

# Fifth Sunday of Lent

“God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy.”

POPE FRANCIS



Giving - Fasting - Praying  
Repenting - Forgiving

**St. Michael  
Netcong, New Jersey**

The Church of Saint Michael  
April 3, 2022  
Fifth Sunday of Lent



Please remember in your prayers those who have died.

Please remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: May Lee, Special Intention, Lucy Pintos, Karlene Yaple, Mary Lou Flemming, Joseph Conklin

Weekly Memorial

Altar Bread & Wine: Donald LaBell Sr.

Readings for the week

Fifth Sunday of Lent

**Sunday**

Is 43:16-21; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11

**Monday**

Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62; Jn 8:12-20

**Tuesday**

Nm 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30

**Wednesday**

Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Jn 8:31-42

**Thursday**

Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59

**Friday**

Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42

**Saturday**

Ez 37:21-28; Jn 11:45-56

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, April 2, 2022

10am Theresa Donnarumma

5pm Paul D'Olivo, Chet Togno

Sunday, April 3, 2022

7am Jerry Hartman

9:30am Ronald E. Costanzo, Sabato &  
Angela Gugliemini & Antoinette Gugliemini

11:30am Elizabeth Murphy, Chet Togno

1:30pm Special Intention

Monday, April 4, 2022

10am Anna Gorska

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

10am John Bauer

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

10am Elizabeth Murphy

Thursday, April 7, 2022

10am Anne T. Keenan

Friday, April 8, 2022

10am Pauline Milone, Denise Cuomo

Saturday, April 9, 2022

10am Milane Young

5pm Alfred & Carmella Esposito, Rea Family,  
Louis Castaldi

Sunday, April 10, 2022

7am Richie DiRenzo

9:30am Santina & Vincenzo Fratangelo,  
Antoinette Gugliemini

11:30am Vincent Tardive

1:30pm Special Intention

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

Sunday, March 27, 2022 ..... \$5,144.00

WeShare ..... \$1,577.50

## From Fr. Mike

Preparing for Easter: Easter is not only a date and time on our calendars each year, but more importantly, it is an event. An event that should be celebrated in the life of every Christian, especially us Catholics. At Easter, something happens which is called the "Paschal Mystery." However, in order to celebrate this mystery, this event, we need to be prepared in body, mind and spirit. Hopefully, this week and during Holy Week will give you food for thought in order to help you celebrate this special event in your lives.

The term "Paschal Mystery" is not a new term that has been used only since the Second Vatican Council, but it was a term that was used frequently by the early Church Fathers and was easily seen in the Opening Prayer and Prayer after Communion of the Mass. This Scriptural and historical outlook on our faith was soon replaced by the systematic and juridical (based on the law) philosophies of the scholastic theologians (e.g. Anselm of Canterbury, Peter Abelard, Albertus Magnus, Duns Scotus, Saint Thomas Aquinas, etc.). These philosophies and theologies soon made their way into catechisms, sermons, popular devotions and ways of thinking, that many people grew up with in the 50's and 60's. It is the view that sees our redemption in the form of a "payment" of a debt (reparation) or a pardon given to us, because Christ took upon Himself the sufferings which we really deserved for our sins. Of course, these ideas found many Scriptural passages that supported this theology. However, the theology and philosophy of the early Church Fathers were a more radical approach to our salvation, which sees our salvation as transformation. It was the intention of the Second Vatican Council that this former notion of transformation be highlighted. Therefore, in order to understand more fully what this transformation (the Paschal Mystery) means, we have to look more closely into the meaning of these words.

First, let us look at the word "mystery." Usually, we understand this word to mean something that is beyond our understanding which God has revealed to us. But mystery also means "an action done by God in carrying out some plan" (e.g. the mysteries of the Rosaries, which refer to some action of Christ's life which we contemplate while praying ten "Hail Mary's," one "Our Father" and a "Glory Be"). Of course, these two definitions are not distinct from each other, but rather, work hand in hand.

The main point about a mystery, according to the Scriptures, the Church Fathers and the Vatican Council, is that it has three qualities: 1.) It is something that is done (an event). 2.) It is something that is accomplished by God Himself. 3.) It is something done by God for our salvation.

The second word that needs to be looked at as "Paschal." The original Passover was a historic event when the Angel of the Lord passed over the land of Egypt to inflict death on the first-born of the Egyptians in order to free the Israelites from their slavery (Exodus 12:13ff). This event allowed the Israelites to pass over the Red Sea and go to Mount Sinai where God made a covenant with them, saying "I will be your God and you will be my people" (Exodus 6:7). For the Israelites, this was a change in their status, from being an enslaved people with no laws, no rights, no privileges, only looking forward to death, to becoming a free people, a chosen people, looking forward to life in the Promised Land. They passed over from slavery to freedom, from death to life. This event was the most marvelous and important of all the wonderful things that God had done for His people in the Old Testament. However, this was only a prelude to the work of Christ in His redemption of all people.

When Christ suffered, died, rose from the dead and ascended to His Heavenly Father, this too was a Passover, similar to what the Israelites experienced. For Christ also underwent a change in status; once assuming the nature of a fallen creature, He now became a new man, glorious and immortal. He has passed over from the state of slavery to the state of freedom, from death to the newness of life. This transition (or transformation) is the Pasch or the Passover of Christ. Therefore, it is correctly called the "Paschal Mystery" because it was something done by God, to achieve our salvation and is of its nature, a Passover.

And just as it was a Passover for Christ, so it can be for us as well. Our salvation is our transformation from that which enslaves us to sin to freedom. This becomes our paschal event in our lives. Because of the sin of our first parents, our lives are now subject to death. We all possess a life that will one day die out, by our very living, our lives are expended. It is in the words of Saint Augustine, life is "A prolonged process of dying." We all want an immortal life, but until our present life is transformed, this will never happen. And the fact is that no mortal man (or woman) can change this type of life which we presently possess. However, when God becomes a man in the person of

Jesus Christ, this extraordinary man is born with divine powers. This man did transform the kind of life that we possess. He took it upon Himself, this imperfect life, mortal and subject to death, and by his own suffering and death destroyed death and His Resurrection, restored our lives. For He did not rise to a mere continuation of his former life (like Lazarus did when He raised him from the dead) but to a new kind of life, not subject to suffering or death. He transformed human life by passing from one state to another, from death to life; this Passover becomes our Paschal Mystery.



## YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Ministry meetings are Mondays at 7pm. If you have any questions, please email me at [youth.ministry@stmichaelnetcong.org](mailto:youth.ministry@stmichaelnetcong.org)  
-Nicole

### Sweet Success Fundraiser

Please enjoy and fill up the M&M tubes with quarters. Drop off in our YM container located in the back of church by April 10<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

## FAITH FORMATION

### **Faith Formation for Levels K-7**

Family Session this week: for families with children in grades K-7. Families attend 9:30 am Mass and a brief teaching after mass before joining fellow parishioners in the church hall for Coffee Sunday refreshments.

### **Middle School Confirmation:**

- Class and Mass today starting at 10:15 in the gym
- Saint Reports: due in Faith Formation office 3/31.

### **ALL Confirmation (Gr. 8, 9,10 and NET):**

- Service forms for service completed Jan., Feb. and March of 2022 is DUE IN FAITH FORMATION OFFICE 3/31
- Remember, 1 act of service per month (3/quarter) should be listed, signed off and evaluated by answering the questions on the front and back.
- EVERY form should have at least 3 items listed!!
- Signed Mass sheets for March are also due

### **For ALL teens/young people in Confirmation Prep (Confirmation II, Middle School Confirmation and NET group)**



*Reminder:* you are expected to attend the Triduum masses/services on Holy Thursday (4/14 mass at 7 pm), Good Friday (4/15 service at 3 pm) and any Easter Mass (Vigil on Saturday 4/16 at 7:30 pm OR regular Sunday Mass schedule on 4/17). Please bring your mass sheets and have them signed by Father, a Deacon or Mrs. Rogalo.

## Forty Cans for Lent

Please help the Knights of Columbus in our annual **Forty Cans for Lent** project. We are collecting 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. Donations can be placed by the St. Anthony statue in the back of the church.  
Thank you for your generosity.

## 40 Days for Life

March 2 to April 10

You can protect mothers and children by joining in this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion.

Vigil Location is outside

196 Speedwell Ave., Morristown, NJ

7am to 7pm daily

Contact Frances M. Spilman 973-627-1654 or email [44lifeus@gmail.com](mailto:44lifeus@gmail.com)

Learn more... get involved and sign up for prayer times by visiting our campaign at this web address:

<https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/>

## Stations of the Cross

Fridays during Lent

7pm in English and 8pm in Spanish

## FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry is in need of the following items: **rice, toilet tissue, canned fruit, jelly and toothbrushes.** As always, we thank you for your generosity and support..

## QUINTO DOMINGO DE CUARESMA

### Primer Lectura: Isaías 43:16-21

Dios dice que no hay que recordar el pasado sino enfocarse en las cosas que planea hacer. También asegura que ayudará a su pueblo escogido cuando lo necesiten.

### Segunda Lectura: Filipenses 3:8-14

Pablo dice que el conocimiento de Jesús es más importante que el de la Ley Antigua. Desea compartir el poder de la resurrección de Jesús, y habla de concentrarse en llegar a la meta y ganar el premio de la salvación.

### Evangelio: San Juan 8:1-11

Jesús enseña a perdonar el pecado. En la Ley Antigua, mujeres acusadas de adulterio eran lapidadas. Los fariseos lo pusieron a prueba y le llevaron a una mujer acusada de adulterio, y le preguntaron qué hacer. Jesús les dijo que aquel sin pecado le tirara la primera piedra. Los ancianos se fueron. Jesús no condenó a la mujer pero le advirtió no volver a pecar.



## Quinto Domingo de Cuaresma

3 de abril de 2022

“Más aún, todo me parece una desventaja comparado con el inapreciable conocimiento de Cristo Jesús, mi Señor. Por él he sacrificado todas las cosas, a las que considero como desperdicio, con tal de ganar a Cristo ... Por la fe podré conocerlo a él, conocer el poder de su resurrección ...”

A menudo escuchamos la expresión ‘una situación de ganar o perder’. Al acercarnos a los días que se vienen, cambiamos esta ecuación, ya que el misterio

pascual es para nosotros una realidad de ganar o ganar. El sufrimiento y muerte de Jesús lleva a Su resurrección, y gana una nueva vida para nosotros. Cuán fácil es para nosotros olvidar que la pasión y muerte de Jesús, no fue sólo Su esfuerzo, sino que ocurrió por nosotros, al leer y reflexionar sobre las palabras de San Pablo hoy.

Hoy Jesús se agacha, escribe en la arena. Ya que nadie tira la primera piedra sino que se van, ojalá que perdonemos a otros y escuchemos lo que Jesús nos dice: “Tampoco yo te condeno, ve y no peques más.” Antes de la Semana Santa, vaya a confesarse. Esa es nuestra situación de ganar o ganar.



## QUINTO DOMINGO DE CUARESMA

### Domingo

Is 43:16-21; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11

### Lunes

Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62; Jn 8:12-20

### Martes

Nm 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30

### Miércoles

Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Jn 8:31-42

### Jueves

Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59

### Viernes

Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42

### Sábado

Ez 37:21-28; Jn 11:45-56

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