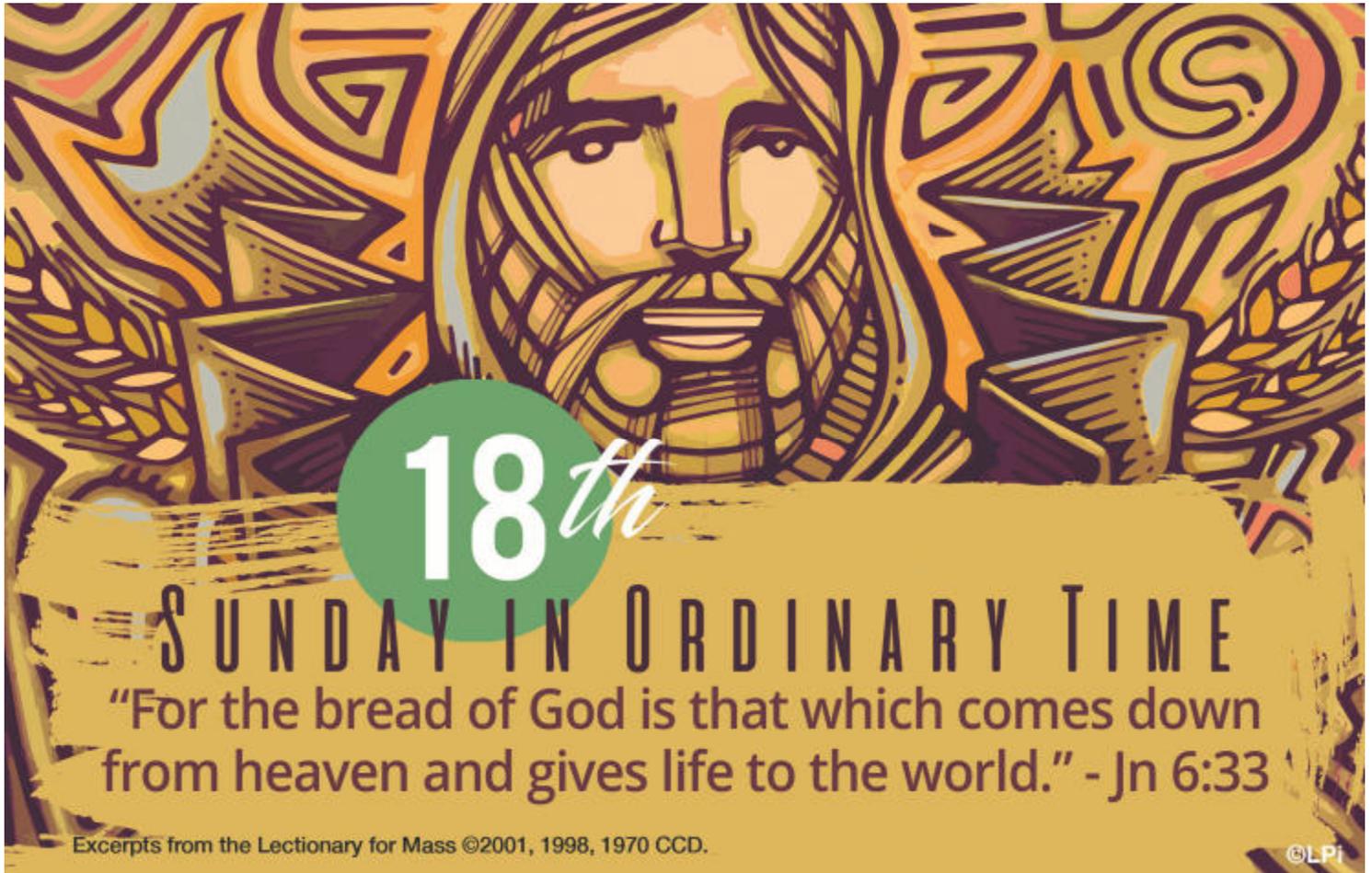


# SAINT MICHAEL PARISH

ONE PARISH. ONE SCHOOL. ONE FAITH COMMUNITY.

AUGUST 1, 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 January-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

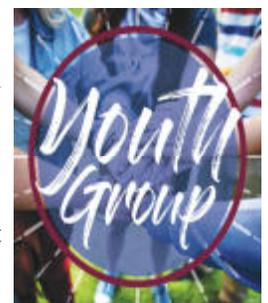


If you are a **Saint Michael School Alumni** please keep in touch by making sure we have your updated information. Please visit [www.school.saintmichael.com](http://www.school.saintmichael.com) and click on the ALUMNI tab on the homepage. Don't have online access? Call the school at 978-453-9511!

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: Mark Rocha  
School Consultant: Mary Fran Chisholm  
Religious Education Director: Nicole Walsh  
Music Director: Jackie Thurrott  
Development Director: Pauline A. Minch  
Parish Office Manager/Bookkeeper: Terry Georgopoulos  
Facilities Manager: Charlie Nutt  
Organist: Ernie Houle  
Parish/Religious Ed Secretary: Mary Brooks



## The Lowe Down

You've got questions! I get many questions at the back of the church and some of them get asked by more than one person. Here are some common questions and my answers.

Q) Why haven't we seen Deacon Gerry recently? A) Gerry assists at one Mass a weekend. If you are at the same Mass every weekend, you will likely see him once a month. If you attend different Masses each weekend or he moves his rotation, you might not see him for 2 months.

Q) Why do we have a visiting priest each weekend? A) According to Canon Law, I can only celebrate 1 Mass a day. Cardinal Sean has given me (and other priests of the Archdiocese) permission to celebrate 3 Masses on Sunday. If I celebrate those 3 Masses and the vigil Mass on Saturday, I am completely drained, and my voice is shot. So, we pay a visiting priest to cover one Mass most weekends. I do try to rotate the Masses that the visiting priest serves at.

Q) When is the new Kenyan priest arriving? A) At last report, he has an appointment with the US Embassy in September and is expected here in October.

Q) What is going on with the collaboration with St. Francis? A) The plan to collaborate is still on for June 2023. The year before that date will be full of meetings and opportunities to help plan the collaboration. Remember: neither Parish will close, finances will not be shared, there will be one Pastor (and he will likely be the only priest) for the 2 parishes. The Mass schedules at both parishes will need to change to reflect one priest serving both parishes. Lord knows how he will ever get a day off or vacation.

Q) Are we going back to taping off pews? A) I have no guidance from the Archdiocese currently. Based on the rise of Covid-19 cases, I'd say it is possible. I would not be surprised.

Q) Will the school be masked and distanced this year? A) The current guidance from Governor Baker is "No". This could also change.

Q) Have you lost weight? A) Sadly, no.

**Fr. Chris**

## MEET THE NEW SMS SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Plan to stop by Saint Michael School on the date listed below to meet new school principal Mark Rocha. Introduce yourself, ask questions, share SMS stories with Mr. Rocha and get to know each other. He's looking forward to meeting each and every one of you!

**Thurs, August 5, 6:00pm**



### Saturday, July 31

7:00am: Judith F. Pigeon

4:00pm: Bernard & Marie Teague

### Sunday, August 1

7:00am: Eric Zen-Ruffin

9:00am: Julie Dupuis

11:15am: Edward F. Burns

### Monday, August 2

7:00am: Suzanne M. Brennan/For Improved Health

### Tuesday, August 3

7:00am: Harriet Burns

### Wednesday, August 4

7:00am: Dorothy Mattoon

### Thursday, August 5

7:00am: Nancy Flynn Paquin

### Friday, August 6

7:00am: Parishioners of Saint Michael

### Saturday, August 7

4:00pm: Donald C. Taylor

### Sunday, August 8

7:00am: Friends of Saint Michael

9:00am: David McHugh/24th Anniversary

11:15am: Mary F. Dumont/First Anniversary  
John & Betty Joynt



### *For the weekend of July 24-25*

The Offertory amount was **\$5,879**; Online Giving was **\$2,133.43**, which totals **\$8,012.43**. Our weekly Offertory goal is **\$9,000**, leaving us with a shortage of **\$987.57**.

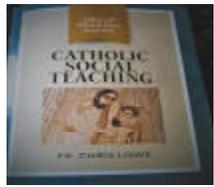
### *Upcoming Special/Second Collections:*

*8/7-8/8: Saint Michael School*

*Thank you for your generosity!*



The Mass Book is open for the remainder of the year. If you'd like to schedule an intention, please stop by the rectory during office hours, Monday—Friday 9am-4pm. Mass Intentions are \$10 each.



Did you know that Fr. Chris is an author? His book, "Catholic Social Teaching", a group reading guide, is on sale now at the rectory for \$6 per copy. Autographs are free of charge! The rectory is open Monday—Friday, 9-4.

### 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.



Forget the checkbook and make tithing simple for you and your family. With Online Giving, you can give back to your church whenever and wherever with the simple click of a button from your computer or smart device. Look for the Online Giving Online on our website homepage at [www.saint-michael.com](http://www.saint-michael.com) and sign up!

### BATTERY RECYCLING AVAILABLE

Reminder that the Green Team has made battery recycling available for parishioners. Located in the church's gathering space, there is a lockbox for placement of your old, used batteries (AAA, AA, C, D, 9 volt & "Button" batteries). A donation of .25 cents per battery or a one-time \$10 donation (good for one year of battery recycling) is requested.



The Child Advocacy office is now providing 'live' weekly PGC trainings on Zoom through Virtus. Just go to [Virtus.org](http://Virtus.org), the 'Live Training' tab and 'Pre-register for an upcoming live training session' – and you will find the schedule for adults to complete their PGC requirement with the Archdiocese of Boston via Zoom (Braintree). You will also see that other Live sessions are being offered throughout the diocese so an individual may find one either in their own parish or close to home. If an individual is able to join one of the above live trainings, then this would take the place of the online combined PGC + Mandated Reporter trainings that have been required during covid precautions. So if you take the live training, you do not have to take the online Mandated Reporter training since it is included in the live training.

Moises Rodrigues will be providing two weekly trainings starting at the end of July, with one being available on the weekends to allow for more accessibility for participants. Live trainings, be it in-person or on Zoom (or some other platform), are preferable because they allow for questions and discussion which is where much of the learning takes place. We encourage everyone who is able to take part in a live training. Also know that, assuming that covid restrictions continue to be lifted, in September of 2021 we will be eliminating the temporary option for taking the online training instead of a live training.

### SECOND ANNUAL PARISH INDOOR/OUTDOOR YARD SALE

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 8am-3pm**  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 8am-1pm**

**Outdoor: Rectory Parking Lot**  
**Indoor: Church Hall**

Our parishioners and neighbors have cleaned out their kitchen cabinets, closets, toy chests and tool sheds. Thanks to their generous donations, we are holding our second annual Yard Sale fundraiser! Cheap prices on gently used clothing, comforters, kitchenware, handbags, shoes, board games, toys, lamps, wall hangings, small appliances, lamps and more. We hope to see you there! If you'd like to volunteer at the Yard Sale, please call the rectory at 978-459-0713 or email [pminch@saint-michael.com](mailto:pminch@saint-michael.com)



### HARVEST DINNER DANCE

We're back and excited to be planning a social event called the Harvest Dinner Dance! Our original event, the Spring Fling, was cancelled due to the pandemic, and we're now looking for committee members to help organize this October 2nd event. Email Kathy Whitney at [kathyw374@gmail.com](mailto:kathyw374@gmail.com) if you're interested!



### 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.

### SAVE THE DATES FOR NEXT CLASS

This fall, Fr. Chris will be offering a new class, "The Gospel of Mark Through Home Videos." This combination of lecture and video will give us a new look at the Gospel of Mark from beginning to end. Save the dates, Tuesday, September 7th-October 5th (yes, 5 sessions) at 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM. Prepare yourselves to see Mark's writing in a refreshing new way.

### FREE MEALS FOR KIDS 18 & UNDER

Mondays & Fridays: 12:30pm-2:30pm  
Saint Michael Church Rectory Parking Lot

Free! Fresh, ready-made meals for children. Meals are culturally relevant and nutritious and need only be heated up. First come, first serve. No registration required. Child(ren) do not need to be present. Come by foot or by car. Brought to you by the Greater Lowell YMCA.

Monday Box: 4 days of breakfast and lunch meals  
Friday Box: 3 days of breakfast and lunch meals

### 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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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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### 18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



## GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

*The latest total of the 2020-2021 Grand Annual prior to publication is 95%. Thank you so very much for your generosity and financial support of our \$100,000 goal!*

## 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.

*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.*



## Year of the EUCHARIST

*The real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist will be celebrated across the world from June 2020 (the 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.

## HELP WANTED

As we can begin to carefully exit our extended hibernation, there are several volunteer programs that we should be creating and staffing. Perhaps one of these would interest you.

**Outreach Committee:** There are many home-bound parishioners. We need to match them up with folks who could bring them communion or bring them to Mass on some sort of regular basis. I would also like to set up a twice a year Mass to bring them into the church, offer the anointing of the sick and refreshments after Mass.

**Baptism Preparation Team:** We need younger families who are at Mass every week to teach (we will train and support you) and be an example to the new parents that Saint Michael's offers a path for life to them. This would probably be a monthly gathering with the parents of the soon to be baptized.

**Adoration Team:** There has been great interest in our "Evenings of Prayer" during Lent and Easter. We could expand this to a weekly hour of adoration. This hour could be expanded as this ministry grows. This is an important part of celebrating the "Year of the Eucharist". If this were to approach a 24/7 adoration, the Baptistry under the Day Chapel would be an ideal location.

We have room for **volunteer receptionist** on Tuesday. This can be 1/2 or a full day.



The processional cross carried by our altar servers at the beginning and end of Mass is in tough shape. The picture shows that Jesus' arms have been repaired many times and his hand is broken off.

If anyone would like to donate a processional cross, I have some catalogs we could look at. Prices vary from \$600-\$3000 in the catalogs that I have seen. A processional cross does not need to have the Corpus on it. It can be a simple cross, not a crucifix.

**Clip this page and bring it with you to the August 8 Sunday Mass ; it will assist in readings, prayers and responses. Please do not leave in pews—remember to take it home!**

**First Reading:** Elijah went a day's journey into the desert, until he came to a broom tree and sat beneath it. He prayed for death saying: "This is enough, O LORD! Take my life, for I am no better than my fathers." He lay down and fell asleep under the broom tree, but then an angel touched him and ordered him to get up and eat. Elijah looked and there at his head was a hearth cake and a jug of water. After he ate and drank, he lay down again, but the angel of the LORD came back a second time, touched him, and ordered, "Get up and eat, else the journey will be too long for you!" He got up, ate, and drank; then strengthened by that food, he walked forty days and forty nights to the mountain of God, Horeb.

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.*

**Second Reading:** Brothers and sisters: Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were sealed for the day of redemption. All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you, along with all malice. And be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ. So be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us as a sacrificial offering to God for a fragrant aroma.

**Gospel Reading:** The Jews murmured about Jesus because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven," and they said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph? Do we not know his father and mother? Then how can he say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Stop murmuring among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day. It is written in the prophets: *They shall all be taught by God.* Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

**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.*

#### **2021-2022 CORI FORM RENEWALS**

Criminal Offense Record Investigation (CORI) forms for 2021-2022 are now available at the rectory. The Archdiocese of Boston mandates that all parish employees and volunteers must fill out a CORI form yearly. You may do so at the rectory during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 9:00am—4:00pm. Please remember to bring a government-issued identification for verification purposes. For New Hampshire residents, please remember to complete a NH CORI form, which is also available at the rectory.



Summer



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