

What about those who do not give?

As owner of all things, God entrusts each of us with varied amounts of riches and it is our individual responsibility to be good and wise stewards of these gifts. It is a personal faith decision that each of us must make. Remember – by giving back to God what is already His – you will receive a multitude of blessings! Do not look at what your neighbor is doing as it is not intended that everyone should give the same amount or in the same way; but it is expected that **“...each should give bountifully...”** (For reference see 2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

“As generous distributors of God’s manifold grace, put your gifts at the service of one another, each in the measure received.” (1 Peter 4:10)

What if I don’t agree with how the Church is managing the funds?

Part of the responsibility of the Pastor, Parish Business Administrator, the Trustees, the Finance Committee and the Parish Council, is to ensure that St. Michael Catholic Church is a good steward of its financial gifts. Budgets are set and spending decisions are made through these committees. If you have any concerns you can contact anyone holding these positions.



Duties of the Finance Committee:

Comprised of nine members of the Parish appointed by the Pastor.

Review and recommend a total budget for the parish, oversee income and expenditures, consider parish financing and investments, prepare an annual financial statement and generally acquaint itself with the financial affairs of the parish by working closely with the Parish Administration.

The committee is to initiate ideas for increased giving.

Set up dates and speakers for financial seminars for the Parish.

Set up budget guidelines.

Set one or more Sundays per year aside to inform parishioners as to the financial status and needs of the parish.

Monitor the financial internal controls according to the Archdiocesan recommendations.

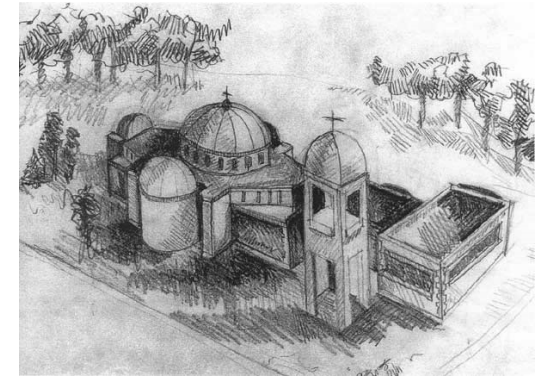
Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month following the 6:30 p.m. mass. These meetings are open to all parishioners.

Thank you for supporting our beautiful church community.

We pray that you find the joy that comes with giving from your heart!

“Give, and it shall be given to you. Good measure pressed down, shaken together, running over.” Luke 6:38

St. Michael Catholic Church



Financial Support of our Parish

“Lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven, for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6:20-21



What does it cost to run the Parish on an annual basis?

Our 2009-2010 General Operation budgeted expenses are:

Church: \$1,380,300
School: \$1,595,250
Youth/Faith Formation: \$207,030
Hot Lunch: \$111,760

The primary source of funding for Church revenue is through your weekly offerings, which account for 88 - 90% of the Church income. Fundraising efforts, primarily the Fall Festival provide approximately 6% of the annual revenue. The remainder comes from various fees for services, etc.

The Church makes investments in St. Michael Catholic School, as well as the Faith Formation and Youth programs. Tuition and fundraising conducted specifically for these programs provide the majority of their revenue, with the remainder coming from the Church operating budget. The parish also provides support for the preservation of our beautiful Historic Church to ensure its continued place in our community. As a parish, we provide insurance cost coverage and administrative support through the general operating budget. Any funds given for a dedicated purpose, such as capital campaign revenue, memorial donations, and dimes for chimes, are allocated to a separate fund and used only for that designated purpose.

“Return to Me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. Yet you say, ‘How must we return?’” Malachi 3:7

How do we, as parishioners, return to God?

At St. Michael, we are called to be a part of our parish family through active participation in the community, sharing of ourselves by giving gifts of time, talent, and treasure. In order to keep its ministries running well, the Church relies entirely on the financial support of its parishioners. The recommended guideline is to tithe by giving 5% to our church through regular weekly offerings, and 5% to other religious organizations or efforts, such as the capital campaign, catholic school tuition, KC’s, or religious orders.

Tithing is a commitment to sharing back 10% of your income with the Lord. The word tithe means “tenth” and was the minimum standard of giving that God expected of the Jewish people in the Old Testament. Tithing is giving to God through the Church, specifically for the purpose of providing for the Church’s divine worship, care of souls and evangelistic/missionary efforts.

Why is this important?

Jesus raised the standard for Christians. He called his disciples to prefer him to all things, and to renounce all they have for the sake of the Gospel (Luke 14:33). As the Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it: “the precept of the detachment from riches is obligatory for entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven (2544).” Tithing is a start. It leads us toward that total gift of all one is and has which is part of the imitation of Jesus Christ and union with him.

“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse ... If you do,” says the Lord Almighty, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Let me prove it to you...” Malachi 3:10

How to start? Decide!

Tithing is not easy, especially in a society that stresses material possessions as a measure of success. In fact, unless you’ve been tithing from the start, it is very hard to start and maintain. Take these steps: Pray, Decide, Plan, Trust. The first step is a realization that giving to God and to the Church is a priority - a spiritual decision that is in direct response to God’s generosity to you. It will require planning and fiscal discipline. Perhaps it will require sacrifice in order for you to prioritize a tithe into your budget along with all your other spending decisions. Trust that tithing is doing what God expects and He will provide for all your needs each day. Try it! **Try to out give God and see what blessings you receive in return!**

“He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury. And He saw a certain poor widow putting in two small copper coins. And He said, “Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all of them; for they all out of their surplus put into the offering; but she out of her poverty put in all that she had to live on.” Luke 21:1-4