

The Church of Saint Michael
Sunday, February 18, 2018
First Sunday of Lent



Please remember in your prayers those who have died:
Emelio Rea Jr.

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:
Mary Ann Weldon

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

First Sunday of Lent

Sunday

Gn 9:8-15; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

Monday

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday

Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday

Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32

Thursday

1 Pt 5:1-4; Mt 16:13-19

Friday

Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

Saturday

Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48

Mass Intentions for the Week

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

Monday, February 19, 2018

9:00 a.m. Dolores G. Cayabayab

Tuesday, February 20, 2018

8:00 a.m. Pasquale Leone

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

7:00 a.m. Maria Ruocco

12:15 p.m. Lenten Mass

Thursday, February 22, 2018

8:00 a.m. Jean Marie Aguilar

Friday, February 23, 2018

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

Saturday, February 24, 2018

8:00 a.m. For All Souls

5:00 p.m. Josephine & Emelio Rea Jr., Angelina Arbolino

Sunday, February 25, 2018

7:00 a.m. For All Deceased Parishioners of St. Michael's

8:45 a.m. Margaret Carol Baer, John Martel

10:30 a.m. Ronald Costanzo, Emelio Rea Jr.

12:00 p.m. John Cirillo

1:30 p.m. Special Intention

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

Sunday, Feb. 11 \$7,743.00

Repair & Renov. \$188.00

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

Every year Catholics try to answer the age old question: "What should I do for Lent?" Some of us have already adopted some Lenten practices in the three classical areas of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Perhaps this year we might also ask Jesus what he wants us to do in those areas. To help us out, here are some tips that Pope Francis has given us to help us discern what God might be calling us to do during Lent.

1. Get rid of the lazy addiction to evil

"[Lent] is a 'powerful' season, a turning point that can foster change and conversion in each of us. We all need to improve, to change for the better. Lent helps us and thus we leave behind old habits and the lazy addiction to the evil that deceives and ensnares us." – General Audience, March 5, 2014

2. Do something that hurts

"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

3. Don't remain indifferent

"Indifference to our neighbor and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience. God is not indifferent to our world; he so loves it that he gave his Son for our salvation." –Lenten Message, 2015

4. Pray: Make our hearts like yours!

"During this Lent, then, brothers and sisters, let us all ask the Lord: '*Fac cor nostrum secundum cor tuum*': **Make our hearts like yours** (Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus). In this way we will receive a heart which is firm and merciful, attentive and generous, a heart which is not closed, indifferent or prey to the globalization of indifference." – Lenten Message, 2015

5. Take part in the sacraments

"Lent is a favorable time for letting Christ serve us so that we in turn may become more like him. This happens whenever we hear the word of God and receive the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. There we become what we receive: the Body of Christ." – Lenten Message, 2015

6. Prayer

"In the face of so many wounds that hurt us and could harden our hearts, we are called to dive into the sea of prayer, which is the sea of God's boundless love, to taste his tenderness. Lent is a time of prayer, of more intense prayer, more prolonged, more assiduous, more able to take on the needs of the brethren; intercessory prayer, to intercede before God for the many situations of poverty and suffering." – Homily, March 5, 2014

7. Fasting

"We must be careful not to practice a formal fast, or one which in truth 'satisfies' us because it makes us feel good about ourselves. Fasting makes sense if it questions our security, and if it also leads to some benefit for others, if it helps

us to cultivate the style of the Good Samaritan, who bends down to his brother in need and takes care of him." –

Homily, March 5, 2014

"Fasting makes sense if it questions our security..." - Pope Francis

8. Almsgiving

"Today gratuitousness is often not part of daily life where everything is bought and sold. Everything is calculated and measured. Almsgiving helps us to experience giving freely, which leads to freedom from the obsession of possessing, from the fear of losing what we have, from the sadness of one who does not wish to share his wealth with others." – Homily, March 5, 2014

9. Help the Poor

"In the poor and outcast we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ. Our efforts are also directed to ending violations of human dignity, discrimination and abuse in the world, for these are so often the cause of destitution. When power, luxury and money become idols, they take priority over the need for a fair distribution of wealth. Our consciences thus need to be converted to justice, equality, simplicity and sharing." – Lenten Message, 2014

10. Evangelize

"The Lord asks us to be joyous heralds of this message of mercy and hope! It is thrilling to experience the joy of spreading this good news, sharing the treasure entrusted to us, consoling broken hearts and offering hope to our brothers and sisters experiencing darkness." – Lenten Message, 2014

In this Lenten Season may we come to realize that even in the smallest of decisions, they will eventually build up to make a difference. If we strive for a one percent (1%) change in each of these areas, we can build a foundation to truly grow in love of God and neighbor to make St. Michael Church a hospitable and welcoming community.

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).

Lenten Soup Supper

Friday, March 9th

following Stations of the Cross at 7pm
(bilingual)

Come to a fun evening at St. Michael's for a
Lenten Soup Supper.

You are invited to make your favorite meatless soup.

You can also bring bread, crackers, or dessert.

Please call the Parish Office [973-347-0032](tel:973-347-0032)
to let us know what soup you will be making.

Votive Candle Stand

As you might have experienced we are in need of a new votive candle stand by the statue of St. Anthony. The price of a new electric one is \$4,150.00. If you would like to donate and have a loved one memorialized, please call the Parish Office.

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, NO sessions for Gr. K-8 on 2/18 and 2/19. Choir is also *not* practicing 2/18.

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: everyone is to hand in the January mass sheets by this weekend!

- Confirmation I: Next session: March 4, 4-6pm
- Confirmation II: Next session: Feb. 25, 8:30-10:30
- SUPERGROUP Session for Con. I and II: March 11, 4-6:45 pm, church hall (dinner is included)

Confirmation I retreat: Sat, Feb. 24 at Sacred Heart Center. Please arrive by 10:15 am sharp! Concluding Mass will begin at 4:30 pm and parents are invited to attend. Forms and information have been mailed home. Permission slips and fee due no later than Feb. 18 please!

First Communion Parent Meetings:

We ask that at least one parent to 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.

YOUTH MINISTRY

† Midnight Run changed to April 6th †

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
Please have registration forms handed in by March 10th
Youth Ministry meetings every Monday †
7:15pm to 9pm, meeting in the church

Toiletry Kits: accepting donations for...

Toothpaste, toothbrush, washcloth, soap, razor, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, men's briefs M-XXXL (NEW IN PACKAGING), W/M socks (NEW IN PACKAGING), plaid t-shirts M-XXXL (NEW IN PACKAGING), large zip lock bags, plastic bags

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 p.m.

Wednesday 10 p.m.

Friday - 1 a.m. & Friday 3 p.m.

Saturday 6 p.m. & Saturday 7 p.m.

Saturday 9 p.m. & 10 p.m. 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

Cornerstone at St. Therese – March 9

St. Therese in Succasunna will be offering a Women's Cornerstone Retreat in March. The overnight event will begin on Friday evening March 9th and conclude Saturday evening, March 10th. The retreat will be held at the Sacred Heart Retreat Center in Newton, N.J.

Registration fee is \$125.00 and includes your meals, retreat materials, and transportation. If you have financial difficulties, please call Fr. Mike.

You may also contact Mary Byank at [973-584-2720](tel:973-584-2720) or Diane Bauer-Guido at [973-479-7250](tel:973-479-7250) for additional information.

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.



IMPORTANT MEETING for all interested in helping with VBS on Monday, March 19th from 7pm to 8pm in the rectory basement. Volunteers must be in 5th grade or older (adults are welcome!).

If you are interested but cannot make the meeting, contact Karen Cubberly at karen.cubberly@stmichaelnetcong.org.

From Fr. Henry

QUE ES LA CUARESMA?

La Cuaresma es conocida como uno de los tiempos fuertes del año litúrgico, que tienen como propósito fortalecer nuestra fe y vida como cristianos. Partiendo de esto, es importante que conozcamos más a fondo su significado, y para esto, una de las mejores formas de hacerlo es mediante la reflexión de los fundamentos bíblicos de este gran acontecimiento que se viene celebrando en la iglesia desde los primeros siglos.

La cuaresma proveniente de la palabra latina "Cuadragésima", lo cual indica el cuadragésimo día antes de la llegada de la pascua, es decir 40 días de preparación, oración y conversión para la pascua. Este número 40 tiene gran significado en las sagradas Escrituras, ya que en ella encontramos continuamente muchos pasajes donde se es mencionado el número 40 en relación con el significado de la cuaresma.

El número 40 en la biblia nos habla principalmente de tiempos de prueba, tiempos que no son sencillos de pasar y que requieren de la ayuda de Dios para enfrentarlo, por ejemplo:

+ **40 días de diluvio:** "y estuvo descargando la lluvia sobre la tierra cuarenta días y cuarenta noches." (Génesis 7:12)

+ **40 días de Moisés en el monte de Dios:** "Moisés estuvo allí con Yahveh cuarenta días y cuarenta noches, sin comer pan ni beber agua. Y escribió en las tablas las palabras de la alianza, las diez palabras." (Éxodo 34:28)

+ **40 días de Elías en el desierto:** "Volvió segunda vez el ángel de Yahveh, le tocó y le dijo: «Levántate y come, porque el camino es demasiado largo para ti. Se levantó, comió y bebió, y con la fuerza de aquella comida caminó cuarenta días y cuarenta noches hasta el monte de Dios, el Horeb." (1 Reyes 19:7-8)

+ **40 días a Nínive para su conversión:** "Jonás comenzó a adentrarse en la ciudad, e hizo un día de camino proclamando: «Dentro de cuarenta días Nínive será destruida.»" (Jonás 3:4)

Habitualmente encontramos también que este número 40 no solo señalan tiempos de prueba sino que al mismo tiempo nos señala tiempos de preparación y encuentro con Dios o el cumplimiento de sus promesas. Como por ejemplo: la armonía después del diluvio, el encuentro de Moisés con Dios en la zarza ardiente, el encuentro de Elías con Dios y finalmente la conversión de Nínive.

Todos estos pasajes anteriormente mencionados tiene algunos elementos en común tales como: el desierto, el ayuno, la penitencia, la oración y la conversión, todos muy característicos de la Cuaresma, los cuales apuntan a una sola dirección: a "Jesucristo". A Jesucristo especialmente cuando se dirigió al desierto por 40 días, guiado por el Espíritu Santo y tentado por el maligno, así como no lo muestra la liturgia de este primer Domingo de Cuaresma según el evangelista Marcos 1:12-15.

Durante este tiempo de cuaresma te invito a que vivamos un tiempo de desierto interior, en el cual vamos a encontrar muchas pruebas difíciles pero que con la ayuda de Dios lograremos vencer, saliendo así vencedores para finalmente poder disfrutar de un verdadero encuentro con Dios en esta Pascua 2018.

Bendiciones
Padre Henry

EL SANTO VIA CRUCIS

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

A Excepción del Viernes 9 de Marzo que será a las 7:00 pm Bilingüe, seguido de una pequeña cena de demostración de diferentes tipos de sopas en el Hall de la parroquia.

¡Únete a la experiencia de caminar con Jesús!

Bienvenido a Casa

Tiempo de reconciliación con Dios durante esta Cuaresma

Confesiones: Lunes de 7:00pm a 8:30pm

RETIRO ESPIRITUAL DE CUARESMA

Próximo 3 de Marzo de 9:30am a 4:00pm

Recuerda que compartiremos la comida que cada uno lleve.

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.