

SAINT MICHAEL PARISH

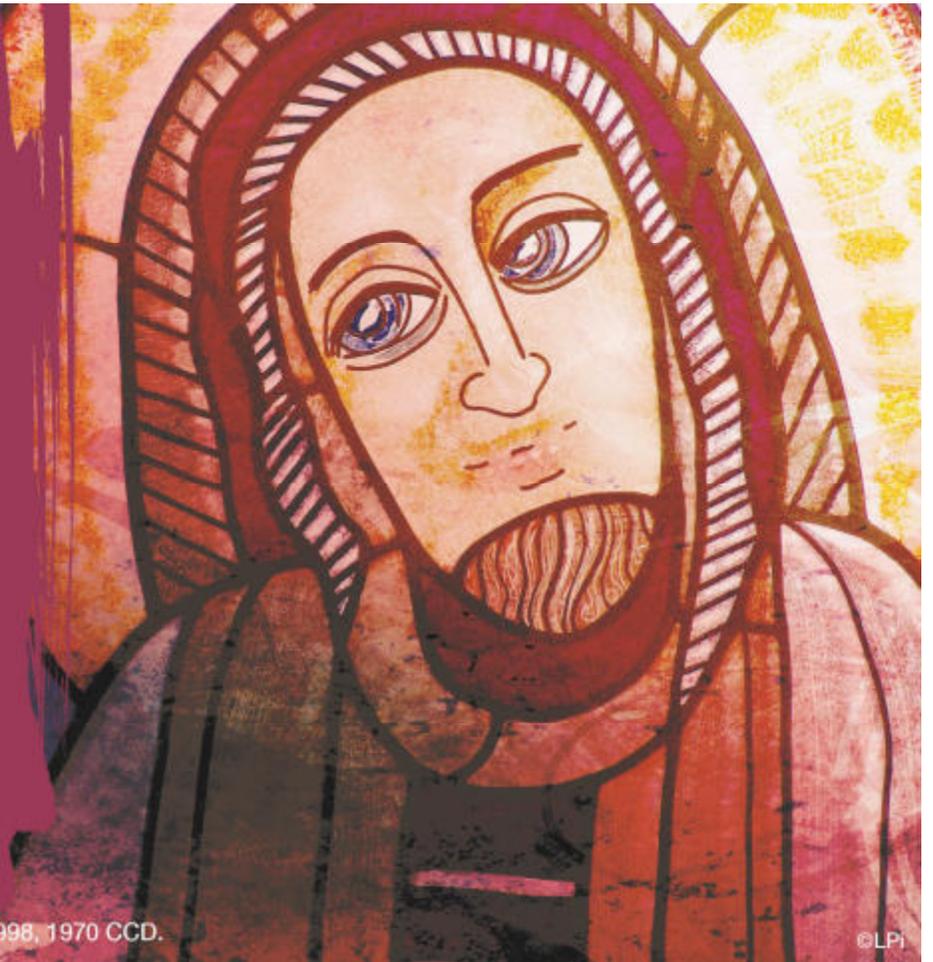
ONE PARISH. ONE SCHOOL. ONE FAITH COMMUNITY.

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

23rd

SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

He put his finger into
the man's ears and,
spitting, touched his
tongue; then he looked
up to heaven and
groaned, and said to
him, "Ephphatha!"—
that is, "Be opened!"
- Mk 7:33b-34



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

©LPI

Our Mission

Rooted in our sacramental celebrations of the Eucharist, we seek to shape our future in a positive way through our parish school, religious education, youth ministry programs and numerous Christian services. While maintaining a strong sense of Catholic tradition, we look for ways to revitalize our Christian values through more openness to God's word and our gospel call to love God and neighbor. Trusting in the Holy Spirit, we seek new ways of being a church for members, active or not, as well as reaching out to the wider community.

Mass Schedule

Monday-Saturday at 7am. Weekends: Saturday at 4pm, Sunday at 7am, 9am & 11:15am

12:30pm Mass in Swahili every Sunday.

Holy Days: 7am & 7pm.

Rectory: 543 Bridge Street, Lowell, MA 01850 Phone: 978-459-0713 Fax: 978-453-1123

Religious Education Phone: 978-459-0713 Saint Vincent de Paul Society: 978-459-1770

Email: saintmichaels@comcast.net Website: www.saint-michael.com Facebook: Saint Michael Parish

Rectory Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm

School: 21 Sixth Street, Lowell, MA 01850 Phone: 978-453-9511 Fax: 978-454-4104

Email: sms@saint-michael.com Website: www.school.saint-michael.com Facebook: St. Michael School Lowell

**Below is useful information about our parish.
You can contact the Rectory at 978-459-0713
or saintmichaels@comcast.net.**



Baptisms are usually held at 2pm on the fourth Saturday of each month. Parents must attend one class prior to baptism date. Godparents must be Catholics who have received the sacraments of baptism, first communion & confirmation. Please contact one month in advance to schedule.



If you'd like to be married at Saint Michael's, please contact us one year prior to your wedding. Couples must meet with the priest prior to confirming a date.



Religious Ed classes for grades K-8 are held on Saturdays from 9-10:30am, Sept-May. High school students meet Sundays 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 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.

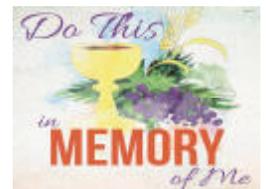


Saint Michael School, founded in 1889 by the Dominican Sisters, is a private Catholic School dedicated to academic excellence from Pre-School (ages 3-4) through Grade 8 and is a fully accredited Catholic elementary school by the Archdiocese of Boston Department of Education and the NEASC (New England 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: Mark Rocha
School Consultant: Mary Fran Chisholm
Religious Education Director: Nicole Walsh
Development Director: Pauline A. Minch
Parish Office Manager/Bookkeeper: Terry Georgopoulos
Facilities Manager: Charlie Nutt
Pianist: Ernie Houle
Parish/Religious Ed Secretary: Mary Brooks



Saturday, September 4

7:00am: Cecile & Henry Cluff

4:00pm: John W. Bardzik/First Anniversary

Sunday, September 5

7:00am: Cyl Cluff

Monday, September 6

7:00am: Francis Cluff

Tuesday, September 7

7:00am: Luella Cluff

Wednesday, September 8

7:00am: Elaine Landry

Thursday, September 9

7:00am: Leo Roy/For Health

Friday, September 10

7:00am: Annamary Conserva

Saturday, September 11

7:00am: Jesse Pena

4:00pm: Michael Wiroll, Sr./25th Anniversary

Sunday, September 12

7:00am: Jesus Heli Hernandez

9:00am: Francis R. Stone, Sr.

11:15am: Frances Ann Melanchook

Linda O'Neil/Third Anniversary

The Lowe Down



I believe that I witnessed a Eucharistic Miracle on Tuesday, August 24th at the 7:00 AM Mass. Let me set the stage. If you were to leave a piece of pita bread out on your counter for 2 months, what would it look like? I imagine that it could be stale, perhaps moldy, certainly not edible.

On the first of the month, we try to remember to consecrate a new 2 inch host to be placed in the Luna (a glass and metal container that protects the host and slides into the monstrance). We do this for hygienic reasons, trying not to keep a host around too long in the tabernacle. It had been at least July 1st, if not June 1st, since we had done this. I think that you will acknowledge that it has been a hot, wet summer.

When I removed the host in the Luna, it was in perfect shape. When I broke it for distribution, it snapped crisply. The host that I consecrated for Mass that day barely broke, more like folded due to the humidity. The hosts for Mass are stored in a Tupperware container, yet the freshly consecrated host was not crisp and the host in the Luna for the last 2 months was crisp.

There is something going here, more than meets the eye. The host in the Luna is Jesus Christ. The Body of Christ does not go stale or go bad. If we could see the host with God's eyes, we would never look at the host the same way again.

Today marks the end of our great summer experiment of Mass in the Church Hall. We will return to Mass in the upper Church on the weekend of September 11/12. What did you think? Once we got the bugs worked out, was it a good place to celebrate in the summer heat? Please let me know.

The 9:00 Mass on September 12th marks the annual return of our monthly Family Mass. We hope for a good representation from our school families.

Fr. Chris



For the weekend of August 28-29:

The Offertory amount was \$6,113: Online Giving was \$1,300, which totals \$7,413. Our weekly Offertory goal is \$9,000, leaving us a shortage of \$1,587.

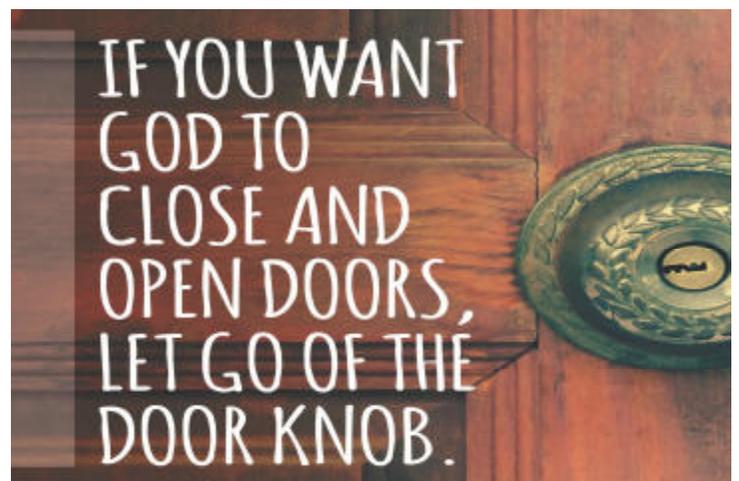
Upcoming Special/Second Collections:

9/11-9/12: Saint Michael School

9/18-9/19: Clergy Health & Retirement Trust

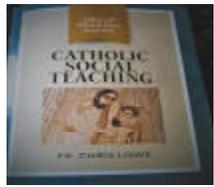
10/2-10/3: Holy Father & Missionary Efforts

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.



Online Giving

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 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, 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 + Man-

dated 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.

Saint Michael Harvest Dinner Dance

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Saturday, Oct. 2nd

7pm-11pm Dinner & Dancing

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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.

NEW CLASS STARTS THIS WEEK!

This September, 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.

happy LABOR day

A reminder that the rectory will be closed on Monday, September 6 in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

During the month of August, Rawlings Marie McGrath was baptized into our faith. By water and the Holy Spirit, she has received the new gift of Life from God. May He continue to pour out His Blessings upon this child and her family.



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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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23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**RICH OR POOR,
EVERYONE GETS
TREATED
EXACTLY THE
SAME IN THIS
CHURCH!**



SYDNEY WEBB!
© 1997 LPA AMOS

**SO REMEMBER
THAT NO MATTER
HOW NICE A CAR
YOU DRIVE, THE
NEW SPEED BUMPS
IN THE CHURCH
PARKING LOT
WILL GET YOU!**



JAS 2:1-5

GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

The latest total of the 2020-2021 Grand Annual prior to publication is 96%. Thank you so very much for your generosity and financial support of our \$100,000 goal! Let's make it to 100%!!!

RELIGIOUS ED FOR PreK—GRADE 8 STARTS SOON!



Saint Michael Religious Education begins Saturday, September 11th. If you have not registered yet, please do so on the parish website: www.saint-michael.com, where you'll find the Religious Ed registration form under the "Parish Life" tab. Classes will be held at Saint Michael School on Saturdays from 9:00am-10:30am. Registration is

\$80 per student and \$160 for a family.

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.



PPC NOMINATIONS

There are three open positions for upcoming nominations to our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC). Enclosed in the bulletin this week is the form that will be used for nomination yourself or a parishioner you know that may be a good fit for the PPC. Completed nomination forms will be accepted the weekends of September 4-5 and 11-12, with the deadline of midnight on September 12th. Forms can be dropped in the offertory basket, at the rectory or via email at saintmichaels@comcast.net.

The PPC is a group of 13 elected lay persons, clergy and some staff members that meets up to 10 times per year and is a consultative body to the pastor. Terms for the PPC are three years and members are expected to make a conscientious effort to attend these meetings and may be asked to participate in sub-committees.

An additional (fourth) PPC nomination is also open and this is a new position. This parishioner will represent Saint Michael School at PPC meetings, which will make attendance at school board meeting a requirement. Person does not need to be a current school parent.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact our election chairperson, Kathy Whitney at whit374@yahoo.com.

Clip this page and bring it with you to the September 12 Sunday Mass ; it will assist in readings, prayers and responses. Please do not leave in pews—remember to take it home!

First Reading: The Lord GOD opens my ear that I may hear; and I have not rebelled, have not turned back. I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting. The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame. He is near who upholds my right; if anyone wishes to oppose me, let us appear together. Who disputes my right? Let that man confront me. See, the Lord GOD is my help; who will prove me wrong?

Responsorial Psalm: *I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.*

Second Reading: What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well, ” but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead. Indeed someone might say, “You have faith and I have works.” Demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works.

Gospel Reading: Jesus and his disciples set out for the villages of Caesarea Philippi. Along the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” They said in reply, “John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others one of the prophets.” And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter said to him in reply, “You are the Christ.” Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him. He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days. He spoke this openly. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. At this he turned around and, looking at his disciples, rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.” He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it.”

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 DUE AT END OF SEPTEMBER

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.



Help support Erin Morrissey, granddaughter of parishioner Margaret Janas, as she participates in this fall's Boston Marathon in support of Caring for a Cure (CFAC). Erin's goal is to raise \$10,000

for this non-profit organization that supports patients with cancer and their families throughout treatment; its' mission "...to ease the journey and uplift the spirits of our patients and families through research, resources and awareness." Erin herself is a cancer survivor, diagnosed with adrenocortical carcinoma and works as a clinical researcher at Mass General Hospital. Checks must be made out to "MGH" and please ensure that "CFAC/Erin Morrissey" is written in the memo line. Please mail to MGH Development Office, Attn: Caring for a Cure, 125 Nashua Street, Boston, MA 02114. Thank you!

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