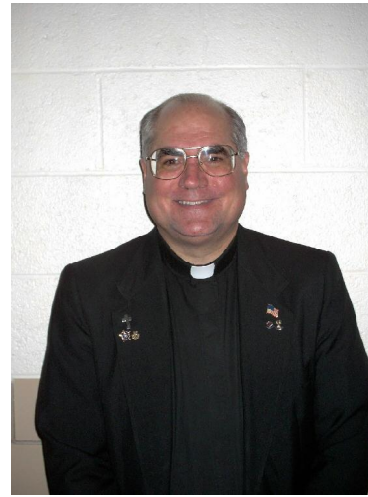




CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL

Parishioner Handbook

2005




Church of St. Michael
337 E. Hurley St.
West St. Paul, MN 55118
Parish Center: (651) 457-2334

Welcome to the Church of St. Michael.

For over 130 years St. Michael's has been a faith community. The parish was founded in 1866 and has had a commitment to Catholic education through the operation of our parish school for 120 years.

As a member of St. Michael's Parish, I hope and pray that your faith may grow and deepen. I also hope and pray that you will be involved in the life of our parish as much as you can. This handbook lists all the parish organizations, committees, and activities. Please volunteer your time, treasure, and talent. Many people are involved in various ministries in our parish. You are invited to share your gifts as well, in service to God and neighbor. May God bless you and strengthen you to be an active member of St. Michael's Parish.

Sincerely,


Yours in Christ
Father Kenneth L. O'Hotto, Pastor

MISSION STATEMENT

"The Catholic Church of Saint Michael is a parish united by Christ into His Mystical Body. In faith we worship our Eucharistic Lord preeminently through the Liturgy, the source and summit of the Christian life. From this flows the life of the parish, made evident through adoration, formation and education, the sacraments, the moral life, prayer, and Marian devotions. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we are called to live holy lives and practice spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Adhering to the teachings of the Church, we strive to uphold and defend our Faith. Saint Michael the Archangel, pray for us."

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*For any inaccurate, erroneous, or omitted names or information, we apologize. Every effort was made to supply accurate listings of all ministries, organizations, and personnel as of the time of this printing.
Your Parish Council*

ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

A CONDENSED HISTORY OF ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

Written by Carole Mulcahy based upon various sources.

Edited by Rick Czlapinski, Jessica Mehle, Ann Stewart, Joe Igo, Larry Amelse

On August 31, 1866, Bishop Thomas L. Grace purchased land on Parnell Street on the lower West Side of St. Paul for the purpose of building a new church on that side of the Mississippi River. The immigrant Irish Catholic families had to cross the Wabasha Street toll bridge at the cost of \$1 (a day's wages) in order to attend Mass.

Around Christmas 1866, Holy Mass was first celebrated in the new St. Michael's Church. The church was dedicated on the feast of St. Michael, September 29, 1867.

As pastor of the Cathedral of St. Paul, Father John Ireland (later to become the first Archbishop of the diocese) directed various assistant pastors to serve the new St. Michael's Church - a mission church of the Cathedral.

In 1882, Father Peter Gallagher, who had tended St. Michael's parish as an assistant at the Cathedral, became the first resident pastor of St. Michael's. Father Gallagher built a new St. Michael's Church and used the old wooden church as a school. St. Michael School began classes in 1884 with sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, who walked each day from their convent at 10th and Robert Street, near St. Joseph's Hospital. He started the Altar and Rosary Society and the St. Vincent De Paul Society at St. Michael's. The German speaking Catholics of the West Side soon needed their own church, so in 1886, St. Michael's sister parish of St. Matthew's was founded.

In May of 1887, Archbishop Ireland insisted that the parish provide a convent. On January 20, 1888, fire destroyed the first church, which was now the school building. Father Gallagher utilized the basement and sacristy of St. Michael's Church to return children to their classes.

Father Patrick O'Neill was appointed pastor of St. Michael's Church and began his duties on April 3, 1888. Father Patrick also ministered to South St. Paul Catholics until 1895, when St. Augustine's was founded. He oversaw the building of a new school for St. Michael's, a permanent rectory, and expanded the "new" church to accommodate the more than five hundred families in the parish. The old rectory became a convent for the sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, who finally had a home of their own after 16 years of traveling across the river.

In the early 1900s, there had been a large immigration of Catholics from Lebanon, many of whom attended St. Michael's. Father Patrick arranged for the priest from St. Maron in Minneapolis to come to St. Michael's every Saturday evening to say a Mass of the Maronite rite in the basement chapel of St.

Michael's Church. This continued until 1917, when this congregation purchased a small Protestant church and began Holy Family Parish.

Father Patrick organized the Holy Name Society, the very first to be chartered in the Archdiocese of St. Paul, and the 2nd chartered in the United States. During the Depression, Father Patrick always had a second collection, the sole purpose of which was the St. Vincent De Paul Society fund, for the poor of the parish. Two chapters of the Hibernians met at St. Michael's. Some of their names were inscribed on the colored windows of the old St. Michael's Church. In 1926, Father Patrick became a domestic prelate and was named Vicar General to Archbishop Austin Dowling. He would now be known as Monsignor O'Neill.

Father John O'Neill, who was Father Patrick O'Neill's nephew, came to Minnesota from Ireland in 1915 and was ordained at the St. Paul Seminary on June 8, 1916. He celebrated his First Solemn High Mass in St. Michael's Church on June 9, 1916, also the year of the 50th anniversary of St. Michael's parish. He remained at St. Michael's as assistant to Father Patrick. In 1928, Father John's younger brother, Reverend Peter O'Neill, celebrated his first Solemn High Mass at St. Michael's Church. Father Peter would go on to lead Guardian Angels Parish in Lake Elmo (now Oakdale) for many years until his death.

The Depression saw the influx of immigrants from Mexico. They needed a Spanish-speaking priest, so in 1931, Our Lady of Guadalupe was founded. This was the fourth parish to be carved from St. Michael's membership. In 1942, St. Joseph's Parish was founded, which drew from many of the new families in West St. Paul. During all this time, Father John, while still only assistant pastor, shouldered most of the work of St. Michael's. By the beginning of World War II, it was obvious that Monsignor O'Neill's health was failing. He remained at St. Michael's still saying Mass, even though it was difficult for him to stand. He offered the last Mass of his life on July 2, 1943. In the fall of 1943, he was taken to St. Joseph's Hospital and died there on February 12, 1944. Monsignor O'Neill had been a priest for 60 years, and pastor of St. Michael's for 56 years. Shortly after Monsignor O'Neill's death, Archbishop Murray appointed Father John O'Neill pastor of St. Michael's Parish.

With the end of World War II, St. Michael's, along with the whole country, experienced a great period of change. Within a few blocks of St. Michael's were St. Matthew's, Holy Family, and Our Lady of Guadalupe Churches. The heart of the old "flats" was decaying, and the people of St. Michael's parish were moving up the hill. Father John made the decision that St. Michael's would follow its people. In May 1953, Father John, with the approval of Archbishop Murray, bought the first part of the property at the east end of Annapolis Street at the price of \$17,000. This was enough land on which to build a new church-school combination and a convent. An additional \$60,000 was spent to purchase the additional property which now consists of the entire block.

The simple building design envisioned a church and school. Groundbreaking for the present church and school was held on March 12, 1954, and was dedicated in

June 1955. It included a school, a convent for the sisters, and in 1957, a rectory for the priests. The school had 14 classrooms, a cafeteria, library, offices and an auditorium that served as a temporary chapel. The plans for the total development of the new St. Michael's "on-the-hill" included the building of a separate church as well as the present facilities but the church construction was put on hold. At the time, it was decided to use the school gymnasium as a "temporary chapel" and build the final church sometime in the future.

The old St. Michael's church remained in operation for those who wanted to stay. This old church saw two more great events. In 1961, Father Peter Fleming said his First Mass at old St. Michael's. This was special, because Father Fleming was the fourth son from one family to celebrate his first Mass at St. Michael's. The second great event took place on the occasion of the parish centennial in 1966, when Father John O'Neill mounted the steps of the same altar at which he said his First Solemn Mass to say a Mass of thanksgiving on the occasion of his fiftieth year as a priest and his fiftieth year at St. Michael's. Father John remained at St. Michael's until his death on February 26, 1967.

Father John O'Neill was succeeded by Father Francis Dudley. Father Dudley implemented the changes in the church and liturgy following the directives of the Second Vatican Council. In the late 1960s, Mass was still celebrated in both locations. When St. Matthew's burned down in the late 1960s, St. Michael's lent the use of the old church to them until their new one was built. Later, the St. Paul housing authority approached St. Michael's about purchasing the property for a new housing development. Father Dudley negotiated the sale of the property and the church was scheduled for demolition. Prior to the demolition, Father Dudley photographed the entire inside of the church. The stained glass windows, the statue of St. Michael, the presider's chair, and the bell from the bell tower were among the items salvaged from the old church. The tower from the old St. Michael's Church is still standing on the site of the Torre de San Miguel housing development. In 1969, Father Dudley oversaw the construction of the new Science Room and John O'Neill Library for the school.

On September 27, 1981, a great celebration was held commemorating the 115th anniversary of St. Michael's Parish. Monsignor Francis Fleming (one of the sons of the parish) delivered the homily, which was a recap of St. Michael's history and culture. He noted that St. Michael's culture grew out of the Irish heritage created by Father Patrick and Father John. This was a culture that tended to be conservative and traditional, with a great love of the priesthood, the Pope, and the Mass. It was also a culture that welcomed every new ethnic group that came into the area. He summed up that St. Michael's culture was "people of God working effectively with the pastor and leadership of the parish". St. Michael's continues to have those same values and culture today.

Father Dudley retired as pastor in 1989 after 22 years of service to our parish. He passed on to his eternal reward on January 26, 2000.

In 1989, Father Gerald Dvorak was assigned to St. Michael's. He headed a Carmelite community of men preparing for the priesthood, known as the Little Brothers of Carmel. He was also the spiritual director for a new group of 3rd Order Lay Carmelites at St. Michael's. Since there were no longer any nuns occupying the convent, Father Jerry converted it into a rectory and parish offices and housing for the Little Brothers of Carmel. In 1992, Father Jerry initiated Perpetual Adoration at St. Michael's. The Chapel of Our Lady of the Angels and a reading room were constructed in the lower level of the original rectory. Father Jerry is an avid collector of crèches, and each year during Advent he would display the many crèches from around the world for the parishioners and community to view and enjoy. In 1991, a bell tower was constructed using the bell saved from the "old" church. During Father Jerry's time at St. Michael's, the stained glass windows from the "old" church that had been in storage for over 35 years were restored and displayed through out the current church. On September 3, 2002, Father Jerry was assigned as pastor to St. Joseph's Parish in Hopkins. The Little Brothers of Carmel followed Father Jerry to Hopkins.

Father Timothy Deutsch was appointed as parish administrator in November 2002. He took up residence in the original rectory. Father Deutsch started the project of remodeling the old convent into the Parish Center and moved the Perpetual Adoration Chapel into the original convent chapel. He returned to his home diocese of Duluth in March 2003.

Father Kenneth O'Hotto, who served as a deacon at St. Michael's prior to his ordination in 1980, was appointed our new pastor and was welcomed on May 13, 2003. He has brought to our parish a sense of renewal and revitalization as we continue the legacy of so many that worked to preserve and protect St. Michael's Parish throughout its long history.

The contact persons and their phone numbers for all of the parish ministries and organizations are published each year in a supplement to this handbook available at the Parish Center.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION—"Growing in Our Faith"

Adult Faith Formation provides an opportunity for parishioners to continue to grow in faith through teachings, bible study, and small groups. Adult Faith Formation is offered one or two Sundays per month from 9:10am to 10:10am (between the Sunday morning masses) from October through May as scheduled. Topics covered include the Bible, living our faith in today's world, our Catholic beliefs, and the liturgy and its seasons. All are welcome to attend. Children's ministries are offered during this time so parents of young children may also be encouraged in their faith.

ALTAR AND ROSARY SOCIETY

The Altar and Rosary Society is St. Michael's women dedicated to the Blessed Mother and her Rosary, seeking to serve Christ by serving others. They pray the rosary together, advocate for the spiritual welfare of the parish, maintain the care of the altars, contribute to the financial support of the church and school, and encourage sociability, hospitality, and goodwill among our members and all parishioners. Meetings are held quarterly and all women, 18 and older, are invited to attend. To join, please call the president of the Altar and Rosary Society.

ALTAR SERVER MINISTRY

Boys and girls are welcomed as altar servers—most commonly serving at the weekend Sunday Masses and Holy Day Masses, but any server may volunteer to serve at the 7:00am daily Mass. Training is provided a number of times each year for those in grades 4 and up. Watch for bulletin notices and lector announcements regarding server training sessions, or call the Parish Center if you are interested in joining in service of the altar.

ART & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

A creative group of parishioners works to keep our worship environment beautiful, in accordance with liturgical guidelines. Not only do they decorate for seasons such as Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, but their artistic talents are contributed year-round. If you have a creative side that you would like to share at any time, please contact the Art & Environment chairperson.

Special occasion decorating is also available for weddings, funerals, etc. If you have decorating needs for a special occasion, please contact the Parish Center to make arrangements.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND ENGINEER

Our parish engineer is responsible for our parish campus's general maintenance and for keeping our plant operating in an efficient and productive manner. Volunteers are encouraged to help with select maintenance activities. To volunteer to help with maintenance, please call the engineer.

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

This special program weaves the truths of our Catholic faith into children ages 3–12 and seeks to foster in them a sense of mystery, wonder, and joy. Specially trained catechists use the parable method of teaching and help the children fall in love with God. The children learn about the sacraments and are introduced to tangible elements of the Mass through use of a miniature altar with a chalice and a paten, which the children can examine in a special room called an atrium. After each parable is presented, the children work with the materials of the parable. As of September 2004, St. Michael's is the only non-Montessori school in all of Minnesota to have and use a Good Shepherd Atrium as part of their religious education program for pre-school through grade 4.

EVANGELIZATION INITIATIVE

The Evangelization Initiative began in the fall of 2004 and is an archdiocesan-wide multi-year effort to make Jesus Christ known and loved in our times by choosing to live out the Gospel in every moment. Parishioners meet in small groups during Lent and proceed through three phases: awakening, transformation/conversion, and witness. This initiative will prepare parishioners to reach out to the unchurched, separated Catholics, and our youth.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Any men or women, age 18 and older, who have been confirmed and are dedicated members of our parish, may help distribute Holy Communion at the weekend Sunday Masses and other Holy Days of Obligation. While ordained men are the “ordinary” (usual) ministers of the Holy Eucharist, lay people are “extra-ordinary” (supplemental) ministers of Holy Communion. They may also provide a most valuable service in helping to distribute Holy Communion to our homebound parishioners and to Catholics in the local nursing homes and assisted living centers, which our parish serves. The Archbishop typically commissions extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion for three-year terms. Please contact the Parish Center if you are interested in becoming an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion.

FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

The Faith Formation Program (also referred to as Religious Ed. or CCD) is for all Catholic children in our parish in grades 1–8 who attend public school. This program assists parents in their primary responsibility in educating their children in the Catholic Faith. The *Faith & Life* textbook series (published by Ignatius Press) is used, as well as Sacred Scripture, liturgy, prayer, and moral virtue. It also includes the sacramental preparation for First Confession (First Reconciliation), First Holy Communion, and Confirmation for all Catholic youth in our parish. Please call the Faith Formation Office in the Parish Center for information on any of these programs.

FALL FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

The Fall Festival Committee is usually chaired by a parishioner couple that appoints event chairpersons from the major parish organizations. Members of the Parish Council, Finance Committee, Altar and Rosary Society, Holy Name Society and Men's Club, Home and School Association, Board of Education, Mission Helpers, and other volunteers meet throughout the year and devote their time and effort in order to ensure a successful Fall Festival the last weekend of September. Contact the Fall Festival Committee chairperson if you are interested in helping with the planning of this event.

FATHERS UNITED IN PRAYER

“Fathers United in Prayer” is a team of men committed to pray the Rosary and the Litany of St. Joseph for the parents, students, teachers, and staff of St. Michael's. They meet the second Saturday of each month during the school year in the church, promptly after the 8:00am Mass. All parishioners are welcome to participate.

FATIMA APOSTOLATE

This group meets in the Church at 5:45pm on Thursdays to pray the Rosary. The Apostolate conducts an all-night prayer vigil on the first Friday of each month at selected parishes throughout the diocese. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Apostolate, or simply wish to join them on Thursdays to pray the Rosary, contact the president.

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

Fellowship Sunday is held on the third Sunday during the months of October through May. After the Sunday Masses, coffee, juice, and rolls are provided in the school cafeteria. The various parish organizations take turns hosting this event. All parishioners are invited to join us for these treats each month on “Fellowship Sunday”.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee meets monthly to discuss parish finances and to formulate long-term financial plans for our parish. Contact the Finance Committee chairperson if you have any questions.

GREETER MINISTRY

Greeters welcome parishioners and guests entering the church for weekend Masses, including the Saturday anticipatory Mass. A single person, a couple, or an entire family can offer this service. Greeters also assist people in making the transition from the noisy, outside world to the quiet, prayerful house of the Lord by opening the doors for them as they enter the church—a very “welcoming” gesture. Greeters take turns according to a schedule, usually for the Mass they plan to attend. If you are interested in joining this ministry, please call the lay pastoral minister.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY & MEN'S CLUB

The Holy Name Society is one of the oldest associations in the Archdiocese. All men in the parish, 18 or older, are eligible for membership. They meet the second Thursday of each month in the Parish Center. The Holy Name Society supports the parish school athletic programs and other youth activities. Please contact the president of the Holy Name Society & Men's Club if you have any questions.

LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY

Our parish's lay pastoral minister is responsible for recruiting and scheduling lectors, servers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, and greeters. The lay pastoral minister is also responsible for visits to our parishioners who are sick, homebound, or in hospice, as well as ministering to Catholics in nursing homes and assisted living centers within our parish boundaries; often these visits are accomplished through the coordination of lay volunteers. The lay pastoral minister is also involved in wakes and funerals. The lay pastoral minister also acts as the head sacristan. To contact the Pastoral Ministry Office, please call the Parish Center.

LECTOR MINISTRY

Lectors read from Sacred Scripture during the Liturgy of the Word, enabling those in attendance to more fully enter into the Sacred Mystery of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. This ministry is open to all, requiring only that they are able to read and speak reasonably well. Lectors take part in the opening and closing processions, as well as reading the Prayers of the Faithful and, at the end of Mass, any special announcements. Lectors are rotated according to a schedule and are assigned for the Mass they usually attend. Training is very simple and short, and will be provided at any convenient time. Contact the lay pastoral minister if you would like to become a lector.

LITURGICAL MUSIC

St. Michael's is blessed with a talented group of musicians and singers. Through their participation as choir members, cantors, accompanists, and instrumentalists, they "make a joyful noise unto the Lord" by leading the sung prayer at the weekend Masses and other special liturgies, such as Holy Day Masses, weddings, and funerals. Students junior high age and older are particularly encouraged to share their gifts whenever possible, but especially during festive celebrations. If you would like to join the liturgical music ministry, please contact the music director.

MARIAN DEVOTIONS

Each week, St. Michael's offers several opportunities for devotions to our Blessed Mother. Please see the weekly bulletin for the current schedule of devotions.

MARKETING COMMITTEE

The Marketing Committee actively promotes church and school events and functions to the parish community and to the community at large. The committee is devoted to changing St. Michael's image in our own eyes and in the eyes of the community. New members and new ideas are always welcome.

MISSION HELPERS

Through various fundraising efforts and the sale of handmade and donated religious goods, the Mission Helpers support the mission of spreading Christ's message both throughout the United States and in our own parish community. Please contact the head of the Mission Helpers if you would like to join their worthwhile effort.

MOMS UNITED IN PRAYER

"Moms United in Prayer" is a group of moms who meet one hour each week to pray for their children and families, school and parish, and teachers and administrators. They meet each Thursday (when school is in session) at 10:00am in the Adoration Chapel. Childcare is provided. If you would like to join them, please contact the head of the Moms United in Prayer.

OUR LADY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT—3rd Order Carmelites

Lay men and women meet the third Sunday of each month for Carmelite spiritual formation. Parishioners interested in learning more about the 3rd Order Carmelites should contact the president of the group.

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council operates in an advisory capacity to our pastor and meets monthly (or more frequently as directed by our pastor). The council members include the pastor, representatives from parish organizations, two youth representatives, and members elected from the parish community at large. For more information about the Parish Council, please contact the Parish Council chairperson.

PARISH TRUSTEES

Our parish has two trustees appointed by the Archbishop who serve on the Parish Corporate Board as trusted advisors to the pastor and assist him in decisions that involve the parish community. If you have any suggestions or concerns regarding parish activities or parish life, feel free to contact one of our trustees.

PERPETUAL ADORATION

St. Michael's Parish is blessed with a Perpetual Adoration chapel. The chapel entrance is located at the north end of the Parish Center building. Since 1992, adoration of Our Lord's Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament has been ongoing 24 hours a day, seven days a week. All of our adorers devote a minimum of one hour per week in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Feel free to stop by anytime to visit with our Lord. If you would like to devote a specific

hour of your time on a regular basis, sign-up is available in the chapel, or you may call the Perpetual Adoration coordinator or the Parish Center.

PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group meets weekly to pray at 9:00am in the Parish Center. For further information or to join, please call the contact person.

PRAYER LINE

The Prayer Line forwards prayer requests through a network of prayer intercessors. If you would like to be a prayer intercessor or submit a prayer request, please call the contact person.

RCIA—Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

St. Michael's offers the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults for (a) unbaptized people wishing to be baptized into the Catholic Church, or (b) non-Catholic Christians wishing to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church. Typically, preparations (formative study) are handled on a one-on-one basis during regularly scheduled appointments with the pastor. When formation is judged sufficient, the candidate will be received into the Catholic Faith at the Easter Vigil. To inquire about becoming Catholic, please contact the Parish Center.

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE & A COMMUNITY CARING FOR LIFE

The Respect Life Committee promotes pro-life activities in our parish and school. They assist the pastor in planning the annual Respect Life Sunday Liturgy. Speakers are brought into the school and the adult education program. They organize a group to attend the January 22 rally at the state capitol. Most years they host an after Sunday Masses fundraiser to support Wakota Life-Care Center. For more information, please call the contact person.

As part of the Archdiocesan "A Community Caring for Life" effort, St. Michael's parish pledges its support to provide immediate practical help to any woman experiencing a difficult pregnancy. Volunteers are needed who can provide meals, car repair, and other services. Wakota Life-Care Center makes occasional referrals to this volunteer group and would like to make more. Spanish-speaking volunteers are especially needed. If you would like to volunteer for this ministry, please call the contact person.

ROSARY MAKERS

These men and women make rosaries for the missions, prisons, and military. They have also supplied rosaries to all youths in the Faith Formation Program each year. They perform a wonderful service and offer rosary making classes in the Parish Center on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm, September through May. To join, please contact the head of the Rosary Makers.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Sacramental preparation for Baptism and Holy Matrimony, as well as funeral arrangements, is handled through the parish office. Please call the Parish Center

to make an appointment with the pastor. Sacramental preparation for First Confession, First Communion, and Confirmation is handled through the Faith Formation Office, which also may be contacted through the Parish Center.

SACRISTANS

Sacristans take care of the liturgical preparations for Mass (i.e., the chalice, the water and wine, hosts, candles, lights, servers, lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, the liturgical books, unlocking and locking the church entrances, etc.). Sacristans also perform these same preparations for funerals, weddings, and other special circumstances as needed. Reliability and liturgical knowledge are essential characteristics of sacristans. Unlike the rotating schedules of other liturgical ministries (greeters, lectors, servers, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion), sacristans perform their service to the church every weekend. If you feel you have the necessary essential characteristics to offer this rather demanding service, please call the lay pastoral minister.

SCOUT PROGRAM

St. Michael's hosts Scout troops in these groups: Boy Scouts (11–17 years old), Cub Scouts (grades 1–5), Girl Scouts (grades 6–8), Junior Girl Scouts (grades 4–5), Brownies (grades 2–3) and Daisy Troop (Kindergarten–grade 1). All of the Scouts meet weekly. Call the Scout Master to learn more about the Boy Scouts (Troop 288) or Scouting in general. If you are interested in joining the Girl Scouts (Troop 2234), Brownies, or Daisy Troop, please contact the Troop Leaders.

\$CRIP PROGRAM

The \$crip program produces several thousand dollars for the school each year. \$crip gift certificates for local and national merchants are sold after each of the weekend Masses and is also available from the Parish Center Monday through Friday. The \$crip program also offers a Visa card application which is available at the \$crip table following weekend Masses.

SUNSETTERS—SENIORS GROUP

Parishioners age 55 and over can join this friendly group of men and women from our parish. They participate in various activities from September through June (except December). The annual membership fee is \$5.00. For further information, please call the contact person.

USHER MINISTRY

The ushers are responsible for supervising the church during weekend Masses, holidays, and other special feast days. They collect the offering, designate gift bearers, and distribute church bulletins and other important information at the conclusion of Masses. If you wish to join the usher ministry, please contact the head usher.

(651) 457-2510

ADMINISTRATION

Pastor and Principal

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

The athletic director oversees all athletic programs in the school. The athletic director's major responsibilities include: hiring and supervising coaching personnel, recording all insurance and necessary medical information, development and administration of athletic policies, equipment purchase and inventory, overseeing the athletic budget, and scheduling all practices and games. The athletic director is supervised and directly responsible to the principal. For information on programs, schedules, etc., call the athletic director.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Six parish members serving staggered three year terms make up the Board of Education. The board meets monthly (except July) and supports and advises the pastor and school principal on matters such as the school budget, curriculum, and marketing the school. Contact the board president for more information.

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The Home and School Association is a collective group of all school parents and teachers. The Association is organized to include a board with six subcommittees reporting to the board. The subcommittees are Spiritual, Hospitality, Uniform, Morale and Appreciation, Welcoming, and Fundraising. Parents or teachers who are interested in serving the school through various volunteer opportunities populate these sub groups. Contact the board president for more information.

ALUMNI OF ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL

St. Michael's School Alumni maintains a database of over 800 names of former students. Please contact them with news, addresses, and changes of address of former students. They will try to provide a class list to anyone who asks. They publish and mail newsletters to alumni and parents and they have sponsored Homecoming Masses and receptions. Alumni and parents are the source of donations to the O'Neill Dudley Endowment Fund. All former students and parents are welcome to participate.

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

"The purpose of St. Michael Catholic School is to continue the work of Jesus and to help children know God's love, so that they can proclaim it through their lives. St. Michael School is a ministry of the parish community dedicated to fostering growth in faith, personal development and learning in each child."

SCHOOL REGISTRATION AND TUITION

Please call St. Michael's School for information, registration forms, and tuition schedules.