

# Our Journey TOGETHER

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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While preparing for this “back to school” edition of Our Journey Together, I found myself with heavy heart reflecting on the sad and shocking report in August of extensive clergy abuse in PA. While considering how best to express my heartfelt grief over this situation, I realized how frequently in the past we have tried to make sure we communicate important



information thoroughly and effectively...and still come up short. With more than 4,500 families in our parish community, ensuring that we reach everyone is virtually impossible.

However, with an ongoing focus on continuous improvement, we will continue to try to do a better job every day.

So, this edition of our parish newsletter will focus on communication and healing. You will find some helpful tips and techniques for how and where to find information that will enable you to stay better connected and informed. Additionally, you will find

a couple prayerful suggestions on how to stay focused on God’s healing grace and your relationship with Jesus Christ. Please enjoy this edition of our newsletter and our tips for learning and healing. If you have suggestions on specific content or improvements you would like to see in the future, please call our Stewardship Hotline at 919-468-6180. God bless you and your family and please pray for our worldwide church and our St. Michael community during these challenging times!

*Monsignor Douglas P. Reed*



The St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Parish Community is called by God to discipleship through WORSHIP, EDUCATION, and SERVICE.

OCTOBER 2018 NEWSLETTER



## How to Get More from Mobile App

Two years ago, we created the St. Michael Mobile App to augment and enhance our communication efforts. For parishioners on the go, having access to information at their fingertips is a necessity. Americans are more “connected” than ever and for 77% of us, our smartphone allows us mobile access to any information needed. Millennials get roughly three-quarters of their news from online sources.

A growing number of St. Michael parishioners are using our Mobile App on a regular basis. Even though it is not as robust as our full parish website, the app still provides one button access to lots of valuable information. Recently, we’ve added a couple new buttons to expand your access to information and make the app easier to use at the same time.

Notice the three new buttons highlighted here that provide new information at the click of a button.

1. The “Full Website” button will take you to the full St. Michael website for a quick look at the expanded content there.
2. The “Clergy Abuse Responses” button will help our parishioners access responses to the most recent sad and horrific news about clergy sexual abuse. You will find letters from our pastor, Monsignor Doug Reed, Bishop Luis Rafael Zarama and the Archbishop of Atlanta, Wilton Gregory, as well as a video Q&A from Bishop Robert Barron. We will add more responses over time as they develop and are appropriate.
3. The “Survey Results” button will enable you to see the results of the recent Parish Communication Survey.

Do you have other suggestions on how to improve the mobile app? Call the Stewardship hotline at 919-468-6180.

Don’t have the app yet and want to check it out? Visit our full parish website and look under the “Resources” tab for download instructions.





# Navigating the Parish Website 101

The World Wide Web (web) is one of the ways to disseminate information over the internet, which is a global network connecting millions of computers. Together, the web and internet enable us to share information with anyone in the world. Our parish website, like our homes, has a specific address on the web which is called its Uniform Resource Locator (URL), more commonly referred to as its web address. Our parish web address is <http://www.stmichaelcary.org/>. But that's enough of the tech talk! Now let's get to the basics.

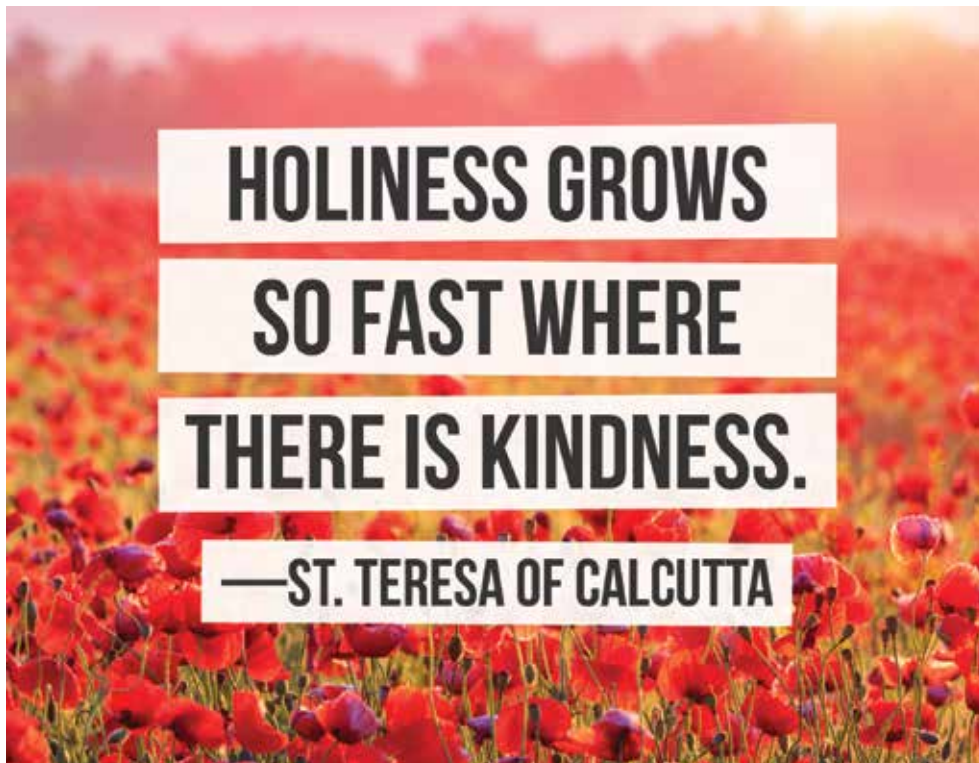
Like many sites, our parish website is full of helpful information of all kinds, but sometimes it may seem difficult to find what we need. If you've ever felt this way, keep reading this edition of *Our Journey Together* – it may be “just what the doctor ordered!”



Allocating time to “browse or shop around” on our website will help you know where to look for the information you are seeking. However, if you're pressed for time like most families today, you will appreciate the helpful tips and techniques throughout this quarter's parish newsletter.

**TIP #1:** Using the web address listed above, start with our parish website's homepage, the top portion of which is pictured here. The highlighted horizontal navigation bar shows broad categories of information that are available to you. Several of these have drop down menus that elaborate on specific areas of information. For example, under Parish Life, the dropdown menu includes our parish calendar of events, information on our Ministries, names and contacts of members of our Parish Clergy/Staff, and much more.

**TIP #2:** Before leaving the homepage, scroll down to explore the entire homepage. There are Mass and Confession schedules, upcoming events and programs, video clips and much, much more. Once you are familiar with the homepage and its contents, you will be well on your way to better information retrieval in the future. We will provide more tips and techniques throughout this newsletter, so read on!



# Updated Parish Mission Statement

*We are a Roman Catholic community called by God to discipleship through **WORSHIP, EDUCATION, and SERVICE.***

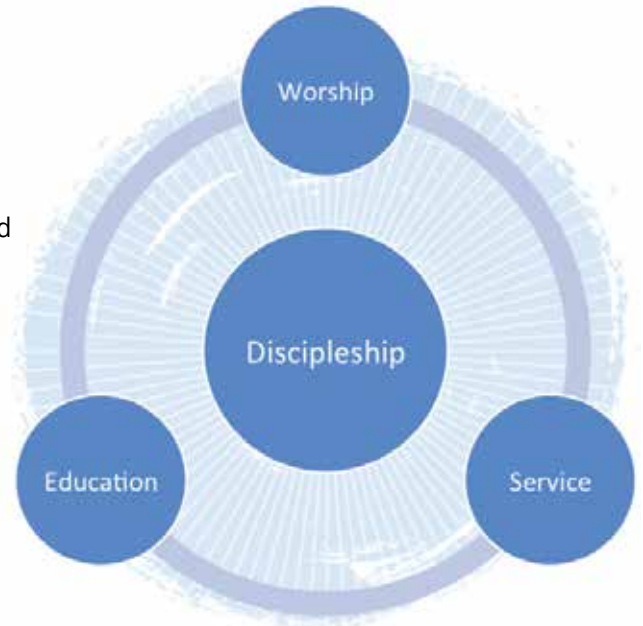
St. Michael is proud to announce that we have a newly revised parish mission statement. This is our compass, which brings clarity during times of confusion and reminds us of what we are about.

**DISCIPLESHIP:** Everyday stewardship leads to intentional discipleship > Intentional discipleship leads to eternal salvation.

**WORSHIP:** Prayer and the sacraments provide a focus on God first, others second, me third.

**EDUCATION:** Our education ministries define our priorities in our School, Preschool and Faith Formation Programs. Our classroom programs are augmented by guest speakers, special programs and online resources such as FORMED.

**SERVICE:** We are all called to serve God and one another.



**God asks little,  
but He gives much.**

*—St. John Chrysostom*



# St. Michael the Archangel Social Media

Social media is a term that generally refers to websites and applications that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking. Like other businesses, churches have long made use of social media to share information, ideas, pictures, videos and other forms of expression to strengthen their communities and to attract new members. St. Michael has significantly increased our use of social media in the last year and it has helped increase the local community's awareness and interest in our parish operation. Before you finish touring our homepage, make sure you check out the links on our social media icons at the bottom of the homepage. To stay in touch, make sure you follow us on our social media channels.



## Resources That Make a Big Impact!



The Resources tab is relatively new and has some really good content for parishioners of all ages. When you can spare 15 minutes to browse, check it out and see what's there. Then come back when you have more time to explore the areas in which you have specific interest. Here's a list of the content you will currently find under the Resources tab:

- † [Pinterest Boards](#)
- † [Parish Communication Survey Results](#)
- † [FORMED info. and login instructions](#)
- † [Parish Long Range Plan and Results](#)
- † [Stewardship Reports](#)
- † [Parish Newsletters](#)
- † [Recommended reading](#)
- † [Mobile app download instructions](#)
- † [Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel](#)

The Pinterest Boards and FORMED both have extensive content focused on a variety of topics. If you haven't visited either before, you're in for a treat!



# St. Michael the Archangel

## Our Patron Saint

**S**t. Michael the Archangel isn't a saint in the traditional sense, but rather he is an angel, and the leader of all angels and of the army of God. This is what the title "Archangel" means, that he is above all the others in rank. However, Michael the Archangel is still called a saint because he resides in heaven with God.

Michael the Archangel has four main responsibilities or offices, as we know from scripture and Christian tradition.

1. To combat Satan.
2. To escort the faithful to heaven at their hour of death.
3. To be a champion of all Christians, and the Church itself.
4. To call men from life on Earth to their heavenly judgment.

Very little is known about St. Michael other than what we know from scriptures, which themselves are sparse. He is only mentioned four times in the Bible. In Daniel, St.

Michael is mentioned twice. The first time as one who helped Daniel, and the second time he is mentioned with regard to the end times of the world when he will stand for the "children of thy people." His next mention comes in the Epistle of St. Jude, where St. Michael is said to guard the tombs of Moses and Eve and has contended with Satan over the body of Moses. The final mention is in Revelation, where St. Michael and his angels, do battle with the dragon.

There are other scriptures where St. Michael is implied, but not mentioned by name, such as the angel who defends the gate to Paradise, who defends against Balaam, and "who routed the army of Sennacherib."

Today, St. Michael is invoked for protection, especially from lethal enemies and for healing. He is also the patron of soldiers, police and doctors...and all of us at St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Church.



### Prayer to St. 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.*

# What do you think of our newsletter?

*Please complete the survey below so we know what you think.*

Fill out paper copy  
and return in to the  
Parish Office

Fill out paper copy, take  
a picture and email it to  
[info@stmccary.org](mailto:info@stmccary.org).

Take the survey online!  
Please visit:  
[www.stmichaelcary.org](http://www.stmichaelcary.org)

1

How would you rate  
the quality of our  
parish newsletter,  
*Our Journey Together?*

- A. Very high quality
- B. High quality
- C. Neither high nor low quality
- D. Low quality
- E. Very low quality

2

How would you rate  
the content of our  
parish newsletter?

- A. Extremely valuable
- B. Very valuable
- C. Somewhat valuable
- D. Not so valuable
- E. Not at all valuable

3

Overall, how satisfied or  
dissatisfied are you with  
our parish newsletter?

- A. Very satisfied
- B. Satisfied
- C. Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- D. Somewhat dissatisfied
- E. Very dissatisfied

4

How would you feel if the  
newsletter was available  
electronically rather than  
mailed to your home?

- A. Much better
- B. Better
- C. About the same
- D. Worse
- E. Much worse

5

Should we continue  
publishing the parish  
newsletter?

- A. Yes
- B. No



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Please Join Us  
First Friday of Each Month  
for a Devotion to the  
*Sacred Heart of Jesus*

Praise and Worship in a special  
healing celebration, with Eucharistic  
Holy Hour & Benediction

7:30pm in the Church  
Music provided by One Heart Music Group  
and celebrated by our parish priests