

Living for Christ

ST·MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH



The Adoration Chapel at St. Michael: *A Source of Abundant Graces*

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is a source of grace and blessings. Outside of Mass, it is the closest that we can get to our Lord Jesus Christ in this life, as He is present in the Eucharist — Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. Although Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has occurred for many centuries, more recently St. Pope John Paul II promoted the spread of local chapels around the world. We are fortunate to have an active chapel here at St. Michael, where the faithful can visit the Lord at virtually any hour of the day. The chapel has regularly scheduled, dedicated adorers at every hour of the week except during Masses. Our chapel was started nearly two decades ago and was an integral part of the new church building on Frankfort Parkway. Many dedicated parishioners have administered the chapel, and adored Jesus within it, ever since.



The chapel at St. Michael, called the Resurrection Chapel, is located just to the left of the main doors as you enter the building. Look for the stained glass picture of Mary and additional signage. We ask all adorers, those who have a regularly scheduled hour as well as the occasional visitor, to sign in at the desk that is just outside of the chapel door. There are also books at the desk in which to record prayer intentions and to celebrate favors given by God. A visit to the chapel is an occasion of great joy at being in the presence of the Lord, but also a time for the utmost reverence. Adorers are completely silent, genuflecting to the Blessed Sacrament before kneeling and before leaving, as we do for Mass. Once in the chapel, you can kneel or sit in His Presence and pray, meditate, read Scripture or other suitable material, or simply sit and listen for the Lord's quiet interior voice to inspire you.

Inside

- 2 Our Parish Mission and Annual Legislative Day
- 3 Start a *New Life*, Not Just a *New Year*
- 4 Meet Our New Parish Secretary, Deanna Larson "*Be a Light for Someone*"
- 6 Stewardship *The Church is More than a Building — It is Our Spiritual Home*
- 7 The Art of St. Michael: *The Rosary Windows*

11300 Frankfort Pkwy NE
St. Michael, MN 55376
www.stmcatholicchurch.org

ST·MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

You Are Invited to Our Parish Mission *March 15, 16 and 17*

Jesus makes a promise in the Gospel of John, “I have come so that you might have life, and have it to the fullest.” Jesus promises to give us a full and abundant life. But often, we fall short of this promise. With that in mind, we would like to invite all of you to our upcoming Holiness Revolution Parish Mission March 15, 16 and 17.

What is the goal of this mission? To help fill you with life. To help awaken you to what’s really important in life and help you discover how to live each day with more passion and purpose.

For this year’s mission, we are happy to welcome international speaker and bestselling Catholic author, Dan DeMatte. Dan also starred in A&E’s reality TV show, *God or the Girl*, as well as defended the teachings of the Catholic faith on *Larry King Live*, *The View*, and the *Today* show. Dan is also the host of a new radio show called *Encounter*. He proclaims the Gospel with passion, energy and overflowing joy. He will challenge you to be the best person God created you to be.



Please Join Us on Annual Legislative Day

Presented by the St. Paul and Minneapolis Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women

Do you wonder what the Catholic stance is on legislative issues? Please join us for our Legislative Day on Saturday, Feb. 8. This event includes morning refreshments, fabulous speakers and legislative information.

Saturday, Feb. 8

Open to all men and women

8:30 a.m. — noon

St. Michael Catholic Church

Cost for the day: \$15 — \$20 after Jan. 22

Please make checks payable to:

ACCW (777 Forest Street, St. Paul, MN 55106)



Mail registration and fee, or register online at www.archspm.org/accwleg2020.

Living for Christ



A Letter From Our Pastor

Start a New Life, *Not Just a New Year*

Dear Parishioners,

It's January and that means it's time for New Year's resolutions — at least that's the widespread perception in our culture. So, I want us to reflect on resolutions for a few minutes.

Often, New Year's resolutions are intended simply to undo the harm we did to ourselves by overindulging in food and drink between Thanksgiving and the end of the year. Some resolutions are changes we know we should make, but aren't really committed to making — thus, they don't last very long.

Reflecting on this in broader terms, when should we make a resolution to eliminate a sinful practice from our life? That question has a simple answer — the moment we realize we're engaging in a sinful practice. In other words, as soon as we realize we're doing something wrong, we should stop. It doesn't matter whether that sin is as "large" as cheating on your spouse or as "small" as sharing vicious gossip — we should stop immediately when we recognize it's a sinful behavior.

Now, I admit that making the changes we need in order to grow closer to Christ is easier said than done. All too often, we fool ourselves into thinking we can make all the changes we need under our own strength and on a convenient timetable. For real change, we need guidance and we need help — a new life, in fact. St. Paul addressed this when he wrote to the Romans (6:4), "We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the



dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life."

In other words, we need a new life, not a new year. We find this new life in union with Christ within His Body, the Church. The Church can provide you with guidance. She has 2,000 years of accumulated wisdom and experience, beginning with God's own revelation. The Ten Commandments provide a brief, incisive outline for ethical behavior. Help comes from God's grace, available to us in the sacraments and through prayer.

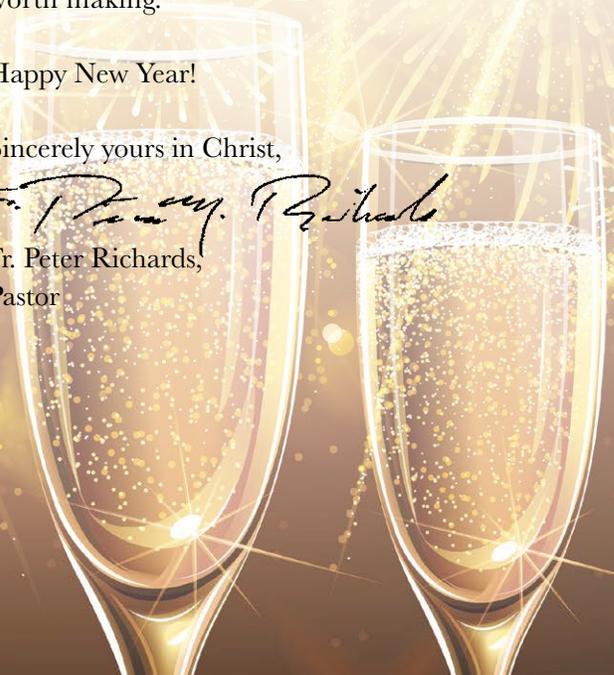
A new life means we have new priorities and a new viewpoint when we look at every aspect of the way we live. It impacts the use of the time we have, the talents God has given us, and the treasure with which He has blessed

us. With God's grace and guidance, lived in union with the Church, we find that "in newness of life" we can "cease doing evil" and "learn to do good." That's a resolution worth making.

Happy New Year!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Peter Richards,
Pastor



Meet Our New Parish Secretary

“Be a Light”



Deanna Larson and her husband, Brent, have been parishioners for the past decade. Last fall, Deanna began serving the parish as our secretary.

Sometimes it feels like God opens just the right doors at just the right time. You walk through it, and you feel like you're home. That's what happened to parishioner Deanna Larson when she took the position of St. Michael parish secretary this past November.

After two decades of working in a variety of capacities for Wells Fargo, Deanna was ready for a change. It soon became clear that God had a different plan for her, as well. One Sunday at Mass, Deanna heard the announcement that our parish secretary was retiring and the parish would soon be looking for a replacement.

“I've been wanting to do something else but I didn't know what it would be,” Deanna says. “I had been praying for a life change and a new career opportunity, and I remember two days before we went to that Mass, I gave it to the Lord. And that weekend was when they announced that Monica [Madsen] was retiring. I was like, ‘Lord you are amazing in the way You work!’”

Originally from Roseville, Minn., Deanna moved to the area after meeting

continued on page 5

“When people walk through these doors, I want them to feel loved and know that Jesus is alive and He's right here with us. I just want to be the hands and feet of Jesus and serve His people well. You never know when you're going to be able to touch someone's life, or be a light for someone. Even with just a smile — you never know what people are going through and you never know how you might touch someone's life.” — Deanna Larson

Living for Christ



Secretary, Deanna Larson *for Someone*”

and marrying her husband, Brent, nearly 9 years ago. She became involved in the community in a number of different ways, including attending a Christ Renews His Parish retreat, which gave her the opportunity to grow deeper in her faith, along with meeting other amazing, faith-filled women in our parish family.

“I love the community at St. Michael’s,” she says. “I love how everyone is so helpful and so close — when something happens, everybody really rallies. Everybody is there to help everybody.”

For Deanna, being “behind the scenes” as parish secretary has brought a whole new sense of love and appreciation for St. Michael’s.

“Seeing the inner workings of the church, you get to see how hard everyone works to serve God and our parish,” Deanna says. “There are so many wonderful volunteers that sneak in and sneak out, doing so much for the church and they don’t want to be seen or recognized.”

“Our parish is so beautiful in that way,” she adds. “Everybody is so graceful and helpful and kind and generous. Being able to see that, it really warms your heart.”

Getting to meet members of the parish is one of Deanna’s favorite parts of the job, and creating an environment where everyone feels welcome is her top priority.

“Just being able to meet and talk to so many people has been such a huge blessing,” Deanna says. “There are so many people who have been in the parish for decades upon decades, and to hear their stories and how they’ve grown at the church

and how they’ve grown in their love for Jesus, it’s just been really beautiful.”

In the past several months since beginning the job, Deanna has found her own faith deepening, as well. From having the pleasure of working with an amazing staff, to having more time to spend in prayer with her husband, to being able to work in such close physical proximity to Jesus in the Eucharist, she has found her love for Christ growing stronger.

“It’s amazing to go to work where everyone has the same morals and values, and we pray together and we can share our love for Jesus Christ every day in the workplace,” she says. “I still walk through the doors of the church, and think, ‘This is where I work?’ I’ve been talking to Jesus and thanking Him for this opportunity and thanking Him for the graces and blessings He’s given me and this parish.”

Deanna loves having the opportunity to share God’s love with the members of her parish in this role, and she very much appreciates that her fellow parishioners also look for ways to be the hands and feet — and smile — of Christ to those they encounter. She feels truly blessed to be surrounded by so many people living out the discipleship of Jesus Christ.

“When people walk through these doors, I want them to feel loved and know that Jesus is alive and He’s right here with us,” Deanna says. “I just want to be the hands and feet of Jesus and serve His people well. You never know when you’re going to be able to touch someone’s life, or be a light for someone. Even with just a smile — you never know what people are going through and you never know how you might touch someone’s life.”

In addition to welcoming Deanna Larson as the new parish secretary, we would like to extend our gratitude to our recently retired parish secretary, Monica Madsen, in thankful recognition of all the ways she has served our parish and community. We wish you the best in your next adventure, Monica!

Stewardship

The Church is More than a Building — It is Our Spiritual Home

Where do you go to church? We've all answered that question hundreds of times before. But have you ever stopped to think about what it truly means?

"I go to St. Michael," is the usual response, and rightly so, because we do "go to" the church to celebrate Mass together. But as Catholics and as stewards of God's gifts, the Church is much more than a building within which we worship. The Church, as we understand it, is the universal body of believers, the society that Christ established to help us grow in holiness, to bring us closer to Him through the giving of our time, talent, and treasure, and to lead the world to the truth.

Before Jesus ascended to the Father, He commissioned the disciples, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Mt. 28:19-20). That is the Church's mission in the world today — to make disciples of all nations, to bring all men to Christ.

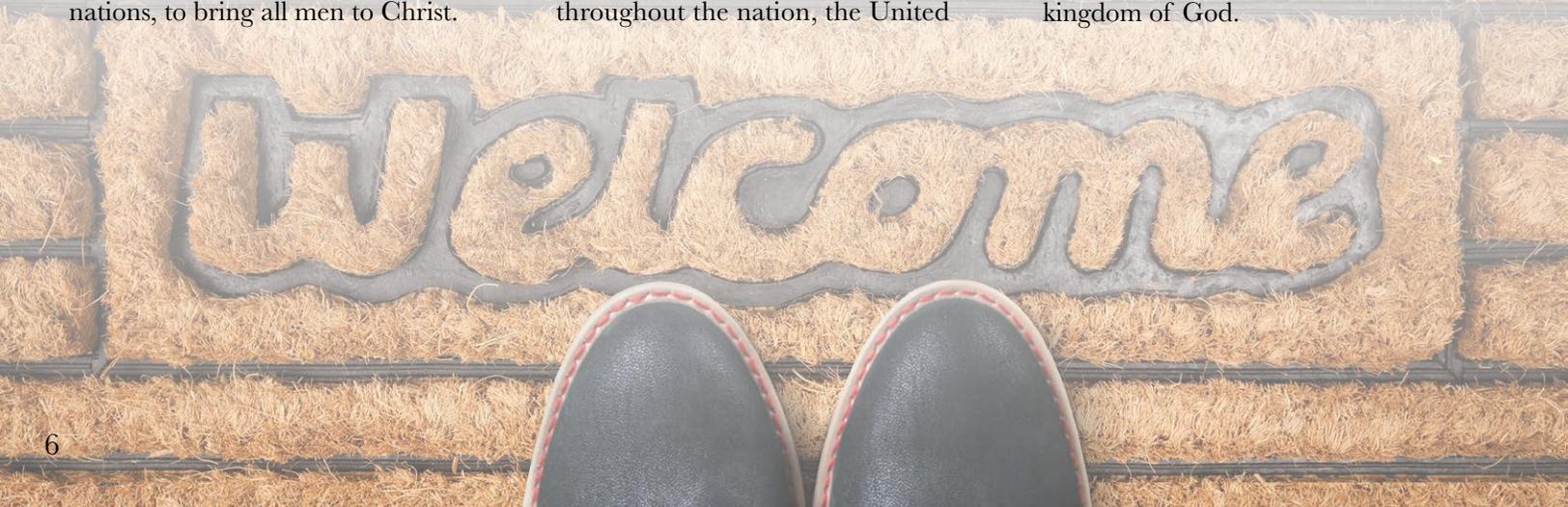
Our parish plays a key part in that. As members of our parish, we are local representatives of the universal Church. Together, as members of this parish family, we work to carry out the Church's mission on a local level. We worship the Lord at Mass, offering Him our praise and thanksgiving, and then we go forth on a mission to make disciples — to encourage our fellow parishioners in their lives of faith and to bring unbelievers into knowledge of the truth.

In addition to being a "local representation of the universal Church," the parish is much like a family. We are communal beings, and we are created to live with others. So, as Catholics, we are members of the Church and, on a more immediate level, of the parish. As such, we gather together for the Eucharistic meal and we grow in faith together throughout the week, supporting one another through our participation in many parish ministries, through prayer, and through the friendships that many of us share.

In a letter written to parish priests throughout the nation, the United

States Conference of Catholic Bishops explained the important place of the parish in the lives of Catholic faithful: "The parish is a privileged place to announce the Word of God. It includes a variety of forms and each of the faithful is called to take an active part, especially with the witness of a Christian life and the explicit proclamation of the Gospel to non-believers to lead them to the faith, or to believers to instruct them, confirm them and encourage them to a more fervent life."

So, we ought to feel truly blessed to be a part of this parish family. We ought to make a conscious effort to be actively involved, to build relationships with our fellow parishioners and to celebrate the Mass together as often as possible — most especially every Sunday. We are then bound to grow closer to others, to grow deeper in faith and closer to Christ. Then, together as a parish family, we are bound to proclaim the Gospel to others, inviting them to a life of discipleship, thereby, building the kingdom of God.



Welcome

Living for Christ

A Spiritual House

Your Guide to Our Church



THE ART OF ST. MICHAEL: *The Rosary Windows*

By JIM THORP

The Fourth Luminous Mystery: The Transfiguration on the Mountain

[H]e took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray. While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." But he did not know what he was saying. While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." — Luke 9:28-35

The Fourth Luminous Mystery is the Transfiguration on the Mountain, in which our Lord takes Peter, James and John up the mountain to witness a foreshadowing of His glorious resurrection and ascension. He appears to them in the pure white robes of heaven, conversing with Moses, who gave us God's law, and Elijah, who, with the other prophets, proclaimed God's kingdom and foretold Christ's coming. The vision is so powerful that Peter does not want to leave, and offers to make a dwelling place for each of them. Then God the Father overshadows them, identifying Jesus as His Son and urging the three disciples to listen to Him. Moses and Elijah vanish from sight, and Jesus begins in earnest to prepare the disciples and Himself for His passion, death, and resurrection — the fulfillment of His saving mission.

In this image we see Jesus in a fiery *mandorla*, the place



of intersection of heaven and earth. On the left appears Moses with two stone tablets marking him as the law-giver; on the right is Elijah with an unrolled scroll signifying the Word of God proclaimed. At Christ's feet we see symbols of the three apostles who accompanied Him and witnessed this miracle — Peter's symbol, the keys of the kingdom of heaven, appears in the center; James, symbolized by seashells due to his missionary work by sea, appears on the left; and John, the Gospel writer and evangelist, is symbolized on the right by an eagle, one of the four heavenly creatures from Scripture associated with four Gospel writers. Jesus is portrayed in white with His hands extended outward in prayer on our behalf — from above, God the Father, symbolized again by the eight-pointed star, affirms His Son and His mission to fulfill the law and the prophets.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 6
St. Michael, MN

ST·MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

**11300 Frankfort Parkway
St. Michael, MN 55376**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

Daily Mass

Monday, 7:30 a.m.

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, 7:30 a.m.

Friday, 7:45 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.,
3:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Tuesday, 5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/stmcatholicchurch>

QUOTES FOR CATHOLIC LIVING

“Make few resolutions. Make specific resolutions. And fulfill them with the help of God.” — *St. Josemaría Escrivá*

The Adoration Chapel at St. Michael: *A Source of Abundant Graces* continued from front cover

We invite all parishioners to consider frequent visitation to the chapel. For security, currently the outside doors are locked at 10 p.m. and are unlocked after Mass the following morning. During those overnight hours the chapel is attended by regularly scheduled adorers. If you would like to become a scheduled adorer and take a specific hour of the week, or have any additional questions about our chapel, please call Steve House at 612-968-8504 (mobile + text). Whether you adore at a scheduled hour or as an occasional visitor, you will find comfort, consolation and graces that flow from the worship of our Savior for yourself, your loved ones, the parish and the entire universal Church.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is a source of grace and blessings. Outside of Mass, it is the closest that we can get to our Lord Jesus Christ in this life, as He is present in the Eucharist — Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity.