



St. Michael the Archangel Parish

of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Bridgeport
469 North Street • Greenwich, CT 06830

MISSION: We are a diverse community of Roman Catholics dedicated to a life of prayer and service to others. We strive to draw closer to God and to remain in God as we journey together, supporting one another to heaven.

December 31, 2023 – Feast of the Holy Family

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH • LITURGY SCHEDULE

MASS

MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00am
SATURDAY 9:00am & 5:00pm (Vigil Mass)
SUNDAY 7:30am, 8:30am, 9:45am, 12:00pm & 5:00pm

CONFESSION

WEDNESDAY 9:30am-11:00am & 6:30pm-8:00pm
SATURDAY After the 5:00pm Mass

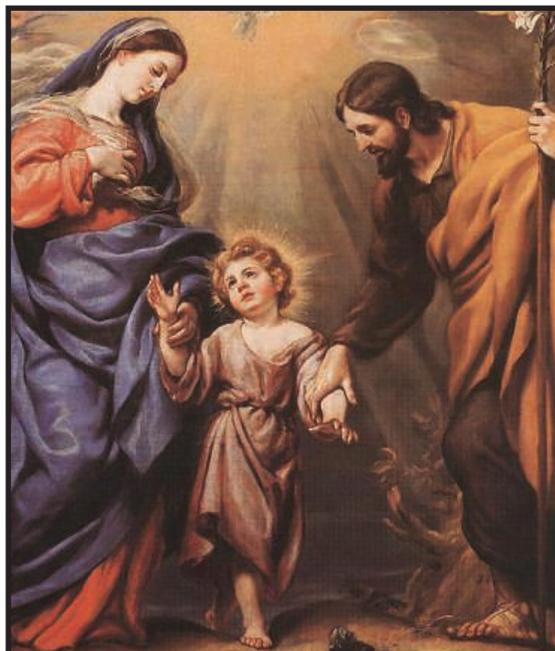
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

WEDNESDAY 9:30am-8:00pm
SATURDAY 8:00am-9:00am

ST. TIMOTHY CHAPEL • 1034 NORTH STREET

MASS

SATURDAY 4:00pm (Vigil Mass)
SUNDAY 11:00am



Parish Offices will be closed
Monday, January 1st

To stay informed, all current information is on our website and look for the Friday Eblasts!

Parish Office: (203) 869-5421

Parish Clergy/Staff: Ext #

Rev. Paul Holland S.J. – Pastor 8

Rev. Richard Murphy – Associate Pastor 9

Parish Office 1

stmichaelparish469@gmail.com

Anna Carberry – Business Manager 5

business.stmichael469@gmail.com

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Email Address: stmichaelparish469@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday: 9:00 am-3:00 pm

Friday: 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Parish Trustees:

John Schmeltzer, III (203) 661-9005

Sue Stone (203) 550-3090

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Tom Schupp	Serafino D.	Lou Ann M.
Grace Wohlberg	Rob S.	Kristen
Aline McDonnell	Rita C.	Eileen L.
Sal D.	Fred S.	J.D.
Catherine H.	Annette D.	Joe C.
Eneko Rauch	DI	Ava C.
Alain C.	Joane	Don
Tony M.	JF, CP	R.J.B.
Robin	Marie S.	M.A.A.
Michael L.	Barbara Rigg	J.I.
Holly L.	TJ	F.D.
Marshall Keller	Kim	Mateo
Joseph Chiapetta	HL	Frank Z.
Rosamond	Rita S.	Aline Oddi
McDonnell	Joel	Phineas Collins
George Sinclair	Elio	Jane G.
Renato P.	Daniel P.	
Tara Lapane	Vito	

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strengthens our Parish & our Faith

Click the Online Giving button at the top right hand corner of our website or scan the QR code.



Thank you for your generous support of our parish home!

Responsible Stewardship
Sunday, December 17, 2023

Online Giving: \$3,987.07
Pew Collection: \$12,317.00
Christmas Collection: \$5230.00
Total: \$21,534.07

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 30, 2023

St.M	9:00 AM	Dennis Barry	Fr. R
St.T	4:00 PM	John and Mary Zygmont	Fr. P
	5:00 PM	Lorenzo Contadino	Fr. R

Sunday, December 31, 2023

St.M	7:30 AM	All Parishioners	S.C.
	8:30 AM	Jerry McDonald	S.C.
	9:45 AM	S. I. Davi Bayer	Fr. P
St.T	11:00 AM	All Parishioners	Fr. R
	12:00 PM	Joan Ann Lasala	Fr. P
	5:00 PM	Shelly McGuiggan	Fr. R

Monday, January 1, 2024

St.M	9:00 AM	Marie Lopena	
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Tuesday, January 2, 2024

St.M	9:00 AM	Cynthia Ryan	
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Wednesday, January 3, 2024

St.M	9:00 AM	Maureen Bahr	
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Thursday, January 4, 2024

St.M	9:00 AM	Kay Kosnik	
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Friday, January 5, 2024

St.M	9:00 AM	Jan Cuninka	
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Saturday, January 6, 2024

St.M	9:00 AM	Helen Buchetto	Fr. R
St.T	4:00 PM	Stephen Turner	Fr. P
	5:00 PM	Teresa Prendergast	Fr. R

Sunday, January 7, 2024

St.M	7:30 AM	All Parishioners	Fr. P
	8:30 AM	S. I. Mariel Winhoffer	Fr. M
	9:45 AM	John Carroll	Fr. P
St.T	11:00 AM	JoAnn Royer	Fr. M
	12:00 PM	S. I. Adriana Stange	Fr. R
	5:00 PM	Kathryn Seley Conrad and Matilda Sheils	Fr. R

PH: Fr. Paul

S.C.: Salesian Community

R: Fr. Richard

M: Fr. Marcotte

SANCTUARY CANDLE



The week of December 31, 2023

St. Michael
Special Intentions

St. Timothy
John and Mary Zygmont



ST. MICHAEL
THE ARCHANGEL PARISH

Pastor's Reflection

On this Feast of the Holy Family, you probably have heard some excessively sentimental homilies about the Holy Family as the model of all family virtues. Homilists often portray Joseph, Mary and Jesus in terms of the idealized tv family of the 1950's. But we know that our own families never quite match those ideals. Fathers aren't quite that insightful and understanding, mothers are not always that gentle, and certainly children not always that obedient!

Worse, our families can seem so different, and so unworthy, compared to that idealized, Holy Family. Our families have to cope with the real problems of angry confrontations, divorce, run-away teens, lifeless and cold hostility between partners, substance abuse, separations, serious illness and death. Even good times and real love of belonging to a family can't simply paper over those challenges. And homilies about the Holy Family could make us feel bad about our less-than-holy, less-than ideal families.

But the family of Jesus was not the picture of ideal family life. Mary began it all under compromised circumstances, as an unwed pregnant teen. She and Joseph and Jesus spent their early years as refugees and illegal immigrants. She was widowed at an early age; she watched her son die a horrible death, condemned and executed as a criminal. And she spent her last days in the care of a comparative stranger. And if you study the gospel genealogies, Jesus counted among his forebears some very sketchy characters, including prostitutes, evil kings, outlaws and adulterers. When he entered our world, Jesus entered the messiness of the human family, including his own. He was the only member of his extended family who never brought shame upon the family. Instead, Jesus took upon himself the shame of every person in the family tree.

For it is in their real lives, and real struggles, that the family of Jesus offers us some ideal, and some hope, some model of family.

And for disciples, Jesus radically alters the very meaning of family. "Who are my mother, and my brothers and sisters?" In his culture and religious tradition, blood ties and kinship were the all-important determinative of human relationships and even of relationship with God: Jew and Gentile, clean and unclean.

Jesus simply sweeps aside such considerations, to replace them with far more demanding, yet liberating, basis of human and divine community: "Here are my mother and my brothers and my sisters: all those who do the will of my Father are mother and brother and sister to me."

continued on next page...

By becoming a member of a human family, Jesus consecrates the sacredness of human family life: God's own son needs and belongs to a human community and is nourished and sustained by it. And by sharing with us his very Spirit and life, Jesus makes us God's children, brothers and sisters to each other. We belong to his family, by making the Father the center and source of our lives, as Jesus did. We enter that zone of peace, that place of belonging to a nourishing, sustaining humanity, which is a family. And we are commanded to extend that zone of peace, that place where we truly belong, to draw into it all people.

The Church surrounds the Feast of Christmas with the feasts of martyrs, to remind us that the coming of the Prince of Peace brought also pain and suffering. The new family which Jesus establishes comes about, as with all childbirth, in agony and tears, blood, sweat and labor. And it brings forth, not an otherworldly family, but a new human community to nourish and sustain one another in that all-consuming task of seeking and doing the Father's will.

That mission led Jesus, the Baby of Bethlehem, to the streets of Nazareth, to the Sea of Galilee, to the temple of Jerusalem and to the hill of Calvary. And it led his followers, his sisters and brothers, to the ends of the earth, where, even in exile and death, they found the peace of proclaiming and belonging to his new family.

This parish family seeks to extend to all people the peace we have been given, even as we struggle to pay the cost of becoming a holy family, brothers and sisters to Jesus by doing the will of the Father

Prayer: Gracious God, our Father and our Mother, we thank you for sending your Son Jesus to be our brother. We thank you for Mary and Joseph, for it was in their home that Jesus grew in wisdom and age and Your grace. From them, he learned to know Your Word, spoken in Your Law and in the prophets. From them, Jesus learned to do what is right and to love goodness.

Gracious God, as we celebrate His birth this Christmastime, we ask You to bless our families and this entire parish family. Give us strength, patience and good humor so that we might open the doors of our hearts and welcome Christ into our homes and our lives. Help us to grow in wisdom and grace and knowledge of Your Word. Help us to do what is right and to love goodness, so that we can follow Your Son and our brother Jesus.

---Fr. Paul D. Holland, S.J.
Pastor, St. Michael the Archangel Parish

FAITH FORMATION

A lifelong journey, childhood-teens-adults

Let's end this year with a thankful heart and start the new year with peace and faith. Let us release the bitterness and frustrations of the past year. Let us move into the next year knowing that God loves us and wants the best for us. Let's pray that the new year will be focused on healing ourselves through repentance and the renewing of our minds. We were not meant to do life alone! We can bring the light of hope into our own heart, home, and world.

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

~ Romans 12:2



Let's continue the celebration of Christmastide.

What does December 26th mean to you? Most people think Christmas is over, but for us, the celebration has just begun. **There is a reason why Christmas is called a season.** It does not last for a single day! We have been preparing for it for four weeks and the Church couldn't possibly start and end its celebration of Christ's birth in one day. After Easter, Christmas is the most important liturgical feast in the Church calendar. Why? Because Christmas is what made Easter possible. **Without Our Lord's incarnation and birth, our redemption would not have been brought to completion,** and there would be no hope for us in our fallen state.



An ancient Christian tradition of marking doorways with blessed chalk on the Feast of the Epiphany is a symbol of hope and a visible reminder of our faith. It takes place on the liturgical feast (January 6th) marking the visitation of the Magi to the Christ Child and the revelation that Jesus is the son of God.

The blessing involves taking simple chalk, (usually blessed by a parish priest,) and write on your doorway with symbolic numbers and letters – this year, “20+C+M+B+23.” The numbers represent the current year, and the letters stand for the first letters of the traditional names of the magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar. The letters “C, M, B also stands for the Latin blessing *Christius Mansionem Benedicat* which means “May Christ Bless this dwelling”.

January 1st is a Holy Day.
It is the octave day of the Nativity of the Lord, Solemnity of Mary, mother of God.



Let us too stand in the Temple and hold God's Son and embrace him; and that we may deserve leave to withdraw and start on our way towards a better land, let us pray to God, the all-powerful, and to the little Jesus himself, whom we so much want to speak to and hold in our arms. His are glory and power now and always. Amen.

(Origen, Third Century)

St. Michael's Women's Emmaus IX Retreat



Registration will open on January 14th!

A retreat centered on Luke 24:13-35

...*"Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the scriptures to us?"*...

Experience God's love,
within a community of women,
away from the distractions and
demands of everyday life.

It is a time we set aside for
personal encounter with our loving God,
so alive and present in our midst.

WHEN: April 5th to 7th, 2024

WHERE: Don Bosco Retreat Center,
174 Filors Ln, Stony Point, NY 10980

Registration for the retreat fills up quickly
emmaus.sm.greenwich@gmail.com

Elissa Moran (203) 644-3377
Isabel Zumelzu-Bowles (475) 243-4214

The Giving Tree

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Those in Need

Help to empty our Giving Tree!



THANK YOU

to everyone who participated.
The Christmas presents were
delivered to families in St.
Charles Borromeo Church,
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Don't leave any tag behind! Help to empty our Giving Tree!



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the QR code.

Music Ministry

**NB, Music for 9:45am Family Mass may differ
slightly**

Processional Hymn: **"The First Nowell" (#112)**

Penitential Act

Glory To God: #885

Offertory Song: **"What Child is This" (#97)**

Holy, Holy, Holy: #886

When We Eat This Bread: #887

Amen: #888

Lamb of God: #889

Communion Meditation: **Piano Solo Meditation**

Recessional Hymn: **"Go Tell it on the Mountain (#82)**

-- Frank

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