

SAINT MICHAEL PARISH

ONE PARISH. ONE SCHOOL. ONE FAITH COMMUNITY.

JANUARY 3, 2021

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother.

They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Our Mission

Rooted in our sacramental celebrations of the Eucharist, we seek to shape our future in a positive way through our parish school, religious education, youth ministry programs and numerous Christian services. While maintaining a strong sense of Catholic tradition, we look for ways to revitalize our Christian values through more openness to God's word and our gospel call to love God and neighbor. Trusting in the Holy Spirit, we seek new ways of being a church for members, active or not, as well as reaching out to the wider community.

Mass Schedule

Monday-Saturday at 7am. Weekends: Saturday at 4pm, Sunday at 7am, 9am & 11:15am

12:30pm Mass in Swahili every Sunday.

Holy Days: 7am & 7pm.

Rectory: 543 Bridge Street, Lowell, MA 01850 Phone: 978-459-0713 Fax: 978-453-1123

Religious Education Phone: 978-459-0713 Saint Vincent de Paul Society: 978-459-1770

Email: saintmichaels@comcast.net Website: www.saint-michael.com Facebook: Saint Michael Parish

Rectory Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm

School: 21 Sixth Street, Lowell, MA 01850 Phone: 978-453-9511 Fax: 978-454-4104

Email: sms@saint-michael.com Website: www.school.saint-michael.com Facebook: St. Michael School Lowell

**Below is useful information about our parish.
You can contact the Rectory at 978-459-0713
or saintmichaels@comcast.net.**



Baptisms are usually held at 2pm on the fourth Saturday of each month. Parents must attend one class prior to baptism date. Godparents must be Catholics who have received the sacraments of baptism, first communion & confirmation. Please contact one month in advance to schedule.



If you'd like to be married at Saint Michael's, please contact us one year prior to your wedding. Couples must meet with the priest prior to confirming a date.



Religious Ed classes for grades K-8 are held on Saturdays from 9-10:30am, Sept-May. High school students meet Sundays 3:30-5 or 5:30-7pm, Jan-May. First Communion is usually celebrated in May; Confirmation in the fall.



When you are sick or have scheduled surgery, please contact us. This is the Sacrament formerly known as Last Rites.



The Sacrament of Reconciliation, formerly known as Confession, is available every Saturday from 3pm-3:30pm in the church. If you would like to meet face-to-face with a priest, please contact the rectory.

Are you homebound and would like to receive communion on a temporary or permanent basis? Let us know so we can send an Extraordinary Minister to you.



If you are attending Mass & require a low gluten (0.02%) host, we're happy to help. Please speak with the priest or sacristan to make arrangements prior to Mass.



Are you an adult and would like to become a member of the Catholic faith? Contact the rectory about the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA).

Saint Michael is home to a vibrant, faith-filled Kenyan community, with Mass in Swahili every Sunday at 12:30pm. The contact for the **Kenyan Catholic Community & Friends (KCCF)** is Chairman Robert Ndirangu, rondimbu@gmail.com or 260-804-9444 via text or WhatsApp.



Saint Vincent de Paul Society

Saint Michael Parish is blessed to have a Saint Vincent de Paul Society conference, complete with dedicated volunteers who participate in community outreach, helping to supply relief to our neighbors in need. To help support these efforts, please remember to deposit your donation in one of the boxes at the entrance of the church. Thank you!



Welcome! We'd love to have you share in our faith and community. Welcome packets are at the entrance of the church. To become a registered parishioner, please contact the rectory.



Saint Michael School, founded in 1889 by the Dominican Sisters, is a private Catholic School dedicated to academic excellence from Pre-School (ages 3-4) through Grade 8 and is a fully accredited Catholic elementary school by the Archdiocese of Boston Department of Education and the NEASC (New England Association of Schools / Colleges). 21 Sixth St, Lowell 978-453-9511

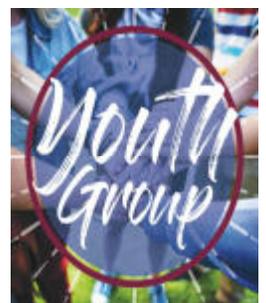


If you are a **Saint Michael School Alumni** please keep in touch by making sure we have your updated information. Please visit www.school.saintmichael.com and click on the ALUMNI tab on the homepage. Don't have online access? Call the school at 978-453-9511!

We invite parishioners to give an offering for the **Bread** at all Masses on a given weekend. The offering for this memorial is \$75.00. Please contact the rectory for more information.



SMYLE (Saint Michael Youth Leadership), our Youth Group, is open to young people ages 15-25 and meets at least twice a month for unique and fun faith-based activities. If you or someone you know is interested in joining SMYLE or would like more information, please contact Ashley Melanchook at SMYLE@saint-michael.com.



Deadline for Bulletin Submissions: Mondays at Noon, except during Advent, Lent, or the week of a holiday.
Email submissions to pminch@saint-michael.com

Saint Michael Parish

Administrator: Rev. Christopher Lowe
Deacon: Gerry Hardy
School Principal: Mary E. Elias
Religious Education Director: Nicole Walsh
Music Director: Jackie Thurrott
Development Director: Pauline A. Minch
Parish Office Manager/Bookkeeper: Terry Georgopoulos
Facilities Manager: Charlie Nutt
School Bookkeeper: Liz Homem
Organist: Ernie Houle
Parish/Religious Ed Secretary: Mary Brooks
Parish Receptionists: Ann Anderson, Holly Ferreira



The Lowe Down



Happy New Year!

As we move into the calendar new year, many of us will be considering resolutions. Many of us will fail at these resolutions within a few days. This is just human nature. We just have to keep trying to get back to our resolutions.

This seems to reflect our experience with Reconciliation. We seem to confess the same sins over and over again. We confess the sin then go out and within a few days or weeks, sin again. This is just human nature. God know this and will forgive us again and again as long as we are sorry for our sins. We should not avoid Reconciliation because we have the same list of sins. The counsel of the priest may help to avoid the sin in the future.

The grace that we receive in Reconciliation helps us to avoid sin for some time. It may be a few minutes, days or weeks, but the grace helps. I know this to be true in my life. After Reconciliation, I feel strengthened, but I will probably fail and sin again. My rule of thumb is, every time I get a haircut, I need to go to Reconciliation. That would be every 4-6 weeks. I need to keep that timeframe in mind because with Covid-19, haircuts have not been very regular.

In this New Year, let us all make resolutions that will move us closer to God this year. Our spiritual growth must be a priority for us all. If we have not moved closer to God by the end of this year, we have wasted another opportunity to grow in our faith.

Fr. Chris



The Gift of Bread is given in Memory of Peter Loudon. Please remember him in your prayers.

Saturday, January 2

4:00pm: Ann Marie Laforge

Sunday, January 3

9:00am: Stanley Szufnarowski

11:15am: Peter Loudon

Sunday, January 10

7:00am: Henry & Cecile Cluff

9:00am: Buddy King, Irene Lepine

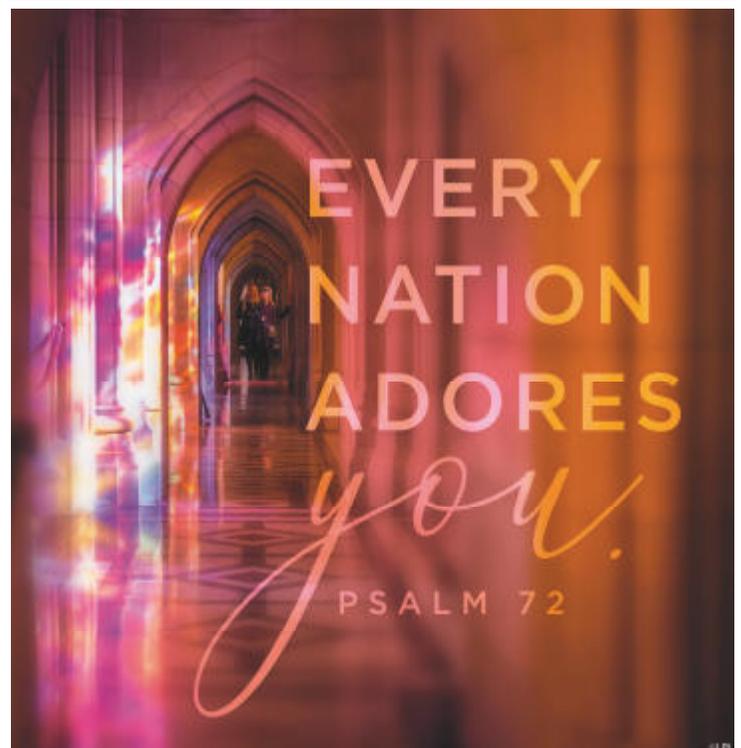


Please be advised that you can drop off your offertory envelopes/donations at the rectory by placing them in the drop box on the rectory's back door that faces the parking lot. Checks can also be mailed to 543 Bridge St., Lowell, MA 01850. You can sign up for Online Giving, which can be found on our website, www.saint-michael.com. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the "Online Giving" icon. Detailed instructions will follow. Online giving may be cancelled at any time.

For the weekend of Dec. 19-20: The Offertory amount was **\$4,549**; Online Giving was **\$1,309**, totaling **\$5,858**. Our weekly Offertory goal is **\$9,000**, leaving us with a goal shortage of **\$3,142**.

Due to an early publishing deadline, the Offertory amounts for the weekend of Dec. 26-27 are not available. They will be published in the January 10 edition of the bulletin.

Thanks for your continued support and generosity!



GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

The latest total of the 2020-2021 Grand Annual prior to publication is....

62%

Thank you so very much for your generosity and financial support of our \$100,000 goal!

CLERGY HEALTH AND RETIREMENT TRUST



Thank you for supporting the Christmas collection to benefit the Clergy Health & Retirement Trust, which cares for the health and well-being of our 536 active and senior priests in good standing, including those who have served at Saint Michael: Reverend Joseph Gaudet, Reverend

Robert Nee and Reverend Edward Sullivan. By supporting this collection, you have helped to ensure that our active priests receive the care they need to continue their important work and our senior priests can live in community with access to quality care. This collection is a primary source of funding for the Trust and your generosity is greatly appreciated. If you missed the collection, you can still make your donation online at:

<https://41399.thankyou4caring.org/chrt/2020-christmas-collection>

Year of the EUCHARIST

The real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist will be celebrated across the world from June 14 (the 2020 Feast of Corpus Christi) to June 2022, uniting all Catholics as one body of Christ. Join with family and friends in prayer, promotion & participation.

Prayer: Each day commit to praying an additional 15 minutes, including Mass, Adoration, grace before meals and bedtime prayer.

Promotion: Share your faith in the true presence of the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist by giving witness by talking to others about your beliefs.

Participation: If you would like to participate in the next event, please send your email address to our Parish Coordinator Mary Regan, skeedood1@aol.com and details will be sent to you.

JANUARY

COMMUNITY TABLE PROGRAM IS GRATEFUL

Thank you for your generosity via the Giving Tree in helping support our team to feed the hungry at the Salvation Army the 3rd Sunday of every month! Because of your gifts, whether it be our chicken stew or summer sandwiches, etc, the needy of the area continue to be fed via a takeout bag. While in the past year, when we were able to serve inside



the building, a member of the Salvation Army asks everyone to express gratitude to St. Michael's for the meal we provide in meeting our commitment to the Corporate Works of Mercy. Thanks again to our volunteers, your donations and your prayers for the less fortunate of the area!

Wise Men See God in the Simple Things

If you're on social media, you have probably seen a meme going around that features this quote: "God has a plan for your life. The enemy has a plan for your life. Be ready for both. Just be wise enough to know which one to battle and which one to embrace."

There were certainly two competing plans for the Magi: God's and Herod's. And, wise as they supposedly were, it wasn't entirely easy for the Magi to discern which was which.

After all, Herod posed as a friend. He offered the Magi hospitality and kindness. Though the Gospel doesn't say so, he probably flattered them and appealed to every moral weakness he could observe in them. In his palace, they must have felt great physical comfort — rest and tables of plenty on what was an otherwise long and treacherous journey.

But if the Magi were honest with themselves, I'll bet they would have admitted that, regardless of Herod's charm, they felt a gnawing sense of doubt while in his presence. When they looked upon the Christ Child, born in a stable without any of the comforts of the world or protections of wealth, they probably felt the opposite. They probably felt safe.

The Magi were lucky enough to have the right plan spelled out for them in a dream, but for the rest of us, it's enough to remember this: God's plan is often the one that leads us to places of great simplicity, great humility and great love. Let's have the wisdom to view power with suspicion, and innocence with admiration.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi

Listen to the daily gospel and homily by Fr. Roger Landry, son of parishioners Roger & Midge Landry! Ask Alexa for the "Catholic Preaching Podcast."



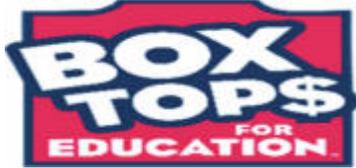
BOOK OF PRAYERS

The Book of Prayers is located on the side altar in front of the Blessed Mother statue. You're invited to write your prayers, hopes and needs in this book, and as a parish family, let us remember these written intentions in our daily prayers.



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

This easy and popular fundraiser for Saint Michael School has gone digital! Just download the app on your phone or iPad and scan your receipt within 14 days of purchase. If you cannot download the app, please drop your receipts in the collection boxes located at the church gathering space. Unexpired traditional (clipped) Box Tops can still be submitted as well. Thanks for your support!



SHOP AMAZON & SUPPORT OUR PARISH OR SCHOOL!

Shop on Amazon and help support Saint Michael School or Parish with a few simple clicks! AmazonSmile donates 0.05% of the price of your AmazonSmile purchases!

1. Go to smile.amazon.com on your web browser on your computer or electronic device.
2. On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you will need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. For future shopping, it will remember your selection, but that selection can be changed.
3. If you'd like to support the parish, search & select **ST. MICHAELS PARISH**. To support the school, search & select **SAINT MICHAEL SCHOOL**.



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EPIPHANY



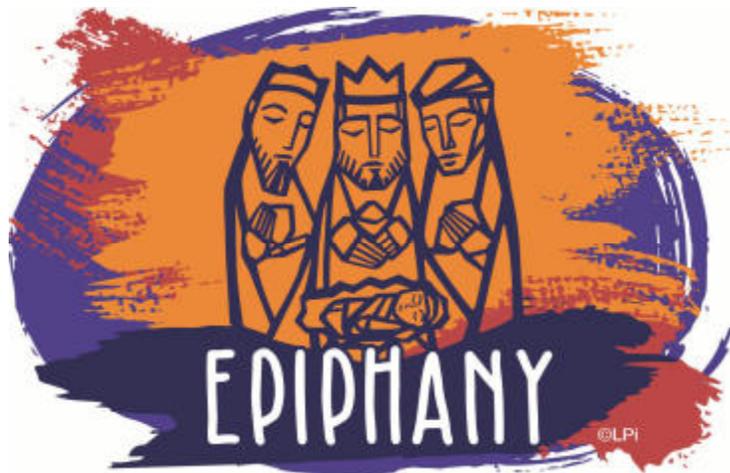
LIMITED AMOUNT OF MISSALS FOR SALE

The missals that we use in the pews each year have come in for next year. We reduced our order, so we have a limited amount available for sale. Our cost is about \$6.50 each, so we are offering them to you at \$7.00. These are available at the rectory Monday - Friday from 9:00-4:00.

LIGHT A CANDLE



Two stands of candles in the Sanctuary are there for you to light as a symbol of your intentions and prayers. We ask that at least a \$1 donation be offered for each candle that you light, which helps us defray the cost of the candle.



REMINDERS OF SOCIAL DISTANCING

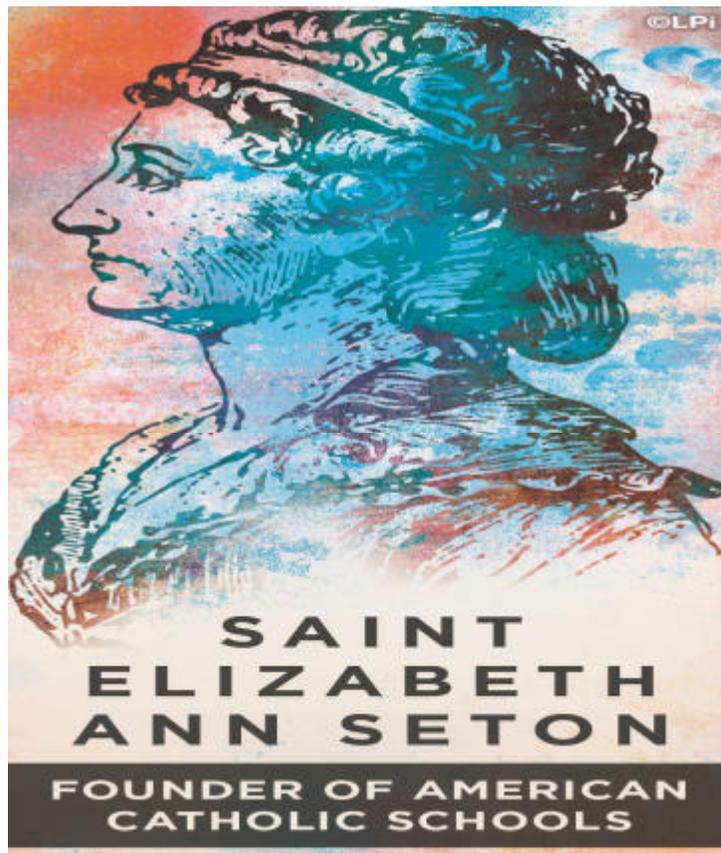
- We are required to take attendance and temperatures of all individuals attending Masses for Covid-19 contact tracing.
- We are not allowed to have paper in the pews. If you bring it in, you must take it out.
- Please follow the arrows at all times.
- Please drop your collection in the 2 boxes labeled "Offertory" in the back of the church on your way in or out.
- Please remember that there is no congregational singing at this time.
- Please remember that there is no sign of peace at this time. Offering a sign of peace during the Lamb of God is not appropriate.
- Please follow the instructions of the ushers for communion.
- Please follow the arrows upon exiting. The side rows go first, starting with the back, then the center aisle starting at the front.
- We disinfect the church after each Mass.

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Please remember to pray for the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States of America, that they be kept safe wherever they are stationed or deployed.



Are you or someone you know looking for a school that provides PreK-3 & PreK-4 education? Look no further than Saint Michael School! Compare our low tuition to day care rates! Call the school at 978-453-9511 for more information.



New! Clip this page and bring it with you to the January 10 Masses; it will assist in readings, prayers and responses. Please do not leave in pews—remember to take it home!

First Reading:

Thus says the LORD: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations, not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. a bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench, until he establishes justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching. I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

Responsorial Psalm: *The Lord will bless his people with peace.*

Second Reading:

Peter proceeded to speak to those gathered in the house of Cornelius, saying: “In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.”

Gospel Reading:

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

Gloria: *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

Nicene Creed: *I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

MASS CARDS & SPIRITUAL BOUQUETS



A Mass Card is a remembrance by which we offer a Mass for the repose of the soul of a deceased person or for the intention of the living. A Spiritual Bouquet is an enrollment by which we remember the person at one Mass per week for the year. Mass Cards are \$10 and Spiritual Bouquets are \$15; both are available at the rectory.

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