, February 25th, Weekday

8:00 a.m. - Lucille Sacco, req. by Gargano family

Saturday, February 26th, Vigil of the Lord's Day

4:00 p.m. - Vincent Donarumo, req. by niece Ann Donarumo

Sunday, February 27th, 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 a.m. - Michael Rispoli, req. by Festa family

Sanctuary Lamp

Sunday, February 20, 2022

In Memory of

Deceased Members of St. Michael Parish

**In remembrance of those who died,
Lucille Sacco, Caterina Valentino &
Dolores Criscio
May they rest in peace.**

Weekend of February 13, 2022

**Weekly Collection \$ 1508.00
Online Collection \$95.00**

**One Collections This Week
Weekly Collection**

**One Collection Next Week
Weekly Collection**

**7th Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 20, 2022**

Many consider mercy to be the same as pity and that being merciful can make one feel superior to the offender. Today's Scripture readings, though, invite us to a more nuanced understanding of mercy that we must aspire to if our lives are to be holy.

In the first reading, we hear a story about King Saul, who, with his army, was seeking to kill David, because Saul was jealous of David's popularity among the people. In a strange turn of events, Saul and his commanders make camp very near where David and his troops are hiding. Thus, David and Abishai enter Saul's camp and even his tent in the middle of the night, Abishai suggests that they should kill Saul on the spot, but they choose not to do so, because, as David says, Saul is God's anointed. Only God can raise a hand against him.

Today's Gospel, which is part of Luke's sermon on the plain, is a teaching on loving one's enemies. From a practical point of view, we are told that we should treat others as we would want to be treated. More important, from a God-centered point of view, we are told to be merciful like our heavenly Father, who is kind to everyone, even the ungrateful and the wicked. The Greek word translated here is "kind" is *chréastos*, meaning "useful" or "kindly." Ironically it was a common name for slaves in the ancient world.

Question of the Week

Who has hurt me to whom I can give mercy?
How can I go about giving mercy, giving life, to them?

Readings for the week of February 20, 2022

Sunday: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23;
1 Corinthians 15:45-49; Luke 6:27-38

Monday: James 3:13-18; Mark 9:14-29

Tuesday: 1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19

Wednesday: James 4:13-17; Mark 9:38-40

Thursday: James 5:1-6; Mark 9:41-50

Friday: James 5:9-12; Mark 10:1-12

Saturday: James 5:13-20; Mark 10:13-16

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

February 20, 2022

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 works and grows in all that follows, God always giving beyond the measure of a creature's due."¹

When we consider the Divine Nature of God that is of who or what He is, God is perfect and complete in and of himself. There is nothing that can add to His greatness not even the vastness and grandeur of the universe. God chooses to create not that he needs anything from us or that somehow creation can add to His glory or greatness rather 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." Even though Adam and Eve were created in "Divine Justice" they still had to freely respond to God's creative love. Unfortunately, they responded negatively to God's love and as a result of this St. Paul remind us that "sin and death entered the world". 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 abandoned us. He could have said to Adam and Eve, "I created you in original 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 them and 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. 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, "**Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'It is mercy I desire and not sacrifice.' I have come to call, not the self-righteous, but sinners.**" MT 9:13

Fr. Roy

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

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.

MASS BOOK

**The Mass Book for 2022 is now open
Masses can be booked from
Jan 1, 2022 thru June 30, 2022.**

Come to the rectory from 9:00am – 12:30 p.m. 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 various non-profit agencies and families in need 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.**

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, StMichaelWoosterSquare.org, under the Parish Life tab.

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

It is very important to bring together the wisdom of the elderly and the enthusiasm of the young.

The encounter between grandparents and grandchildren is key, especially in this moment of economic and social crisis that humanity is undergoing.



**THE OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC
SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY**

Of the Archdiocese of Hartford

President Gerald Ford established Black History Month in 1976, in order to celebrate the often neglected accomplishments of African Americans throughout the country's history. The month grew out of a movement to promote the teaching of African American history. Check out The Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry's webpage for racial justice resources, including bulletin quotes from "Open Wide Our Hearts, the enduring call to love", the U.S. Catholic Bishops' pastoral letter against racism.

Open Wide Our Hearts, exploring healing racism in our Church and Community taking place Monday, February 7, 2022, 8 pm-10pm (EST). Presenter: Dr. C. Vanessa White, D. Min., Associate Professor of Spirituality and Ministry and the Director of the Certificate in Black Theology and Ministry Catholic Theological Union at Chicago. This event is free and will be recorded. Pre-registration is required. You can click here to pre-register. Sponsored by the Office of Social Justice and Respect Life, Archdiocese of Santa Fe. Contact: justice@archdiosf.org for more information.

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.**

Mark Your Calendar !
Join Us at the First Ever

CONNECTICUT MARCH FOR LIFE



SAVE THE DATE

**Wednesday March 23, 2022 at the
State Capitol**

For More Information Go To

CTMarchforLife.org

or

Text "CCC" to 74121



“The ABCs of Annulment”

Sponsored by the Metropolitan Tribunal, Bloomfield Father Jeffrey V. Romans, Pastor of Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish, 175 Main Street, Cheshire, Connecticut, in collaboration with Father George Mukuka, the Judicial Vicar of the Metropolitan Tribunal in Bloomfield, Connecticut, will host “The ABCs of Annulment” on Saturday of March 5th, 2022, from 10 am to 12:00 pm, in the Parish Hall at the address above. Updates of the process initiated by Pope Francis as well as those made in the Archdiocese of Hartford will be presented by Br. Larry Lussier CSC, and Jim Tottenham. Follow-up Annulment Workshops to help participants write their applications will be held at the same address on Saturday March 12th, and March 19th from 10 am to 12:00 pm. Br. Larry, Jim Tottenham, and other members of the Annulment Team, will be present for the Workshops. The “ABCs of Annulment” event is open to all at no cost. Participants will receive a folder with the required printed materials. No registration is required. For further information call Br. Larry @ 475-221-8464 or email him at brolarlus300@gmail.com.