

Our Journey TOGETHER

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

VOL. 3

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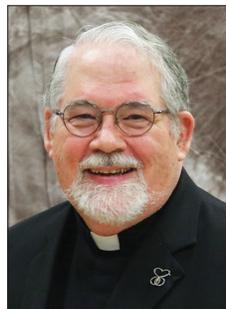
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FAMILY LIFE AND SOCIAL ACTION AT THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY

Our St. Michael the Archangel Parish has been a Catholic icon in Cary for 55 years, with a proud past and a plan for the future. I am blessed to have been your pastor for nearly 7 ½ years now, and am looking forward to the future with great anticipation. As I reflect on my time here, I am particularly proud of the sense of community our parishioners share and our ministries that focus on Family Life and Social Action.



Our central belief is that a strong family unit is essential to create strong communities and a meaningful society. We seek to develop that strong family unit through a community environment that stresses the importance of faith formation and developing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. In concert with that faith journey is a dedication to living a life of love and everyday stewardship following

the example of Christ dying on the cross to save us all. Remembering His ultimate act of love, we seek to take care of the poor through a dedication to Social Action and caring for others in our parish and local community.

Our focus on family life is multi-faceted with active men's and women's groups and a revamped Faith Formation department with enhanced programming for Youth and Adults alike. Complementing these efforts is our online resource for Catholic formation, FORMED. This online repository of books, videos, recordings and other materials has become increasingly popular with our parishioners – and it's FREE to all!

Our Social Action ministries enable us to live out the corporal works of mercy in a way that unites our community while helping those who need it most. Doing the right things and living as everyday stewards helps provide a prideful identity for a vibrant community; one that I'm proud to be a part of!

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.

A Good Habit That Doesn't Grow Old

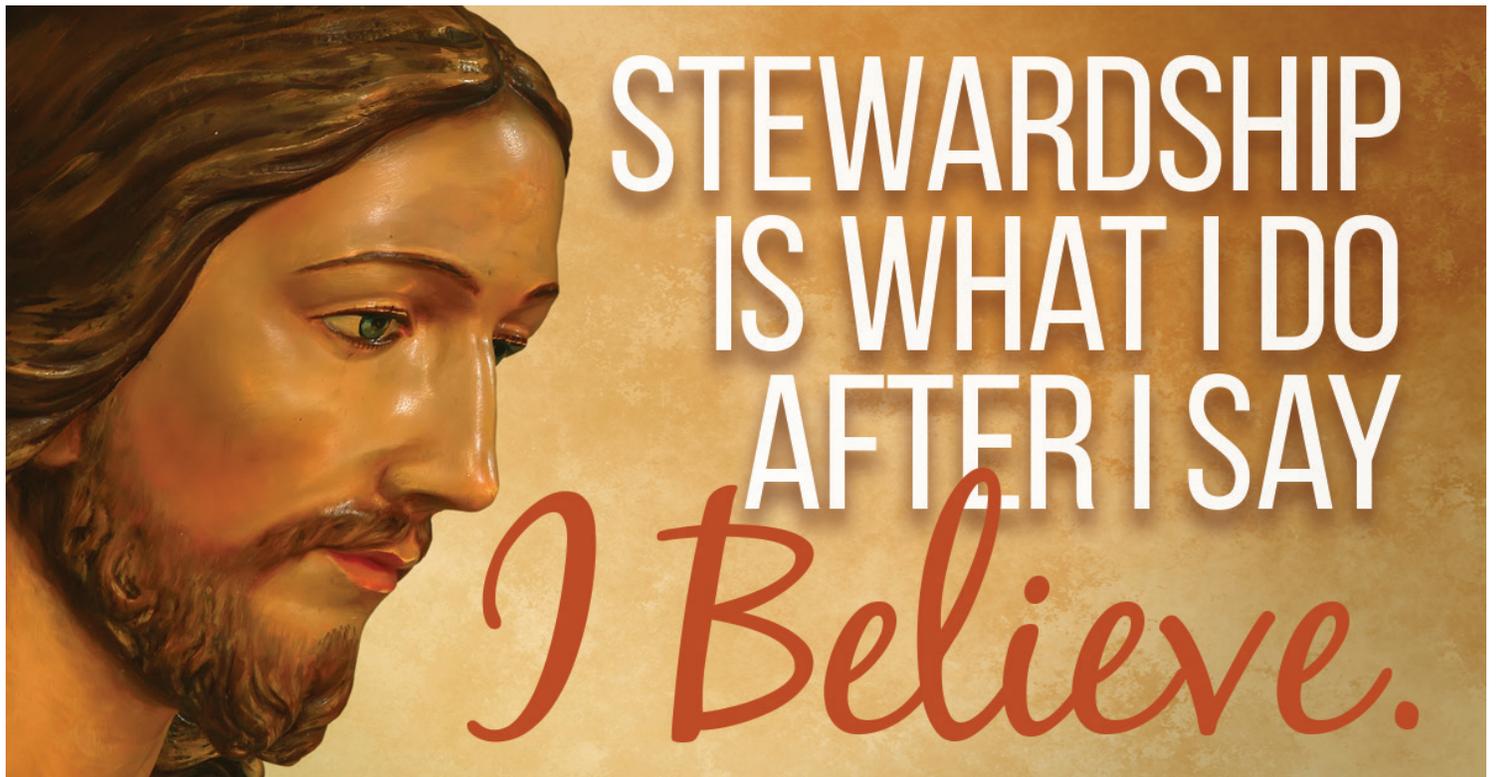
For more than 20 years, St. Michael the Archangel Parish has participated in the Cary Coalition of Churches with Habitat for Humanity of Wake County. This benevolent community ministry brings together like minded people from several different religious denominations for a common goal – to help those in need realize the dream of owning their own home.

One of the most visible of St. Michael's Social Action ministries, Habitat for Humanity is a ministry that rewards those involved with near term gratification and a real sense of accomplishment. But it gets far better when the home is dedicated and they see the look of joy on the faces of the new homeowners! Volunteering with Habitat is a great way for anyone 16 years of age or older to practice the



Corporal Works of Mercy. What's more, it helps to contribute to a real sense of "community" at St. Michael and helps make our megachurch feel more like a neighborhood. This was especially true in 2017 when we had a St. Michael parish family benefit from the coalition build!

Our next community build will be in April 2019 and we are excited to continue our annual participation with the local community of churches as part of a broader community effort. Beyond that, we have even more exciting news! St. Michael has plans to do "an all St. Michael build" in the fall of 2019 in addition to our spring 2019 coalition build. This will be an amazing opportunity for our parish to participate in a much deeper way with complete ownership of the build and the responsibility to provide all the volunteers for the duration of the project. This will be a "first" for our parish in our 55-year history, and what an exciting opportunity it will be! The early reaction to this news has been extremely positive. If you want to get involved, contact Eric Miller at eric@reachsps.com or Tina Arnold at arnold.tinap@gmail.com. 2019 will be a year to remember!



TMIY

THAT MAN IS YOU

BECOMING A MAN
AFTER GOD'S
OWN HEART



THAT MAN IS YOU!

A Game Changing Experience

With the epidemic of sexual harassment allegations and lawsuits in our society today, it's refreshing that St. Michael has a Family Life ministry for men that advocates and helps teach authentic male leadership. That Man Is You! has been in our parish community for the last several years. It's a game-changing ministry from Paradisus Dei that honestly addresses the pressures and temptations that men face in our modern culture, especially those relating to their roles as husbands and fathers. The program harmonizes current social and medical science with the teachings of the Church and the wisdom of the saints to develop the vision of man fully alive!

Independent research by a Faith Advisor from the Gallup Poll reveals That Man is You! to be one of the most life-transforming programs ever studied. Research indicates that men entering the program in the bottom quartile on the Gallup Poll Spirit Commitment Index frequently finish the program 26 weeks later "well into the top quartile."

True to its stated goals, this transformation is most profoundly seen in marriage and family life, men's issues including pornography and balancing work demands, and a greater participation in parish life. At St. Michael, the impact from this program has drawn the attention of many of the wives of men who are participating in That Man Is You! We have received call from wives who have seen a real difference in their family life, asking, "Are there similar programs available for women?"

So men, what are you waiting for? If you want to enhance your family life, come join the growing number of St. Michael men who are experiencing the results of this game changing program. It starts early in the morning and finishes promptly at 7:30 am to enable men to be in their offices by 8 am. For more information or to get involved with That Man Is You!, contact Larry McAnallen at 919-468-6180.

Parish Long Range Plan

Listening to Our Parishioners

Sixteen months after initiating our parish Long Range Planning process, there are some exciting results to share, particularly as relates to the Communications, Parish Unity and Making Faith Relevant sections of the plan.

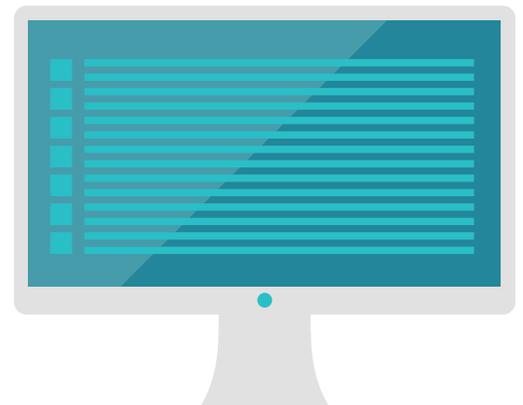
Our parishioners asked us to work harder to communicate better, and we have. By adding a communications manager to our staff, we now have the bandwidth to enhance and develop our parish communications and branding even further. We've added a "Resources" section to our parish website — a "one-stop shop" for important and useful resources to complement our focus on community, family life and social action. Check out the new Pinterest boards in the Resources section as well as the myriad of online Faith Formation videos, books, recordings and more on FORMED — a FREE online library available to our parish family from anywhere in the world!

We've incorporated lots of multi-media on our parish website and Social Media channels for more interesting and comprehensive communications. We have expanded our

Livestream programming to enable parishioners to share in the activities of our parish even when schedule conflicts keep them from attending in person. We've conducted more online surveys to make sure we understand what you want to see in your parish!

To help promote Parish Unity, we've established a Social Committee to plan and conduct events intended to foster a greater sense of community at St. Michael and create more opportunities for relationship building among our diverse population.

Finally, our Making Faith Relevant team is proud of our Apologetics class, launched last year in response to our parishioners' request for help to better understand and appreciate their Catholic faith. There is lots more to come as we continue to implement our Long Range Plan, so stay tuned. Better yet, call the Stewardship Hotline (919-468-6180) to learn how you can help!





STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

with Pope Francis

“My mission of being in the heart of the people is not just a part of my life or a badge I can take off; it is not an “extra” or just another moment in life. Instead, it is something I cannot uproot from my being without destroying my very self. I am a mission on this earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world. We have to regard ourselves as sealed, even branded, by this mission of bringing light, blessing, enlivening, raising up, healing and freeing.” (EG, 273)

Can you honestly say with Pope Francis, “I am a mission on this earth?” When we share in Jesus’ mission, we bring light, healing and hope to those we meet. We do this by being good stewards of these very gifts in our own lives. Those who have experienced healing -- physical, emotional or spiritual -- have a great gift upon which they may draw to share healing with others. Those who have known darkness have the capacity to share light. And who among us has not been touched by darkness, illness, death, or hurt? Growing as good stewards calls us to be mindful of the blessings in our lives and to share with others as a result. This is our mission!

— *Leisa Anslinger*

St. Michael Youth on Fire

In a word...Blessed! St. Michael's Faith Formation had a great year! We are grateful to all the amazing Catechists and Core Team who helped make it a success. Our fun-loving Youth Minister, Justin Fletcher, is headed to Houston, Texas to become a Catholic priest, and will serve there in the Ordinariate. We will miss you, Justin!

Blessed are our children and the people we serve. Youth Ministry supported the 500 Thanksgiving boxes that went out to our local community, and on the same day provided 30,000 meals in a "Rise Against Hunger" packing event to serve globally on the Pope's "World Day of the Poor." During Lent, our kids raised over \$1,000 for the "Rice Bowl Project" as we learned about the Corporal Works of Mercy. 30 of our teens played baseball in April with our beloved friends with disabilities through the Miracle League.

Blessed weekends! Our Confirmation students attended retreats on Oak Island and at Camp Weaver. The Holy Spirit travelled with us as our teens experienced fellowship, fun, God's beautiful planet, and His Love and Word through teachings, Adoration, and ultimately in Mass with our parish family.

There is much to share, and we have more in store this coming year as we complete our transition and continue to grow a solid educational and relational ministry program. We need volunteers like you to help facilitate. You don't need to know everything, we need you to come love our kids and share your faith. Our Directors and the Holy Spirit will guide the rest. We welcome Carin Owen to our Youth Ministry Team, who replaced Justin Fletcher and is Co-Directing with Darcy Holley. God's light is shining brightly on our children and their formation here at St. Michael.



STEWARDSHIP BASICS FOR EVERYDAY STEWARDS



Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

God's Gift of Leisure

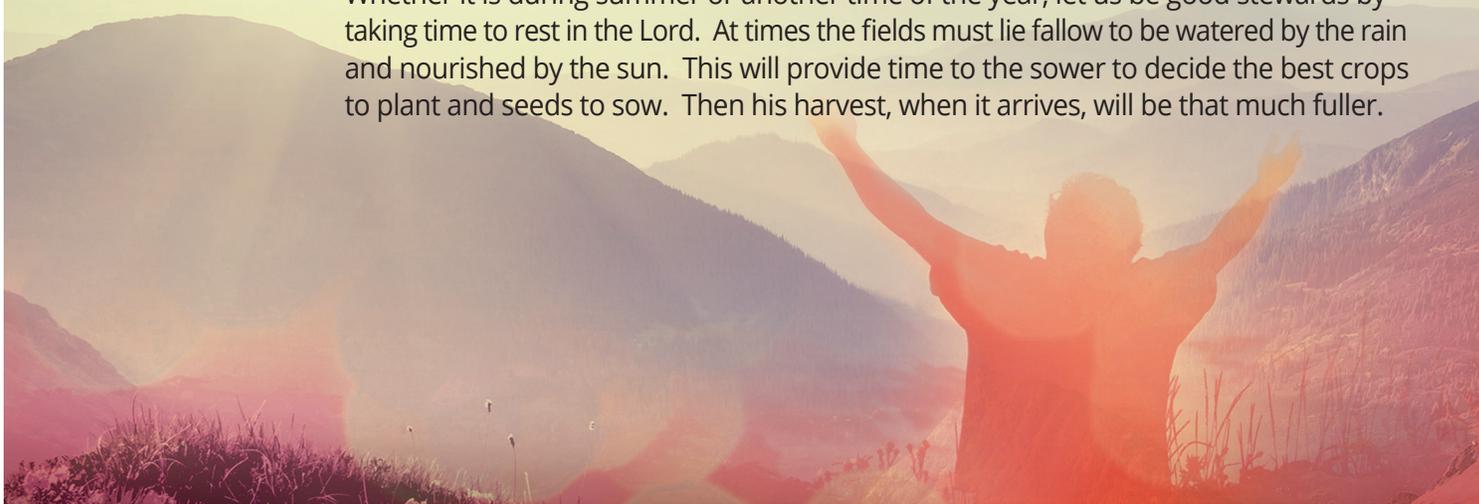
Remember the Sabbath day—keep it holy. Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of the LORD your God. You shall not do any work, either you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your work animal, or the resident alien within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the LORD has blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Exodus 20:8-11

When the summer months come they bring with them increased opportunities for relaxation and recreation. However, our fast moving world would often seek to deny us those gifts of time and space. We can find ourselves in a place where the desire for leisure is seen as a sign of laziness or lack of commitment. But was it not God who gave to us the model of rest by refraining from activity on the seventh day of creation? And if all we have comes from God, by not taking the time for leisure do we not disregard this essential gift?

When we take time to include “inactivity” into our daily life and into our year, we acknowledge that we are not the sum of our career, job, schoolwork, or even parenting. We have been given more by God and sometimes the only way to experience the richness of those gifts is to take a break from that which we normally do. The German Catholic philosopher, Josef Pieper, spent much of his time writing about these very issues. In his book, *Leisure: The Basis of Culture*, he wrote about the dangers of becoming consumed by work. He wrote, “*Of course the world of work begins to become - threatens to become - our only world, to the exclusion of all else. The demands of the working world grow ever more total, grasping ever more completely the whole of human existence.*”

Whether it is during summer or another time of the year, let us be good stewards by taking time to rest in the Lord. At times the fields must lie fallow to be watered by the rain and nourished by the sun. This will provide time to the sower to decide the best crops to plant and seeds to sow. Then his harvest, when it arrives, will be that much fuller.





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From Gratitude to Greatness

Donor Contributions	Total # of Respondents	Year-to-Date (4/19/18)	FY 2018 Prorated
Equal to Pledge	1 family	\$5,740.00	\$7,265.82
Less than Pledge	364 families	\$444,619.44	\$562,809.42
Amount of Shortfall		-\$1,078.44	-\$1,365.76
Greater than Pledge	374 families	\$390,545.83	\$494,361.81
Amount of Overage		\$158,506.34	\$200,640.93
Total Respondents	739 families		
Estimated Net Impact on Fiscal 2018 Offertory: \$199,275.17			

Thank You!

Many thanks to the families who responded to our offertory program, "From Gratitude to Greatness" in late 2016. The figures above represent the impact these parishioners have had on our fiscal 2018 offertory. Your generosity is sincerely appreciated!