

# *Second*

SUNDAY OF

# LENT

**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

**St. Michael  
Netcong, New Jersey**



**The Church of Saint Michael**  
**March 5, 2023**  
**The Second Sunday of Lent**



Please remember in your prayers those who have died: Rose DeSantis

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

**Weekly Memorial**

Altar Bread & Wine: Grace Costanzo  
 Sanctuary Lamp: Andrew Weaver

**Readings for the week**

**Second Sunday of Lent**

**Sunday**

Gn 12:1-4a; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

**Monday**

Dn 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38

**Tuesday**

Is 1:10, 16-20; Mt 23:1-12

**Wednesday**

Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28

**Thursday**

Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31

**Friday**

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a;

Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

**Saturday**

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Saturday, March 4, 2023**

10am George Trapp

5pm Joyce Benvenuto, Pat Buckley

**Sunday, March 5, 2023**

7am John Delahunt

9:30am Anthony DiBiase, Chet Verdi

11:30am Vincent Carlesi Sr.

1:30pm Special Intention

**Monday, March 6, 2023**

10am Chet Verdi

**Tuesday, March 7, 2023**

10am George Trapp

**Wednesday, March 8, 2023**

10am Chet Verdi

**Thursday, March 9, 2023**

10am George Trapp

**Friday, March 10, 2023**

10am Rose DeSantis

**Saturday, March 11, 2023**

10am Rose DeSantis

5pm Joseph Dulio, George J. Trapp

**Sunday, March 12, 2023**

7am Kay DeVito

9:30am Ronald E. Costanzo, Kimberlyn Bertolino

11:30am Chet Verdi

1:30pm Special Intention

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

Sunday, February 26, 2023 \$6,083.00

Ash Wednesday, 2/22/23 \$2,726.00

WeShare \$1,820.50

WeShare Ash Wednesday \$50.00

### From Fr. Mike

Continuing on from last week, a little more on the “Dark Night of the Senses.”

The first way that the Dark Night of the Senses becomes evident is that our relationship with God begins to change. In the beginning of the spiritual life, it is common that people experience prayer as easy and consoling. We feel gratified and loved by God. But when God begins to lead us in a deeper relationship with Himself, the former way of praying no longer satisfies. It feels like the Lord withdraws that consolation when we pray or in our relationships with one another. If we liked serving others, maybe that begins to dry up and becomes a drudgery. It seems like we are going backwards, when in fact we are moving forward in a way we don't realize. The important thing here is to discern that this is an action of God and that despite the lack of consolation or satisfaction in prayer, there remains a deep desire to love and serve God.

The reason that God takes us to this new level is to teach us to love the God of consolations, and not simply the consolations of God. If our faith relies simply on the consolations of God we will never move beyond spiritual childhood.

On the other hand, someone might feel the absence of God in their life, and think they are experiencing the Dark Night (not the Dark Night of the Soul which we will get to later), when in fact it is not the Dark Night at all, but rather it is the experience of guilt and shame. The feeling of desolation might be the result of a life (or a part of life) which is contrary to where God is leading.

The Dark Night begins to shatter the illusions we have about ourselves. We realize that we are not as loving or holy as we thought we were. This is an action of God. This process is an experience of being enlightened to those areas in our life where we are most wounded. All that is broken, our fears, repressed angers, painful past memories, the Holy Spirit enlightens us to the deeper hurts and sinful patterns of our life. It is like God takes a powerful flashlight into our spiritual basement and reveals to us the dirt and cobwebs. God may permit temptations to smack the person under trial—temptations to lust, scrupulosity, self-doubt, and indecision.

The purpose of the Dark Night is to heal and restore our capacity to love, which were lost through Original Sin, Personal sin, and wounds received throughout our lifetime. The Dark Night is not just done once, but is rather a process which takes place throughout our lifetime, through experiences which stretch us and open us to receive God's grace and love in our lives.

There is an active purification which happens within us. It is active insofar as we cooperate with God's grace to bring about transformation in our lives. There are some roots of sinful attachment in our souls which cannot simply be removed by living our regular lives of faith. In order to work more deeply to remove these roots, the Lord works in us what is called a passive purification. At these times all we can do is to keep our eyes radically fixed on Jesus and to surrender to Him in total Faith, Hope, and Love.

The challenge is to let God carry us. Saint John of the Cross calls this a “*denudation*”, an emptying of oneself, a poverty of spirit. Only when we have become emptied can we be ready to be filled with God's grace and healing.

God's love enlightens us. All has to be brought forward to be seen and felt so that we can give this to God and be healed. The more we let Him do this work in us and trust that God loves us no matter who we are and what we've done, and we continue to pray and persevere, and continue to share our heart with trusted others, and to receive the Sacraments, God will heal us of these wounds. This implies that we need a spiritual director or confessor.

This is the contemplative experience. As we allow Jesus to come into those deepest dimensions of our soul and to touch them, we come to know that God loves us as we are and not as we think we ought to be.

As we move from the old person to become the new person we look toward the image of what Saint John of the Cross gives us of a wet log placed into a fire:

1. “Before the divine fire is introduced into the substance of the soul and united with it through perfect and complete purgation and purity, its flame, which is the Holy Spirit,

wounds the soul by destroying and consuming the imperfections of its bad habits. And this is the work of the Holy Spirit, in which he disposes it for divine union and transformation in God through love.”

2. “The very fire of love that afterword is united with the soul, glorifying it, is what previously assailed it by purging it, just as the fire that penetrates a log of wood is the same that first makes an assault on the wood, wounding it with the flame, drying it out, and stripping it of its unsightly qualities until it is so disposed that it can be penetrated and transformed into the fire.”
3. “The will does not experience the savor of the flame because it does not feel this flame within itself; it only feels what it does have within itself—its own misery.” “This flame previously oppressed the soul in an indescribable way, since contraries were battling contraries: God, who is all perfect, against all the imperfections of the soul. God does this so, by transforming the soul into himself, he might soften, pacify, and illumine it, as does fire when it penetrates the log of wood.”

Thus begins the purification of the outer levels of the soul.

We will continue next week with the “Illuminative Stage.”

### Adoration Chapel

If you’re looking for something to “give” — not “give up” for Lent, consider giving an hour of peace to yourself by signing up for an adoration hour. We have the following hours in need:

Monday - 2:00 p.m. soon to be an open hour  
Monday - 3:00 p.m. Partner

Of course, any hour can be taken. Contact:  
Andrea 201-874-8769; Marie 732-885-7972



### YOUTH MINISTRY

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

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

youth.ministry@stmichaelnetcong.org

-Nicole

### FAITH FORMATION

#### IMPORTANT: Family Session for March

(Levels K-6 and Confirmation I)

Our Family Session for March will be participation in Stations of the Cross on *Friday, March 10 at 7 pm in the Church.* (the prayer service is about 35-40 min.)

- There will be *no after-Mass presentation on March 5 and no class* for Levels 1-6 and Confirmation I and II. 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.
- All family members are welcome.
- Stations will be led by the Confirmation I group.

#### **First Communion Parent meeting For parents of children in Level 2 and OSPRI AND II**

Meeting in English: Tues, 3/7, 6:30 pm in Church Hall  
Meeting in Spanish: Thurs., 3/9, 6:45 pm in Church Hall  
Parents are required to attend. Children do not attend.

#### **First Communion Retreat: For children in Level 2, OSPRI and II**

Sat., 3/11, 9:30 am-12 pm in the Church hall. Parents drop off children by 9:15 am. Parents return for a parent session at 10:30 am (location to be announced).

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

#### Stations of the Cross

Fridays during Lent

7pm in English

8pm in Spanish

## Come Pray the Rosary

Monday through Saturday  
At 9:30am in Church  
Before the 10am Mass  
Join us for 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.

Please email Betty to register –

[epinsonault@gmail.com](mailto:epinsonault@gmail.com) or call 973-448-8847.

## FORTY CANS FOR LENT

Please help 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 week, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, pasta sauce and canned fruit are especially needed. Thank you.

## 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.



### SEGUNDO DOMINGO DE CUARESMA

**Domingo**

Gn 12:1-4a; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

**Lunes**

Dn 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38

**Martes**

Is 1:10, 16-20; Mt 23:1-12

**Miércoles**

Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28

**Jueves**

Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31

**Viernes**

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a;

Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

**Sábado**

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32



Segundo Domingo de Cuaresma

5 de marzo de 2023

“Comparte conmigo los sufrimientos que es necesario padecer por el Evangelio, animado con la fortaleza de Dios. El nos salvó y nos eligió con su santo llamado, no por nuestras obras, sino por su propia iniciativa y por la gracia que nos concedió en Cristo Jesús, desde toda la eternidad.”

Nos unimos a los tres apóstoles escogidos por Jesús en la montaña, cuando Jesús se mostró a sí mismo. Con ellos tres, nosotros también fijamos la mirada únicamente en Jesús. Nuestra cuaresma este año nos llama a la misma vida santa.

El Papa Francisco en su encíclica “Regocíjense y Alégrense” nos ofrece el camino, el menú, el mapa, en respuesta al llamado a la santidad. Para nosotros, esto es para lo que estamos llamados a vivir. El modelo que el Santo Padre nos ofrece es vivir las bienaventuranzas. Durante esta segunda semana de Cuaresma relea San Mateo 5, rece sobre ello y póngalo en práctica.

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