

# SAINT MICHAEL CHURCH

EST. 1889

*The First Italian Parish In Connecticut*

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

**Deacon:** Norman Singer

## Parish Office

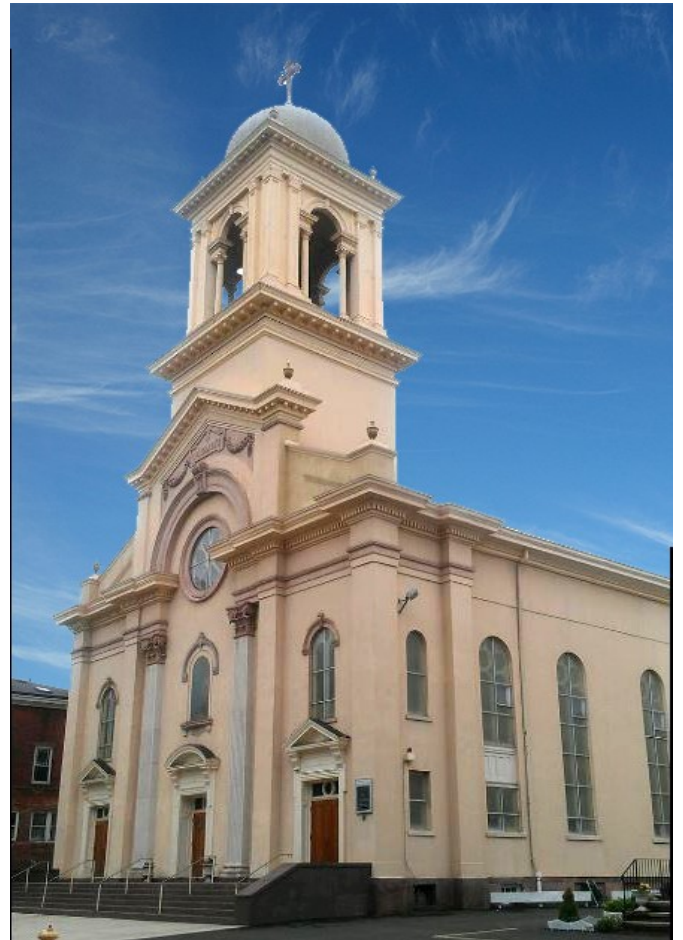
9:00am - 1:00pm Monday - Friday  
203-562-7178  
203-752-0157 fax  
smc1889@att.net  
stmichaelwoostersquare.org

## 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



## THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

“From this day all generations  
will call me blessed:  
the Almighty has done great  
things for me  
and holy is his Name.  
He has cast down the mighty  
from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.”  
- Lk 1:48b-49, 52

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

## *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, August 14th, Vigil of the Lord's Day**

4:00 p.m. - Norma Bailey, req. by Bob & Marie Lunney

**Sunday, August 15th, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

9:30 a.m. - Sta Maria Dela Vergini

**Monday, August 16th, St. Stephen of Hungary**

8:00 a.m. - Elizabeth Petrarca Costanzo, req. by Gene Petrarca

**Tuesday, August 17th, Weekday**

8:00 a.m. -

**Wednesday, August 18th, Weekday**

8:00 a.m. - NO MASS

**Thursday, August 19th, St. John Eudes**

8:00 a.m.-

**Friday, August 20th, St. Bernard**

8:00 a.m. - Norma Bailey, req. by Joan & Al Spardaro

**Saturday, August 21st, Vigil of the Lord's Day**

4:00 p.m. - Josephine Gargano, req. by family

**Sunday, August 22nd, 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:30 a.m. - Kathleen A. Keane, req. by Gene Petrarca

***Sanctuary Lamp***

***Sunday, August 15, 2021***

***Deceased Members of St. Michael Parish***

**In remembrance of those who died,  
Ivonne Montone & Ann Cucurello  
May they rest in peace.**

**Weekend of August 8, 2021**

**Weekly Collection \$1686  
Online Collection \$65.00**

**Two Collections This Week  
Weekly Collection  
Assumption**

**One Collection Next Week  
Weekly Collection**

**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
August 15, 2021**

As the Israelites traveled through the desert, they carried the Ark of the Covenant, a large, ornately carved chest. Inside where the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments, a symbol of God's covenant with them. A chair rested on top of the ark as a representation of God's throne, a sign that God dwelled among his people. After King David made Jerusalem the capital of Israel, he brought the ark into the city to signify that God was with his people, blessing and protecting them.

Mary is the Ark of the new covenant. As Elizabeth exclaims in Luke 1:42, Mary is blessed because she bears the living God. Tablets of stone are superseded by flesh and blood. The woman in today's Gospel passage declares that there is something special about Jesus that honors and elevates his mother.

She was probably startled by Jesus' invitation that she became blessed herself, not by bearing a son of importance, but by believing and living what Jesus taught. Mary did. Mary heard and submitted to God's Word when the angel announced it to her. After Jesus' death and Resurrection she continued to be obedient to God's Word. She gathered with disciples, awaiting the gift of the Holy Spirit and devoting herself to prayer.

Our celebration of Mary's Assumption into heaven is a celebration of eternal life. Because she kept God's Word so faithfully, Christ "clothed" his mother "with immortality," thereby keeping her body from decay. There was probably bigger, louder celebration when Mary entered heaven than there was when the ark of the first covenant entered Jerusalem. We pray that we will hear and observe God's Word so that we too will be joyously welcomed into eternal life.

**Readings for the week of August 15, 2021**

**Sunday:** Vigil: 1 Chronicles 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2; 1 Corinthians 15:54b-57; Luke 11:27-28  
Day: Revelations 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; 1 Corinthians 15:20-27; Luke 1:39-56  
**Monday:** Judges 2:11-19; Matthew 19:16-22  
**Tuesday:** Judges 6:11-24a; Matthew 19:23-30  
**Wednesday:** Judges 9:6-15; Matthew 20:1-16  
**Thursday:** Judges 11:29-39a; Matthew 22:1-14  
**Friday:** Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22; Matthew 22:34-40  
**Saturday:** Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17; Matthew 23:1-12

## Pastoral Reflection

Today, Sunday, August, 15<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, body and soul into heaven. Because of the greatness of this mystery of our faith, the regular prayers and scriptures readings for the 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time are replaced with the prayers and readings for the Assumption.

Whenever I pray the Glorious Mysteries of the rosary and I come to the Fourth Glorious Mystery, which is the Assumption of Mary, body and soul into heaven, the Solemnity that we celebrate this Sunday, I cannot help but think how in God's plan of salvation this mystery, this solemnity makes perfect sense.

If we consider who Mary is, her great God-given role in God's plan of salvation and her personal response to God's call and will in her life, her personal "yes" in the participation of God's plan for our salvation, in consenting to be the Mother of the Savior, and the salvation that Jesus her Son brought about through His suffering, death and resurrection than to me this mystery and the truth and the reality that it signifies and reveals, flows naturally and supernaturally from the events of salvation that have occurred.

If one of the reasons why God sent us His Son as Savior and Redeemer into the world was and is to ransom us, to redeem us for our sins, to take away our sins, to take away the sins of the world in order that we could be reunited back to the intimate life of the Trinity, that we might be reconciled to God, and Mary was to be and is the mother of the redeemer, than she, who was conceived without sin at the first moment of her conception was united with the Holy Trinity in a perfect and holy union since her conception, the Assumption makes sense.

If one of the reasons why God sent us His Son as Savior and Redeemer into the world was and is to lead us back to Himself, when we had all gone astray, as St. Paul tells us, than the "yes" of Mary which was the opposite of the "no" of Adam and Eve and Mary's openness to the will and working of God in her life, "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your words" makes her the perfect disciple, the perfect listener to the word of God, the perfect follower of the Lord; of the will of God for and in her life, the Assumption makes perfect sense.

If one of the reasons why God sent us His Son as Savior and Redeemer into the world was and is to overcome our greatest enemy which is death, to restore us back to life, divine life and this was accomplished through His own suffering, death and resurrection, to give us the gift of eternal life, than she, Mary, who shared in His passion by offering her Son upon the cross in order that this salvation, forgiveness of sin and new life might be accomplished and applied to us, then would she who had an important role to play in the accomplishment of our salvation not also be one of the first to share in this gift, in the gift of resurrection and eternal life that Jesus, her only begotten Son had gain for us? The Assumption of Mary makes perfect sense.

The whole point of all of this is that if Mary had such a key and important role to play in God's plan of salvation in restoring us back to his original intention and design when he first created us in His image and likeness, then would she not be one of the first to share in the promises and victory that her Son won for us through his suffering, death and resurrection. Because of her pivotal key role in obtaining our salvation, would she not be one of the first who would share body and soul in this promise of bodily resurrection and eternal life and glory in heaven with her Son? The Assumption of Mary, body and soul into heaven makes perfect sense.

Sometimes, we don't always make the connection of what Mary's Assumption means to us. What Mary's Assumption means to us, when she was taken up body and soul into heaven, is that each and every one of us by virtue of our baptism, we are called to share in that same glory in heaven in our own risen and glorified bodies with our soul. After all, did not Jesus say, "I go and prepare a place for you. Where I am you shall also be." After all, is not that place in heaven where Jesus is seated at the right hand of His Father in glory?

For Mary's Assumption not only is her own personal sharing in her Son's resurrection and glory, but it also represents the pattern of the Church in its perfection as we pray in our preface at Mass, "Her assumption represents the future glory of all of us."

Mary's Assumption into heaven should inspire us to see the worth of making every effort to live life properly, for she is a living symbol and model of what God calls us to be.

As we journey on our pilgrim way especially in these difficult and challenging times, Mary has so much to teach us, because she points forward to our future destination where we hope to be.

These thoughts are just a sampling, a small smattering of the great mysteries that we ponder on this Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup> concerning the Assumption of Mary into heaven. And if we truly examine these sacred mysteries with faith and devotion than the feast of the Assumption of Mary, body and soul into heaven makes perfect sense and is the perfect conclusion to the life of a person who followed and believed in the words of the Lord that were spoken to her.

God Bless!  
Fr. Roy

The ABC's of Annulment  
September 18@ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Sponsored by The Metropolitan Tribunal

Father Thomas Walsh, Pastor of Saint Augustine Parish, 10 Campbell Ave, Hartford, 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 September 18th**, from 10 am to 12:00 pm, in the Church 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 in English, while Deacon Ramon Rosado will deliver the presentation in Spanish.

Follow-up Annulment Workshops to help participants write their applications will be held at the same address on Saturday September 25th and October 2nd and 9th, from 10 am to 12:00 pm. Deacon George Frederick and Jim Tottenham, members of the Annulment Team, will join Br. Larry and Deacon Rosado 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](mailto:brolarlus300@gmail.com).

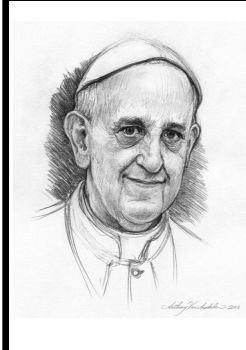
**2021 CT Catholic Men's Conference**

Attention men of the parish, the theme for the 14th Annual CT Catholic Men's Conference is The Most Holy Rosary. As usual there are 4 tremendous speakers that will challenge all who attend plus a gust homilist!

You can be part of it on Saturday, September 25, 2021 at the New Britain Baseball Stadium for an amazing day that will have a tremendous impact on you. You can purchase tickets and read the details ONLINE at [www.ctcatholicmen.org](http://www.ctcatholicmen.org)

Sign up today, don't delay.

**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.**



*From the Twitter Account of Pope Francis*  
*God does not come in extraordinary events, but works amid the apparent monotony of our daily life, in the frequently dull rhythm of our activities, in the little things that, working with tenacity and humility, we achieve in our efforts to do his will.*

**Aug. 15th – Twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
The woman persisted in calling on Jesus to help her daughter. Jesus at first did not answer her and then replied that "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel". He healed the woman's daughter. Are you a lost sheep being called to serve in religious life? 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).

**MASS BOOK**

The Mass Book is open for all registered parishioners for 2021. Weekday masses, Sanctuary candles and Community Masses 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.**

**Question of the Week**  
What would I choose to include in my own Magnificat? For what great things would I praise God?

**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.**



## **The Solemnity Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary August 15, 2021**

### **WHAT IS THE ASSUMPTION?**

The first name of this solemnity was the Feast of Mary, Mother of God. Later, its name in the East carried over, the Dormition (or Falling Asleep) of Mary. In the West, it became known as the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

This solemnity celebrates the fact that Mary's Assumption is "a pledge of the future participation of the members of the mystical Body of Christ in the paschal glory of the Risen Christ." It shows that the Lord "reserves a munificent reward for his humble Servant because of her faithful cooperation with the divine plan, which is a destiny of fullness, happiness, glorification of her immaculate soul, her virginal body, perfect configuration to her Risen Son" (Directory, no. 180). The Mass has a proper vigil, and the solemnity replaces the Mass of the day when it occurs on a Sunday in Ordinary Time.

### **What does this all mean?**

On November 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII declared the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which the Church celebrates every year on August 15. Simply put, the dogma of the Assumption states that at the end of her life, the Blessed Virgin Mary was taken, body and soul, into Heaven.

While this event isn't reflected in Sacred Scripture, it is clearly part of the Church's earliest observance. In the sixth century, St. John Damascene wrote in one of his sermons, "Your sacred and happy soul, as nature will have it, was separated in death from your most blessed and immaculate body, and although the body was duly interred, it did not remain in the state of death, neither was it dissolved by decay; your most pure and sinless body was not left on earth, but you were transferred to your heavenly throne."

Theologically speaking, death is often understood to be a consequence of original sin. Since Mary was conceived without Original Sin, some theologians have wondered if Mary died or if perhaps she was taken into Heaven without experiencing death. The Catechism of the Catholic Church doesn't answer this question but simply states, "The most blessed Virgin Mary, when the course of her earthly life was completed, was taken up body and soul into the glory of heaven" (no. 974)

The Solemnity of the Assumption reminds us of the unique role that Mary served in the process of our salvation. Although she was without sin, we have the possibility of receiving God's forgiveness for our sins through Christ. Her entry into Heaven prefigures our own hope of experiencing the same eternal life.

Ordinarily, the celebration of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a holy day of obligation for Catholics, but when it falls on a Saturday or a Monday, that obligation to attend Mass is lifted.

*What is the Assumption? is an excerpt from the Essential Guide to Seasons and Saints, copyright © 2013, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. What does this all mean? was written by Fr. Larry Rice, former vocations director for the Paulist Fathers. Copyright © 2018, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington DC. All rights reserved.*