

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

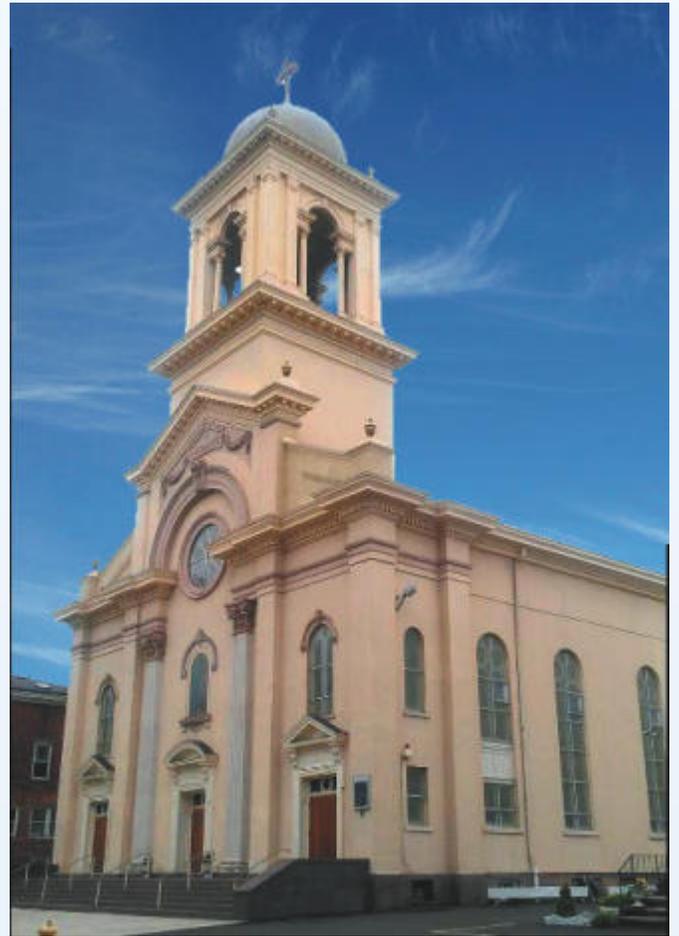
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:00am

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



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.





**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,
MARY AND JOSEPH
DECEMBER 27, 2020**

Saturday, December 26th, Vigil of the Lord's Day

4:00 p.m. - William Jr., Stella & William C Candela, req. by family

Sunday, December 27th, Feast of the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary & Joseph

9:30 a.m. - Stephen Christopher Sanseverino, req. by Mom & Dad

Monday, December 28th, Holy Innocents

8:00 a.m. - Fortunato & Trofimenia Apicella, req. by daughter

Tuesday, December 29th, Octave of the Nativity

8:00 a.m. - Alice Ezold & family, req. by Richard & Esther Ezold

Wednesday, December 30th, Octave of the Nativity

8:00 a.m. - NO MASS

Thursday, December 31st, Octave of the Nativity

8:00 a.m. - Gods Blessing, req. by Anastasio family

Friday, January 1, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

9:30 a.m. - People of St. Michael Parish

Saturday, January 2nd, Vigil of the Lord's Day

4:00 p.m. -

Sunday, January 3rd, Epiphany of the Lord

9:30 a.m. - Deceased members of St. Michael Parish

“The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision.” The Bible never explains the mechanics of God’s communication with the patriarchs, matriarchs, prophets, and apostles. But God’s Word was a vivid reality to its hearers, and it caused them to act decisively, even if to outsiders that obedience appeared strange or even insane.

Abraham and Sarah set out to receive an unseen inheritance, sure of nothing except the word that had burned itself into their souls. They went out, not knowing where they were going, *the Lord* prompting them in vague but unmistakable ways. Most translations of Hebrews 11:11 say that Abraham received the power to father Isaac by faith. Some manuscripts, followed by the *New Jerusalem Bible*, say that it was Sarah who received this word: “It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who made the promise was faithful to it. “Whether or not this is the original reading, her pregnancy shows that Sarah shared Abraham’s habit of trusting the Word of the Lord.

Venerable Simeon and Anna represent Old Testament piety at its best, very much like Abraham and Sarah. Their hidden source of life was their expectant trust in the Word given by the Lord. Simeon was “awaiting the consolation of Israel”; Anna was counted among those “awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.” From long experience they knew and lived *the Word* and its prophetic fulfillment as if it already existed. Because they loved and lived it, they sensed its near approach and instantly recognized the reality when it arrived.

Sanctuary Lamp

Sunday, December 27, 2020

***In Memory of
Nancy Valente***

In remembrance of those who died,

Marie DiLello

May she rest in peace.

The Parish office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, January 1st, 2021, in observance of New Years Day. The office will reopen on Monday, January 4, 2021.

Weekend of December 20, 2020

Weekly Collection \$

**One Collection This Week
Weekly Collection**

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

Readings for the week of December 27, 2020

Sunday: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 or Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Monday: 1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18

Tuesday: 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35

Wednesday: 1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40

Thursday: 1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18

Friday: Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21

Saturday: 1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. What we learn from this feast is that Jesus, who is the Son of God and the Son of Mary, shows us the importance of family and family life by becoming a member of a human family in a home in Nazareth with Mary and Joseph.

Usually, when we think of family, what comes to our mind is our blood relatives; parents, siblings, grandparents, cousins etc., in short, people with whom we share a common ancestry with; either through blood lines and or through other genetic or DNA similarities. But on this Feast of the Holy Family, we as Christians are reminded that we are not only a part of and share in an earthy family, a human family via our blood relationships and/or DNA, but also by virtue of our baptism we have become members of and sharers in the family of God, we have become members of a spiritual family through Jesus Christ who is our head. Through the shed blood of Christ, one might say that there is a common spiritual ancestral blood that flows through all of us who are baptized.

Because He gave His life and shed His blood for her, the church becomes both bride and mother. "Bride" in the sense that she is always faithful to the faith entrusted to her by Jesus her spouse but also she is called "mother" because it is through her that we have all received not only the truth of the faith but also the gift of new birth and spiritual life through the sacrament of baptism and wherein we are nourished and sustained spiritually throughout our spiritual life by the word of God and the sacraments. Thus, we do speak and refer to the Church as a family.

Sometimes I think as individuals we can easily forget that we are the family of God. At times, instead of being united as one church, professing one faith, one hope, one baptism, as St. Paul states, we sometimes have a tendency to go off in our own direction, doing our own thing, having little or no regard for the betterment of the believing family and community of faith as a whole. In many ways, the church on earth is not so much different than our earthly families here on earth. We have to learn how to love and forgive each other, when to say "yes" and when to say "no." We have to realize that everything cannot always be our way or the way that we want it to be, we have to learn to compromise. We have to learn how to give and how to receive graciously. We have to be patient with one another, bear with one another as St. Paul reminds us. Just as it takes effort and commitment on the part of each member of a family to be a family and to make family life work, so it is the same with members of any parish, the church, it takes the effort and commitment of each and every parishioner to make a parish flourish and grow to be living examples of faith and love.

As we celebrate this Feast of the Holy Family, let us all be mindful of the fact that we are all God's children, members of God's Family. The following prayer is a prayer that Fr. John P. Rohan, of happy memory, used for many years reminding us just of that fact. It speaks of us as Church as a family.

GOD MADE US A FAMILY

**We need one another
We love one another
We forgive one another
We work together
We play together
We worship together**

**Together we use God's word
Together we grow in Christ
Together we love all people
Together we serve our God
Together we hope for heaven**

**These are our hopes and ideals
Help us attain them, O God
Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord!**

On this Thursday, as we usher in 2021, the start of a New Year may we all work together to continue to build up the family of the Parish Church of St. Michael here in historic Wooster Square, always remembering that we are members of God's Family. As we enter into this New Year, may 2021 bring us new hope and peace looking ahead to a better future as we continue to move forward making strides against this pandemic. May we thank God for those men, women and volunteers who have produced and tested the vaccines that we will receive in this New Year. We also remember and pray for those brave medical personnel who have given tirelessly of themselves during this most difficult time and for those who have lost family members or loved ones to this pandemic.

On behalf of myself, Deacon Norman Singer, Terecita Berrios Rivera our parish secretary, Kathy Mansi our organist and Paul DeNegre our custodian, we would like to wish all the parishioners of St. Michael Church and their families a very Blessed and Peace filled Happy New Year!

Fr. Roy

THANK YOU

A heartfelt Thank you to Jean Quartiano and Margaret Mary Cummings who have volunteered their time to Decorate Our Beautiful Church This Christmas Season.

Thank you from the Residents of Leeway

Thank you to all who supported the giving tree this year! Your generosity has really helped residents of Leeway who are less fortunate than us. The knowledge that their Holiday season has been improved by our efforts is truly heartwarming and humbling. Thank you for all you've done to make the Giving Tree a success once again!

Please accept our sincerest wishes to you and your loved ones for a Happy and Healthy New Year!

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.

Question of the Week

How can I better see Christ in my family members?
How can I better see neighbors and strangers as my sisters and brothers?

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.

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

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.**

From the Twitter Account of Pope Francis



I encourage you to dedicate time to prayer, meditating in the light of the Word of God, so that the Holy Spirit who inhabits it might illuminate the path to follow and transform our hearts, as we await the birth of Our Lord Jesus.

VOCATION REFLECTIONS

December 27, 2020

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Share an expression of gratitude for the gift of your family today. Pray for wholeness and holiness for all members of the family of God. If a member of your family is considering becoming a priest, deacon, brother, or sister have them call **Fr. Michael Casey**, Director of Vocations, Pastoral Center, 860-761-7456, e-mail vocations@aohct.org or visit the web at www.hartfordpriest.com.

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. Michael'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.

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

Name _____

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

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

DECEMBER 27, 2020

We celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on the first Sunday after Christmas! This feast day is a reminder to us of the example Mary and Joseph set for all of us in welcoming Jesus into their lives. The Holy Family serves as a model for us all in which to live in faith and simplicity.

Add an additional prayer to your family routine today and brainstorm ways you might help each other grow in faith throughout this New Year.



May the Holy Family be a model for our families, so that parents and children may support each other mutually in adherence to the Gospel, the basis of the holiness of the family.

—Pope Francis, December 29, 2019



Photo Credit

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Holy Day of Obligation

Friday, January 1st is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

"Mary is more blessed in receiving the faith of Christ, than in conceiving the flesh of Christ." St. Augustine, *On Holy Virginity*, 3



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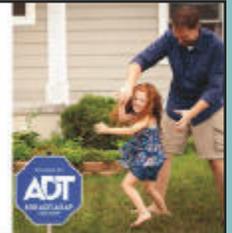


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