

Father Greg Heikkala

St. Michael Catholic Church Annual Report 2019-2020

***“Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction,
persevere in prayer. (Romans 12:12)”***

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

On behalf of our parish staff, committees, and parishioners who have worked to assemble this document, I am pleased to present to you the St. Michael Parish Annual Report 2019-2020. We invite you to take time to review the writings reflecting the many ministries in which our parishioners are active. St. Michael parish is alive and spirit-filled. It is our hope that parishioners and friends will experience a sense of belonging to our parish family. We also thank Diocesan Publications, our bulletin company, for printing this report at no cost.

“Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, and persevere in prayer” (Romans 12:12). This is the theme of our annual report this year. Contributors to the report believe that these words of St. Paul are timely and essential as we move through the long siege of the COVID-19 pandemic. Following several months of enormous upheaval and uncertainty, it is easy to become fatigued and downtrodden. But we are Christians. As Christians, we believe in the one God of love, who remains a constant foundation as we move through life. When we ask in faith, God provides hope, endurance and perseverance. We must do our part, make a return to God, and hold on to these ideals for ourselves and those around us.

Last year, I wrote about our parish and diocesan-wide evangelization efforts as a response to Jesus’ commission to go and make disciples. This did not cease with the pandemic. Over the months, we have witnessed neighbors checking on neighbors, families communicating with loved ones who are ill using technology, outside prayer vigils for parishioners who are ill, and notes of encouragement using snail mail. Despite social distancing, parishioners have found unique ways to

reach out and share their relationship with Jesus. As I write, regular Masses have been celebrated for the past two months, and we are happy to visit with everyone. Please join us in prayers for the healing for our nation and beyond.

We are grateful for Father Brandon Oman, who has served at St. Michael parish for five years. Father Brandon is beginning service as a Chaplain in the Air Force. We will miss him. We are grateful to welcome Father Dustin Larson, who began service with us on July 1, 2020. Father Dustin served his first two years of priesthood at St. Albert the Great parish in Houghton. Please welcome him.

Father Dustin and I are grateful to minister with a committed and dedicated staff, committees, councils, groups, and individuals who make up St. Michael parish. You are in our daily prayers. May we all grow in holiness, and deepen our commitment to follow Jesus. Please pray for us also.

Please take note of the descriptions and images found in these pages. They reflect the many mysterious and evident ways in which God is at work in our lives and our community. We hope that you find a spiritual and enriching home here at St. Michael parish.

May God bless you and your family,

Fr. Greg Heikkala
Pastor

If you are no longer able to make it to Mass, please contact us so that we can bring Holy Communion to you.



Confirmation



Drive By Parade



Harvest Dinner



Altar Society Bazaar



CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

Christian Service and Evangelization Committee

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Our mission statement is: “A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and service to people in need.”

The St. Michael conference has 13 active members. Karen Reese is president, Robert Barton is vice president, Maura Davenport is secretary and Robert Anderson is treasurer. It meets twice monthly to decide on financial requests of our neighbors in need of help with rent or utility bills. Before making financial decisions, a team of two members visits the person or family making the request at their home setting. They also regularly volunteer at the pantry and financial aid office of the society, and collect food at the first Mass of the month, delivering it to the pantry. Several associate members from our parish volunteer in the pantry.

Our parish continues to provide outstanding support for our conference. For FY 2019/2020, we received generous donations from the parish of \$11,063, almost all of which came from the first Mass of the month. During the pandemic, food and other donations are still being collected at the church and delivered to the pantry.

During FY 2019/2020, the society made donations of \$4,500 to the St. Vincent Pantry and distributed \$4,740 to 18 worthy neighbors in need who reside in the St. Michael neighborhood. This was in the form of rent assistance (12) water bills (4) gas/propane (2) and electric bills (1). One of our neighbors received assistance with both gas and water. We also paid dues of \$91.60.

During the COVID-19 quarantine, members have met infrequently via Zoom, have made three donations to neighbors in need, and continued work at the pantry and financial aid office.

In the near future, you will hear of a fund-raising effort beginning in the Marquette district to replace the roof on the St. Vincent de Paul store in Marquette. Approximately \$55,000 will need to be raised across the district to complete this project. Please consider supporting this important project. Members are invited to assist in these works of charity. Please contact Karen Reese (361-1441), Maura Davenport (226-3900), or Bob Barton (273-1772) for more information.

In accordance with the mission and function of the Christian Service and Evangelization Committee (CSEC) and the generosity of the parishioners of St. Michael church, the committee has been able to serve the community through corporal works of mercy, support those in need through the Christian Service Fund, and assist parishioners in identifying worthwhile Christian projects that need our assistance. As part of a tithing parish, the committee is charged with distributing funds to support this mission. The total amount distributed during the 2019-2020 fiscal year was approximately \$18,700. Regular quarterly contributions were made to Bay Cliff Health Camp, the Janzen House, the Care Clinic, Habitat for Humanity, Room at the Inn, The St. Francis Connection Center in Gwinn, Unbound and Catholic Campus Ministry. Additional donations were made to Cross Catholic Outreach, Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly, Companions of Christ the Lamb “Going Deeper” retreat, parish emergency ministry gas cards, and Northern Apostle Radio.

The CSEC has faced several challenges in 2020 related to the coronavirus pandemic. The committee generally participates in multiple evangelization activities, including sponsoring Bible studies, hosting birthday parties monthly for the children of low income families in the Superior Village location, providing lunches for Habitat for Humanity volunteers, and coordinating St. Michael parish’s participation in hosting Room at the Inn (RATI) Homeless Shelter. These activities took place regularly until March 2020 when most were suspended due to state, local, and diocesan directives. Regular committee meetings were also put on hold. The committee has continued to distribute monies as have been available through the parish and looks forward to being able to resume our regular service and evangelization activities as soon as possible.

The committee has nine members in addition to Father Greg. Meetings are normally held monthly on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. New members are welcome. Anyone interested should contact Karen Reese at 361-1441 or Marguerite Adair at 226-2704.

Amazing Parish Team

The St. Michael Amazing Parish Team includes Father Greg, Rob and Diane Noel, Loreene Zeno Koskey, Anne Dehring, and Cindy Ampe. The team now meets on an “as needed basis,” and was the principal team in planning the Parish Evangelization training for parish leaders and staff in February 2020.

Prayer Chain

The mission of the Prayer Chain is to lift all persons up for their specific needs each day. Anyone wanting to put someone on the prayer chain may contact Kay LeDuc (228-9249) or Mary Beth Bullock (226-2242), who then begin the prayer chain request, continuing until all the intercessors are contacted. No one is ever taken off the prayer chain. Only first names are used, and everything is kept confidential by all prayer group members. The prayer requests should be short and specific and may come from any source, not only members of St. Michael parish. The prayer chain currently has seven intercessors.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Since April 2004, the Prayer Shawl Ministry has met to knit shawls for those among us going through difficult times. Being wrapped in a prayer shawl reminds wearers that they are not alone. The parish community holds them in its prayers, and through the parish, God, our loving Father, offers comfort and care. Each year about 50 shawls are distributed. The Shawl Ministry also offers Prayer Patches, a small knitted reminder to help the one who holds it feel closer to God. Members of this ministry remind parishioners that the shawls and patches are not reserved for only a select group, but are for anyone struggling with a loss, family worries, job insecurity, a troubled relationship or health concerns.

Prison Ministry

Marquette Branch Prison has one priest assigned to it – Father Jeff Johnson. He and any volunteers attend to the Catholic services in the two chapels at the prison. One chapel serves the inmates in Level 1 (minimum) security and the second in Level 5 (maximum) security. There are two services weekly: level 5 on Friday mornings at 9:30 a.m., and level 1 on Saturday evenings at 7 p.m. Currently 10-20 men attend the combined services. A Liturgy of the Word with communion is conducted by

a deacon or trained layperson when no priest is available.

Visiting priests include Bishop John Doerfler, Msgr. Michael Steber and Father Dan Moll. The diocese provides monies for subscriptions to The UP Catholic and God’s Word Today and other items, such as rosaries, miscellaneous Catholic pamphlets, seasonal prayer cards, DVDs and booklets. There are several Catholic volunteers that attend the Level 1 services, and two who attend the Level 5 sessions.

Tuesday from 2:30 to 3:30 there is a Catholic Study session to read and discuss the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday Mass (Saturday night). This session occurs every Tuesday in the Level 1 chapel.

Contact Deacon Dennis Maki if you are interested in being a volunteer. Saturday Mass and the scripture study will be open for both male and female volunteers. The Level 5 Mass is open only for males. Lay volunteers will not be required to lead the services.

Communication and Outreach Team

The mission of the team is to increase, encourage or engage new, current and inactive members of the St. Michael community to participate more fully in their faith life and to help foster new members into our parish activities. In addition to this, this group continues to improve the welcome process for new members. This year, the team’s accomplishments included the following:

- Hosting three new member luncheons that welcomed newly registered families. These luncheons provide new members with information about parish groups and volunteer opportunities.
- Coordinating monthly Coffee Hour after Masses.
- Welcoming new members formally at Masses and presenting them with a gift from the parish.
- Contacting all new families, welcoming them and checking if they have questions on the information pack they received and/or inviting them to a parish event, as well.
- Designing and ordering coffee cups with the new parish logo for new member gifts.



UPCSA Cinnamon Roll Sunday



Saint Relics Display: Cross of Christ



Advent Wreath Blessing



Catholic Service Award for Sally Luft



Discipleship Workshop



Father Brandon Reception



Christmas Giving Tree



Live-Streamed Mass



Resurrection Baskets

Ultreya

With the support of Father Greg and past St. Michael pastors, St. Michael continues as the long-time host and primary gathering place of the Marquette County Ultreya—the local community of participants in the Cursillo movement in the Upper Peninsula. Cursillo is an international lay movement in the Catholic Church. Its focus is on living our Christian faith together in friendship with God, with self and with one another. It is about learning to become the people God created us to be and to be light for others on the path of faith. Our local Ultreya usually meets four times per year on the fifth Mondays of the month. Though these large group meetings were suspended this past year, members remain connected through our friendships. They look forward to gathering together again to sing, pray and witness to God alive and at work in our lives. The community is composed of members from many area churches, and St. Michael parishioners are a large and active part of this community. Each member has experienced a three-day Cursillo weekend. On a Cursillo weekend, people from across the Upper Peninsula come together to share time in Christian community and grow deeper in the understanding of their faith and how to live it fully and joyfully in their everyday lives. If you would like to learn more, the local Cursillo-Ultreya contact people are Anne and Terry Dehring.

Respect Life Ministry

The Respect Life Committee started to meet monthly this year (only twice due to COVID-19). It hosted the “A diaper a day for Lent.” The goal was 3500 diapers, and even with public celebrations of the Mass being cancelled, the goal was met. St. Christopher parish of Marquette and St. Mary mission in Big Bay also participated in this event.



FAITH COMMUNITY

Parish Pastoral Council

The council is doing the work for a coordinated approach to evangelization. Before the start of the pandemic, a joint meeting was held with the finance and development committees. During the meeting, the group watched “Outreach to the Unaffiliated,” a video on YouTube. It gives reasons why people have become unaffiliated with their faith and offers insights for

how to bring them back. This video has really given the members of the parish council inspiration in their mission and is recommended to all.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

The Buildings & Grounds Committee meets on an as-needed basis to review maintenance needs of the parish physical structures and grounds and to advise the pastor on questions related to facilities’ maintenance. Usually, the committee assists with organizing a volunteer cleanup of the parish grounds. That group effort was cancelled this spring by the restrictions on assembly.

The committee welcomed new members Ray Hlavaty and Matt Surrell to its ranks and collected contractor proposals for various options and components to an update of the interior décor of the worship space. Restrictions on assembly and use of the church facilities were imposed before final diocesan approval of the project was received and plans are currently on hold. The committee continues to monitor the status of the school building, which now must be maintained without assistance from the school board or diocese. Several options for use of the space by groups from outside the parish are being investigated. Every attempt is made to be good stewards of the physical plant that supports the parish’s spiritual life.

Development Committee

Formed in 2003, the Development Committee has been charged with many different projects. These include directing our very successful UPCSA (Upper Peninsula Catholic Services Appeal) campaign in conjunction with Cinnamon Roll Weekend, which has become a very popular event. A huge thank you to all of the parishioners who make those delicious rolls.

This past year the committee held a Ministry Fair in the Gathering Space promoting the many committees that have been active in our church. Members attended the All Parish Leadership Meeting and presented a brief description of the Development Committee projects. The group also kept pushing for a TV in the Gathering Space that would be able to scroll all the many activities that take place at St. Michael Parish.

In March, the group convened a three-committee meeting with Pastoral and Finance Council members and compiled a 10-year parish demo-

graphic and financial comparison to review together. With a 23 per cent drop in the number of contributing families in the last 10 years, members want to work together as concerned lay leaders, supporting our pastor and associate pastor, to effectively meet the needs of our parishioners and faith community.

Art and Environment Committee

The Art and Environment Committee has been doing several things to bring beauty to our church throughout the year. For the annual Blessing of the Pets Mass, members set up a backdrop for attendees to have their picture taken with their pet that included a statue of St. Francis of Assisi. For Christmas, new updated décor was purchased for our wreaths and all were redecorated. During the time that our church was not available for public Mass because of COVID-19, the picture of Mary was decorated during the month of May when we celebrate Mary, and this was visible on the live-stream of Mass. Also, because of the pandemic, the usual First Communion picture couldn't be a group picture, so an attractive backdrop was set up for special individual picture taking.

Because of the pandemic, the Easter season was very unusual. The palms for Palm Sunday were distributed by being placed in a box outside so that people could pick them up individually, because there was no Mass. The entire Holy Week services and Easter Mass were not open to the public, as well as most of the Masses for the Easter season. Therefore, only a minimal amount of decorating and flowers was arranged at the end of the season when members could once again enter the church. The Paschal candle was done this year by Kendra Youren, who used her amazing artistic talent to decorate the candle with a beautiful icon of the Blessed Virgin.

Liturgical Ministry/ Music Ministry

Our parish continues to become better acquainted with the diocesan hymnals. Many of the hymns in the hymnal are new to parishioners, so the choir directors are continuing to add them into the liturgical music. We have received permission from the diocese to sing a small number of hymns not in the hymnal. Our parish has purchased a subscription to ONE LICENSE, which gives us permission to print approved music in a worship aid as well as live-stream our Masses. We will continue

to incorporate some of our approved, beloved hymns in a worship aid as soon as we are allowed to have congregational singing (restriction of COVID-19). Loreene Zeno Koskey continues to accompany and lead liturgical music for the Sunday 8 a.m. Mass. Debbie Carlson, who led the music for the Saturday 4 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. Masses, resigned her positions June 30, 2019, and her position has been filled by Mary Ganfield. Anna Martin, accompanist, left in August 2020 to pursue further education out of state. Juliana Patselas has been hired in Anna's place.

The liturgical ministry team is a dedicated group of parishioners who serve in the following areas of parish ministry: Mass coordinator, lector, extraordinary minister of Communion, altar server, usher, greeter, coffee barista and parish registrar. All new parishioners are invited to join one of these ministry roles. Members look forward to resuming these ministries once we are virus free and can open our parish to pre-virus worship.

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee, whose members include Father Greg, Deacon Dennis Maki and parishioners, meets six-eight times a year to plan and review liturgies. The committee continues to grow in understanding of liturgical worship by dedicating a portion of its meeting to review of The Sourcebook, a resource for pastoral liturgy. It also serves as a resource for transitioning to the new diocesan hymnal. New and ongoing liturgies are: Blessing of the Pets, Mass of Remembrance, Celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe with a bilingual Mass, purchase of bilingual hymnals and Advent and Lent Parish Novenas. Please contact Cindy Ampe if you are interested in serving on this committee.

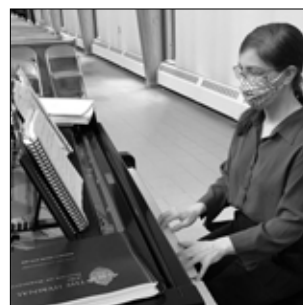
RCIA

St. Michael currently does not have an RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) team. Prior years' members have been unassembled due to the inactivity of interest. The virus shutdown resulted in the cancellation of meetings at the parish, including the RCIA sessions, as well as the public celebration of the Easter Vigil.

Effective on January 1, 2020, and with Father Greg's approval, Deacon Dennis has stepped down from directing the RCIA program. He will still be available to serve on the team and assist the next director as needed.



Mini March for Life



Music Ministry



Outdoor Adoration Procession



Faith Formation Teen Group



May, Mary's Month



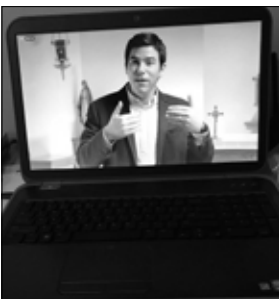
Campus Ministry at NMU Fall Fest



Masking Up



Harvest Dinner



Virtual Parish Mission with Dominick Albano



St. Vincent Food Collection

Contact the parish office if you know of anyone who is interested in becoming Catholic or is an already baptized Catholic but needs the other sacraments of Initiation (Reconciliation or Confirmation).

Contact the parish office if you have an interest in directing the RCIA Ministry or serving on the RCIA team. No prior experience is required.

Adult Faith Formation

There are several Cursillo groups (women and men) that meet on a regular basis throughout the year. A small group of parishioners met between the 8 and 11 a.m. Sunday Masses to participate in DVD-based Catholic education programs. A women’s bible study group meets weekly during the school year. Twenty people signed up for the first year of a monthly three-year Bible Study of the Acts of the Apostles. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the last two sessions of the year were conducted via Zoom.

Catholic Campus Ministry

Distance can’t stop Campus Ministry! Students were still taking classes online, and our programming at CCM, while definitely different, hasn’t stopped. In an ingenious twist, Father Brandon Oman took to Zoom, a multi-user video conference program, to continue to host our Food For Thought program: Lunch Time Snack edition. Instead of the usual parishioner-provided meal in the evening, each student “zoomed-in” during lunch hour. Father Brandon delivered an engaging talk entitled “Be not Afraid” and discussed with the students how to face these unprecedented times with strength and faith in Christ. Students even had a guest speaker: Bishop John Doerfler. They really seemed to enjoy this platform for interacting. Finally, no one had the excuse of having classes at the same time as Food for Thought.

Sacramental Life

During this year, 13 children of our parish celebrated their First Reconciliation on Dec. 11, 2019. These same children celebrated their First Eucharist on June 14, 2020 at a separate Mass attended by only their families and special guests. Two high school boys were confirmed at a Mass for them and their families and special guests on July 1, 2020. Father Greg presided. Seventeen baptisms and six weddings were celebrated at St. Michael Parish, and 10 funeral Masses, as well as five funeral home prayer services, were done by our priests.

Altar Linen Ministry

Each week one of twelve volunteers launders and meticulously irons the linens used during the Masses. These volunteers perform their ministry in the quiet of their homes. Although this ministry is only a small part of each Mass, it is essential for the Masses offered for the St. Michael community.



HOSPITALITY

Altar Society

Members of the Altar Society work together to provide hospitality to families who come to the parish for funerals and other events. The group normally has two major fundraising events each year: the Fall Bazaar and Luncheon and the Spring Bake Sale. Funds provide supplies for Mass, including the wine and hosts; supplies and equipment for the Zryd Parish Center and kitchen; support of an elderly woman through UNBOUND; annual calendars; cards and gifts for shut-ins and other needs as they arise.

Members usually gather for three annual meals: the Mother-Daughter Dinner, Christmas Luncheon and Spring Luncheon. The society purchased new round tables and tablecloths for the parish center. It also had the priests’ vestments cleaned and purchased new altar cloths for the main altar and the chapel. The group donated funds to the Faith Formation program for the teen students. It also donated to the seminarian endowment and the Finkbeiner family as it donates to the bazaar. No spring bake sale was held because of COVID-19. The group is still not sure about the annual bazaar because of COVID-19, but it is going to do the raffle if possible. Society meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 1 p.m. All women of the parish are invited to be members or help with various events and activities.

Men’s Club

The club had one fundraising event: a Pancake Breakfast on the last Sunday in October. This year the men sponsored two Catholic Campus Ministry Food For Thought dinners, one in the fall and one in the spring.

Knights of Columbus

Knights of Columbus, Msgr. Nolan McKeivitt, Council 689 with over 215 members, serves both St. Michael parish and St. Peter Cathedral. The KofC has more than 17,000 councils active worldwide. From the moment of its founding in 1882, charity has been the first principle of the Knights of Columbus. Members are Catholic men of faith, charitable action and focused on their families.

Locally, KofC Council 689 in 2019-2020 raised and distributed nearly \$30,000 to support seminarian education, Catholic Campus Ministry, Fr. Marquette Catholic Academy, WNOA Catholic Radio underwriting, and to run a 48-hour softball tourney in the Dome, raising almost \$10,000 for Special Olympics. Knights will continue to support WNOA with a \$100 per month tithe. In addition, the group donated 48 "Coats for Kids," raised more than \$5,000 for the Care Clinic, made direct support to seminarians and of course, supported ministries at St. Michael's.



CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Elementary Faith Formation

Our Elementary Faith Formation Program was small but mighty this year. The program included grades PreK-5th grade. On average, 10 children attended each week. It was run by one catechist with two assistants from Catholic Campus Ministry. Ashley Maves became the new director of Elementary Faith Formation in January, when Emily Fust stepped down.

Slight changes were made to the program in January. The ministry added a music time that took place in the sanctuary and was led by Anna Martin; the plan was to sing in church in the Spring but that was cancelled due to COVID-19. Members also started a new curriculum in January. They hoped to team up with the teen group for some extracurricular family activities, but again, those had to be cancelled. The program came to an end in the last weekend of February due to the governor's stay-at-home order. It was cancelled the previous weekends due to illness in the group.

Faith Formation Teen Group

Our Faith Formation Team added a new element last school year with the addition of the Teen Group. This group offered a multi-faceted approach to Faith Formation for youth in 6th-12th grades. A regular group met weekly on Wednesdays. Using a hands-on approach, this group explored faith-based topics in a fun, creative way, using local speakers, crafts, games and videos. Topics explored included the sacraments, the saints, Catholic social teachings, and prayer. Service projects supporting the Harbor House and other parish groups were also done. The teens also gathered on Sundays for social fun monthly. Activities included taco night, Mardi Gras, bowling, lugging, pizza and movie nights and dodge ball.

Father Marquette Catholic Academy

It is safe to say that we will never forget the 2019-2020 school year. The staff is thankful for the many blessings throughout the year and will forever remember the announcement of the school closures due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). With this announcement came fear, confusion, and difficulties. However, through these challenges all found hope, strength and a deeper faith. Thankfully, ours is a tight-knit community, a family, and one important lesson of many that will be taken away from the 2019-2020 school year is that with faith we can persevere through anything.

It is the teachers and staff that ensure the atmosphere at FMCA is welcoming, nurturing and Christ-centered, allowing for a family-like feel. There is a recognizable balance between high standards and grace. Thanks to the teachers and staff, all children participate in classroom life and are always challenged to grow spiritually and intellectually, as faith and academics are the cornerstones of our school. Additionally, our FMCA teachers quickly and efficiently switched to virtual teaching in March of 2020, and they deserve a huge round of applause for their hard work, dedication, knowledge and care.

FMCA will continue to strive to deliver top-notch spiritual and social care and rigorous education for all students and looks forward to a very bright and faithful future with our current families and anyone who joins us along the way.

Only One Thing is Necessary....

Children's Liturgy of the Word

The Children's Liturgy of the Word ("CLOW"-rhymes with glow) is a special gathering of children of our parish, led by adults trained in the safety of children. It is for kindergartners through 5th graders, at the 11:00 a.m. Mass on the first Sunday of the calendar month. Four-year olds can attend with a parent or older sibling. The children are dismissed after the Collect prayer and learn at their own level, with the First Reading and Psalm, often read by our future lectors, and the Gospel reading, homily, a profession of faith and prayer intentions, and return to the assembly before the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

To comply with COVID-19 recommendations, the children will process to and from the Zryd Parish Center with social distancing in their lines, and will be seated six feet apart, except for those from the same household. The sharing of crayons and other supplies will be avoided and surfaces will be disinfected before and after use. The children will not be Gift Bearers as in the past.



Cursillo Group



*Catholic Campus Ministry-
Ash Wednesday*

St. Michael Catholic Church
Annual Report 2019-2020
Produced by the Annual Report Committee

First Reconciliation



Respect Life Ministry Mini March for Life



Father Marquette Catholic Academy Ski Hill Trip



Pajama Day

