



# PARISH OF ST. MICHAEL

## February 2010 Newsletter & Calendar

Dear Parishioner:

**In February, Ordinary Time** will give way to the season of Lent. Once again we will plunge into our yearly retreat marked by fasting, abstinence from meat on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent, and a mood of penitence. I sometimes feel like asking, "What's up?" Are we playacting the vacancy of Christ? The Risen Lord promised to be with his church until the end of all ages. But our liturgical seasons reminds us that time according to our clocks is illusory. Though we are caught in the perspective of a singular moment, God sees all from the advantage of eternity. Our birth and life and death and rising are in God's hands in this moment. We experience in our lives the desolation and corruption due to sin, as well as the saving power revealed in Jesus Christ. During Lent we are called to turn away from our sinfulness and believe the Good News. We fast, we pray and we give to the poor. More important, we turn away from the bad news of our sins and believe instead the Good News of Jesus Christ. We do not deny our sinfulness; our Lord Jesus came to call sinners and that's us. Rather, we focus our attention on the good news that our sins are forgiven. On Ash Wednesday, as a sign of our repentance and God's pledge of forgiveness, we receive a cross of ashes on our foreheads. It is like the mark Cain received from God. Cain, you may recall, got so angry at his brother Abel that he killed him. So in punishment he was banished from the land to become a restless nomad. But out of love for Cain, God placed a mark on his head as a sign to all not to do him any harm because he was under God's personal protection. The ashes we receive on Ash Wednesday are a sign to us and all that we are sinners, like Cain, but we too, are under God's personal protection. In Christ, God has pledged to us eternal life and the forgiveness of our sins. All of us are on our journey to God. That's what these forty days of Lent mean: journeying together to the Promised Land.

**Thank you** to those who were so generous during our second collection in January for the people of Haiti. I believe it was the best response we have ever received from a second collection. At this writing we have forwarded over \$20,000.00 to the Catholic Relief Services who are on site and directing the use of the funds to the most in need.

**Catholic Family Sharing Appeal (CFSA)** During the week of **February 15th** you will be receiving a letter from Bishop, Paul Swain, inviting you to prayerfully consider your pledge to this annual appeal. We have a wonderful track record of giving to this collection which assists the various ministries in our Diocese and the world-wide Church. This year Bishop Swain asks us to consider adding an additional amount to our CFSA to assist with the education of our seminarians. You may recall that the past few years the seminarian education appeal was done separately around Thanksgiving. It was not taken up this year because of the decision to add it to the annual CFSA appeal. We can thank God that we have more seminarians than what was included in the Diocesan budget. So if you are able to increase your 2010 CFSA pledge, it will be greatly appreciated by our Bishop and me.

**Pre-Lenten Party** – Our Little Parish Event Coordinators are planning a **Great Steak and Wine Night** on Saturday, **February 6th** in the Parish Multi-Purpose Room. Tickets are \$35 per couple. Music will be provided by the Crabgrass Crew. So grab your sweetheart and join in the fun. Tickets are available after our weekend Masses or by stopping by the Parish Office.

Also we are having a **Pancake Breakfast this Sunday, January 31st** from 9 – 1 pm The Free Will offering will be taken.

Last week you should have received your 2009 record of your offerings to the parish. If you did not receive one, please notify the parish office. Thanks to all of you who share of your **time, talent** and **treasure**. As I like to tell others, Saint Michael Parishioners are "Cimply Amazing!"

God Bless You.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles Cimpl".

(Rev.) Charles L. Cimpl

**Ash Wednesday Masses**  
**February 17<sup>th</sup>**

8:15 am

12:15 pm

5:30 pm

7:00 pm

