January 26, 2020

The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

SAINT MICHAEL PARISH
ONE PARISH. ONE SCHOOL. ONE FAITH COMMUNITY.

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

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 25th
7:00am: Jacqueline Hart, Prayers for Healing
4:00pm: Robert Grenier

Sunday, January 26th
7:00am: Mass
9:00am: William Bergeron
11:15am: Richard Langlois, Catholic Schools Week/English & Kenyan Joint Mass

Monday, January 27th
7:00am: Mass

Tuesday, January 28th
7:00am: Annette Charbonneau, Prayers for Healing

Wednesday, January 29th
7:00am: Mary B. Alves

Thursday, January 30th
7:00am: Raymond D. Stowell, Sr.

Friday, January 31st
7:00am: Friends of Saint Michael

Saturday, February 1st
7:00am: Gail F. Noonan
4:00pm: Marcel “Mike” Bellemare

Sunday, February 2nd
7:00am: John T. Inglis
9:00am: Mass
11:15am: Eileen M. Shea
12:30pm: Kenyan Mass

The “Lowe” Down
At the town hall meetings this week some questions came up that need some greater exposure. I have mentioned all of these before in a column, but as my mentor reminds me, “Communicate, communicate, communicate.”

- We have low gluten hosts available for those who need them. They are kept under refrigeration and are 0.02% gluten. With the suspension of the Precious Blood at Mass for the next two months or so, this may be a necessary option. You MUST go to the sacristy and ask the priest or sacristan for a low gluten host or they will not be consecrated and available at Mass. This is no trouble for anyone. We are happy to do this.

- A subcommittee of the Parish Council is looking at our Mass schedule. We have five Masses (including the Kenyan Mass) and everyone who attends on a weekend could fit into one Mass with room to spare. We are not looking at that drastic a change, but a new Mass schedule is coming. The Parish Council will be bringing forth a proposal in the near future. It is possible that “your” Mass may be moving to a new time. Please don’t let this make you give up your faith.

- We will be collaborating with St. Francis in Dracut in 4 years. This is NOT a merger. There will be one Pastor, hopefully a second priest assigned to the collaborative, two parishes, two finance councils and one parish pastoral council. Finances are mandated to be kept separate. Father Sean and I have had a couple informal conversations about this. Long before it actually happens, a joint committee will be put into place to consider how we might collaborate on programs and resources. There is nothing to fear here. It is just a method of dealing with the shortage of priests. The priests will decide for themselves which rectory they will reside in.

Fr. Chris

PARISH SUPPORT
For the weekend of January 11-12
The Offertory (first) Collection totaled $5,730*. Our weekly Offertory Goal is $9,000, thereby leaving us with a goal shortage of $3,270. The Second Collection was for the benefit of Saint Michael School. $1,427 was collected.

For the weekend of January 18-19
The Offertory (first) Collection totaled $4,847*. Our weekly Offertory Goal is $9,000, thereby leaving us with a goal shortage of $4,153.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.
*does not include online giving.

GIFT OF BREAD AND WINE
The offering for the Bread and Wine at all masses this weekend are for Richard Langlois. Please remember him in your prayers.

SAVE THE DATE FOR
ALTAR SERVER TRAINING
Tuesday, February 25, 4:00-5:00pm
Training will be held in the Church
For new altar servers, boys and girls, grade four and above.

SCHEDULE FOR WINTER TOWN HALLS
As you may remember, Fr. Chris held a series of Town Halls shortly after he arrived here in June. Now that it’s been six months, another round has been scheduled.
We hope you can attend one!

Tuesday, January 28 at 3:00pm & 6:30pm
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 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.

The Office of Liturgy has asked all parishes in the Archdiocese to suspend communion under both species (body and blood) for the immediate future. The flu season is peaking here in Massachusetts and there is concern about spreading the flu from a common cup. Most people would refrain from the Blood of Christ if they knew they were sick, but sometimes, we don't know that we have the flu until a few days later. We pray for those who are suffering from the flu and from all diseases. We trust that this temporary ban will be lifted by Holy Thursday when we celebrate the institution of the Eucharist.

Last week, we inserted the contents of a new Massachusetts abortion expansion act in the bulletin. Copies are still available in the pews and at the back of the church. One of the provisions of this bill allows an 18 year old to get an abortion in Massachusetts without parental consent. They cannot legally smoke. They cannot legally drink. But this bill gives them the right to get an abortion.

Does this make sense to anyone?

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) Exorcisms are a part of which sacrament? (a) Holy Orders (b) Confirmation (c) Baptism (d) Anointing of the Sick

2) To make remarks that are contrary to the truth in order to harm the reputation of another is to commit the sin of (a) calumny (b) detraction (c) acedia (d) libel

3) According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which of the following are the principal difficulties in the practice of prayer? (a) TV and the internet (b) distraction and dryness (c) busyness and laziness (d) stress and anxiety

4) In which Marian prayer are found the words “mourning and weeping in this vale of tears?” (a) Magnificat (b) Vale de Tearissimo (c) Memorare (d) Hail, Holy Queen

5) Which feast is celebrated on February 3? (a) St. Blaise (b) Ground Hog’s Day (c) the Presentation of the Lord (d) St. Turibius

3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

XAVIER, WHAT WOULD YOU TELL PEOPLE WHO WANT TO FOLLOW IN THE LORD’S FOOTSTEPS?

WELL, THE FIRST THING IS TO GET SOME REALLY GOOD SANDALS...
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.

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.

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

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. MICHAELS PARISH. To support the school, search & select SAINT MICHAEL SCHOOL.

REMEMBER….
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES
THIS SUNDAY
IN THE CHURCH HALL!
6:00pm—8:00pm

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!

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.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.

SAINT MARY’S PARISH

GREEN 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.

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 MYLLE (Saint Michael’s Youth Leadership) meeting on Feb. 2 at 4pm in the church hall or the social on Sunday, February 23rd! More details to come.
Father Chris lost a name!
Several months ago, a parishioner spoke to me after Mass and said that she could provide a dumpster to get rid of some items that we could no use for the Savers event. Unfortunately, I lost the name of the person who volunteered. Could you please give Fr. Chris call at the rectory? We have some materials that need to be disposed of in our garage.

OFFERTORY COUNTER SCHEDULE
Jan. 27/Team 3: Brenda Richardson, Colleen Dubuc, Mary Kay Gorman
February 3/Team 1: Dorothy Dwinell, Marcia McGrail, Jeannine Yianopoulos, Dorothy Flanagan, Dorothy Aste

ANSWERS TO “WHAT’S YOUR CATHOLIC IQ?”
1) (c) Minor exorcisms, prayers of deliverance from evil, are part of the Rite of Baptism.
2) (a) Calumny is a sin against the Eighth Commandment.
3) (b) The Catechism teaches that the remedies for these difficulties in prayer are faith, conversion, and vigilance of heart (no. 2754).
4) (d) The Hail, Holy Queen is also referred to as the Salve Regina.
5) (a) On the Feast of St. Blaise, Catholics receive a blessing of the throat.

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. 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.

LOOKING FOR THE BEST EDUCATION IN TECHNOLOGY FOR YOUR CHILD?
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. 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.
Saint Michael School Open House
Sunday, January 26th, 12:30 — 2:30pm

Tour our school, meet the teachers, speak with parents and students and learn all about what we affectionately call our “SMS Family.” Discover how we provide our students with the best possible learning experience in a strong academic, social and emotional foundation in a structured Catholic environment. If you cannot make it to our Open House, please call the school at 978-453-9511 for a tour.

21 Sixth St., Lowell, MA 01850 sms@saint-michael.com www.school.saintmichael.com

Saint Michael’s is proud to have the most advanced technology education among Catholic schools in Lowell, providing pertinent, up-to-date instruction and practical applications in computer literacy, LEGO Robotics, programming (including Raspberry Pi) and Chromebooks for all students in grades 2-8. The school’s latest addition to technology classes includes the new “SMS Studio” which is run by students, complete with a green screen. It’s our belief that years of computer literacy and application will help our students as they progress to high school and beyond.