



St. Michael THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Dear Michaelonians,

I hope that you have become aware that our parish has embarked upon an Increased Offertory Program in an effort to increase our weekly offertory. In the short time since this program was announced, I have been encouraged by the response made by our parishioners.

The success of this program relies on our willingness as parishioners to re-examine our current level of giving and then make a commitment to a new level of weekly parish support. Giving to the parish is an offering of faith through the spirit of sacrifice. But giving is also a practical matter; it is the only way our parish can maintain our current level of service to the community, as well as prepare for our future needs. We have chosen to conduct this program with one thought in mind: that, above all, our parish exists to serve God and provide for the spiritual welfare of all our parishioners. I ask for your help in this effort.

While I am not aware of your current financial situation, I ask that you consider making a commitment to increase your weekly offering to our parish. On the back of this letter you will find a chart that can help guide you in your giving. We are hoping that everyone will increase their average weekly giving by moving over one or two columns to the right on the chart. After you have had the time to prayerfully consider this important request, I ask that you indicate your decision by completing the Commitment Card enclosed and returning the card to the parish during any one of the Masses on Commitment Weekend, October 28/29. (OR feel free to return it at a time that is most convenient for you or at any Mass in the collection.)

We also recognize that for some, giving to the parish might be an entirely new endeavor. If you have never committed to a weekly giving amount, please consider making that commitment. The spiritual benefits of sacrificing our wealth as an offering to God are continually attested to in sacred scripture. When we give our wealth away in support of God's work, we interiorly create a disposition in ourselves that prioritizes the spiritual over the material – a lesson the saints teach us. When we give, we are separated from the fear which is financial stress and learn to trust in God's providence. This gives us more interior freedom, and, thus, more joy. And that is what we all ultimately want.

For those more comfortable in the computer age, our parish has established an electronic funds-transfer system as a vehicle to receive your offertory commitment. If you would like to have your parish support automatically deducted from a bank account or credit card, please indicate this on the Commitment Card and check out our parish website under "Give." It is simple, easy, automatic and easy to adjust at any time!

It is my hope that this program will strengthen our parish and give us each the ability to say, ***"St. Michael is truly MY parish."*** Above all, I pray that you will see your contribution as a matter of faith – a way to return something to the Lord in gratitude for His goodness. I am grateful for all that you do to make our parish a vibrant Catholic community. You are all in my prayers every day!

God Bless,