

OCTOBER 2020

# DISCIPLE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL



## **BOLD FUTURE SPECIAL ISSUE**

A Church Without Limits

'Campaign Season' in St. Michael

80 Years of Frugal Innovation

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

# Imagine a Church Without Limits



On the cover and this page: Fr. Brian Park prays with St. Michael Catholic School students, teachers and staff at the first school Mass of the year in mid-September. Photos by Sarah Moon.

Earlier this month I announced that St. Michael Catholic Church and School are launching our new **BOLD FUTURE Campaign**, with the goal of raising at least \$8M to expand our facilities on our Frankfort Parkway campus. God willing, we will raise \$12M or more and be able to reunite our church and school on this property in the next few years.

New facilities are exciting, but it's important that we not lose sight of what really matters: God's mission for our church. St. Michael has a history of discipleship—more than 130 priests, deacons and religious brothers and sisters have come from our parish, and new vocations are being discerned all the time. And as we've shared in the past two issues of *DISCIPLE*, we have a groundbreaking Youth Ministry, a thriving Catholic school and strong family faith formation, not to mention full pews at our Masses and long lines for Confession.

We are making disciples with the facilities we have—so why build more?

We need more space because at the heart of the gospel is an invitation. We are already at capacity, yet as a parish, we must continue to reach out to our inactive parishioners, as well as all people in our area, and invite them to come to the feast. What will happen as we strive earnestly to continue the mission of evangelization?

Imagine a place where the entire community could gather to celebrate and support each other. Imagine enough quiet spaces that small groups could gather to talk and pray about the things that really matter. Imagine inviting those who are not yet parishioners into a relationship with the Body of Christ—this family—before bringing them to the sacraments. Imagine classrooms and hallways bustling with activity every day and into the evening. Imagine one Body gathered on one campus. Imagine a church without limits.

St. Michael has never shied away from God's call to be faithful and fruitful. From its earliest days, this community has always been fearless in faith.

The harvest is ready, friends. Now is our time.

**Fr. Brian Park**  
Pastor

# CAMPAIGN SEASON

## St. Michael Sees a BOLD FUTURE Ahead



It's been a long time coming. When the current St. Michael Catholic Church was built on Frankfort Parkway, the plan was to add a social hall and educational space—even a new school—in the near future. But an \$8.5M loan, coupled with a recession, brought those plans to a halt. The mission of the church and school continued, careful management kept our financial house in order and, as a parish, we continued to grow.

Today, we have good news to share: Our mortgage is paid off. During the past several months of stay-at-home orders and social distancing, 59 families have pledged more than \$3.2M to expand parish facilities. And we've only just begun to ask in earnest. Our **BOLD FUTURE Campaign** has begun.

### **Blessed Heritage**

We are heirs to 165 years of faithful Catholic worship and 144 years of continuous Catholic education. We boast more than 130 vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life, with more in discernment and formation today. We are the Body of Christ in St. Michael: the largest Christian community, the namesake of the town and the tabernacle in which Jesus dwells in the Blessed Sacrament. This inheritance is precious—and must not be squandered or hidden away.

### **Stronger Today**

We now occupy the fourth St. Michael Catholic Church and continue to attract new members. But while we have a beautiful worship space and a deep love of Mass and the Eucharist, our strengths extend well beyond Sundays.

- **Robust Youth Ministry.** Our programs “hook” kids on Jesus and the sacraments in middle school, then engage them in evangelizing the next generation. We reach more than 700

“I realize this is not a small thing to take on in the midst of a pandemic, but what better way to show our fearless faith than to build God’s kingdom today? And giving—especially sacrificial giving—is good for our souls.”

Fr. Brian Park



# BOLD



“We use every available space in our current church. Over the years we’ve had people meeting at folding tables in hallways, in the staff kitchen, the sacristy and the confessional areas. This wasn’t meant to be a permanent solution.”

Jim Thorp,  
past faith formation  
director and catechist

students each year, including nearly 60 teen discipleship groups, sparking a renewal of the Catholic faith in our community.

- **Thriving Catholic School.** While many parish schools are shrinking, we’ve added preschool and grades 7-8 in the past decade. Today we are blessed with more than 400 preK-8 students, and the desire for Catholic education in the area continues to grow.
- **Fruitful Faith Formation.** Recognizing parents as the primary and best teachers of the faith, in 2007 we launched one of the first family faith formation programs in the Archdiocese. Last year nearly 600 parents and children gathered each month to learn and share the Catholic faith together.
- **Transformative Marriage Prep.** Every engaged couple at our parish attends our Joy-Filled Marriage Retreat. This is often their first serious exposure to Catholic teachings on marriage and sexuality—and it is fostering strong sacramental marriages.
- **Life-Giving Community.** We host baptisms, weddings and funerals; concerts and lectures; listening sessions, benefits, missions and more—sometimes meeting in hallways or eating in shifts in order to be together.

We are a ground-breaking parish that, at its best, demonstrates fearless faith, humble gratitude and joyful service. We have tremendous potential—but we are limited by our facilities.

## A Place to Belong

Our ministries and programs are already feeling the squeeze:

- **The lack of flexible indoor space is choking the growth** of Youth Ministry, which expects to add as many as 20 new discipleship groups each year.
- **Our gathering area is too small** to accommodate large funeral luncheons or hospitality after Mass, let alone parishwide or archdiocesan events.
- **We have no space suited to formation**, in which people of all ages can gather to learn, break out to discuss, and pray and serve together.

We have no family room—and not enough spaces where we can learn to *be* family. (See the Current Needs sidebar on the next page.)

The need for more ministry space does not account for the steady influx of new families into the area or our desire to draw current



parishioners into deeper discipleship. In addition, we are maintaining a second campus, including a school and convent from the 1940s and '50s and a separate preschool building, to meet the needs of our Catholic school students. (See 'Frugal Innovation' on page 8.)

The space is safe and serviceable, but needs replacing or significant investment soon, and its location limits its usefulness for parishwide events and activities.

### Vision Drives Planning

The parish owns more than 40 acres on the current church campus. During the past two years, St. Michael Catholic Church and School engaged parishioners, staff and leadership to develop a long-term vision and parish master plan for the future of that property.

Parishioner consultation sessions as part of the master planning process identified three main priorities: a parish "family room" for large gatherings and events; multipurpose space for ministry, formation and activities; and the reunification of our church and school on one campus.

#### THE PROPOSED PROJECT

**Unity Hall, Multipurpose Space and Formation Space (\$8M Campaign Goal).** This would provide a parish "family room" in which we could celebrate, mourn and grow in faith together, as well as flexible-use activity space and smaller spaces for discipleship groups, formation, faith sharing and other ministries.

**Additional Formation Space (Additional \$4M to reach \$12M Miracle Goal).** This would enable us to build an additional wing of formation/classroom space and explore moving the school to our church campus. (Raising \$15M would virtually assure us of moving the school.)

### Answer the Call

Between now and the holidays, every parish family will be asked to pray for the campaign, to maintain their current level of giving and to prayerfully consider a sacrificial gift to our capital campaign, above and beyond their regular financial support.

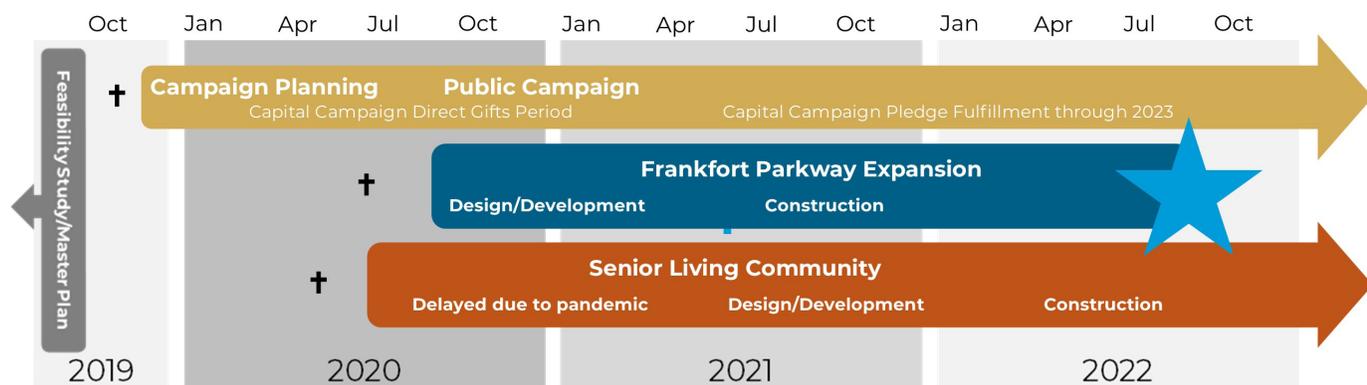
Our confidence runs deep: Our 2018 feasibility study revealed that 93 percent of those asked believe a campaign is justified and would contribute to the effort. Parishioners emphasized the need to retire our church debt and to develop a parish master plan before pursuing new construction—and we have done both of those things.

## CURRENT NEEDS

When we reach our \$8M goal, we are planning a unity hall and adjacent gym/multipurpose space with capacity for 650 people (unity hall: 350; gym: 300), plus formation space underneath. We anticipate these spaces being used daily:

- Space so funeral attendees don't have to eat in shifts
- Space for wedding receptions, rehearsal dinners and other sacramental celebrations
- Retreat space, especially when other church events are scheduled
- Adequate classroom space so faith formation groups don't need to meet in hallways, sacristies, etc.
- Indoor space for Youth Ministry games and activities
- Sufficient spaces for discipleship groups and other small groups to meet and share
- Larger meeting spaces for councils, committees and ministry meetings
- Indoor space for parishwide gatherings like Winterfest, Bids for Kids and the Fall Festival
- Accommodations for regional archdiocesan events

Our new spaces will also be available for use by parishioners, so we expect a very busy campus even with these additions.



† Archdiocesan proxy to proceed with planning  
*Proxy* is a form of legal permission from the Archdiocese to pursue specific transactions or investments.

† Archdiocesan proxy to begin construction  
 This requires 50% of the cost of the project in hand and pledges covering 50% of the remaining debt.

## Partnership in Process: Senior Living Community

One of the more exciting—and unexpected—goals to emerge from the visioning sessions was the desire for a Catholic senior living community on parish property. With archdiocesan approval, we are pursuing a partner to fund and manage the facility. Any agreement would include the sale of property to the partnering organization, with revenue going to support the campaign and legal provisions to keep the facility Catholic.

The timeline above shows our ideal path forward, including a proposed senior living community we are pursuing with an external partner. Our goal of \$8M and our miracle goal of \$12M (\$8M plus an additional \$4M) are challenging, but not impossible—and achieving our miracle goal could enable us to move our school and sell the current school and preschool properties.

On the other hand, if we are unable to move the school in the next few years, it may be another decade before we can expand again—10 years of increased construction costs, potentially higher interest rates and ongoing investment in our current school buildings. Such a delay will cost the parish millions of dollars over the next decade and could make moving the school too costly to consider.

The generosity required to achieve our vision is sacrificial—but love always involves sacrifice. Financial pledges are payable over a three-year period (2021-2023); the table on the facing page shows what your gift looks like on a quarterly, monthly and weekly basis.

The world may be tilting away from the Church, but we are on the cusp of a Catholic renewal. Invest in our **BOLD FUTURE** today!



# YOU CAN HELP

**1. Pray.** Ask for God’s will to be done in our parish, for the success of our campaign and for your role in it.

**2. Sustain.** Our weekly offertory keeps our parish and ministries running. Please sustain your ordinary giving or increase it if you can!

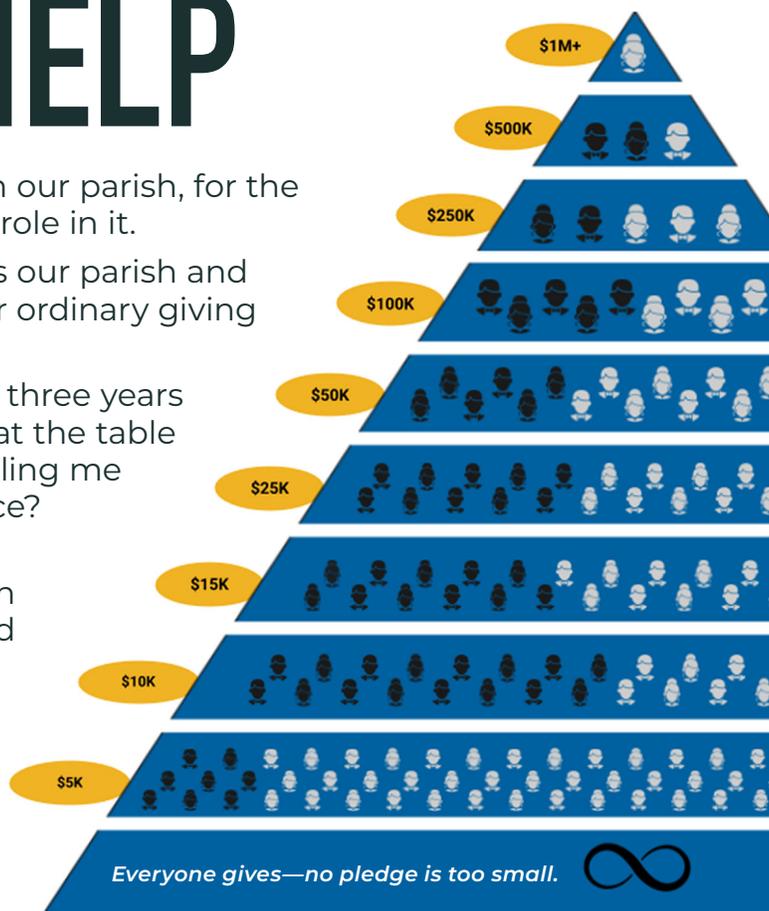
**3. Stretch.** Every gift counts, and over three years your pledge adds up fast. Take a look at the table below, then ask God: What are you calling me to do? Where can I stretch and sacrifice? How much can I give?

**4. Volunteer.** Every campaign relies on people like you to spread the word and lend a hand. We need you!

## Ready to make a difference?

Fill out the BOLD FUTURE Campaign commitment form and mail it in or drop it at the parish office.

#StMCCBold



Weekly Payment	Monthly Payment	Annual Payment	Total Gift
\$12.82	\$55.56	\$666.67	<b>\$2,000</b>
\$32.05	\$138.89	\$1,666.67	<b>\$5,000</b>
\$64.10	\$277.78	\$3,333.33	<b>\$10,000</b>
\$160.26	\$694.44	\$8,333.33	<b>\$25,000</b>

Visit [stmccatholicchurch.org/boldfuture](http://stmccatholicchurch.org/boldfuture) or call 763-497-2745 for more information.

**Our purpose is to draw people into deeper discipleship with Jesus.**

“At the heart of the gospel is an invitation. We are already at capacity ... What will happen as we strive earnestly to continue the mission of evangelization?”

Fr. Brian Park

ONE BODY

# 'Frugal Innovation'

STMCS HAS MADE THE MOST OF ITS BUILDINGS FOR THE PAST 80 YEARS



Jenny Haller has countless stories about St. Michael Catholic School (StMCS) from her 16 years as principal (2001-2004, 2007-2020), but one of the most memorable comes from 1999, when she and her husband Mark toured the building as prospective parents. They were following Principal Gail Rappé down a hallway, the walls of which were lined with shag carpet. A first-grader was at the drinking fountain. When he finished, he turned his dripping face to the wall and wiped it dry on the carpet.

When Haller became principal two years later, the shag carpet was one of the first things to go. She recruited an aspiring Eagle Scout and his friends to tear it out. She also relocated the teacher's lounge to make way for a main office and reception area for parents and visitors. These initial updates were just the beginning of many years of continuous improvements.

When it opened in 1940, the building was a school and a community center, with a four-lane bowling alley and a gym that served as an auditorium and event hall. As the community and school continued to grow, a new wing of classrooms was added in 1962, and in 1972, the bowling alley made way for a new library.

"We have a rich history of Catholic education in St. Michael, and more than half of that history has taken place on this campus. Many memories have been made and I've heard oodles of stories from the elders in our community," she says. "It's home for so many of

St. Michael Catholic School technology teacher Amy Huberty unearthed this snapshot showing the murals of downtown St. Michael and the shag carpet that lined the halls of the school as recently as 2001. If you recognize the people in the photo, email [jthorp@stm catholicchurch.org](mailto:jthorp@stm catholicchurch.org).

them. People visit and are amazed by how much life we have eked out of this building, but it's also a tired home, and it's bursting."

## Making Room

In order to accommodate growing enrollment, Haller continued her efforts to revive the school building in 2008, by transforming the bowling alley-turned-library into three classrooms, dividing the cafeteria to create a new library and moving the main office and entrance from County Road 19—where parking was no longer allowed—to the east side of the building. "With each update we found new layers of need. The

most surprising was the code updates required in the kitchen, for which we had not planned or budgeted.”

For the next year, the cooks made meals offsite in a licensed facility until the kitchen could be updated.

In 2014, two years after adding seventh and eighth grades, the school needed to be re-configured again to handle growing enrollment. This effort included the only new construction in all the updates: a hallway to connect the 1939 school to the 1958 convent. In addition to expanded office spaces and meeting rooms, the school gained a new, secured entry and additional classroom space in the school wing to accommodate a student body of 400 (up from 240 when Haller began).

“We’ve maximized the existing space by reconfiguring and thinking creatively,” Haller says. “Most of the demo work and much of the remodeling has been volunteer or volunteer labor. The 2008 renovation, for example, was quoted at \$750,000. We did it for a third of that.”

There was the time they outfitted the new preschool building from a childcare center that was going out of business—loading up what they wanted and sending the rest with an auction company. Or the time they were turning a stub of hallway into a technology closet, and Haller told her lead volunteer that the adjoining classrooms could use sinks, as well.

“Good luck with that,” he said. “There may be water lines nearby, but a sink has to drain somewhere.”

“Well, I believe in miracles,” she replied. “Call me when you figure it out.”

A short while later he was shaking his head. “Look what we found under the subfloor,” he said.

It was a drainpipe.

“I think it was Gail Dorn at CSCOE (the Catholic Schools Center of Excellence) who coined the term frugal innovation,” Haller says. “I remember hearing her say that and thinking, ‘That’s exactly what we do!’”

## Adapt and Overcome

StMCS’s innovation hasn’t been limited to renovating rooms. Assistant Principal Heidi Gallus has been at the school eight years now and is struck by her colleagues’ willingness to adapt to less-than-ideal conditions to continue the mission of Catholic education. “Our current library is half to a third of the size of a regular

classroom, which means only half a class at most can visit at one time,” she says. “We have math teachers for every level, but one of them has a former storage room for an office and rotates to whatever classroom is open each period in order to teach.”

Adding a Spanish room adjacent to the cafeteria works, except with social distancing and a smaller cafeteria, StMCS has five lunch periods between 10:30 AM and 12:30 PM. For those two hours, the noise level is challenging for Spanish classes. Pre-COVID, the gym was just big enough to accommodate Weekly Welcome and Worship and other all-school gatherings; with social distancing requirements, these gatherings happen outdoors or via Zoom—and with the after-school program occupying multiple indoor spaces, there is no good room for staff meetings.

## Old-School Technology

In the past 30 years, every room has been equipped with an individual air conditioning unit, but the boiler often seems to be hot or cold, depending on where

you are in the building. Technology is also an issue in older buildings—the entire school needed to be retrofitted with enough outlets to support computers, projectors and SMART Boards.

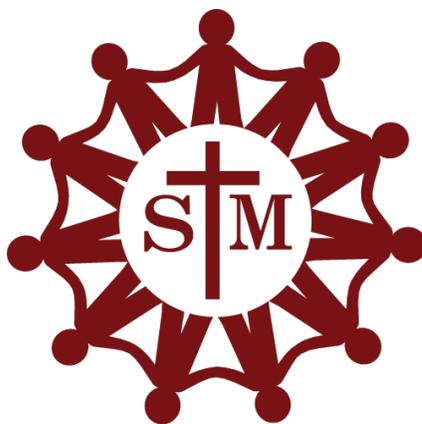
In 2001, Haller coaxed Amy Huberty to join the team as the librarian and the first technology teacher. The basement computer lab consisted of 12 blue, egg-shaped Macs, along with several sluggish IBM PCs. A collection of cereal-box CD-ROMs had been

donated by school families as the technology curriculum.

“A computer in the staff lounge was the only one that could connect to the dial-up internet,” Huberty recalls. “When someone was going on the internet in the teacher’s lounge, the dial-up sound could be heard in computer class in the basement. ... Each classroom had one IBM computer, which took hours to even start, so teachers didn’t use them.”

She began to improve the situation immediately. In 2002, StMCS purchased 25 laptops, used by students during computer class and available for staff to use after school. The generous support of the St. Michael Community Education Endowment Fund and CSCOE also helped expand the technology offerings.

“When interactive whiteboards began to grow in popularity for the classroom, StMCS purchased four,”



CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

# THE THIRD GLORIOUS MYSTERY: THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



The windows representing the Glorious Mysteries appear above the entrance to the vesting sacristy at the back of the worship space.

**Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire. — Acts 2:3**

*When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit. — Acts 2:1-4*

The Third Glorious Mystery is the Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, in which the Advocate promised by our Lord comes to the apostles, enflaming their hearts with wisdom and courage to proclaim the gospel publicly. We see in this image our Blessed Mother with the fire of the Holy Spirit above her, along with three of the apostles as twelve tongues of flame descend upon them. Thus all twelve are symbolically represented, with St. Mary at the center, receiving the Holy Spirit first and most abundantly, and almost appearing to distribute the Spirit to the others on her son's behalf. This perception is appropriate, in the sense that the Virgin's yes at the Annunciation not only made her the Mother of God, but in a special sense, the Spouse of the Holy Spirit, which filled her to overflowing. As such, she is in a special position to intercede for us and request that the Holy Spirit come to us in our need.

The three apostles in this image are not identified, which also seems appropriate. Recall that after the crucifixion, and even after some of His followers had reported that Jesus was risen, the disciples remained in hiding together until He came to them personally in the locked room. Afterward, they emerge, but begin to resume their everyday lives. In the gospel of John, chapter 21, Peter returns to his boat and nets with the sons of Zebedee and four other disciples, but they are unsuccessful until the Lord appears and instructs them. Similarly, at the beginning of Acts, chapter 1, Jesus tells His disciples to remain in the city and wait for "the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak." The Lord does not leave the disciples alone for long, and once the Spirit is upon them, they, too, boldly proclaim the kingdom of God, even when it means laying down their lives. The same Spirit is ours, if we accept and respond to Him.

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Huberty says. "Teachers took turns using the SMART Board for a week and then passed it on. Today, we have SMART Boards in each regular classroom, along with the music, Spanish and technology rooms."

### Total Commitment

What motivates educators to invest so much effort and energy in an 80-year-old space? "It's because of everybody's complete commitment to Catholic education," says Gallus. "It's not about the building or having your own space. It's about the mission—we need space to do what we're meant to do: educating the whole student and sharing our Catholic faith."

Haller agrees. "I remember meeting with fifth- and sixth-grade families to discuss program expansion by adding seventh- and eighth-grade, and I was nervous. I was looking at our building and seeing all the deficits—but as I listened to the parents get so excited

about keeping their students here, I was reminded that we're family and we are mission-driven. We are a community living for Christ."

Staff commitment shines through, says Haller, in their willingness to teach from a cart, swap rooms when the roof was leaking or work with students in a hallway among the wet, sippy boots in the middle of winter because there are no extra breakout rooms. Amidst an aging building, the staff still takes great care to keep workspaces clean and orderly and joyful, with artwork of students sprinkled throughout.

"Countless people have given so generously of their time and gifts in support of our mission on this campus for the past 80 years," she says. "We have served families for generations and have accomplished so much. The future is brighter than ever for Catholic education—I look forward to seeing the bold next steps taken by our community for St. Michael Catholic School!"

## FAITH + ACTION

# Faith You Can Feel

## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd brings Jesus to life for children

Several years ago, a group of St. Michael Catholic Church and School staff travelled to the Church of St. Henry in Monticello to learn about a catechetical program for children called Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS). Former faith formation director Jim Thorp heard about CGS from a parishioner in his first few weeks on the job, and the idea intrigued him.

“It sounded like a hands-on approach to learning about Jesus, the Holy Eucharist and the Mass for children as young as preschool,” he recalls. “I was told that kids who experience it become deeply engaged in the Mass and devoted to Holy Communion.”

They expected an overview of the program from St. Henry’s faith formation director Jessica Soden and a tour of her dedicated CGS space, called an atrium. Instead, Soden gathered the adults and seated them on the floor in the atrium, then began to teach them a preschool lesson—the lesson of the Good Shepherd—in a soft, slow voice, using simple wooden figures of a shepherd and his sheep.

When she was finished, many of the adults wiped away tears.

Andrea Zachman, St. Michael’s current faith formation coordinator, was so moved by the experience she committed to 90 hours of CGS Level I training and advocated for converting a small, shared classroom in the corner of the church basement into an atrium.

“I fell in love with the idea that children could come to a room specifically designed and set up for them, to be immersed in the love and understanding of Jesus and his Church,” Zachman says. “The children have such a capacity to know, love and serve God, even at three years old.”

Zachman piloted the program for a year at St. Henry’s while outfitting the new atrium with child-size versions of our altar, furnishings, vessels and more—much of it handmade by local parishioners. She and a small team of volunteers are now in their third year at St. Michael, offering Level I and Level II CGS to children ages 3 to 9. She is attending Level III training this summer and would like to expand to begin serving children ages 9-12 as soon as next fall.



Two brothers unpack a treasure box filled with the gifts of God from creation through redemption and Christ’s promised second coming, a work (lesson) that is part of Level II Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Photo courtesy of Andrea Zachman.

“My hope for the future is to have more leaders willing to hold an atrium session so we can serve more children in our community,” Zachman says. “Each level should have a school-size classroom, but as of right now, we hold both Level I and Level II in a room half the size of one school classroom. I continue to talk with the parish school about incorporating CGS in their school week, which would enable the church and school to share these blessed and set-apart spaces.”

“I trusted that God would open the doors to this new program, and it would bear fruit, if only we said yes to the commitment,” she says. “It has truly been a blessing to watch these children come to life as they fall in love with Jesus and truly understand the beauty of their Catholic faith.”

## Want to Learn More?

To learn more about CGS visit [cgsusa.org](http://cgsusa.org). To learn how you can enroll your children or volunteer, contact Zachman at [azachman@stmichaelcatholicchurch.org](mailto:azachman@stmichaelcatholicchurch.org) or 763-497-2745.



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**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 7:30 AM

First Saturday 8 AM

**RECONCILIATION**

Saturday 7:30-9 AM, 3:30-4:45 PM

(not during First Saturday Mass from 7:45 to 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@stmccatholicchurch.org](mailto:jthorp@stmccatholicchurch.org).

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## Prayer for Generosity and Prudence

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Heavenly Father, inspire in us the generosity and zeal to draw all people into deeper discipleship with Jesus. Mindful of our blessed heritage, we ask that your vision be ours and that you remove all obstacles to achieving it. We pray this in Jesus' name, through the power the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blessed Mother Mary, pray for us.

St. Joseph, patron of the Church, pray for us.

St. Michael the Archangel, pray for us.

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#StMCCBold