

# ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

## 80 FARNUM PIKE, GEORGIAVILLE, RHODE ISLAND



### **Mass Schedule**

Saturday: 5:00 PM - Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 AM  
Holy Days: As announced in bulletin

**PASTOR:** Rev. Richard A. Valentine

**PASTORAL ASSISTANT:**

William A. Bowden, ext. 4

**PARISH SECRETARY:**

Donna M. Capalbo, ext. 0

**RELIGIOUS FORMATION DIRECTOR:**

Wendy A. Carrier, ext. 3

**PARISH OFFICE:**..... 231-5119

**RELIGIOUS FORMATION:**.....231-1340

**OFFICE FAX NUMBER:**..... 231-0523

**HOURS:** Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**WEB SITE:** [www.stmichaelsmithfield.org](http://www.stmichaelsmithfield.org)

**EMAIL:** [stmikesgeo@gmail.com](mailto:stmikesgeo@gmail.com)

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:** Parents should contact the Pastoral Assistant, ext. 4, at least four months before the birth of their baby to discuss baptismal plans.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** by appointment with the priest.

**SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY:** Couples should contact the parish priest at least one year in advance. Be sure you have a confirmed date at the church before making any other arrangements.

**COMMUNION TO THE SICK:** Eucharistic Ministers are available to bring communion to the homebound. Please call the Pastoral Assistant, ext. 4.

**PARISH PRAYER LINE:** If anyone wishes to request a special intention, please call Avis at 233-0225. All requests will remain confidential.

## PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

So they brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks over it. And he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. - Mk 11:7-8

Many struggle with Jesus. Some who consider themselves faithful hail him in their churches but still struggle to figure out what to do with him on our streets. The message is somehow more palatable when it echoes pious renderings and sentiments and involves singing hosannas during worship. It becomes a bit trickier when it gets to the part about changing the way we conduct the business of our lives, becoming more sensitive to the disadvantaged, poor, and marginalized, and living as servants of our Loving Creator. Ultimately, it is a struggle between wanting to be God ourselves and letting God be God as God is. That's why it's so easy to become hypocritical. We, like those who hailed Christ as he arrived in Jerusalem and sent Christ to the cross to die, also talk out of both sides of our mouths. We entertain what suits us at the time and walk away from the rest.

Many neglect God's beautiful creation because they prefer what humans have made instead. Progress isn't seen in preserving and enhancing what God has made but replacing it with something we believe is better and more useful. The earth, flowers, and animals are all expendable if they stand in the way of the "more" we want to achieve. We seek to remove as many obstacles and hurdles as possible in search of the easiest, quickest, and most efficient path we can find. We have created drugs and laws that preserve our free choice, even though it may mean setting aside God's vision and example. Why suffer when we can easily be put to rest? Why endure insult or injury when we can retaliate, eliminate or subdue? Why accept life when it is acceptable to choose otherwise? We want to be God and resist accepting the fact that our real Creator has already given us the blueprints for the life we need to live in the Beatitudes and in the example of his Passion. We don't like being stewards and managers and really want the power to do as we wish and desire. We want to create our own way.

Where has the true, effective Christian voice been through all of the wars and violence, prejudice and unjust conquests, abuse of human beings and attempted extinctions of nationalities, the establishments of procedures and protocols that serve only a few and not the many and all of the injustices and exploitations that are a part of our human history? A few courageous prophets have stood up and out throughout all of the comings and goings of our human journey with many receiving the same fate as the Crucified One we hail this week. Some still walk among us as shining stars showing us how it really can be. How would Jesus' journey have ended if he lived life as we do? Unless we encounter the good with the bad, the just with the unjust, the grace with the sin, the glory with the cross, the death with the life we most certainly risk rendering God obsolete. After all, haven't we already convinced ourselves that we can do better?



Thursday, Friday and Saturday of Holy Week are known in Latin as the Triduum; it simply means "The three days". They are the central days in the Christian calendar which celebrate Christ's saving death and Resurrection.

**Holy Thursday**  
7 PM

**Good Friday**  
7 PM

**Holy Saturday**  
7:30 PM



The Gospel tells us that the people cut branches from the trees and laid them in the road in front of Jesus as part of the procession. Palms were used to celebrate the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem. Today, the palms are blessed and people are given a branch to take home and share with other family members. The palms will be burned to form the ash for Ash Wednesday.



### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross started as a practice of pilgrims to Jerusalem who wanted to trace the steps of Jesus to Calvary. Later this practice was adapted for the sake of those who couldn't travel to Jerusalem. Eventually, it took the form we know now and can find in most Catholic Churches: 14 pictures along the walls of the sanctuary. The devotion can be prayed at any time, but its observance is especially fitting during Lent. Our parish will observe this prayer service on Good Friday, April 2nd at 12:30 PM.

Online only on YouTube: [www.stmichaelsmithfield.org](http://www.stmichaelsmithfield.org)



### Readings for the Week



Sunday: Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39  
 Monday: Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14 [1a]/Jn 12:1-11  
 Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17 [cf. 15ab]/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38  
 Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34 [14c]/Mt 26:14-25  
 Thursday: Chrism Mass: Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9/Ps 89:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [2a]/Rv 1:5-8/Lk 4:16-21  
 Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18 [cf. 1 Cor 10:16]/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15  
 Friday: Is 52:13—53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25 [Lk 23:46]/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1—19:42  
 Saturday: Vigil: Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 [30] or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22 [5b]/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Ex 14:15—15:1/Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 [1b]/Is 54:5-14/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 [2a]/Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [3]/Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/  
 Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 [42:2] or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3] or Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 [12a]/Rom 6:3-11/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Mk 16:1-7

# Religious Formation

401-231-1340, Ext 3  
EMAIL: [faithformation80@aol.com](mailto:faithformation80@aol.com)



## Spring Review

Each grade level will be having one class to turn in their books and review what they have learned at home this year. If a parent is not comfortable having their child attend a class, please

let me know and arrangements will be made to turn in their book. Face coverings and social distancing will be in place. All classes will meet in the Parish Hall. The hall will be cleaned after all classes.

### Grade 2 – Group 2

March 28, 9:15 to 10:15 am

### Grade 9

March 28, 6 to 7:30 pm

### Grade 1

April 11, 9:15 to 10:15 am

### Grade 10

April 11, 6 to 7:30 pm

### Grades 3-8

April 26, 6:30 to 7:30



## DID YOU KNOW THE CATHOLIC CHARITY APPEAL FUNDS ST. MARTIN DE PORRES SENIOR CENTER?

In addition to offering health screenings, the center coordinates with over 40 agencies to help seniors navigate the social service maze to locate resources such as Social Security, Medicaid, Food Stamps and more. Since COVID-19 began, the team visits seniors at their homes and brings meals to them. The Center is currently feeding about 250 people a week. Because of your generosity, this program is funded every year, along with 30+ other ministries and services. Please prayerfully consider making a gift to support the 2021 Appeal to the best of your ability. You can return a pledge card in the mail, or visit [givecentral.org/2021CCA](http://givecentral.org/2021CCA). Thank you

## LENTEN REGULATIONS

**ABSTINENCE from meat** is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years and older on Ash Wednesday and on ALL the Fridays of Lent.

**FASTING** is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and **Good Friday** by all Catholics 18 – 59 years of age. Those who are bound by this may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if medically necessary, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

These Lenten laws are meant to create a spirit of penance and sacrifice. However, serious health conditions can excuse a person from these disciplines.

## Catholics continue to be dispensed from Sunday Mass and Holy Day Masses.

As a reminder, Bishop Tobin continues to dispense Catholics in the Diocese of Providence from the obligation to attend Sunday Masses and other Holy Days of Obligation. Vulnerable populations, the elderly, and those with underlying health conditions are asked to follow the most up to date health regulations and remain at home. There are many who might feel uncomfortable returning to Mass. They, too, have legitimate reason to remain at home until further notice.

WE CONTINUE TO STREAM MASS ON  
SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30 AM  
on our YouTube Page

## Spiritual Communion

*My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You in Holy Communion, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and I unite myself completely to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.*



## The Pontifical Good Friday Collection

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Your support helps the church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines. The wars, unrest and instability have been especially hard on Christians. In these times of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection provides humanitarian aid to refugees. When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land.



## ST. MICHAEL'S FOOD CLOSET

Donations to the food closet can be made on weekends during mass time or if you have a large amount, please bring your donations to the rectory, Monday-Thursday from 9am-4pm.

The following items are needed: boxed mashed potatoes, sugar, canned fruit, instant oatmeal, coffee, juices, paper towels, napkins, toilet paper and tissues. THANK YOU!



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