

The Church of Saint Michael
Sunday, September 10, 2017
Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time



Please remember in your prayers those who have died:

Kyle Mullen, Kristina DeFalco, Michael D. DeFelice,
 Jessie DeMuccio, Michael Skibicki

Please remember in your prayers the sick of our parish:

Peter Stchur, Irma Vidal, Tim Paternostro,
 Bill Regal, Michelle Demeo, Diana Palumbo, Rose DeSantis,
 Edmond DeSantis Jr., Susan DeSantis, Domenick DeFeo, Fr.
 Leo Carey, Pat Leone, Beth Courter, Bill Hancock, Bruce Hill,
 Diane Grzymko, Pauline Milone, Chet Verdi Sr., Chet Verdi Jr.,
 Jim Rogalo, Doug Ernst, Deborah Kelly, Marie Simmons,
 Marjorie Hancock, Jordyn G., Karlene Yapple, Jeanne Rattner,
 Carolyn Sundheim Nystrom, Mike Loretta, Samantha Weckter,
 Patrick Devine, Veronica Marks, Katherine Chorun, Isabelle
 Exile, Elaine Grogan Fiorello, William Cooper

Weekly Memorials
Sanctuary Lamp: The Ruf Family

Weekly Devotions

Monday:..... Charismatic Prayer Group 7:00 pm
 Wednesday:..... Rosary Group 7:30 pm
 Friday:.....Divine Mercy 3:00 pm
 Saturday:.....Rosary (after 8 am Mass) 8:30 am

Readings for the week

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday
 Ez 33:7-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20
Monday
 Col 1:24—2:3; Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday
 Col 2:6-15; Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday
 Col 3:1-11; Lk 6:20-26
Thursday
 Nm 21:4b-9; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17
Friday
 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35
Saturday
 1 Tm 1:15-17; Lk 6:43-49

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, September 9, 2017

8:00 a.m. Special Intention
 5:00 p.m. Marie & Joseph Vendola,
 Anthony Sr. & Josephine Preziosi

Sunday, September 10, 2017

7:00 a.m. Richie DiRenzo, Jeanette DiRenzo
 8:45 a.m. Eleanor Sylvester
 10:30 a.m. Paula & Valerie Tardive
 12:00 p.m. Eleanor Sylvester
 1:30 p.m. Teresa Ramirez & Matias Salazar,
 Maria Romero

Monday, September 11, 2017

7:00 a.m. Anthony & Alphonse Peluso

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

8:00 a.m. Bernard & Helen Rogalski

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

7:00 a.m. Eleanor Sylvester

Thursday, September 14, 2017

8:00 a.m. Amable Quizhpe

Friday, September 15, 2017

7:00 a.m. For All Parishioners of St. Michael Church

Saturday, September 16, 2017

8:00 a.m. Sprague Shope
 5:00 p.m. Eleanor Sylvester

Sunday, September 17, 2017

7:00 a.m. Jeanette DiRenzo, Eleanor Sylvester
 8:45 a.m. Edward McCarthy
 10:30 a.m. Pat Buckley
 12:00 p.m. Brian Conklin
 1:30 p.m. Special Intention

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

Sunday 9/3/17 \$5,777.00
Repair & Renov \$1,761.00

To run our parish properly we need \$9,651.
Please consider helping a little bit more if you can.

Please pray for our Diaconate Candidates –
Russ Raffay and John Meyer

Next Healing Mass

Tuesday, September 26th at 7pm,
 Rosary/Chaplet at 6:30pm

From Fr. Michael

Each week the Sanctuary Candle, which burns in the sanctuary/adoration chapel as a reminder of our Lord's Eucharistic Presence in our church, is lit in loving memory of someone from the parish or their family. If you might be interested in giving this special candle for any particular week, please contact the Parish Office (it is a suggested \$15 donation for the church). Also, each week, the bread and wine that is used at all the Masses which become the Holy Body and Precious Blood of our Lord are given in loving memory of someone (it is a suggested \$15 donation for the church). Please consider showing your love for someone as well as supporting your church. Thank You for your generosity.

No More Second Collection Appeal

The envelopes will in the back of the church next week. Although you have the entire year to submit your envelope, let's make a concerted effort to submit envelopes within the next month. The printing company made a mistake so please write in your amount as well. Thank you for your cooperation.

God Bless.

Why me?

Fr. Mike had asked me soon after I joined the parish whether or not I was interested in going on a mission trip to Haiti. Without hesitation, I answered yes. I had been itching to get away and serve ever since my last trip to Nicaragua. Back then, I had gone with a brigade formed within my university for medical missions. I saw a lot of poverty, but also a lot of love. I was thirsty to experience it again.

I wish that I had thought about the trip a bit more before heading over to Haiti. To be completely honest, I thought I would be better prepared than others coming from the parish, seeing that I had already experienced something out of the country. How different could Haiti be from what I had already seen? People without food, without clothes, diapers, money, medical attention, basic needs. But in this moment of cockiness, I had done a disservice by depriving myself of prayer and deep thought, things that had me unprepared in a sense when finally participating in the missions.

Why did I say yes? Why did Jesus give this particular opportunity to me? What were my true intentions for going?

If I'm being completely truthful with myself, a naïve and more prideful part of me thought that I was needed there. You hear all the time that Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world. I was silly enough to buy into the message that the millennials of our country splatter across every social media platform, "You are necessary to help others! People lesser than you need your help! Be the change you want to see in the world!" But how stupid could I be to think that I could fix others when I can't even do enough daily to fix myself?

We stayed in a monastery, which held many buildings within the compound, including separate places for the elderly and

disabled, orphans, and children with disabilities. We fed, bathed, and massaged those who needed the extra hand, but mostly stayed to interact with them. On the days where we were needed elsewhere, we bagged hundreds of pounds of rice so that the brothers of the monastery could hand them out to those in the community outside the compound.

The heat, humidity, and mosquitoes amongst other extraneous factors made it difficult at times to complete the work to our full capabilities, and sleeping was near impossible some nights. Sweat was constant, but so were the eye-opening lessons that I was forced to relearn and digest.

The most humbling of them? I am not needed. *I need them.*

This trip was not for them. It was for me. These people are closer to Jesus than I ever was. In our first-world-led lives, we are so quick to listen to what the world tells us, that we are better off than others because of job security and money. People who live in poverty are lesser than us. But is that true? Is that something that I want to teach the generations to come?

I learned through the Haitians that our arms are full of so much crap that we don't have the ability to let it go and hold onto what's truly important-God. Who are we without Him? Why is it that those who are apparently lesser than me are five thousand steps closer to heaven than I?

Every time I smiled at someone, held someone's hand, showed them some sign that I loved them as an equal, I received that much more love. It was only possible because they have that much love to give out to those who need it-in this case, us. Us, who came thinking that we are their saviors. Us, thinking that we are their superiors, that we had some power to save them when in actuality, they don't need any saving at all.

So why me?

Why was I born into a life thought to be so privileged, to only grow up blind? Why am I unable to let go of my material possessions to follow You? Why did You have me thinking like an idiot that I was lucky, when I know now how incredibly lost I am? What do You want from me?

We pity the people of Haiti, or anywhere else outside of our world as a matter of fact, because we think they are lacking. They have the basics though; they have food, water, clothes, and shelter. That pity is dangerous. We confuse it as sympathy and love, but what pity really is, is our pride saying that because they don't live like us, that they are lesser than us. It's that pride that blocks us from Jesus, allowing us to believe that we are too good to accept certain people's love.

My mission is to see the face of Jesus in everyone around me outside of Haiti. It was so easy to do so there...am I able to do it when it's most difficult here? I must let go of my pride and instead walk the path of love that the Haitians have shown me through this short week.

Letting go is easy when it comes to physical things. But when push comes to shove, would you be able to follow Him, allow Him to use you as His vessel? Would you be able to let go of your hopes and dreams to follow His plans laid out for you? Would you be able to let go of all the anger and pride left in your heart? Are you able to let go and serve as He wants you to?

- Sarah Cho

YOUTH MINISTRY

† Parent meeting on September 12th in Rectory Basement Right
We will be discussing the future of SMC Youth Ministry, as well as both parental and student expectations and responsibilities throughout the year
7pm-8pm
Refreshments and light snacks provided

† Lock-in is on September 15th at the Newton Retreat House †
Registration forms are available under Youth Ministry on the parish website
Mandatory for all incoming freshmen, and highly recommended for all those looking to join Youth Ministry

† Youth Ministry meetings every Monday †
First meeting on September 11th, 2017 at 7:15pm to 9pm
Registration forms for SMCYM are available on the church website

For more information, please contact St. Michael's Youth Minister, Sarah Cho at
youthministry@stmichaelnetcong.org

† Grade 7: Monday 9/11, 7-9 pm, church and church hall
† Grades K-6: Sunday 9/17, 10-11:15 am school
† Grade 8: Monday 9/18, 7-9 pm, church and church hall
Confirmation I (freshmen): Sunday 9/24, 4-6 pm church hall. Parent meeting 5:30 pm in the church hall.

RCIA for teens:

Juniors and Seniors in High School

In addition to our adult RCIA, we would like to have a process to prepare older teens to for baptism and also to prepare baptized teens to celebrate the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. If you are interested, please contact either Fr. Henry at the rectory (973-347-0032) or Debbie Rogalo at the Rel. Ed. office (973-347-1465).

RCIA

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC OR COMPLETING YOUR CONFIRMATION AS AN ADULT?

RCIA will begin Thursday, September 21, 2017, 7:00-8:30PM. To find out more and/or register, please call Fr. Henry Pinto 973 347-0032.

This program helps adults and young adults learn about the Catholic Faith and prepare them for the initiation sacraments that are typically celebrated at the Easter Vigil Mass which will be on March 31 this coming spring (2018). Candidates and their sponsors meet together on Thursday evenings from the fall through Easter, plus two sessions after Easter. Candidates include:

- Those who are not yet baptized preparing to celebrate Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist
- Those baptized in another Christian denomination preparing to become Catholic
- Plus those who were baptized Catholic, but not yet confirmed, preparing to celebrate their Confirmation, and perhaps First Eucharist.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Registration for classes is now closed so that we can get ready for the start of classes on 9/17.

If you still need to register, please call the office: 973-347-1465 and we will give you instructions about late registration.

Confirmation II (those entering second year):

- RETREAT permission slips, also mailed home recently, are past due. If you have not handed in the form, please call the office to see if there is room on the retreat (9/23/17).

Confirmation service: any teen in need of service—here is an opportunity. We need some help getting the school building ready for the new year. Please call Mrs. Rogalo (leave a message with your name and phone number if we are not in) for details. 973-347-1465

Religious Education Sessions begin:

PLEASE PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE DATES AS LISTED!

† Confirmation II (sophomores): Sun., 9/10, 8:30 am-10:30am, church hall.

Eat at Adams Restaurant!

Just mention that you are with St. Michael's Church when you are at the register and we will receive 10% of every order. Thank you...

2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal In Giving, We Receive

The 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal is currently underway. This year, the theme of the Appeal is "In Giving, We Receive". By being generous with our God-given gifts, we not only help people in need, but we also help ourselves. Jesus reminds us of the blessings that come from being good stewards.

The Bishop's Annual Appeal supports four causes: our Catholic Charities agencies; seminarian education, Nazareth Village, our diocesan priests' retirement residence and our inner-city area elementary schools. You can help make this year's Appeal an even greater success by making a generous pledge today. Every single gift is important, valued and changes lives. Whatever you do to help is a profound blessing!

ADORATION NOTICE

Can you use an hour of quiet in your daily life? Would you like to pour your heart out to someone who would really listen? Please try and spend an hour each week with Jesus at the Adoration Chapel.

PRAYER AND REFLECTION

"Words can be difficult, Oh Lord. Here I sit, actually in your presence! My ego facing your humility. My pride facing your forgiveness. My indifference and Your commitment of love, offering Your life, on my behalf. My sins, Your crucifixion. How do I thank you Lord for this profound gift of accepting my presence here - this awesome gift allowing me to spend intimate time with You Lord! I do not merit such a gift. I am here as a sinner. One way or another, I am still crucifying You each day. Still, I come. Thank you Lord for accepting me..."

OPEN HOURS

Monday	10 am
Wednesday	8 am
Friday	1 am
Friday	4 pm
Saturday	4 am
Saturday	9 pm
Saturday	12 pm
Sunday	11 pm

Thank you and God bless you.

Marie Francisco 732-895-7972

Respect Life Committee



If anyone would like to join us, please call Andrina at 973-609-4012. Holy Hour will be the third Tuesday of the month at 7pm in church.

(Crisis Pregnancy Hotline – 800-848-5683)

-Please join us at Planned Parenthood in Newton for one hour of prayer – First Saturday of each month at 10am. All are welcome. We need to end these atrocities against life.

Spiritual Adoption

From the time of the Feast of the Annunciation through December. Please spiritually adopt a baby in danger of abortion. The sign up book gives the baby a name and we ask that you pray for them each day for the entire pregnancy. Take a prayer card because your prayers can save a life. The book is near the statue of Our Blessed Mother. God Bless you.



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2017 BUS TRIP TO SIGHT & SOUND IN LANCASTER, PA "MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS"

\$110.00 per person - includes ticket, luncheon at Good & Plenty Restaurant (family style) and bus.
Seats are limited – if you have any questions, contact Andrea Trapper at andratrapp@gmail.com
Or fill out info below....

Names: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

of People: _____

Total: \$ _____

Please cut out and bring to Annemarie or Bob in the parish office with a check made out to:
St. Michael Church