



OCTOBER 1, 2023



SAINT MICHAEL

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

4 CHURCH STREET • NETCONG, NJ 07857

TEAM POSITIVE

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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

October 1, 2023

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Respect Life Sunday/World Communion 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, Roseann Lehmann, Louis DiBernard, Tim Paternostro, Margie Kern, John Matits, Elsie DeFeo

Weekly Memorial

Sanctuary Lamp is in memory of:
Andrew Weaver

Readings for the week

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday

Ez 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5; Mt 21:28-32

Monday

Zec 8:1-8; Mt 18:1-5, 10

Tuesday

Zec 8:20-23; Lk 9:51-56

Wednesday

Neh 2:1-8; Lk 9:57-62

Thursday

Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Lk 10:1-12

First Friday

Bar 1:15-22; Lk 10:13-16

First Saturday

Bar 4:5-12, 27-29; Lk 10:17-24

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, September 30, 2023

10am Sherry Lopez

5pm Gail Tardive, Patricia Airo

Sunday, October 1, 2023

7am Richard Fletcher, Gail Tardive

9:30am Deceased Members of Netcong Fire Dept. and
Firemen from surrounding areas.

Members of the Dates & White Families

11:30am Ronald G. Provost, Rita Charron

1:30pm Special Intention

Monday, October 2, 2023

10am Legal Protection of Unborn Children

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

10am Joanne McCaan, Marielos Barrantes

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

10am Barbara Bias, Marielos Barrantes

Thursday, October 5, 2023

10am For All Deceased Parishioners

Friday, October 6, 2023

10am Pat Buckley

Saturday, October 7, 2023

10am Chet Verdi

5pm Gail Tardive

Sunday, October 8, 2023

7am Sam Rosa

9:30am Rocco & Concetta Madonna

11:30am Gail Tardive

1:30pm Special Intention

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

Sunday, September 24, 2023 \$6,002.00

WeShare \$1,738.00

From Fr. Mike

Someone this past week asked me when the icon of the Last Supper was put up above the front doors of the church, to which I responded “over a year now.” As many may have noticed, several icons have been introduced into the church (Saint Michael, Pentecost, Holy Trinity and others.) Iconography is the original tradition of Christian sacred art and has been an integral part of the worship and mystical life of Christians since Apostolic times. According to Eastern theology, icons are often called “windows into heaven” as they have inspired the faithful as well as demonstrating God’s miraculous intercession in the life of creation.

Unlike famous religious paintings (e.g. Michelangelo’s Sistine Chapel, Raphael’s and da Vinci’s Madonnas) icons are images that contain Spiritual power and grace. They accomplish this by a combination of prayers, Traditions of the Church, sacred geometric composition, Scriptural narratives and the intention of the Iconographer to convey the Saints in the light of the Holy Spirit working within them. Icons are meant to be Scripture in visual form. According to Christian tradition, icons are said to be “written” and not painted. For the Orthodox, “writing” icons is more of a form of prayer than art and they believe that the hand of the iconographer is genuinely guided by God.

According to tradition, Saint Luke the Evangelist, was the first iconographer. He “wrote” the holy image of the Blessed Virgin Mary on a panel and presented it to her himself while she was alive. Today, there still exists five of these venerated Lucan icons. He is also attributed with writing icons of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. The beginnings of iconography can also be found in the catacomb paintings of the second and third centuries.

In the early Byzantine Empire, iconography was given special attention and favor. The emperor Constantine the Great did not charge taxes for artists who made mosaics for the churches. Through this time period, iconography flourished and that is why most of the beautiful icons come from this period of time and can be found in the Byzantine (Greek) Church (both Catholic and Orthodox.)

During the seventh and eighth centuries, after having had the positive support of such great leaders as Saint John Chrysostom, Saint Basil the Great, the Iconoclasts (“icon smashers”) were suspicious of any sacred art that depicted human beings or God and demanded the destruction of all icons. The Iconodules (venerators of icons) on the other hand, defended their rightful place in Church history. The rise of Iconoclasm was due to the influence of Jewish and Muslim philosophers and theologies which saw these “images” as idolatry.

The protectors of icons lasted until the Seventh and last Ecumenical Council which met in Nicaea (787AD) where our Nicene Creed originates. During the eighth century, Emperor Leo III attacked the veneration of icons. However, his attack was overturned by Empress Theodora who permanently reinstated the veneration of icons in 843, a victory which is often called “The Triumph of Orthodoxy.”

During this period, one of the great heroes of icons was Saint John of Damascus, who wrote a book entitled *Defense of Icons*. In this book he wrote “Through the icons of Christ we contemplate His bodily form, His miracles and His sufferings and we are sanctified ... The icons of the Saints are filled with the Holy Spirit.”

After the fall of Constantinople (1453), the Holy Mountain of Athos became a great center for iconography. The many monastic churches that can still be found there are a tribute to the monks who preserved this great era of the Church. Very much like the Byzantine style of iconography, Serbian and Russian Christians began to copy this art form with its own style as well.

Although many think of icons only coming from Eastern Churches, it is also a tradition of sacred art in the Western Church as well. Mosaics, frescoes and paintings which are found in Rome, Spain and France, show the influence of Byzantine style which was the artistic tradition common to both “lungs” of the Church up until the 12th century.

Unlike the Western approach to sacred art whereby the artists depicts a purely naturalistic and representational style, they use the same techniques as if they were painting a secular

subject. The subject may be religious, but the style remains the same. This is not true for the iconographer, who by nature or vocation should be a person of prayer and not merely a technician of style. In order for the icon to become an expression of faith, the iconographer must be a person of faith, steeped in prayer and fasting. Iconographers depict the saints not as they were in actual life, but as they are in eternity. They write the icon to communicate their vision of the heavenly world not through symbols, such as sunsets, but through mystical forms and colors.

Another unique element of iconography is the style of clothing that is worn, which utilizes an extreme stylization and non-naturalistic depiction. The folds of the clothing are depicted by means of geometric forms (ovals, rectangles, triangles) all in an attempt to demonstrate a heavenly order. The selections of colors is often fixed as well: blue for Christ's mantle, red for His tunic, deep red for the Virgin Mary's outer garment, etc ...

Additionally, the faces do not resemble human beings, but attempt to show the faces of human transformed in glory. The hands are often thin and expressive in commonly in various gestures of blessing. The halos around the heads of Christ, the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Saints are painted as a clearly delineated circle, signifying their sanctity and drawing out attention to their faces. Even nature itself (building, mountains, trees and animals) is transformed. They are very simplified rather than representing a photographic likeness.

Saint Basil the Great once wrote of icons: "What the Book of the Gospels explains by means of word, the iconographer shows by means of his (or her) works."

Adoration Chapel

If you're looking for an hour of peace and silence, come spend it with Jesus. Contact:
Andrea 201-874-8769 or Marie 732-885-7972

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation Registration:

If you missed the registration period, please contact the office for assistance: 973-347-0032 ext. 2320

Family Session this week: for levels K-6

- 9:30 am Mass followed by brief session in the church then Coffee Sunday refreshments in the Church Hall
- Confirmation I (Level 7): please meet by the front side door after 9:30 am Mass; you will be doing service work in the Food Pantry

Class Start Dates: for REGISTERED children/teens

- **Confirmation II** : 10/1 in the school; arrive by 9:40 am
- **NET**: 10/1 in the Youth Room (basement of office, entrance door on the right of the building); arrive by 9:20 am

Parent Meetings:

- For Confirmation I parents and candidates: 10/8 during class time in Room 24
 - For parents of children new to Faith Formation at St. Michael ('veteran' parents welcome to attend as well): 10/22, starting about 10:40 am in Room 22 upstairs in the school
 - For parents of children preparing for First Reconciliation this year (OSPRE and Level 2): 10/29, 6:30 pm, Church Hall
-



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Greg Keller (973)760-5569

COMING IN OCTOBER

Bible Study

8 week session

"Follow Me,

Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John."

"Experience the Joy of following Our Lord" in the upcoming bible study of the Gospel of John. "Following Christ takes more than simply believing in him or doing what he asks of us. Jesus wants you to be more than just a believer – He wants you to be his disciple and friend. Follow Me, Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John is your guide to a personal encounter with Christ. As the Good Shepherd, Jesus seeks after us. He comes to meet us and beckons us to follow him. He calls us to be his disciples, to trust him, to open ourselves to his merciful love, and to love others as he has loved us."

Come join us for the 8 week sessions beginning the week of Oct 8th. Evening sessions will begin at 7PM in the school next to the Parish office on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday evening. An additional program on Friday will be in a home beginning at 6:30PM. Workbooks will be \$12.00. We will have a daytime program on Tuesday morning after the 10AM Mass. You may email me your response and register for an evening or daytime program – Betty Pinsonault at epinsonault@gmail.com or call 973-448-8847.

GOLD and SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Couples, were you married in 1973 or 1998? The Diocese of Paterson invites you to celebrate your 60+, 50th or 25th wedding anniversary during a special Mass to be offered at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson, NJ. Bishop Sweeney will serve as main celebrant on this joyful occasion to be held:

Sunday, November 12, 2023 at 3:00pm.

Arrangements can be made by contacting your parish office. **The deadline to register is Wednesday, October 11, 2023.** You will receive additional information from the Office of Family Life once your registration has been processed. *Congratulations on this joyous occasion!*

Food Pantry

The food pantry is in need of ramen noodles, cup-a-soup, spaghetti, cereal (regular size), large soup cans (all varieties), canned vegetables-corn, mixed vegetables, peas, and potatoes, tuna fish, canned fruit. Thank you for your generosity!

40 Days for Life

September 27 – November 5

Help Save Lives in Morristown

Vigil Location: Outside Planned Parenthood of Morristown, 196 Speedwell Ave.

Local Contact: 44lifeus@gmail.com

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

Loyola Jesuit Center

COED Weekend Retreat

Morristown, NJ

Oct 13-15

Call for more info 973-539-0740



Diocesan Ministries Appeal 2023

DIOCESE OF PATERSON

Weekend of

September 30 – October 1

2023 Diocesan Ministries Appeal

"I Have Called You By Name"

Did you know that over 20,000 people are helped at our Father English Food Pantry in Paterson every single month? This year, and for the next two years, the Diocesan Ministries Appeal is committing \$200,000 annually to the Father English Food Pantry in support of their campaign to renovate their outdated space which is on the first floor of a building that is over 80 years old. These funds will be used to expand the Food Pantry's ability to serve people in need by offering a wide array of services in one convenient location. In addition to improving the floor plan of the food pantry, the facility will also expand its offerings with a clothing closet, emergency services, social workers, case managers, ESL and computer classes, and nutrition courses. Your gift to the Diocesan Ministries Appeal will have a positive impact on many vulnerable brothers and sisters in our Diocese. May God bless you for your support!

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Erin M Misurelli, Agent
296 State Route 10
Randolph, NJ 07869
Bus. 973-389-9999
erin.misurelli.ud08@statefarm.com
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