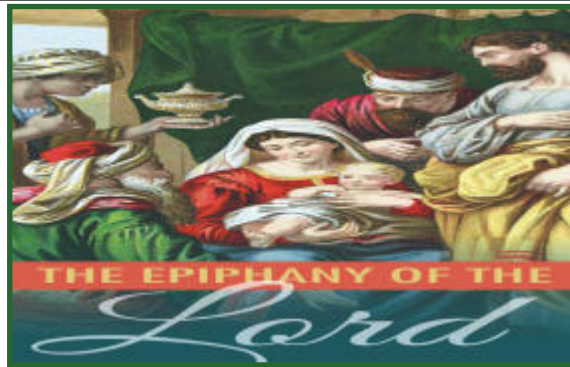


ST. MICHAEL PARISH

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:00pm
Sunday:
English: 8:00am
10:30am Upper Church
Portuguese 10:30 am Lower Church
Brazilian: 12:00pm



Weekday Mass Schedule 9:00am

Monday
Wednesday
Friday

Administrator: *Rev. Laurence "Ren" M. Tocci*
x301 ~ frren@stmikes.org

Weekend Assistant: *Rev. Adriano Lessa*

Deacon: *Deacon Jared Auclair*
603-682-8722
deacon_jared@stmikes.org

Finance & Operations Manager: *Helena Siciliano - x304*
helena@stmikes.org

Music Director: *Donna McIntyre*
donna@stmikes.org

Welcome New Parishioners

We welcome you to the St. Michael community. Please introduce yourself to Father, call or visit the Parish Center or visit us online at www.stmikes.org to fill out a registration form. As a parish committed to the vision of stewardship, we encourage your involvement by sharing with us your God-given gifts of time, talent and treasure. For detailed information about our ministries, parish activities and contact persons, refer to our parish website.

Baptisms

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 2:00pm. Baptism catechesis for the parent(s) and godparent(s) is held on the 1st Sunday of the month at 1:00pm and 2:30pm. Register online at www.stmikes.org or call the Parish Center and ask for Pat Conte ext. 306.

21 Manning Street, Hudson, MA 01749
Phone: 978-562-2552 Fax: 978-568-1761
Faith Formation Phone: 978-562-7662
www.stmikes.org & office@stmikes.org

****PARISH CENTER HOURS****
Monday/Tuesday—9:00am-3:00pm
Thursday/Friday—9:00am-3:00pm

Baptisms & Weddings: *Pat Conte - x306*
pconte@stmikes.org
Joyce Rossignol x309
joyce@stmikes.org

Administrative Assistant: *Vina Sousa - x300*
office@stmikes.org

Custodians: *Antonio Gonçalves*
Francisco Pinheiro

Marriage

Arrangements **MUST** be made at least 6 months prior to the intended date of the wedding. Please call the Parish Center to schedule your date and make an appointment to speak with Pat Conte our wedding coordinator.

Ministry of the Sick

Please notify us if there is a sick or aged family member or friend who would like to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and/or Holy Communion at home.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)

Saturdays from 2:30 to 3:30 PM in the lower church.

RCIA

If you have not been baptized or were baptized but have not received First Eucharist, Reconciliation or Confirmation, please contact Sheila Mahoney at 978-562-3148, call or email the Parish Center.

St. Michael's Cemetery

Cemetery lots are available. For information contact Helena at the Parish Office.



Eucharistic Adoration

Friday morning after Mass until noon.

Confessions have been resumed at regular time at St. Michael's Parish.



Saturday
9:00 am
4:00 pm

January 1, 2022
Holy Day Mass
Robert & Mary O'Malley,
Dennis Murphy

Sunday
8:00am
10:30am
10:30am
12:00pm

January 2, 2022
St. Michael's Parishioner
Helder Bairos
Portuguese Mass Lower Church
Brazilian Mass

Monday
9:00am

January 3, 2022
Barbara Aungst
Minnie Simarano
Jackie Powers(healing Mass)

Wednesday
9:00am

January 5, 2022
Maria B. Pinheiro
Anna Guarino(healing Mass)

Friday
9:00 am

January 7, 2022
Barbara Aungst

Saturday
4:00 pm

Janury 8, 2022
Ines & Helena A. Chaves

Sunday
8:00 am
10:30 am
10:30 am
12:00 pm

January 9, 2022
Bill & Ilean Buchanan
St. Michael's Parishioners
Portuguese Mass Lower church
Brazilian Mass

If you have requested a Mass intention and would like to have a family member present the gifts, please see an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion before the start of the Mass.

Readings for the week of January 02, 2022

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf.11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30



*Bread and Wine in Memory of
Irene Kelley & Marie McAllister*

*Lights and Candles in Loving Memory of
Jose Correia, Adelina Resendes, Jose Monteiro*

From the Business Office

Weekly Income:	\$10,000.00
To Meet Expenses	
On Line Giving:	\$2,437.50
In Church Giving:	\$8,624.00
Other Income Received:	\$2,196.00
Over Budge (shortfall):	\$3,257.50
Grand Annual Total to date:	\$36, 013.00

Totals from December 18, & 19

*2nd Collection for Saturday Jan. 8th and Sunday, Jan. 9th is for Parish Maintenance & Development
2nd Collection for Saturday Jan. 23rd & Sunday Jan. 24th is for Church in Latin America*

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Michael Parish is here to assist people in the Hudson community. When an individual or family is experiencing a need for financial or informational assistance, please feel free to contact us directly at, **978-618-5175**.
We are here to help!



Inclement Weather Notice
If there is a delay or cancelation at Hudson Public Schools due to the weather, the Daily Mass will be cancelled. Also if there's a school closing due to weather the Parish Office will be closed. .

Mass Intentions for January through June are now available to be scheduled for year 2022.
Call the Parish Office at **978-562-2552** to schedule for Mass Intentions or email Vina at **Office@stmikes.org** Thank You!

Brothers and Sisters,

Last time I gave a homily you might recall I mentioned my work with COVID at Northeastern University. At the 10:30 AM mass I also mentioned the local news had reached out to me to provide my expert opinion on the state of the pandemic. That got me thinking, and I asked Fr. Ren if I might provide a column with facts about viruses and vaccines, in general.

Perhaps information on my professional background might help provide some context and rationale around why I am often considered an expert in this space. It actually dates to my graduate studies where my PhD thesis focused on studying different aspects of HIV-1, the virus that causes AIDS. HIV-1 is also an RNA virus, although a different type than SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19), which provided a foundation for my understanding of SARS-CoV-2. My expertise in RNA viruses led Northeastern to ask me to lead our COVID-19 testing response, which I have been doing since June 2020. Thus, I follow the science of the pandemic closely. What I'll share here will be facts that we know about viruses and vaccines, in an attempt to provide you accurate scientific information that cuts through the noise of what else might be out there.

Let's start with virus. What is a virus you ask? It is an infectious agent that can only survive in a living organism, or host. There are numerous different types of viruses, which I'm happy to discuss, but for our purposes today let us focus on SARS-CoV-2, an RNA-based virus. I ask you to consider this, as we think about viruses: viruses do not want to kill their hosts. Why? Well, if the host dies so does the virus. Thus, as the virus evolves its goal is to become more infectious and less deadly; consider that for a moment. The virus not only wants us, the host, to live, but it needs us to. As a matter of fact, all the data I have seen on Omicron suggests exactly that. Omicron appears to be far more infectious, but the clinical outcomes much less severe. As the virus evolves, variants causing more severe clinical outcomes will be replaced by those, such as Omicron, that do not.

Let's consider variants for a moment as well. RNA is a notoriously unstable molecule, which means it breaks up into little pieces easily and can mutate rapidly, leading to variants. We have heard about many different variants over the last several months, Omicron being the latest. There will be more variants identified, and at some point we'll stop hearing about them. Just remember, the virus wants to be more infectious and less deadly, thus variants fitting that bill will be naturally selected.

Lastly, let's consider what a vaccine does. Does a vaccine prevent infection? Absolutely not! What? Is that true? Why yes, it is true, the vaccine doesn't prevent infection. What does a vaccine do then, you ask? Well it primes your immune system, that is prepares it, to fight off infection, in this case from SARS-CoV-2. A vaccine's job is to prevent serious illness, hospitalization, and death, and not to prevent infection. Further, vaccines do not prevent the spread of the virus, vaccinated people can and do spread the virus. Thus, the role of the vaccine is to protect the vaccinated and nobody else.

I'll leave it there for today, but I'm always happy to answer any questions you have about the virus and vaccine. I spend much of my professional time speaking about these things and am always happy to clear away the noise.

God Bless,

Deacon Jared

Irmãos e irmãs em Cristo. . .

Você deve se lembrar da última vez que eu fiz uma homilia, mencionei a respeito do meu trabalho com o COVID na Universidade de Northeastern. Na missa das 10h30, também mencionei que o noticiário local havia me procurado para oferecer a minha opinião de especialista sobre o estado da pandemia. Isso me fez pensar, e perguntei ao padre. Ren, se eu podia escrever uma coluna com factos sobre vírus e vacinas em geral.

Talvez as informações sobre a minha experiência profissional possam ajudar a fornecer algum contexto em torno do motivo pelo qual sou freqüentemente considerado um especialista nesta área. Na verdade, data aos meus estudos de formação, onde a minha tese de doutorado se concentrou no estudo de diferentes aspectos do HIV-1, o vírus que causa o AIDS. O HIV-1 também é um vírus de RNA, embora seja um tipo diferente do SARS-CoV-2 (o vírus que causa o COVID-19), que forneceu uma base para o meu conhecimento do SARS-CoV-2. A minha experiência em vírus de RNA levou a Universidade de Northeastern a me pedir para liderar nossa resposta ao teste COVID-19, o que venho fazendo desde junho de 2020. Portanto, tenho acompanhado de perto a ciência da pandemia. O que compartilharei aqui serão fatos que sabemos sobre vírus e vacinas, em uma tentativa de fornecer a você informações científicas precisas que eliminem a confusão do que pode andar por aí.

Vamos começar com o vírus. O que, é um vírus? É um agente infeccioso que só pode sobreviver em um organismo vivo ou guia. Existem vários tipos diferentes de vírus, que tenho o prazer de discutir, mas para os nossos propósitos de hoje, vamos nos concentrar no SARS-CoV-2, um vírus baseado em RNA. Peço que você considere isso, como pensamos sobre os vírus: os vírus não querem matar seus guias. Por quê? Bem, se o guia morrer, o vírus também morre. Assim, à medida que o vírus evolui, seu objetivo é se tornar mais infeccioso e menos mortal; considere isso por um momento. O vírus não só quer que nós, os guias, vivamos, mas precisa que vivamos. Na verdade, todos os dados que eu vi na Omicron sugerem exatamente isso. Omicron parece ser muito mais infeccioso, mas os resultados clínicos são muito menos graves. À medida que o vírus evolui, as variantes que causam desfechos clínicos mais graves serão substituídas por outras, como o Omicron, que não o faz.

Vamos considerar as variantes por um momento também. O RNA é uma molécula notoriamente instável, o que significa que se divide facilmente em pequenos pedaços e pode sofrer rápidas mutações levando a variantes. Ouvimos falar de muitas variantes diferentes nos últimos meses, sendo o Omicron o mais recente. Haverá mais variantes identificadas e, em algum momento, pararemos de ouvir falar sobre elas. Lembre-se de que o vírus quer ser mais infeccioso e menos mortal, portanto, as variantes que se encaixam nessa conta serão selecionadas naturalmente.

Por último, vamos considerar o que a vacina faz. A vacina impede a infecção? Absolutamente não! O quê? Isso é verdade? Sim, é verdade, a vacina não impede a infecção. O que uma vacina faz então, você pergunta? Bem, prepara seu sistema imunológico, ou seja, prepara-o para lutar contra a infecção, neste caso a partir da SARS-CoV-2. O trabalho de uma vacina é impedir doenças graves, hospitalização e morte, e não impedir infecções. Além disso, as vacinas não impedam a propagação do vírus, as pessoas vacinadas podem espalhar o vírus e o fazem. Assim, o papel da vacina é proteger os vacinados e mais ninguém.

Vou deixar assim por hoje, mas ficarei sempre feliz em responder a qualquer pergunta que você tenha sobre o vírus e a vacina. Passo grande parte do meu tempo profissional falando sobre essas coisas e sempre fico feliz em esclarecer a confusão.

Deus abençoe

Diacono Jared

Suicide Prevention

Unfortunately suicide is a very real issue in our society today. If you or someone you know is looking for information or help please go to:

www.nami.org/Learn-More/Mental-Health-Conditions/Related-Conditions/Risk-of-Suicide.

Where you can find resources and help.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

January 2, 2022

The Epiphany of the Lord

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, "Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God's love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being."

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

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EUCCHARISTIC
Adoration

New Year's Eve

Friday, December 31st

Following the 4:00 PM Mass
for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
St. Michael Church in Hudson (Upper Church)

*Will you sit with Our
Lord?*

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Upcoming Dates:

**December 31 • January 28 • February
25 • March 25 • April 29**

Not Feeling Well?

Take Care of Yourself

It's cold and flu season, and even though the new strain of Covid-19 seems to be mild, we don't want anyone getting sick. If you're feeling under the weather, please feel free to take a week off from coming to Mass—we promise: we'll let you have your seat back when you return!

Also, please be mindful of others. If you're coughing or sneezing, please do so into the inner-elbow of your sleeve. Help keep everyone safe!

Thank you, and God bless!



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If you’re looking for couples counseling through a Catholic lens, we recommend Retrouvaille.

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Check them out at <https://www.pureinheartamerica.org/boston-1>



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