



PARISH OF ST. MICHAEL

January 2019

Newsletter & Calendar

Dear Parishioners,

Welcome to 2019! It is true, the older we get the faster the years go by. This makes planning for our future so important. The more input we can get from a variety of sources, the stronger our vision and foundation is for the future.

There are eight priests that I meet with monthly as a support group. Throughout the years I have cherished, looked forward to, and relied on the connection I have with them. Presently we have two retired priests, two who could be retired, but wanted to continue in the parishes they are in, one who will retire next July, two who will retire in a year and a half, one who will retire in four years and myself who will retire in 6 1/2 years. Yes, I am the baby of the group. It has led to many discussions about what the future would hold and have we prepared financially, plus otherwise, for our futures.

Right now both the Parish Finance Council and the Parish Pastoral Council are taking an important look at where we are now and where we hope to be in the future.

So here are some facts about the parish: We have 1930 households in our parish. All the number of households we lost when St. Katharine Drexel Parish split from us has been made up. In other words, we are the same size presently as we were before the split. There are signs of our being a healthy parish and signs that we are struggling. For example – there are 629 households who have given more than \$501.00 annually to the parish financial support. There are 602 households who give \$1.00 to \$500.00 annually to the parish financial needs. And there are 699 households who do not financially support the parish. But there are more ways than one to support our parish as you know. That is with time and service. We have around 500 households that offer their time and/or talent to the different ministries in our parish. There are times when people have served the parish faithfully for many years and are hoping others will step up so they can take a break. Think about your own family and the household tasks. How important it is for everyone in the family to participate in the needs of the family.

It is well known that people vote with their presence and their giving. It could be people are in a tight spot with their economy and demands for the needs of their children. Maybe your faith has been shook by all the negative happenings in our church. There could be several other reasons for people to make the decisions they make. Here at St. Michael, this faith community truly lives and seeks to uphold the best of being God's Church – God's family. We attempt to be a supportive, caring heart to each other, and to provide the needed ministries that you hope for in a family that cares about each and every one of you.

Attendance at the Masses, other than the noticeable dip during the summer, has been pretty consistent. On the other hand, church giving is down. We struggle to meet our weekly goal. Normally in October we catch up with the summer's low collections. Reality is that bills never take time off. We are roughly about \$5000.00 short each month. With 1930 households, that would mean \$2.60 more a month. The collection goes to staff salaries, ministries, supplies, and the regular bills everyone has. Usually in businesses, this means a cut in staff or ministries offered. But this also means members could have their services cut. Presently, almost every one of the 1930 households are cared for by our ministries or services. (Maybe if you don't give electronically, you might consider signing up.)

I invite you to consider the importance of passing on to our children a vibrant church, as the generations before us did with their many sacrifices. The Parish Pastoral and Finance Council is committing this year of 2019 to work at our shortfall and to lay a foundation for a healthy, strong future for the generations to come.

~~Fr. Terry