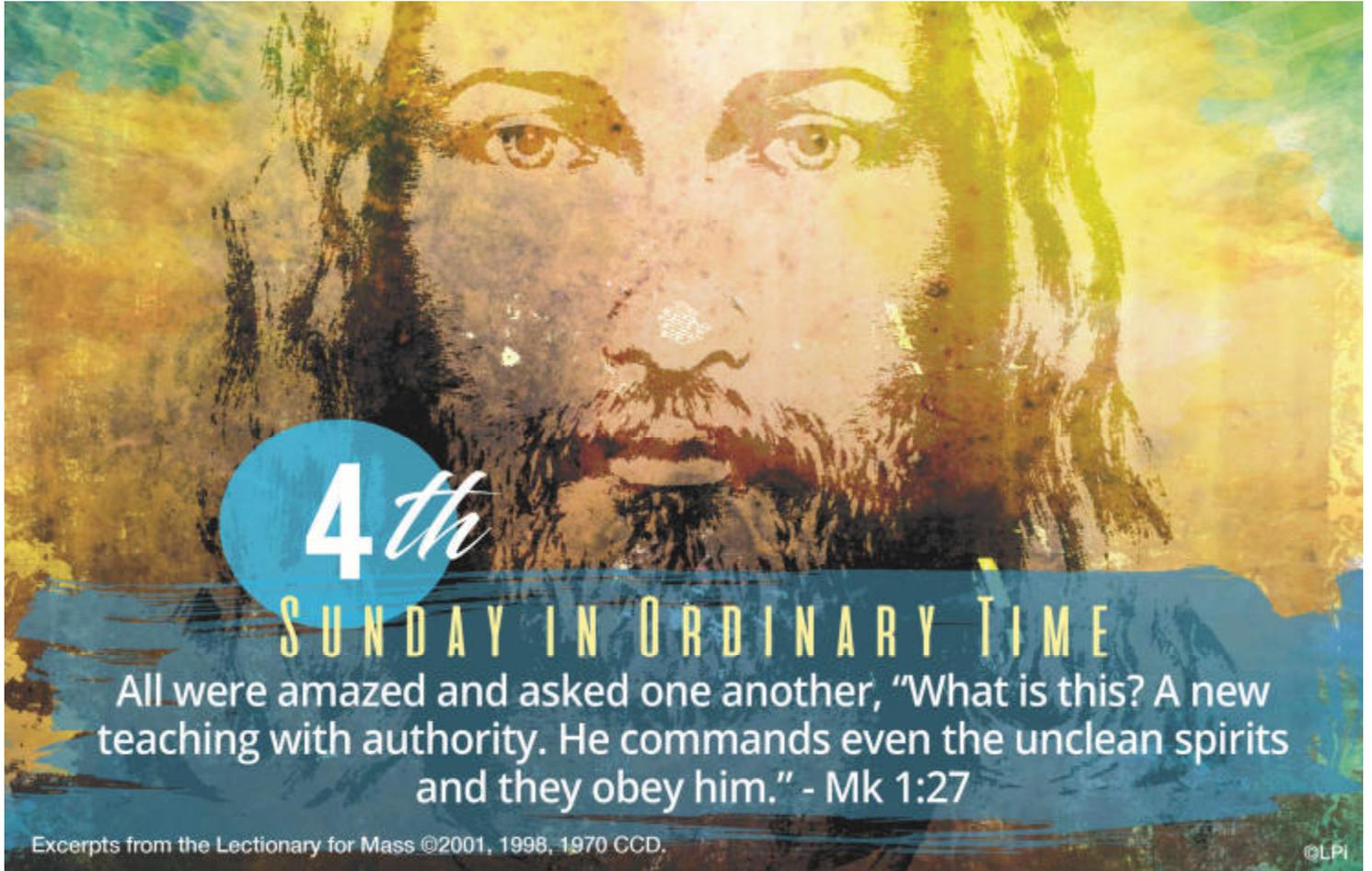


SAINT MICHAEL PARISH

ONE PARISH. ONE SCHOOL. ONE FAITH COMMUNITY.

JANUARY 31, 2021



4th

SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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." - Mk 1:27

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

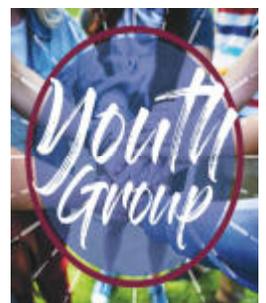


If you are a **Saint Michael School Alumni** please keep in touch by making sure we have your updated information. Please visit www.school.saintmichael.com and click on the ALUMNI tab on the homepage. Don't have online access? Call the school at 978-453-9511!

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



I recently received this notice from the Archdiocese.

Regarding the Blessing of Throats

It may be that in this time of pandemic, people are eager to receive the Blessing of the Throats. Parishes should be particularly mindful of this.

Parishes should remember that a general blessing of throats is always allowed, and that the general form can be used at Parish Masses.

Parishioners could be reminded that the effectiveness of the blessing lies in the intention of the priest or deacon, and not on the proximity of the priest or deacon to the recipient of the blessing.

If your parish decides to go forward with individual blessings, the person receiving the blessing should not be closer than six feet to the minister, and both minister and recipient should be wearing masks.

After consultation with my brother priests and the Parish Council, I have decided to use the general blessing at each weekend Mass and again at the daily Mass on February 3rd.

The Archdiocese is asking for our input on Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday and the Triduum leading us into Easter Sunday. Unless something changes dramatically, we will be open for all of those dates. Some of the usual practices will have to change slightly (some, more than slightly), but we hope that the special celebrations will proceed pretty normally.

Fr. Chris



The Gift of Bread is given in Memory of Paul, Rita & Marc Ouellette. Please remember them in your prayers.

Saturday, January 30

7:00am: Sheila MacMaster for Health
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

Wednesday, February 3

7:00am: Parishioners of Saint Michael

Thursday, February 4

7:00am: Joseph Leo Lepine

Saturday, February 6

4:00pm: Adeline Desrochers

Saturday, February 7

7:00am: Mario Aste
9:00am: Dorothy Blanchette/Tenth Anniversary
11:15am: Darlene Simon/Fifth Anniversary



For the weekend of Jan. 23-24

The Offertory amount was **\$4,845**; Online Giving was **\$1,839**, which totals **\$6,684**. Our weekly Offertory goal is **\$9,000**, leaving us with a goal shortage of **\$2,316**. The second collection was for the Church in Latin America; **\$450** was collected.

Upcoming Second/Special Collections:

2/13-2/14: School Collection
2/20-2/22: Fuel & Heat

Thanks for your continued support and generosity!

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Saint Michael School

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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.





thank
you!

A special thank you to everyone who recently helped take down the church's Christmas decorations and put them away. Your assistance is greatly appreciated!

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!

UPDATE:

The second Grand Annual mailing will soon be sent to parishioners who have not yet donated. You may mail your Grand Annual envelope or place it in one of the offertory boxes located in the gathering space in the front of the church.



INTERIOR COLUMNS RECEIVE FACELIFT!

The 12 columns inside the church have received a new paint job and they look amazing! A professional paint company was here almost all of last week transforming the old two-tone colors into a simple white, matching the top portion of the columns.

EMBRACING CHANGE IN CHRIST

It's officially one month since we popped the champagne, toasted 2021 and wrote down a list of resolutions. This is usually the time when we start to take a good, hard look in the mirror to assess what we have done — or have not done — with the first month of this brand-new year.

New years can be scary, can't they? Full of promise, sure, but also full of room for failure. Full of space for our old baggage, old fears and the continuation of old mistakes.

The same can be said of Christ, and the new life he offers us, if we are brave enough to accept it. Opportunities like that can be intimidating. In that moment, we might find ourselves like the man with the unclean spirit crying out: "What have you to do with me, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?"

Jesus is a comforter of the afflicted; he is a consoling figure, but he is also a challenging one. Sometimes we have grown attached to our afflictions. The idea of correcting bad habits or forming new ones is frankly terrifying to us. We have a voice deep inside who sees Christ and his invitation to repentance, and it cries out in fear: "I know who you are!"

When we live in the present, disavowing the baggage of the past or fear of the future, we submit ourselves to the promise of redemption. Let us be brave everyday stewards and invite Christ's healing power into our lives. We won't regret it — I'm sure the demoniac never did.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi



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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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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4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ONLY FIVE MISSALS LEFT FOR SALE!

The missals that we use in the pews each year have come in for next year and only five are 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



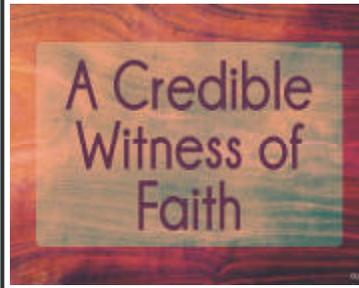
A Mass Card is a remembrance by which we offer a Mass for the repose of the soul of a deceased person or for the intention of the living. A Spiritual Bouquet is an enrollment by which we remember the person at one Mass per week for the year. Mass Cards are \$10 and Spiritual Bouquets are \$15; both are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

Most of us are quiet people who desire to live a good and holy life, promote the values and mission of the Gospel as



best we can and desire to one day inherit the surprise of life eternal God promises to us. We are not trail blazers. We are simple people who want to do the simple things of life well. But there are others who left a more profound impact along the way of the paths they

walked. Folks like Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, Thomas Merton, Gandhi, St. Teresa of Calcutta, and many others left lasting impacts and legacies. Like Moses, they show us by word and deed who God is and what integrity and a purpose driven life look like. They show us how to be holy. We need Moses people like these to give us inspiration, hope and an example of holy living.

We do not need to do what they did or even mirror their relationship with God. Each one of us is God's special creation, with a purpose and soul known only to us. We need to learn how to open up and bring, without compromise, our soul-ness to life. We know when someone is authentic and centered because they always point to truth, even though they struggle and sin themselves, and they embody an unspoken timeless wisdom that just sounds and feels right. Jesus taught with this same type of authority and it astonished many who listened. We do not need to move mountains, advance a cause, write books or become notable. All we have to do is become credible witnesses of the faith we profess. Moses people can teach us how to do this.

St. Oscar Romero was an amazing man and a Moses figure for sure. He saw God in the burning bush and brought the flame of Gospel faith to the poorest of the poor, challenging the evils of the society in which he lived. He was tireless and persistent. He must have gotten very close to the problem because it cost him his life. He suspected it would. St. Romero said, "When we leave Mass, we ought to go out the way Moses descended Mt Sinai: with his face shining, with his heart brave and strong to face the world's difficulties." We can learn from this wisdom. If we allow the power of the Mass to truly transform us, we will leave that holy encounter changed. Our face will shine, and we will have courage. We can then bring what we have received to life's challenges. That sounds doable, doesn't it? Because of the example of our simple holiness, people will be amazed.

©LPi

During the month of January, Lily Alice Nocella and Emma Rose Nocella were baptized into our faith. By water and the Holy Spirit they have received the new gift of Life from God. May He continue to pour out His Blessings upon these children and their families.



New! Clip this page and bring it with you to the February 7 Masses; it will assist in readings, prayers and responses. Please do not leave in pews—remember to take it home!

First Reading:

Job spoke, saying: Is not man's life on earth a drudgery? Are not his days those of hirelings? He is a slave who longs for the shade, a hireling who waits for his wages. So I have been assigned months of misery, and troubled nights have been allotted to me. If in bed I say, "When shall I arise?" then the night drags on; I am filled with restlessness until the dawn. My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle; they come to an end without hope. Remember that my life is like the wind; I shall not see happiness again.

Responsorial Psalm: *Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.*

Second Reading:

Brothers and sisters: If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast, for an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it! If I do so willingly, I have a recompense, but if unwillingly, then I have been entrusted with a stewardship. What then is my recompense? That, when I preach, I offer the gospel free of charge so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. Although I am free in regard to all, I have made myself a slave to all so as to win over as many as possible. To the weak I became weak, to win over the weak. I have become all things to all, to save at least some. All this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I too may have a share in it.

Gospel Reading:

On leaving the synagogue Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them. When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him. Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you." He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole 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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