

The Church of Saint Michael
February 21, 2021
First Sunday of Lent



Please remember in your prayers those who have died: Agnes Murphy

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

First Sunday of Lent

Sunday

Gn 9:8-15; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

Monday

1 Pt 5:1-4; Mt 16:13-19

Tuesday

Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-13

Wednesday

Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32

Thursday

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12

Friday

Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

Saturday

Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48

Welcome Home Confessions
During Lent
Mondays 7-8pm

Stations of the Cross 7pm in English
8pm in Spanish

Mass Intentions for the Week

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

Monday, February 22, 2021

10am Biaggio Vaia

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

10am Dorothy Norovich

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

10am For All Parishioners

Thursday, February 25, 2021

10am Martha and Jorge Navarro

Friday, February 26, 2021

10am John Bauer

Saturday, February 27, 2021

10am Catalina Martinez

5pm Andrew Dedinsky, Joseph Pezzolla,
Lorne Corrigan

Sunday, February 28, 2021

7am Special Intention

9:30am Ronald E. Costanzao, Carol Fenton

11:30am Marge Sullivan

1:30pm Special Intention

TITHING – GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

**ST. MICHAEL'S HAS BEEN A TITHING PARISH
SINCE 1988.**

February 7, 2021 \$2,908.00

WeShare \$2,220.50

From Fr. Mike

Lent is the great time for people to come back to the Lord. Maybe you have not been to Mass in a long time; maybe you have not watched it virtually in a long time; maybe you have been watching, but find yourselves in a habitual sin; maybe you feel disconnected with the faith; that is why the Church at the beginning of Lent, says “Come back to me with weeping and fasting.” This is not only an outward sign but more importantly, an inward one as well! That is why the Prophet Joel tells us last Ash Wednesday, “Rend your hearts and not your garments.”

In addition to these things, He wants us to open our hearts, to “turn away and repent from sin and believe in the Gospel”. How do we do this? We use our bodies to focus our souls on God. Fasting is a very powerful way to get our minds off of pleasing our bodies and get our minds on our repenting from sin and focusing on God. Our bodies will quickly put us in a state of alertness, all day long we will be reminded that we are not feeding our bodies and hopefully it will allow us to focus more on God, a spiritual awareness of our need for God. It allows us to unite our souls with our bodies. This fast was done every single year for the Jews and continues today, which is called Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement). On this day, every single Jew is to deny themselves (Leviticus 16) from food, drink, bathing, anointing and even from marital relations all in order to completely devote themselves to prayer. So this is a very Jewish thing we do during Lent.

The Season of Lent is also a time of private prayer, private fasting and private alms giving. Ash Wednesday we heard from the Gospel of Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18: “Beware of practicing your piety before men...when you give alms..... when you pray..... when you fast.... what your Father sees in secret will reward you.” So we are not contradicting the words of Jesus, but by the mere fact we proclaim this very reading at the beginning of Lent is to remind us that we are entering into the Season of Lent when we should be practicing in secret as well. The Church chooses this Gospel because it reminds us to do these things in private, where no one sees us. Although Jesus tells us NOT to do these things in public, He does not tell us, NOT to do them.

Alms: “When” we give alms not “IF” we give alms (giving money to the poor, the needy or to the Church). Jesus expects us to be regular alms givers, but when we do, we should do so in secret! Prayer: Jesus does not say “if” but “when” you pray. He expects us to be regular pray-ers. Fasting: “When” we fast; He expects us to do this regularly. Fasting is a biblical practice both in the Old and New Testaments; to abstain from all food or food and drink until the evening. And when we you do this, we should keep it secret. The Church gives us this Gospel to tell us that Lent is not just about abstinence (giving up meat, milk products or something you like) for 40 days. But also to; increase our praying (purification), increase our fasting (repentance) and increase our almsgiving (sacrifice). We do this during Lent because Jesus did these very same things as He is undoing the temptations of Adam and Eve (pleasure, possessions and pride/vanity). Jesus calls us during the next 40 days to fight these same temptations.

I will be praying for you, please pray for me as well as we travel these days toward inward conversion and repentance.

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

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 deeds 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, 10:30 am-12 pm

First Communion Parent meeting

Sunday, Feb. 28, 6:30 pm OR Tues., March 2 at 6:30 pm, church hall

*Parent meeting in Spanish: Sat., March 6, 9:30 am, 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

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 with your name, address and envelope number.

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

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

**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.

PRIMER DOMINGO DE CUARESMA

Domingo

Gn 9:8-15; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

Lunes

1 Pt 5:1-4; Mt 16:13-19

Martes

Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15

Miércoles

Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32

Jueves

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12

Viernes

Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

Sábado

Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48



PRIMER DOMINGO DE CUARESMA

Primera Lectura: Génesis 9:8-15

Dios le prometió a Noé que nunca más devastaría el planeta entero con un diluvio. También le dijo a Noé que el símbolo de su promesa sería un arcoiris en el cielo.

Segunda Lectura: 1 Pedro 3:18-22

Esta carta de Pedro le recuerda a la gente que Cristo murió por nosotros para poder ser llevados a Dios. Hemos sido salvados por nuestro bautizo, no una limpieza física, sino una promesa de siempre tratar de obedecer a Dios.

Evangelio: San Marcos 1:12-15

Marcos brevemente cuenta de cuando Jesús estuvo en el desierto, donde fué puesto a prueba por Satanás. No cedió a la tentación, sino reapareció en Galilea para proclamar las buenas nuevas.

Primer Domingo de Cuaresma

21 de febrero, 2021

“Cristo murió una vez por nuestros pecados –siendo justo, padeció por la injusticia– para llevarnos a Dios. Entregado a la muerte en su carne, fue vivificado en el Espíritu... no consiste en la supresión de una mancha corporal, sino que es el compromiso con Dios de una conciencia pura...”

Estamos familiarizados con San Pedro: escogido por Jesús, líder de los apóstoles, a veces hablando fuera de turno, humano, arrepentido, tal como nosotros mismos. Sin embargo ¿estamos familiarizados con las dos cartas que escribió y que son parte de la biblia? Algunos dicen que son sus enseñanzas para los nuevos cristianos, como la homilía que escuchamos en misa.

Simple pero bellamente nos recuerda hoy que el sufrimiento y muerte de Jesús fueron por mí, el pecador, el injusto.

