

March 13, 2022



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Current Schedules

Weekend Masses:

Saturday: 4:00pm
Sunday: 8:00am, 10:00am,
12noon and 5:00pm

Weekday Masses: 8:00am

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

in the Day Chapel

Monday and Wednesday:
6:00pm—7:00pm

Pastoral Center Hours:

Sunday: 9:00am—3:00pm
Monday—Thursday: 9:00am—7:00pm
Friday—Saturday: 9:00am—5:00pm

Parish Directory

Parish Phone:

978-686-4050

St. Michael School:

978-686-1862

Pastor: Rev. Kevin Deeley

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Jiwon Yoon

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Joseph Hubbard

Weekend Assistant:

Rev. Ray Dlugos, O.S.A.

Deacon: Deacon Vincent Gatto

Deacon: Deacon Daniel Sheridan

Deacon: Deacon Eugene Schaeffer

Director of Pastoral Ministries:

Mary Alice Rock

School Principal:

Susan Gosselin

Finance & Operations Manager:

Dorothy Varga

Pastoral Associate:

Dominic Margaglione

Music Director:

Jennifer Wells

Prayer Line Intentions

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Televised Weekend Mass

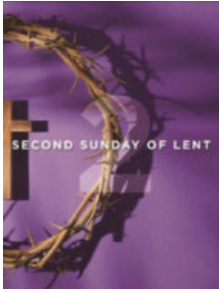
Watch Mass livestreamed at 4:00pm on Saturdays on Verizon 24, Comcast 22 or St. Michael's YouTube channel.

It is repeated on Sundays at 12noon on Verizon 24 and Thursdays at 11:00am on Comcast. 22 and, of course, on-line anytime!

St. Michael's Mission Statement

*The Spirit of the Lord has been given to us.
For He has anointed us with His Life.
He has sent us to: Bring Good News to the poor,
To proclaim liberty to captives;
And to the blind bring new sight;
To set the downtrodden free;
and to proclaim the Lord's favor in our lives.*
(Luke 4:18)

March 13, 2022



Second Sunday of Lent

*Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.
— cf. Psalm 27 (26):8-9*



Taizé Prayer Service

Led by the Spirit

Monday, March 14, 7:15 pm

Taizé (pronounced: tay-zay) is a **prayerful form of music known for its simple, yet rich and meditative character**. Taizé music often takes the structure of an ostinato (a simple melody that repeats over and over) and is meant to serve as a kind of musical centering prayer. Come join us Monday evening and experience the peace found in this unique and beautiful music and quiet reflection.

PARISH MISSION: LISTEN TO HIM

Listening to Christ through prayer, people and circumstances.

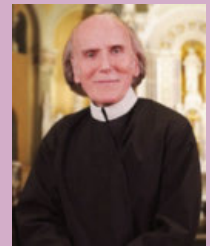
Redemptorist missionary, Fr. Anthony Michalik, leads a three-night Lenten mission aimed at opening us to more clearly hear the voice of Jesus in our lives.

All 3 evenings will begin at 7:00pm.

Sunday, March 27: Preaching, Music & Prayer

Monday, March 28: Reconciliation Service

Tuesday, March 29: Closing Mass & Blessing



THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL PUTS

Faith into Action

The 2022 Catholic Appeal

Last weekend at our Masses we heard our Catholic Appeal Coordinators, Joseph and Mary Lee, speak about the 2022 Catholic Appeal. They talked about the bible story of the loaves and the fish and how the gift was multiplied to help feed many. In the same way, your Catholic Appeal gift can be multiplied to help many, no matter the size. If you want to learn more about the Catholic Appeal please visit bostoncatholicappeal.org. Once a year, Catholics throughout the Archdiocese are asked to support the greater Church by giving a gift to the Catholic Appeal. Just as our weekly collection supports parish expenses, initiatives and programs, the Catholic Appeal helps fund services that are essential to our parishes, schools and the greater community.

We hope you will consider making a gift. Pledge cards can be filled out this weekend, you can scan the QR code or visit

www.bostoncatholicappeal.org/donate-now.



STATIONS of the CROSS

Join us every Friday in Lent at 7:00 pm in the church, to walk with Jesus to Calvary Hill and remember His saving act of love for us through this time honored prayer.

The Stations will also be live streamed on our parish YouTube channel.



No Strings Attached

And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem (Lk 9:30-31).

Three years ago a friend of mine asked if I would like to join him and a couple of other guys in doing a program called, *Exodus 90*. In case you haven't heard of it, it's an intense 90 day spiritual program for Catholic men. The three-month plan is centered around the reading of the Book of Exodus and the practice of a number of challenging disciplines, including but not limited to fasting, abstaining from alcohol, desserts, snacking, watching tv, social media, secular music, and warm showers. In addition, you are called to pray at least an hour a day. The idea behind the program is that it is meant to help you become aware of your attachments to "earthly things", as Saint Paul called them in today's Second Reading, and lead you to greater freedom in Christ.

I decided to give the program a shot and took part in it with the other guys. One thing that surprised me is that when we met each week to share our individual experiences it was clear that each of us struggled and thrived with different disciplines. For example, one man had no trouble giving up his phone, but really had difficulty making prayer a daily routine, while another already had a strong prayer life, but found it hard to stop snacking. I am in no way promoting or endorsing this program, but simply mentioning it as it reminded me that each one of us has attachments and obstacles to experiencing the freedom to which Jesus is leading us. What may even seem like small attachments can still keep us from truly hearing and completely responding to God's call in our lives. St. John of the Cross taught that just as a bird tied to the thinnest string cannot fly, a soul attached to anything will not attain the freedom of being united with God.

I used to think that freedom and discipline were polar opposites. Perhaps it's because sometimes freedom has been advertised as meaning *you can do whatever you want, when you want*. Unfortunately, that type of lifestyle isn't true freedom, but one very much tied to the ego and our desires. True freedom, as the obedience of faith show us, is being able to love God with our whole selves and love one another like Jesus instructed us to do, *no strings attached*. Healthy and faith-inspired disciplines, fueled by the grace of the Holy Spirit, lead us on the path to freedom.

In today's Gospel story of the Transfiguration, we see Jesus speaking to Moses and Elijah about the "exodus" He was going to accomplish. Moses led the Israelites on the Exodus from slavery in Egypt to the freedom that would eventually lead them to the Promised Land. The exodus that Jesus—through his passion, death and resurrection—offers you and me is from the slavery of sin and death to the ultimate joy and freedom of everlasting life with God. The disciplines of Lent are designed to help us actively take part in the exodus Jesus has accomplished. As we give ourselves to the practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, God is offering us the chance to see more clearly what attachments are holding us back from living the fullness of life God is leading us toward. This is the perfect time to honestly reflect on what earthly things and desires we are holding on to that may get in the way of the true freedom that Jesus wants us to know.

Peace in Christ,

Dominic Margaglione

Pastoral Associate

This Week in Our Parish

Sunday March 13	Monday March 14	Tuesday March 15	Wednesday March 16	Thursday March 17	Friday March 18	Saturday March 19
Masses 8:00am, 10:00am, 12noon and 5:00pm	Mass: 8:00am Gospel of Luke* 9:00am Adoration 4:00-7:00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation 6-7:00pm in the Day Chapel Taizé Prayer Service 7:15pm in the church	Mass: 8:00am Children's Choir 3:45pm Adult Choir 7:00pm	Mass: 8:00am Sacrament of Reconciliation 6-7:00pm in the Day Chapel Book Discussion <i>Seriously, God?</i> 1:00pm in person 7:00pm (zoom)	Mass: 8:00am Rosary Cenacle 6:45pm AI-Anon* 7:00pm	Mass: 8:00am Stations of the Cross: 7:00pm in the church	Mass: 8:00am Vigil Mass: 4:00pm

*Please note: * means meeting is held in the Pastoral Center*



Our Parish joyfully welcomes the following child who recently celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism:

Veronica Flor Belcastro
daughter of Kenneth & Euliza



Save the dates!

Friday, April 1, 8:45am-9:30am
 Saturday, April 2, 3:00pm-3:45pm
 Sunday, April 3, 9:00am-9:45am,
 11:00am-11:45am, 1:00pm-1:45pm and
 4:00pm-4:45pm

Join us at one of these gatherings before/after Mass to discuss how to be a better "Listening Church".

More information to follow!



Rest in Peace

Elizabeth Ardizzone	Jeffrey E. Donahue, III
Anthony Fragala	Judith Love
Philip R. Nastasia	Gail Robbins
Marylou Salois	



March 12 through March 20

Saturday	8:00am	Michael Bohigian Albert Previte, III
	4:00pm	Margaret LoPiano & Dolores Walsh
Sunday	8:00am	Eugene & Gabriela Caille
	10:00am	William Gately
	12:00noon	Eleanor Wilson Lee Charles Wilson, Sr. Francis X. Bodenrader, Jr. Joseph Knightly Gerard Jacobs
Monday	8:00am	Frank Altrui
Tuesday	8:00am	Laura Bloise
Wednesday	8:00am	Laurance Percy
Thursday	8:00am	William D. Haphey
Friday	8:00am	Anna Ravo Rozzi John Ravo
Saturday	8:00am	William Lyons Marylou Salois
	4:00pm	the deceased members of the Benanti-Ardizzone Families
Sunday	8:00am	Thomas F. Deeley, Sr.
	10:00am	Roger Lavoie
	12:00noon	Olive "Jan" Burke Fr. Steve Boyle Laura Berthold Giovanna & Salvatore Mosto

SAINT MICHAEL SCHOOL NEWS



Upper School students began their journey of invention and entrepreneurship. Invention Convention is a global invention education program run by MIT. The program includes the designing, building, and marketing of a new product. Here the students are determining the problem that caused their item to be invented.



SEATS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR FALL 2022

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THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

It took lots of help to prepare for our Ash Wednesday liturgies! Many thanks to all of those who pitched in to change over the colors, prepare the books for distribution, burn the palms and ready the ashes, bring ashes to the nursing homes and serve as hospitality ministers, Eucharistic Ministers, and lectors at our liturgies! You paved the way to welcome so many "home"!

saint michael parish



Youth Minister: Katie Larson
Katie_Larson@SaintMichael.com

We had another wonderful 7@7 with the youth group this month, with 20 teens studying the Bible and playing games.

Our next 7@7 will take place on Thursday, April 7.

Special Event - Save the date! On June 17th we invite high school and college students to attend "Jesus is Here" in Boston. The evening will include a Youth Group dinner, followed by a night of Praise & Worship by **Village Lights**, a talk by **Bobby and Jackie Angel**, Adoration, Confession, and a visit by Cardinal Seán.

Contact Katie (above) for more information.

CHRIST-SEEKERS



Last week was an exciting week for our 9 Christ-Seekers! After the Ash Wednesday Mass, we had a special ceremony, "A Call to Continuing Conversion" for those who are preparing to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church through the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion. On Sunday, the parish "sent off" the 4 catechumens (those who will be baptized) to be welcomed into the universal Church by Cardinal Sean O'Malley. Please keep our Christ-Seekers in your prayers as they continue to prepare for the Sacraments of Initiation.



Grade 1-8 Faith Formation Lenten Project: For our Lenten Project this year, we will be collecting saltine crackers for Bread & Roses. They are given out on a daily basis and are in need of more crackers. We are asking each child in Faith Formation to bring in one box of saltine crackers. Crackers may be brought to class or dropped off at the pastoral office. Please have all donations in by April 4. Thank you for your participation.

"Amen, I say to you whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." **Matthew 25:40**

Undies Sunday

Communities Together, Inc. will be accepting donations of diapers and small children's underwear throughout Lent. Consider making this a Lenten priority. Just one pair of underwear or one package of diapers can make a difference to a child who goes without.

Items can be dropped off in our Main Street gathering area of the church.

Jesus Is Here

June 18, 2022

Tsongas Center in Lowell

Our parish is organizing a trip to the Eucharistic Congress which will include a ticket (early bird price of \$39) with the option for free bus transportation, leaving from and returning to the church. Tickets can be purchased on our website and at the reception desk in the Pastoral Center **thru Friday, March 25**. The tickets will be distributed at a later time once they are printed. We hope you will join us for this once in a life time event.

Visit www.saint-michael.org for more information.

In the case of our discovering that someone at Mass tests positive for **COVID-19**, we will make any announcement of a positive test on the parish website & bulletin board, so please check on a regular basis.

Prayers for all who have been affected by this disease and prayers for a complete end of the pandemic!



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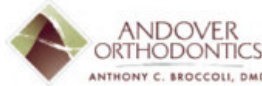
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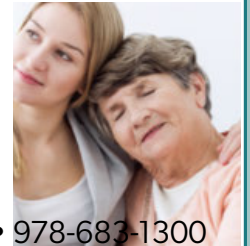
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