

# SAINT MICHAEL PARISH

ONE PARISH. ONE SCHOOL. ONE FAITH COMMUNITY.

SEPTEMBER 19, 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](mailto: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

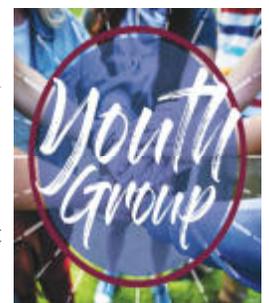


If you are a **Saint Michael School Alumni** please keep in touch by making sure we have your updated information. Please visit [www.school.saintmichael.com](http://www.school.saintmichael.com) and click on the ALUMNI tab on the homepage. Don't have online access? Call the school at 978-453-9511!

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  
Development Director: Pauline A. Minch  
Parish Office Manager/Bookkeeper: Terry Georgopoulos  
Facilities Manager: Charlie Nutt  
Pianist: Ernie Houle  
Parish/Religious Ed Secretary: Mary Brooks



## The Lowe Down

When we first reopened the church 15 months ago, we spent some time talking about how to “do” communion. At that time, we were only supporting communion in the hand, but that has been relaxed and we support communion on the hand or on the tongue. I don’t want to get into an Ecclesiastic battle about hand vs. tongue. I do want

to express some concerns and suggestions about both methods of receiving. Both visiting priests and Eucharistic Ministers have asked me to clarify best practices.

### On the Hand

On the surface, the hand should be an easy target to place the host upon. We are being encouraged to place the host without touching the recipients’ hands. However, several factors make this harder.

- Please do **not** grab the host. Eucharist is a gift, not something that you take. Most grabbers also touch the minister’s hands.
- Please do keep your hands as flat as possible.
- Please do not make a bowl with your hands (or this last week, someone came with their hands forming a cave-like gesture) It is much harder to place in cupped hands than a flat hand.
- Please do not move your hands. A moving target is harder to hit.

### On the tongue

I know of several priests who have made some sort of comment about people licking his fingers. Many priests have had lipstick marks on fingers to show that this is true. Communion on the tongue can be a difficult target to hit as the mouth is smaller than the hand. If we touch any part of the mouth, we must go purify before distributing communion to the next person.

- Please do consider a kneeling position. This places the head and tongue at a better angle for access.
- Please, do not move your head or tongue. A moving target is harder to hit.
- Please do come up last. There is less pressure on everyone at the end of the line to take the time necessary to receive the Eucharist well.

Fr. Chris



*This weekend the Gift of Bread is in Memory of John & Josephine Markiewicz. Please remember them in your prayers.*

### Saturday, September 18

7:00am: Regina C. Pigeon

4:00pm: John & Josephine Markiewicz

### Sunday, September 19

9:00am: Jeanette Barros

11:15am: Norma Figueroa

### Monday, September 20

7:00am: Suzanne Brennan/For Health

### Tuesday, September 21

7:00am: Roberta Gonzalez

### Thursday, September 23

7:00am: Thomas W. Brennan/For Health

### Saturday, September 25

4:00pm: Thanksgiving for Answer to Prayers

### Sunday, September 26

7:00am: Amanda Barry/Living

9:00am: Lucienne Di Francesco/20th Anniversary

11:15am: Marie A. Whitney



### *For the weekend of September 4-5:*

The Offertory amount was \$6,224; Online Giving was \$1,895, which totals \$8,119, Our weekly Offertory goal is \$9,000, leaving us with a shortage of \$881.

### *For the weekend of September 11-12:*

The Offertory amount was \$7,116; Online Giving was \$1,350, which totals \$8,466, Our weekly Offertory goal is \$9,000, leaving us with a shortage of \$534. The second collection, which totals \$860, was for the benefit of Saint Michael School

### *Upcoming Special/Second Collections:*

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

*Thank you for your generosity!*

## PROGRESS TOWARD CATHOLIC APPEAL



So far, 113 parishioners have participated and together we have raised \$28,665 toward our parish goal of \$40,780. Thank you to those who have already participated. Your generosity will benefit hundreds of pastoral, charitable and educational programs at work within the Archdiocese of Boston and at Saint Michaels. With \$12,115 left to raise, we need the participation of every parishioner. If you have yet to participate in the 2021 Catholic Appeal, please pledge online at [www.bostoncatholicappeal.org](http://www.bostoncatholicappeal.org) or complete a pledge form available in the back of the church.



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.

**PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN**

All parish volunteers MUST complete this very important awareness session, held in the church conference room this Sunday, September 19, 1pm-3pm. Please register at [virtus.org](http://virtus.org) or call rectory for more information. If you have taken this class in the past there is no need to take it again.

**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](http://www.saint-michael.com) and sign up!

**CORI FORM RENEWALS DUE SOON!**

Criminal Offense Record Investigation (CORI) forms for 2021-22 are at the rectory, Mon-Fri 9am-4pm. The Archdiocese of Boston mandates that all parish employees & volunteers must fill out a CORI form yearly. 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.

**Saint Michael Harvest Dinner Dance**

Honoring our Deacons both past & present

**Saturday, Oct. 2nd**

7pm-11pm Dinner & Dancing

Lenzi's

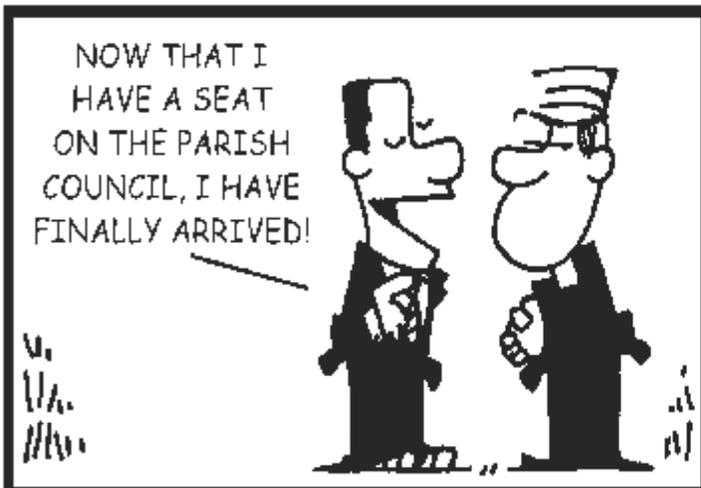
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**\$65 per person or Reserve Your Table of Ten Now!**

Tickets can be purchased before/after weekend Masses, at the rectory or by emailing **Kathy Whitney at [whit374@gmail.com](mailto:whit374@gmail.com)**



**25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



### 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.

### CLASS ON THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Fr. Chris has begun his newest class, "The Gospel of Mark Through Home Videos." This combination of lecture and video gives us a new look at the Gospel of Mark from beginning to end. Classes are every Tuesday through October 5th at 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM. Join us and prepare yourselves to see Mark's writing in a refreshing new way.

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL MUM SALE

Once again this year St. Vincent de Paul will be sponsoring a mum sale to assist us in providing for the needs of our less fortunate parishioners. We will be available at the back of the church before and after all Masses on weekends in September through the 18th. As in prior years, you will purchase a coupon which will be good for one potted mum at the Oganowski Farm in Dracut. The coupons are valid through September 30. Price of the mums is \$8 each. As always, thank you for your continued support!



### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL BALLOTS



Voting ballots for the Parish Pastoral election will be available and collected at each Mass next weekend only (September 25 & 26). Nominees are parishioners who are interested in becoming a member of our PPC for a three-year term.

### LIFT YOUR VOICES IN SONG!

#### Our Adult Choir:

We are eagerly inviting new members to join our Adult Choir. We will train! The choir sings at the 11:15am Mass on Sundays and rehearses Wednesday evenings at 7:30.

#### Our Youth Choir:

St. Michael's Youth Choir resumes this week! We invite children from our school and parish from Grades three through eight to sing Sundays at the 9:00am Mass. Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 3:30pm at St. Michael School in Mr. Houle's music room.

Please feel free to speak to our church musician, Ernie Houle, after weekend Masses, or email [ehoule@saint-michael.com](mailto:ehoule@saint-michael.com).



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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**.

## 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%!!!**

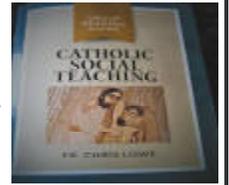
## RELIGIOUS ED FOR PreK—GRADE 8



Saint Michael Religious Education began Saturday, September 11th. If you have not registered yet, please do so on the parish website: [www.saint-michael.com](http://www.saint-michael.com), where you'll find the Religious Ed registration form under the "Parish Life"

tab. Classes are held at Saint Michael School on Saturdays from 9:00am-10:30am. Registration is \$80 per student and \$160 for a family.

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.



*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.*



## IMPORTANT DATES FOR CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

**Retreat at Grotonwood:** Saturday, October 2. Students meet at Saint Michael School for the bus at 8am; return to the school by bus approximately 8:30-9pm.

**Confirmation Rehearsal with Sponsors:** Wednesday, November 3 at 7pm in the church.

**Sacrament of Confirmation:** Sunday, November 7 at 3pm.



## 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.

## 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.



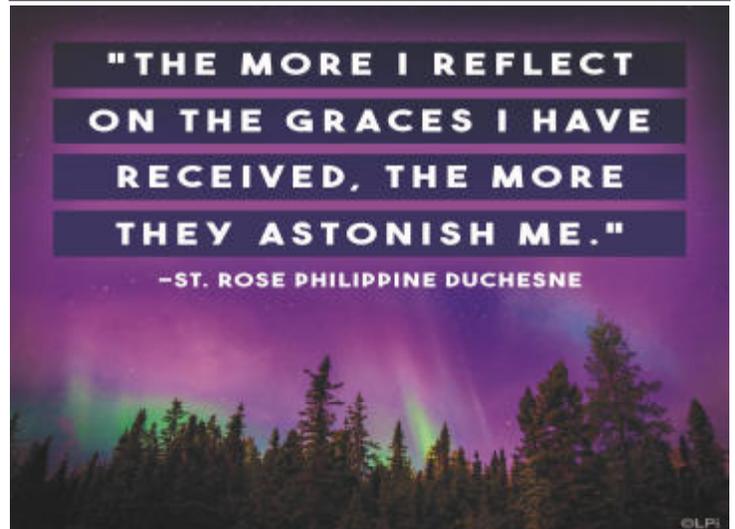
## SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

Today's second collection will benefit Clergy Trust which provides programs and support to care for the health and well-being of all active and senior diocesan priests in good standing. This collection is a critical source of funding for the Trust so whatever you can give is greatly appreciated. On behalf of priests who benefit from the support of Clergy Trust, thank you for your generosity. Don't forget to join us on Tuesday night for the virtual Celebration of the Priesthood.



**"THE MORE I REFLECT  
ON THE GRACES I HAVE  
RECEIVED, THE MORE  
THEY ASTONISH ME."**

—ST. ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE



**Clip this page and bring it with you to the September 26 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 came down in the cloud and spoke to Moses. Taking some of the spirit that was on Moses, the LORD bestowed it on the seventy elders; and as the spirit came to rest on them, they prophesied. Now two men, one named Eldad and the other Medad, were not in the gathering but had been left in the camp. They too had been on the list, but had not gone out to the tent; yet the spirit came to rest on them also, and they prophesied in the camp. So, when a young man quickly told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp," Joshua, son of Nun, who from his youth had been Moses' aide, said, "Moses, my lord, stop them." But Moses answered him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the people of the LORD were prophets! Would that the LORD might bestow his spirit on them all!"

**Responsorial Psalm:** *The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.*

**Second Reading:** Come now, you rich, weep and wail over your impending miseries. Your wealth has rotted away, your clothes have become moth-eaten, your gold and silver have corroded, and that corrosion will be a testimony against you; it will devour your flesh like a fire. You have stored up treasure for the last days. Behold, the wages you withheld from the workers who harvested your fields are crying aloud; and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on earth in luxury and pleasure; you have fattened your hearts for the day of slaughter. You have condemned; you have murdered the righteous one; he offers you no resistance.

**Gospel Reading:** At that time, John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us." Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us. Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward. "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were put around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna, into the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life crippled than with two feet to be thrown into Gehenna. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. Better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into Gehenna, where 'their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.'"

**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.*

## **THE HOPE AND HEALING ADULT GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

*Last Saturday of Each Month*

*10:30 am-12:00 pm*

*St. John the Evangelist Old Parish Hall  
115 Middlesex Rd, North Chelmsford*

When someone close to you dies everything changes in your family, in your life, and your dreams. Often this can turn your life upside down. Know you are not alone in your grief and loneliness. The Hope and Healing Adult Grief Support Group will resume their monthly meetings beginning Saturday, September 25, from 10:30 a.m. till 12:00 p.m. and will continue to meet on the last Saturday of each month. All are welcome to a safe place to share your story, find comfort, hope and encouragement, as you continue a new path in life. Registration is not required.



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