

Our Journey TOGETHER

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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ISSUE 3

WHAT'S INSIDE

**Holy Name of Jesus
Cathedral; A Beacon
of Hope**

PAGE 3

Everyday Miracles

PAGE 4

**The 'Dynamic
Deacon' is coming
to St. Michael!**

PAGE 5

Archangel Hall

PAGE 6

Strengths and Talents

PAGE 7

PARISH LONG RANGE PLAN PROVIDES A 'SENSE OF COMMUNITY'

Our journey *From Gratitude to Greatness* began a year ago, and our latest initiative, the parish Long Range Plan, has left us with a real sense of community. As we worked through the online survey and parishioner listening sessions between February and April, it was clear our parish community had come together in a very coordinated fashion to share their dreams and voice their opinions about what matters the most to them in our faith community.

The results of the online survey and listening sessions have been distilled into a sizeable book of data that is being used to create the key goals and objectives that will be our parish Long Range Plan. The most frequently mentioned broad categories include:

1. Communications
2. Faith formation
3. Unity (sense of belonging)
4. Making faith relevant
5. Stewardship (involvement)
6. Parking and facilities

A diverse group of parish volunteers, under the capable leadership of St. Michael parishioner, John Tramontin, are working with our strategic partner, Liturgical Publications to develop and document the plan. Once the plan is complete, we will begin sharing it with the parish community. This plan for our future will be a 3-year plan that will evolve into future such plans once this one has been finished. We are excited to bring this to you as a reflection of your dreams and wishes that we will work tirelessly to make a reality in the months and years ahead.



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.

Letter From The Pastor

In August, as our St. Michael School, Preschool and Faith Formation classes began their new school year, our parish community was suddenly alive with new activity! I recall my own dreams as a child and remember the excitement I felt when school was back in session.

Today, I have that same sense of pure excitement about what we are doing at St. Michael. Last year's campaign, *From Gratitude to Greatness*, highlighted the generosity of our parishioners who responded to our ongoing efforts to create a more vibrant parish while reaching for greatness. My sincere thanks to those who participated in this campaign and, through their financial support invested in our future!

With this support, shortly thereafter, we invested in another new and exciting communication channel – our Livestream system. It enables us to broadcast Masses and other St. Michael events for those who are physically unable to get to Mass, parishioners in assisted living or parishioners' relatives who live in remote cities. We now have a way to keep them connected to our parish community from anywhere in the world. At the same time, we added the digital displays in the gathering space that provide valuable information about our parish that makes it easier for parishioners to stay informed. We also broadcast our livestream Masses to those displays for overflow conditions during all livestream events.

Shortly after New Year's, we began work on our parish Long Range Plan. More than 1,300 parishioners participated in the planning process that will enable us to create a parish roadmap for the next three years. Many of you have expressed gratitude that we asked for your feedback during this important planning process. To which, I can only say, "thank you for helping to chart our future together!"

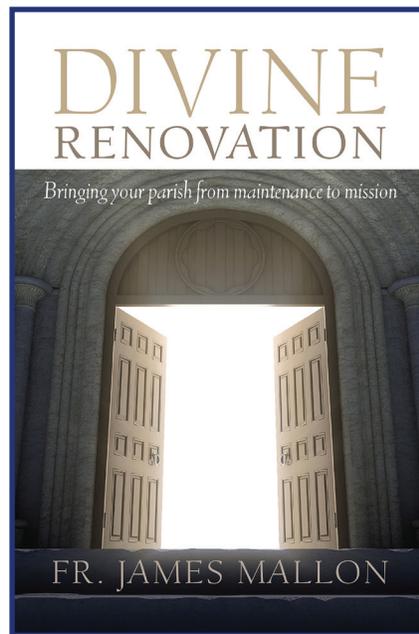
We've added additional staff resources in response to your feedback as well. In June, we added three additional people to our Faith Formation team to help

with our expanded and revamped Faith Formation program and our Youth Ministry. We've added a part time Parish Communications Manager who will help enhance our existing communications efforts while adding additional channels to expand our ability to reach all our parishioners when sharing parish news.

I hope you will read and enjoy this newsletter. And I

encourage you to read the book, *Divine Renovation* written by Fr. James Mallon. It's excellent and refers to a concept of bringing a parish "from maintenance to mission," which is consistent with our journey *From Gratitude to Greatness*. Each will help you understand why our journey together has me more excited than ever to serve as your pastor!

Monsignor Douglas P. Reed





HOLY NAME OF JESUS CATHEDRAL; *A Beacon of Hope*

After more than six years of planning and two years of construction, the Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral opened in Raleigh on July 26, 2017. A dedication ceremony attended by 2,000 worshippers left the faithful in awe and full of hope for the future of the Raleigh Diocese. Former Bishop Michael Burbidge, who first envisioned

the cathedral to reflect the growth of the Catholic church throughout eastern North Carolina, returned to Raleigh to lead a special dedication Mass. "This is holy ground," Burbidge said. "Everything in this building – everything – is designed to lift people's hearts and souls to God."



Those who attended expressed feelings of joy, gratitude, awe and hope. Many are hopeful that the beautiful new cathedral will become a magnet for Catholics and non-Catholics alike in the Triangle area. St. Michael pastor, Monsignor Doug Reed committed last year to fund a statue of St. Michael the Archangel which is now proudly displayed in the cathedral. One of 27 such statues on display, the St. Michael the Archangel statue is located in the right transept (St. Joseph side). This beautiful statue will be a proud legacy for our parish community for generations to come.

EVERYDAY MIRACLES

On leaving the synagogue he entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them. When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him.

—Mark 1:29-34

Jesus performed miracles of healing quite often in the Gospels. He healed disease, gave sight to the blind, made the lame walk, exorcised demons, and even raised the dead. We believe that he did these things not just because he loved those people, but so those who witnessed such actions or heard the testimonies would believe in Him.

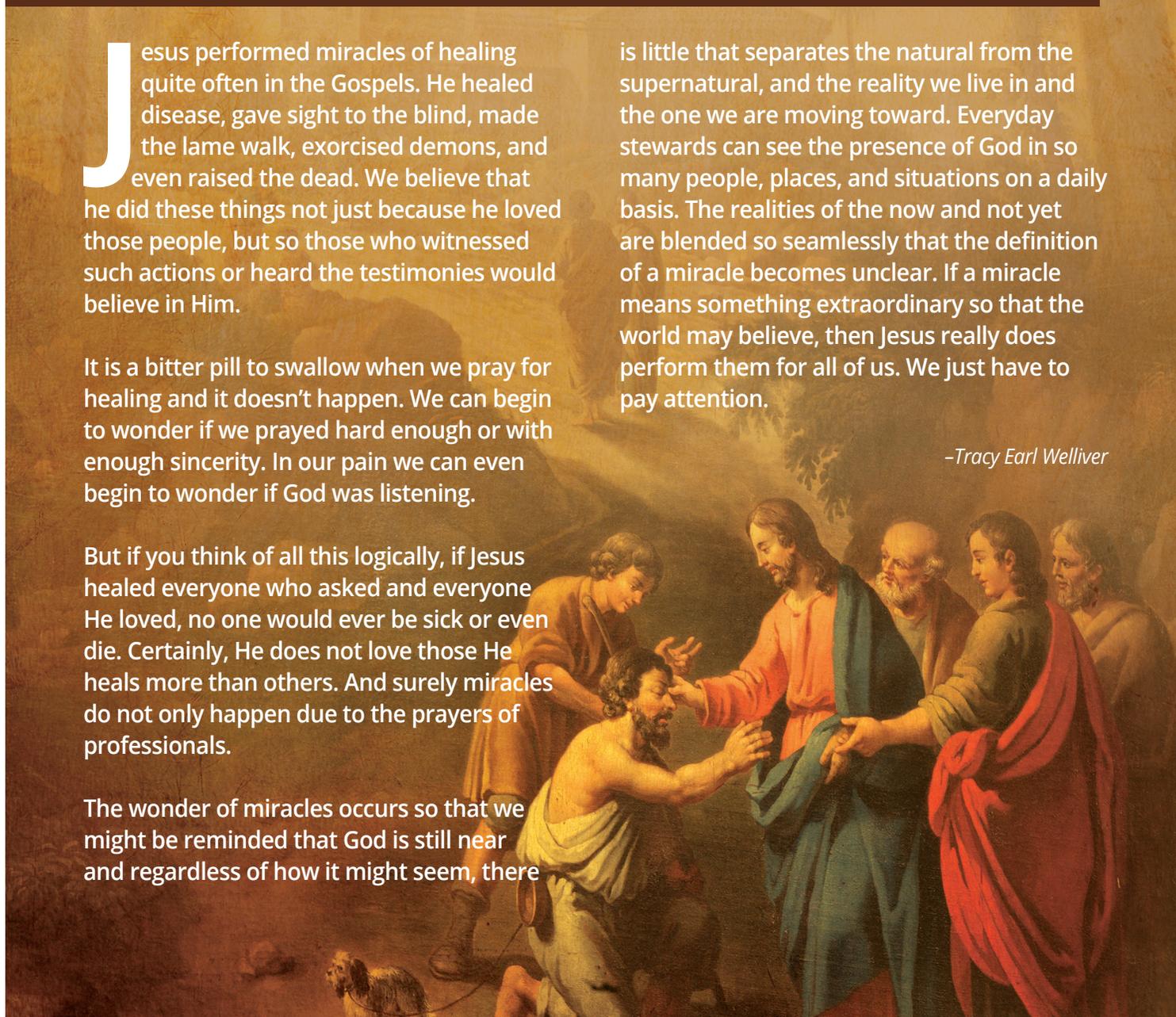
It is a bitter pill to swallow when we pray for healing and it doesn't happen. We can begin to wonder if we prayed hard enough or with enough sincerity. In our pain we can even begin to wonder if God was listening.

But if you think of all this logically, if Jesus healed everyone who asked and everyone He loved, no one would ever be sick or even die. Certainly, He does not love those He heals more than others. And surely miracles do not only happen due to the prayers of professionals.

The wonder of miracles occurs so that we might be reminded that God is still near and regardless of how it might seem, there

is little that separates the natural from the supernatural, and the reality we live in and the one we are moving toward. Everyday stewards can see the presence of God in so many people, places, and situations on a daily basis. The realities of the now and not yet are blended so seamlessly that the definition of a miracle becomes unclear. If a miracle means something extraordinary so that the world may believe, then Jesus really does perform them for all of us. We just have to pay attention.

—Tracy Earl Welliver



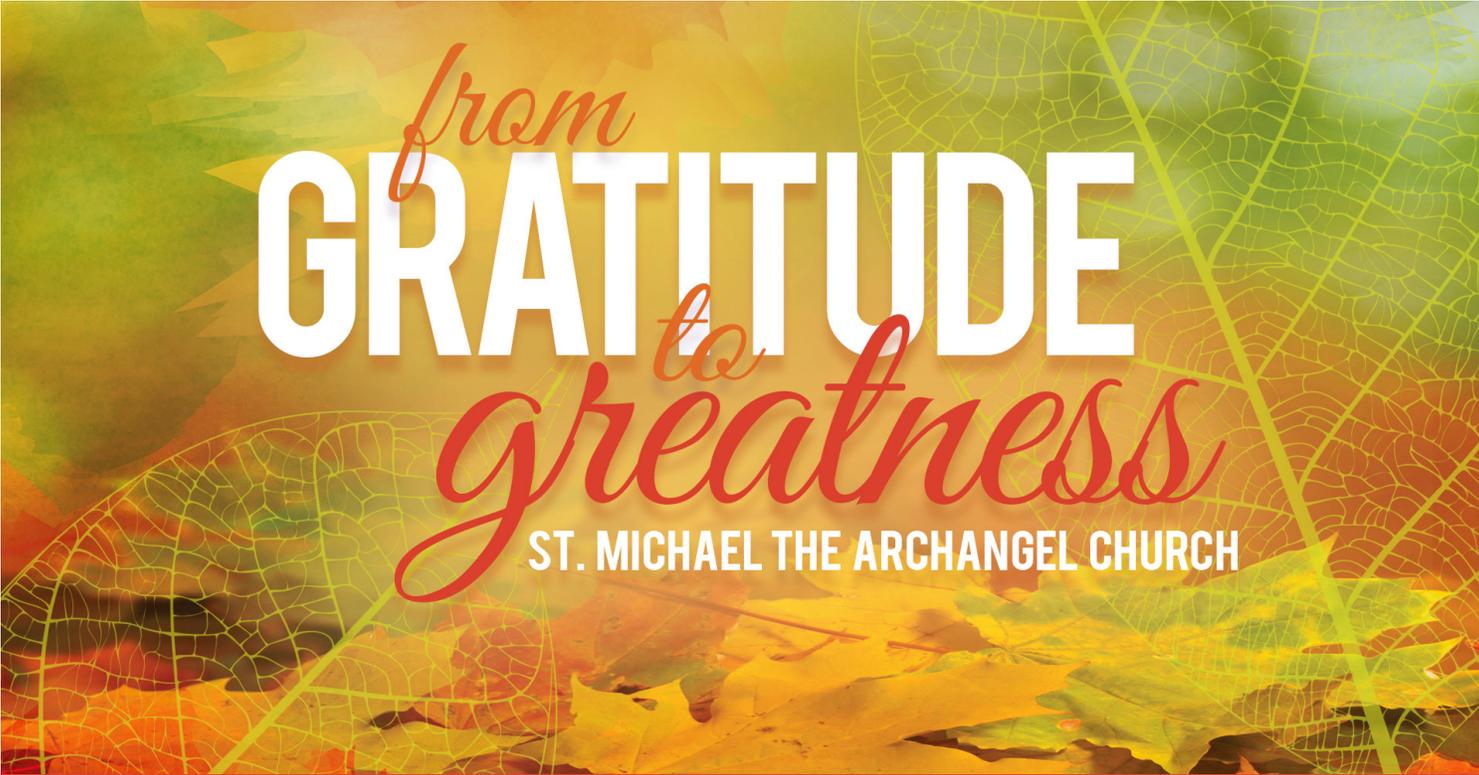
THE 'DYNAMIC DEACON' is Coming to St. Michael!



SAVE THE DATES
OCTOBER 8-9
Deacon Harold
Burke-Sivers
at St. Michael's
FOR ALL AGES

For two evenings, October 8-9, St. Michael will have our next parish mission with yet another marquis speaker, internationally acclaimed Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers. Known around the world as the “Dynamic Deacon,” he is one of the most sought-after speakers in the Church today. He is a powerful and passionate evangelist and preacher, whose no-nonsense approach to living and proclaiming the Catholic faith is sure to challenge and inspire those who hear him. Deacon Harold travels across the United States and around the world speaking at conferences, workshops, retreats, parish missions, high schools, and young adult events—in short, to people of all ages and from all walks of life who desire to know Jesus intimately and enjoy a deeper personal relationship with Him. Make plans to be there; you won’t want to miss this one!

BE JOYFUL! BE JOYFUL! BE JOYFUL!



from
GRATITUDE

to
greatness
ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CHURCH

STRENGTHS & TALENTS

What comes naturally easy to you? What do you really love to do, or gravitate toward? Have you ever found yourself saying “When do I get to do that again?” These are all signs of a talent.

We sometimes speak of our call to be good stewards of our time, talent and treasure. Being a good steward of our talents involves four initial steps:

1

Recognize the ways your talents lead to success or well-being in your life. Take time at the end of each day or week to stop and think about situations in which things went very well. What happened? What qualities or talents contributed to this success? How might you build on that in the future?

2

Once you have recognized your own talents, look for talents in the people around you. Rather than focusing on your own or another’s weaknesses, focus on strengths. This perspective takes a while to develop, but when you look for your own and others’ talents you will understand what a difference this can make, in your life and the lives of the people you touch.

3

Affirm the gifts and talents you notice in others.

4

Partner with others. Rather than trying to “do it all,” form complementary partnerships with other people. Build these partnerships (at home, work, in your parish and in your community) around the strengths each person brings to the tasks at hand.

-Leisa Anslinger



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SAVE THE DATE

Women of
WONDER
presents

How to *Gain Faith that Gives Hope*
 with Women in the Bible,
Sarah & Rahab

Presented By: **Sarah Christmyer**, Catholic author,
 Bible teacher, Speaker and partner with Jeff
 Cavins to develop The Great Adventure Catholic
 Bible study program.



Save the Date

Saturday, November 4
9am-12pm

**St. Michael the Archangel
 Parish Center**

Registration Information to Come this Fall

