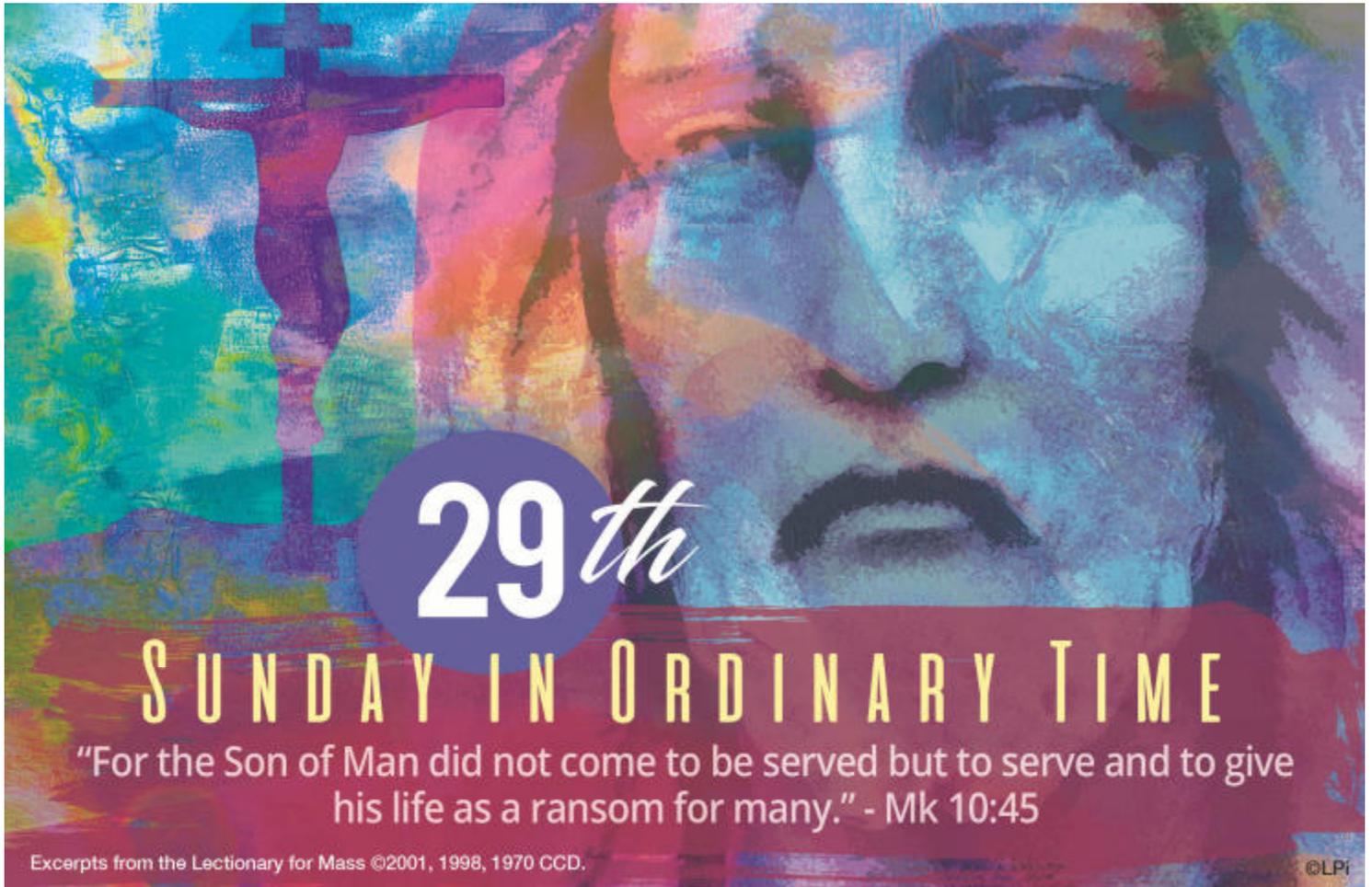


SAINT MICHAEL PARISH

ONE PARISH. ONE SCHOOL. ONE FAITH COMMUNITY.

OCTOBER 17, 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

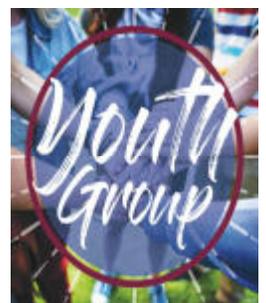


If you are a **Saint Michael School Alumni** please keep in touch by making sure we have your updated information. Please visit www.school.saintmichael.com and click on the ALUMNI tab on the homepage. Don't have online access? Call the school at 978-453-9511!

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



From the Deacon's Bench



Recently, while celebrating my 25th year anniversary of ordination as a Permanent Deacon, I was reflecting on how things have changed over the years, not just within our Church but with people in general.

One of the changes that comes to mind is how, for many years, people of all ages felt a need to "belong," whether it be to their Church, their community, civic or veteran organization and even including the youth who had programs available for them in the community. If you look around, there are so many of these organizations that no longer exist and many of those that still do are struggling to find new members. Obviously, family life and people's interests have changed over the years and I'm sure we all can come up with our own reasons why things are the way they are today.

As practicing Catholics, the one change that we should all be concerned with is why so many people are no longer part of our faith community. The numbers have declined. And so why are people staying away and how do we turn this around? While you are reading this, you're probably thinking, "he's preaching to the choir," but, those attending Mass every week who have a sincere love of God and the need to take part in the Eucharist with fellow worshippers are the very same people who can help make a change in this trend.

Most of our families have a lost or at least a wandering sheep who no longer practices the faith they grew up with. We as a faith community must pray for that person and at times, not be afraid to challenge that person to come back. Prayer is our best resource but showing compassion and spending the time to listen with that family member or friend may be the encouragement that person needs to come back to their life of faith.

Deacon Gerry

The Lowe Down



As you read this, I should be on vacation. If memory serves, this is my second week away this year. Some of you know that I had to cancel my annual retreat to interview and hire a school principal. God willing, I will be tired in body but rejuvenated in mind and spirit when I return for Masses on the 24th. Fr. Richard has agreed to cover most of the Masses for us on this weekend.

Fr. Chris

LOOKING FOR PART-TIME JANITOR



The rectory is looking to hire a part-time janitor for cleaning the church and church hall three hours per day Monday through Friday. If you are interested, please call Terry at 978-459-0713.



Saturday, October 16

7:00am: Friends of Saint Michael

4:00pm: Joanna Peroney

Sunday, October 17

7:00am: Gloria S. Hanvey

9:00am: Theodore L. Rocheville

11:15am: Elizabeth Ann Melanchook

Monday, October 18

7:00am: Grace & Charles Costello

Tuesday, October 19

7:00am: Dr. Frederick

Kathleen & Peter McCall

Wednesday, October 20

7:00am: David Bedford/Fiftieth Anniversary

Thursday, October 21

7:00am: Thomas Brennan

Friday, October 22

7:00am: Parishioners of Saint Michael

Saturday, October 23

7:00am: Friends of Saint Michael

4:00pm: Robert Bedford

Sunday, October 24

7:00am: Friends of Saint Michael

9:00am: Katie Mahoney

11:15am: Ernest & Cecile Champoux



For the weekend of October 9-10:

The Offertory amount was \$7,369; Online Giving was \$1,455 which totals \$8,824. Our weekly Offertory goal is \$9,000, leaving us with a shortage of \$176.

Upcoming Special/Second Collections:

10/23-10/24: World Mission Sunday

Thank you for your generosity!

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.

FALL CLASS SCHEDULE WITH GUEST SPEAKER PEG HICKS

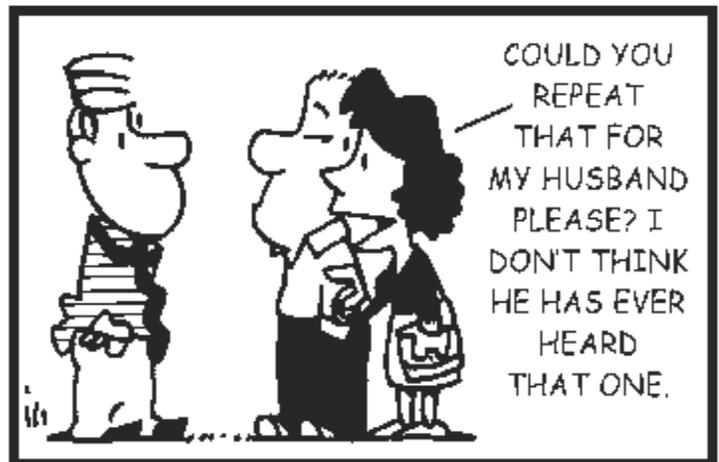
The Book of Ruth (*in one session, 1 ½ hours*) **November 8th @ 1:00 and 7:00 in the Church hall.** Read, study, and discuss this inspiring Old Testament book, a love story that tells of King David's amazing great grandmother, and an ancestor of Jesus. This is a story of great loyalty, faithfulness and trust in God.

The Infancy Narratives: The Birth of Jesus (*in one session, 1 ½ hours*) **December 6th @ 1:00 and 7:00 in the Church hall.** The Gospels of Matthew and Luke present the birth story of Jesus. Enrich your Advent prayer as we explore the differences and similarities of these Scriptures, and what they tell us about who Jesus was/is.

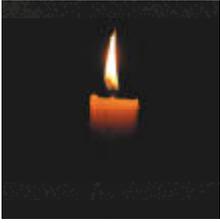
Peg Hicks is a retired pastoral associate of the Boston Archdiocese, who has taught at Merrimack College, Academy of Notre Dame, and the Archdiocesan Institute of Ministry. She holds an MA (Pastoral Ministry) and a CAES (teaching Scripture to adults) from Boston College.



29TH 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. Please stop by or contact the rectory; Mass Intentions are \$10 each.



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.”

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 (for one year of battery recycling) is requested.

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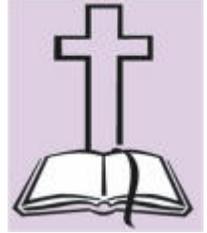
Enroll Now for Fall 2021!

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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.



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 7:00.

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

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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**.

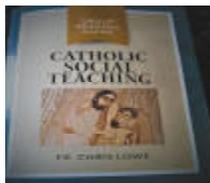
"It's indispensable for the life of many patients."

Pope Francis

Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood and today fewer people are donating. If YOU have the A, B or O blood patients need, please consider becoming a donor. The responsibility of a sufficient blood supply belongs to all of us. Please contact the American Red Cross today for an appointment to donate at www.redcrossblood.org.



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

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

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



2021-2022 GRAND ANNUAL MAILING

The new 2021-2022 Grand Annual letter will soon be mailed to all parishioners, so keep an eye out for it! Grand Annual envelopes can also be found in the back of the church or at the rectory. Thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

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.



LOOKING FOR HOLLY FAIR VENDORS



The Saint Michael's Holly Fair is returning after last year's absence! It will be held in the church hall on Saturday, December 4th from 10am-3pm.

We are seeking vendors for the following categories: Knit/Crochet, Pet Accessories, Toys, Books, Baby/Kids Clothing, Ceramics, Quilts, Dips & Spreads, Paper, as well as direct vendor reps for Tupperware, Paparazzi Jewelry, Mary Kay, Scentsy, Pampered Chef, Younique, Lula Roe, Usborne, Discovery Toys, Fuller Brush, Princess House, Stella and Dot, Tastefully Simple and Watkins.

Please call 978-459-0713 X330 or email pminch@saint-michael.com for more information and a vendor application, which will also be available at the back of the church.

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 24 Sunday Mass ; it will assist in readings, prayers and responses. Please do not leave in pews—remember to take it home!

First Reading: Thus says the LORD: Shout with joy for Jacob, exult at the head of the nations; proclaim your praise and say: The LORD has delivered his people, the remnant of Israel. Behold, I will bring them back from the land of the north; I will gather them from the ends of the world, with the blind and the lame in their midst, the mothers and those with child; they shall return as an immense throng. They departed in tears, but I will console them and guide them; I will lead them to brooks of water, on a level road, so that none shall stumble. For I am a father to Israel, Ephraim is my first-born.

Responsorial Psalm: *The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.*

Second Reading: Brothers and sisters: Every high priest is taken from among men and made their representative before God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins He is able to deal patiently with the ignorant and erring, for he himself is beset by weakness and so, for this reason, must make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people. No one takes this honor upon himself but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. In the same way, it was not Christ who glorified himself in becoming high priest, but rather the one who said to him: You are my son: this day I have begotten you; just as he says in another place: You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

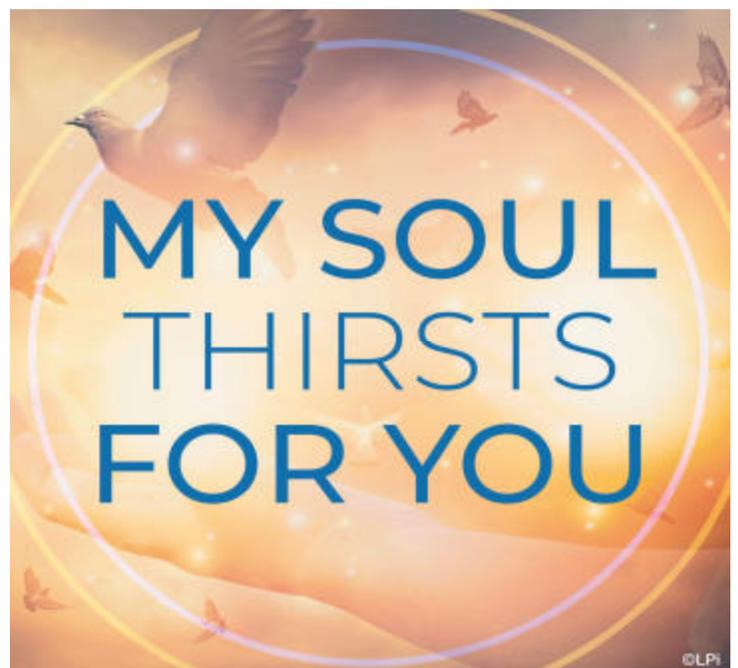
Gospel Reading: As Jesus was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a sizable crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind man, the son of Timaeus, sat by the roadside begging. On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me." And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he kept calling out all the more, "Son of David, have pity on me." Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you." He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus. Jesus said to him in reply, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man replied to him, "Master, I want to see." Jesus told him, "Go your way; your faith has saved you." Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.

Prayer to Saint Michael: *St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.*

Gloria: *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

Nicene Creed: *I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

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