

SAINT MICHAEL CHURCH

EST. 1889

The First Italian Parish In Connecticut

Pastor: Rev. Robert P. Roy

Deacon: Norman Singer

Parish Office

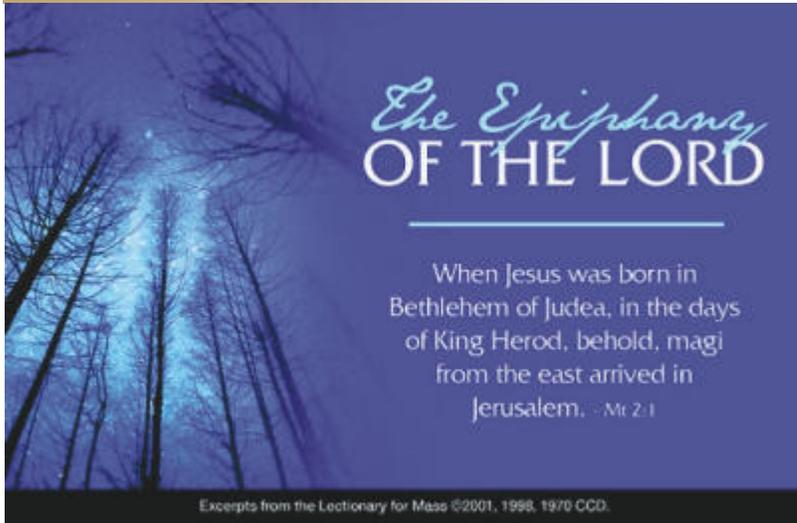
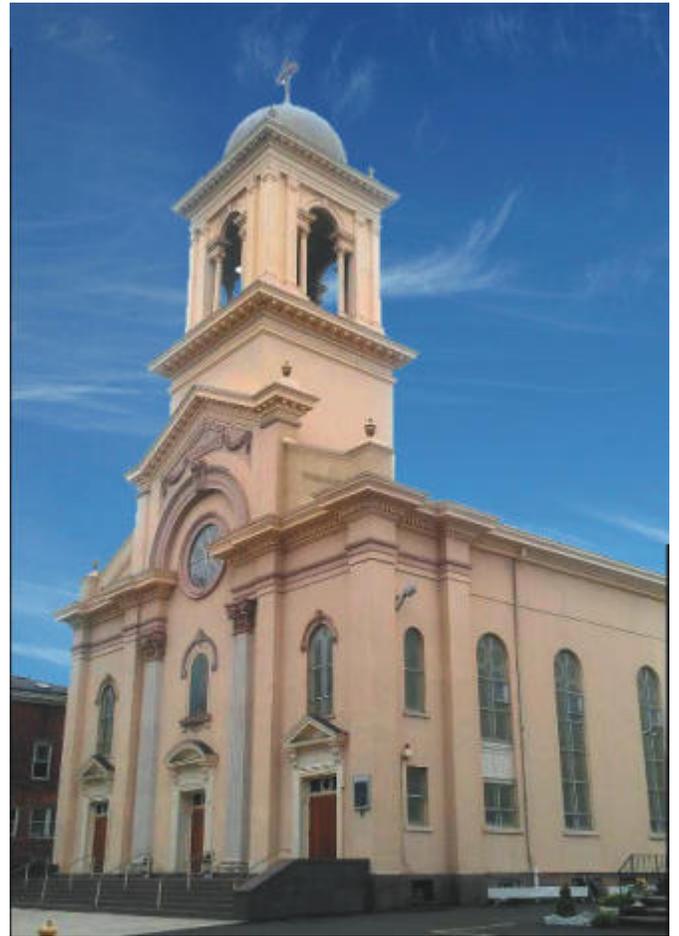
9:00am - 1:00pm Monday - Friday
203-562-7178
203-752-0157 fax
smc1889@att.net
stmichaelwoostersquare.org

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.





**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
JANUARY 3, 2021**

The anonymous disciple of Isaiah wrote just after the exile, when the prophet spoke to the shrinking hope of those who had returned to the desolate land. To them he proclaimed a lyrical vision of Jerusalem's future splendor. The opulence picoted is less striking than who it is that bears it: It is a long column of Gentiles lined up to do homage in Jerusalem. The many nations will one day stream to Mount Zion to learn God's ways.

Casual readers of Matthew's Gospel might focus on the exotic visitors from the east, or on Herod's anger against them. But in Matthew's account of the Gospel the appearance of the Magi represent an almost liturgical introduction of the Gentiles into the Court of the Messiah-King. This is the message of today's three readings as well as the Responsorial Psalm.

It is difficult to overstate the complexity and importance of the question that faced the first generation of Christians, virtually all of whom were Jews. Must Gentiles become Jews in order to become Christians? A strong conservative group on one side said yes, this was the way of salvation revealed to Moses. A more liberal group said no, Jesus offered salvation freely to everyone who responded to him, even to Gentiles.

Matthew seems to represent a middle group that insists on the integrity of Torah and includes the Gentiles by the mercy of God. In his Gospel, on the one hand Jesus insists that "not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place." But on the other hand, "many will come from the east and the west, and will recline with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob at the banquet in the kingdom of heaven, but the children of the kingdom will be driven out into the outer darkness."

- Saturday, January 2nd, Vigil of the Lord's Day**
4:00 p.m. - Deceased Member of St. Michael Parish
- Sunday, January 3rd, Epiphany of the Lord**
9:30 a.m. - Community Mass
- Monday, January 4th, Christmas Weekday**
8:00 a.m. - Andy Anastasio, req. by family
- Tuesday, January 5th, Christmas Weekday**
8:00 a.m. - In honor of Peter & Melissa Gambardella, req. by Charlotte Gambardella
- Wednesday, January 6th, Christmas Weekday**
8:00 a.m. - NO MASS
- Thursday, January 7th, Christmas Weekday**
8:00 a.m. - Gods Blessing, req. by Anastasio family
- Friday, January 8th, Christmas Weekday**
9:30 a.m. - Dominick Onofrio, req. by Mary Florenzano
- Saturday, January 9th, Vigil of the Lord's Day**
4:00 p.m. - Deborah Richitelli, req. by Scoppetto family
- Sunday, January 10th, Baptism of the Lord**
9:30 a.m. - Deceased Members of St. Catello Society

Sanctuary Lamp

***Sunday, January 3, 2021
In Memory of
Deceased Members of St. Michael Parish***

**In remembrance of those who died,
Cynthia Roberts & Frank Punzo
May they rest in peace.**

Question of the Week

The magi's encounter with Christ leads them to change the course of their journey. How is my journey changed by my encounter with the Lord?

Weekend of December 27, 2020

Weekly Collection \$1853.00

**Two Collections This Week
Weekly Collection
Monthly Collection**

**One Collection Next Week
Weekly Collection**

Readings for the week of January 3, 2021

Sunday: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

Monday: 1 John 3:22—4:6; Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 John 4:7-10; Mark 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 John 4:19—5:4; Luke 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 John 5:5-13; Luke 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30



All of us have certain expectations or preconceived notions about the way a certain thing or the way a certain situation should be. We imagine within our minds beforehand what it should be like, a preconceived reality, a preconceived notion of what we should see or expect to find or even encounter. But as we all know sometimes our preconceived expectations; notions differ from the reality of what we find. The reality of the situation turns out to be much different than we had originally expected or imagined. I wonder if the magi felt this way.

The gospels tell us that the magi observed the star at its rising and set out with great joy and anticipation, their hearts filled with hope in the promise of a newborn king and they followed the star until it came to rest on the place where the child was. They were joyful because they had reached their destination.

But I couldn't help but wonder what went through their minds and what was in their hearts when they beheld the child with his mother? Did the reality of what they had encountered, did the reality of the situation meet with what they had thought they would find and experience, with their preconceived expectations had expected?

I am sure that they did not see an aura of light surrounding or radiating from the child or his mother nor did they see any halos encircling the heads of Jesus or Mary as we see in holy pictures. Besides, the place where they encountered the newborn king was certainly not in a royal palace, we are told that it was a house.

Were they disappointed in what they saw, a child in its mother's arms? Yet, when we think of it, what could be more natural, what could be more normal than to see a new born child cradled in its mother's arms?

Did the reality of what they expected to find meet with their expectations? Were they disappointed? I would say no. Even through they were probably learned men, possible men of some type of science as the name magi implies, yet they possessed a humility and a wisdom, which allowed them to take God and to encounter God on God's own terms the way God chose to reveal himself; the way God chose to manifest himself and that is why they were not disappointed.

Through the eyes of faith, and not merely human eyes, they were able to discern, in this child lying in his mother's arms, the king of kings, who is the redeemer of the human race that had been spoken of in prophecy for centuries. They took God's manifestation; the way God chose to reveal himself at his word. So, the experience of encountering the child in his mother's arms left them with a sense of great joy and not disappointment.

Does God still reveal and manifest himself to us today? Yes, he does. But our slowness to respond to that revelation and manifestation is not necessarily due to the mode in which God chooses to reveal himself but rather it is perhaps due to our own misconception or even preconceived notions of what and how we think God should manifest himself to us. Perhaps it is due to our dullness of faith.

Unlike the magi, we do not always take God on his own terms and conditions. There are times when we are given to imposing our terms and conditions on him. We sometimes have the tendency to decide for ourselves what shall be the sensible exterior sign that God will give to us for his revelation. We sometimes, with our own ideas and imaginings, and perceived notions tell God and decide for God how and the way he should reveal and manifest himself to us. If we lack the humility and wisdom, which will allow us to take God and to encounter God on his own terms the way he chooses to reveal himself, the way he chooses to manifest himself than we will be disappointed in what we see. If we see and look at the actions of God's revelation and manifestations only with our human eyes and without the eyes of faith eyes than it will only leave us with an empty sign and our expectation will leave us disappointed, but not so the wise men.

Through humility, wisdom and faith they took God on his own terms. They acknowledged this new born child as God in the lowliness of the guise of human flesh in which he appeared. They looked on a baby in his mother's arms and they said, "God".

Happy Epiphany! Happy Manifestation!
Fr. Roy

COVID-19 Guidelines Update

As was announced by Governor Lamont, the state of Connecticut on Friday, November 6, 2020, will revert back to more rigorous restrictions, implementing “Phase 2.1,” to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Within these new mandatory changes, religious gatherings have been effected, and the following change will be required: **attendance at Mass and other liturgies for all churches in the Archdiocese of Hartford will be restricted to 50% of capacity or 100 persons, whichever is less.** In addition, as other meetings at venues have been reduced to 25 people indoors and 50 people outdoors, any upcoming non-liturgical events, meetings, or gatherings held at parishes will need to follow those limits.

Please ensure that your parish is in compliance with this directive and that all proactive measures such as social distancing and sanitizing of facilities continue to be carried out.

Additionally, if you have not do so previously, we ask that you notify your parishioners that in light of the recent increase in coronavirus cases within the state of Connecticut and continued uncertainty regarding the extent and duration of the coronavirus in the state and throughout the Archdiocese of Hartford, Archbishop Blair has now extended the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation for all the Faithful of the Archdiocese of Hartford through Tuesday, February 16, 2021, which is the eve of Ash Wednesday.

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



We too can change evil into good each day. Loving actions change history: even the ones that are small, hidden, everyday. For God guides history through the humble courage of those who pray, love and forgive.

VOCATION REFLECTIONS

Jan. 3rd– Epiphany of the Lord

The Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. What gifts do you have to give? Is God calling you to be a priest, brother, or sister? 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. 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.

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

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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 Epiphany of the Lord



“As we begin the New Year, may we discover anew that faith demands worship. If we can fall on our knees before Jesus, we will overcome the temptation to set off on our own path.” (Pope Francis, Jan. 6, 2020)

On this Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, we remember that God came to earth for everyone, every nation, every people.



January is Poverty Awareness Month!

Poverty does not strike all demographics equally. For example, in 2018, 10.6% of men, and 12.9% of women lived in Poverty USA. Along the same lines, the poverty rate for married couples in 2018 was only 4.7% - but the poverty rate for single-parent families with no wife present was 12.7%, and for single-parent families with no husband present was 24.9%.

In 2018, the poverty rate for people living with a disability was 25.7%. That’s nearly 4 million people living with a disability—in poverty.

Visit PovertyUSA for education on economic justice, resources for prayer, and key conduits for action.

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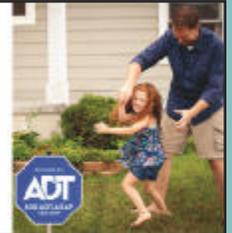
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