

ST. MICHAEL PARISH

21 Manning Street, Hudson, MA 01749

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www.stmikes.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday— 9:00am- 3:00pm

Administrator: **Rev. Laurence “Ren” M. Tocci**
x301 ~ frren@stmikes.org

Xaverian Assistant: **Rev. Anthony Lalli, S.X.**

Assistant: **Rev. Adriano Albino de Castro**
adrianoalbinocastro@gmail.com

Parochial Vicar: Rev. William Schmidt

Finance & Operations Manager: **Helena Siciliano**
x304 ~ helena@stmikes.org

Music Director: **Donna McIntyre**
donna@stmikes.org

Baptisms & Weddings: **Pat Conte**
x306 ~ pconte@stmikes.org

Coordinator of Faith Formation: **Paula O’Brien**

Custodians: **Antonio Gonçalves**
Francisco Pinheiro

Mass Times

Weekend

Weekday

Saturday (vigil):	4:00pm	Monday:	9:00am
Sunday		Wednesday:	9:00am
English:	7:30am	Friday:	9:00am
	9:00am		
	10:30am		
Portuguese:	10:30am		
Brazilian:	12:00pm		



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Saturday 4:00pm **December 21, 2019**
Aldora Serpa

Sunday 7:30am **December 22, 2019**
9:00am All Deceased Members of the Portuguese Cursillo
10:30am Domingo & Maria J. Silva
10:30am Francis Walsh & Francis Jr.
12:00pm Angelo Chaves Jordan
Brazilian Mass

Monday 9:00am **December 23, 2019**
Murray "Skip" Buchanan

Tuesday 4:00pm **Christmas Eve**
4:00pm > St. Michael Parishioners
6:00pm >

Wednesday 8:00am **Christmas Day**
10:30am > St. Michael Parishioners
10:30am >

Friday 9:00am **December 27, 2019**
Genevieve & Jason Viegas

Saturday 4:00pm **December 28, 2019**
Aureliano & Isabel Frade
50th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday 7:30am **December 29, 2019**
9:00am Antonio C. Sousa & Deceased Relatives
10:30am Lillian Pavlovich
10:30am Fr. Everett Vierra
12:00pm St. Michael Parishioner
Brazilian Mass

If you have requested a Mass intention and would like to have a family member present the gifts, please see an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion before the start of the Mass.

****PARISH CENTER HOURS CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY HOURS****

The parish office will be closed on Tuesday, December 24th and December 25th Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and Wednesday, January 1, 2020, New Year's Day.



Bread and Wine in Memory of

Laurence Leary & Bob Alexander & Carol Radford

Lights and Candles in Loving Memory of

Antonio C. Sousa & Deceased Relatives

Offertory Collection

\$7,753.08

From the Business Office

Weekly Income

Needed

To Meet Expenses

\$12,000.00

Income Received

December 8, 2019

\$13,246.08

Grand Annual to Date:

\$37,936.00

Collection

**12/24 & 12/25 Clergy Health & Retirement Trust.
This is the only collection at the Christmas Masses.**

Christmas Mass Schedule



4:00pm— Christmas Eve — upper church
4:00pm— Christmas Eve — lower church
6:00pm— Christmas Eve — upper church

CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00am — Christmas Day— upper church
10:30am Christmas Day, Portuguese Upper Church
10:30am— Christmas Day— lower church



Wish Someone Welcome Home for the Holiday . . .

When I first started coming back to Mass after being away from the faith for eight or ten years or so, I was one of those guys who hung out in the back of the church. I wasn't there every week, I often showed up a few minutes late, and I almost always left right after Communion. Goodness knows how long this would have lasted if it wasn't for the head usher, who one Sunday asked me to help take up the collection. In short order, I became one of the regular "go-to" people for collection; I had my designated aisle (the one on the far right), and before long I was even involved in securing the green bank-deposit bags. The next thing I knew, I was a full-fledged member of the group. I knew all the other "usual suspects" by name, and I knew the guys who showed up most of time, the ones who came half the time, and those we saw sometimes. One of the other regular ushers was even the guy who first invited me to join the Knights of Columbus.

Then before long I began getting territorial. If one of the some-timers was given a basket and dared to take my aisle, I was not very happy. If they showed up only occasionally, my attitude was readable right across my face. Then one Sunday, someone came in and did something (I can't even remember exactly what now) that demonstrated an inappropriate level of piety. My eyes followed him as he walked through the vestibule into the main church, right past Sal—one of the veteran ushers who first welcomed me in. Sal smiled, shrugged his shoulders amusedly, and said right to my disapproving sneer, "We're all at different levels." My self-satisfaction drained out from my cowboy boots. *This* was the proper reaction to that gentleman, I realized at that moment. Sal wasn't trying to take me to school, wasn't trying to correct my arrogance. He just said it plainly, simply, and humbly. The truth has a way of standing all on its own without having to be over-stated. How quickly I'd forgotten where I began from, and how far did I still have to go.

Happily, I'm a bit humbler today (sadly, it is only a bit.) But my journey quite possibly would never have even begun if it hadn't been for Ed: that head usher who first took the chance to reach out to me and ask me to help out with the collection that one Sunday. As much as anyone, he is responsible for my being a priest today—to his credit or to his blame! I became a real part of the parish community as a result of that day.

Christmas is Wednesday. We're going to see a lot of faces we haven't seen for a while; we're going to see a lot of faces that we've never seen before! And some of them might be sitting in "your spot." Brace yourself. Be prepared. Please don't scowl at them. Smile instead. Say "Hello, Merry Christmas!" (And yes: put that exclamation point at the end—be truly happy to see them!) If someone comes in when you're already sitting down and they want to get into the pew, please scooch in and make room for them; don't make them climb over you. In short, be gracious, be hospitable. Welcome them as Mary welcomed Christ into her womb. Help them find the right pages in the worship aid or the missal. After all, they are part of our community, even if we don't see them very frequently. A kind word, a smile, a cheerful greeting will remind them that they are one of us, that they are members of this parish family. Remember: They will know we are Christians by our love.

Merry Christmas, everyone!

— Fr. Ren

Parish Council is Available for Comments

If you have any questions comments, feedback, or suggestions please feel free to contact Father Ren at frren@stmikes.org. or reach out to our Parish Council members at parishcouncil@stmikes.org. Please indicate in the Subject heading which Council Member you would be most comfortable addressing, or which Mass you attend.

Barbara Maglione
Marty Richardson
Greg Michaud

Brian Aucoin
Noemia Braga
Vera Teixeira

A Message From St. Vincent de Paul

The St. Vincent de Paul Society will continue to collect winter hats, socks, mittens and gloves for those in abuse programs and veterans in need. The box will be located at the back of the church and in the lower chapel.

Deseje a Alguem as Boas Vindas a Casa Para as Festas do Natal. . .

Quando comecei a assistir à Missa depois de ter estado desviado da fé entre oito a dez anos, eu era um daqueles que me mantinha ao fundo da Igreja. Não ía à Missa todos os Domingos, muitas vezes chegava tarde e saía logo após comungar. Só Deus sabe o quanto isto teria durado se não fosse graças a um dos homens responsáveis pela coleta que me pediu num Domingo para ajudar a fazer a coleta. Em pouco tempo me tornei num dos que fazia a coleta regularmente. Eu tinha a fila designada para fazer a coleta, era a da direita. De repente fiquei envolvido em segurar a pasta verde do Banco. Da vez seguinte eu sabia que já me tinha tornado um membro do grupo por completo. Eu já sabia os nomes dos outros membros do grupo, eu sabia quem aparecia regularmente, os que chegavam a meio da Missa e os que só os via às vezes. Um outro que também era parte dos responsáveis pela coleta foi quem me convidou pela primeira vez a fazer parte do Knights of Columbus.

Em pouco tempo senti que me estava a familiarizar com o território. Se um dos que aparecia só às vezes e tomava a minha fila pra fazer a coleta eu não ficava contente. Se eles apareciam só ocasionalmente se podia ler na minha cara a minha insatisfação. Em um Domingo alguém entrou na Igreja e fez algo (que agora nem me lembro exactamene o que foi) mas que demonstrou um inapropriado nível de piedade. Os meus olhos o seguiram sempre através do vestibulário até à Igreja, ao passar pelo Sal. – um dos antigos responsáveis pela coleta que me deu as boas vindas. O Sal. sorriu, encolheu os ombros de uma forma engraçada, e me disse como desaprovando a minha atitude, “Somos todos de níveis diferentes.” A minha própria satisfação me saiu pela botas de cowboy. Eu realizei naquele momento, que esta era a reação apropriada para aquele homem. O Sal. não estava a levar-me à escola ou tentando corrigir a minha arrogância. O que ele me disse o fez com simples humildade. A verdade tem a sua froma de aparecer por si mesma sem ter que ser forçada. Rápidamente me esqueci por onde comecei e o quanto ainda tinha que chegar.

Felizmente me tornei um pouco humilde hoje (infelizmente foi só um pouco.) Mas possivelmente que a minha jornada nunca teria começado se não fosse por causa do Ed: aquele responsável pela coleta que se aproximou de mim e me convidou a ajudar a fazer a coleta naquele Domingo. Como muitos outros, ele foi o responsável pela razão de eu ter vindo a ser padre hoje. Eu comecei a ser parte daquela comunidade paroquial com o resultado daquele dia.

O Natal será Quarta-feira. Vamos ver muitas caras que já não vemos por algum tempo; vamos ver algumas caras que nunca vimos antes! E algumas delas talvez se sentaram no seu lugar de costume. Controle-se a si mesmo, se prepare. Por favor não mostrem expressões insatisfatórias. Apenas sorria. Diga, “seja bem vindo, Boas Festas!” (e sim, ponha o ponto de exclamação no fim – sinta-se sinseramente feliz por os ver!) se alguém se aproxima do seu banco quando já estiver sentado (a), por favor se encolha e dê lugar para pessoa entrar no banco em vez de causar que a pessoa passe por cima de si. Em poucas palavras; seja agradável e hospitaleiro. Dê-lhes as boas vindas como Maria deu as boas vindas a Jesus no seu ventre. Ajude as pessoas a encontrar a página certa no missalete para as leituras ou pra cantar. Depois de tudo são todos parte da nossa comunidade, mesmo que não os vejamos muito frequentemente. Uma palavra doce, um sorriso, um dizer olá com alegria os fará perceber de que eles também são como nós, de que eles também fazem parte desta família comunitária. Lembre-se: eles saberão de que somos todos cristãos pelo amor que mostrar-mos.

Boas Festas e Feliz Natal a todos vós!

– *O padre Ren*

**CHILDREN OF GOD TO BE
REMEMBERED IN DECEMBER**

Coleen Sullivan, Edward Mancuso, Donna Cincotta,
Thomas Jordan, Baby Mary Moran,
Baby Michael Moran, Robert Robbins Sr.,
Maureen Duffy Russo, Pamela Mallalieu Genne,
David Mulhall, Robert Maguire, Mary Hussey White,
Baby James Bigley, Jessica Lesage, Cheryl Guidotti,
Katherine Walling Muse

New Year's Day Mass Schedule

This year The Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God falls on a Tuesday and is a holy day of obligation. Our Mass schedule for the holy day is as follows:

Tuesday, December 31st - 4:00pm
Wednesday, January 1st - 9:00am
Wednesday, January 1st - 7:00pm

Ministry Meetings—All are welcome!

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every **Monday after the 9:00am Mass until noon time**, in the Lower Church.

Catholic Daughters will meet **Thursday, January 2nd**, at 12:00pm in the Parish Center.

Ladies Sodality will host Our Father's Table at New Hope Community Church in Marlboro on **Thursday, January 2nd**, from 4:00 - 6:00pm.

St. Vincent de Paul will meet **Saturday, January 4th**, after the 4:00pm Mass.

Christmas Collection Clergy Health & Retirement Trust

The 590 diocesan priests in our Archdiocese are always there for us, sharing Christ's good news, performing good works, and building strong communities of faith. They stand with you during your times of joy and sorrow. They have devoted their lives to serving Christ and his family. Remember priests such as Father Ron who have made a meaningful difference in your life, and consider honoring him/them with a generous gift in the Christmas Day collection. You may also make your gift online at clergytrust.org or you can donate \$25 through your cell phone by texting the word PRIEST25 to 20222 (msg & data rates may apply). Thank you for your prayers and generous support for our priests.

Readings for the week of December 22, 2019

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/ Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/ Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24
Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66
Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79
Wednesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14
Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22
Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/ Mt 2:13-18

HOLIDAY BLUES

If you're dealing with feelings of stress or depression around the holiday season, know that you aren't alone. Many people experience this. But also know that there are ways to manage your symptoms. There is a difference between the holiday blues, which typically go away when the holiday season ends, and more severe depression, which lasts longer and interferes with activities of daily living. **If the holiday season passes and you're still feeling depressed or anxious, it's best to consult with a medical/mental health professional.**

Causes of the Holiday Blues Include:

- Pressure to feel merry
- Remembrances of holidays past
- Reminders of loved ones lost
- Loneliness

What are the Types of Symptoms that you Might Experience with the Holiday Blues?

The most common symptom of the holiday blues is an increase in sadness. Other signs include:

- Increased tiredness
- Losing interest in things that you usually enjoy

Tips to Deal with the Symptoms of Holiday Blues:

- Limit alcohol** – Immoderate drinking can affect your mood and increase any negative feelings that you may have.
- Get plenty of sleep** – Being well-rested can improve your mood
- Learn to say “no”** – Over-scheduling and not making time for yourself can increase your stress.
- Be open to new traditions** – Allow new traditions to develop. For example, if you're unable to be with friends/family, look for volunteer opportunities that allow you to be around others. Some non-profits will even come pick you up if you're unable to drive.
- Exercise** - A daily 10- 20 minute walk will get your heart rate up and can also help your mood.
- Seek the Sun** – Sunlight can lighten your mood, taking a walk outside will give you both physical exercise and sun exposure.
- Avoid overeating** – Holiday get-togethers can lead to overeating, which can affect your mood.
- Get support when mourning a loved one** – If you've experienced the loss of a loved one, the holidays can be especially painful. It can help to spend time with your friends/ family.

If you Need Help, Get it!

Contact your Health Care Provider or a Mental Health Professional and ask for guidance and/or a referral to local resources such as support groups etc.

Helpful Websites - Psychology Today.com and www.Healthline.com

Sunday Throughout The Week

 Read the Gospel and Color

Sharing the Gospel

Mary and Joseph put all their trust in God. Once they found out what God wanted, they did it. God wanted Mary to have a special baby, and she said "yes" to God. God wanted Joseph to be a good husband and father, and Joseph said "yes" to God. When that special baby from God was finally born, Joseph named him Jesus. One day God would ask Jesus to save the world from sin on the cross, and Jesus would say "yes" to God.

Prayer

God, help me to trust you and say "yes" to you.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus.



Puzzle

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

MARY
JOSEPH
HOLY SPIRIT

WEDDING
ANGEL
DREAM

BABY
JESUS
VIRGIN

V I R G I N T H W I S
J C S H U J O S E P H
D R E A M R W I D A O
S O B Y A O N U D G W
M E N G R W E A I S D
T B A B Y B M O N A E
R E N D R O I T G J O
S P G O H F J E S U S
K A E I V N A G M D L
H O L Y S P I R I T Y
S R H N E D L S E H A

Mission for the Week

Saying "yes" to God takes practice. When your parents ask you to vacuum or set the table or take the garbage out, say "yes" to them.



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