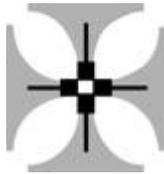


The Church of Saint Michael  
Sunday, February 11, 2018  
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Please remember in your prayers those who have died:  
John Martel, Frank P. Spinner

Please remember in your prayers the sick of our parish:  
Helen Newstead, Louis DiBernard, Maria Spezza,  
James Mahieu, Sal Romano, Tim Paternostro, Bill Regal, Diane  
Grzymko, Carolyn Sundheim Nystrom, James Morino,  
Doug Ernst

Weekly Memorials  
Sacramental Bread & Wine:  
Catherine Sclafani

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

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Cor 10:31-11:1; Mk 1:40-45

Monday

Jas 1:1-11; Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday

Jas 1:12-18; Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday

Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday

Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25

Friday

Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15

Saturday

Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, February 10, 2018

8:00 a.m. Special Intention

5:00 p.m. Elwin & Mary Burd, Paul DiRupo

Sunday, February 11, 2018

7:00 a.m. Special Intention

8:45 a.m. Special Intention

10:30 a.m. Dominic & Nunziata Togno, Patricia Buckley

12:00 p.m. Ronald Costanzo

1:30 p.m. Flor Medranda

Monday, February 12, 2018

7:00 a.m. Joyce Benvenuto

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

8:00 a.m. Maria Ruocco

Wednesday, February 14, 2018 Ash Wednesday

7:00 a.m. John J. Bauer

12:15 p.m. Service Only

7:00 p.m. For All Parishioners

8:15 p.m. Mass in Spanish

Thursday, February 15, 2018

8:00 a.m. For All Parishioners

Friday, February 16, 2018

7:00 a.m. Robert Colabella

Saturday, February 17, 2018

8:00 a.m. Michael Dalessio

5:00 p.m. John Grogan, Angelina Arbolino,  
Charles, Helen & Bea Massopust

Sunday, February 18, 2018

7:00 a.m. Richie DiRenzo & Fr. Dennis

8:45 a.m. Edward Flannery III, Anthony & Mary Cautero,  
Michelina & Gerado Ceddia

10:30 a.m. John JB Norris, RJ Regan

12:00 p.m. Anthony Vassallo. Ronald Costanzo

1:30 p.m. Teresa Ramirez & Matias Salazar

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

Sunday, Jan. 28 \$6,519.00

To run our parish properly we need \$9,651.

Please consider helping a little bit more if you can.

Next Healing Mass  
Tuesday, February 27th at 7pm  
Rosary/Chaplet at 6:30pm

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

## From Fr. Michael

As you know, each parish in the Diocese of Paterson is offering the Sacrament of Confession each Monday evening during Lent as part of the “Welcome Home to Healing Program” including St. Michael Church. As we enter Lent, it is an invitation to recognize our need for Jesus’ mercy.

Q. Why should I go to confession?

A. First and foremost we recognize that God loves us and wants to save us from the misery that comes from sin. When we sin something inside of us dies; something God labored to bring to life is wounded and starts to die. God’s desire is to save us from that misery.

Going to confession allows us the grace that this Sacrament offers us each and every time we go. Secondly, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is the ordinary way in which God intended for us to have our sins forgiven. As we read in Sacred Scripture: “Those who sins you forgive, they are forgiven” (John 20:23). Jesus gives this power, this authority, this privilege to the first Apostles and in turn, they gave this same power to their successors and presbyters (priests). Therefore, a validly ordained Catholic priest, has the authority and power to forgive the sins of anyone who comes asking the Lord’s pardon and peace.

Q. Can’t I just pray to God myself and ask Him for forgiveness?

A. Again, certainly, God can choose to forgive anyone in any manner He chooses. However, He has already set into motion the normal means, the regular way He would like us to confess our sins. Jesus could have easily said “hey, go out into the world preach repentance, proclaim the Good News, proclaim the resurrection, and if someone sins come see me.” But that is not how Jesus set it up. He established this authority to forgive sins through the ministry of the Church.

Going to a priest offers us the possibility of counsel, the assistance to remain in the freedom that God has promised us. We are not a good gauge when it comes to sin; we are either too hard on ourselves or too lax. Priests are familiar with patterns of sin that imprison us.

By going to a priest for confession, we are free from having to judge if I was repentant enough. Certainly, we can ask God for forgiveness by ourselves by praying for repentance, but as we rise and commit the same sin immediately, say gossiping, we are stuck in a trap. “Was I truly forgiven even though I thought I was forgiven. If I were truly forgiven I wouldn’t have committed the same sin.” When we receive absolution, we receive the judgment of the Church, its not up to me. If I feel forgiven or not, the Church has declared with the authority of Jesus that all my sins are forgiven. So, when we gossip thirty seconds after confession, we know that the judgment of the Church has forgiven me for my sins in confession.

I have to say, on a personal note, that sitting in the confessional and listening to people confess their sins, is the most humble

act that I perform as a priest. It is truly amazing to me that I have the ability to offer you God’s pardon and peace.

Finally, I personally encourage those of you who have been away from the Sacrament for years. Having sat on your side of the confessional, I know the need to be kind, gentle and welcoming. If you do not know how to go to confession, forgot your prayers or are just nervous, know that you are not alone and I promise that I (or the priest) will guide you through a wonderful experience with the love of Christ in this Sacrament.

In a special way, I welcome any and all people who have had the unfortunate circumstance of being involved with an abortion. Whether you are the mother, the father, the boyfriend or just someone that helped in this situation, I welcome you to find the Lord’s peace that no doubt has been missing from your lives. There is no shame, no scolding, no pointing of the finger when you return to the Lord in confession.

I also invite anyone who has had problem with fidelity in their marriage, whether it be once, twice or ongoing. And finally, those of you who are single and are having difficulty in living a chaste life; come and see what the Lord has in store for you; His love, His peace and His forgiveness.

As we often read in the parable of the return of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32), I always remember how the father of young son waited at the door each and every day for his son to return. So it is with our heavenly Father and with your priests at St. Michael, our door is open for your return, we welcome you with open arms, we rejoice because “you were lost but now have been found.” Come and see as we “Welcome you Home” to God’s love and forgiveness.

### Lenten Journey

**Days of Abstinence:** No meat may be eaten on *Ash Wednesday*, all Fridays in Lent and *Good Friday* (for all those who are 14 years or older).

**Days of Fast:** A limit of one full meatless meal on *Ash Wednesday* and *Good Friday* (for all who are 18-60 years old).

**Weekdays of Lent:** There is no obligation to fast, however, voluntary acts of self-denial are always a great way to be more involved during Lent.

**Easter Duty Obligation:** Every Catholic must receive Holy Communion and go to confession between the First Sunday in Lent (Feb. 18) and Trinity Sunday (May 27).

**Acts of Devotion:** They are encouraged on a voluntary basis. These may include spiritual study, Lenten Devotions, the Rosary, Stations of the Cross and deeds of mercy and kindness. Of course, the greatest prayer and to receive the greatest fruits of the Lenten Season is by our participation in daily and Sunday Mass.

**Eucharistic Fast:** You should fast one hour before Mass from foods and liquids (water and medicine are exceptions to this fast).

## HELP THE FOOD PANTRY!

The Food Pantry is in need of the following items: cereal, canned pasta, peanut butter and jelly. Please leave your donations in the bin outside the rectory garage. Thank you, as always, for your generosity!!

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

### Religious Education Calendar Reminders

As per the schedule, classes are in session:

- Gr. 1-6 on Sunday
- Gr. 8 on the following Mondays: 2/5, 2/12
- Gr. K on 2/11
- NO sessions for Gr. K-8 on 2/18 and 19
- Gr. 7 on Monday, 2/26

**Grade 8:** as per the calendar and letter sent home, Teen/Parent session will be **Feb. 5**, 7-9 pm in the church hall. Every 8<sup>th</sup> grader should have at least one parent present. Call Mrs. Rogalo if you have any questions.

**Children's choir** practices every Sunday, after class in the school building, room 23, 11:15 am-11:45 am. *New members are welcome!* See Mrs. Rogalo if your child is interested.

### Confirmation Prep:

- **Confirmation II: Next session:** Feb. 11, 1-3pm with your sponsor (or a parent stand-in)! NOTE the time!
- **Confirmation I:** Meeting scheduled for Feb. 4 has been *changed* to March. Your meetings for March are as follows: March 4 (4-6pm), 11 (super group, 4-6:45pm), and March 18 (4-6pm this one in the rectory basement)

### First Communion Parent Meetings:

We ask that at least one parent attend BOTH sessions

Session I: February 25 (Sun.) at 6:30 pm

Session II: February 28 (Wed.) at 7 pm

Important details about First Communion, Jesus Day and other important material that you need to prepare your child will be discussed at these sessions. Please plan to attend! Questions? Contact Mrs. Rogalo (973-347-0032, ext. 2330)

**Religious Education Calendars** for all programs are available on the website. Go to Faith Formation tab then choose Religious Education.

**Two Winter Service projects to participate in:** (Sponsored by Religious Ed but the entire parish is welcome to participate)



**"Souper-Bowl" Food Pantry Project:** If you forgot your donation this week, Religious Ed classes will continue to collect soup for the food pantry through February.



**Hats for the Homeless** Religious Ed children are collecting hats, scarves, gloves, and socks (gently-used-freshly-laundered or brand new) for a homeless shelter. Bring your donation to the school during class time OR stop by the school Sundays at 10am or 11:30 am OR leave your contribution by the St. Anthony statue at the back of Church.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

† Paintball Weekend has been cancelled †

† Midnight Run on March 17<sup>th</sup> †

Goes towards service hours for confirmation students

Everyone is welcome to help organize the trip from

5:00pm to 8:30pm

We can only take 10 students to the actual run (8:30pm-12:30am), so please fill out registration forms online at [stmichaelnetcong.org/youth-ministry](http://stmichaelnetcong.org/youth-ministry)

Please have registration forms handed in by March 10th

† Youth Ministry meetings every Monday †

7:15pm to 9pm, meeting in the church

ALL registration forms are available on the parish website under Youth Ministry

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

[youthministry@stmichaelnetcong.org](mailto:youthministry@stmichaelnetcong.org)

## ADORATION

"Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty. Let us not forget that real poverty hurts: no self-denial is real without this dimension of penance. I distrust a charity that costs nothing and does not hurt." – Lenten Message, 2014 - Pope Francis

"WHAT SHOULD I DO FOR LENT?"

Would you consider giving up one hour of your valuable time for Adoration each week for the Lenten Season?

Please check our open hours and start your Lenten Season with a deeper relationship with God.

### ADORATION OPEN HOURS

Tuesday 7 pm

Friday 1 am & 3 pm

Saturday 6 pm, 7 pm, 9 pm

Saturday 10 pm Temporary

Please prayerfully consider filling an open hour.

*If you cannot make your hour – please find coverage or call your division leader.*

Thank you!

Marie Francisco 732-895-7972

Andrea Trapper 973-347-7031

## 40 Cans for Lent

Once again, the Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring the *40 Cans for Lent* program. We ask that individuals and families try to donate 40 cans (or equivalent items) of food during the Lenten season...one can for each day of Lent. You can place the cans in front of the St. Anthony statue in the rear of the church and the Knights will collect them and bring them to the food pantry for distribution to the needy in the area. Suggested items include: soups, peanut butter, canned vegetables, pasta, tuna, cereal etc. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14.



## MAKE THIS LENT ABOUT WHAT YOU DO, NOT WHAT YOU DON'T DO!

During the coming Lenten season, instead of depriving yourself of some type of food or some form of entertainment, join a small group for six weeks and participate in Live Lent, an opportunity to read Scripture and share your faith with some of your fellow parishioners. Small groups will meet for 90 minutes once a week at someone's home. The faith-sharing also provides meditations for you to use on the other days of Lent. It's a great way to make Lent a more meaningful season as you prepare to celebrate the resurrection. Watch this bulletin for more information or call 973-347-0032.

From Fr. Henry

### MIÉRCOLES DE CENIZA

El Miércoles de Ceniza es el primer día de la Cuaresma (40 días de preparación para la gran fiesta de la Pascua) Este símbolo de la imposición de la ceniza tienes sus inicios desde la primera iglesia en Roma, pero es a partir del Siglo XI que se empezó a realizar este rito para todos los cristianos, de modo que toda la comunidad se reconociera pecadora, dispuesta a emprender el camino de la conversión cuaresmal. Esta ceniza, es elaborada a partir de la quema de las palmas bendecidas el Domingo de Ramos del año litúrgico anterior, mezclada con un poco de agua bendita para darle una textura líquida/espesa para que pueda ser impuesta en la frente en forma de cruz. Este tiempo del Año Litúrgico, La Cuaresma. Si escuchamos con atención la Palabra de Dios, descubriremos la voz del Señor que nos llama a la conversión. Por eso es importante empezar este tiempo con el rito de la imposición de ceniza, el cual, acompañado de las palabras "Conviértete y cree en el Evangelio" o de la expresión "Acuérdate que eres polvo y al polvo volverás" (Gen 3:19), nos invita a todos a reflexionar acerca del deber de la conversión, recordándonos la fragilidad de nuestra vida aquí en la tierra.

Por eso, este miércoles cuando nos acerquemos a recibir las cenizas, meditemos muy bien en nuestro corazón las palabras que pronunciara el celebrante al imponerlas en forma de Cruz, para que en verdad sea un signo de nuestro deseo de conversión y aceptación del evangelio. Y si la gente en la calle te pregunta por qué tienes tierra en la frente? o si es que te crees mas santo que el resto de la gente? Te invito a que tu respuesta sea: No, Las cenizas significan que soy un pecador, pero la cruz significa que tengo un salvador, un Dios que cree en mí y que me está haciendo en la persona que Él cree que puedo ser. Estas palabras tan convincentes harán que otros que juzgan sin saber las razones puedan conocer la verdad y el significado de este importante acto de fe, ayudándolos de igual modo iniciar su camino de conversión. Hermanos en esta Cuaresma los invito a un tiempo de

reflexión en el cual trabajemos en nosotros mismos, ayudándonos a estar más cerca de Dios, siendo mejores personas, amando más a Jesús y a nuestros hermanos a través de la oración, el ayuno y la limosna.

¡No olvides venir este miércoles a recibir las cenizas y empezar este tiempo de cuaresma con el pie derecho! Bendiciones.

Padre Henry.

## Reflexiones en Cuaresma

### ¿ESTÁ TU CORAZÓN LISTO PARA EL CAMBIO?

La Cuaresma es el tiempo para cambiar nuestro corazón. Claro que no es nada fácil. Pero con la ayuda de una pequeña comunidad si se puede cambiar. En su pequeña comunidad de discípulos, vemos como el mismo Jesús en medio de la actividad del día sacaba tiempo para la oración y estar en silencio, para nosotros esto también es importante. ¿Por qué no tomar algún tiempo en esta Cuaresma para meditar en silencio, orar y compartir en un pequeño grupo? Por favor inscríbete en el día y la hora que más te convenga. El cambio que experimentarás valdrá la pena. Para más información fíjese en el volante o llame al Padre Henry al número **973-347-0032 Ext. 2350**.

### EL SANTO VIACRUCIS

Durante el tiempo de cuaresma estaremos realizando las estaciones de la Santa Cruz todos los viernes a las 8:00pm en el Templo Parroquial.

¡Únete a la experiencia de caminar con Jesús!

### POT LUCK DINNER!

Se acerca la Cuaresma y como preparación a ella, la parroquia los invita a hacer parte de una gran Cena el **Domingo, Febrero 11 a las 6:30 pm en el Salón Msgr. Trapasso**. Si quieres contribuir trayendo un plato típico de tu país o región, lo puedes hacer. Es opcional. También se necesitaran voluntarios para limpiar el salón después de la reunión. Voluntarios comunicarse con el padre Henry.

### MISAS EL DÍA MIÉRCOLES DE CENIZA

7:00am y 7:00pm en Inglés

12:15pm No Misa, solo imposición de cenizas

8:15pm en Español

### INTENCIONES PARA LA MISA

Si tienes alguna intención para ofrecer en la Misa Dominical en Epanol a la 1:30pm. Puedes comunicarte con el **Padre Henry al 973-347-0032 Ext-2350** o acercarse a las oficinas de la parroquia de **Lunes a Jueves de 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**.

### HORARIO DE CONFESIONES

Lunes : 6:30pm- 7:00pm

Sabados 3:30pm -4:30pm