

SAINT MICHAEL CHURCH

EST. 1889

The First Italian Parish In Connecticut

Pastor: Rev. Robert P. Roy

Deacon: Norman Singer

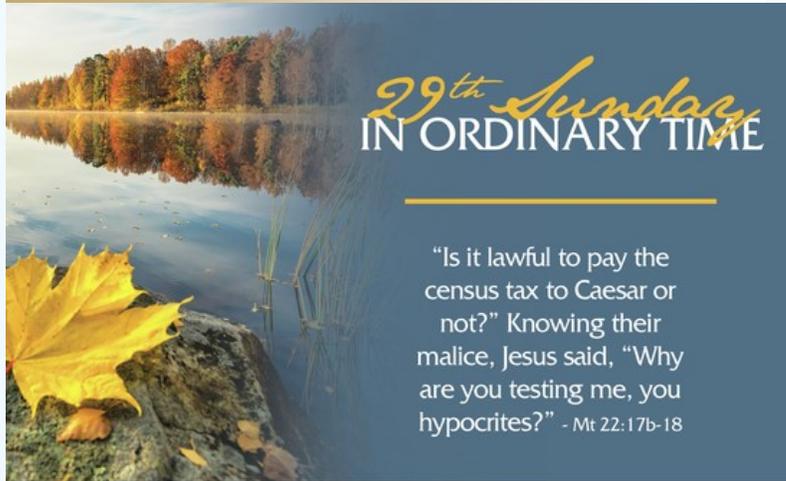
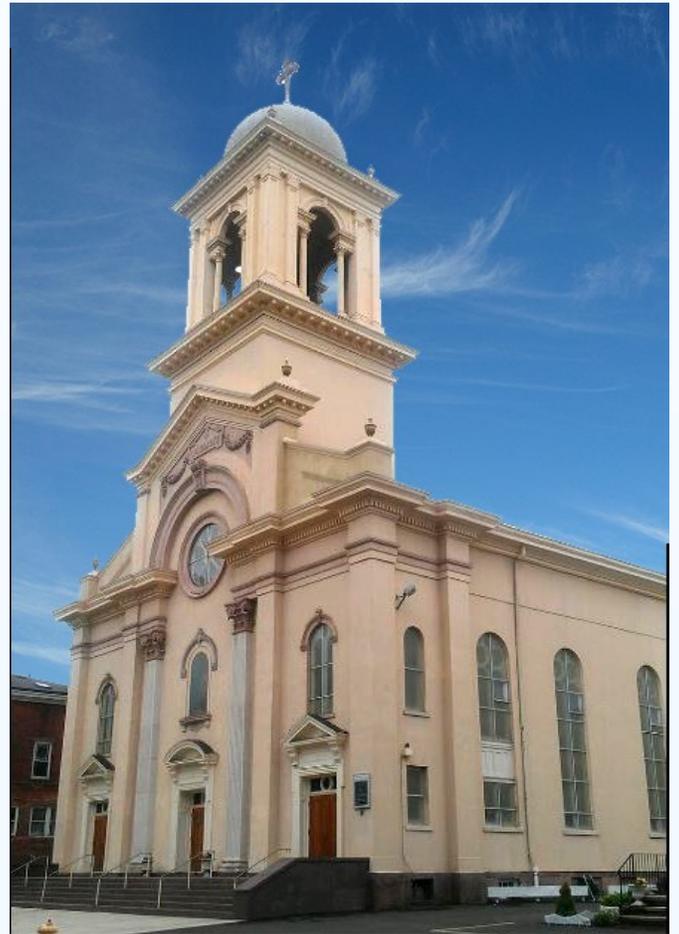
Parish Office

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



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.





29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
OCTOBER 18, 2020

Saturday, October 17th, Vigil of the Lord's Day

4:00 p.m. - Theresa & Arthur McClure, req. by daughter

Sunday, October 18th, 29th Sunday in Ordinary

Time

9:30 a.m. - Deceased Members of Russell Council #65 & John Barry Assembly #97

Monday, October 19th, Sts. Isaac Jogues & John de Brebeuf

8:00 a.m. - People of St. Michael Parish

Tuesday, October 20th, St. Paul of the Cross

8:00 a.m.—Marie Masotta, 90 years, req. by family

Wednesday, October 21st, Weekday

8:00 a.m. - NO MASS

Thursday, October 22nd, St. John Paul II

8:00 a.m. -

Friday, October 23rd, St. John of Capistrano

8:00 a.m. - Gilda & Joseph Vissicchio, req. by Kathy & Pat Vissicchio

Saturday, October 24th, Vigil of the Lord's Day

4:00 p.m. - Peter Notarino, req. by wife Marie

Sunday, October 25th, 30th Sunday in Ordinary

Time

9:30 a.m. - Salvatore & Anna Maiorano, req. by children, Joe, Mary & Therese

Initially, today's First Reading may take us by surprise, Cyrus? The Lord's anointed? Cyrus was the Persian king who conquered Babylon during the exile, thus winning freedom for the Jewish people. Isaiah speaks of him as the Lord's "anointed", the agent God used on behalf of his chosen people even though Cyrus did not "know" God—that is, was not in covenant relationship with him as a member of the chosen people.

The book of Ezra and Nehemiah recount the Jews' return to Jerusalem and rebuilding of the Temple and city, showing how the people appropriately "repaid" both God and the government their respective dues. There was no doubt, however, that God was God and that no other ruler was more supreme.

In today's Gospel reading, the conflict between Jesus and the Jewish leaders continues. Today, the Pharisees are in the spotlight. Enlisting the aid of the Herodians, who were supporters of the ruling dynasty of Herod the Great and thus loyal to Rome, the Pharisees are trying to put allegiance to the government in conflict with covenant fidelity to God. In effect, the Pharisees are playing from both sides in order to entrap Jesus. In response, Jesus affirms the just claims of both, "Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.

What belongs to God is, of course, everything and everyone. How fittingly today's Responsorial Psalm acclaims, "Give the Lord glory and honor...The gods of the nations are things of naught ...The Lord is king." Let us pray, this day, for a heightened awareness that all belongs to God. Let us render the tribute that is rightly due.

Sanctuary Lamp
Sunday, October 18, 2020
In Memory of
Deceased members of St. Michael Parish

In remembrance of those who died,
Rose Fraenza

May she rest in peace.

Question of the Week
When I am reminded that everything is a gift from God, how do I respond? Do I fudge on what belongs to God as many fudge on what they owe to Caesar?

Weekend of October 11, 2020
Weekly Collection \$1478.00
Two Collections This Week
Weekly Collection
World Mission Sunday
One Collections Next Week
Weekly Collection

Readings for the week of October 18, 2020

Sunday: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b; Matthew 22:15-21
Monday: Ephesians 2:1-10; Luke 12:13-21
Tuesday: Ephesians 2:12-22; Luke 12:35-38
Wednesday: Ephesians 3:2-12; Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [cf. 3]; Luke 12:39-48
Thursday: Ephesians 3:14-21; Luke 12:49-53
Friday: Ephesians 4:1-6; Luke 12:54-59
Saturday: Ephesians 4:7-16; Luke 13:1-9

PASTORAL REFLECTION

Stewardship! “Forward with faith”! What comes to your mind when you see or hear these words? For most of us, we might instinctively think, “Oh! No! They are going to talk about money again.”

But when we consider and examine the true nature of stewardship and what it means for us as Catholic of the Archdiocese of Hartford, we find that this entails a lot more than just money. It means being responsible for what has been entrusted to us by God.

We read in the Book of Genesis, that after God created the heavens and the earth and all that they contain, God told Adam and Eve to “fill the earth and subdue it.” God gave them dominion and care over all of His creation, the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, all the living things on the earth in order that they might use them not only for their own welfare and benefit, but also for the welfare and benefit of others. They were to keep in mind that everything that they were and had was God’s creation, was God’s gift to them and for them, and that they would be responsible for how they used or misused these gifts for His honor and glory and for the good and welfare not only for themselves but also for others. As we can see from the story of creation in Genesis, from the beginning of time **“God made all peoples stewards of His creation.”**

In Matthew’s Gospel, Chapter 25, verse 14 and following, Jesus reiterates this same responsibility of stewardship in the Parable of the Talents. The parable tells of a story of “a man [who] was going on a journey so he called his servants in and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents, to another he gave two talents, to a third he gave one talent each according to the person’s ability.” One thing that stands out in the parable is that the owner doesn’t tell his servants or give them any instructions as to what they should do with the talents he gave them. He just gives the talents to them; he just entrusts his property to them and leaves for his journey. Possibly, in the back of his mind, the master is thinking that by entrusting his property to his servants, realizing that it is not their property but his, they will make good use of what he has given them. As the parable relates, the master goes on his journey, and while he was gone the first two servants doubled their master’s talents by investing them. The one who had five made another five, the one who had two made another two, but the one who had one talent did not invest it, but rather he dug a hole and buried it. He hid it away! We are told that after some time, the master returns and wants an accounting of what the servants did with the talents he had entrusted to them. Naturally, the master was pleased with the first two servants because they had doubled their investment, but he was angry with the third servant because he did nothing with the talent. Because of his fear, he kept it, he hid it, keeping it intact, saving and returning it just as the master had given it to him. He did not even try to invest it in order that it might render more as the other two did. The master would have probably been less angry at the last servant if he had invested it and lost it. The master would have probably said to him, “Well, you gave it a try, it did not work out, but that’s ok. At least you tried to do something with what I gave you.”

What the parable of the “Talents” teaches us is that as Christians, God has entrusted to us, God has given to each and every one of us, certain gifts and talents, “each according to our own ability” to be used in the spreading and building up of the kingdom of God on earth. As the First Letter of Peter reminds us, “As generous distributors of God’s manifold grace, put your gifts at the service of one another, each in the measure he has received. The one who speaks is to deliver God’s message. The one who serves is to do it with the strength provided by God. Thus, in all of you God is to be glorified through Jesus Christ...” In a nutshell, that is what stewardship is all about. That is what “Forward with Faith” is all about, that in all of us “God is glorified through Jesus Christ.”

“Forward with Faith” affords us the opportunity to us our time, talents and treasures” to advance and proclaim that the Kingdom of God is active and present among us not only in our own local parish of St. Michael Church but also in the many outreach projects, entities, and services that are an integral part of our cities and towns across our Archdiocese.

As a people of faith, “Forward with Faith” allows to continue to build what has been passed down and entrusted to us “by generations of Catholics before us who moved our Church forward by their faith and their commitment to our parishes, our schools and our ministries.” It is up to us to help keep this mission of faith moving forward through “Forward with Faith” Campaign.

We have all been given unique gifts and talents by God, and we, too, are challenged to invest these gifts in the service of one another in order that God maybe glorify in us through Jesus Christ.

The Parable of the Talents challenges us to ask the question, “Are we willing to step forward, to move **“Forward with Faith.”** to invest and use our God given talents for the welfare and benefit of others, or are we like the third servant, unwilling to take the risk, but rather keeping and hiding what was given to us?” Remember the word “talent” also means gift.

Fr. Roy

Mercy High School Virtual Open House for Middle School and Transfer Students
Achieve MORE...Learn MORE... Succeed MORE...
Be MORE at Mercy!

Sunday, November 1, 2020
1:00 pm
www.mercyhigh.com

Mercy will hold an open house for middle school student and high school students considering a transfer, as a virtual experience. Attendees will have the opportunity to speak with current Mercy students, faculty, administration, and coaches, while exploring all the programs Mercy has to offer—from academics to athletics, service opportunities to clubs and activities. Pre online registration is required.

In addition to our virtual open house, we invite you to take a tour of our campus! In-person or virtual tours available anytime by appointment. For more information and to register, please visit www.mercyhigh.com

Entrance Exam for the Class of 2025
Mercy High School
Saturday, November 7, 2020 &
Saturday, November 14, 2020
1740 Randolph Road, Middletown, CT
8:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.
Pre-register at www.mercyhigh.com
In-person and virtual options

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, StMichael-WoosterSquare.org, under the Parish Life tab.

Food Bank – Each week there is a box in the rectory entrance to receive donations of non-perishable foods that are brought to the Saint Ann Church Food Bank in Hamden. **(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



Tenderness is love that draws near and becomes real. A movement that starts from our heart and reaches the eyes, the ears and the hands. Tenderness is the path of choice for the strongest, most courageous men and women.

VOCATION REFLECTIONS

Oct. 18th – Twenty-Ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time

“Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God”. What do we have that belongs to God? How do we make a return for that gift? If you are considering service to God as a priest or religious, call **Fr. Michael Casey**, Director of Vocations, Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, Tel. 860-761-7456, e-mail vocations@aohct.org or visit the web at www.hartfordpriest.com.

MASS BOOK

Registered parishioners may begin booking Masses on Thursday, October 29th for 2021 Mass Intentions in the parish office from **9:30am – 12:00 noon.**

Two weekend Masses per family are allowed until January 1, 2021as per our custom.

All Masses must be paid in full at the time of booking.

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.

Social Justice Gathering and Awards

ALL ARE INVITED!

Register NOW for the 2020 Annual Social Justice Gathering and Awards event – REIMAGINED! Join the Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry on Zoom, Tuesday, October 20, for a special VIRTUAL gathering. Festivities will include a keynote address by Kimberly Mazyck from Catholic Charities USA, “Grab Your Knapsack – We have a House to Build,” annual Social Justice Awards, comments by Archbishop Blair, and OCSJM updates by Lynn Campbell, OCSM Director. BYO Appetizer for the 6:45 social! Program will begin at 7 pm. Registration is FREE for all but is required. We hope you’ll join us on October 20th. To register or for more information, visit:

<http://www.catholicsocialjustice.org/annualdinnergathering.html>.

“Forward with Faith”

What is The Hartford Bishops’ Foundation?

Founded in 2016, The Hartford Bishops’ Foundation (HBF) is dedicated to engaging donors in helping the Archdiocese of Hartford carry out the mission of the Catholic Church. The independent Foundation is led by a volunteer Board of Directors representing the Archdiocese’s constituencies: parishes, schools, and Catholic organizations. For more information, please visit The Hartford Bishops Foundation's website; www.hartfordbishopsfoundation.org

During the COVID-19 outbreak the HBF, changed their direction from the Forward with Faith Campaign, to focus on the challenge’s parishes were facing during the shut-down. As we all struggled to navigate in uncharted waters the HBF set up an Emergency Relief Fund on behalf of the parishes. Nearly \$600,000 was raised from donors throughout the archdiocese in approximately six weeks to help set up the fund. The Emergency Relief Fund gave parishes the opportunity to apply for relief funds based on the impact that they faced as a result of the pandemic.

Now that our parishes are beginning to return to active parish life following the events of this past spring, we wanted to share the mission of the Hartford Bishops Foundation in order to better understand their role in our archdiocese. As we return to regular parish life, we will share with you the upcoming Forward with Faith Campaign, and how it will benefit St. Michael Parish.