

# SAINT MICHAEL CHURCH

EST. 1889

*The First Italian Parish In Connecticut*

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

**Deacon:** Norman Singer

## Parish Office

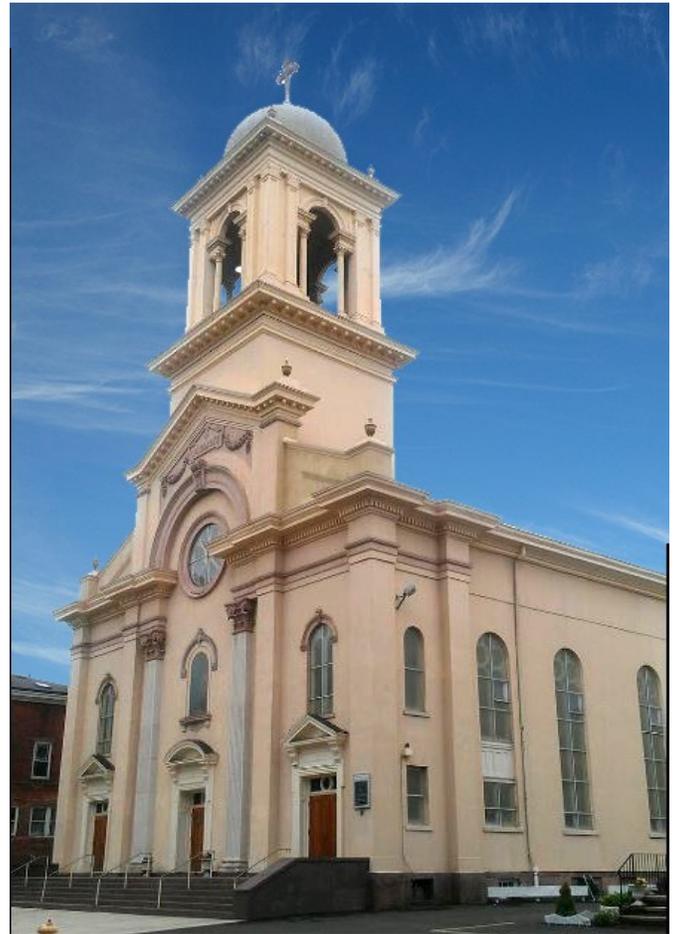
9:00am - 1:00pm Monday - Friday  
203-562-7178  
203-752-0157 fax  
smc1889@att.net  
stmichaelwoostersquare.org

## 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



*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday*  
**OF LENT**

Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." - Mk 9:7

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.





SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT  
February 28, 2021

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

4:00 p.m. - Deceased members of St. Michael Parish

**Sunday, February 28th, 2nd Sunday of Lent**

9:30 a.m. - Lucy Proto Sasso, req. by Louise, Ernie & Gabriel Scrivani

**Monday, March 1st, Lenten Weekday**

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

**Tuesday, March 2nd, Lenten Weekday**

8:00 a.m. -

**Wednesday, March 3rd, Lenten Weekday**

12:10 p.m. - Norma Bailey, req. by Mary Ann Jenczewski & daughters Mary Ann & Karen

**Thursday, March 4th, Lenten Weekday**

8:00 a.m.-

**Friday, March 5th, Lenten Weekday**

8:00 a.m. -

**Saturday, March 6th, Vigil of the Lord's Day**

4:00 p.m. - Norma Bailey, req. by Lena Onofrio

**Sunday, March 7th, 3rd Sunday of Lent**

9:30 a.m. - Community Mass

God acts in mysterious ways in many places in the Old Testament: rejecting Cain's sacrifice, choosing Jacob over Esau, sending Job's time of trial, forcing Jeremiah to suffer, using Babylon to judge Judah. But the story of Avraham's sacrifice of Isaac renders God almost completely incomprehensible.

The entire story line about Abraham from Genesis 12 to this point has pointed to the birth of an heir to fulfill the astounding promise of descendants as countless as the sands of the seashore. But God's frightening demand throws everything into jeopardy. The storyteller seems unconcerned about the picture of God that this episode draws: God putting God's own integrity at risk. Nor does the storyteller take into account the other parts of the Bible that repudiate child sacrifice.

If God is incomprehensible, Abraham's steadfast faith stands out more boldly than ever. Abraham bargained with God about destroying Sodom but not about this. Why? He became the father of the faithful not only by boldly believing in God's promise but by boldly believing despite God's threat. He not only trusted, as Paul taught in his letters, but *acted* on his trusting faith.

Put Isaac's sacrifice side-by-side with today's passage in Romans. In Jesus' death, God is not the one to demand the sacrifice but the one to make the sacrifice. In the Jesus story, God is more like Abraham than like God in the Isaac story. So what made God believe in us? "God proves his love of us in that *while we still were still sinners* Christ died for us. In this sacrifice, God became the *Abba* of those who believe.

**Sanctuary Lamp**

**Sunday, February 28, 2021**

*In Memory of*

**Deceased Members of St. Michael Parish**

**In remembrance of those who died,**

**May they rest in peace.**

**Weekend of February 21, 2021**

**Weekly Collection \$1359.00**

**One Collection This Week  
Weekly Collection**

**Two Collections Next Week  
Weekly Collection  
Monthly Collection**

**Readings for the week of February 28, 2021**

**Sunday:** Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Romans 8:31b-34; Mark 9:2-10

**Monday:** Daniel 9:4b-10; Luke 6:36-38

**Tuesday:** Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Matthew 23:1-12

**Wednesday:** Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28

**Thursday:** Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31

**Friday:** Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46

**Saturday:** Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

## PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

On Ash Wednesday, in the second prayer for the blessing of ashes, which is found in the New Edition of the *Roman Missal*, we ask the Lord not only to bless the Ashes which we are about to receive on our foreheads as a sign of our repentance and conversion, but also in that prayer we acknowledge that we are ashes (dust) and shall return to dust. As we conclude the prayer of blessing, we invoke the Lord asking that “through our steadfast observance of Lent, [we may] gain pardon for our sins and newness of life after the likeness of your Risen Son. Who lives and reigns forever and ever.” Pg72

Sometimes we forget that Lent is a journey of inner renewal, repentance and conversion of our hearts and souls, “rending our hearts and not our garments” preparing us and leading us, physically and spiritually to the heart and source of our Christian faith, to that **“newness of life”** which is the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. “Even though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death...” [Psalm 23] with the many difficulties that befall us in this life, our Lenten journey should reflect the fact and the hope that one day; we too, will share in the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. As St. Paul tells us in his Letter to the Romans, 6:4-5 “Through baptism into his death we were buried with him, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. If we have been united with him through likeness to his death, so shall we be through a like resurrection.” New American Bible St. Joseph Catholic Book Publishing 1970 edition

In the Third Eucharistic Prayer, in the New Edition of the *Roman Missal*, we pray for our deceased loved ones that the Lord will “grant that he or she (the deceased person) who was united with your Son in a death like his, may also be one with him in his Resurrection, when from the earth he will raise up in the flesh those who have died, and transform our lowly body after the pattern of his own glorious body.”

We continue to pray that all our deceased brothers and sister be admitted into God’s heavenly kingdom, where we hope along with them to share in the fullness of God’s glory “where every tear will be wiped away from our eyes. “Thus, our Lenten journey is really a **“Journey to newness of life.”**

As we know, this **“Journey to newness of life”** really has to do with a conversion of our heart and soul, examining both of them to see what gets in our spiritual way or what prevents us from walking with the Lord and fully embracing the new and everlasting life that he comes to give and does give. To help us on this **“newness of life” journey**, I have picked a topic for each week of Lent based on the gospel readings.

*This past week, week 1 we had the theme – This is the time of fulfillment; the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel.*

*Week 2 – Transfiguration – change.*

*Week 3 – Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.*

*Week 4 – So that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.*

*Week 5 – But if it dies, it produces much fruit.*

Remember, the ashes that we receive on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday are an outward sign and reminder of what should be happening and occurring within our hearts and souls. If we follow through and go deeper into each of these Lenten topics, then we will truly have a spiritual and fruitful Lent, a journey that will bring us to **“newness of life.”**

To help us on this **“Journey to newness of life”**, always remember that the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Confession, which we celebrate every Saturday Afternoon from 3:00 to 3:30 pm, is one way that can help us greatly as we journey to this newness of life?

Remember, Stations of the Cross and Benediction on Friday 7:00 pm.

Have a Holy and Fruitful Lent!

Fr. Roy

**LENT 2021**

“Return to the Lord with all your heart”  
(Joel 2:12)

**Lenten Daily Mass**

8:00 AM on  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday  
12:10 PM Mass on Wednesday.

**Stations of the Cross and Benediction**

Friday – 7:00 PM

*From the Twitter Account of  
Pope Francis*



*During the Season of Lent, the Holy Spirit drives us too, like Jesus, into the desert (Mk 1:12-15). It is not a physical place, but rather an existential dimension in which we can be silent and listen to the word of God, so that a true conversion might be effected in us.*

**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.

**VOCATION REFLECTIONS**

**February 28, 2021**

Second Sunday of Lent God called Abraham who then listened and demonstrated his devotion to God: he was then abundantly blessed. Peter, James, and John followed Jesus up the mountain, saw Jesus transfigured, then listened to Him before acting. Are you listening to God? Is He calling you to the priesthood? Come and see. Now is the time to act. Call Father Michael Casey, Director of Vocations, 860-761-7456, or visit [www.hartfordpriest.com](http://www.hartfordpriest.com)

**MASS BOOK**

The Mass Book is now open for all registered parishioners for 2021. Weekend, weekday masses and Sanctuary candles 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.**

**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.**

***Question of the Week***

How can I transfigure my life this Lent? What will I do to show the transfiguration Jesus has made in me?

**Please mail me/us a registration form for Saint Michael Church**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

**Send this request to:  
Saint Michael Church Office:  
29 Wooster Place  
New Haven, CT 06511  
Or place in offertory basket.**

**February 28, 2021**  
**The Second Sunday of Lent**



As we celebrate the Second Sunday of Lent, check in with yourself. How are you doing with your Lenten sacrifice? In what ways have you succeed and where is there room for growth?

**Saint of the Week**  
**Saint Katharine Drexel**



“Katharine Drexel is an excellent example of that practical charity and generous solidarity with the less fortunate which has long been the distinguishing mark of American Catholics. May her example help young people in particular to appreciate that no greater treasure can be found in this world than in following Christ with an undivided heart and in using generously the gifts we have received.” —St. John Paul II, Homily, October 1, 2000

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**VIRTUAL “ABCs OF ANNULMENT”**

Sponsored by the Metropolitan Tribunal, Bloomfield Father John Dietrich, Pastor of Saint Matthews Parish at 20 Church Avenue, Forestville, in collaboration with Father George Mukuka, the Judicial Vicar from the Metropolitan Tribunal in Bloomfield, will host the second Virtual “The ABCs of Annulment” on Saturday of March 20th, 2021, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on ZOOM. An updating of the process initiated by Pope Francis as well as updates made in the Archdiocese of Hartford will be discussed by Brother Larry Lussier C.S.C., and Jim Tottenham, of the Annulment Team. Included will be a complete review of the Archdiocesan Application Form or Petition.

The “ABCs of Annulment” event is open to all. Registration (below) is required so that we can email the details of the meeting. Potential applicants also need to download the application form from the Archdiocesan Website at <https://archdioceseofhartford.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Petition-revised02-15-2017.pdf>

After the workshop, participants can sign up for one-on-one virtual assistance at their convenience with Br. Larry Lussier, at 475-221-8464, or James Tottenham, at 203-859-4195. For further information call Br. Larry at 475-221-8464 or email him at [larlus300@sbcglobal.net](mailto:larlus300@sbcglobal.net).