

FEBRUARY 19, 2023



SAINT MICHAEL

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

4 CHURCH STREET • NETCONG, NJ 07857

TEAM POSITIVE

Fr. Michael Lee

Pastor

fr.mike@stmichaelnetcong.org

Annemarie Bias

Office Administrator

office.admin@stmichaelnetcong.org

Deborah Rogalo

Director of Religious Education

faith.formation@stmichaelnetcong.org

Deacon Richard Bias

deacon.rich@stmichaelnetcong.org

Deacon John Meyer

deacon.john@stmichaelnetcong.org

Deacon Russ Raffay

deacon.russ@stmichaelnetcong.org

Betty Pinsonault

Evangelization Director

evangelization@stmichaelnetcong.org

Jodi Suralik

PGC Coordinator

faithformation.office@stmichaelnetcong.org

Nicole Bias

Youth Minister

youth.ministry@stmichaelnetcong.org

Catharine Sabo

Office Assistant

office.assistant@stmichaelnetcong.org



SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 7:00, 9:30, 11:30 am *(in English)*

Misa en Español todos los Domingos: 1:30 pm

WEEKDAYS

Weekdays: 10:00 am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

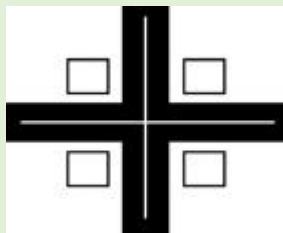
Saturday: 4:00 - 4:30 pm

Phone: 973-347-0032

Website: www.stmichaelnetcong.org

Welcome to our Church

The Church of Saint Michael
February 19, 2023
The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



Please remember in your prayers those who have died: George Trapp, Chet Verdi Sr.

Please remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: May Lee, Special Intention, Lucy Pintos, Karlene Yapple, Joseph Conklin, Marysia Hancock, Bev Couter, Kathy Conklin, Charlie Raffay, Beth Couter, Special Intention, Carmen Pina, Joseph Sabatini Sr.

Weekly Memorial
 Altar Bread & Wine: Mary Brodo

Readings for the week

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday

Lv 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48

Monday

Sir 1:1-10; Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday

Sir 2:1-11; Mk 9:30-37

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

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, February 18, 2023

10am Jennifer & Rich Szabo

5pm John Bauer, Edward Kern

Sunday, February 19, 2023

7am Richie DiRenzo

9:30am Special Intention

11:30am Chet Verdi Sr.

1:30pm Intention of Sebastian Navarrete,
 Intention of Carmen Pina

Monday, February 20, 2023

10am Jean Carney McKernan, Pasquale Leone

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

10am Intention of Margaret Armeno

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 Ash Wednesday

7am For All Deceased Parishioners

10am Terry Castaldi

12:15pm Service

7pm John Bauer

8:15pm Special Intention

Thursday, February 23, 2023

10am Ronald G. Provost

Friday, February 24, 2023

10am Charles Ross

Saturday, February 25, 2023

10am Special Intention

5pm Francie Ross, Chuck Ross

Sunday, February 26, 2023

7am Jerry Hartman, Louis & Alice Esposito

9:30am Ronald E. Costanzo

11:30am Chester Verdi Sr., Andrew R. Dedinsky

1:30pm Special Intention

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

Sunday, February 12, 2023 \$5,555.00

WeShare \$1,176.50

The parish office is closed on Monday, Feb. 20th

From Fr. Mike

There was a friend of mine who once told me that he was giving up smoking, drinking and gambling for Lent and just to make it more dramatic, he said "I am going to add no chocolate as well." At first, this seems like quite the sacrifice, but the truth is that my dear friend neither smokes, drinks, gambles nor eats chocolates. Things are not always as they appear to be.

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? I question this because I am partially in this mode of thought this year as part of a weight loss challenge.

Historically, the notion of Lent comes from the ancient tradition of becoming a Catholic in what we now call the O.C.I.A. Program (recently renamed last year – used to be R.C.I.A.) 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? 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

I would suggest that rather than take on the entire "ball of wax" 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.

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 time just be quiet with the Lord. No beads, books, breviary or binders (this time) 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? It does NOT have to be about food; it can be about the internet, gossip, use of profanity, complaining etc. 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.

And the final option is almsgiving. 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. You could volunteer in the many ministries we have here at Saint Michael Church. 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. Again, there are so many different ministries here at Saint Michael Church that could always use your donation to help them continue in their ministry. And again, it has to be specific, intentional and generous.

Throwing a few extra quarters or dollar bills into the collection or to the Food Pantry 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 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.

Lenten Journey

Days of Abstinence: No meat may be eaten on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays in Lent and Good Friday (*for all those who are 14 years or older*).

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

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.

Easter Duty Obligation: Every Catholic must receive Holy Communion and go to confession from the First Sunday in Lent through Trinity Sunday.

Acts of Devotion: are encouraged. These may include spiritual study, Lenten Devotions, the Rosary, Stations of the Cross and deeds of mercy and kindness. Of course, the greatest prayer and to receive the greatest fruits of the Lenten season is by our participation in daily and Sunday Masses.

Eucharistic Fast: You should fast one hour from foods and liquids. (*Water and medicine are exceptions to this fast*).

FAITH FORMATION

Calendar Reminders:

- NO sessions this week for any Level.
- Sessions resume week of 2/26 for Levels 1-6, Confirmation I and II and NET

Confirmation I, II and NET: signed Mass sheets are due at the end of every month!

Family Session for March

(Levels K-6 and Confirmation I)

Our Family Session for March will be a participation in Stations of the Cross on *Friday, March 10 at 7 pm in the Church.*

- Stations take about 35-45 minutes. All family members are welcome.
- Stations will be led by the Confirmation I group.

There will be no after-Mass presentation on March 5 and no class. Stations of the Cross on 3/10 will take the place of the presentation. Please attend any Mass weekend of March 5. All are invited to Coffee Sunday after Mass.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Ministry meetings are on Mondays at 7:00pm in the Youth Ministry room.

No YM meeting on Feb. 20th

If you would like to join or if you have any questions, please email me at

youth.ministry@stmichaelnetcong.org

-Nicole

Parish Appreciation Dinner

Tuesday, February 21st

Doors open at 6:30pm

In Msgr. Trapasso Hall

Please bring your own beverages

Please call the office or email to sign up

973-347-0032 or

office.admin@stmichaelnetcong.org

RSVP By February 14th.

Welcome Home to Healing
Confessions on Mondays from 7-8:30pm
During Lent

No Greater Love ~ Lenten Program
Begins week of February 27th

Ascension Press

Filmed on location in the Holy Land, No Greater Love is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us. Best-selling author Edward Sri guides you through the last hours of Christ's life, from the garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary. Every step of the way, Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ's suffering and death.

Session 1: The prayer of the agony: Jesus in Gethsemane

Session 2: Are you the Christ? Jesus arrest and Trial by the Sanhedrin.

Session 3: The trial of Pilate. Jesus is condemned to death.

Session 4: The death of the Messiah: Jesus carries the cross is crucified and dies.

Session 5: The 7 last words: Jesus the Teacher of Calvary

Bonus DVD: The Resurrection

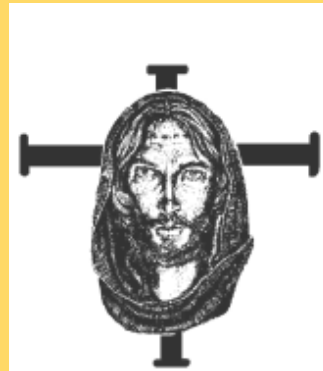
Please email Betty to register –
epinsonault@gmail.com or call 973-448-8847.

Lenten Parish Mission 2023

All are welcome to attend a three night Parish Mission, March 14, 15 & 16 starting at 7:00PM in the Church. On the first two nights there will be a talk, Exposition and Benediction.

On the third night there will be a talk and a reconciliation service. This is a wonderful opportunity for reflection and spiritual renewal.

The Way of the Cross
A Franciscan Mystery Play
On Friday, March 3rd, at 8pm
Saint Michael Church



The Franciscan Mystery Players will present their moving version of "The Way of the Cross" in the church. Written by Franciscan Father Francis Pompei, the Mystery Play is not a "play" in the common sense, but is in fact a prayerful experience that uses special lighting, a stirring soundtrack, pantomime actions and inspirational narration to portray the Stations of the Cross in a manner that invites each viewer to contemplate the meaning of the Passion, and how it relates to their life today. The group is comprised of 15 teens and 10 adult advisors from several parishes in the Paterson Diocese. Adults and teens are encouraged to attend this special Lenten experience. We suggest you arrive 10 minutes early.

FORTY CANS FOR LENT

Please join the Knights of Columbus in the Forty Cans for Lent project. During Lent the Knights collect canned goods and other nonperishable food items for our parish food pantry. It's 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 of Padua statue in the back of the church.

This pantry now needs shopping bags to distribute food to the people it serves. The Knights are selling bags for one dollar. Please purchase a bag after Mass and return it to church next with your donation. Thank you.

Tax Donation Information

St. Michael Church will not be sending out 2022 tax statements.

If you need a copy of your donations, please email office.admin@stmichaelnetcong.org with your name, address and envelope number.

Please register for envelopes or WeShare if you would like credit for tax purposes.

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