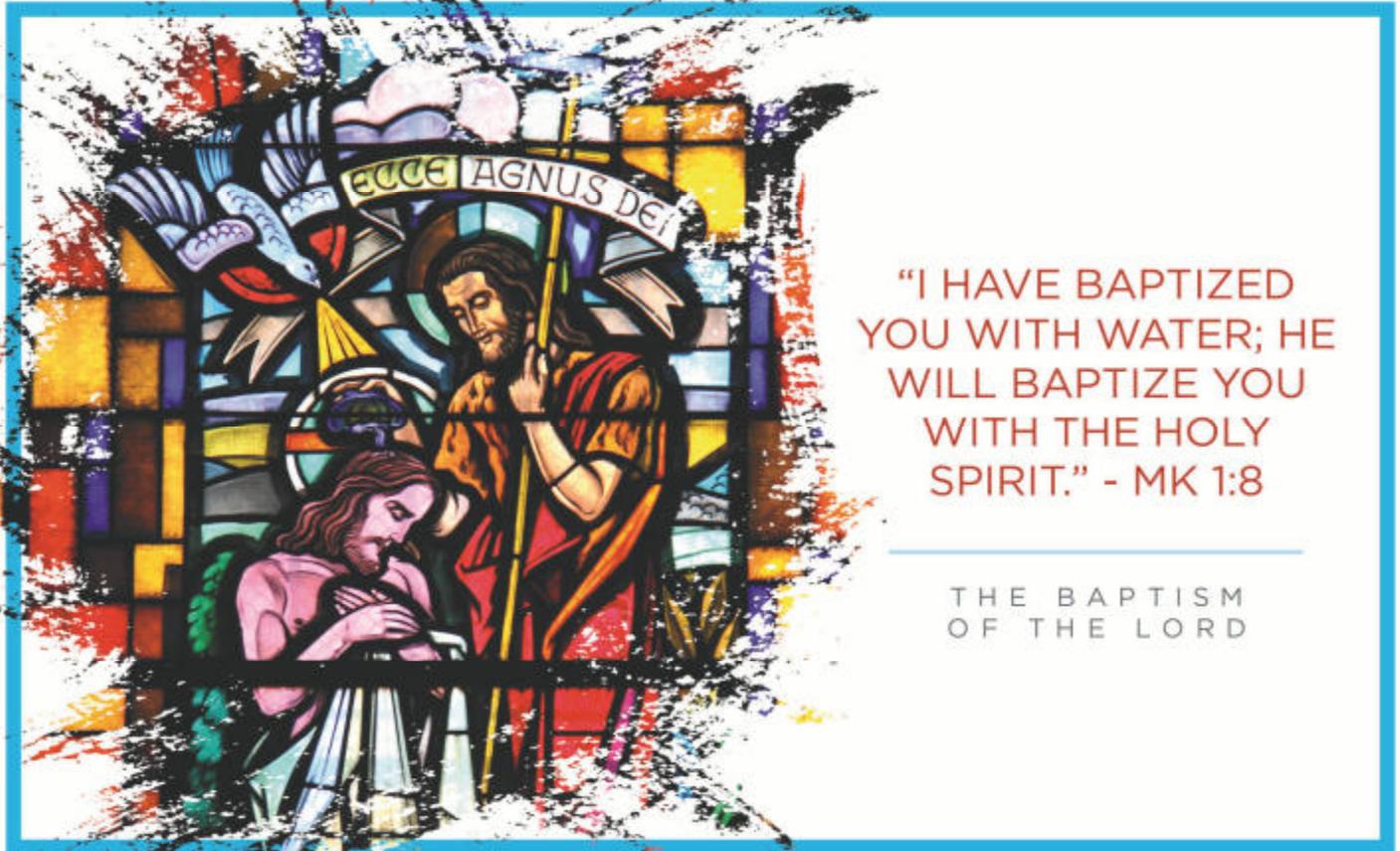


SAINT MICHAEL PARISH

ONE PARISH. ONE SCHOOL. ONE FAITH COMMUNITY.

JANUARY 10, 2021



"I HAVE BAPTIZED
YOU WITH WATER; HE
WILL BAPTIZE YOU
WITH THE HOLY
SPIRIT." - MK 1:8

THE BAPTISM
OF THE LORD

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD, ©LPI

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

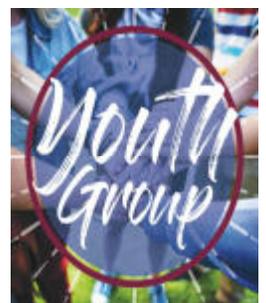


If you are a **Saint Michael School Alumni** please keep in touch by making sure we have your updated information. Please visit www.school.saintmichael.com and click on the ALUMNI tab on the homepage. Don't have online access? Call the school at 978-453-9511!

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 Gift of Bread is given in Memory of Henry & Cecile Cluff. Remember them in your prayers.

Saturday, January 9

4:00pm: Angel Jose Flores

Sunday, January 10

7:00am: Henry & Cecile Cluff

9:00am: Buddy King, Irene Lepine

11:15am: Friends of Saint Michael

Tuesday, January 12

7:00am: Ann Marie Laforge

Wednesday, January 13

7:00am: Chris Paras

Thursday, January 14

7:00am: Euginia Cunningham

Friday, January 15

7:00am: Parishioners of Saint Michael

Sunday, January 17

7:00am: Friends of Saint Michael

9:00am: William Bergeron



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. 26-27: The Offertory amount was \$5,450; Online Giving was \$1,789, totaling \$7,239. Our weekly Offertory goal is \$9,000, leaving us with a goal shortage of \$1,761.

For the weekend of Jan. 2-3: The Offertory amount was \$5,278; Online Giving was \$1,704 totaling \$6,982. Our weekly Offertory goal is \$9,000, leaving us with a goal shortage of \$2,018.

Thanks for your continued support and generosity!

The Lowe Down



You may have wondered if our attendance is down right now. You would be correct. We peaked at about 350 attending the 5 Masses in October and November. We are currently averaging about 290 attending the 5 Masses. I presume that folks are staying away during this Covid-19 surge.

As more and more people get the Covid-19 vaccine, I think the light at the end of the tunnel is a possibility. I was on a Zoom meeting with the Archdiocese recently and it was suggested that by late spring we could be relaxing some rules here in the church. Wouldn't it be great to sing again? To greet each other at the sign of peace again? To shake hands and hug again? (never mind, some of you never stopped doing that) Our new normal may never go back to the old normal, but some relief would be wonderful.

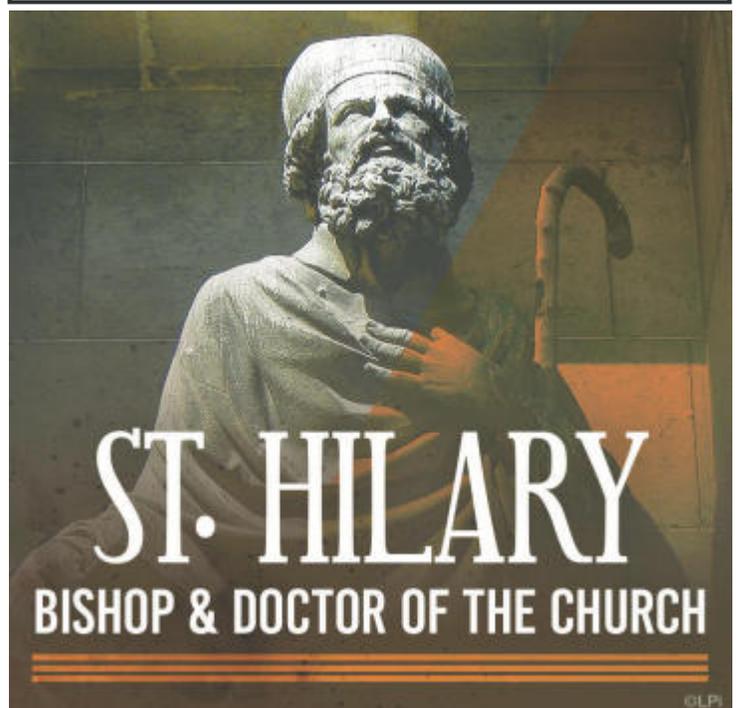
Fr. Chris

Come help us break down the Christmas decorations inside the church on Wednesday, January 13th, beginning at 9:00am. Many strong hands are needed!



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.



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!

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!



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.



WHEN GOD WHISPERS

“You don’t need to shout. My hearing works just fine.”

Are you a parent that has used that one on your kids? I’m not sure at what age they realize that the volume of their voice doesn’t correlate to the likelihood of receiving a favorable reply — it might be sometime in the teenage years, when the talking slows down altogether.

But I’ve got to admit, it would be nice if God always gave us a loud and dramatic sign when He wanted something — the booming voice and the torn-open heavens (“This is my beloved Son!”) really get the message across. Sometimes I find myself envious of the Apostles, who were able to witness such things in person.

The fact of the matter is, in the year 2021, God is more likely to speak in a whisper than in a shout. The prophet Isaiah forewarns that Christ himself will not be a noisemaker — for all his preaching, he will not cry out or shout to bring forth justice to the nations. His way is altogether different than that.

We are not the Apostles, and we do not have the privilege of seeing the Holy Spirit descend on Christ like a dove. But here’s the good news: God doesn’t need to shout. Our spiritual hearing works just fine. We just have to be listening.

Let’s wake up each morning ready to hear God’s whispers throughout the day. Let’s make a conscious effort to invite those whispers into our hearts, where they can become a catalyst for grace in this world.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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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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St. John Paul II



BAPTISM OF THE LORD

AND SO JOHN THE BAPTIST HEARD A VOICE FROM HEAVEN TESTIFYING ABOUT JESUS...



BUT NOW THEY HAVE MEDICATION FOR PEOPLE WHO HEAR VOICES, DON'T THEY?

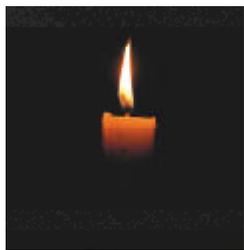


KYNDEN WEBB!
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LIMITED AMOUNT OF MISSALS FOR SALE

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.

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.

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.

SCHOOL BUZZ



Well, it has been awhile. Let me wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year. Our students, teachers and staff have returned to school after a much deserved break over Christmas vacation.

It is back to in person and remote learning.

Our January Fundraising Calendar was a huge success. Our school raised over \$9,700. Thank you to our Saint Michael community for your support with this important fundraiser. Good luck to all of you that bought calendars. The winners will be posted on our website and in the church bulletin.

The next endeavor is Catholic Schools Week from Jan.31-Feb. 6. We are limited this year with having certain events due to COVID. However, there will be fun and exciting activities that are in the works for our students' enjoyment. More to follow in a couple of weeks.

The importance of Catholic Schools Week is calling attention to families outside of our community to search our website, take a private school tour and learn what our Catholic school has to offer. We have the best computer technology, fine arts programs and academic programs. We even have a Media Room that no other Catholic school in our area has in their building.

Our school is fully accredited by the NEASC from Pre-school age 3 through Grade 8. Why not give your child the opportunity to receive a Catholic education that encompasses the whole student academically, spiritually, morally and emotionally?

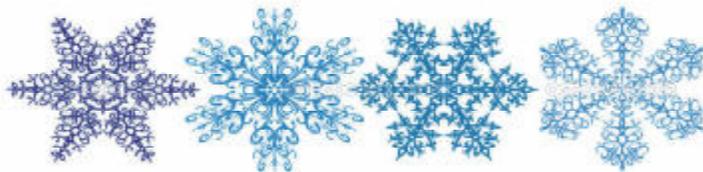
If you would like to learn about SMS, go to our website: school.saint-michael.com. Please register your child online by completing the application for admission for the fall of 2021-2022 and click submit. You will receive a phone call regarding your child from our school.

We are hoping to hear from you.

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." - Benjamin Franklin

Until next time!

Respectively,
Mary E. Elias
Principal



New! Clip this page and bring it with you to the January 17 Masses; it will assist in readings, prayers and responses. Please do not leave in pews—remember to take it home!

First Reading:

Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the LORD where the ark of God was. The LORD called to Samuel, who answered, “Here I am.” Samuel ran to Eli and said, “Here I am. You called me.” “I did not call you,” Eli said. “Go back to sleep.” So he went back to sleep. Again the LORD called Samuel, who rose and went to Eli. “Here I am,” he said. “You called me.” But Eli answered, “I did not call you, my son. Go back to sleep.” At that time Samuel was not familiar with the LORD, because the LORD had not revealed anything to him as yet. The LORD called Samuel again, for the third time. Getting up and going to Eli, he said, “Here I am. You called me.” Then Eli understood that the LORD was calling the youth. So he said to Samuel, “Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.” When Samuel went to sleep in his place, the LORD came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, “Samuel, Samuel!” Samuel answered, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” Samuel grew up, and the LORD was with him, not permitting any word of his to be without effect.

Responsorial Psalm: *Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.*

Second Reading:

Brothers and sisters: The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body; God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with him. Avoid immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the immoral person sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore glorify God in your body.

Gospel Reading:

John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, “Behold, the Lamb of God.” The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” — which translated means Teacher —, “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come, and you will see.” So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, “We have found the Messiah” — which is translated Christ —. Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas” — which is translated Peter.

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.*

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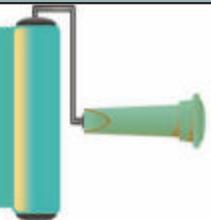
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