

# 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

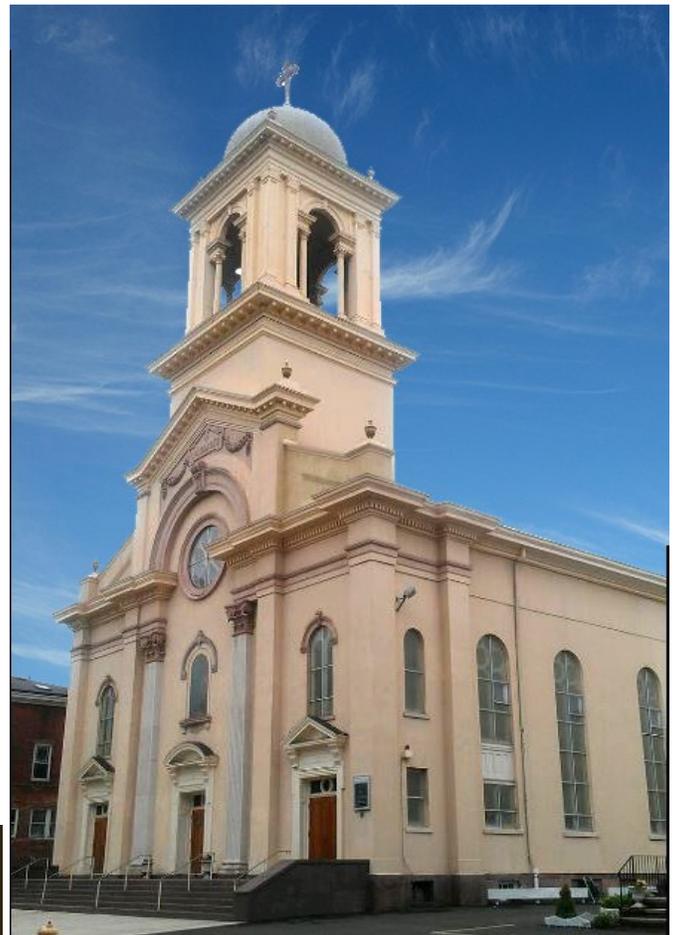
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:00am

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 LORD JESUS CHRIST  
KING OF THE UNIVERSE

So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say I am a king."  
- Jn 18:37a

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.





**Mass Intentions  
for the Week**

**Saturday, November 20th, Vigil of the Lord's Day**

4:00 p.m. - Norma Bailey, req. by Andrew & Rosalind Proto

**Sunday, November 21st, Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**

9:30 a.m. - Linda Saracco, req. by Lena & Nick Onofrio

**Monday, November 22nd, St. Cecelia**

8:00 a.m. - Thanksgiving to Father, Son & Holy Spirit

**Tuesday, November 23rd, St. Clement**

8:00 a.m. - Steve Valente, req. by niece Ann Donarumo

**Wednesday, November 24th, St. Andrew Dung-Lac**

8:00 a.m. - NO MASS

**Thursday, November 25th, St. Catherine of Alexandria**

8:00 a.m. - Charles Vincent Arcangelo, req. by Michael Viapiano

**Friday, November 26th, Weekday**

8:00 a.m. - NO MASS

**Saturday, November 27th, Vigil of the Lord's Day**

4:00 p.m. - Carol Consiglio, req. by son Ralph

**Sunday, November 28th, First Sunday of Advent**

9:30 a.m. - Deceased members of St. Andrew Men's & Ladies Society

***Sanctuary Lamp***  
**Sunday, November 21, 2021**

**Catello Donarumo**

**In remembrance of those who died,**  
**Anthony Pontecorvo, Jr.**  
**May he rest in peace.**

**Weekend of November 14, 2021**

**Weekly Collection \$1448.00**  
**Online Collection \$110.00**

**One Collection This Week**  
**Weekly Collection**

**Two Collections Next Week**  
**Weekly Collection**  
**Campaign for Human Development**

**Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe  
November 21, 2021**

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe closes the liturgical year with a paradox. Two images of royalty and power confront us. Daniel's visions portray a powerful being who looks like a human being. The original Aramaic says "son of man," but this is not the semi-divine figure of the early first century. In the Old Testament, the phrase "son of man" refers to a human being. What appears to Daniel, however, is no ordinary human being. The power accorded him is greater than any king's power; his kingship is over the whole earth. The figure shares God's power in both the service of peoples and everlasting kingship.

Readers and writers of the New Testament found the Daniel passage and the title "Son of Man" to be profoundly significant in their discussion of Jesus. Much of the image of Jesus' glorious reign at the end of time has its roots in Daniel's vision.

The paradox arises in the passage from John's account of the Gospel. Jesus is brought before Pilate, scourged, insulted, spat upon. He endures interrogation about his kingship and kingdom that Pilate has no possibility of understanding because Pilate's definition of kingship belongs to the world. It is too narrow to contain the broken man who stands before him. If Pilate had looked at the Jewish understanding of kingship found in Deuteronomy 17, he would have understood better. The king of Israel was not to plan battles, attack nations, or make laws. He was not to protect the people. The sole duty of the king was to read the law of God and obey it. He was to provide the example of what it meant to follow God's commandment. In this context, Jesus was truly king in a way the world could not understand.

The Church chooses to portray the broken king on a cross as a symbol of faith, love, and obedience: Deuteronomy's definition. Yet Christians also revere the visions described in the books of Daniel and Revelation, of Christ sitting at the right hand of the Father and reigning gloriously at the end of time. This paradox is the legacy of the incarnation

**Readings for the week of November 21, 2021**

**Sunday:** Daniel 7:13-14; Revelation 1:5-8; John 18:33b-37

**Monday:** Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20; Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56 [52b]; Luke 21:1-4

**Tuesday:** Daniel 2:31-45; Daniel 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61 [59b]; Luke 21:5-11

**Wednesday:** Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Daniel 3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67 [59b]; Luke 21:12-19

**Thursday:** Daniel 6:12-28; Daniel 3:68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74 [59b]; Luke 21:20-28

**Friday:** Daniel 7:2-14; Daniel 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81; Luke 21:29-33

**Saturday:** Daniel 7:15-27; Daniel 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87; Luke 21:34-36

## PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

# OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST KING OF THE UNIVERSE

This week we celebrate two important events on our calendar. The first is today this Sunday, whereon we celebrated the Solemnity of Christ the King. It is a reminder to us that at the end of time Jesus will come again in glory to establish the fullness of the His Kingdom. The second celebration is this Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Day whereon we pause from our busy schedules to give thanks to God for all His blessings.

Today, we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. This feast can be a puzzlement for all of us because when we think of the word king, we think of someone sitting on a throne, living in a luxurious palace, clothed in lavish, expensive garments, wearing on his head a golden crown studded with precious jewels, surrounded by subjects ready and willing to do the bidding of the king.

Gazing upon the crucifix, we question ourselves, wondering how can a worn, torn, beaten man hanging on a cross, condemned to die, be a king? Certainly, this is not our worldly view of what a king is or should be. But as Jesus responded to Pilate when asked if he were the king of the Jews, he said that his kingdom was not of this world. The Kingship of Jesus challenges us to look beyond our earthly notion of what a king is or should be because Jesus' life, ministry and actions, as we find them in the gospels, clearly redefine this standard of kingship.

Jesus did not have a standing army to do battle for him, but he did have followers. He did not sit on a throne, but on the back of a donkey. He wore not a crown of gold, studded with precious stones, but a crown made of thorns. He did not use his authority to dominate or take the life of his subjects, but he used his authority to give them life, and to give it to the fullest. He did not just entertain or rub elbows with the nobility or the upper class, but rather he welcomed and associated himself with sinner, prostitutes, tax collectors and breakers of the law. He not only welcomed them, but he also dined with them. He did not wield the sword of punishment, but extended a healing hand of mercy and forgiveness. Jesus rules by love and not by force. He doesn't force his subjects to do anything they don't want to do. He gives each and every one of us the free choice to decide if we want him to rule over us, to rule over our hearts, to be king in our lives. Jesus' kingship is not an imposed authority, but one that is bestowed upon him by our faith in him. Of all the people jeering, mocking and making fun of Jesus as he hung on the cross, only one person, the good thief, who also hung in condemnation next to Jesus, had the faith and insight to look through the worldly notion of a king and to see Jesus for who he truly was by not only coming to his defense, but also by asking Jesus to remember him when he came into his kingdom. Jesus responded, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The whole irony of this situation was that the crime for which Jesus was being executed was the very reason for which he had come among us in the first place, to be king, king of the Jews and king of every heart. Those who would welcome his reign would know and find healing, peace, and forgiveness in their lives and in the end would be welcomed with him into paradise. May Jesus Christ, the King of the Universe, reign over our lives and in our hearts.



This coming Thursday we as a nation celebrate Thanksgiving Day, a day when we take time out from our busy and hectic lives to gather together with family and friends, those whom we love in the joy of sharing and reflecting on the many blessings that we have received during the year.

Thanksgiving Day is a day when we take stock in remembering how truly blessed, we all are in many ways. Maybe we don't have all the material possession that we would like or wish for, won the "Mega Millions, Power Ball" and maybe we will not be able to celebrate as freely as we would all like as we all still continue to struggle with the uncertainty of the coronavirus pandemic, but Thanksgiving Day is a day that reminds us that if we all look into our lives we will find many blessing for which we can express our gratitude to God and say "thank you" for. Two very small words yet when

expressed as a response to what someone has done for us or given to us, they show our gratitude and appreciation for another's kindness and generosity.

St. Paul in his letter to the Colossians tells us, "To dedicate ourselves to thankfulness." As Christians, it is a part of our heritage and faith, it is a part of who we are that we are a "thanksgiving people" for the very word "Eucharist," which we offer and celebrate every day, means "thanksgiving." It is in and through the Eucharistic celebration wherein we as God's people, who too come from near and far and gather together as God's family in love around the table of the Lord, to render to God the Father, in and through Jesus in union with the Holy Spirit the greatest thanks of all to God for the gift of salvation through the sacrifice of His Only Son on the Cross.

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Because we believe that God is the giver of all that we are and have, "through whom and for whom all things exists," 1 Cor 8... then for us as Christian's everyday should be a Thanksgiving Day. Thanking God for the gift of family and loved ones. Thanking God for the gift of work, good health, and the opportunity to go to school, for living in a free country. As someone once said, "Thank God for the gift of a mortgage payment because we know that we have a place to live. Thank God for the gift of a heating bill because we know we are warm and cozy as the days get shorter and longer. Thank God for the gift of an electric bill because we know we are not in the dark. Thank God for the gift of a water bill because we know that we can go to the faucet and draw out a glass of clean water." I could go on and on. As Christians, we can and should thank God for the gift of Jesus his only son, the gift of the church, the gift of salvation. As Bing Crosby sang in the movie, Holiday Inn, "I have a lot to be thankful for."

In some ways it is sad that we celebrate Thanksgiving Day, this day of special gratitude just once a year, because I believe that if each and every one of us were to take stock of all the blessings that we enjoy, I mean really examine our lives closely, and take stock of all the blessing that we enjoy and have each and every day, I would be willing to bet you that one day a year would certainly not be enough to recount them all.

I believe that if we each one of us put aside at least ten to fifteen minutes each day and just reflect upon five blessing that we have within our lives, five things that we are grateful for, I bet that we could go through a whole year without repeating the same blessing twice.

As Christians let us make everyday a "day of thanksgiving" a Thanksgiving Day and dedicate ourselves to thankfulness; Happy Thanksgiving Day from the priest, deacons and staff of St. Michael.

**P. S. On the Friday after Thanksgiving, November 26, there will be no 8:00 morning Mass.**

Fr. Roy

***Question of the Week***

Can I live according to the truth, the truth to which Jesus has testified?

**The Parish office will be closed on Thursday, November 25th and Friday November 26, 2021 in observance of Thanksgiving day.**

**The office will reopen on Monday, November 29, 2021.**

**MASS BOOK**

**PER ORDER OF THE  
ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD  
THE MASS BOOK FOR 2022 IS  
CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

**A NOTICE WILL BE PLACE IN THE  
BULLETIN AS TO WHEN THE  
MASS BOOK WILL BE OPEN.**



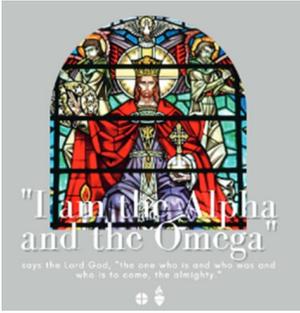
***Thanksgiving Day Prayer***

*Father all-powerful, Your gifts of love are countless and Your goodness infinite. On Thanksgiving Day we come before You with gratitude for Your kindness: open our hearts to concern for our fellow men and women, so that we may share Your gifts in loving service.*

*We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.*

*Amen.*





## **Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe November 21, 2021**

On the last Sunday of each liturgical year, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, or Christ the King.

Pope Pius XI instituted this feast in 1925 with his encyclical *Quas primas* (“In the first”) to respond to growing secularism and atheism. He recognized that attempting to “thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law” out of public life would result in continuing discord among people and nations. This solemnity reminds us that while governments come and go, Christ reigns as King forever.

During the early twentieth century, in Mexico, Russia, and some parts of Europe, militantly secularistic regimes threatened not just the Catholic Church and its faithful but civilization itself. Pope Pius XI’s encyclical gave Catholics hope and—while governments around them crumbled—the assurance that Christ the King shall reign forever. Jesus Christ “is very truth, and it is from him that truth must be obediently received by all mankind” (*Quas primas*, 7).

For Christians, when our faith is repeatedly marginalized in public life, we can fall into the habit of compartmentalizing our lives. We love Jesus in our private lives, but we shrink from acknowledging the kingship of Christ in social life. When we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King, we declare to the world and remind ourselves that Jesus is the Lord of the Church and of the entire universe.

### **CCHD: Working on the Margins for Over 50 Years**

For over 50 years, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development has worked on the margins by supporting groups that defend worker rights, promote responsible environmental practices, advocate for people with disabilities and immigrants, and support employee-owned businesses. On November 20- 21, many dioceses across the United States will take up the collection to support CCHD. When you participate in this collection, you help fight poverty nationwide and, in your community, because 25 percent of your contribution stays in your diocese to help local antipoverty initiatives. To learn more about CCHD, please find collection resources and the most current annual report here: <https://www.usccb.org/cchd/collection.#1church1mission #PowerOfCCHD>