

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

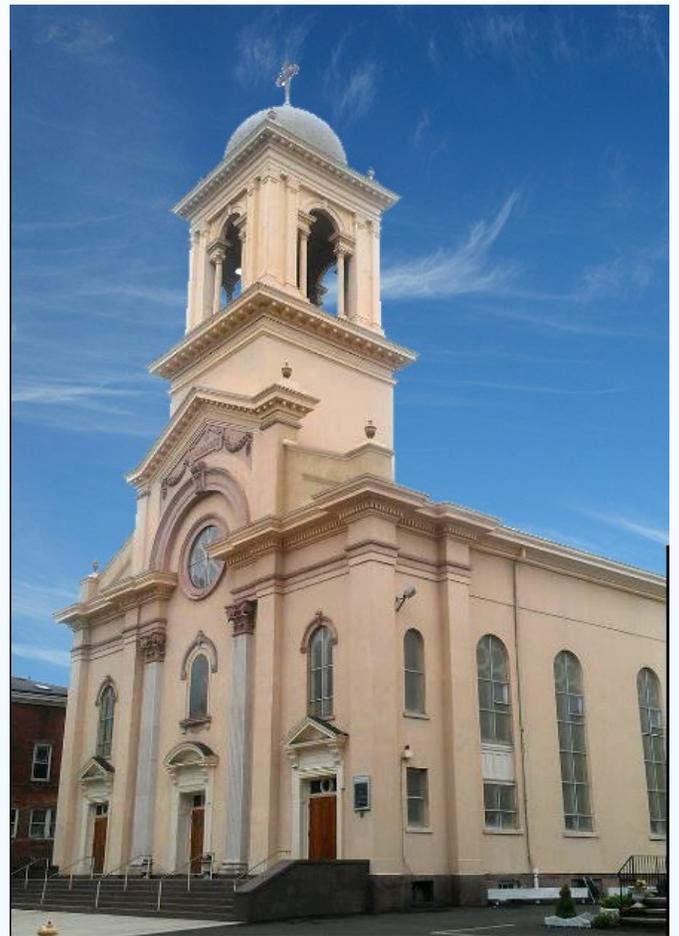
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:00am

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

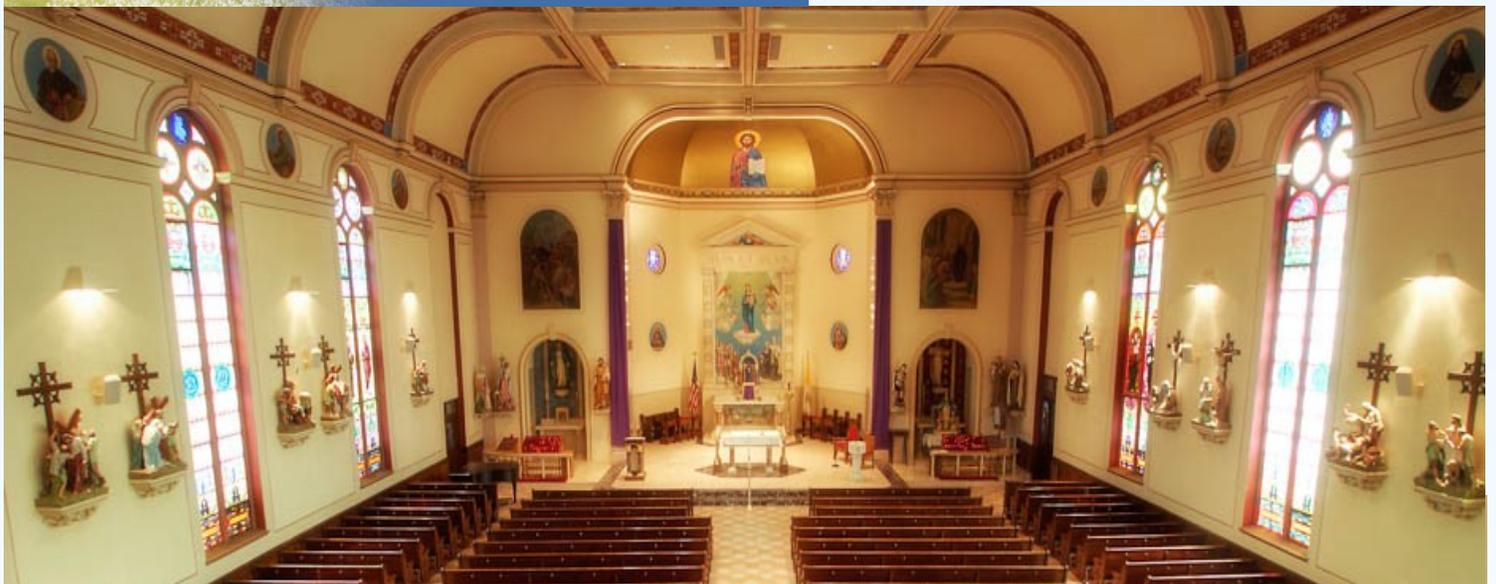


5th Sunday
OF LENT

The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go." —Jn 11:44

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.





FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 29, 2020

Today's readings remind us that God alone has the power of life over death.

The First Reading describes a vision of the prophet Ezekiel during Israel's captivity and exile in Babylon, 587-538BC. The Babylonian Empire had destroyed Jerusalem and carried Israel into exile. The Israelites felt dead and buried; Babylon had become their grave. But Ezekiel prophesied that God would one day open their graves and that together they would rise from the dead. Ezekiel's vision of the dry bones is grounded in a firm belief in the restoration of Israel. Historically, the Israelites did rise from the dead in their release from Babylon in 538BC. Six hundred years later, Christians would look back at Ezekiel's prophecy and see its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus' Resurrection from the dead.

In the Gospel story, the sisters Mary and Martha are profoundly grieved by their brother's death, but each reacts differently. When Jesus arrives, Mary remains at home, mourning. Martha goes out to greet him. Jesus tells Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life" and then asks, "Do you believe this?" Martha responds, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

This confession of faith by Martha in John's account parallels Peter's confession of faith in the Synoptics (that is, Matthew 16:15-16; Mark 8:29; Luke 9:20).

It would take time for Martha and Peter to understand the implications of their confessions. Like them and the prophet Ezekiel, we are called to believe in God's power of life over death. And like Lazarus, we who believe in Jesus will rise from our graves at the sound of his voice.

ALL MASS INTENTIONS HAVE BEEN
RESCHEDULED

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

Monday, March 30th, Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. - NO MASS

Tuesday, March 31st, Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. - NO MASS

Wednesday, April 1st, Lenten Weekday

12:10 p.m. - NO MASS

Thursday, April 2nd, St. Francis of Paola

8:00 a.m. - NO MASS

Friday, April 3rd, Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. - NO MASS

Saturday, April 4th, Vigil of the Lord's Day

4:00 p.m. - NO MASS

Sunday, April 5th, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

9:30 a.m. - NO MASS

In remembrance of those who died,

People affected by the Coronavirus

May they rest in peace.

Sanctuary Lamp

Sunday, March 29, 2020

In Memory of

Deceased members of St. Michael Parish

Weekend of March 22, 2020

Weekly Collection \$210.00

**One collection this weekend
Weekly Collection**

**One Collection Next Week
Weekly Collection**

Readings for the week of March 29, 2020

Sunday: Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Monday: Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62; John 8:1-11

Tuesday: Numbers 21:4-9; John 8:21-30

Wednesday: Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; John 8:31-42

Thursday: Genesis 17:3-9; John 8:51-59

Friday: Jeremiah 20:10-13; John 10:31-42

Saturday: Ezekiel 37:21-28; Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 [cf. 10d]; John 11:45-56

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**

The Gospel Of The Day_(Jn 5:1-16) tells of a paralytic ailing from pessimism, sadness, tepidity: a poisonous fog surrounding the soul that doesn't allow it to live. Then there is the symbol of our new life: the water that Jesus used to regenerate us in Baptism.

VOCATION REFLECTIONS

March 29th–Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jesus has declared “the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out”. Jesus calls, “Lazarus, come out!” You, too, can offer freedom and life to those bound in death. Consider giving life through ministry 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.



ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD
134 FARMINGTON AVENUE
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
06105-3784

OFFICE OF
THE ARCHBISHOP

**Extension of Closures and Cancellations
in the Archdiocese of Hartford**

March 24, 2020

In light of continued uncertainty regarding the extent and duration of the coronavirus in the state of Connecticut and throughout the Archdiocese of Hartford, the cancellation of public Masses and liturgies in the churches of the Archdiocese (the counties of Hartford, Litchfield, and New Haven) that was originally mandated through April 3, 2020, will now extend through April 30, 2020. This includes the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter. Parishes will be advised in the coming days regarding what spiritual opportunities can be offered to their people during this most holy season of the liturgical year.

Priests will continue to celebrate a daily Mass alone with no congregation, remembering in prayer all who are affected by the pandemic, and parishes should continue to make provision for their churches to be open at some time so that individuals can still come and pray.

With regards to archdiocesan and parish schools, the Archdiocese of Hartford will continue to follow the decisions made by the state of Connecticut for its public schools, which currently remain closed.

Please know that any and all decisions made by the Archdiocese regarding closures and cancellations are based on the current understanding of the severity of the situation surrounding the pandemic at any given point and may be altered (modified, extended, or revoked) when deemed necessary.

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS!



Resurrection! What comes to our minds when we hear that word? Perhaps we think of the season of spring, when the cold, dark days of winter begin to lose their harsh grip on nature and the world begins to bud forth with new life. Perhaps we think of an old rundown neighborhood being revitalized, with a total makeover, giving it a fresh new look, a fresh new start in effort to bring new life. Perhaps we think of this season of Lent, when we are urged to renew our commitment to Jesus to realize the reality of our new life in Christ. Perhaps we think of the resurrection of Jesus when he rose from the dead. Perhaps we think of our own future resurrection when we, too, will share in Christ's glory and be raised from the dead on the last day. The word "resurrection" can be all these things and much more. But there is perhaps one thing that we probably don't think about when we hear the word "resurrection", and that is that it is here and now.

In today's Gospel Martha tells Jesus that she believes that her brother will rise on the last day. Martha, like many of us, is thinking that this great event, Lazarus' resurrection, will happen sometime in the future that is on the "last day when God will raise our mortal bodies and make them like his own in glory." But Jesus tells Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life." By answering this way, Jesus is telling Martha and us the resurrection that He offers is not only a transformation of our lowly bodies that will happen sometime in the future, but that it is happening even now in the present. Jesus demonstrates this by raising Martha's brother Lazarus from the dead here and now. When Jesus cries out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" Jesus is showing that he is the resurrection here and now. "The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth." Jesus called Lazarus from the darkness of death into the light of day and commanded that Lazarus be untied and freed from the wrapping of death that had held him bound. "Untie him and let him go." By Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, Lazarus came to the reality of new life in Christ.

The resurrection is present within us even as we go through this life. It is in our current relationship with Jesus who says, "I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me will never die." It is not something that we have to wait for because it is happening right now within us through the grace of God that we have all received at baptism. As St. Paul tells us, "If we have died with Christ in baptism so shall we rise with Christ to new life" which indicates our future resurrection. But this promise and grace are with us from the start when again St. Paul tells us, "If we have put on Christ, we have become a new creation" which is the here and now. Our new life with Christ, our new life in Christ, our raised life in Christ is here and now. The promise of resurrection is already present and active within our lives, and on the last day it will only be the fulfillment, the completion of that resurrection which is already present and exists within us. Thus, the **reality of new life in Christ**, which is our theme for this fifth week of Lent has already begun within us. Our Lenten theme challenges us to **"Open your eyes" to "Open our eyes" to the spiritual rejuvenation that already exist within us when we, too, will come to share the full glory of Christ on the last day.**

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.

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 free myself from the burial bands in my life? How can I help others release their own?

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.

Palm Cross Order Form



Name: _____

Phone #: _____

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

Total enclosed \$ _____