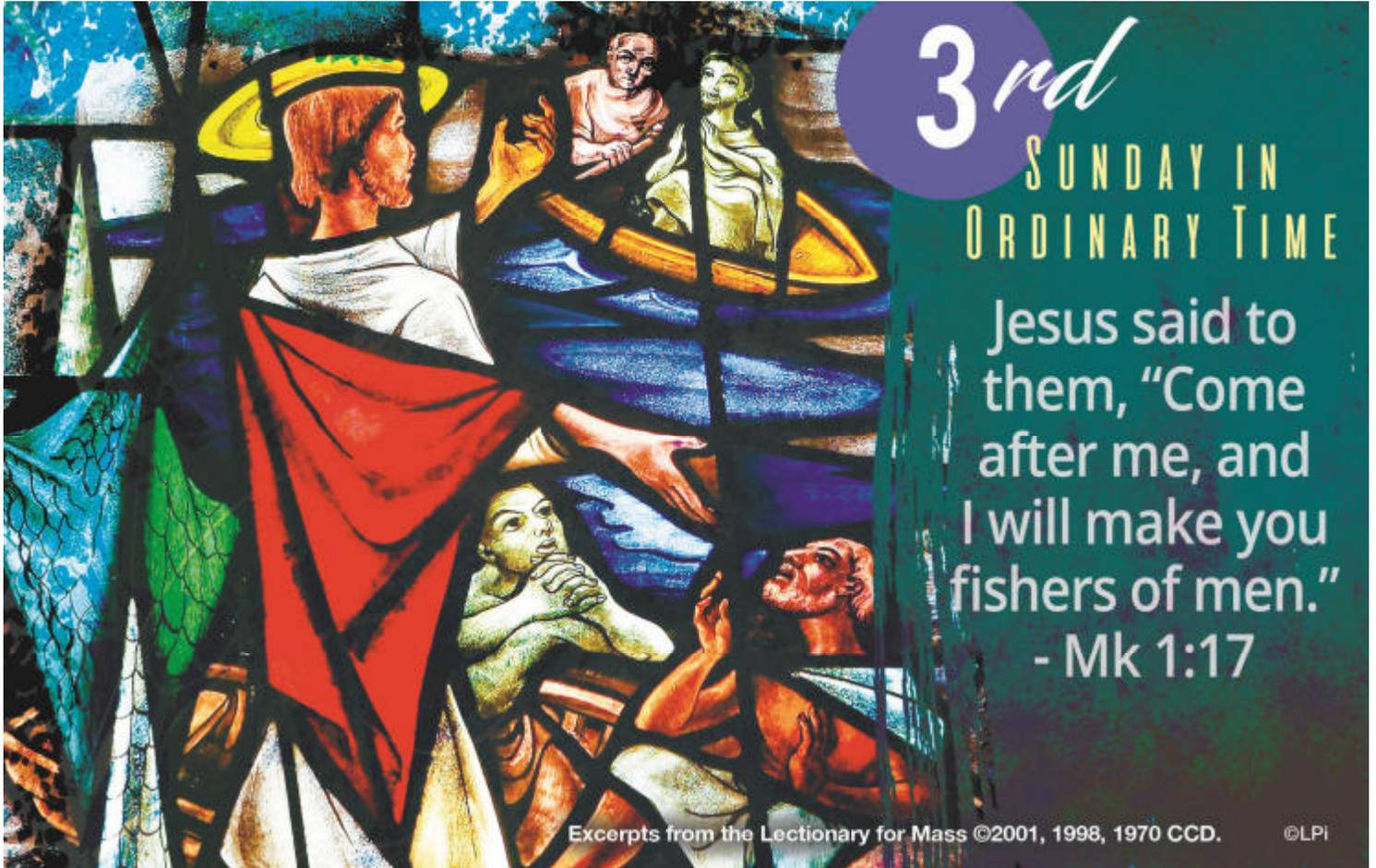


SAINT MICHAEL PARISH

ONE PARISH. ONE SCHOOL. ONE FAITH COMMUNITY.

JANUARY 24, 2021



3rd
SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."
- Mk 1:17

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 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 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

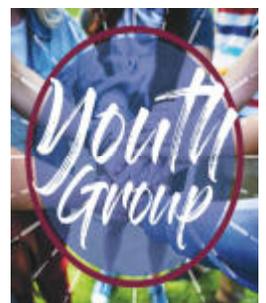


If you are a **Saint Michael School Alumni** please keep in touch by making sure we have your updated information. Please visit www.school.saintmichael.com and click on the ALUMNI tab on the homepage. Don't have online access? Call the school at 978-453-9511!

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



My thanks to the folks who told me that the ramp door was not opening when the button was pressed. The door opener was turned off once again. We have a couple of over-enthusiastic folks who like to turn it off so the door will not “burn out” when the button is pressed while the door is locked. I will remind them again to leave it on. I’ve also taken steps to make it harder to turn off. The \$700 electronics package that controls that door should be smart enough to recognize a locked door state.

After consultation with the Finance and Parish Councils, I have decided to use a small portion of the Grand Annual collection to repaint the 12 interior columns of the church. Because of the height of these columns, a professional firm will be hired to do this work. The columns will be painted a uniform color (not the current 2 tone paint job). The color will be a close match to the top portion of the columns.

This is mostly a cosmetic change. The paint is cracked and chipped and many of you have commented on the 2 tone paint job. This may brighten up the church slightly. This project is just some of that maintenance that has been deferred and should be taken care of. As I was writing this, we got a start date for the project. We hope that it will be complete by January 23rd when you come into the church for weekend Masses. I guess there is not a huge demand for painters this time of year. The start date surprised us all.

It is very special to me that some of our recently deceased parishioners remembered the church in their will. We recently received about \$8000 from an insurance policy an individual set up, with us as the beneficiary. We can all set a little bit aside for the church when we die. I’m sure that our families won’t mind us setting a bit aside to support our parish. I know that I’ve spoken to my family about this and they are well aware of my wishes in this matter.

Fr. Chris



The Gift of Bread is given in Memory of Hank & Kay Cheetham. Remember them in your prayers.

Saturday, January 23

7:00am: Austin McDougal

4:00pm: Joseph Leo Lepine

Sunday, January 24

7:00am: Friends of Saint Michael

9:00am: Shelia Quick Bugler/First Anniversary

Tuesday, January 26

7:00am: Parishioners of Saint Michael

Wednesday, January 27

7:00am: Joseph L. Lepine

Friday, January 29

7:00am: Mary B. Alves

Saturday, January 30

7:00am: Sheila MacMaster

4:00pm: Michael Deveau/Tenth Anniversary

Sunday, January 31

7:00am: Friends of Saint Michael

9:00am: Dennis Lepine & Bucky Lepine

11:15am: Paul, Rita & Marc Ouellette



For the weekend of Jan. 16-17:

The Offertory amount was **\$4,683**; Online Giving was **\$1,309**, which totals **\$5,992** Our weekly Offertory goal is **\$9,000**, leaving us with a goal shortage of **\$3,008**.

Upcoming Second/Special Collections:

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

2/13-2/14: School Collection

Thanks for your continued support and generosity!

Come be
part of our
SMS
Family

Saint Michael School

21 Sixth Street - Lowell, MA 01850 - 978-453-9511

www.school.saint-michael.com

Saint Michael School is seeking community members with a variety of skills and knowledge (such as lawyers, accountants, bankers, business owners and other professionals) to serve on a new School Board. Members would provide insight and advice to the school administration to help Saint Michael School continue to flourish and grow.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Mary Elias at melias@saint-michael.com. Please provide a home address, email and phone number.

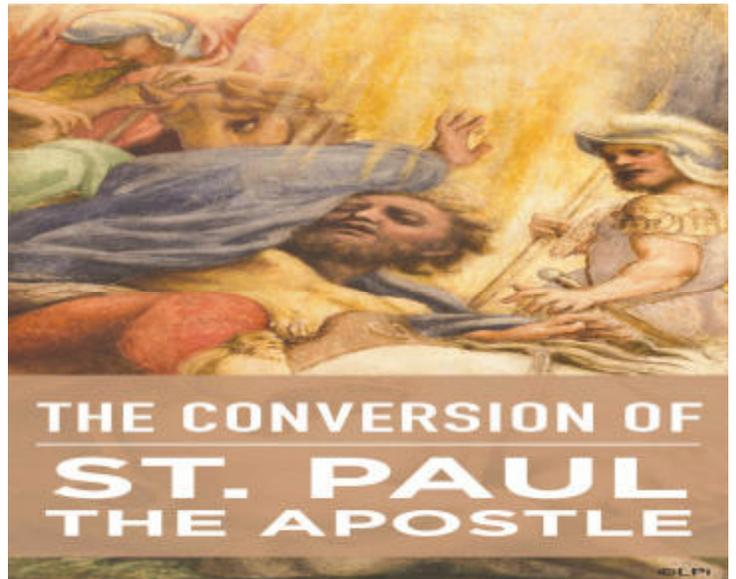


GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

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

64%

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



“

HOLD YOUR EYES
ON GOD AND LEAVE
THE DOING TO HIM.

”

ST. JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL

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GIVE UNTIL IT HURTS

One of the characteristics of Everyday Stewardship is to be committed — to persevere daily in a way of life acknowledging that everything belongs to God.

I know, I know. Easier said than done.

Just ask Zebedee. It's quite an image we get from the Gospel, after all. "So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him."

There was Zebedee, about his business, mending nets with his two sons, who were undoubtedly his best workers — they had to have been more dedicated than the hired men, who worked for wages rather than for family. And in an instant off they go, following this strange man.

I don't know about you, but if my kids left me on a hot summer day to finish the lawn by myself, I wouldn't be too happy.

But Zebedee must have been someone quite special. Perhaps he realized that his sons didn't belong to him — not really. They belonged to God, and from the beginning of time, it had been appointed that they would be among the first disciples of Christ. He passed, he called, they followed, and Zebedee obliged. He simply went back to mending his nets, I imagine.

Zebedee already understood what St. Teresa of Calcutta would say millennia later: "Give until it hurts."

"You're wasting my time." "I've done so much for her; she owes me this." How often do we think things, and even people and relationships, belong to us? The truth is none of them do. We must be ready, as Zebedee was, to surrender them to God when He comes walking past.

— 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 and details will be sent to you.

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.



PROPOSED "MARY GARDEN"

James Aste, one of our altar servers, and a lifelong member of St Michael's, is working on a Eagle project for Boy Scouts. He is proposing a Mary Garden between the Church and the rectory on the hillside near the bell. In order to proceed, he needs some money for the flowers, hard-scape, benches, trellis and statue. Normally, a spaghetti supper would be held, but with Covid-19 that becomes impossible. If you would like to donate towards the Mary Garden project, please drop your money in the collection box or at the rectory clearly labeled "Mary Garden".



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.



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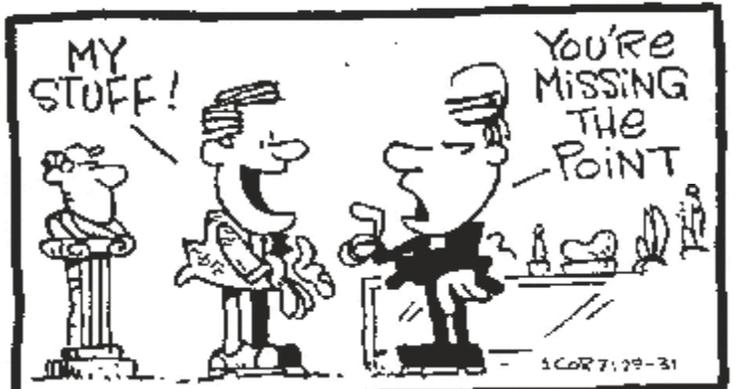
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3. If you'd like to support the parish, search & select **ST. MICHAELS PARISH**. To support the school, search & select **SAINT MICHAEL SCHOOL**.

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3rd 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

It was a normal day by all accounts, but John just wasn't feeling himself. He was a little lightheaded and out of sorts. Later in the afternoon, he experienced a sharp pain in his chest and arm. Quick thinking and action brought John to the emergency department with a diagnosis of a significant heart attack. Surviving this ordeal, he found himself face to face with his cardiologist, having an honest conversation about



things that needed to change. "I came close to death," John found himself thinking. Then came the remorse. He was a young man with a loving wife and children who were very close to facing life without him. John found himself with intense sorrow for living an unchecked and self-indulgent life that almost brought him to his demise. He wanted to change.

We all have our wake-up calls. We have experiences and encounters that force us to really think twice about choices we have made and directions we have taken. Often, we find ourselves looking at those we have hurt square in the eye and wallowing in our foolishness. We regrettably realize that we have allowed our needs to lure us into making some cruel mistakes. We impulsively say things and flippantly do things that reveal our unredeemed and unhealed self. It is a self we stumble over and try to tame but can't quite seem to master and control. Help!

We spin our wheels, naively thinking that we will somehow, perhaps through persistence, get ourselves unstuck. But, we don't. We just get out of the car, feeling very helpless, and ignorantly look at the mess we got ourselves into. Did we ever think to ask someone for help? Or, taken the advice of One who is wiser and avoid this route altogether? "Come after me," are words that Jesus says to all of us. In order to heed his invitation, we must leave our ego-self behind and follow.

When we really see and understand the freedom, peace, justice, and love he offers, we find ourselves with such sorrow in our hearts for how foolish and silly we have been. All the misguided choices and sinful actions come full view and we see how risky our random impassioned behaviors really have been. Repentance is beautiful. When done with a sincere and contrite heart, it directs us to the glory that can be ours, ignites us with the challenge of living a life in service of others and reminds us that all is well.

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New! Clip this page and bring it with you to the January 31 Masses; it will assist in readings, prayers and responses. Please do not leave in pews—remember to take it home!

First Reading:

Moses spoke to all the people, saying: “A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you from among your own kin; to him you shall listen. This is exactly what you requested of the LORD, your God, at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ”Let us not again hear the voice of the LORD, our God, nor see this great fire any more, lest we die. And the LORD said to me, ‘This was well said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kin, and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command him. Whoever will not listen to my words which he speaks in my name, I myself will make him answer for it. But if a prophet presumes to speak in my name an oracle that I have not commanded him to speak, or speaks in the name of other gods, he shall die.’”

Responsorial Psalm: *If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

Second Reading:

Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties. An unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord. But a married man is anxious about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, and he is divided. An unmarried woman or a virgin is anxious about the things of the Lord, so that she may be holy in both body and spirit. A married woman, on the other hand, is anxious about the things of the world, how she may please her husband. I am telling you this for your own benefit, not to impose a restraint upon you, but for the sake of propriety and adherence to the Lord without distraction.

Gospel Reading:

Then they came to Capernaum, and on the sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” Jesus rebuked him and said, “Quiet! Come out of him!” The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him. All were amazed and asked one another, “What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him.” His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.



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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