

# Parish of Saint Michael

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Dear Members of St. Michael Parish:

As we close out the liturgical year, the Year of Mercy, I pray that you were able to experience the richness of the Lord, for it is by his grace that we grow in holiness as we offer ourselves in service to the Lord.

I want to reflect with you on the past year and the many ways in which St. Michael Parish has grown – spiritually and as a community. Annual Report 2016 should help us do this together and allow for our community to look ahead and to begin a strategic plan which will benefit everyone!

The parishioners have offered a great deal – Liturgically, you will see a change with new members as Altar Server, Lector, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist; and new faces now assist with Religious Education. We also have begun a St. Vincent de Paul Society to aid those in need. The gallant few continue to bring Communion to our homebound and elderly; if you know anyone who may benefit from this blessed ministry, please call the Parish Office. I also encourage you to check out the website, as it places all our information at your fingertips!

We are gaining on the financial side as we work to a balanced budget and accountability. I, along with the staff, know that we are your stewards and with the Finance Council and the Facilities and Grounds Committee we are working to ensure your offerings are managed and that we attend to the needs which will ensure safety for all. In the spring, we will begin the driveway project so that we meet today's safety standards, and I will also look for a solution to curb the traffic which uses St. Michael's as a cut-through, especially in the afternoons.

Giving is essential if we are to accomplish our ministry goals and continue to take care of the temporal needs of the parishioners of St. Michael Parish. I know that change can be difficult for some, but I am asking that you look at your method of giving. If you use envelopes, I ask that you explore either online giving, made through our website ([www.bedfordcatholic.org](http://www.bedfordcatholic.org)) or giving through your bank pay service. This consistent and regular giving pattern will allow us to better serve the needs of the Parish. It will also allow us to more effectively maintain our facilities, provide compensation to our staff, and accomplish the many goals of our long range plan.

As you review Annual Report 2016, I would encourage you to contemplate how you might expand your participation and be a missionary for Christ, telling the Good News story and inviting others to join!

In closing may this Advent help you to prepare more fully for the coming of the Incarnate Word, our Savior, Jesus.

Blessed Advent!

