

**The Church of Saint Michael**  
**May 28, 2023**  
**Pentecost Sunday**



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 Yapple, Joseph Conklin, Marysia Hancock, Bev Couter, Kathy Conklin, Special Intention, Carmen Pina, Paula DiElsi, Avila De La Rama, Gail Tardive, Roseann Lehmann, Louis DiBernard

**Weekly Memorial**

Altar Bread & Wine is in memory of:  
**Martin C. Koert, Sr.**

**Readings for the week**

**Pentecost Sunday**

**Sunday**

Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39 or, for the extended Vigil: Gn 11:1-9; Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b; Ez 37:1-14; Jl 3:1-5; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39

Day: Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

**Monday**

Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14; Jn 19:25-34

**Tuesday**

Sir 35:1-12; Mk 10:28-31

**Wednesday**

Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16; Lk 1:39-56

**Thursday**

Sir 42:15-25; Mk 10:46-52

**First Friday**

Sir 44:1, 9-13; Mk 11:11-26

**First Saturday**

Sir 51:12cd-20; Mk 11:27-33

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Saturday, May 27, 2023**

10am Special Intention

5pm Josephine & Emelio Rea,  
 William T. Thompson, Jr.

**Sunday, May 28, 2023**

7am Sam Rosa

9:30am Nina Skrypak

11:30am Special Intention

1:30pm Alma Hugo Parra

**Monday, May 29, 2023 Memorial Day**

10am Special Intention

**Tuesday, May 30, 2023**

10am Jorge Medranda

**Wednesday, May 31, 2023**

10am Salvatore Romano

**Thursday, June 1, 2023**

10am Richard Fletcher

**Friday, June 2, 2023**

10am Martin C. Koert, Sr.

**Saturday, June 3, 2023**

10am Mary Brodo

5pm Alfred & Carmella Esposito, Pat Buckley

**Sunday, June 4, 2023**

7am For All Deceased Parishioners

9:30am Ronald E. Costanzo

11:30am Anthony Christopher Ciccone

1:30pm Special Intention

**TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING - SAINT MICHAEL PARISH HAS BEEN TITHING SINCE 1988.**

Sunday, May 21, 2023

\$5,434.48

WeShare

\$2,213.00

*Parish Office Closed on Memorial Day*

## From Fr. Mike

Bishop Robert Emmet Barron, who is the bishop of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, has continuously preached, spoken and written that there is a “Reasonable hope that all (men) are saved” and that “We do not know if anyone is actually in hell.” Let us examine what Holy Scriptures and the Lord Himself has to say: In the Book of Revelation we read: *“And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds”* (Revelation 20:12).

And in the words of Jesus Himself: *“And someone said to Him, ‘Lord, are there just a few who are being saved?’ And He said to them, Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.’ Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, ‘Lord, open up to us!’ then He will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know where you are from.’ ‘Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets’; and He will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you are from; depart from me all you evildoers. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being thrown out.’ And they will come from East and West and from North and South, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last.”* (Luke 13:23-30).

In modern day thinking, most people (bishops, priests and deacons) believe that if you are “good person” and not a serial killer or rapist, you will get into heaven. But, what does Jesus actually have to say about this? In Matthew 7:13-14 Jesus says: *“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”* Maybe because people no longer believe, that because of original sin, our natural tendency is not toward God, but away from Him. Of course, because we are made in the image and likeness of God, we are ultimately and essentially “good,” but we also must admit that we are broken people as

well. Broken by the “original sin” of our first parents and broken by our own personal sin as well. Getting into heaven is the choosing of the “*narrow gate*” that Jesus speaks of in the Sacred Scriptures.

I think if we are honest (as attested by many polls) most people think that “good people go to heaven as long as you are not a mass murderer.” The problem is that the word “good” is never defined and this is not what Christianity teaches, nor is it what Jesus taught.

What does the Church (Jesus) teach is necessary to go to heaven? In John 3:5 Jesus tells us *“Truly, truly I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, they cannot enter the Kingdom of God.”* Therefore, **BAPTISM** is the first requirement. In John 6:53, Jesus tells us: *“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves.”* Therefore, **THE EUCHARIST** is the second requirement. Saint Paul reminds us in his Letter to the Romans 10:9: *“If you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”* Therefore, **FAITH** is the third requirement. And finally, Jesus tell His Disciples: *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.”* Therefore, **DOING GOD’S WILL** is the fourth requirement.

Notice that none of these requirements made by Jesus ever says “You have to be a good person.” This is the reality which is placed upon us by Jesus, not by some cranky old priest or right wing bishop or Cardinal, but is the essence of our faith. Heaven is not a prize for those who are “good” when they die. For I am sure there are some atheists that are “good” in the lives but never make it to heaven.

It is only when we adjust our lives by doing the Father’s Will that we are on our way to heaven. This is what Jesus meant when He spoke to His Disciples and told them that they are *“Not far from the kingdom of God”* (Mark 12:34). The reality is that if left to our own devices, we are orientated not toward, but away from God. However, the “Good News” is that we are not left on our own. For we must remember that Jesus died on the Cross for everyone who has ever lived or will ever live. He is what makes the difference in our lives.

He is the one that allows us to adjust our lives and move toward our heavenly home. He has sent the Holy Spirit to us. It is through the power and person of the Holy Spirit, that we are continuously called to be in relationship with God. What we must do is cooperate and answer this calling (our vocation) of God. He is not just calling us to be "good" but to be "good Catholics."

Have you ever received an invitation in the mail to go to a wedding or some type of big reception? Unless you actually make yourself present there, you are not there. Even though you are invited, unless you do the work, your place and your seat will be empty. Even if you R.S.V.P. and tell them you are going, does not mean you will be there. There are things that need to be changed in order for you to be present at this event and if they are not made, then you will be left out. The event will still continue, but, unfortunately, without you. You were invited. You were welcomed. You were expected. You were hoped for. But, unless you made the decision to be there, you were not actually there.

However, for those people who have never heard of Jesus, who have never had the opportunity to be baptized or receive Holy Communion, the Church teaches that there is hope for those who "through no fault of their own, by God's grace working in their lives, if they respond to the good they do know, may be saved through Jesus Christ." Essential to this exception is the choice to "respond to the good" in their lives (like the Good Thief of the Cross) when Jesus promises him the Kingdom as He hung upon the Cross.

The bottom line, again offered by Jesus, is that "you strive." This is not about my wife or husband, my parents, my friends, my priest or even my bishop, Rather, it is about my relationship with God and what am I actively doing to be found worthy to enter the kingdom of heaven. Being "good" just is not enough, for Jesus reminds us that *"For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it."* No one gets to heaven by wandering there or by just being a "good person." It is only by God's grace and our choosing Him with our whole hearts, minds and souls.

Do all people go to heaven? I think the answer is

quite clear; no. But we are all called to be there, a seat is reserved for us, the bridegroom wants us to be with Him and enjoy the celebration. I hope you have R.S.V.P.'d, but more importantly, I hope you have adjusted your lives to do the Will of the Father, by being baptized, receiving the Holy Eucharist and having great faith. ***Know that I am praying for you and your loved ones to be present in heaven one day.***

## Knights of Columbus Diaper Donations for Birth Haven

To honor Mary, in this special month that we celebrate the "Queen of Heaven", the St. Michael Knights of Columbus requests the parish's support in donating diapers to Birth Haven, a charitable organization providing shelter, support and education for homeless pregnant mothers and young women. The Knights will be collecting diapers on the weekends of May 20-21 and May 27-28, at the church. Please place your donations in front of the statue of our Blessed Mother. The Knights and Birth Haven thank you in advance for your generosity and May God Bless You.



### YOUTH MINISTRY

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

*No YM on Memorial Day*

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

[youth.ministry@stmichaelnetcong.org](mailto:youth.ministry@stmichaelnetcong.org)

-Nicole

Thank you to all for contributing to our Flower Sale.

## Baseball Game

### Somerset Patriots

Knights of Columbus Council 3665

Join us in the picnic area

Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:05pm

Tickets are \$35 each

Includes BBQ buffet

Contact Bob DiBernard 908-887-0510

for tickets



## **FAITH FORMATION**



**Congratulations to the  
Newly Confirmed at St. Michael Parish  
May 22, 2023**

J'Rai D'Antuono	John Paul
Magnus Garcia	Roch
Sophia Parzero	Grace
William Reyna	Sebastian
Annette Torres	Mariana
Kelly Morales	Bernadette
Natalia Panesso Osorio	Laura
Juan Panesso Osorio	Miguel
Shayla Pichardo Luis	Mary
Jeffrey Quijada Perez	Francis
Kara Sowell	Elizabeth

### **Faith Formation Registration for 2023-2024 is now open**

Please go to

<https://www.stmichaelnetcong.org/religious-education>

- Read the information about registration, Program Policies and Guidelines and the supporting documents including the Covenant) that are needed
- Follow the link to the online form
- In order to complete the registration you **MUST** send/drop off:
  - Payment
  - Faith Formation covenant
  - Supporting documents for children **NEW** to the program
- Contact us at 973-347-0032 ext. 2320 if you have any questions or concerns or need assistance.

Remember, Faith Formation programs are available to registered, active families of St. Michael Parish!

### **Adoration Chapel**

If you're looking for an hour of peace and silence, come spend it with Jesus. We have the following hour in need:

**Fridays at Noon - Partner needed**

Contact: Andrea 201-874-8769; Marie 732-885-7972

## **Confirmation May 22, 2023**



### **DOMINGO DE PENTECOSTÉS**

#### **Domingo**

Vigilia: Gn 11:1-9 o Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b o Ez 37:1-14 o Jl 3:1-5; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39 o, para la Vigilia extendida:

Gn 11:1-9; Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b; Ez 37:1-14; Jl 3:1-5; Rom 8:22-27;

Jn 7:37-39

Día: Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

#### **Lunes**

Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14; Jn 19:25-34

#### **Martes**

Sir 35:1-12; Mk 10:28-31

#### **Miércoles**

Zep 3:14-18a o Rom 12:9-16; Lk 1:39-56

#### **Jueves**

Sir 42:15-25; Mk 10:46-52

#### **Primer Viernes**

Sir 44:1, 9-13; Mk 11:11-26

#### **Primer Sábado**

Sir 51:12cd-20; Mk 11:27-33