

The Church of Saint Michael  
February 14, 2021  
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Please remember in your prayers those who have died.

Please remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Nicholas Rafferty, Beth Courter

**Weekly Memorial**  
Altar Bread & Wine:  
For All Deceased Parishioners

Readings for the week

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Sunday**

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Cor 10:31-11:1; Mk 1:40-45

**Monday**

Gn 4:1-15, 25; Mk 8:11-13

**Tuesday**

Gn 6:5-8, 7:1-5, 10; Mk 8:14-21

**Wednesday**

Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

**Thursday**

Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25

**Friday**

Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15

**Saturday**

Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday,  
February 15<sup>th</sup> - Presidents' Day

*No Confession on Monday, Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>*

Welcome Home Confessions  
During Lent  
Mondays 7-8pm

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, February 13, 2021

10am Carmela Susco

5pm Bernard F. & Helen Rogalski,  
Thanksgiving to Blessed Mother

Sunday, February 14, 2021

7am Special Intention

9:30am Ronald E. Costanzo,  
Domenic & Nunziata Tognio

11:30am AnnMarie & Jim Konyak, Edward Flannery III

1:30pm Special Intention

Monday, February 15, 2021

10am Sherry Lopez

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

10am Carmela Susco

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 Ash Wednesday

7am Rosemary DiRupo

10am Elwin & Mary Burd, John & Gloria Bauer

12:15pm Service

TBD Spanish Mass

Thursday, February 18, 2021

10am John Bauer

Friday, February 19, 2021

10am For All Parishioners

Saturday, February 20, 2021

10am Pasquale Leone

5pm Pat Buckley, Alexander Messier III,  
Thanksgiving to Our Lord

Sunday, February 21, 2021

7am Richie DiRenzo

9:30am Lloyd Duplex, Biaggio Vaia

11:30am Ronald Provost

1:30pm Special Intention

TITHING – GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING  
ST. MICHAEL'S HAS BEEN A TITHING PARISH  
SINCE 1988.

January 31, 2021.....	\$5,517.00
WeShare .....	\$1,495.50

One of my previous co-workers once told me that he was giving up drinking and smoking for Lent. Although it may seem like a huge sacrifice, the issue was that he neither drank nor smoked. In this “unique” year” where all of our familiar activities have been suspended, we have a rare opportunity to see Lent in a different light. Some people choose difficult things because they are difficult, it really has no religious meaning, but it looks or at least sounds good. On the other hand, some people do the absolute minimum so that it makes no difference in their lives at all, like giving up all these “hard” things that my friend promised. Then there are those among us that are “two-for’s.” We promise to give up something AND we will lose some weight as well. Not a bad idea, but penitential? Religious? Self-sacrificing?

Historically, the notion of Lent comes from the ancient tradition of becoming a Catholic in what we now call the R.C.I.A. Program. This period was called the season of “Purification or Enlightenment.” During this time, the soon to be Catholic, had to do some deep soul searching and ask themselves “What in my life has to change if I am honestly and truly going to be called a Christian?” And what is it I need to do in my own life so that it will be closer to that of Jesus’ life? So if giving up chocolate or smoking will not draw me closer to the Lord in my life, then the question remains: What will? In the Gospels, Jesus often spoke about the three pillars of our Lenten Season: 1) Prayer 2) Fasting 3) Almsgiving

In a year where we have sacrificed much during the pandemic, I would suggest that rather than take on the everything we should be very specific and choose one of these areas and do it well. But be very specific about what we will do and be intentional. So if you choose prayer; what one way will your relationship with the Lord be transformed by prayer? Novenas, rosaries and Stations of the Cross, are good things to do, but if this is all we do, does our relationship with the Lord change at all? It may be difficult to make the decision to do these things, but is that the end that we want to achieve? Maybe we could set aside some times just be quiet with the Lord. No beads or books, but just being quite before the Lord for a specific set time (e.g. 10 minutes each day).

If you chose fasting; remember that the Church asks you only to fast two specific days during Lent (Ash Wednesday and Good Friday). I am sure you have heard of the formula; only one meal that is larger than the other two. Again, the bottom line is not how “hard” this, but how does it draw us closer to the Lord Jesus. So what will you fast from this year? Of course, it does NOT have to be about food; it can be about T.V., the internet, social media or even complaining. Maybe it can be fasting from constantly being on or checking your phone all the time. Again, the goal is to take something out of your life that will purify your life to draw closer to the Lord.

Unlike the first two which is about me, this option is about how can I allow the Lord to purify my time in order to bless others. And this does NOT have to be all about money. Maybe you could make a list of forty people (one for each of the days of Lent) and you will have to do a kind deed, gesture, make a call or drop them a note during Lent. This time we put aside to bless others is also considered an almsgiving as well. Of course, you also might want to give money. It has to be specific, intentional and generous. Throwing a few extra quarters or dollar bills into the collection is not really a huge sacrifice (for most). Again, intentional, generous and specific. Giving the Lord “leftovers” can never be life transforming and that is what our Lenten journey should be all about. Remember that as Christians we are called to give from our substance not our excess.

Making a serious and conscious effort to make a sincere and genuine sacrifice is what we should be doing. So what are we going to do in the area of prayer, fasting or almsgiving this unusual year that will help us get closer to the Lord? What will we do this year that will genuinely purify or enlighten us? What will we do that is not about what we give up, how much we are hungry or how much we give away, but more importantly about how will any of the things we do, say or be during the next forty days draw us closer to the Lord, make us a better follower so that when Easter comes, we truly rejoice and be glad for not only will the world be changed by the Lord forever, but so shall we. God bless your journey of Great Lent and may the Lord give you His strength, His stamina and His grace.

### **Payment Protection Plan**

We applied for and received last week from the Federal Government our loan for the PPP in the amount of \$67,000. It will help us defray the costs of payroll and utilities. Hopefully, it will keep us afloat for some time.

### **Lenten Journey**

**Days of Abstinence:** No meat may be eaten on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays in Lent and Good Friday for all who are 14 – 60 years of age.

**Days of Fast:** A limit of one full meatless meal on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday (for all who are 18-60 years of age)

**Weekdays of Lent:** There is no obligation to fast. However, voluntary acts of self-denial are always a great way to be more involved during Lent.

**Acts of Devotion:** are encouraged on a voluntary basis. These may include spiritual study, Lenten Devotions, the Rosary, Stations of the cross and deed of mercy and kindness. To receive the greatest fruits of the Lenten season, is by participating in daily and Sunday Masses.

### **Faith Formation News**

#### **Calendar reminders:**

Next Confirmation I session: 2/21

Next Confirmation II session: 2/28

Next in person session for Gr. 1, 3-6: 2/21; for Gr. 7-8 2/22

Next in person session for Gr. 2 and Older

Sacramental Prep group: 2/28

#### **First Communion Parent meeting**

Sunday, Feb. 28, 6:30 pm, church hall

*~ Thank you for your flexibility when calendar dates and sessions must be changed and modified!*

### **YOUTH MINISTRY**

YM meetings Mondays at 7-8:30 p.m.

If you have questions, please email Nicole at [youth.ministry@stmichaelnetcong.org](mailto:youth.ministry@stmichaelnetcong.org)

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### **Tax Donation Information**

St. Michael Church will not be sending out 2020 tax statements this year.

We are trying to save on costs of paper, envelopes and stamps.

If you need a copy of your donations, please call 973-347-0032 or email [office.admin@stmichaelnetcong.org](mailto:office.admin@stmichaelnetcong.org) with your name, address and envelope number.

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### **Ash Wednesday Schedule**

February 17, 2021

7am Mass

10am Mass

12:15pm Service

(TBD) Spanish Mass

**Stations of the Cross**  
on Fridays during Lent at 7pm

**Stations of the Cross**  
on Fridays during Lent in Spanish 8pm

**Welcome Home Confessions**  
Mondays during Lent from 7-8pm

### **Knights of Columbus 40 Cans for Lent**

Please join the Knights of Columbus in the Forty Cans for Lent project. Once again, the Knights will collect canned goods and other nonperishable food items for our parish food pantry. It is a great corporal work of mercy to perform during Lent. The idea is to donate one item for each of the forty days of Lent as part of your Lenten sacrifice. Canned fruit, chili, stew, rice, toilet paper, ketchup, mayo, mustard, relish, pasta sauce. Cereal and soup are needed. Donations can be placed by the St. Anthony statue in the back of the church. Thank you.

### **Knights of Columbus**

Monthly In-Person Meetings resume second Tuesday of each month, 7:30pm

Msgr Trapasso Hall

Located on the church's lower level  
Video Conferencing options available.



## SEXTO DOMINGO EN TIEMPO ORDINARIO

### Primera Lectura: Levítico 13:1-2, 44-46

El Señor dijo a Moisés y a Aarón que si hay en la piel de una persona una erupción de lepra, deberá ser llevada a Aarón o a uno de los sacerdotes, y si es un caso de lepra, éste “vivirá apartado y su morada estará fuera del campamento.”

### Segunda Lectura: 1 Corintios 10:31—11:1

San Pablo instruye a los corintios a hacer todo por la gloria de Dios, procurar no ofender a otros y a ser imitadores de Cristo.

### Evangelio: San Marcos 1:40-45

Jesús tiene compasión de un leproso y lo cura de su enfermedad advirtiéndole no decirle nada a nadie, pero indicándole presentarse al sacerdote y entregar una ofrenda. Sin embargo, éste lo proclamó a todo el mundo, divulgando lo sucedido, de tal manera que Jesús ya no podía entrar públicamente en la ciudad.

Sexto Domingo en Tiempo Ordinario  
14 de febrero, 2021

“Se le acercó un leproso para pedirle ayuda y, cayendo de rodillas, le dijo: ‘Si quieres, puedes purificarme.’ Jesús, conmovido, extendió la mano y lo tocó, diciendo: ‘Lo quiero, queda purificado.’ ... la lepra desapareció y quedó purificado. Apenas se fue, empezó a proclamarlo a todo el mundo, divulgando lo sucedido, de tal manera que Jesús ya no podía entrar públicamente en ninguna ciudad.”

Esta semana comenzamos la Estación de Cuaresma. Para prepararme bien, debo darme cuenta de que yo también soy un leproso que necesita limpieza, sanación y fuerza espiritual.

Considere la pandemia por un momento, ha cumplido ya un año, ha afectado a millones y cobrado incontables vidas. La búsqueda de una cura, vacunas, el uso de

mascarillas, el distanciamiento, lavado de manos se ha convertido en una nueva práctica para todos. Sin embargo las cicatrices permanecen.

Nuestras vidas espirituales también sufren. ¿He notado la salud de mi alma y veo la necesidad de limpieza y renovación? Me pregunto si estoy listo a decirle al Señor hoy: ‘Estoy aquí, ¿cómo me encuentras?’ Esta es mi oportunidad de ser honesto conmigo mismo y con el Señor, a actuar, pedir perdón, comenzar un tiempo de oración, dar gracias al Señor por una buena confesión, a admitir mi necesidad de aprender la misericordia de Jesús.

El milagro del leproso, ‘Si quieres’, es mío hoy, y Jesús, que con la misma piedad mira nuestro mundo afligido por el coronavirus, desea ayudarnos.



## SEXTO DOMINGO EN TIEMPO ORDINARIO

### Domingo

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Cor 10:31-11:1; Mk 1:40-45

### Lunes

Gn 4:1-15, 25; Mk 8:11-13

### Martes

Gn 6:5-8, 7:1-5, 10; Mk 8:14-21

### Miércoles

Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

### Jueves

Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25

### Viernes

Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15

### Sábado

Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32