

## A Word From Our Pastor

Twenty-five years old! St. Michael is just a youngster! Young—yes. Filled with energy—yes. Still growing—yes! Welcoming—we sure hope so. Certainly, we are blessed by God.

2017 marked our 25th Anniversary, and what a year it was! For me, the highlight was the 25th Anniversary Mass, the *One Mass*, at the Robins Center. That day, 2,500 people gathered in one place, at one time, to celebrate. It was exciting and wonderful! The liturgy was beautiful. The love shared was palpable. One of the neatest things was the fellowship afterward, as people stayed for the reception, visiting, talking, and laughing with each other. Our community at its best!

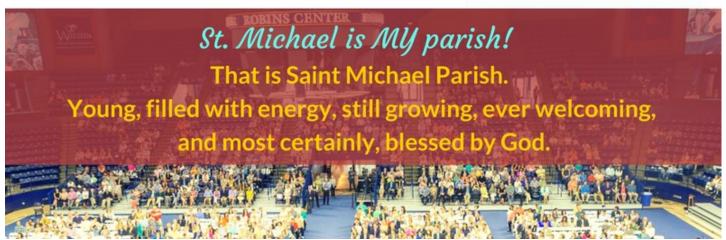
As we have grown bigger, the importance of staying connected becomes even more important. We work hard to make sure that St. Michael is more than the church I go to. We take true ownership in our community, so that we can say, St. Michael is MY parish!

I want to thank all of those who have been working, not just this year, but throughout our 25 years, to make our faith community one that truly seeks to be the Presence of Christ. In our earliest years, we were given a challenge: would anyone notice if we were not here? I answer that with a resounding Yes! By the grace of God and the generous sharing of gifts, our parish makes a real difference. May it remain so in the years ahead. Amen!



Fr. Daniel O. Brady 25th Anniversary One Mass May 2017







## 25 Years in the Making St. Michael Catholic Church



Our parish's story began on December 1991, when Bishop Walter Sullivan appointed Fr. John Leonard to begin the process of forming a new faith community. The following year, St. Michael Catholic Church was formed to serve the many Catholics living on the expanding far West End of Richmond. The first weekend Masses were held at Good Shepherd United Methodist, Short Pump Middle School, and Bennett Funeral Homes that year.

Approximately 150 families undertook the challenge of creating a church with a vision that embodied the Vatican II concepts. Together, these families selected St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church as its name. On the last weekend of May 1992, St. Michael parishioners gathered for their first Mass as a new parish community. One year later, still without a permanent home, St. Michael had over 600 registered families! Construction began on Phase I of the parish building in 1995, and we have not looked back since.

Twenty-five years later, the parish has grown from 280 families to nearly 3,000 families!

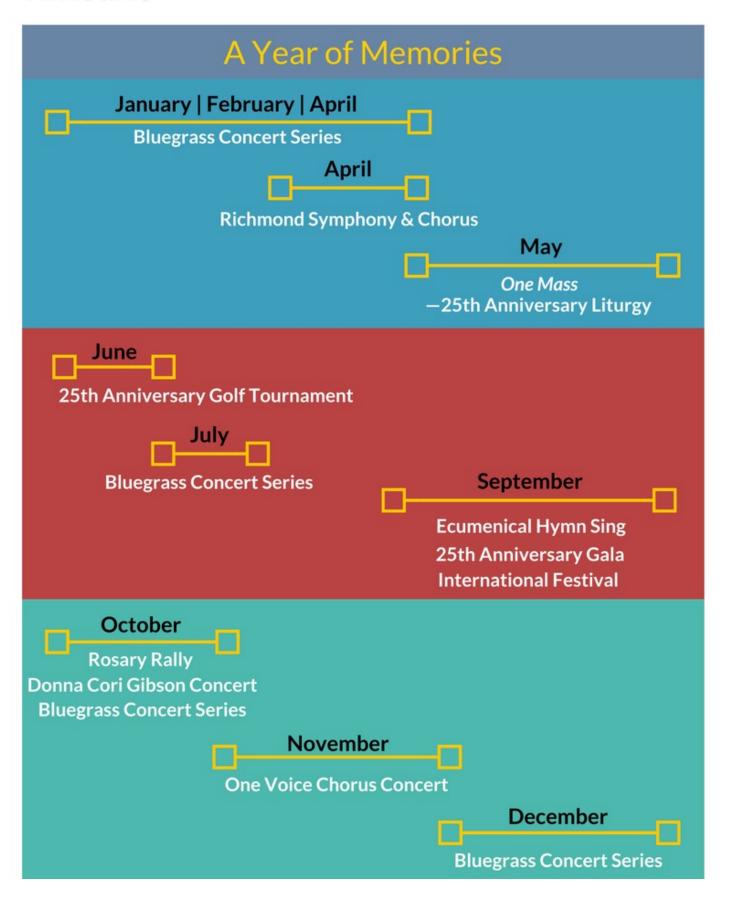
On May 21, 2017, we celebrated with one anniversary liturgy—the *One Mass*, allowing everyone to join together in a sacred celebration to commemorate twenty-five years of service to the Gospel.

Approximately 2,500 Michaelonians and guests gathered at the Robins Center at the University of Richmond for the 11 AM *One Mass*.

The joyous celebration included founding families, longtime parishioners, and newcomers alike. That day, the presence of Christ shined on all the smiling faces—a true symbol of this faith community's enduring welcoming spirit. It will be a day that we will remember and celebrate for many years to come.



# 25th Anniversary Events Timeline





#### A Year of Celebrations

#### **Bluegrass Concert Series**

Five fantastic bluegrass bands, one hometown favorite, nearly 1,000 people in attendance, delicious food, and amazing fellowship! The 25th Anniversary Bluegrass Concert Series was a huge success! Great music at its banjo pickin' finest!

## Our largest crowd yet!

#### Richmond Symphony & Chorus Concert

The Richmond Symphony Orchestra and Chorus returned to St. Michael in honor of our 25th Anniversary Celebration. The Orchestra, under the direction of Conductor Erin R. Freeman, performed pieces from Beethoven, Ravel, Mahler, Tchaikovsky, Brahms, and Handel. Violinist Daisuke Yamamoto was featured in the program. The Chorus also joined the Orchestra for Jim Erb's arrangement of Shenandoah. The evening, filled with breathtaking music and angelic voices, left a lasting impression.

The Symphony's version of "Shenandoah" gave me chills!

> Deacon Andy Ferguson April 2017 Concert





#### 25th Anniversary Sponsors

Archangel Level - \$5,000

Kelleher Heating & Cooling Ballato Law Firm

Angel Level - \$2,500

In Honor of Eileen Allin Bennett Funeral Homes Seraphim Level - \$1,000

Woody Funeral Home Affinity Funeral Home Southern Traditions Tour Plan International, LTD

Cherubim Level - \$500 H. J. Holtz & Son, Inc.

Bliley's Funeral Homes
In Celebration of Etta West



# 05

### A Year of Celebrations

## One Mass | May 21

**Robins Center | University of Richmond** 





## A Year of Celebrations

# One Mass | May 21

**Robins Center | University of Richmond** 











Amazing!
Parishioner







# 07

### A Year of Celebrations











**Ecumenical Hymn Sing** 





25th Anniversary Gala

On a beautiful and sunny June day, over 60 golfers took part in our first Golf Tournament! A day filled with friendly competition, lots of laughter, amazing sponsors and prizes, and wonderful volunteers made the event a memorable outing for all. We hope that this will be the first of many parish golf tournaments...and one year, someone might just win that car!

It was a wonderful event.
I enjoyed the camaraderie
of fellow Michaelonians!

Deacon Dave Nemetz

We brought together four local music ministry choirs, along with our own, for an afternoon of praise, celebration, and song! These parishes have played an important role in our growth and development throughout our 25 years.

Thank you, St. Michael, Christ Church Episcopal, Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, Gayton Baptist Church, and Pilgrim Journey Baptist Church!

It was a beautiful time that blessed my soul...
Parishioner

The 25th Anniversary Gala celebrating our past, present, and future! Over 150 guests joined together to toast, dance, laugh, eat, and have a marvelous time. During the cocktail hour, piano player Jong Hak Kim entertained the crowd, decked out in beautiful cocktail dresses and even a tuxedo or two. Later, Fantasia Sound Company had everyone dancing! Groovin' Gourmets provided delicious food for the night. Guests enjoyed taking chances at winning various gifts and prizes.

A night to remember!

Parishioner

## (08)

## A Year of Celebrations





# Celebrating Our Unity with All Its Diversity!

Hundreds of guests poured into our parking lot to sample food from around the world with our A Taste of the World and the various food trucks. The roster of live performances showcased our parish's diverse cultures.

Happy Feast Day, St. Michael!



#### Rosary Rally & Donna Cori Gibson Concert

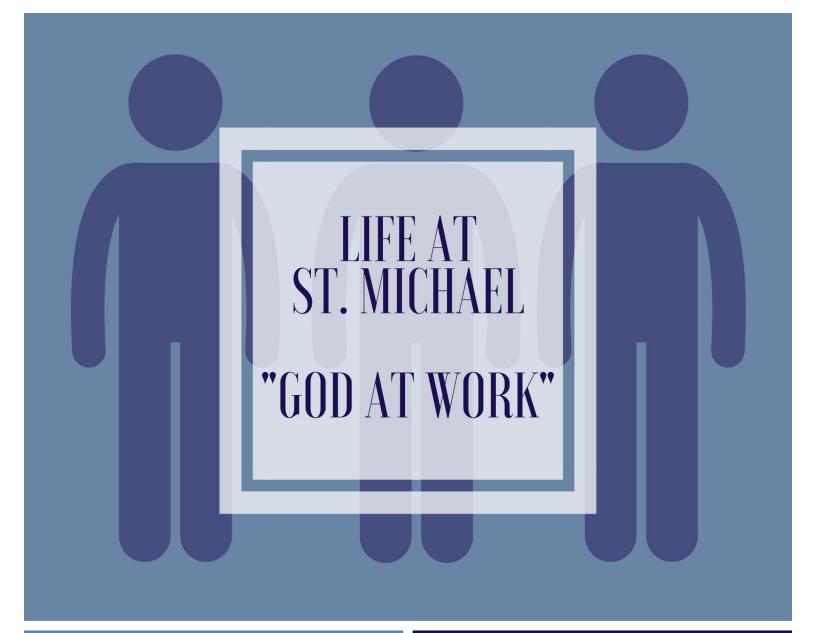
Over 150 individuals and families participated in our 4th Annual Rosary Rally last October. We assembled in front of the parish as we dedicated an hour of prayer in honor of the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima. St. Michael was honored to be one of over 20,000 rallies across the world praying for peace.



Donna Cori Gibson graced us with her inspiring and prayerful music. Through scripture and song, she invited us to draw closer to God and to experience His love. Her faith-filled songs left an unforgettable mark.

We welcomed One Voice Chorus for our final 25th Anniversary event. Their From Darkness to Light performance— a concert of hope, achievement, & rejoicing—celebrated the beauty and power of diversity.





9,825
TOTAL PARISHIONERS

2,972

**TOTAL FAMILIES** 

2,287

**TOTAL CHILDREN** 

## God at Work Being the Presence of Christ

#### A Note from Deacon Dave

With the departure of Karen Hannon, we struggled as we contemplated about who might be able to fill her shoes. It wasn't until we realized that instead of filling her shoes. we could just take a different approach to how we have been operating. After much discussion, we decided to blend the Pastoral Care and Human Concerns departments. What a blessing for St. Michael this has been, because it is allowing us to not only see the amazing work of our talented team of ministry coordinators, but also allowing me to assist both groups as everyone is able to benefit from the collaboration. We have such a vision for these departments. It begins with consolidating a few ministries, changing direction in others, shifting focus, and even enhancing our already ambitious list of ministries. I so look forward to what the future holds. Come on over to the Lake House and visit!

It's an exciting time for Pastoral Care and Human Concerns.



Deacon Dave Nemetz
Pastoral Care & Human Concerns

#### Boys to Men

125 at-risk boys served 35 mentors

## **Coal Pit Learning Center**

1,664 lunches served 26 volunteers

#### Columbarium

45 niches purchased

### Elizabeth Adam Crump Health & Rehab

104 Communion services

...everyone is able to benefit from the collaboration.

## God at Work Being the Presence of Christ

#### Henrico Doctor's Hospital

7,020 minutes evangelizing 468 visits

#### **Homebound Ministry**

40 Communion received

#### **Hospital Chapel Ministry**

104 rosaries prayed

## Jobs Assistance Ministry

137 job seekers employed
1,000 total employed in nine years

# Richmond Friends of the Homeless

180 served monthly volunteers

## **Rosary Making Ministry**

3,000 rosaries created & distributed

## We Are Family

365 days of support



# God at Work Fostering Relationships Both Near and Far



To be the presence of Christ with our brothers and sisters of Holy Family Parish, building supportive relationships throughout the community.



To build lasting relationships with the people in Dos Palais, Haiti.



#### **Appalachian Twinning Ministry**

The Appalachian Twinning Ministry, 70 members strong, is a twinning effort between St. Michael Parish and the four churches of Holy Family Parish in Appalachia. This ministry actively provides help to these parishes for significant needs of the community—supporting low-income and poverty-level families throughout the year. Focusing on nutrition and feeding primary school-aged children, but also collaborating with local food banks and the Backpack Programs in Tazewell and Buchanan Counties.

Our volunteers visit the Appalachian area up to 10 times a year, helping to build relationships throughout the community. A stay in the St. Michael House makes these frequent trips possible and most enjoyable. We are grateful for the support of St. Michael parishioners in living out our ministry mission.

### Haiti Twinning Ministry

Through our growing relationship, we have improved the health and well-being of the community, where malnutrition and poor sanitation was prevalent, through the following projects:

- New School Building
- New Church Building
- New Local Clinic
- Education Support
- Community Development
- Personal Health Awareness

We continue to learn more about Haiti with every visit we make. Whether you have shopped or volunteered at our annual Rummage Sale or sponsored a child during our Haiti Sponsorship Weekend, there is true passion and support for our friends in Haiti. We often hear our friends in Haiti say, never forget us, come again, and bring more friends.



## God at Work Making an Impact

#### Ministry Spotlight: Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) at St. Michael started with 15 dedicated volunteers back in late 2016 and have grown to 30 active Vincentians working with our friends in need here in western Henrico. Many people can find working with the issues related to poverty daunting. It is. But you never know unless you try. With the help of St. Michael parishioners, Fr. Dan's vision, the leadership of Deacon Dave and Deacon Andy, and the support of the staff and other ministries, SVdP has been able to assist more than 180 people since April 2017. Much of that assistance helped with rent and utility bills, but all of the assistance is not financial. In fact, some of the best help SVdP provides is a listening ear, someone to pray with or helping someone with a long-term plan.

Since its inception in late 2016, SVdP has raised more than \$50,000 to work with our friends. That has been achieved through parish support, the Lenten Mite Boxes, grants, and other events, including the Friends of the Poor Walk/Run in October. Those funds have provided support to many, but the need still far outweighs current resources. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will continue to strive toward its goals of helping those less fortunate.





After a home visit, Vincentians often feel that the Holy Spirit has enriched their lives by bringing them in contact with those most in need.

### Ways We Helped

Assisted with electric bills for a total of \$8,865.

Provided support for rent or mortgage to families in the amount of \$16,615.

Helped with car repairs and medical and legal assistance totaling \$4,727.

# God at Work Making an Impact

#### Ministry Spotlight: Prayer Shawl Ministry

200 shawls created in 2017

150 shawls given to those in need

35 ministry members

450 skeins of yarn used each year

Since 1998, St. Michael has been knitting beautiful prayer shawls for people who need the comfort of God's love. This talented group of knitters create these shawls with prayer and love for anyone who needs them. They have clicked their needles together, added a little yarn, and sent love, warmth, and blessings throughout our church and community. The Prayer Shawl Ministry wraps all ages with prayer, warms heads and necks with grace, comforts souls with hope, and provides peace and faith to tired shoulders.

### Volunteer Spotlight: Zelda Burke

Meet Zelda Burke—a devoted, humble, caring, and loving Michaelonian. She knew she found her church home when she came to Mass one evening and heard Fr. Dan singing with his guitar. I knew this was my cup of tea! Ever since then, she has continued to bless us with her welcoming smile and tireless commitment. Through the years, she has shared her many gifts and talents with a number of ministries, which include Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Hospitality, Eucharistic Adoration, Daily Mass, Funeral Meals Ministry, SCRIP, Office Mailings, to name just a few. And if you are lucky, you will be on the receiving end of one of her tender and welcoming hugs!

Asked how volunteering at St. Michael makes her feel, Zelda answered, it is just pure joy and peace for me.

The next time you see her at church, be sure to say *Hi!*No doubt, you will see the presence of Christ in her smile.
Thank you, Zelda, for all the good work you do with such warmth and kindness for St. Michael and our community!



Zelda Burke Member since 2007

It is just pure joy and peace for me.

## God at Work Glorious Music

We recently moved from Pennsylvania and worried about finding a new church that fit us. After visiting many locals churches, St. Michael just felt like home. Two years later, I can say that I continue to be moved by the wonderful music and welcoming spirit of this amazing community.

We wouldn't be anywhere else.

Barry & Rayanne Welsch Members since 2015

Our "There is a Time" CD has music that celebrates all seasons of the liturgical year.

Our digital music has touched Michaelonians and those abroad living in Australia, New Zealand, Europe, and more.

> Tom Kaczmarek Music Director











## God at Work Knights of Columbus





#### Boys to Men Mentoring

Mentoring occured in Circles, weekly meetings where male volunteers and the boys discuss issues surrounding respect, self worth, and personal responsibility.



# The Knights are extremely active and always helping in many ways!

As in previous years, 2017 was a generous and busy year for St. Michael's Knights of Columbus! They served our parish and the community with their time, talent, and treasure:

- Supported our weekly Coffee & Donuts
- Assisted with our monthly Food Drive
- Awarded two high school seniors with a \$1,000 scholarship each
- Donated \$1,200 each to two seminarians for their everyday expenses
- Hosted our annual Fish Fry dinners during Lent and Spaghetti Dinner during Advent
- Hosted the annual Shrimp Fest and the annual Brunswick Stew
- Sold Christmas cards that Keep Christ in Christmas
- Supported KOVAR, the State Council of Virginia's charity for people with intellectual disabilities







# Faith Formation

GET TO KNOW OUR TEAM



Mike Horvath





#### PAT MUNDY: Director of Faith Formation

Michaelonian since 1992, Staff Member since 1996. I'm married and the parent of two adult daughters. My degree is in Elementary Education from Villa Maria College, and my Masters in Education is from Edinboro University. I enjoy walking, yoga, gardening, and reading in my spare time. During the past (almost) 22 years, I have enjoyed working alongside parish staff and our many generous volunteers to bring people into closer relationship with Jesus Christ. I look forward to retiring from my ministry this June, but know that our multi-cultural parish will continue to grow into the twenty first century as a welcoming place that forms its members to be the "hands and feet" of our loving Savior to the world outside our doors.

"a welcoming place that forms its members to be the "hands and feet" of our loving Savior to the world outside our doors.."

— Pat Mundy

#### PATTI KAMPER: Elementary Coordinator

Michaelonian since 1997, Parish Staff since 2006. Married for 27 years and proud mom of three children. I have a BS in Health Science from Springfield College, a Certificate in Pastoral Technology from University of Dayton and I am currently working toward an MA in Pastoral Theology through St. Joseph College and the diocesan Lay Ecclesial Ministry Institute. As Elementary Coordinator I have the pleasure of working with our families with children from preschool through elementary school and I especially love preparing our third graders for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Witnessing our faith through the eyes of our children is a gift and I believe our volunteers would agree, we learn much more from them than what we teach. As a parent, I have experienced our programs first hand from Baptism through Confirmation. Parenting is one of the most rewarding and challenging experiences of life and I feel blessed to have the opportunity to work with parents to form their children in the faith.

#### LAURA STAPLETON: EDGE Coordinator

A Michaelonian since 2004, I grew up in the wings of the fledgling parish with my mom as the founding cantor. Thanks to CRHP (Welcome) I met my husband Jeff in 2006. We will celebrate 9 years of marriage this July. I earned my undergraduate degree in elementary and middle school education at Longwood University and now I am working towards my Masters in Theology from St. Joseph's College in Maine, through the Lay Ecclesial Ministry Institute with the support of our diocese. Four years ago, God invited me to offer all of my gifts in service to the youth of our parish, and I've been blessed with joy ever since. I love how the high school teens can impact the middle schoolers when they choose to accompany each other in faith. I hope the youth walk away from EDGE feeling loved, known, and valued. I hope growing numbers of them will stay engaged, especially with TLT, after confirmation.



Welcome (CRHP) 2017



Parish Mission Adult Formation

#### MIKE HORVATH: Parish Youth Advocate

The village of St. Michael welcomed me as a member of the staff in 2013. Taylor, my wife of three years, helps me on the Life Teen Core Team. I'm originally from Cleveland, Ohio where I spent four years in the Borromeo Seminary formation program. I'm passionate about leading young people closer to Christ . I love seeing our teens encounter Christ in an authentic wayallowing them to soak up and live the true beauty of the Catholic faith with their minds, hearts, and actions. I am extremely thankful for my Core Team of about 14 committed adults with whom I get to share the leadership of youth ministry, as well as the countless parents who provide support in so many ways, especially through the preparation of the weekly meals provided at Life Night! If you've ever thought about ministering and being a witness to our young people, don't hesitate to contact me! I'd be happy to find a way for you to serve!

# 20

# The Lake House A Gathering Place







It was in early 2016 when a team of staff and parishioners gathered around the conference table to discuss a dream. Our parish ministries and initiatives were continuing to grow and with a couple years of dedicated focus on the youth of the parish, youth ministry had seen increases as well. Space continued to be tight. Calendaring was a battle royale. Classrooms were nice, but, well, classroom-y. We wanted the next expansion project to be something radically different—not so much a utilitarian space, but more of a second house at which the parish could gather. Teaming up with architects John Bock and Canova Peterson, who helped put dreams to paper for the parish's last few building projects, the planning team embarked on a journey in developing St. Michael's Lake House. We broke ground in September 2016, with the building phase lasting just over a year to complete.

We officially opened our doors in February 2018. The finished product offers something truly unique and unlike anything else in the Diocese of Richmond. It's been a labor of love for all those who helped plan, design, build, and create the various spaces our parish family now has available to use and enjoy. Boasting dedicated spaces for the Knights of Columbus, St. Vincent DePaul, Youth Ministry, as well as a secondary social hall, kitchen, library, porch, patio, and a basement level for ministry storage, it offers a variety of comfortable spaces for ministries and the people who engage in them to serve, grow, and be fed. We are blessed in the generosity of our parishioners in making this gift possible for all to enjoy through the 'Living Our Mission' initiative. If you haven't visited already, we invite you to stop by, we'd be happy to give -Mike Horvath you a tour!

### **Financials**

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 99

Matthew 6:21

1.7M

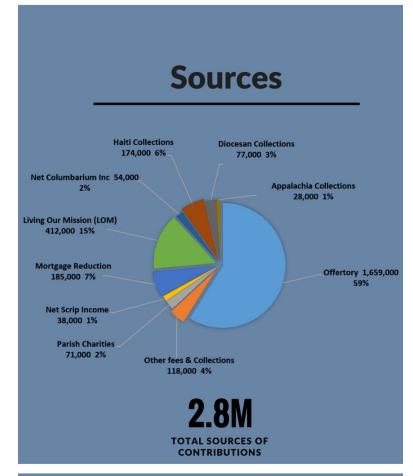
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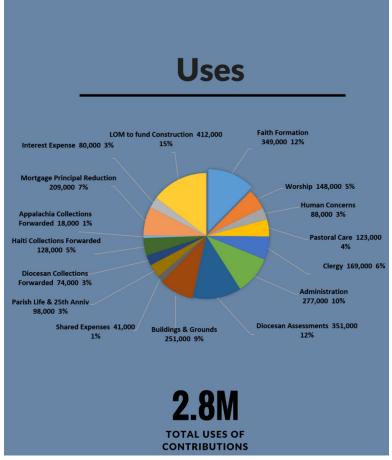
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SPECIAL OUTREACH DISTRIBUTION

29K
RUMMAGE SALE NET
PROCEEDS FOR HAITI

SOUPERBOWL OF CARING DONATIONS FOR ATM





## Our Hope, Our Vision, & Our Future Legacy Giving

In 2017, St. Michael partnered with the Catholic Community Foundation to pilot a Legacy Giving Campaign. For quite a while, parish leadership considered inviting parishioners to remember St. Michael in their wills. As we celebrated our 25th anniversary as a parish, it became apparent that we needed to establish a legacy giving initiative. Legacies are important. As a community of believers, we want to celebrate our past, live in our present, and plan for our future.

Linking our past with our future came to full view as we prepared to raze the old house to build the Lake House. An old hearth, which sat in front of the fireplace in the house, had a beautiful pattern made out of hundreds of arrowheads. We found out later that the former owner of the house had hand-built the hearth using Native American arrowheads his children collected on the property. The Knights of Columbus recommended that we preserve the hearth and make it the centerpiece of the new fireplace in the Social Hall of the Lake House. That hearth symbolizes our past, our present, and our future.

Our Legacy Giving initiative invites parishioners of all ages to be intentional in planning for the future, when we pass from this life into eternal life. Sometimes, it is only through a bequest that we can make any significant gift to charity. In late 2017, parish leadership decided to start the St. Michael Endowment Fund. Its purpose is threefold:

- to fund deferred maintenance items not able to be covered in the operational budget
- to assist parishioners with registration fees for parish or diocesan workshops and training
- to fund a speaker series

#### **Inspired Generosity**

To our surprise, the first gift to this Fund was received in December 2017. Angela D'Allessandro, who died in October of that year, led an active parish life at St. Michael for many years. She served on the Parish Council, as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, and several other ministries. With her generous heart, she willingly helped out in many ways. Angela would say she did not have much money to give in the collection, so she selflessly gave of her time and talent. Little did we know that she made a generous bequest in her will, donating \$31,000 from her retirement fund to the parish. We used about half the proceeds to make the first deposit into the St. Michael Endowment Fund and the remainder was used for new parking lot lights. Her legacy will live on in perpetuity, a reminder of her generous spirit!



Angela D'Allessandro Member 1998 - 2017

## Our Hope, Our Vision, Our Future

# Jesus, The Way

In 2018 we will start using the Lake House to serve and strengthen our parish community. It is already a favorite place to gather and just "sit around and talk." It is a center of Pastoral Care and Human Concerns. The John Paul II Youth Center has enhanced our growing youth program. We have more space to serve our community and each other.

In 2018, we have chosen a theme that shows itself in banners, prayers and many other ways – "Jesus, the Way." We continue to grow by following Christ's example of love and by recognizing that without Jesus we can do nothing of any real lasting importance. The prayer we share reminds us that Jesus is so much more that a "good guy" who gave "really good advice" and said some "nice things."

Jesus tells us that He is the Way (John 14:6). But the image that may convey the depth of that more clearly is when he declares himself the "Sheep Gate" (John 10:7). There is simply no way except through Him.

As 2018 unfolds we will continue to pursue our mission to be the "Presence of Christ" to each other and the world around us. Through worship, sharing our faith, building community and reaching out in service we hope to give Glory to God as we acknowledge Jesus as the Way. And as we move into the next school year and 2019 we will take on the challenge of Jesus, the Truth. May our hearts be open to allow the Word made flesh (John 1:14) to also be the Word of Truth informing our faith and our lives.

-Fr. Dan Brady



2017

Year at a Glance