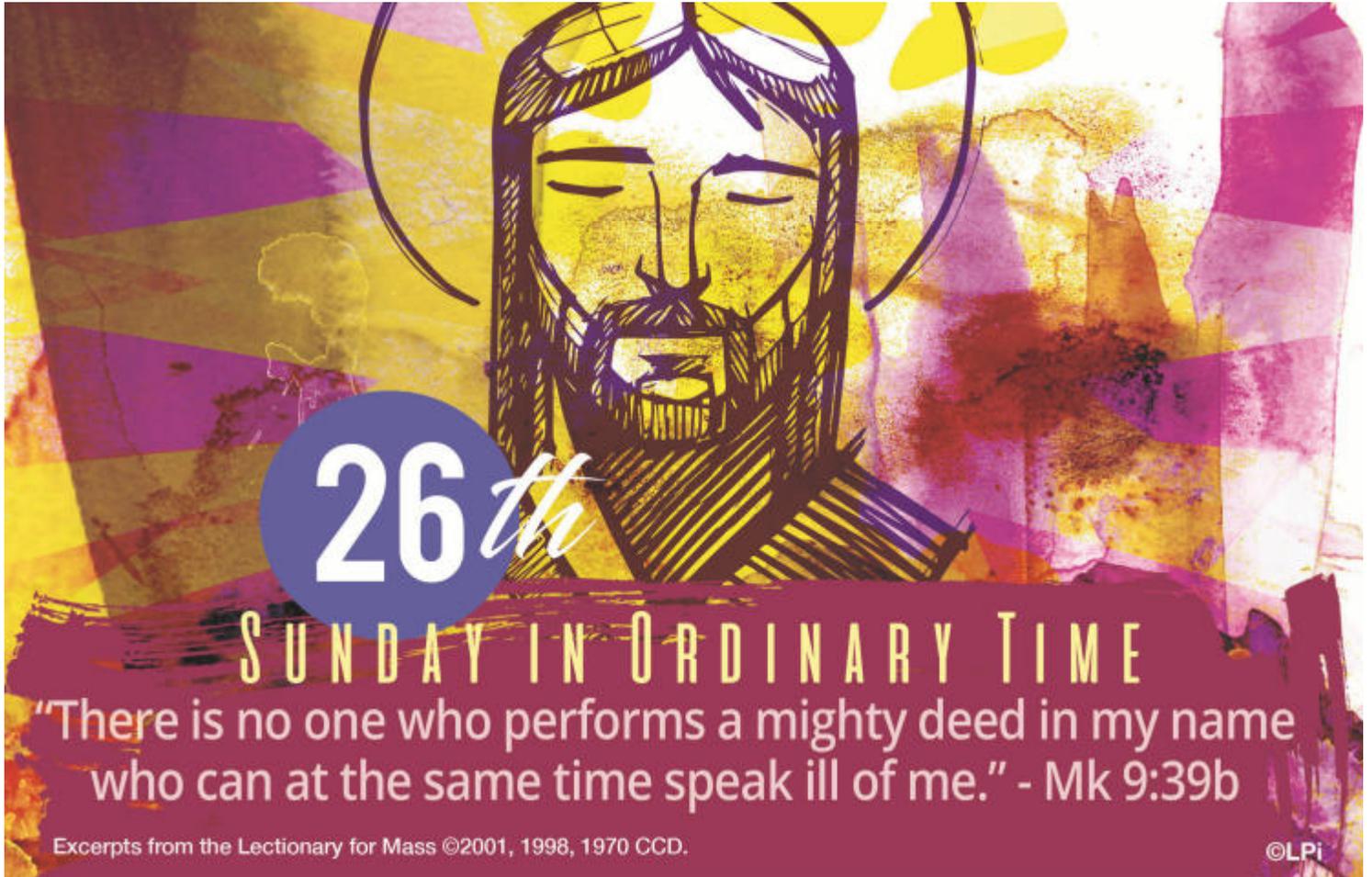


SAINT MICHAEL PARISH

ONE PARISH. ONE SCHOOL. ONE FAITH COMMUNITY.

SEPTEMBER 26, 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 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

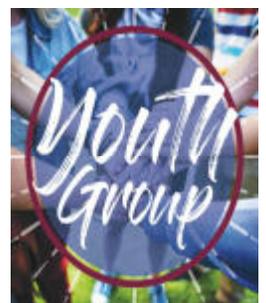


If you are a **Saint Michael School Alumni** please keep in touch by making sure we have your updated information. Please visit www.school.saintmichael.com and click on the ALUMNI tab on the homepage. Don't have online access? Call the school at 978-453-9511!

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
Principal Emeritus: 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 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

Monday, September 27

7:00am: Peter & Tina Nguyen
Michael Le

Tuesday, September 28

7:00am: Patricia Dartley/For Health

Wednesday, September 29

7:00am: Isabelle Francisco

Friday, October 1

7:00am: Eleana Brennan/For Health

Saturday, October 2

4:00pm: Beverly Dimauro

Sunday, October 3

9:00am: Rose A. Rocheville

11:15am: Francis Dumont/Tenth Anniversary



For the weekend of September 18-19:

The Offertory amount was \$6,143; Online Giving was \$1,370, which totals \$7,513. Our weekly Offertory goal is \$9,000, leaving us with a shortage of \$1,487. The second collection, which totals \$2,333, was for the benefit of the Clergy Health & Retirement Trust.

Upcoming Special/Second Collections:

9/25-9/26: Catechetical

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

10/2-10/3: Saint Michael School

The Lowe Down



We get many requests for funerals. As I write this, we have three funerals being celebrated this week. As we prepare for the upcoming Mass of Remembrance on October 30th, I would like to reflect on the funeral rites of the Catholic Church and how that relates to our grieving process.

The Order of Christian Funerals (the official name of the book we use) supports a wake, a funeral Mass, and a burial (or committal) rite. In recent years, we have seen more and more people eliminate one or two of those steps. I believe that this is a serious mistake. We need time to grieve, and the wake, Mass and burial all give us time to grieve with friends and family. Many people have left instructions with their loved ones to NOT have a wake. This removes from the grieving family the opportunity to relive wonderful memories with the friends who come to the wake. It also places everyone at the Mass which becomes a wake in the gathering and frankly "the unchurched" who have no idea how to behave in a Church (coffee and donuts, anyone? Yes, really.) We need time to grieve. The wake, Mass and committal give us time to formally grieve, and this will help us through the grieving process. In my experience, skipping parts of this process results in the grief experience taking much longer than the norm.

The Mass itself is also taking a beating. Families want inappropriate songs and readings. They want 20-minute eulogies. In a world where we get what we want so often, they are very unhappy when the Church tells them, that is not appropriate at Mass, can you do it at the wake, burial, or mercy meal instead? (Oh yeah, there is no wake or burial.)

Cremations are becoming increasingly popular. The Church supports cremations, but certain practices have sprung up that the Church is absolutely against. Families often keep the cremains (cremated remains) on a mantle in the home or spread them at a favorite location. The Church teaches that cremains should be buried in a cemetery or placed in a columbarium designed for that purpose. Some families have decided to split the cremains between family members. We would never do that with a body, why is it OK to do that with cremains? (It isn't.) The Church stands firmly against this practice. That would also include making jewelry out of the cremains. (Oh, I lost mom the other day...) I think we all know where the Church would stand on combining cremains with other family members or family pets, but I am afraid that I have seen both of those.

By the time, families call me for a funeral, they have already made all these plans. When I can, I delicately suggest to them that these practices are not well thought out. People will do what they want, no matter what the Church says. I just think that we all need to know what the Church recommends and why.

Fr. Chris

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN TRAINING

All parish and school volunteers MUST complete this very important awareness session once. If you have already taken it, you do not need to re-take it. However if you have never taken this workshop, please plan on completing the training. The Archdiocese has many PCG workshops via ZOOM scheduled through the end of the year. To check out the schedule and register, please go to virtusonline.org and click on the "First-Time Registrant" icon on the left hand side of the home page. If you require additional information or have questions, please contact the rectory Monday—Friday, 9am-4pm at 978-459-0713.

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!

CORI FORM RENEWALS DUE NOW!

Criminal Offense Record Investigation (CORI) forms for 2021-22 are on the tables in the back of the church as well as 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
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Ten Now!

Tickets can be purchased before/after weekend Masses, at the rectory or by emailing Kathy Whitney at whit374@gmail.com



26th 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.

2022 MASS BOOK

The Mass book for 2022 will be available to parishioners beginning November 1st to book Mass Intentions for January 1—June 30, 2022.



Join us for Adoration every Tuesday 6-7pm in the main church!

“Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL BALLOTS



Voting ballots for the Parish Pastoral election will be available and collected at each Mass this weekend only. 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.

WE SHOULD SPEND AS MUCH TIME
IN THANKING GOD FOR HIS BENEFITS
AS WE DO IN ASKING FOR THEM.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



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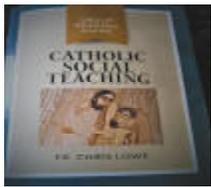
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2. On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you will need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. For future shopping, it will remember your selection, but that selection 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**.

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%!!!

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.



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.

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.



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.



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 or complete a pledge form available in the back of the church.



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.

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.



Clip this page and bring it with you to the October 3 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 said: "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him." So the LORD God formed out of the ground various wild animals and various birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each of them would be its name. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all wild animals; but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man. So the LORD God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. The LORD God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man. When he brought her to the man, the man said: "This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called 'woman,' for out of 'her man' this one has been taken." That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one flesh.

Responsorial Psalm: *May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.*

Second Reading: Brothers and sisters: He "for a little while" was made "lower than the angels," that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting that he, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the leader to their salvation perfect through suffering. He who consecrates and those who are being consecrated all have one origin. Therefore, he is not ashamed to call them "brothers."

Gospel Reading: The Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, "Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?" They were testing him. He said to them in reply, "What did Moses command you?" They replied, "Moses permitted a husband to write a bill of divorce and dismiss her." But Jesus told them, "Because of the hardness of your hearts he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. *For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.* So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate." In the house the disciples again questioned Jesus about this. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery." And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them.

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.*



SPEAK

— ✕ —

"There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me."

MARK 9:39

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