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.
SAINT MICHAEL PARISH

ONE PARISH. ONE SCHOOL. ONE FAITH COMMUNITY.

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Parish Office Manager/Bookkeeper
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Parish Secretary
Mary Brooks
Director of Development
Pauline A. Minch
School Principal
Mary E. Elias
School Bookkeeper
Liz Homem
Director of Religious Education
Nicole Walsh
Director of Music
Jackie Thurrott
Organist
Ernie Houle

MASS SCHEDULE
Weekend: Saturday at 4:00pm, Sunday at 7:00, 9:00 and 11:15am
Daily: 7:00am
Holy Day: Holy Day at 7:00am and 9:00am and 7:00pm

Confession: The sacrament of Penance is available each Saturday from 3:00pm - 3:30pm or call the Rectory for an appointment.

Baptism: Celebrated monthly, please call the Rectory one month in advance.

Marriage: Contact Rectory at least one year prior to wedding.

Anointing of the Sick: When a family member is seriously ill or will be undergoing surgery, please call the Rectory.

St. Michael Parish School: Established in 1889, our parish school offers an excellent education for students in grades Pre-K thru 8.

Communion Calls: Communion to the homebound is happily arranged; Please contact the Rectory.

Becoming Catholic: Interested? Inquiries concerning Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) can be made by contacting the Rectory.

New Parishioners: We are a vibrant, Christ-centered community. If you would like to share in our faith and spirit, please contact the Rectory. You may also register at our website: www.saint-michael.com

Phone Numbers: Religious Education: 978-459-0713   School: 978-453-9511
St. Vincent de Paul Society: 978-459-1770

Deadline for Bulletin information - Monday noon at the Rectory
Website: www.saint-michael.com    Email: saintmichaels@comcast.net

Prayer of Saint Michael: Saint 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 evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.
Saturday, January 4th
7:00am: Eileen Finch
4:00pm: Frank & Anna Cheetham

Sunday, January 5th
7:00am: Robert Blazon & Robert Kirnan
9:00am: Carolyn Jaracz
11:15am: Intention for Jennifer L. Swieneski
12:30pm: Kenyan Mass

Monday, January 6th
7:00am: Susan Kehoe

Tuesday, January 7th
7:00am: Friends of Saint Michael
8:15am: School Mass-Grade 6

Wednesday, January 8th
7:00am: Mass

Thursday, January 9th
7:00am: Mass

Friday, January 10th
7:00am: Mass

Saturday, January 11th
7:00am: Dr. William Flynn
4:00pm: MacPhail Family

Sunday, January 12th
7:00am: Mass
9:00am: Margaret Stone/Family Mass-Grade 5
11:15am: Lillian Wixted
12:30pm: Kenyan Mass

PARISH SUPPORT
For the weekend of December 21-22
The offertory (first) Collection totaled $7,300. Our weekly
Offertory Goal is $9,000, thereby leaving us with a goal
shortage of $1,700.

Due to an early publishing deadline, the December 28-29
Offertory Collection totals will be published in the
January 12 bulletin.
Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

GIFT OF BREAD AND WINE
We invite parishioners to give an offering for the Bread and Wine at all masses on a
given weekend. The offering for this memorial is $75.00. Please contact the
rectory at 978-459-0713 for more information.

The “Lowe” Down
Today we celebrate the Feast of Epiphany. Today, you can put the wise men into your Nativity scene at home. They haven’t been there all along, have they? You DO still have your Nativity scene up right? We are still celebrating Christmas this week and next week. It is a good long party!

There is so much myth and legend around the wise men. Scripture does not give them names or a number of wise men. Tradition names them Balthasar, Melchior, and Gaspar and there are three to correspond to the three gifts. Historians would say they were priests from the region of Persia who studied the stars and thus knew of the “star” that nobody else reported.

Scripture tells us is that they brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. We know about gold. It is always a useful gift. Frankincense is a pure and rare incense used in temples by the priests of the time. Myrrh is used to make oil for anointing. The Gospel of John tells us that they used “a 100-pound mixture of myrrh and aloes to wrap Jesus’ body.” So, the gifts were gold for a king, frankincense for a priest and myrrh to bury him. This is a strange set of gifts for Mary and Joseph to ponder.

Some cultures exchange gifts on Epiphany rather than Christmas. This is the day that gifts were given to Jesus. On this Epiphany, we bring ourselves to present to the Christ child. It is the gift that he came to us for. May we always present ourselves to Christ.

Fr. Chris
WHAT’S YOUR CATHOLIC IQ?
Here’s a fun way to find out how much you know about your Catholic faith!
Answers are on the next page.

1) When a priest raises his hands to give a blessing, we should (a) genuflect (b) bow our heads and make the sign of the cross (c) repeat it after him (d) bow from the waist

2) The number of years Jacob promised to work in order to marry Rachel was (a) 3 (b) 4 (c) 6 (d) 7

3) The Holy Spirit prayer that begins “Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful” continues (a) and kindle in them the fire of your love (b) blessed be the Paraclete forever (c) deliver us from the wickedness and snares of the devil (d) let perpetual light shine upon us

4) Infant baptism didn’t become the norm until about the (a) beginning of the sixth century (b) the Council of Trent (c) the twentieth century

5) The woman at the house in Bethany who sat listening at the Lord’s feet was (a) Martha (b) Mary (c) Diana (d) Priscilla

ULTREYA DATES
Saint Catherine’s in Westford will be hosting Ultreya on the following dates: Jan. 16th, Feb. 19th, Apr. 2nd, June 18th. Ultreya begins at 7:00pm in the parish hall mezzanine with a Mass, followed by grouping and snacks. 107 North Main Street, Westford, MA

PARISH RECEIVES $10,000 DONATION FROM COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
An unexpected blessing in the form of a $10,000 donation from the Community Foundation of Greenville (South Carolina) arrived in the mail this week. This extremely generous amount has been specifically earmarked for use “towards improvements of church building” by the Foundation. Fr. Chris is discussing ways in which to utilize the funds with our Facilities Manager and will keep parishioners updated on the final decision.

The funny thing about this donation is that:
1) It comes from an out-of-state foundation
2) Neither staff nor parishioners applied for this money

These two facts have made clear that anyone, whether it be parishioner, staff or friend of Saint Michael’s has the opportunity to apply for donations on behalf of the parish. So if you know of a foundation, hear of this type of donation, please feel free to submit our name!

BATTERY RECYCLING AVAILABLE
The Saint Michael’s 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 batteries (AAA, AA, C, D, 9 volt and “button” batteries). A donation of 25 cents per battery or a one-time $10 donation (good for one year of battery recycling) is requested.

2019 GRAND ANNUAL COLLECTION
IS AT 66% OF GOAL!
What does the legacy of Saint Michael’s Parish & School mean to you and your family?
Hopefully you, as a registered parishioner, received a letter from Fr. Chris at the end of September about this year’s Grand Annual collection, stating that the goal for this year’s Grand Annual is $100,000. This year there is no suggested or requested family donation amount, only the $100,000 parish goal. Instead, you are asked to please prayerfully consider making a donation that might be a bit of a stretch for you – one that reflects the depth and importance of the legacies of the parish and school, past, present and future. If a pledge for the Grand Annual is more convenient for your budget, please visit www.saint-michael.com. Thank you to those who have generously donated. If you have yet to donate, Grand Annual envelopes are located in the gathering space.

MOMUMENT OF THE RISEN CHRIST
SPRING ENGRAVING
Don’t miss the opportunity to have your name and the names of your loved ones – living and deceased – engraved this spring on the Monument of the Risen Christ, which is located between the Church and the Rectory. Engraving prices start at $300. For more information, please take a brochure, which can be found at the “Gathering Space” in the Church or contact the Rectory at 978-459-0713 or email at saintmichaels@comcast.net.

BAPTISM AT SAINT MICHAEL’S
Baptisms are generally held on the fourth Sunday of each month and they fill up quickly! Limited space is available for January baptisms. If you are interested in having your child receive the Sacrament of Baptism, please contact Parish Secretary Mary Brooks at 978-459-0713. Parents are required to attend a one-hour class and provide their child’s birth certificate. A reminder that prospective godparents should have received the three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation.
WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS!

We’re so happy to see you here at Saint Michael’s! Please, feel free to introduce yourself to the presiding Priest or any of our Extraordinary Ministers or volunteers. Welcome Packets are at the entrance of the Church and contain a rich source of information about our warm parish. We look forward to seeing you again to celebrate Mass with us as one faith community.
ANSWERS TO “WHAT’S YOUR CATHOLIC IQ?”

1) (b) Bowing our heads and making the sign of the cross is the appropriate response to the priest’s blessing.
2) (d) See Genesis 29:15-20. The agreement was for Rachel’s hand, but her father tricked Jacob into marrying the elder sister Leah first.
3) (a) The prayer continues: “Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created/And you shall renew the face of the earth.”
4) (a) In the early centuries of the Church, adult baptism was the norm.
5) (b) See Luke 10:38-42. Mary’s sister Martha wanted to help Mary with the serving.

How did you do?

OFFERTORY COUNTER SCHEDULE

Jan. 6—Team 3: Brenda Richardson, Colleen Dubuc, Mary Kay Gorman
Jan. 13—Team 1: Dorothy Dwinell, Marcia McGrail, Jeannine Yianopoulos, Dorothy Flanagan, Dorothy Aste

LOOKING FOR THE BEST EDUCATION IN TECHNOLOGY FOR YOUR CHILD?

Look no further than Saint Michael School!
Saint Michael School is proud to offer its students Computer & Technology classes, hands-on instruction and electronic equipment for grades 3-8, including LEGO robotics, Raspberry Pi, Chromebooks for every student and a new digital studio. No other Catholic school in Lowell can compare to what we offer in this subject.

To schedule a tour or have your child shadow for a day, please call 978-453-9511

CHRISTMAS IN THE CITY FOR SAINT MICHAEL RELIGIOUS ED STUDENTS

A huge shout-out to the Youth Saint Vincent de Paul Society of Saint Catherine's (Westford) & Saint Anne's (Littleton) as well as their confirmation class students for bringing their "Christmas in the City" to our religious ed students recently! The school hall looked amazing, there were awesome activities for the kids, generous gifts... an amazing job by all volunteers.

Thank you for everything!
GRADE 6 EARNS MONEY TO BUY ALPACA FOR NEEDY ECUADORIAN FAMILY

Grade six spent November doing extra chores to earn enough money to buy an alpaca for a poor family in Ecuador. The alpaca will provide warm clothes for the family to wear as well as warm clothes the family can sell to help earn a living. Student were required to use their own money and not ask their parents to pay. They raised $150 and sent it to Heifer International to pay for the alpaca.
Great work grade 6!

HOLLY FAIR A SUCCESS!

A huge thank you to all who supported this year's Holly Fair! We're very grateful to our vendors, shoppers, our high school volunteers, the Hospitality Committee, Julie Long, Jack Minch, Maria Porto, Peggy & Jim Kane, Santa, Nicky Walsh, John & Anna Casaubon-Rocheville, Mary Myatyka, Charlie Nutt, Joyce Cloutier, Holly Ferriera, Kim Scott, Beverly Alleca We couldn't have done it without each and every one of you.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SMS NOVEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH!

Back Row (Left to right): Emma Luis-Grade 6, Olivia Porto-Grade 8B, Raquel Rago-Grade 7A, Jason Stuart, Jr.-8A, Jason Berard-7B, Emma Warren-Spanish, Derek Gitau-Music. Front Row (Left to right): Benjamin Couture-Gym, Ava Couture-Computer, Elisha Tchazou-PreK 4, Mary Mburu-Kindergarten, Vincent Mbagua-Art, Luke Reis-Grade 3, Aidan Berard-Grade 4, Faye Samatis-Grade 2. Absent from the photo is Brenna Cullen-Grade 1 and Lucas Silva, Grade 5.
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