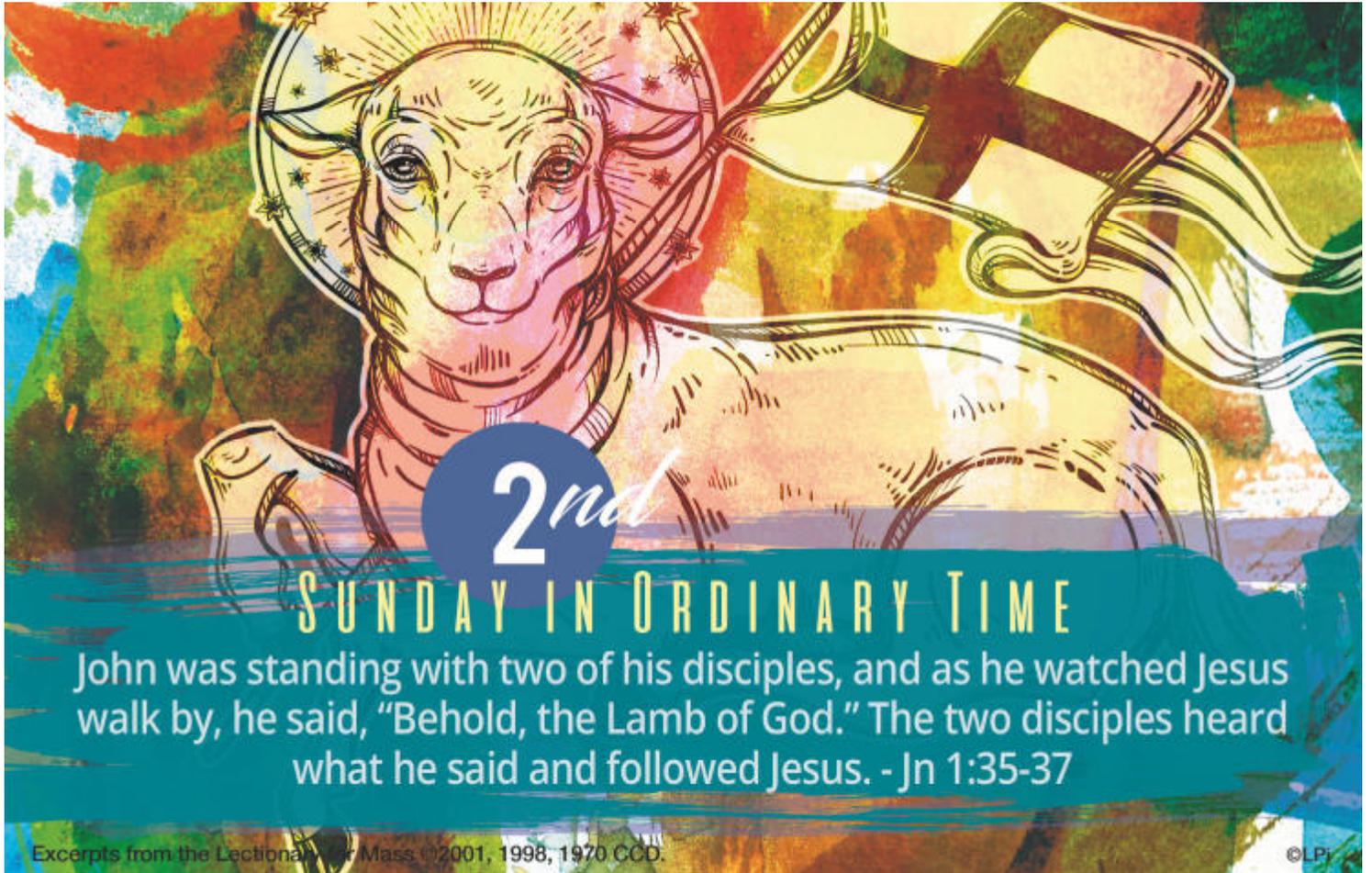


# SAINT MICHAEL PARISH

ONE PARISH. ONE SCHOOL. ONE FAITH COMMUNITY.

JANUARY 17, 2021



## *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](mailto:saintmichaels@comcast.net) Website: [www.saint-michael.com](http://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](mailto:sms@saint-michael.com) Website: [www.school.saint-michael.com](http://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 June; 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](mailto: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

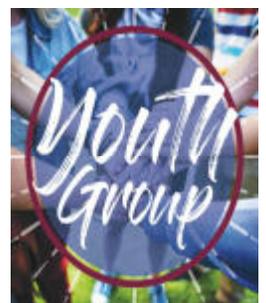


If you are a **Saint Michael School Alumni** please keep in touch by making sure we have your updated information. Please visit [www.school.saintmichael.com](http://www.school.saintmichael.com) and click on the ALUMNI tab on the homepage. Don't have online access? Call the school at 978-453-9511!

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](mailto: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](mailto: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



We have received a generous anonymous donation to convert the next two doors in the grand staircase to the new style. I have heard your concerns (through the rumor mill) that the new doors do not have a cross on them. (They are just like the door on the access ramp which also has no cross.) I am happy to hear your suggestions about crosses on the glass doors.

I look forward to all the light streaming up the grand staircase and into the church from the new glass doors. The views from the street into the church are special as well. Folks walking by can see the beauty of the interior and some of our stained glass windows. Look for these doors to arrive in early February.

Just as we closed the doors in March, there was an appeal in this column for donations for new wireless microphones. The wireless microphones that we use operate on a frequency that has been reassigned to wireless broadband use. The FCC states, "Users of this device must cease operating on these frequencies no later than July 13, 2020." As you are aware, we have been testing a new 'legal' wireless microphone and after a few hiccups and a replacement unit, it is working well now. We have purchased the additional 2 systems needed to update all of our microphones in the church. We received a donation to purchase one system back in March. If you would like to assist in the purchase of the other 2 new microphone systems, they were on sale at \$491 each.

My thanks to the parishioners who came to me and reported a problem with the speakers in the back of the church. There were two sets of speakers out. Charlie Nutt (our maintenance manager) and I spent an hour troubleshooting the system. We located and fixed the problem. Those that sit in the back pews should be able to hear a bit better now

Fr. Chris

*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 978-453-9512 for more information.*



**The Gift of Bread is given in Memory of Andrea Zwicker. Remember her in your prayers.**

**Saturday, January 16**

4:00pm: Andrea Zwicker

**Sunday, January 17**

7:00am: Friends of Saint Michael

9:00am: William Bergeron

11:15am: Margaret M. Stone

**Monday, January 18**

7:00am: Parishioners of Saint Michael

**Tuesday, January 19**

7:00am: Andrea Zwicker

**Wednesday, January 20**

7:00am: Frances Mary Bertulli

**Thursday, January 21**

7:00am: Leo Gadourey

**Friday, January 22**

7:00am: Georgette Boland

**Saturday, January 23**

4:00pm: Joseph Leo Lepine

**Sunday, January 24**

7:00am: Friends of Saint Michael

9:00am: Shelia Quick Bugler/First Anniversary



***For the weekend of Jan. 9-10:***

The Offertory amount was **\$5,575**; Online Giving was **\$1,564** totaling **\$7,139**. Our weekly Offertory goal is **\$9,000**, leaving us with a goal shortage of **\$1,861**. The second collection was for Saint Michael School: **\$527** was collected and **\$95** was donated online for a total of **\$622**.

***Upcoming Second/Special Collections:***

1/23-1/24: Collection for the Church in Latin America

1/30-1/31: Easter Flowers

2/13-2/14: School Collection

***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!

## 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.



*The rectory will be closed on Monday, January 18 in observance for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.*

**BE STILL,  
AND KNOW THAT  
I AM GOD.**

PSALM 46:10

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## CHRIST IS ANYTHING BUT ORDINARY

We're about to dive headlong into week two of Ordinary Time, and we need to admit, after the hustle and bustle of the holidays, things are indeed looking more ... ordinary, at least in our spiritual lives.

The transcendent highs of the Christmas season are flatlining a bit and the vivid imagery of the Nativity scene has faded. The solemn anticipation of the Advent season is by now a distant memory.

Are you bored yet?

Here's a secret: I think that Ordinary Time can actually be quite extraordinary, if we're really living out our baptismal call.

In today's Gospel, Jesus point-blank asks Andrew, who is following him after hearing John the Baptist's testimony: "What are you looking for?" He's asking us the same question.

What are you looking for? Why are you following me? Is it for the Christmas cookies and the Advent carols? Is it for the King's Cake on the Epiphany? Is it for the feeling we get on Christmas when we just know God has done a wondrous thing?

None of those things are bad, but they are not what Andrew was looking for, and they were not what Christ promised him when he said, "Come, and you will see." Andrew was looking for the Messiah — the One who makes even Ordinary Time extraordinary. The One who can sanctify the longest and dullest of to-do lists, on the longest and dullest of days. The One whose peace can reign in our homes on January 25, not just December 25.

Remember what you are looking for. Come, and you will see.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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*Year of the*  
**EUCCHARIST**

*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](mailto:skeedood1@aol.com) and details will be sent to you.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50/50 RAFFLE DRAWING WINNER!**

*Congratulations to Dominic N., winner of our 50/50 raffle! Dominic is a parishioner and member of our Kenyan community. A total of \$4,825 was raised; \$2,412.50 went to our winner. Thank you to all those who purchased tickets and those who volunteered to sell them before and after weekend Masses. We're very grateful for your support!*

**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.



**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](https://smile.amazon.com) on your web browser on your computer or electronic device.
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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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**"The time is always right to do what is right."**

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



### 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.

### GOSPEL MEDITATION

Our faith is not just about ideas. It's really about having an encounter with God and, in particular, the Risen Christ!



Once we give ourselves over to the notion of God's presence, we have to train ourselves to listen for God's voice and be attentive to God's call. Having companions on our faith journeys is so incredibly important as they can help us fine-tune our

listening skills and discern God's voice from others we may be hearing. Faith is all about having these profound encounters not only with God but with our brothers and sisters, and creation itself. Anyone or anything that is alive with God's presence becomes an occasion for God to speak and call us to deeper graces and experiences. "Come, and you will see."

The example and teaching of Jesus, the lives of the saints, those living among us and those glorified in heaven, and the wonder and beauty of creation can all serve to help us listen more clearly and assist in positioning ourselves for this profound God meeting. It is an encounter that can quickly and easily lead to a friendship and intimate intertwining of our souls to their Maker, making a claim on us like no other. Then, the Word of God moves from being just a body of ideas to something we simply accept and do. The person of Jesus Christ swiftly moves from being just a good prophet in word and deed to the incarnate presence of God Himself, the Lamb of God. The voice leads us to the Person behind it.

The Gospel is hard to follow. We can intellectually debate whether what Jesus said is really what we are asked to do. The Gospel ideas do not always make sense in our practical, secular world. The person of God always does. We can debate the practicality and sense of ideas and doing so often keeps the more difficult ones at a safe distance away from us. Jesus said to love our enemy, but we really don't need to do that, our minds try to convince us. It just doesn't make sense. Yet, if we are truly in love with the God who is behind the voice of those words, they make perfect sense. Our deep and intimate love of this God would even find us laying down our lives for Him if necessary. Speak Lord, your servant is listening.

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**New! Clip this page and bring it with you to the January 24 Masses; it will assist in readings, prayers and responses. Please do not leave in pews—remember to take it home!**

**First Reading:**

The word of the LORD came to Jonah, saying: “Set out for the great city of Nineveh, and announce to it the message that I will tell you.” So Jonah made ready and went to Nineveh, according to the LORD’S bidding. Now Nineveh was an enormously large city; it took three days to go through it. Jonah began his journey through the city, and had gone but a single day’s walk announcing, “Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed, “ when the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and all of them, great and small, put on sackcloth. When God saw by their actions how they turned from their evil way, he repented of the evil that he had threatened to do to them; he did not carry it out.

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Teach me your ways, O Lord.*

**Second Reading:**

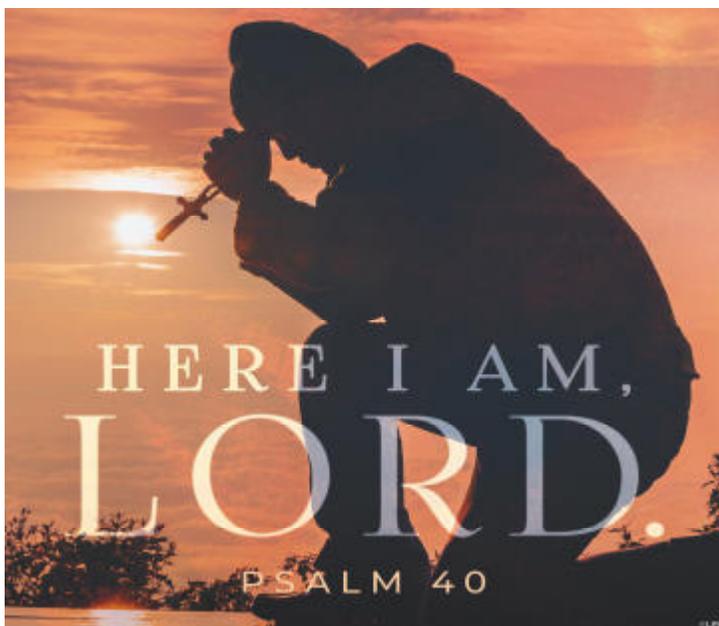
I tell you, brothers and sisters, the time is running out. From now on, let those having wives act as not having them, those weeping as not weeping, those rejoicing as not rejoicing, those buying as not owning, those using the world as not using it fully. For the world in its present form is passing away.

**Gospel Reading:**

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Then they abandoned their nets and followed him. He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him.

**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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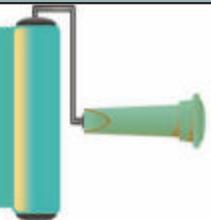
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