

Dear parishioners,

This weekend we all rejoice in the awesome news that Father Michael McGivney (1852-1890) is now a Blessed of the Church. He was a native son of Waterbury and exemplary priest of the Archdiocese of Hartford, and the founder of the Knights of Columbus – the larger Catholic fraternal organization in the world.

He is an example of heroic virtue and everyday holiness. I encourage everyone to seek his intercession on the journey of faith, especially regarding matters of Christian family life, evangelization to the young, outreach to non-Catholics, protection of life, and employment issues. The cause for his canonization was established in 1997 and the official prayer for the canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney is as follows:

*God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify your venerable servant Father Michael J. McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

May God be praised by our efforts. What a wonderful moment for us.

All the way – to God's embrace.

Sincerely, Father Lavgna