As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him. – Matthew 4:18-22

Why did God the Father send His Son to earth? He did it to save us—to save us from sin, death and hell. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life” (John 3:16). This salvation Jesus won for us was accomplished through His death and resurrection, but Jesus’ mission entailed so much more than dying and rising.

When Jesus began His public ministry, the first thing He did was invite people to follow Him, to enter into a relationship with Him, so that He could form them to become more like Himself. Jesus knew that He came to establish a Church—a living, spiritual organism that would continue on after His death, resurrection and ascension into heaven—and this Church would be made up of His followers all throughout the centuries.

To be a follower of Jesus means that you are one of His disciples. “Disciple” comes from the word “discipline,” and that is what it takes to be a follower of Jesus: discipline to live your life in accord with God’s Word and His plan for you. Being a disciple today is really no different than it was for those first disciples Jesus called on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. It still requires that you make Jesus the number-one priority in your life. It means that you seek holiness in all things. It means that you strive to love as Jesus did. It means that you live a life of daily prayer. It means that you stay close to Jesus in the Eucharist and the Mass. It means that you frequent the sacrament of Reconciliation. It means that you are active in a community of faith with other disciples. It means that you serve the poor. It means that you stand up for what is good, true and beautiful. It means that you let Jesus live in you and through you.

Is it easy to be a disciple, a follower of Jesus Christ? No. But it’s worth it.

I look forward to our journey of discipleship together here at St. Michael Catholic Church and School—and to meeting each of you in person in the weeks ahead. God bless you!

Fr. Brian Park
Pastor

On the cover: Deacon Steve Dupay leads our annual Corpus Christi procession through St. Michael on June 14, 2020.
Hit the Ground Running

Strong leadership enables smooth transition for new principal

After just a month at St. Michael Catholic School (StMCS), Melissa Ginther does not seem like a new principal. She speaks with clarity and confidence about the strengths and challenges she sees—and while she admits it’s a lot to take in, she is quick to credit the school community for making the transition manageable.

“Special doesn’t do justice to the beauty that’s encapsulated here,” she said. “Anointed might be a better term. Watching Bids for Kids from Georgia was such a cool opportunity—seeing just how invested, innovative and resourceful our volunteer leaders and families are. And brave! Who wants to set a goal to raise $125,000 in the middle of a pandemic? And then they crushed it! So I’m excited to work with the people who make this place what it is.”

Ginther also cites school systems, Catholic identity and intentionality as particular strengths not always found at other parochial schools. “The extent to which the infrastructure here works to benefit every learner has blown me away,” she said, “But so has the way St. Michael went above and beyond during distance learning to care for their faculty and students—and to know, in prudence, when to stop and plan in the midst of this emergency. Even in chaos, the intentionality was retained. That’s miraculous!

“I cannot thank Jenny Haller enough—she put the right people in the right places doing the right things,” Ginther said. “Our new assistant principal, Heidi Gallus, is a prime example. She is a treasure. Jenny could have kept leadership to herself, but she delegated it—to people who are invested because she made sure they were seen, known and loved.”

StMCS continues to chart a bold future, including reconnecting our school and church communities separated by location and disconnected by coronavirus.

“We are working hard on plans for reopening: How do we meet people where they are and create a space where they feel welcome to return to school?” Ginther said. “But we are also looking at how to build bridges and foster a sense of family among the totality of ministries that make up our parish.”

Is StMCS Right for You?

Our Catholic school has openings for this fall! If you are interested in Catholic education for your preK-8 children, please contact the office at 763-497-3887 for more information or to schedule a guided tour with Melissa Ginther and staff.
Since the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak, St. Michael Catholic Church has looked for safe and creative ways to provide sacraments and prayer opportunities to parishioners. We serve the spiritual needs of our parishioners—but what are we doing to provide for the material needs of our community?

Parish staff regularly provides support to those who stop in asking for gas or grocery assistance or other immediate help, but for larger or long-term needs, rather than duplicating efforts, we connect people with other resources in the area. In addition, each month the parish provides financial support to a number of charitable organizations including Options for Women-Cornerstone, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the Hanover Food Shelf, Sharing and Caring Hands in Minneapolis, Tutwiler Clinic in Mississippi, and Mustard Seed Communities in Jamaica. Many of these organizations are served and supported directly by our parishioners, as well.

The mission to provide for those in need belongs primarily to the laity. We are the eyes and ears, hearts and hands, of Christ in the world. Through the Mass and the sacraments, our priests strengthen us to accomplish this mission, and St. Michael is blessed with numerous Catholic lay organizations that mobilize us to carry it out.

Catholic United Financial

Catholic United Financial (CUF) is a non-profit fraternal organization that leverages profits from the sale of life insurance, annuities, Medicare Supplement insurance and retirement products into programs that support our Catholic community.

“Our chapter, #31, was founded in 1887 as the Catholic Aid Association,” said team director Andrea Zachman, who is also the faith formation coordinator at St. Michael. “We organize and support community service projects and local fundraisers and offer grants and donations to parishes and Catholic schools—our chapter has raised $330,000 for the local Catholic community.”

CUF is probably best known for its annual Catholic Schools Raffle, which raised $1.3 million for 89 partnering schools across Minnesota and North and South Dakota in 2020. St. Michael Catholic Church and School have
also benefited from CUF’s semiannual Educational Technology and Chastity and Abstinence Education Grants, as well as the Grants4Good that supports events that enhance parish life via service, family or faith-based activities. To share needs and ideas or to become a CUF member, contact Zachman at 763-913-0768 or a_black82@yahoo.com.

Council of Catholic Women
The Council of Catholic Women (CCW) is a national organization promoting prayer, formation, leadership and service. Its mission includes a special devotion to Mary, Mother of God, and the celebration of Mass and the Eucharist, as well as promoting volunteer service, friendship and unity.

“The St. Michael Council of Catholic Women was established in 1905,” current chair Judy Beaudry said. “Its main purpose in those days was to clean the church and the priest’s house, and to give supplies to the School Sisters of Notre Dame who taught the children at the parish school. We provided linens, towels, kitchen supplies and food on a regular basis.

“Now the organization has a larger dimension to its existence. Annually we oversee a substantial giving program to the very poor in Appalachia to supplement their Christmas...St. Michael parish is very generous in supporting this program, as well as the Papal Footprints program to aid the youth at Christmas.”

In addition, the local CCW organizes parish events, such as receptions for newly ordained clergy, bake sales to support pro-life and pro-family causes, and an annual Spring Luncheon. Members also make quilts and prayer blankets, which are distributed as needed, particularly to those who have suffered a loss or are recovering from serious illness or surgery. To request a prayer blanket or to learn more about the CCW and its ministries, please contact Beaudry at 763-497-4344 or ljbeaudry@charter.net.

Knight of Columbus Council 4174
The Knights of Columbus (KCs) are a global Catholic fraternal service order comprised of practicing Catholic men. The KCs were founded as a mutual benefit society in 1887 by Venerable Fr. Michael McGivney, who will soon be beatified. Wright-Hennepin Council 4174, serving St. Michael and St. Albert parishes, formed in 1956 and has grown to 420 members.

“Our members include long-time parishioners and new parishioners, so it’s a good way to to get to know other men in fraternity,” said council financial secretary Don Legatt. “We focus on serving God through our service of others, sponsoring multiple family-focused events that enable us to grow and share our faith.”

The council has a gaming license, providing revenue to support larger programs and projects beyond typical KC offerings—such as $70,000 to support the construction of the new rectory and the initial donation for Options for Women-Cornerstone’s ultrasound machine. In 2019 alone, donations from council funds and gaming activities totaled $175,000—$37,000 to faith-based causes and $133,000 to support community needs, including NET Ministries, Hanover Food Shelf, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Holy Spirit Academy, Abba Crisis Pregnancy, Options for Women-Cornerstone, East Side Learning Center and local fire departments, as well as parishes and St. Michael Catholic School.

Each year, the KC Christmas Tree Lot results in donations of $10,000 to parish school and youth ministries, and the council also funds dozens of college scholarships for local high-school seniors each year, totaling $20,000 to $25,000. To join the KCs or to request their support, email council4174@gmail.com.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul
The Saint Francis of Assisi-STMA Chapter of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSvDP) was founded in 2013 to provide spiritual growth to Catholic lay members through person-to-person service to the needy and
THE FIFTH SORROWFUL MYSTERY: THE CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH OF OUR LORD

[He] went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, “Jesus the Nazorean, the King of the Jews.” ... When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I thirst.” There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, “It is finished.” And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit. – John 19:17-19, 26-30

The Fifth Sorrowful Mystery is the Crucifixion and Death of our Lord, in which Jesus is stripped and nailed to the Cross to suffocate and die, mocked again by the crowd and a condemned criminal, His garments gambled away by the guards. Yet even in these moments just before His death, His words are of forgiveness and love, especially for our Blessed Mother and His Bride, the Church. From the cross He gives St. Mary to St. John as his mother—and the mother of us all. These two alone among Jesus’s closest followers did not suffer martyrs’ deaths, and continue to lead us closer to Christ through scripture and revelation.

In the Eastern tradition, an icon of the Crucifixion is called the King of Glory—foreshadowed in a sense by the “Bridegroom” image from the mystery of the Crowning with Thorns. Here the inscription on the sign above Jesus is the Western “INRI”: in Latin, Iesus Nazarenus, Rex Iudaeorum,” or Jesus the Nazorean, King of the Jews. On either side of Him, we see the sun and the moon—one side in light; one side in shadow—symbolizing not only the Light of the World extinguished and the darkness that follows his death, but a resetting of all time and history from this moment forward. The world is shaken to its core, fundamentally changed—and so are we, if we remain with Him at the foot of the cross.
A Quicker, Cleaner Clean
Parish invests in state-of-the-art system to stay clean and healthy

The coronavirus outbreak has caused organizations across the country to rethink the way they clean and disinfect public spaces, and churches are no exception. This spring, St. Michael Catholic Church and School has used a mountain of disinfecting wipes, countless bottles of spray cleaners and gallons of hand sanitizer trying to keep our buildings sanitary for staff and parishioners.

The cleaning process is frequent and volunteer-intensive, materials are in short supply and chemicals can be harmful to furnishings and health. If this is the case during quarantine, imagine what it will look like when the church and school reopen more fully?

“We needed a new approach to cleaning and sanitization that enables us to disinfect high-use areas and surfaces quickly and safely,” said parish administrator Dave Ferry, “so one of our staff members did some research to see what other local organizations were doing.”

That investigation led to Tersano, a sprayer-system using stabilized aqueous ozone, or SAO—basically an oxygen (O\textsubscript{2}) molecule with an extra O attached (O\textsubscript{3}), infused in cold tap water—to kill 99.9% of germs within a minute of contact, before turning back into ordinary water and oxygen and evaporating. The backpack-and-sprayer unit for dispensing the solution means volunteers can disinfect large spaces more thoroughly in less time.

A wide range of organizations use Tersano, including hospitals, universities, airports and schools, and the system has been recognized for being effective, safe and environmentally responsible.

While the appearance of staff or volunteers after Mass, wearing a backpack and operating a sprayer like something out of Ghostbusters, could make some parishioners nervous, rest assured it is part of keeping our Catholic community healthy and safe.

Tersano will be used at the parish school as well as the church—it is already employed to clean and disinfect at St. Michael-Albertville public schools.

Want to Help?
We need volunteers to use the Tersano system to clean the worship space, common areas and high-use surfaces in our church. The process takes about 20 minutes after Mass. If you are interested, please contact Heidi Arndt at the parish office, 763-497-2745. A short demonstration video and a longer training video are available on our website at stmcatholicchurch.org.
SUNDAY MASS
Saturday Vigil 5 PM
Sunday 8 AM, 10:30 AM, 6 PM

WEEKDAY MASS
Monday 7:30 AM
Tuesday 6:30 PM
Wednesday 7:30 AM at St. Albert
Thursday 7:30 AM
Friday 7:45 AM (Summer 7:30 AM)
First Saturday 8 AM

RECONCILIATION
Saturday 7:30-9 AM, 3:30-4:45 PM
(except during First Saturday Mass, 7:45-8:30 AM)
Sunday 9:30-10:15 AM
Tuesday 5:15-6:15 PM
Thursday 8-8:30 AM

The DISCIPLE newsletter is created by St. Michael parish staff and the Stewardship Committee unless otherwise noted. For more information, call 763-497-2745 ext. 245 or email jthorp@stmcatholicchurch.org.


BE HIS HANDS AND FEET

Looking to do God’s work in our community? Here are a few more local organizations our parish and parishioners support in addition to the four profiled inside:

Community Education Endowment Fund is a non-profit working to create a perpetual fund to support our Catholic school. Contact Brian Bruner at brian.m.bruner@xcelenergy.com.

The Nest Maternity Home provides a safe home, mentorship, good nutrition practices, education and counseling for women facing unexpected pregnancy. Contact executive director Cristal McClain at cristalm@ywam-mn.org.

Options for Women-Cornerstone is a nonprofit pregnancy center providing free, confidential care to women facing an unexpected pregnancy, including pregnancy and STD testing, limited obstetrical ultrasounds, peer counseling and education. Contact executive director Patty Washatka at patriciaw@cornerstoneoptions.org.

Respect Life members work with the archdiocese and parishioners to stay abreast of and advocate for prolife issues in our region, state and nation. Contact Jim Shovelain at 763-497-3909 or shovelain@juno.com.

Serra Club fosters and affirms vocations to the ordained priesthood and vowed religious life locally and nationally. Contact Marian Meyer at 763-497-2371.

Sharing & Caring Hands prepares and distributes meals and provides shelter and other essentials to the homeless and those in need in Minneapolis. Contact Jodi Gendron at 612-701-8504 or jodilgendron@gmail.com.