



Saint Michael's Roman Catholic Church

A Tithing Community

765 Co-Op City Boulevard
Bronx, New York 10475-1601
Phone: 718-671-8050
Fax: 718-320-3776
www.saintmichaels-cc.org

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Thursday :
9:30 AM to 4:30PM
Friday
9:30AM-1:30PM
Closed Saturday-Sunday

Parish Staff

Reverend Peter Heasley, S.Th.D.,
Administrator
Reverend Benedict Paul, Ph.D.,
Parochial Vicar
Deacon Thomas Tortorella
Reverend Daniel Sabatos
Sunday Associate
Reverend Akram Javid
Sunday Associate
Reverend Ernest Frimpong
Nursing Home Associate
Brian Freeman, Parish Secretary
Sarah Glassman, Music Director

Mass Schedule

Weekdays: 9:00 AM (Monday - Friday)
Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM,
(English)
11:30 AM (Spanish)
1:00 PM (English)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Every Saturday: 4:00-4:45 PM

Baptism and Marriage

Scheduled by appointment after meeting with one of the parish priests. Please see the parish website for more details.

First Sunday of Lent

March 1, 2020

THE JUDEAN
DESERT
WESTERN ISRAEL

Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert
to be tempted by the devil.

MATTHEW 4:1

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc. Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2008, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970. CCD. All rights reserved.
Illustration: Living Water, Tony Ward for J.S. Paluch, 2019; Photo: 1160001/Adobe Stock

OUR CHRISTIAN LOVE

We are now in the season of **Lent**, a time of preparation for the celebration of Easter, a time of refocusing, re-centering ourselves on our spiritual worship through physical and spiritual forms of penance. We are made of body and soul, and we worship God with our bodies, from the way we kneel and stand, fold our hands, and mouth our prayers, to the ways in which we reach out in charity to our neighbor, to the way we fast and abstain from meat, to the way in which we receive the Most Holy Eucharist. Our physical attitude affects our spiritual disposition, which is why we choose to fast from exhilarating foods (like chocolate and alcohol): so that we might pray and give alms in a more focused and intentional way.

The Church does require certain practices, namely **fasting** and **abstinence** on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and abstinence every Friday of Lent. Fasting means that one full meal may be taken, along with two smaller meals that do not add up to one full meal; snacking between meals is prohibited. Fasting is obligatory for those between age 18 to 59. Abstinence means no meat or poultry may be eaten. This applies to all Catholics aged 14 onwards.

Other Lenten practices, those that we choose for ourselves, fall into three areas of penitence: **fasting**, **prayer**, and **almsgiving**. Nature abhors a vacuum, so if we are fasting from something, like certain foods or drinks, TV or social media, we should replace those with acts of prayer and almsgiving, like prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, the Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, the Stations of the Cross, and spending time with the lonely or elderly, and other corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

If it has been a while since you've been to Confession, Lent is the best time to start again. Confessions here are on Saturday from 4:00-4:45pm, and by appointment or request. Every parish in the Archdiocese of New York, and the Dioceses of Brooklyn and Rockville Centre, will have a special time for Confession on Monday, April 6.

Beginning this weekend, March 1, we will be using a **different company for our weekly tithing envelopes**, the Cathedral Corporation. The new service promises to be more cost-effective and efficient. Your envelope numbers will remain the same. At that time, even if you still have envelopes from the Remey company (currently in place), please use the new envelopes. If, for some reason, you have not received the new envelopes, or there is some error on them, please let us know in the office.

Fr. Peter

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Michael the Archangel Church is a multi-cultural Roman Catholic community seeking to live the faith honestly with courage, warmth, trust, love and hope. We are united together in fellowship as a family. The guiding spirit of Christ enables us to serve the needs of others, thereby leading to peace.

BIBLE BULLETIN 19: THE MONARCHY, PART I

Rev. Peter A. Heasley, S.Th.D.

In response to the growing chaos and corruption under the judges, the Israelites ask God for a king. In their mind, a king will bring them prestige and power in the world. God tells them that by asking this they are rejecting him as king, and goes on to tell them about all that they will have to sacrifice to have a king, in the form of taxation and servitude (I Sm 8). The people have not used their freedom for good, and so the good must be forced upon them.

LAW	
Pentateuch	Historical Books
Genesis	Joshua
Exodus	Judges
Leviticus	Ruth
Numbers	I AND II SAMUEL
Deuteronomy	I and II Kings
	I and II Chronicles
	Ezra–Nehemiah

THE BOOKS OF I-II SAMUEL

I Sam 1–7:	Eli and Samuel
I Sam 8–12:	Saul Anointed King
I Sam 13–15:	Saul's Exploits and Sin
I Sam 16–31:	Saul and David
II Sam 1–6:	David Anointed King
II Sam 7–12:	David's Exploits and Sin
II Sam 13–20:	Rebellions against David
II Sam 21–24:	Various Stories of David

has several opportunities to kill Saul, but does not do so, for the sake of the Lord's choice in him (I Sm 24 and 26). David lives as a fugitive from Saul, harbored by Saul's son Jonathan and the very Philistines he had once routed. Eventually, Saul and Jonathan are killed (I Sm 31). As we enter into II Samuel, David and his allies continue to fight against the house of Saul, eventually overcoming them.

Once David begins to reign in relative peace and security, he turns his heart toward the religious life of Israel and the presence of the Lord in Jerusalem, his new capital. David wants to build a temple.

In preparation for the king, God provides in the prophet Samuel the last judge of Israel. His birth story is given in I Sm 1:1–2:11. His mother, Hannah, prays desperately for a child, to which the Lord responds with his favor. She utters a hymn of thanksgiving, which becomes the basis for the Magnificat of Mary (I Sm 2:1-10; cf. Lk 1:46-56). Samuel hears the Lord's calling (I Sm 3) and he eventually saves them from the Philistines (chapters 4–7). His own sons prove unworthy judges.

Saul is the king whom God appoints, and Samuel anoints him. Saul very quickly disappoints the Lord for not putting to the ban some of the goods of the Amalekites. It is difficult for us to understand today why the Lord would command his representatives to slaughter civilians along with enemy soldiers. We have to keep in perspective that the threat of idolatry from foreign influences was a primary factor. In this instance, God is punishing the Amalekites for the way they treated Israel on their way into the Promised Land (I Sm 15:1-9). For his sin, Saul is to give way to another king.

Samuel then anoints David, the youngest of his brothers. Choosing the younger brother over the older is a recurring theme in the Old Testament: Abel over Cain, Isaac over Ishmael, Jacob over Esau, and Joseph over his brothers. This is part of a so-called "theology of reversal," one we see echoed on Hannah's lips: "The bows of the mighty are broken, while the tottering gird on strength" (I Sm 2:4); or, as Mary of Nazareth exclaims, "He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and he has lifted up the lowly."

David soon bears out this theology in himself. He defeats Goliath (I Sm 17). He eventually usurps Saul, but not directly. Indeed, David continually respects the rights of Saul as the Lord's anointed. David

First Sunday of Lent

March 1, 2020

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, March 1st First Sunday of Lent

Monday, March 2nd Julian Calendar Lent begins

Tuesday, March 3rd St. Katharine Drexel

Wednesday, March 4th St. Casimir
(Christian Meditation Group 1:30pm)

Thursday, March 5th— No Events

Friday, March 6th World Day of Prayer; Abstinence;
First Friday

Saturday, March 7th Ss. Perpetua and Felicity; First
Saturday



Saturday March 7th-8th

(5:00 pm)	Stephen Perry
8:30 am	Antonio Baptiste
10:00 am	Jennifer Wells
11:30 am	Yony Sanchez
1:00 pm	Christina Nevers

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP

Newcomers are always welcome to join the Christian meditation group which meets every Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room. This ancient form of prayer seeks God in silence and stillness without words or thoughts. The meeting includes quiet music, an instructional reading and tape, followed by 25 minutes of silent meditation. Discussion is encouraged. Come and find the teacher within. In the silence of the heart He speaks to us.

Mass Intentions For The Week



Sunday, March 1st

8:30am Thelma Delgado (Special Intention)
10:00am Iris Ortega (Special Intention)
11:30am America Pena

1:00pm Pro-Populo

Monday March 2nd

9:00am Helen Mulvey

Tuesday, March 3rd

9:00am Pro-Populo

Wednesday, March 4th

9:00am Pro-Populo

Thursday, March 5th

9:00am Vincent Mc Donnell (Special Intention)

Friday, March 6th

9:00am Annamma & Chackochen Mutholam

Saturday, March 7th

5:00pm Veronica Bowleg

Sunday, March 8th

8:30am George Joseph Mergel

10:00am Veronique Ediou

11:30am Carmen Torres

1:00pm Colin Fane

Sunday Lament

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday:	Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday:	Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32
Thursday:	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12
Friday:	Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26
Saturday:	Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48
Sunday:	Gn 12:1-4a; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR FEBRUARY 23:

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23: \$6,477

ASH WEDNESDAY: \$2,237

BUILDING FUND: \$382

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!