



# Our Journey TOGETHER

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

VOL. 1

ISSUE 4

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## Parish Journeys Toward Everyday Stewardship and Intentional Discipleship

Our journey toward a new parish way of life full of intentional disciples is continuing. We began a conscious effort two years ago to focus on becoming the most “vibrant parish” we could be. In May when Matthew Kelly, world renowned Catholic author and evangelist, visited our Parish, he challenged us to continue to strive to become the “best version of ourselves” as everyday stewards. As with most such efforts, it takes time and effort, particularly when it involves an organization the size of St. Michael the Archangel.

About a year ago, Monsignor Doug invited one of our providers, Liturgical Publications (LPi), to help provide a framework for our success and work with us to build a more vibrant parish. With over 5000 Catholic churches as customers and having been a trusted partner for the last decade, LPi is a logical partner in this journey. During the first nine months this year, you have enjoyed our new quarterly newsletter, The Journey, as distinctly new and different communication vehicle to augment our website, parish bulletin and other communication channels. We have just released our new St. Michael mobile app that will likely become a preferred way to communicate in the years ahead given the pervasive nature of mobile communications throughout the world.

Another initiative that we have just begun is our Sustainable Offertory Program, “From Gratitude to Greatness.” With this initiative, we are encouraging you, our parishioners, to prayerfully consider your giving habits. As we consider our journey toward intentional discipleship, we are sharing our collective vision for the future so that you may be more intentional when giving back to God and supporting our parish.

So what’s next? In the first quarter of 2017, we will begin building a long range pastoral plan to provide an inspirational and solid roadmap for our journey together. Our future together is bright!



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.

OCTOBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

## Letter from the Pastor

This summer has been the busiest I have experienced in all my years at St. Michael! We closed the books on another exceptional year with all three units – parish, school and preschool – having productive, successful years and operating well within their budgets. We've had the usual list of summer projects that you always have, especially when we have a parish school and preschool in our community. Our Faith Formation program has been enhanced with the hiring of a new Youth Director. And we have replaced some more air conditioning



units on our property and finished nearly all of the changeover to LED lighting across our campus.

Having just celebrated the Feast Day of St. Michael the Archangel, we have rolled out our new parish mobile app and hope you have downloaded it and are finding it useful. Amidst all the excitement and energy surrounding our parish operation, I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the spirit of involvement and support that I get when I am among you, our parishioners. I am excited as I look forward and consider how to help move our parish from gratitude to greatness!

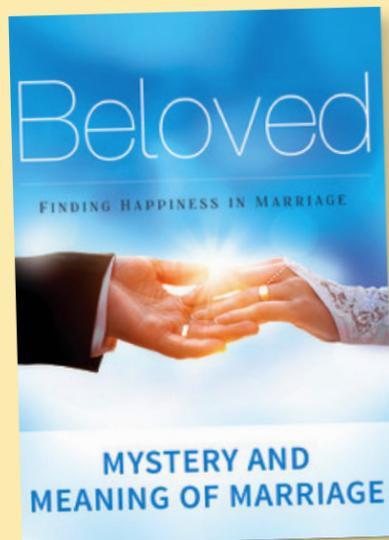
*Monsignor Douglas P. Reed*

## Series for Married Couples Beginning This Fall

In the National Pastoral Initiative for Marriage (NPIM) the U.S. Catholic Bishops call attention to the meaning and value of married life for the Church and for society. Bringing Catholic belief into dialogue with contemporary needs, the bishops urge the Catholic Church to become a community of hope and help for marriages and to join others in building a culture of marriage.

To that end, St. Michael the Archangel parish has renewed its commitment to support married couples of all ages by offering special events for married couples in the parish.

The first session of "Beloved: A Series of Evenings on Marriage



Enrichment" was held on Saturday, September 24th and will continue for three more consecutive Saturdays. All couples are welcome to join us for any of these remaining sessions, which will include

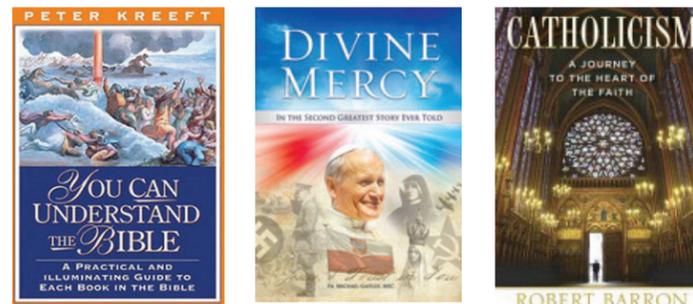
a video presentation titled "Beloved" followed by fellowship and refreshments. After the four week run, monthly events will follow.

Beloved is broken into two series, and the program will begin with first series, "Finding Happiness in Marriage." Beautifully filmed and featuring acclaimed marriage experts, Beloved speaks to the very heart of every husband and wife, bringing the sacramental truth and a God-infused love into the everyday challenges of married life.

*Additional information is available through the parish office.*

# FORMED®

THE CATHOLIC FAITH.  
ON DEMAND.



## Have you ever wanted to share your faith with others but felt you were lacking in knowledge?

We are excited to announce that St. Michael the Archangel Church has made the financial investment to become a partner in an exciting 24/7 on-line web-based digital formation series called FORMED, produced by the Augustine Institute and Ignatius Press. This series is designed to help adults grow in their faith at all levels – how we think, how we pray, and how we live.

Better yet, St. Michael's subscription enables FREE access to all parishioners and their families anywhere, anytime on computers, tablets, or phones. Through this content you will be able to not only learn more about the Catholic Faith but also go deeper and strengthen your own relationship with God. You will learn through beautiful videos, music, and notable Catholic speakers, educators as well as be able to read further on the topics through online links.

FORMED is a game-changer, a real immersion of Faith! To access FORMED you will find instructions below. You are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this excellent resource and learn more about your faith so that you not only live it more deeply but also share it with others.

### Our subscription includes the following for FREE:

- Catholicism Series (Featuring Bishop Robert Barron)
- Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained
- Beloved: Finding Happiness in Marriage (Marriage Prep/ Marriage Enrichment)
- Lectio: Peter and Prayer (Bible Studies with Dr. Tim Gray)
- Lectio: Eucharist (Bible study with Dr. Brant Pitre)
- Lectio: Evangelization (Bible Study with Dr. Mary Healy)
- YDisciple (A 4-year Full Discipleship Group Youth Program)
- Opening the Word (Weekly reflections on the Sunday Readings)
- 33 Days to Morning Glory (Consecration Retreat featuring Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC)
- Footprints of God (Nine-Part Video by Steve Ray)
- Lighthouse Catholic Media Audio Presentations (Numerous Topics)
- Movies and eBooks from Ignatius Press
- Unlimited downloads of accompanying study materials (leader & participant guides)

### HOW TO REGISTER

- Go to Formed.org
- Enter our PARISH CODE YFKNCX on the homepage
- Create a personal account with your user name/ email and password
- Start enjoying the best Catholic content all in one place!

*Once you have registered, you may log in by going directly to Formed.org and entering your user name/email and password.*

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

DO NOT sign up as an individual – the parish access code provides far more content than the individual subscription and is completely FREE of charge.

# Stewardship Basics for Everyday Stewards

**Stewardship is about time, talent, and treasure, right?** These are the classic three areas of human life that are used to explain stewardship. However, these words can be limiting to a person trying to really develop a genuine stewardship spirituality and way of life. Let's briefly look at each area:

1

**Time** This is generally understood as what is given simply by being present to a need or activity. A person volunteers for a slot of time, or spends some time with another person in need, or helps out with an activity. But this is not meant to mean spare time. It is all of one's time. How do we spend our time when not involved in the situations mentioned above? In our use of time, do we cultivate meaningful relationships, enrich our minds and bodies, and let God speak to us? Good stewards try to be mindful of their time, all the time.

2

**Talent** When people talk about stewardship of talent they speak about the sharing of the special gifts that have been given to each person. The problem sometimes lies in the reality that so many people either assume they are not talented, or at least, have no idea what their talents lie. There are skills and there are talents. Skills are those things that we are able to learn by practice and learning. Talents are those things occurring naturally in all of us. People who feel they have little to give in this area often are looking for more specific skills. Everyone has talents. They just need to be cultivated.

3

**Treasure** because parishes need money from its members to survive, this often becomes all that people think of as stewardship of treasure. But we are called to account for all of our financial resources. When one is living a stewardship way of life, they do begin to see giving to their parish in the same way as they see buying necessities for themselves or their family. But they also work to make wise decisions with all their money, since any gift from God needs to be tended to wisely. Even the few bills in one's wallet can be seen as resources to use for God's glory.

These concepts are not always easy to grasp or live out. If they were, we would all be perfectly transformed everyday stewards. But we are called to a continuous process of reflection, formation, and prayer, so that a stewardship way of life not only means the transformation of these three aspects of our lives, but all aspects of our lives!

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

# St. Michael App

## Better Communication with Our Parish Community

Wouldn't you love to know in advance about last minute weather cancellations on our campus? To learn prior to arriving at St. Michael that a meeting location had been changed since the bulletin was published? Successful communications anywhere, including a parish community, requires a lot of effort and the use of multiple channels of communication. That's why we use our parish website, the parish bulletin, emails, pulpit messages, Facebook, Twitter and more - we try to use all the channels that our parishioners use.

Now we have added perhaps the most widely used communication channel in our society today. The St. Michael parish mobile app will enable

push notifications that come to every individual and proactively inform them of pertinent information.

All you need to do is download the app and select the groups you would like to hear from. Mobile apps, whether used on a smartphone or a tablet, have changed how we think about and use mobile technology.

Studies show that when people use their smartphones, eighty percent of the time they are using apps. It is how we connect ourselves to all those things that mean something to us. Connect with your faith and your faith community faster, deeper and more often with our new parish app!

**The app is now available for download to iPhone and Android smartphones!**

**iPhone users can:**

- Text "App01" to 555888, OR
- Search for "St. Michael Cary" in the iPhone App Store

**Android users can:**

- Text "App02" to 555888, OR
- Search for "St. Michael Cary" in the Google Play Store



## Stewardship – A Way of Life

### Often the Result of a Life Changing Experience

Stewardship in its truest form comes from the heart. It becomes a way of life to many who believe the parables that teach about the value of giving all we can to God and to others. A few years ago, a St. Michael parishioner, whose wish was to remain anonymous, passed away and left a portion of their estate to be used to fund projects that would provide a perpetual benefit to others in our Catholic faith.



It seems she had experienced a life-changing transformation as a result of JustFaith, a Catholic social action class at St. Michael. JustFaith is a classroom-based transformational journey that invites participants to explore how they may better care for the earth we live on and the poorest among us.

Last year St. Michael was approached about the possibility of helping a growing faith community at Our Lady of Assumption Nyamagwa Parish in Kisii, Kenya to build a

church. Capital projects in third world countries like Kenya are often "faith-based" projects without adequate funding. Such was the case here, and construction began with a belief that God would provide the necessary resources to complete the project.

St. Michael and the Raleigh Diocese were able to coordinate the use of funds from the deceased St. Michael parishioner along with the personal involvement of Jacob Nyaanga Nyantabiga, a St. Michael parishioner who made the request, to wire funds for a new roof to the parish in Kenya. Meanwhile, Jacob (at his own expense) went to Kenya to oversee the use of the funds.

While the church is far from being complete, a roof now covers the weekly masses held at the site. This journey of love started with one woman's transformational experience with JustFaith and a one man's desire to help a faith community in his native land. The result is an inspiring example of stewardship!

# 5<sup>th</sup> Catholic Encounter of Farm Workers

For about 230 migrant farm workers, Sunday, August 7 was a relief from their back-breaking toiling in tobacco and sweet potato fields. It was the day for the 5th Catholic Encounter of Farm Workers (formerly called Migrant Family Day), hosted by the diocesan Hispanic Ministry Office and held at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Newton Grove. It's a day of family fun that includes food, music, sports, prayer and services such as haircuts and medical exams. Bishop Burbidge was once again on hand to celebrate Mass and visit with the migrant workers and volunteers from a number of parishes from around the Diocese.

Again this year, St. Michael the Archangel parish sponsored free medical examinations for the migrant workers. The number of volunteers increased this year with eight doctors and eight nurses and a number of interpreters to assist the medical staff where needed. "Last year we only had three doctors," Martha Smith, Hispanic Ministry assistant at St. Michael Parish, said. "The larger number of medical personnel meant that the doctors were able to spend more time with each patient." The number of medical examinations increased from 107 in 2015 to 130 this year. As a percentage, they were up significantly from about 33% to well over 50% of the overall attendees.



ABOVE: Migrant Family Day Workers on their way to Mass



LEFT: Migrant Workers Await Medical Exams



Medical Examination Volunteers



Students Serve Veterans Day Breakfast

## We Are the Hands of Christ

Michael Catholic School Students "Light the World"

### Service, Reverence, Leadership.

These are the three core values at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic School. They are a part of the school's mission statement, and they are deliberately integrated into the fabric of the StMS culture from full day pre-K through Grade 8.

Teachers, administrators, and parent volunteers work with students to provide opportunities for them to fully understand these core values and experience them daily.

Opportunities to serve the community abound. Each student participates in a "Light the World" service project through their Religion classes each year. Depending on the grade level, students prepare brown bag lunches for the homeless and food for students through the "Backpack Buddies" program. In addition, they collect canned goods for Share Sunday, serve daily as Safety Patrol members, and organize a special Veterans' Day Breakfast Program each November for our parish veterans and spouses.

When students reach Grade 8, they have had so many different service opportunities. It is then that they are asked to choose their own, individual service project based on one of the Corporal Works of Mercy:

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

### Corporal Works of Mercy Outreach Project Organizations

- Oak City Outreach Center
- Catholic Parish Outreach
- Dorcas Ministries
- Glenaire Retirement Community
- Capital Area Teen Court
- St. Michael Parish Columbarium
- Raleigh Memorial Park

Through these service opportunities incorporated into the StMS Religion curriculum, students give of their time and talent, but in return they gain a better understanding of our Catholic call to encounter God in those in need. As their hands serve Christ in others, they find pride in the leadership they exhibit and the reverence they show to the sick, homeless, imprisoned, hungry and deceased.



Students Prepare Brown Bag Lunches



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## **PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**

St. Michael the Archangel,  
defend us in battle.

Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.  
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,  
and do thou,

O Prince of the heavenly hosts,  
by the power of God,  
thrust into hell Satan,  
and all the evil spirits,  
who prowl about the world  
seeking the ruin of souls.  
Amen.