

SAINT MICHAEL CHURCH

EST. 1889

The First Italian Parish In Connecticut

Pastor: Rev. Robert P. Roy

Deacon: Norman Singer

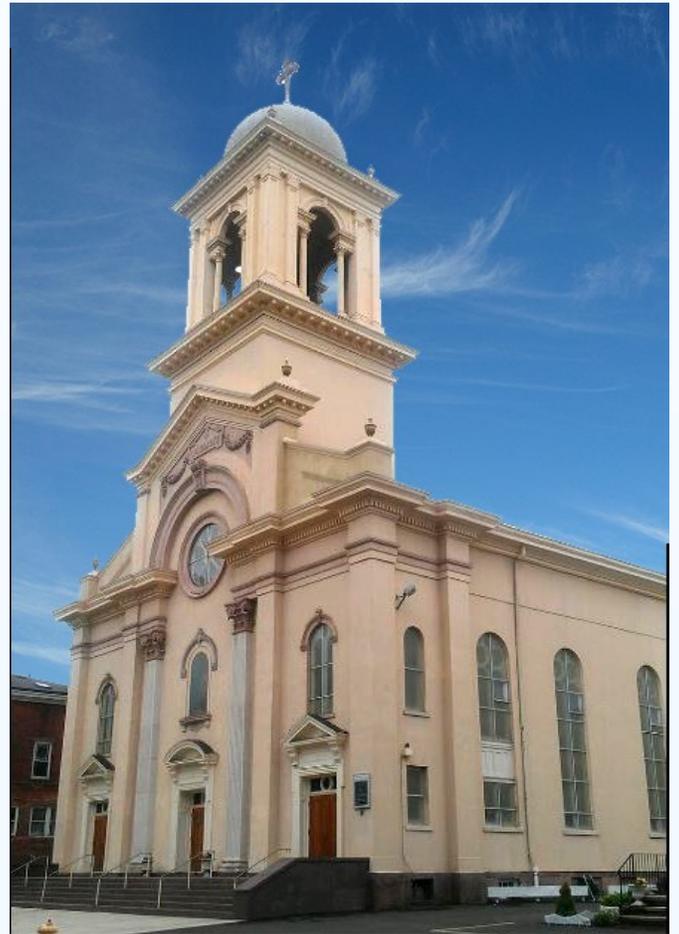
Parish Office

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



4th Sunday
OF LENT

So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." —Jn 9:15

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.





**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 22, 2020**

**ALL MASS INTENTIONS HAVE BEEN
RESCHEDULED**

Saturday, March 21st, Vigil of the Lord's Day

4:00 p.m. - NO MASS

Sunday, March 22nd, 4th Sunday of Lent

9:30 a.m. - NO MASS

Monday, March 23rd, St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

8:00 a.m. - NO MASS

Tuesday, March 24th, St. Oscar Romero

8:00 a.m. - NO MASS

Wednesday, March 25th, Annunciation of the Lord

12:10 p.m. - NO MASS

Thursday, March 26th, Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. - NO MASS

Friday, March 27th, Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. - NO MASS

Saturday, March 28th, Vigil of the Lord's Day

4:00 p.m. - NO MASS

Sunday, March 29th, 5th Sunday of Lent

9:30 a.m. - NO MASS

God promised Abraham that he would be the father from all nations. Abraham did nothing to earn God's favor. He accepted it as a gift, thereby making him the father of everyone—both Jew and Gentile—who accepts God's love and salvation knowing that such gifts cannot be earned, only received.

King David had planned to build a temple in Jerusalem, but God sets that plan aside and declares that he will ensure that David's descendants always rule Israel. God's promise was fulfilled in a way that went well beyond the king's expectations. By taking Jesus as his adopted son, Joseph a descendant of David, fulfills God's promise. Jesus, however, will reign not only over Israel, but over all of heaven and earth.

In both options for this solemnity's Gospel passage St. Joseph is portrayed as a righteous man. Although he did his best to observe Jewish law, Joseph also proved that he was like Abraham in his righteousness, for when he was instructed to take the pregnant Mary into his home, he obeyed without question. Joseph modeled both trust and fidelity to the law for his new son.

In the passage from Luke, Joseph has taken his family to Jerusalem, a difficult journey that again shows Joseph's obedience to the law. We can imagine Joseph's terror at losing track of his adopted son, yet he lost Jesus while doing what he was supposed to do: raising the child well. By taking Jesus to Jerusalem, Joseph doubtlessly helped Jesus understand himself and his mission. Although Joseph may have been startled by the gift of Jesus, he modeled how we are to receive him. We accept salvation in faith even as we strive to be worthy of it.

In remembrance of those who died,

Margaret Bigio

Whose funerals were celebrated at
St. Michael Church recently.
May they rest in peace.

Question of the Week

When have I judged someone unkindly without taking the time to look deeper? What can I do to remember to allow Christ to illuminate my way?

Sanctuary Lamp

Sunday, March 22, 2020

In Memory of

Deceased members of St. Michael Parish

Weekend of March 15, 2020

Weekly Collection \$1450.00

**One collection this weekend
Weekly Collection**

**One Collection Next Week
Weekly Collection**

Readings for the week of March 22, 2020

Sunday: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Monday: Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16

Wednesday: Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38

Thursday: Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47

Friday: Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53

LENT 2020

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

Confession

Monday’s during Lent
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

CANCELLED

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’s – 7:00 PM (Cancelled)

*From the Twitter Account of
Pope Francis*



*Let us allow ourselves to be loved by
God, so that we can give love in return.
Let us allow ourselves to stand up and
walk towards Easter.*

VOCATION REFLECTIONS

March 22nd – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Clear the mud from your eyes and see! The one who heals also calls us to follow. Jesus says we must do the works of God, thereby including us to participate in God’s saving works. If you feel the call to take part in God’s works as a priest or religious, contact **Fr. Michael Casey**, Director of Vocations, Pastoral Center, phone 860-761-7456, e-mail vocations@aohct.org or visit the web at www.hartfordpriest.com

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.**

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**.

**An Announcement Regarding the Celebration of Mass
in the Archdiocese of Hartford**

March 16, 2020



In light of what the CDC has issued on March 15th regarding the cancellation or postponement of large events and mass gatherings of more than 50 people, and given the March 16th mandate of Governor Ned Lamont requiring the closure of all restaurants, bars, gyms and movie theaters, the Archdiocese of Hartford has cancelled all weekend and weekday Masses, effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020, in the churches of the Archdiocese (the counties of Hartford, Litchfield, and New Haven) through April 3, 2020. Priests will celebrate a daily Mass alone with no congregation, remembering in prayer all who are affected by the pandemic. Parishes will be encouraged to make provision for their churches to be open at some time so that individuals can still come and pray. Further direction and updates from the Archdiocese will be provided in a timely manner regarding Holy Week and all celebrations beyond that date.

Additionally, in response to the March 15th mandate of Governor Lamont requiring the closure of all Connecticut schools through at least March 31st, all Archdiocesan high schools and parochial schools will also be closed through March 31st.



PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

Of our five physical senses, sight, hearing, taste, touch and smell, the one that I would not want to have too much difficulty with or lose is my sight. I think that we depend on and do a lot more with our eyes than we realize. While we can compensate for the loss of our other senses by using various devices and modern technology, such as hearing aids, voice enhancement etc. but once our sight is gone, our whole world changes dramatically. For instance, if we are in the process of developing cataracts, our vision starts to get cloudy and fuzzy making it difficult to see, everything seems to be blurry and fuzzy. With glaucoma, fluid in the eye starts to increase causing pressure on the optic nerve which, if left untreated, can cause damage or even worse blindness. Thanks to modern medical procedures, what used to be untreatable conditions, which can cause damage to the eye and even loss of sight, can easily be corrected. But in other instances, unfortunately, there are other certain diseases and conditions of the eye which medical intervention can do very little to prevent or cure thus causing damage to the eye resulting in the loss of one's eyesight all together. When this happens, one might say that "the light has gone out of our eyes." Because of blindness, we no longer can see and perceive the intensities and the various colors of the light like the brightness of the sun shining in the sky or even the blueness of the sky on a clear day. We are totally immersed in the dark leaving us to grope our way in the darkness. As terrible as it is for someone to lose their physical eyesight; because God created us body and soul, there can and does exist another type of blindness which does not necessarily affect our physical eyesight, but rather our spiritual sight; and that is spiritual blindness.

In today gospel, Jesus encounters a man born blind from birth. From his first existence his life and his world was one of groping in physical darkness. He may have many times experienced the warmth of the sun beating down on his face, his skin, his body, but he had never seen or experienced with his eyes its physical beauty and brightness. Here is a man who never saw the face of his family and loved ones, and yet, there is an irony here between people who have excellent physical eyesight and this blind man. The irony is that there were many people who saw Jesus perform various miracles with their physical eyes and did not believe in him. They put no faith in him and his words. You might say that they were spiritually blind. On the other hand, here is a blind person who never saw Jesus perform a miracle, and yet he believed in him and put his faith in Jesus, and he was cured. This leads us to conclude that perhaps spiritual blindness is far worse and more damaging to our nature, especially to the spiritual side of our nature than physical blindness.

We fail to see and recognize the light and the truth of who Jesus is, what he teaches and what he comes to give us. **The blind man saw the reality of who and what Jesus truly is not with his physical eyes but rather he saw the reality of Jesus through the spiritual eyes of his faith.**

Our Lenten Theme "Open your eyes" challenges us to look into our own hearts and souls to see if they contain any blind spots that prevent us from grasping the reality and truth of Jesus through our own spiritual eyes of faith. **"Lord, I believe, please help my unbelief!"**

Fr. Roy

Confessions

The Sacrament of Reconciliation on Mondays, Saturdays, and whenever else your parish may hold it will continue throughout this period. It is recommended that all Confessions should be held behind a screen with none taking place face-to-face. In addition, priests are asked if possible, to obtain extra protection to be placed over the screen (e.g. filters, blankets, coverings, etc.) that might assist in creating a safe barrier between the priest and penitent. Finally, there are to be no penance services, only individuals Confessions.

K of C – Russell Council News

St. Patrick and St. Joseph Dinner - March 28th Church Hall - POSTPONED

In order to help protect our families and friends from the COVID-19 virus and minimize some undue risk, the previously scheduled dinner to be held on March 28th is postponed until further notice. We are sorry for the inconvenience, but please understand that the health and welfare of our community is most important at this time. We will let you know when a new date is decided in the meantime please wash your hands often and sanitize the surfaces around you.

We hope to see you at the next K of C event.

Archbishop's Annual Appeal

In these trying times, the need of our surrounding community grows and the assistance provided by the Appeal becomes all the more crucial. If you have not yet made your gift to this year's Appeal, please consider doing so in the days ahead. Your gift to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal will help continue the vital services, ministries and programs that help so many throughout our Archdiocese.

All funds contributed to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal are used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the Appeal literature, which can be found at <https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/> No Appeal funds are ever used for legal fees or settlements.

Palm Cross Order Form



Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Quantity		Subtotals
_____ Small	@ \$ 5	_____
_____ Medium	@ \$ 8	_____
_____ Large	@ \$ 10	_____

Total enclosed \$ _____