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.

543 Bridge St., Lowell, Ma. 01850
978-459-0713   Fax: 978-453-1123
Serving Lowell and Dracut since 1883

Administrator  Rev. Christopher Lowe
School Principal  Mary E. Elias
Director of Religious Education  Nicole Walsh
Director of Music  Jackie Thurrott
Director of Development  Pauline A. Minch
Parish Secretary  Mary Brooks
School Bookkeeper  Liz Homem
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


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.
**GIFT OF BREAD AND WINE**

We invite parishioners to give an offering for the Bread and Wine on a given weekend. Please contact the rectory at 978-459-0713 for more information.

**PARISH SUPPORT**

*For the weekend of February 8-9*

The Offertory (first) Collection totaled $8,581*. Our weekly Offertory Goal is $9,000, thereby leaving us with a goal shortage of $419.

The Second Collection totaled $1,855 and is for the benefit of Saint Michael School.

*Thank you for your continued support and generosity. *

*does not include online giving.

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**The “Lowe” Down**

This week, I pass the pen for the Lowe Down column to the newest member of our Parish Staff: Deacon Gerry Hardy.

**Fr. Chris**

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**I Am In Your Midst As One Who Serves**

Greetings! I am Deacon Gerard (Gerry) Hardy, a native of Lowell, married to Patricia (Trish) Hardy and we live in Dracut. We have four children who are married and who live in Florida, Tennessee, Vermont & Dracut; we also have 10 grandchildren.

In my earlier years, I attended St. Joseph Grammar School, High School and Lowell Technological Institute. Prior to my retirement, I was employed by National Grid (formerly Colonial Gas Co.) as Manager of LNG Production and also served in the Army National Guard.

I was ordained a Permanent Deacon in the Archdiocese of Boston in 1996 and served at St. Louis de France Parish in Lowell, Ste. Marguerite d’Youville Parish in Dracut and St. William of York Parish in Tewksbury. St. Michael’s Parish now becomes my fourth parish assignment as Deacon.

In my previous parish assignments, in addition to my liturgical functions, I was responsible for the Baptism Program, RCIA, Liturgy Committee and the training of new Ministers of Communion, Lectors and Altar Servers. I am very happy to have received this new assignment from Cardinal Sean and look forward to serving you as your Deacon at St. Michael’s Parish.

**Deacon Gerry Hardy**

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**Parish Pastoral Council members are in the gathering space this week with a survey regarding Mass times. Please make your voice heard!**

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**REMINDER!**

The rectory will be closed on President’s Day, Monday, February 17.
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 February baptisms. If you are interested in having your child receive the Sacrament of Baptism, please call 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.

WE WANT YOUR PALMS!

Please bring in your palms from last year. The SMYLE (youth) group will be burning them to create ashes for distribution on Ash Wednesday. Please place your palms in the basket in the Gathering Space in the back of the church. Sunday, February 23 will be the last day of collection.

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) The superior or head of a community of monks is called (a) an abbot (b) a cardinal (c) a curate (d) a monsignor

2) One of the patron saints of Canada is (a) St. Thecla (b) St. Julian of Norwich (c) St. Anne (d) St. Maximilian Kobe

3) The word “pontiff” refers to (a) an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist (b) an auxiliary bishop (c) a permanent deacon (d) the pope

4) February 4, 2003 marked the beginning of the canonization process for the daughter of the famous American author (a) Nathaniel Hawthorne (b) Robert Louis Stevenson (c) William Shakespeare (d) Norman Mailer

5) The word for donations given to the poor is called (a) usury (b) alms (c) simony (d) abstinence

DISCERNMENT RETREAT FOR WOMEN

AGES 18-35

Saturday, February 22

Saint Paul’s Parish, Harvard Square, Cambridge

This one-day retreat will provide at the opportunity to learn more about religious life, to speak to the Sisters and to pray and give time and attention to discerning God’s call. Contact Sr. Germana Santos at gsantos@rcab.org.

CARDINAL SEAN O’MALLEY DISCERNMENT RETREATS FOR MEN

February 21—22

Pope Saint John XXIII Seminary, Weston

For men ages 30 and over. Contact ecadin@rcab.org.

February 21-23

Saint John’s Seminary and Betania II Spiritual Life & Marian Center

For men ages 18-30. Contact ecadin@rcab.org.

I WONDER WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF POLITICIANS RAN THEIR CAMPAIGNS BY GOD’S RULES?

YOU MEAN BASED ON THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE A HEART ATTACK?
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.

2019 GRAND ANNUAL COLLECTION IS AT 70% 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.saintmichael.com. Thank you to those who have generously donated. If you have yet to donate, Grand Annual envelopes are located in the gathering space.

SHOP AMAZON & SUPPORT OUR PARISH OR SCHOOL!

Shop on Amazon and help support Saint Michael School or Parish with a few simple clicks! AmazonSmile donates 0.5% of the price of your AmazonSmile purchases!

1. Go to smile.amazon.com on your web browser on your computer or electronic device.
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. MICHAEL’S PARISH. To support the school, search & select SAINT MICHAEL SCHOOL.

LIGHT A CANDLE IN PRAYER

Two stands of candles in the Sanctuary are there for you to light as a symbol of your intentions and prayers. We ask that a $1 donation be offered for each candle that you light to help defray the cost of the candle.

MONUMENT 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. You can also email us at saintmichaels@comcast.net.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Saint Michael Parish is blessed to have a Saint Vincent de Paul Society chapter, 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!

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Box Tops for Education can now be earned digitally by scanning your receipt within 14 days of purchase. If you cannot download the App, please drop your receipts in the collection basket. Unexpired traditional (clipped) Box Tops can still be submitted as well. Thanks for supporting Saint Michael School!

Are you between the ages of 15-25 and looking to participate in some fun faith-based activities?

If you are, come to the next SMYLE (Saint Michael’s Youth Leadership) social on Sunday, February 23rd! We’re meeting at the School parking lot at 4pm.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining SMYLE, please contact Ashley Melanchook at SMYLE@saintmichael.com for more information.
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. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

LUCKY 200 CLUB WINNERS
Congratulations to the February winners of the Lucky 200 Club!

$200 – Ruth Messer #73
$50 – Priscilla Pare #47
$25 – Robin Dejadon/Peg Decoteau #178

ANSWERS TO “WHAT’S YOUR CATHOLIC IQ?”
1) (a) “Abbott,” established as a title by St. Benedict of Nursia (ca. 480-ca. 547), comes from a word meaning “Father.” An abbott exercises paternal authority in the monastery.
2) (c) St. Anne (or “Hannah”), traditionally acknowledged as the mother of Mary and thus the grandmother of Jesus, is also the patron saint of grandparents and childless couples. St. Joseph is considered a patron saint of Canada as well.
3) (d) The word comes from the Latin word for “bridge builder,” meaning that the pope serves as a bridge between heaven and earth. The abbreviation P.M. standing for Pontifex Maximus (Supreme Pontiff) sometimes follows the official signature of the pope.
4) (a) Rose Hawthorne (1851-1926), known in religious life as Mother Alphonsa, converted to Roman Catholicism in 1891. She founded the Dominican Sisters, Servants of Relief for Incurable Cancer (Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne) in 1990.
5) (b) In the giving of alms (almsgiving), we respond to Jesus’ command to give to the poor and the needy (Luke 18:22). Almsgiving is one of the three traditional practices of penance, along with prayer and fasting.

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, plus a new digital studio complete with green screen.

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS – COME ONE AND ALL!
Saint Michael Parish Choirs invites you to come join them in our music ministry. We invite the youth to come and join in the youth choir. We invite teens, adults and instrumentalists to join the adult choir. We invite anyone who can count to come and join the Hand-bell choir. All are Welcome! There really is something special about singing and/or playing during this sacred time. Youth Choir rehearsals are Wednesdays from 3:30pm-4:30pm and sing at the 9:00am Mass on Sundays. Adult Choir rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7:30pm-9:00pm and sing at the 11:15am Mass on Sundays. Hand-bell rehearsals are Tuesdays 7:30pm-8:30pm and playing at Christmas and Easter celebrations. All rehearsals are in the main church.

TRAINING FOR BOTH NEW & CURRENT ALTAR SERVERS
Tuesday, February 25, 4:00-5:00pm
Training will be held in the church for new as well as current altarboys & girls, grade four & above.

Are you or someone you know looking for schools providing PreK-3 & PreK-4 education? Look no further than Saint Michael School to compare our tuition to day care rates! Call the school today at 978-453-9511 for more information and a tour.

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.

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Saint Michael Parish is a community with many talents, please consider sharing yours with us. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Jackie Thurrott, Director of Music Ministry at 978-454-9566.

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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.

Important Survey & Town Halls on Mass Schedule Restructuring

The Parish Council’s subcommittee on Mass Schedule Restructuring is conducting a survey to better understand your needs as a parishioner. This is a third step in the process for determining the new mass schedule. The proposed times are based off the results from the first two steps in the process:

1. Research of all area parishes' schedules
2. A review and analysis of the current mass collections and mass attendance numbers.

To participate in the survey, you can fill out a survey online at: bit.ly/2RA8632 OR in paper form at the back of the Church (your answers will be anonymous). We will be collecting survey responses from Saturday, February 8th to Sunday, February 23rd.

Town halls specifically addressing the changing of the Mass schedule will be held in the Church Hall on these dates/times:

Tuesday, February 25th at 1:00pm & 7:00pm

January 2020 Town Hall Recap

These questions were posed by attendees....

New Mass Schedule, Collaboration with Saint Francis, Church acoustics, Gluten Free hosts, Catholic Quiz in Bulletin, Cardinal’s Abortion Letter, Attendance questions, Acceptance of Ministry changes, Convent and Garage, Timeliness of getting checks to drawings winners, School Stability, Lent plans, SMS Alumni, Naming a Deacon, Kenyan Priest coming, Christmas Pageant, Offertory is down, Lack of programs here vs. Saint Francis.

Offertory Counter Schedule

February 18/Team 3: Brenda Richardson, Colleen Dubuc, Mary Kay Gorman
February 24/Team 1: Dorothy Dwinnell, Marcia McGrail, Jeannine Yianopoulos, Dorothy Flanagan, Dorothy Aste

Looking for your 2019 Donation Info?

We appreciate your patience as you request year end contribution records. A process is now in place. Please call the office and leave a message for Fr. Chris. He will get the information and mail it to you.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends in March & April

Just as Mary and Joseph took Jesus to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, present your marriage to the Lord. Strengthen, renew and rekindle your marriage sacrament by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend on March 13-15 in Duxbury or April 18-19 in Brewster. For more information, please call Stephen & Michelle O’Leary at 800-710-9963 or www.mema.org.

101 Questions

Father Chris is offering a new class titled “101 Questions.” People often ask him questions and he has collected these into four classes, 1) The Mass & Liturgy 2) Sacraments and Sacramentals 3) Dogma, Doctrine & Tradition 4) History, Hierarchies and Hodgepodge. Each night we will cover 25 or so questions with answers ranging from a single word to more complex answers.

Come learn a little more about the faith in four, one hour sessions on Mondays at 1:00 PM or at 7:00 PM. Class dates are February 24th, March 2nd, 9th & 16th. Signup sheets are in the gathering space for each class.

Save the Date for Our Next School Bingo!

Our last Bingo fundraiser for Saint Michael School was so popular that we’re doing it again! Make sure to join the fun!

Sat., March 14, Doors Open 5pm, Bingo from 6-8pm
Admission Tickets $3 per person (available soon)
More playing Cards, More Raffles, 50/50 Raffle, Hot Dogs, Beverages, Plenty of Parking, Snacks & More!
Lowell Senior Center, 276 Broadway Street, Lowell

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