



ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

September 2020

“I can do all things in Christ Jesus who strengthens me.”

Philippians 4:13.

As the COVID crisis unfolded last Spring, our principal Mrs. Dudley posted St. Paul's message on our parish school marquee. These words remind us Jesus Christ dwells in our hearts, and we are invited to ask Him for the strength we need to persevere through all our trials.

The COVID virus persists as a burden to our society and our world. No one is certain how long it will hamper our daily activities. In the face of this ongoing challenge, I am humbled and grateful for the resiliency of our St. Michaels parish staff, our school faculty and our religious education catechists who have stepped up to the plate to teach and pass on our faith. We are grateful for their commitment to serve during our present challenges.

We may not have an immediate cure to our present challenges, but we are blessed by those who step into the fray to help us find some normality in this battle. I appreciate those who take the risks and move forward, knowing how difficult it is to overcome our fears which are forever trying to hold us back. Here I am also thinking of our liturgical ministers who assist us at Mass on Sundays. Thank you.

At the heart of all things it is our faith in Jesus Christ that sets us free from our fears. I am mindful of the generations of Christians whose faith saw them through all manner of adversities, and many who offered their lives as a witness to their belief in Christ.

I pray we will all soon make our way back to worshipping our Lord at our Sunday Masses. Notwithstanding those who suffer vulnerable health conditions, I pray we will not allow lethargy to set in so that we neglect the humble act of worship that Christ calls us to.

Christ gave His life on a cross to set us free from sin and fear. He was not afraid to lay down his life to save us. I pray we do not take His act of sacrifice for granted. I pray we do not become numb to our deep inner hunger for God. I pray we let our faith shine as we step out of the darkness of fear to offer Christ our praise and thanksgiving for His immense undying love for us. Truly, we can do all things in Him.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Note: If you are no longer a member of St. Michael's, PLEASE email: parishoffice@stmichaelsgf.com. We will remove you from our mailing list. Thank you!

“Seek God in all things and we shall find God by our side.”
-St. Peter Claver

Even though Covid has seemed to take over our lives, it is still important that we be involved with our St. Michael's community as much as we can. I'm offering the following programs this fall to strengthen our Faith and to bring together those who feel comfortable in a group—with being as safe as possible. Please see the bulletin, Facebook, and watch for Flocknotes for more details.

THAT MAN IS YOU: Men's program that is starting its 9th year on September 16th. We rotate each year between 3 parishes, so this year is at St. Mary's. OPEN TO ALL MEN in the area. Each year is new, so prior attendance is not needed to be a part of this group.

CATHOLIC MAN NIGHT: Begins sometime in October. An evening for men with adoration, confession available, and a man meal.

THE BIBLE TIMELINE: The Story of Salvation is a study program that takes you on a guided 8-week journey through salvation history—presented by Jeff Cavins and others. Begins sometime in October and going into December at St. Michael's. This is a way of finding out where we came from and where we are going. Contact Deacon John if you plan to attend.

PRAYER PARTNERS: Prayer Partners is active at St. Michael's! Every 2 months intentions are sent to you to pray on—either by email or mail. So, be a Prayer Partner and make your prayer time more.

If you have any questions about the above spiritual opportunities, please contact Deacon John!

Deacon John Bredemeier: Cell: (Call or text): (701) 314-0207
 Email: john.bredemeier@stmichaelsgf.com

Additional Spiritual Opportunities

DAILY ROSARY (Mon-Sat.): Rosary is now available to watch at your convenience. Look for the LIVE STREAM button on the front page of our website, or check for videos on our Facebook or YouTube pages. It's recorded LIVE at our usual 6:40 am rosary before morning Mass, but can be watched anytime after that as well.

TUESDAY ALL DAY ADORATION

You are invited to come and spend some time with our Lord on Tuesdays from 8:00 am-9:00 pm. Come and go as you please OR sign up for an hour by visiting: adorationpro.org/michaelnd

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-Prayer- Fr. Grossman

Our whole lives are one continuous prayer. In the very fact that we exist as creations of God, we are naturally ordered to respond to that gift of creation. God, who is love itself, sends His Holy Spirit among us to teach us how to respond to his eternal love. There are many ways in which we can do this; be it a direct response through audible prayer, or perhaps a more subtle response through showing kindness to others. Each, and all of the ways we respond, are just as sweet to Our Lord, because they acknowledge him in their doing, whether we are consciously aware of it or not.

The Church has given us many beautiful prayers throughout the centuries which capture the essence of this prayerful relationship. One of these is the Universal Prayer of Pope Clement XI.

An abbreviated version of this prayer sums up this prayerful relationship beautifully:

“Lord, I believe in you: increase my faith. I trust in you: strengthen my trust.

I love you: let me love you more and more. I am sorry for my sins: deepen my sorrow.

I worship you as my first beginning, I long for you as my last end.

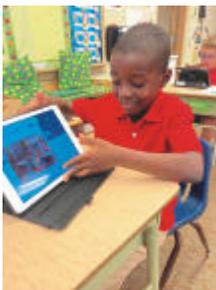
I want to do what you ask of me: In the way you ask, for as long as you ask, because you ask.

Let me love you, my Lord and my God, and see myself as I really am:

A pilgrim in this world, a Christian, called to respect and love all whose lives I touch. Amen”

St. Michael's Catholic School

St. Michael's Catholic School welcomed students back into the classrooms on August 26 with face-to-face learning after the spring remote learning. The teachers and staff prepared the classrooms with increased cleaning, physical distancing, and health standards in order to continue the mission to foster the development of the whole child through exceptional academics, faith-filled opportunities, and Christian service. The children were eager to return and filled with joy as they spent time with friends and teachers after the longer than normal break from school.



Five new teachers have joined the staff of St. Michael's Catholic School and we welcomed many new families into our school and church community! Our enrollment had a decrease because of some families choosing a remote option offered by the public school and several families moved out of the area. With the preparation for the 2020-2021 school year, St. Michael's was blessed to receive funds through the CARES Act to help with COVID related needs. From ipads and Chromebooks, PPE, and additional support staff, the CARES Act has

allowed for a positive response to our school needs. St. Michael's Catholic School also received a grant from the North Dakota Department of Commerce called the Economic Resiliency Grant for \$39,617.20 to help reduce the spread of COVID and allow for our school to be clean and healthy.

Even with the changes that have occurred because of COVID, St. Michael's Catholic School continues to be a home to families that value a Catholic education with Christ as the center of our lives. Each day, the children learn to love Christ and love each other. With the teaching of Catholic Virtue and Social Teachings, the children engage in their faith and build a foundation to last a lifetime. Thank you for your continued prayers and support for St. Michael's Catholic School during the 2020-2021 school year.

Annual Fall Bazaar & Dinner is Canceled—Raffle still on!

St. Michael's Annual Fall Dinner has been canceled this year, however the Altar Society is still holding their annual raffle! The drawing will be Sunday, October 4th at 12:00 Noon.

Please turn in your raffle tickets **by Thursday, October 1st** to ensure they are in the drawing! Drop them off in the entrance of the Parish Office during Office Hours. You can purchase tickets at the Parish Office! Thank you for supporting the Altar Society!

Church Support Sundays in October

Our Annual “**Church Support**” Drive will take place in October. We will be sending out letters with an “Estimate of Sunday Giving” card for you to fill out and return to the parish, estimating the amount you are willing to donate through your Sunday envelopes. We kindly ask all parishioners to return the card. Please respond to our first request so we won’t have to send out reminders.

If you want to get a head start and help us save money on the mailing, you can fill out your “Estimate of Giving” online today: <https://www.stmichaelschurchgf.com/church-support>

With Covid-19, financial strains and hardships have hit many families. We are extremely grateful to those of you who have continued to offer financial support to the church during this time. You are a blessing! If you can afford \$1.00 to \$2.00 more per month, we would appreciate your help!

Eye-Opening Report

St. Michaels has a roster of members who choose to make this parish their place of worship and to celebrate the sacraments of our Lord. A parish is a community of faith—a people who pray together because of their relationship with Christ and each other.

However, I am sad for those who register to celebrate a baptism, get married in the church, or drop children off for Religious Education, but go no further. They are not active beyond the one event they want to receive.

In light of our culture’s mobility, keeping a current census is not easy. One measure of a person’s current registration status might be their lack of financial support. The absence of any financial activity can be due to many factors, financial hardships, fixed income, illness, or even age. It would be a great help if folks could give us a brief update on their status to shed some light on your parish membership.

St. Michael’s currently has about 1568 Families on our roster.

A Recent Report Shows . . .

506 Families have given \$0 to the parish since 2015.

78 Families registered since 2016 have given \$0 to the parish.

If you are one of these families, please consider “chipping in” for parish costs. Please prayerfully consider offering your financial support.

Thank you!

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RCIA



Curious about becoming Roman Catholic?

- Were you baptized a Catholic as a baby but never got confirmed later?
- Were you raised as a Protestant and have now found the fullness of Christ's teachings in the Catholic faith?
- Are you married to a Catholic and have been attending Mass with your Catholic spouse for decades?
- Were you raised in a family that practiced no faith but have now found meaning and order in the Catholic Church?

People enter the Church every year from these common backgrounds.

Adults wishing to become Catholic enter the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). This consists principally of a year of study of the teachings of Jesus Christ and his bride, the Church. Baptisms and Confirmations will take place at the Easter Vigil.

Fr. Grossman will be leading the RCIA this year.

Instruction will begin September 22nd at 6:30 pm in St. Catherine's Room at the Pastoral Center. Please contact him if you are considering entering the Church this year.

Email: jered.grossman@fargodiocese.org.

Religious Education News

We are currently enrolling students for religious education classes! We are offering classes for all ages Kindergarten through twelfth grades. We meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 pm- 7:45 pm. You can register your child on our website: <https://www.stmichaelschurchgf.com>

We also are offering online lessons for Kindergarten through Eighth grades. If interested, please register as usual and write in the additional information section that you would like the online option.

If your child is in need of receiving sacraments, we have classes for that as well. In the Diocese of Fargo, children receive their First Reconciliation when in second grade, and receive both their First Eucharist and Confirmation in third grade. Please fill out the religious education registration form. I will be putting together a class for those students who need to "catch up" on their sacraments.

Please do not hesitate to email or call me with any questions!

In Christ,
Jennifer Carlson
DRE, St. Michael's Catholic Church
jennifer.carlson@stmichaelsgf.com
(701) 772-2282 ext. 131



**ST. MICHAEL'S
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Look Inside for Fall News

Note: *If you are no longer a member of St. Michael's, PLEASE call (701) 772-2624 to be removed from roster.*

Mass Schedule at St. Michael's

Monday: 7:15 am, 5:15 pm
 Tuesday: 7:15 am, 5:15 pm
 Wednesday: 7:15 am, 5:15 pm
 Thursday: 7:15 am, 5:15 pm
 Friday: 7:15 am, 12:10 pm
 Saturday: 7:15 am, 5:00 pm
 Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am,
 11:00 am, 5:00 pm

Confession Schedule at St. Michael's

Monday: 7:00 am, 4:45 pm
 Tuesday: 7:00 am, 4:45 pm
 Wednesday: 7:00 am, 4:45 pm
 Thursday: 7:00 am, 4:45 pm
 Friday: 7:00 am, 11:45 am
 Saturday: 7:00 am, 4:00-4:50pm
 7:30 pm-8:00 pm
 Sunday: No Confessions



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WITH YOU!**



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stmichaelgf.flocknote.com

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