FIRST SUNDAY OF Lent

St. Michael in Old Town

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

Mark 1:12-13
### Parish Directory...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pastor</td>
<td>Rev. Larry Sanders, C.Ss.R.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lsanders@st-mikes.org">lsanders@st-mikes.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Pastor</td>
<td>Rev. Ramon Dompke C.Ss.R.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>In Residence</td>
<td>Rev. John Fahey-Guerra, C.Ss.R.</td>
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<td>Rev. Robert Fenili, C.Ss.R.</td>
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<td>Rev. Jim Keena, C.Ss.R.</td>
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<td>Rev. Greg May, C.Ss.R.</td>
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<td>Rev. Stephen Rehrauer, C.Ss.R.</td>
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<td>Rev. John Steingraeber, C.Ss.R.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attached - Not In Residence</td>
<td>Rev. Joe Dorcey, C.Ss.R.</td>
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<td>Rev. Brian Johnson, C.Ss.R.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. John Phelps, C.Ss.R.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish Operations Manager</td>
<td>Patricia Krier</td>
<td>(312) 642-2498, ext. 215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Coordinator</td>
<td>Sr. Maryann McKeogh, CSFN</td>
<td>(312) 642-2498, ext. 210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of Liturgy and Music</td>
<td>Daniel Stucker</td>
<td>312-642-2498, ext. 213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Minister</td>
<td>Steve Carson</td>
<td>312-642-2498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director Religious Education</td>
<td>Kim Rak</td>
<td><a href="mailto:krak@st-mikes.org">krak@st-mikes.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sacristan</td>
<td>Elizabeth Prendergast</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support Staff</td>
<td>John Steigerwald</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support Staff</td>
<td>Maria Santana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wedding Coordinator</td>
<td>Kathryn Trnka</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulletin, Newsletter, Baptism and Marriage Scheduling</td>
<td>Toni Dunning</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tdunning@st-mikes.org">tdunning@st-mikes.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Church Tours

Email information@st-mikes.org at any time for details and further help.

### Connect with us!

- **Facebook:** St. Michael’s Moms Group
- **YouTube:** St. Michael in Old Town
- **Website:** St-mikes.org
- **Twitter:** @StMichaelOT
- **Instagram:** St Michael in Old Town
- **Pinterest:** St. Michael in Old Town

### Mass Intentions of the Day

**Sunday, February 21**
- † Anne Mather
- † Letitia Jordan
- Parishioners of St. Michael’s

**Tuesday, February 23**
- † Robert Gorz
- † Joseph and Margaret Jung

**Wednesday, February 24**
- † Albert and Louised Belmonte

**Thursday, February 25**
- Foundation Fund Members

**Sunday, February 28**
- † Anne Mather
- Madeleine McMullan
- Parishioners of St. Michael’s

### This Week’s Readings

**Monday:** 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19

**Tuesday:** Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15

**Wednesday:** Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32

**Thursday:** Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12

**Friday:** Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26

**Saturday:** Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48

**Sunday:** Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10
For Health and Healing:
All those suffering for the effects of the Covid virus; and the pandemic., Justine Price

For Repose of the Soul:
Thomas McDonald

Anointing of the Sick
Call the church office at (312) 642-2498.

Confessions
In the Church:
Tuesday 8:30 - 8:45am
Saturday 11:00 - 11:30am
By appointment, please call 312-642-2498

Baptisms
Please see our website, st-mikes.org to register and you will be contacted to confirm a date and time for the Baptism.

Weddings
Fridays: 3:00 pm
Saturdays: 12:30, 3:00 and 6:30pm
Contact Toni Dunning at tdunning@st-mikes.org

Parish Office Hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday - 9:00am - 3:00pm
Thursday - 9:00am—Noon

Emergency?
Please call 773-844-8676 and leave a message. A priest will return your call as soon as he can.

Make Your Reservation NOW!

Public Masses at St. Michael's are held on Sunday at 9:00 and 11:00am and daily Mass on Tuesday at 8:00am with the devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help and confessions afterwards.

Thank you!

8:00am Daily Mass Schedule:

Daily Mass is offered at each of our local Renew My Church parishes one morning a week. Register in advance at the parish where the Mass is being offered.

Monday     Tuesday     Wednesday
St. Joseph Church   St. Michael’s   St. Teresa of Avila Church
Thursaday     Friday
St. Vincent DePaul Church   St. Josaphat Church
It can’t be Lent already; I have not even lost the weight I gained during the Christmas season. But with the coming of Ash Wednesday earlier this week, Lent is here. It is time to think about a different kind of weight, the weight of our sins. The good thing is that to lose the weight of sin we don’t need to diet and exercise, all we need is the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

During the Sacrament, God takes away the weight of our sins and leaves us unburdened. The problem is that some people pick up their sins as soon as God takes them away. Either they return to their sinful practices or they doubt the power of God to forgive them and keep the weight. The other common practice is to not give God all the weight. We seem to want to carry some of it around. It is comfortable and we are used to it. If we give it away, what are we going to complain about? This is the sin of being unforgiving. We hold on to past hurts, grudges, prejudices, and judgements. The problem with this is that we carry them around hoping the other person will feel the burden, but we are the only one being weighed down.

During this Lent, let us resolve to lose the weight. The weight of sin that burdens each of us and turn it over to God who can finally get rid of all those useless burdens. The sacrament of Reconciliation is available on Fridays at 4:30 PM and Saturdays at 11 AM or stop by the office during regular office hours.

Peace,

Fr. Larry

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Stations of the Cross

Fridays at 5:00 PM

Confessions

Fridays at 4:30 PM

February 19
February 26
March 5
March 12
March 19
March 26
April 2
Fasting and abstinence: More than laws of the Church

The penitential season of Lent is upon us, and we Catholics, like Christians everywhere, begin preparing to commemorate the passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Just a few short weeks ago, we celebrated his birth, and now the Church begins our preparation to join him on his journey to Calvary. The church scene becomes somber, more intense, and such terms as contrition, conversion, penance, almsgiving, fasting and abstinence dominate the liturgy.

Benedictine Father Dom Prosper Gueranger wrote about Lent in “The Liturgical Year” (1887): “Lent, then, is a time consecrated, in a special manner, to penance, and this penance is mainly practiced by fasting. Fasting is an abstinence, which man voluntarily imposes upon himself; as expiation for sin, and which, during Lent, is practiced in obedience to the general laws of the Church.”

Why fast and abstain?

Pope Clement XIII in 1759 said that “penance also demands that we satisfy divine justice with fasting, almsgiving and prayer and other works of the spiritual.” The purpose of our fast is to not become physically weak or lose weight but to create a hunger, a spiritual void that only Christ can fill; in fasting from the heart, we express our love of God and acknowledge our sinfulness. Though unworthy, we pray our sacrifices will be acceptable to the one who suffered and gave his life blood for us.

Every Ash Wednesday we hear from the prophet Joel (2:12-14): “Yet even now — oracle of the Lord — return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, weeping and mourning. Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the Lord, your God.” It is not our clothes but our hearts we need to rend in reflecting our sorrow. Our fast is not for man but for God.

Fasting and abstinence

Fasting and abstinence are Church-imposed penitential practices that deny us food and drink during certain seasons and on certain days. These acts of self-denial dispose us to free ourselves from worldly distractions, to express our longing for Jesus, to somehow imitate his suffering.

Abstinence traditionally has meant not eating meat and, for centuries but no longer, included meat by-products. Many may recall the calendar hanging in the kitchen that included a fish symbol on each Friday of the month. Catholics never have been compelled to eat fish on days of abstinence, but rather, to avoid meat. While abstinence refers to the kind or quality of food we eat, fasting refers to the amount or quantity of food consumed. It is contrary to the spirit of abstinence and fasting if we avoid steak but pile our plate high with fish.

Fasting in Scripture

In the Old Testament, God told Adam and Eve not to eat (abstain) from the Tree of Knowledge (Gn 2:17). Queen Esther (Est 4: 15), in a successful attempt to save the Jews, ordered a three-day fast for herself and her court. The Book of Jonah describes how the people of Nineveh fasted and were saved from God’s wrath (3:4-10).

Jesus set the example for our fasting when he went into the desert and fasted for 40 days and 40 nights (Mt 4:1-11). His entire life involved suffering and self-denial. In Mark 2:18-20, Jesus responds to the Pharisees’ accusation that his disciples do not fast: “As long as they have the bridegroom with them they cannot fast. But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day.” Once Jesus was not with them, the Apostles did fast and advocated fasting to new Christians as evidenced in the books of Acts and the Epistles.

St. Michael's Book Club!

February Selection!

"Breakfast at Tiffany’s” by Truman Capote

Join the book discussion on Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 7:00 pm on Zoom for the discussion of a classic novel, "Breakfast at Tiffany’s” by Truman Capote. There will be a designated leader for guiding the group and comments. Everyone is welcome, email marylruh@gmail.com for information and to receive the link to the Zoom meeting.
Novena for the Pandemic

The Knights of Columbus are holding a Novena for the Pandemic every Wednesday through April 21st. The prayer service will be held on Zoom, and will begin at 7:00 pm each Wednesday night.

The Zoom meeting information is:
Meeting ID: 164 170 590 Password: 15771

Here is a link to the prayer:

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Jen H., earns for hockey

We need your expertise! Places you can volunteer!

Are you a videographer? Do you have a newer, gently used computer you can donate? Camera system for our livestreaming just sitting around? We can use your expertise as we look to upgrade our current streaming equipment!

Do you see a hole, a need at St. Michael’s and believe you have the skills we need to fill that hole?

Please email information@st-mikes.org or call Pat Krier in the Parish Office!

Please consider volunteering for our Re-Opening Team for the Greeting Team or the Cleaning (Disinfecting) Team! You can choose when you volunteer and for how long! Call Daniel Stucker at 312-642-2498 or email him at dstucker@st-mikes.org for information and to volunteer. Training will take only 15 minutes and the donation of your time is priceless!
LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

St. Michael’s Annual Lenten Food Drive, sponsored by the Human Needs & Concerns Commission, is now under way. The goal is to stock the shelves of the Catholic Charities Food Pantry with food to help the hungry among us. (Thank you for the pasta, sauce and macaroni and cheese you’ve donated this past week!) Although you are invited to donate any and all types of non-perishable packaged food items for the Pantry, this year’s Drive targets a specific food item for each week of Lent:

2nd Sunday, February 28 – canned fish and soup (Protein is in particularly short supply at the Pantry, so canned fish – tuna, salmon, sardines -- is especially appreciated.)
3rd Sunday, March 7 – cereal, oatmeal, and canned vegetables
4th Sunday, March 14 – canned fruit, granola bars and dried fruits
5th Sunday, March 21 – rice, beans and peanut butter
Palm Sunday March 28 – your choice from the categories above

Participating is easy.
1. Bring your items to church with you. Place your donations in the labeled basket at the back of the church.
2. Deliver or ship food to the Parish Office at 1633 N. Cleveland. Please arrange to have the items delivered before 3:00 p.m. (noon on Thursdays).

Your contributions help to make a difference! If it’s easier for you, cash contributions can be made online at www.stmikes.org or placed in an envelope marked “Lenten Food Drive” and dropped in the Offertory collection box or at the office. All cash will go to Catholic Charities Food Pantry.

Thank you for your support and help.

Our parish is conducting our campaign for the Annual Catholic Appeal. Please remember that the Annual Catholic Appeal is much different than a one-time special collection. It is a pledge campaign where you can make a gift payable in installments.

The Annual Catholic Appeal theme, “Come, follow me … and bring hope to the world,” was selected because as disciples of Jesus, we follow the Master who both gives us hope and sends us to bring his hope to our world that needs it so much.

Each pledge makes a difference! All parishes communities participate in the campaign and the gifts of many enable our parishes, schools and ministries to deliver needed services.

The pandemic has changed all the procedures of the past. To make your gift, you can complete the mail-in giving envelope available at church or make a gift online at annualcatholicappeal.com or text “ACA2021” (not case-sensitive) to the phone number 345345.

Gifts will be processed by the Annual Catholic Appeal.
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Jesus revealed to his disciples the deepest meaning of his mission when he told them of his passion, death and resurrection, in fulfilment of the Father’s will. He then called the disciples to share in this mission for the salvation of the world.

In our Lenten journey towards Easter, let us remember the One who “humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross” (Phil 2:8). During this season of conversion, let us renew our faith, draw from the “living water” of hope, and receive with open hearts the love of God, who makes us brothers and sisters in Christ. At the Easter vigil, we will renew our baptismal promises and experience rebirth as new men and women by the working of the Holy Spirit. This Lenten journey, like the entire pilgrimage of the Christian life, is even now illumined by the light of the resurrection, which inspires the thoughts, attitudes and decisions of the followers of Christ.

Fasting, prayer and almsgiving, as preached by Jesus (cf. Mt 6:1-18), enable and express our conversion. The path of poverty and self-denial (fasting), concern and loving care for the poor (almsgiving), and childlike dialogue with the Father (prayer) make it possible for us to live lives of sincere faith, living hope and effective charity.

1. Faith calls us to accept the truth and testify to it before God and all our brothers and sisters.

In this Lenten season, accepting and living the truth revealed in Christ means, first of all, opening our hearts to God’s word, which the Church passes on from generation to generation. This truth is not an abstract concept reserved for a chosen intelligent few. Instead, it is a message that all of us can receive and understand thanks to the wisdom of a heart open to the grandeur of God, who loves us even before we are aware of it. Christ himself is this truth. By taking on our humanity, even to its very limits, he has made himself the way – demanding, yet open to all – that leads to the fullness of life.

Fasting, experienced as a form of self-denial, helps those who undertake it in simplicity of heart to rediscover God’s gift and to recognize that, created in his image and likeness, we find our fulfilment in him. In embracing the experience of poverty, those who fast make themselves poor with the poor and accumulate the treasure of a love both received and shared. In this way, fasting helps us to love God and our neighbour, inasmuch as love, as Saint Thomas Aquinas teaches, is a movement outwards that focuses our attention on others and considers them as one with ourselves (cf. Fratelli Tutti, 93).

Lent is a time for believing, for welcoming God into our lives and allowing him to “make his dwelling” among us (cf. Jn 14:23). Fasting involves being freed from all that weighs us down – like consumerism or an excess of information, whether true or false – in order to open the doors of our hearts to the One who comes to us, poor in all things, yet “full of grace and truth” (Jn 1:14): the Son of God our Saviour.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 11 November 2020, the Memorial of Saint Martin of Tours

FRANCISCUS

(*Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem* (Mt 20:18)
Lent: a Time for Renewing Faith, Hope and Love)
Food Drive
for the ICSJ Food Pantry
sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

Please Help Restock The Shelves!
Our Knights of Columbus Council will be holding a food drive on two Saturdays, March 6th and 13th, to restock the shelves of the ICSJ Food Pantry. The Food Pantry has continued to help many people throughout the Covid crisis and their stocks are running low!

What’s Needed The Most?
Although any non-perishable items are appreciated, the following are in critical short supply:
1) Peanut Butter (and Jelly), 2) Breakfast Foods (Cereal and Oatmeal),
3) Canned Fruit and Veggies, 4) Snacks (Granola Bars, Microwave Popcorn, Crackers, etc.),
and 5) Canned Meats/Non Perishable Entrees (Chili, Spam, etc.).

This Is A Safe, No-Contact Event!
Just load your items into your vehicle’s trunk or cargo area and drive into the Immaculate Conception parking lot where Knights of Columbus members will be waiting to unload the items while you remain in your vehicle! No physical contact is required!

Two Opportunities to Donate:
Saturday, March 6th
Saturday, March 13th
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon both days

Immaculate Conception Parking Lot
1431 N. North Park Avenue, Chicago
New Parishioner Registration

Name #1 (___Mr. ___Mrs. ___Ms.)  ______________________________________________ Birth date ___________________

Name #1 (___Mr. ___Mrs. ___Ms.)  ______________________________________________ Birth date ___________________

Address ________________________________________________________ ____________ Unit #_______________________

City/State/Zip Code __________________________________________________________

Home Telephone __________________________________________________________

Cell phone #1 ____________________________________________________________ Cell phone # 2__________________________________________

Email address #1 __________________________________________________________ Email address #2 _______________________________________

Would you like to use our online giving system? ☐ Yes ☐ No Or have envelopes mailed to you? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you like to receive our email Newsletter? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please return this form by dropping it in the collection basket.
Mary J. Hayes, D.D.S., M.S.
Joanne R. Oppenheim, D.D.S.
Marilla Montero, D.D.S.
Specialists in Pediatric Dentistry
737 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1330
Chicago, IL  (312)262-4317

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WHY IS IT
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with ADVERTISED toothpaste
washes with ADVERTISED soap
puts on ADVERTISED clothes
drinks a cup
of ADVERTISED coffee
drives to work
in an ADVERTISED car
and then . . .
refuses to ADVERTISE
believing it doesn’t pay.
Later if business is poor
he ADVERTISES it for sale.
WHY IS IT?
Support St. Michael’s!

Ways to Give at St. Michael’s!

In this time of separation, the contributions to St. Michael’s have decreased significantly! These times are difficult for everyone, and we understand that. If you are able, please continue to contribute in any of the payment methods listed below. Just like a household, the church has utilities and insurance and other monthly bills it must pay. The Parish Office staff have returned to the office, salary reductions, layoffs and reduced hours for other employees have been implemented. Please consider signing up for a recurring online donation so your giving comes in even if you aren’t able to come to Mass.

We strive to make giving convenient and current with modern technology choices and online giving. Consider setting your donation up online so even though we are apart, your donation won’t be! Below you will find options for you when you find yourself wanting to donate.

1. **Online** From the St. Michael’s home page, you can view our website for information or gain access to our Online Giving System. You can create a regular donation plan and donate to all the various projects at St. Michael’s. If are unable to use a computer, please call Pat Krier in the office for assistance. (312-642-2498).

2. **We accept donations** of checks mailed to the Parish Office at 1633 N. Cleveland Ave., Chicago, IL 60614.

3. **Venmo!** Enter this link to signup, https://venmo.com/signup.

4. **Estate (planned giving) or stock donations** are accepted also. To donate the value of stock, go to http://legacy.archchicago.org/departments/financial_services/stock-donations.aspx.

   These donations are handled by the Archdiocese of Chicago and the monies then transferred to St Michael’s. For planned giving options, call 312-642-2498.

We appreciate each donation no matter the method, frequency or amount. Each gift allows St. Michael’s to continue its mission and pay our utility bills, salaries and more. If you have any questions about giving options, call Pat Krier at 312-642-2498 or email pkrier@st-mikes.org.

Donate to St. Michael’s!