

The Church of Saint Michael  
March 15, 2020  
Third Sunday of Lent



Please remember in your prayers those who have died.

Please remember in your prayers the sick of our parish:  
David Gowdy, Tim Paternostro, Marlene Kenia, Marthalie Paternostro, Diane Grzymko, Drew Taormina, Jeanne Rattner

Weekly Memorial

Bread & Wine: Grace Costanzo  
Sanctuary Lamp: Andrew Weaver

All are Welcome... All are Invited...  
Come... PRAY the ROSARY  
Monday through Saturday  
7:30AM

Readings for the week

Third Sunday of Lent

Sunday

Ex 17:3-7; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15,  
19b-26, 39a, 40-42

Monday

2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday

Dn 3:25, 34-43; Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday

Dt 4:1, 5-9; Mt 5:17-19

Thursday

2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22;

Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Friday

Hos 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34

Saturday

Hos 6:1-6; Lk 18:9-14

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Next Healing Mass is Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 7pm

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

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, March 14, 2020

8:00 a.m. Helen Newstead

5:00 p.m. Frank Guiliana Jr., John & Gloria Bauer

Sunday, March 15, 2020

7:00 a.m. Richie DiRenzo

9:30 a.m. Anne Shannon, Joan Togno

11:30 a.m. Henry Rafferty, Joan Togno

1:30 p.m. Special Intention

Monday, March 16, 2020

7:00 a.m. For All Parishioners

Tuesday, March 17, 2020 St. Patrick's Day

8:00 a.m. Martin & Bridget Grogan & Family

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

7:00 a.m. Grace Costanzo

12:15 p.m. Philomina Vassallo

Thursday, March 19, 2020

8:00 a.m. Robert Colabella, Anthony Preziosi Sr. &  
Son-Tony

Friday, March 20, 2020

7:00 a.m. Deceased Members of the Susco Family

Saturday, March 21, 2020

8:00 a.m. For all who are sick

5:00 p.m. Rea Family, Louis Castaldi,  
Eleanor Sylvester

Sunday, March 22, 2020

7:00 a.m. Mary Peer, Therese Tardive

9:30 a.m. Ronald E. Costanzo, Bernard Klinck

11:30 a.m. Mario Tancredi

1:30 p.m. Special Intention

TITHING – GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

ST. MICHAEL'S HAS BEEN A TITHING PARISH  
SINCE 1988.

Sunday 3/8/20 \$5,899.00

WeShare \$1,026.00

Welcome Home Confessions on Mondays 7-8:30pm

Confeciones promer miercoles del mes de 7 a 8 pm

Lenten Mass each Wednesday of Lent at 12:15pm

*Schedule for Stations & Special Events on back page*

## From Fr. Mike

I am often asked as a priest: "Why can't I confess my sins directly to God?" To which I always reply: "You can go directly to Him and I always encourage that." We should never forget that by our baptism, we are given direct access to God through the power of the Holy Spirit, so that we can always go directly to God for anything we need or want. As Jesus reminded us: "Ask and you shall receive. Seek and you shall find. Knock and the door will be opened" (Matthew 7:7). Therefore, everyone can go directly to God and repent of their sins. However, we are also called to go to the priest as well.

To understand why, we must remember that the role of a priest is an intercessor and a "pontiff" (a bridge) between God and His people. Of course, we know that Jesus Christ is the ultimate mediator between God and His people. However, He allows His priests to share in this awesome task of forgiving sins. In the Old Testament, the priest was a mediator between God and His Chosen People, albeit, these actions were always and only symbolic.

In the New Testament, priests serve in a similar role, but now with greater power. In John 20:23, Jesus breathes on the Apostles and says: "Those whose sins you forgive are forgiven and those you hold bound are held bound." By these words, Jesus gives the ability, power and gift to forgive sins to His Apostles. This is such a wonderful gift because Jesus shares with all who come and ask forgiveness the certitude that their sins are indeed forgiven.

In James 5:14-18 it says: "If anyone is sick among you, call for the priest and the priest will come and anoint them with the oils of the Church and if they have committed any sins their sins are forgiven." This is not only the institution of the Sacrament of the Sick, but also shows how from the earliest times in the Church, people were coming to the priests to have their sins forgiven.

The Lord wants to forgive all of us our sins and the normal means of doing this is through the priest. This is God's will and why Jesus Himself instituted this wonderful Sacrament of forgiveness. Like all of God's gifts, this gift of forgiving sins is one that is given to be used. In this great Sacrament, the priest not only reconciles us back to God, but also to the community as well. We are a Church of sign and symbol; in baptism we see, hear and touch the water, the oil, the candle, the baptismal garment. In the Holy Eucharist, we see, touch and even consume the bread and wine (which become the holy Body and Precious blood of Christ). In the Sacrament of Confirmation, we see and feel that oil, the laying on of

hands by the bishop as we do in the Sacrament of Holy Orders. In all of the Sacraments of our Church, there are many ways to literally see, feel, hear, smell and touch the grace of God in our lives. In the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) we are also able to hear the voice of the Lord Himself through the instrument of His priest to literally hear the words "Your sins are forgiven."

Therefore, it makes sense that like the other Sacraments of the Church, initiated by Jesus Himself, the Sacrament of Penance allows us to see God working in sign and symbol and in terms and words that we can easily understand and allow to touch our souls. We must also remember that by our baptism, we are received into the Church through the priest and so it is with Confession. We do not baptize ourselves. We use the mediator (the priest) to accomplish this great act of God, so it makes sense to use the same logic with Confession. Maybe the truth of the matter is that we really do not like telling someone else our sins (especially the priest). The days are gone (at least here in Netcong) to feel embarrassed for what we have done.

At Saint Michael Church, there is no yelling, no making you feel less of a person, no need for shame. Certainly, you may be challenged to do better, just like you are when you visit your doctor. How many people want to tell the doctor that you eat sweets all day long, that you do not exercise and smoke? And yet, when he has the real and full picture of your life, then he can make you more healthy by his advice and suggestions. So it is with our "spiritual doctor" the priest, who can also help us with our spiritual health by knowing the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth of our lives.

Confession is a place to be made more healthy, more whole and maybe even holy. It allows Jesus to have victory over the sins in our lives which keep us from Him. It is then that we get to hear, with our own ears and see with our own eyes: "God the Father of mercy, loves you so much that He sent His only-begotten son to suffer and die for your sins... and through the ministry of the Church, I now absolve you of all your sins, in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." How miraculous. How loving. How powerful is our God that He allows us to share in this great Sacrament. So if you feel like you want to go directly to God to confess your sins, by all means do that. But you also have to go to the priest because that is the way Jesus designed it to be for all of us. Come and visit Father in Confession any Monday during Lent

from 7:00-8:30pm in any church or here on Saturday evening at 4:00-4:30pm. He is waiting patiently for your return to the Lord. Come and share God's grace, God's peace and God's forgiveness in a manner in which the Lord Jesus Christ has established just for you and your salvation. The chairs are comfortable too!

## Faith Formation News

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

### Confirmation I and II Sessions:

- Super Group Session for Conf. I and II: March 15, 3-7:30pm, church hall; dinner is included. Attendance is expected of all candidates. Please see email for requested dinner contribution
- Confirmation I: March 22, regular time and place. Interviews for all first year candidates are taking place on 3/18,19,23,25. PLEASE DO NOT MISS YOUR APPOINTMENT.
- All candidates should be working on accomplishing 4 hours of service for the months of Jan. 1-March 31.
- REMINDER: As per the calendar, all candidates are to attend the Triduum services this year—
  - 4/9 Holy Thursday Mass, 7pm
  - 4/10 Passion and Veneration of the Cross, 3pm
  - Easter Vigil (4/11, 7:30 pm) OR any Easter Sunday Mass



### Grade 8 Retreat:

As per the letter sent home:  
Retreat Friday, April 3, 6:30-10 pm here at St. Michael. Permission slips were sent home and are available on the website

(stmichaelnetcong.org; go to Faith Formation then to Religious Ed). You may bring a guest but we ask that all forms be returned in advance so we have enough food and other supplies. Charge for the event: 3 donations for the food pantry. Please call the Faith Formation Office for details. NOTE: This is a scheduled class session. In addition, *attendance at the retreat will count as make up for those who have more than the 3 allowable absences.*

## Forty Cans for Lent

Please join the Knights of Columbus in the Forty Cans for Lent project. Once again, the Knights will collect canned goods and other non perishable food items for our parish food pantry. It's a great corporal work of mercy to perform during Lent. The idea is to donate one item for each of the forty days of Lent as part of your Lenten sacrifice. Donations can be placed by the statue of St. Anthony in the back of the church. Thank you.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

Sweet Success Fundraiser: Please return the M & M tube filled with quarters and drop it into the container in the church vestibule. Thank you!

### Jamaica Mission Trip sign ups

Mar 20: Stations of the Cross & Unplanned Movie Night

Mar 21: Midnight Run clothes sorting Service

Mar 28: Midnight Run we are in need of men's underwear, and t-shirts, Zip up hoodie sweatshirts and sweat pants sizes L, XL, XXL, socks and gently used sneakers. Ladies socks and underwear sizes M & L, disposable razors, sleeping bags & blankets, hats, gloves, scarves.

April 6: Sweet Success quarter counting service

### Youth Ministry Meetings

Mondays at 7:00pm in Youth Ministry mtg. room  
All permission slips/registration forms can be found online. Calendar for other events can be found on the parish website at [stmichaelnetcong.org/youth-ministry](http://stmichaelnetcong.org/youth-ministry). If you have questions, please email Nicole at [youth.ministry@stmichaelnetcong.org](mailto:youth.ministry@stmichaelnetcong.org)



## 2020 Spring Tricky Tray Fundraiser

**We are excited to announce our**

**1<sup>st</sup> Annual Parish Gift Card Tricky Tray!**

**When: Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> Doors Open at 3pm**

**Where: Msgr. Trapasso Hall**

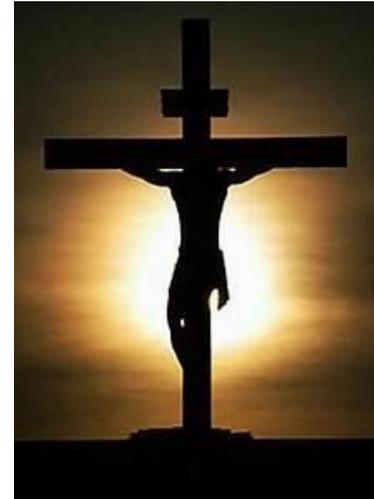
**Support Needed:** We are asking each St. Michael family to donate a \$25-\$50 gift card of their choice to be raffled off at the event. The gift cards should be placed in a sealed envelope with the family name along with "Tricky Tray" printed on the outside. They can be dropped off at the Parish office or placed in the Sunday collection baskets by March 31<sup>st</sup>, if possible. More information will follow regarding advance sale tickets. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer at the event please contact: Nancy Keller, Laura Sanville, Donna Pedersen, Mona DaCosta or Debbie Hartman.



# Holy Land Pilgrimage

## Walk In Jesus' Footsteps

From November 8 to Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The Gospels and Parables will come alive as we travel throughout Israel. The price of \$2,950 PPDO includes everything except beverages, tips, church donations and travel insurance. We are booked into 4 star hotels with breakfast, lunch and dinner included. We will visit the site of the Transfiguration, Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, Nazareth, the Garden of Gethsemane and many others. For a detailed copy of the itinerary, the information and reservation form, contact Valerie Nichols at [valerie.n@stmichaelnetcong.org](mailto:valerie.n@stmichaelnetcong.org) or call her at home 973-347-9030. Please consider joining us as we walk in Jesus' steps. We have a couple of spots left so don't delay.



## ADORATION

"Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Christ?" [John 4:29](#)

Prayer for third week of Lent

Dear Lord, You are the Living Water that my soul needs. May I meet You in the heat of my day, in the trials of life, and in my shame and guilt. May I encounter Your love, gentleness and acceptance in these moments, and may that Love become the source of my new life in You. Jesus, I trust in You. Amen

AMEN." Open Hours - Sunday 11pm, Monday 12am & 1am, Tuesday 10pm. 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

## FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry is in need of: **boxed/canned potatoes, canned fruit, jars/canned pasta sauce.** Please leave **ONLY** your **NON-PERISHABLE** donations in the bin outside the rectory garage. **ANY FROZEN OR REFRIGERATED FOODS LEFT IN THE BIN WILL HAVE TO BE DISCARDED FOR HEALTH REASONS.**

Thank you for your generosity.



Join our faith community—and more than 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a life-changing Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl from church. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on the challenge of global hunger and how it affects our human family.

## Schedule for Lent & Easter

*Remaining Schedule*

All Are Welcome!

### Friday, March 20

7pm English – Living Stations Lead by Youth Ministry

8pm Spanish

Fish Fry

### Friday, March 27

8pm - Franciscan Mystery Players

### Friday, April 3

7pm English

8pm Spanish

### Thursday, April 9

8am Morning Prayer

7pm Holy Thursday Mass Bilingual

### Good Friday, April 10

8am Morning Prayer

1pm Living Stations Walk

2:30pm Stations in English

3pm Good Friday Service in English

6:30pm Good Friday Service in Spanish

### Holy Saturday, April 11

8am Morning Prayer

7:30pm Easter Vigil Mass Bilingual

### Easter Sunday, April 12

7am, 9:30am, 11:30am Mass in English

1:30pm Mass in Spanish