

Our Journey TOGETHER

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

VOL. 1

ISSUE 1

WHAT'S INSIDE

Listen to stories of faith,
music, and love from the
Annie Moses Band.

PAGE 3

Young parishioners give back
to the church by completing
Eagle Scout projects.

PAGE 4

A shining beacon of hope for
the future of Catholic
education and our faith.

PAGE 5

One family finds its way to us,
and the impact on our faith
community is profound.

PAGE 7

Letter from the Pastor

Having just celebrated another anniversary here at St. Michael in February, I recently reflected on the past five years and what we have accomplished together. Fortunately, there are lots of highlights but our journey has also included some lowlights. We've worked hard to solve our financial issues since 2011. With your help and under the leadership of our Finance Council, we were able to return to financial health and stay there.

We ran a successful capital campaign and built the beautiful Archangel Hall that was dedicated in August 2014. Also in 2014, we made a number of new hires and began a concerted effort to focus on more and better communications within our parish community. We revamped our website and parish bulletin, and increased our efforts to communicate more frequently and with greater transparency about all the good news and concerns at St. Michael.



Looking ahead, we will continue to enhance our communications with you, our parishioners. A St. Michael-branded mobile app for smartphones is coming soon! This quarterly newsletter, *The Journey*, is aptly named as our faith journey together continues. We will mail future editions of *The Journey* to the homes of our parishioners four times a

year. *The Journey* is designed to keep all our parishioners in touch with your faith community and welcome you back if you have been away. You can expect to see formative articles that will enrich your knowledge of your Catholic faith. There will be stories involving parishioners, or about happenings on our campus, or coming soon to our campus—all designed to deepen your St. Michael experience!

I hope you enjoy our first edition of *The Journey* and I look forward to sharing many more in the future. I am proud and grateful to be your pastor! God bless!

Monsignor Douglas P. Reed

St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Parish Community is committed to serving God and welcoming him in one another through a firm belief in God's love. Our mission includes: strengthening the presence of God through Word and Sacraments; dedication to stewardship and social justice; and ministry to our members and the greater community through acts of Faith, Hope, and Charity. All of this is achieved through complete union with the Holy Father and our Bishop of Raleigh.

APRIL NEWSLETTER

Chrism Mass 2016 at St. Michael



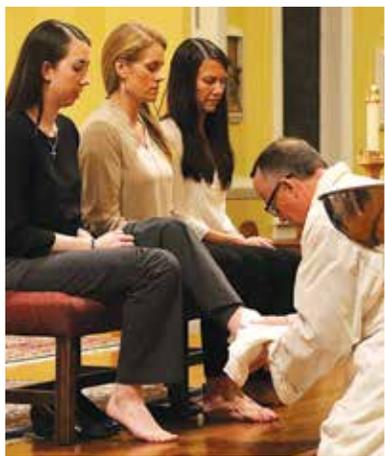
Bishop at Chrism Mass

On March 22, 2016, the Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge was the principal celebrant at the annual Chrism Mass held once again at St. Michael the Archangel. Priests representing every parish, mission, and chapel joined in unity with the bishop for the blessing of the oils they will use in the coming year, as well as to renew the promises they made at their ordination.

Following his homily and the renewal of promises by the priests, Bishop Burbidge blessed the Oil of the Catechumens, Oil of the Sick, and the Sacred Chrism used in the sacramental life of the diocese. Once they were packaged, the oils were then presented by Bishop Burbidge to representatives from each parish, mission, station, campus ministry, and military installation in the diocese for use throughout the year. "It is a very special celebration that every parishioner should experience at least once in their lifetime," said Monsignor Doug Reed.

Our Journey of Triduum

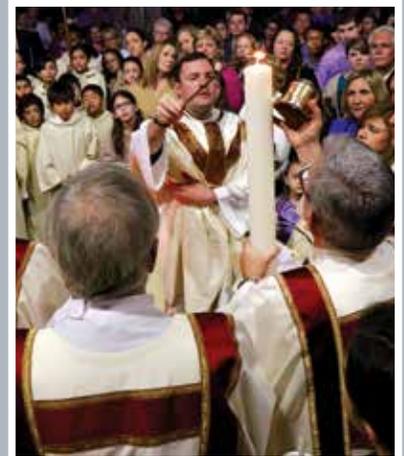
Holy Thursday



Good Friday



Easter Vigil





The Annie Moses Band

Listen to stories of faith, music, and love

The Annie Moses Band is an award-winning group of Juilliard-trained musicians and songwriters dedicated to musical and spiritual excellence in the arts. A captivating blend of folk, classical, and Christian music, the Annie Moses Band has been inspiring and entertaining audiences for over a decade, bringing their distinctive style of music across the nation and around the world.

The Band's innovative sound has delighted audiences around the world—in record breaking numbers of airings on PBS and on stages from Carnegie Hall to the Grand Ole Opry. The members of the Band are also family siblings. They will bring their stories of faith, music, and love to St. Michael Parish April 24, 25, and 26 for a parish mission. Come hear them share their love of church history and doctrine. Listen as they sing their story and tell how their journey took them from simple conversations about Catholic teachings to the entire family converting and coming home to the Catholic Church.

The new Senior Socials that started in October 2015 are energizing the St. Michael campus! Born out of a suggestion from a parishioner at a town hall meeting early in Monsignor Doug's tenure, this ninety-minute social takes place the first Thursday of every month in the Conference Center Gallery at 9:30 am. With a mix of fun and education in a casual social setting the Senior Socials are fast becoming the "buzz" of our campus!

As with other segments of our parish, we are constantly looking for more ways to enhance the St. Michael experience for our seniors. Last spring, the first annual "Live Well at Home" Senior Fair was held in our Parish Center. The event showcased thirty service providers from the local area and drew over 140 people anxious to learn more about the many services available to seniors in our community. This year's event is expected to be even bigger and better!

Live Every Day with Passion and Purpose

Matthew Kelly has dedicated his life to helping people and organizations become the best version of themselves! Born in Sydney, Australia, Kelly is an internationally acclaimed speaker, author, and business consultant. More than four million people have attended his seminars and presentations in more than fifty countries.



His books have been published in more than twenty-five languages and have sold more than twenty million copies. These include *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic*,

Rediscover Catholicism, and *Rediscover Jesus*.

He is also the founder of The Dynamic Catholic Institute, a Cincinnati-based nonprofit organization whose mission is to re-energize the Catholic Church in America by developing world-class resources that inspire people to rediscover the genius of Catholicism.

Come and hear one of the most exciting and excited Catholic speakers of our time. Join us on May 21, 2016, as Matthew Kelly teaches us how to "Live Every Day with Passion and Purpose."

FAITHFUL SERVANTS

Last summer five high school students from St. Michael attended a week-long program called Faithful Servant Catholic Leadership Institute: A Christ-Centered Leadership Experience.

The program helps to develop leadership skills in our parish youth, as part of an overall effort to ignite in them a faith-filled desire to live as disciples. Throughout the week, the attendees were challenged to strive to create a vibrant Christian community. They shared daily Mass, prayers, meals, lessons, and life in general while focusing on nurturing a Christian identity, individual leadership styles, planning and negotiating skills, and evangelization—a great way to develop intentional disciples!

Upon returning, the group reflected on the overall experience and the many blessings they received through the Holy Spirit. Today they are working to apply their newfound skills to unite the larger youth community in service to the parish through evangelization, prayer, and social gatherings.



St. Michael students at the Faithful Servant Catholic Leadership Institute



Christian Pollaci, Jeremy Beautemps, and Victor Yeh explained their projects.

Scouts Earn Eagle Status

For young Boy Scouts, becoming an Eagle Scout is the ultimate goal. Over the past several years, many young St. Michael parishioners have given back to the church by completing projects to earn Eagle Scout honors.

Christian Pollaci, a St. Michael parishioner, alumnus of St. Michael School, and current sophomore at Cardinal Gibbons High School, built and installed Stations of the Cross at the site of the proposed church for the parishioners at Green Hope Station. They are now being used during this Lenten season for scheduled Stations of the Cross as well as for parishioners to visit as desired.



Msgr. Doug Reed stands with Christian Pollaci after blessing the Green Hope Stations of the Cross.

Tyler Brezina, a parishioner and alumnus of St. Michael Preschool built an arbor for the statue of Mary outside the Trinity Center, and installed light landscaping around it. "I chose this project because in my first year of Boy Scouts, my troop and another cleaned up the yard at the priests' house. We found a 400 lb. statue of Mary that we moved to the church grounds. It was blessed by Msgr. Doug and Fr. Ryan, and is now a nice place for reflection," he said.

The Eagle Scout project that **Patrick Holmquist** chose was to plan, build, finish, and install two benches for St. Michael Catholic School. Holmquist is a senior at Green Hope High School who attended St. Michael Preschool and St. Michael School.

Other Eagle Scout projects include a pergola by **Victor Yeh**, picnic tables by **Drake Sandman**, Stations of the Cross between the church and conference center by **Sean Biette**, benches by **Jeremy Beautemps**, benches and planters by **Alexander Winger**, and staff mailboxes installed at the school by **Ryan Chapman**. We are proud and appreciative for the efforts of all these young parishioners!

Educating Young Catholics

St. Michael Catholic School—Since 1999

Our school is a shining beacon of hope for the future of Catholic education and our faith.

The sight of more than 500 students from our parish school walking to Mass each Wednesday morning is a wonderful reminder of this important and vibrant mission of our church. Wearing their dress uniforms to signify the importance of the celebration of the Eucharist to all Catholics, they join parishioners and many school parents in this joyous time of reverence and reflection.

Our school, established out of a strong dedication to Catholic education and a great need for a Catholic school in our area, has grown in strength and stature in our community. Today, thanks to the commitment and hard work of its pioneer founders, it is in the 16th year of nurturing young lives by providing an excellent education and Christian values.

As families move into the Triangle area, they are excited to visit our parish and school and see the vibrancy, passion and commitment to Catholic education. Often they are moving from areas where Catholic schools and parishes are being consolidated or closed.

Under the guidance of a strong administration, and with a strong Strategic Action Plan serving as the roadmap, the school is well-positioned for future success.

A strength of the school is the collaboration of our pastor, school administrators, and teachers for the benefit of all students. Teachers work together weekly to discuss lesson plans and student progress. They are also afforded many professional development opportunities, both on and off campus.

Our Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 8 students live the school's core values of



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

- U.S. Dept. of Education Blue Ribbon School of Excellence
- Advanced accreditation
- State-of-the-Art Archangel Hall for performing arts
- Biweekly music, theater, and music appreciation classes
- 4-year-old full-day Pre-Kindergarten
- Athletic fields and playground from Pre-K – Grade 8 Recess
- Hands-on science labs
- Teacher assistants in every Pre-K—Grade 5 Class
- Challenging Math Tracks & Enrichment—Grades 5-8
- Math, Science, and Spanish smaller class sizes—Grades 6-8
- Phonics and grammar concentration across subject areas
- Accelerated reader program
- Educational Field Trips
- Integrated daily faith formation & sacramental preparation
- Touch screen computers in lab
- Mobile laptop and iPad carts
- Promethean Boards in all classrooms
- Competitive athletics: cross country, soccer, tennis, volleyball, basketball, cheerleading, baseball, lacrosse
- Clubs: newspaper, choir, book clubs, running, yearbook, performing arts, band, altar servers, student council, Science Olympiad, etc.
- Active, involved Parent Teacher Organization
- Community service: Brown Bag Ministry, rosary making, book/clothing drives, Vets Day Breakfast & Tribute, Share Sunday, Corporal Works of Mercy projects

leadership, respect, and reverence every day. Service to others is a joy shared by teachers, administration, students, and school families. Keeping in mind the Corporal Works of Mercy, each grade enjoys opportunities to prepare brown bags of food for the homeless, donate clothing to migrant workers, honor our veterans, make rosaries, conduct food and book drives, and show their gratitude in many other ways.

We invite all parishioners to learn more about your parish school by reading our "School Happenings" column in the weekly bulletin and visiting or volunteering at the school.

Stewardship Basics for Everyday Stewards

Do you think you know what Catholic Stewardship means?

There are many misconceptions and false assumptions out there in the Catholic world; no one should fault you for being confused. Let's try to boil it down to some basics:

1) The spirituality of stewardship can be found in the Bible, particularly the parables of Jesus and the writings of Paul. Parables about the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) and the widow's mite (Mark 12:41-44) teach about the value of giving all we can to God and to others. Parables about the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) and the sower (Matthew 13:1-23) teach us about how we should take what God has given us and cultivate it wisely. Paul writes to the early Christian communities often about placing God at the center of all we do (ex. 1 Corinthians 10:31).

2) The term stewardship became popular in the modern church in the 1960s with the formation of the National Catholic Stewardship Council, which changed the name to use International in the 1990s. Because they sensed there was a lack of spirituality involved in the practice of stewardship, and that in most places it had taken on the false connotation of



Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

being all about money, the US Catholic Bishops published in 1992 the pastoral letter, **Stewardship: A Disciple's Response**.

3) Stewardship can be summed up in three main convictions, explained briefly in the beginning of the US Bishops' pastoral letter:

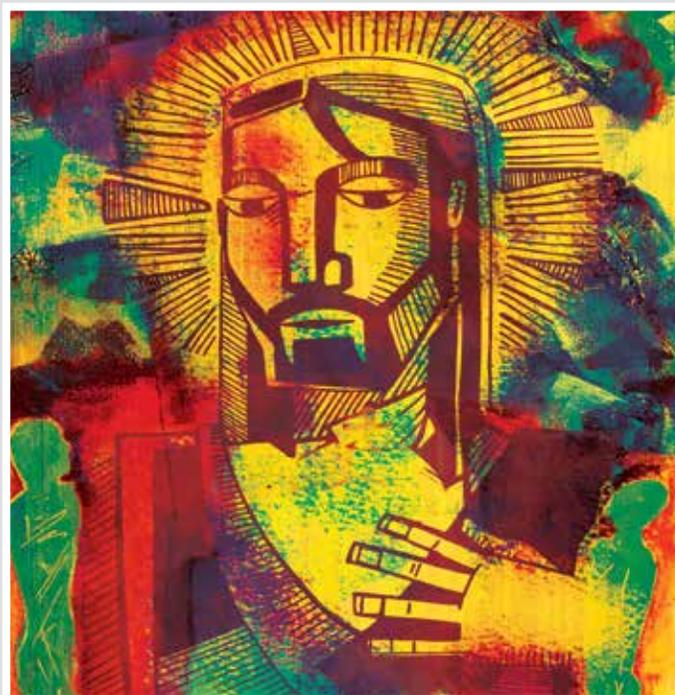
- a. We are called to be **mature disciples** that answer the call of Jesus Christ, regardless of the cost.
- b. This mature discipleship is a **way of daily living** for us, not hinged on parish activities or community events.
- c. This way of life **TRANSFORMS** us. We truly become the new creations in Christ that came about due to our baptism.

Does that sound like your understanding of Catholic Stewardship? Of course, knowing the basics is one thing. Living it out is another. But there are Catholic parishes and individuals everywhere that have assumed this transformative way of life. If you are one of them, you realize the power of true stewardship. If you are new to this way of life, welcome! Let the transformation begin!

Hispanic Mission Ministry

Pope Francis encourages all Catholics to "go out into the streets and manifest your love." The St. Michael Hispanic Mission is a ministry that practices just that! The ministry members challenge themselves to step outside of their comfort zones and evangelize various sectors of their community. They go into the homes of people in their neighborhoods and share their love of God by praying with them.

With an approach that is welcoming and loving, the Hispanic Mission wants to bring Christ to those who do not know about him. For those who do, they want to help bring them closer to him through their ministry. They invite people to attend Hispanic Masses and Faith Formation classes at St. Michael, and many of those that do are inspired to become a part of the St. Michael faith community. This family-oriented group of evangelists are living a purposeful life and making a difference for others in their community!



Music Ministry

In 1996 when the existing St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church construction was near completion, then Monsignor John Wall began a search for a Director of Music. Wayne Cusher and his wife Marlene were living in Kingston, NY, heard about the search, and applied. After interviewing, he waited for a call that almost came too late. Another church in NC called to offer Wayne a position. He asked for some time to decide, hung up the phone and it rang again. He answered and listened as Monsignor Wall asked him to come to Cary and begin a new adventure.

This adventure started with a few Mass choirs and has become a full Music Ministry. "Wayne unified the choirs of St. Michael and brought out the best talent," remembers Norma Powers, Parish Administrator. This ministry includes a bell choir, eight vocal choirs, and a theater group that has performed some favorites like *Nunsense*



Director of Music,
Wayne Cusher

and *Fiddler on the Roof*. "I've worked with at least eight different directors at St. Michael," says Mary Mason, longtime parishioner. "Wayne has brought expertise in musicianship, stylistic variety, unity, and community to a program encompassing all ages and musical tastes, accompanied by large doses of humor and empathy. The programs for combined choirs with numerous instrumentalists are things of beauty and joy, and he draws enthusiastic participation from parishioners every weekend."

From Wayne's perspective, "The real joy of my job is creating music that lifts people's hearts. Allowing them to pray through song. It is such a pleasure to hear the congregation sing."



A Family Faith-Filled RCIA Experience

In the tradition of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), we typically see "individuals" coming into the church, each on a personal journey of their own that leads them to the Catholic faith. Yet, every once in a while, an entire family finds its way to this place, and the impact on our faith community is profound.

Brian and Kameron Allen and their three children have experienced the inspirational effects of the Holy Spirit during their personal journey together. Brian, a cradle Catholic, drifted away from the church during college and struggled further during his father's untimely death. Kameron grew up Baptist, wasn't firmly entrenched, and never was baptized. Her interest in Catholicism grew over time and peaked once their children were enrolled in St. Michael School.

The Allen children, Riley, Aidan, and Ellie, were strongly influenced with the loving and nurturing environment of St. Michael Catholic School. Teachers who fostered personal and spiritual growth added to the growing sense of belonging they all felt. Kameron joined the RCIA program and she and the children are now baptized Catholics along with Brian. As a family they continue to learn about the richness of our faith.

In her RCIA bio, Kameron Allen commented on how patient God has been with her personal journey. Reflecting back, she commented how "God is always there for us, waiting until our hearts are ready to receive His love."

Brian and Kameron recall the many storms they have weathered together in the past and how today they are stronger than ever as they and their children continue to grow individually and as a family in their faith journey.

What began as a job change for Brian and a family move to the Cary area, has become so much more. Their new family faith experience has left them confident they can always rely on God for strength when times are difficult. "We want our kids to know that God is, and will always be, there. We are never alone."



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WHERE DOES YOUR OFFERTORY GO?



St. Michael Average Monthly Expenses

(Parish, School & Preschool)

\$504,500

- \$349,000** Salaries (Priests, Teachers, Staff)
- \$85,500** Debt Payment
- \$54,000** Assessments
- \$16,000** Utilities (Lights, Gas, Water)

Before we can celebrate Mass, a baptism or wedding, open our schools, teach faith formation, assist those in need, or provide any other service to our parish and community, we must cover more than \$500,000 of general expense each month. Through your continued generosity, we are able to accomplish many, many great things!

This newsletter is published 4 times a year so that you can get to know your parish community a little better. We are happy to call you "family."

St. Michael The Archangel Roman Catholic church

