

Saint Michael's Episcopal Church on The Naugatuck Green
This Week at St. Michael's
INDEPENDENCE DAY
SATURDAY, July 4, 2020



A JULY 4th REFLECTION

It's hard to believe that we're halfway through the year. And it's been one heck of year already. What more should we expect? The sun is blazing, we are hitting peak temperatures, thunderstorms come through every afternoon; but if you're like me, you haven't had much of a "summer hiatus" ... yet. Things at St. Michael's rarely slow down and July is no exception. That's one reason I'm grateful for the built-in "slow down" of national holidays to take pause and spend time with our families. This weekend I'm going to make an extra effort to be present where I am, step away from my computer, and even take a few moments to reflect on why we celebrate Independence Day. The 4th of July is a reminder that our similarities are bigger than our differences. We value freedom. We value free speech. We value life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and we value the sacrifices that generations have made on and off the battlefield to ensure that every person in this country has those things. I do hope that you take some time over this long weekend to reflect on the sacrifices made, the bravery exhibited, and the freedom we have that certainly came at a cost.

Wishing you a restful and reflective Independence Day.

Jules+.

MATT HANDI

God willing, Matt Handi will be ordained as a Transitional Deacon in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut on July 18. More details to follow, (and it will be livestreamed so you'll all be able to watch the service,) so save the date!

PUBLIC IN-PERSON WORSHIP

St. Michael's offers three options for Worship every week:

Saturday at 5:00 pm. (Outdoors – weather permitting, bring your lawn chairs, in the Parish Hall if we have rain), Sunday at 8:00 am., and Sunday at 10:00 am.

General Guidelines For All Worship Services

- When you are at church, we ask everyone to sanitize their hands. Sanitizers are available.
- **When you are at church, all people of every age, must wear a mask.** We want you to bring your own mask but we will have some available if you need one. *The mask may become the new Easter hat...let's see all the various styles and patterns that you will bring.*
- While at church we will maintain a 6 foot or more physical distancing unless you are within your immediate family group. Pews have been marked for ease of seating and sanitizing afterwards.
- There will not be Sunday school at this time.
- Restrooms will have limited availability.

KATIE'S BLOG

Katie Brodeur has produced a children's video that is being shared on our WEBSITE under the Header of "Children's Resources." Take a look; it's a wonderful addition to our collection of electronic resources for families and children. Thank you, Katie! Job well done.

SUNDAY LIVE STREAM WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:00 AM

In addition to in-person worship, you may join us every Sunday at 10:00 am. for our weekly Sunday live stream service:

Join us:

Either by YOUTUBE LIVE or by FACEBOOK LIVE

Connect by using the blue buttons on our Website Home Page

(<https://www.stmichaelsnaugatuck.org/home>) . This will connect you to our Sanctuary and Sunday Service at 10:00 am.

Or connect to us via the Live Stream through the St. Michael's Facebook Page

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/111458864250>)

Copies of the Worship Bulletin may be accessed and downloaded from the St. Michael's home page (<https://www.stmichaelsnaugatuck.org/home>).

Please bear with us as we continue technical improvement opportunities to the Live Stream – it is a work in process.

THE NAUGATUCK ECUMENICAL OUTREACH NETWORK (NEON)

NEON continues to advocate and feed our neighbors and children in this time of COVID-19 and continued need for supporting the community. Thank you to all the volunteers who successfully continue to make NEON happen.

Last week we distributed snacks to the children in our community supported by our NEON program. Thanks to all the volunteers who made this happen. We have also added this year the following summer programs:

- Two additional community takeout meals on the third Saturdays of July and August.
- NEON kids summer snacks
- NEON Families Food Kits.

We thank all of you who have made special donations to the program in this very special time of need.

Please consider an additional donation this year to support our Summer meal programs in this unusual year of events.

A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO ARE INFECTED WITH COVID-19 OR FACING QUARANTINE.

Jesus, during Your ministry on Earth You showed Your power and caring by healing people of all ages and stations of life from physical, mental, and spiritual ailments. Be present now to people who need Your loving touch because of COVID-19. May they feel Your power of healing through the care of doctors and nurses. Take away the fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation from people receiving treatment or under quarantine. Give them a sense of purpose in pursuing health and protecting others from exposure to the disease. Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them.

VILLAGE FAIR NEWS

We are in the midst of considering a scaled back Village Green Fair this fall. More information will be forthcoming as we brainstorm our approach. Please keep an eye out for your ability to share thoughts and comments toward our approach for this year in order to accommodate social distancing and care for our neighbours.