



Father Greg Heikkala

# St. Michael Catholic Church

## Annual Report

### 2017-2018

*“Following in Bishop Baraga’s Snowshoes”*

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

On behalf of our parish staff, committees and parishioners who have worked hard to assemble this document, I am pleased to present to you the St. Michael Parish Annual Report 2017-2018. Please take the time to review the variety of descriptions and images that reflect the many ways in which our parishioners are active and involved in the life of St. Michael Parish. It is our hope that parishioners and friends gain a sense of belonging in our parish family. We also thank Diocesan Publications, our bulletin company, for printing this report at no cost to us.

“Following in Bishop Baraga’s Snowshoes” is the theme of our report this year. Bishop Baraga is the first bishop of the Diocese of Marquette, and his remains are publicly accessible for private veneration in a special chapel located at St. Peter Cathedral. We are proud that Bishop Baraga was declared Venerable by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012.

Baraga left his homeland of Slovenia and arrived in New York in 1830, and then in Cincinnati in 1831 where he ministered among German immigrants and studied the Ottawa language. Baraga spoke and wrote fluently in eight languages and even his diary entries included several languages. In 1837, he published his first written book in the Ottawa language that included a Catholic catechism and prayer book.

Bishop Baraga traveled extensively and established missions in the Great Lakes region. After founding a mission at L’Anse, he earned the nickname “the Snowshoe Priest,” because he would travel hundreds

of miles each year on snowshoes during the harsh winters. Baraga worked tirelessly to protect Indian rights and to celebrate the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and the Holy Eucharist. He would even risk his life in poor weather to attend to people who were ill and dying.

The Baraga Education Center, located in Marquette, is being developed and will become a pilgrimage destination for all who learn of and pray to Bishop Baraga. May we follow in the footsteps of Bishop Baraga, who followed in the way of Christ our Lord. May our efforts inspire others and bring them closer to the Life of Christ.

Father Brandon and I are grateful to minister with a spirit-filled and dedicated staff, committees, councils, groups, and individuals who make up St. Michael Parish. May we all grow in holiness and become spirit-filled evangelizers in the name of our Lord Jesus. Please know that you are in our daily prayers.

Please take the time to review the descriptions and images found on these pages. They reflect the many mysterious and evident ways in which God’s grace is at work in our lives of faith. We hope that you find a spiritual home at St. Michael Parish.

God bless,

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.*



*Prayer Patches*



*Lady of Fatima Statue*



*Amazing Parish Team*



*Tuesday Bible Study*



## **CHRISTIAN OUTREACH**

### ***Society of St. Vincent de Paul***

Through monthly collections at Masses and memorial donations (\$12,454), the society provided support to our neighbors in need.

2017-18 Highlights for the St. Michael Conference are:

- Successfully recruited new members for the conference in September.
- Provided leadership for improving the interview process for those asking for financial assistance.
- Greatly improved the quantity and quality of home visits to our friends in need.

Our goals for the coming year include recruiting volunteers to help with the work of St. Vincent de Paul (pantry, store, and St. Michael Conference) and educating our membership on the rich history and legacy of the Society.

Our St. Michael Conference meets Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. (first, third and fifth Wednesdays) in the Zryd Center. New members are welcome. Call Karen Reese (361-1441) or Maura Davenport (226-3900) for more information.

### ***Christian Service and Evangelization Committee***

The primary purpose of the Christian Service and Evangelization Committee is to provide leadership to the parish community in serving the needs of the parish and neighboring community through corporal works of mercy. This is primarily achieved through donating funds from the Parish Tithe Fund (5 per cent of our weekend collections). The total amount distributed in 2017-18 was \$23,597.

Contributions were made to Bay Cliff Health Camp, Care Clinic, Janzen House, Habitat for Humanity, Room at the Inn, St. Vincent de Paul Pantry and Prescription Fund, St. Francis Connection in Gwinn, Unbound, Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly, Marygrove Retreat Center, Catholic Charities USA for hurricane relief, Catholic Campus Ministry, Divine Infant Living Center (a home for the elderly in Ironwood), Friends of Haiti, and Sisters of St. Paul for their works of charity.

In addition, the Committee:

- Promoted volunteerism with the Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly organization.
- Coordinated our hosting of Room at the Inn.
- Offered a seven-week "Introduction to the Bible" series.
- Offered a four-week Bible study for Advent ("The Infancy Narratives of Jesus").
- Offers a weekly Bible sharing on Tuesday mornings, beginning with Mass at 9 a.m., followed by a continental breakfast and Bible sharing until 10:30 a.m.
- Hosted monthly birthday parties for the children of low-income families in the Superior Village location.

The committee could do much more if it had more members. Anyone interested should call Karen Reese at 361-1441 or Marguerite Adair at 228-2704.

### ***Amazing Parish Team***

The St. Michael Amazing Parish Team includes Father Greg, Anne Dehring, Rob and Diane Noel, Loreene Zeno Koskey, Charles and Emily Fust and Cindy Ampe. The three goals of the Amazing Parish Program are to have a passion for evangelization and discipleship, commitment to a healthy organization, and reliance on prayer and Sacraments. The team meets every two weeks to pray as a team, discuss our parish Sunday experience (the best opportunity to reach the greatest number of parishioners) and to prayerfully look for areas of improvement. The team's primary goal this past year was to develop our Parish Evangelization Plan. The development process included the team and several parishioners attending a diocesan training, bringing parishioners together on two occasions to develop goals based on Bishop John's plan, and using parish input to submit our plan to the diocese by May 2018. Our parish plan was recognized by the diocese as one of the outstanding plans submitted. The team is now working on sharing the plan with our parish and assisting parishioners in steps to meet our goals.

### ***Prayer Chain***

The mission of the Prayer Chain is to lift each person up for his or her 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 10 intercessors.

### ***Prayer Shawl Ministry***

Since April of 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 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. This year the Shawl Ministry began offering Prayer Patches, a small knitted reminder to help the one who holds it feel God's presence. Members of this ministry remind parishioners that the shawls and patches are not reserved for only a select group, but 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, and level 1 on Saturday evenings at 7. 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. This Easter season, two men received the sacraments from our bishop.

The prison ministry has several priests who celebrate the Mass: Father Jeff, Bishop John, Msgr. Michael Steber, Father Aaron Nowicki, and Father Brandon Oman. Several lay people volunteer at this time, and more are welcome—you will not be required to lead the services.

This year members added a Catholic Study session, which happens every Tuesday from 5:30 to 6:30 in Level 1. The upcoming Sunday's scripture readings are discussed, with a learning guide: "Outline of the Catholic Faith." Contact Deacon Dennis Maki if interested in being a volunteer.

### ***Respect Life Ministry***

The Respect Life Committee is more or less ad hoc. The group did not meet this year as it did not fit into the members' schedules. The committee will reconvene in September. One of the ministry's activities, the mini-march for life, did take place this year.



## ***FAITH COMMUNITY***

### ***Parish Pastoral Council***

The Pastoral Council is made up of nine parishioners (bylaws were recently changed to include eight adults and one young adult), as well as the pastor and associate pastor. The primary role of the Council is to advise the pastor and associate in the pastoral care of the parish, providing vision for the future and direction for the apostolic works of the Church.

St. Michael Parish is blessed with many parishioners who commit themselves to our various committees. A new committee has been formed for Emergency Preparedness to handle any critical incidents that may occur, including use of an AED. The Parish Council provides a liaison to each of these committees, for the exchange of information and coordination of efforts.

The parish facility has been rewired for public and secure WiFi. The Pastoral Council approved placement of a message board via a TV monitor in the Gathering Space. An update on the changes made in response to the Indicators of Vitality Survey has been published in the bulletin. The Pastoral Council led the project for a permanent coffee kiosk for weekend coffee socials and an information desk in the Gathering Space. It approved an External Communications Policy for disseminating information on behalf of the parish. The Pastoral Council has written and approved Rules of Facility Usage for the parish center. Parishioners may voice their ideas and concerns to Pastoral Council members at any time.

### ***Buildings and Grounds Committee***

The Buildings & Grounds Committee worked with the Father Marquette Catholic Academy administration to address building security, littering, vandalism, and neighborhood disturbance issues associated with weekend



*Palm Sunday Procession*



*Holy Thursday*



*New Information Desk*



*Gospel of John Bible Study*



*Project Backpack*



*Judy Boyle receives  
Catholic Service Award*



*Tacos and Tenebrae*



*Bishop Baraga Display*

and late evening use of the basketball court on the school playground, particularly during the summer months. The agreed upon solution was off-site summer storage of the backboards and nets. A picnic table was also added to the playground during the school year. Volunteers also undertook beautification of the south entrance to the church building, repairing landscaping and painting doors, windows and other trim.

Last summer a risk management inspection of the facilities was conducted by a representative of the parish's liability insurance carrier. The resulting report listed a few recommendations. Among the follow-up items addressed were installation of additional supports for the fire sprinkler system in the second floor of the parish center and installation of a code compliant power supply for the window air conditioner in the Zryd Center kitchen. Also, following the inspection, a video recording was made of the parish buildings, grounds, equipment and furnishings. This inventory will be updated periodically for insurance purposes.

One of the more visible projects undertaken during the year involved the replacement of rotting trim boards and windows in the chapel walls. The new windows are expected to help with energy bills, as are the complete cleaning of two of the four boilers and extensive repairs performed to the steam heat system that serves much of the parish campus. The work on the heating system qualified the parish for a \$6,000 energy conservation rebate. The committee is also exploring options for modification of the heating system to address possible changes in the use of the school building.

Recommendations on repainting of the nave, carpeting to cover worn flooring behind the altar, and the future of the rose window supported above the altar are being sought from Affiliated Artists, a firm specializing in ecumenical décor. The committee has also obtained quotations for replacement of gathering space lighting and nave ceiling fans with damaged wiring and authorized these repairs.

### ***Development Committee***

After a very successful Upper Peninsula Catholic Services Appeal (UPCSA) Campaign and Cinnamon Roll Weekend, the Development Committee transitioned into working toward a Diocesan Seminarian Event. Deacon Dustin Larson (now Father Dustin Larson) was our featured speaker. He walked the attendees through a seminarian's life, a very inspiring eye opening presentation.

The Development Committee participated in a New Parishioner Welcome in January after the 10:30 a.m. Mass. The committee members attended the Leadership Meeting that sought input for the St. Michael Parish Evangelization Plan, which is part of the diocesan-wide effort promoted by Bishop John Doerfler. We invited Lenora McKeen, executive director of the Bishop Baraga Association, to our weekend Masses in April to bring our parish up to date on the capital campaign for the development of the Bishop Baraga Educational Center. In May, the committee hosted an Estate Planning Seminar with talks by Tami Seavoy, Deacon Scott Jamieson, and Mark Canale.

Our committee members attended the Hospitality Lecture Series held in May and conducts the 2018 Upper Peninsula Catholic Services Appeal Campaign and Cinnamon Roll Weekend in autumn.

### ***Art and Environment Committee***

The Art and Environment committee again worked on keeping the church decorated for the various seasons.

The Cathedral had a special celebration in January for 150 years since the death of our first bishop, the venerable Bishop Baraga. For the Christmas season, St. Michael displayed his picture and used snowshoes (because he's known as the snowshoe priest) as part of our decorations. Displayed were three pairs of snowshoes, one in the front of the church with his picture, one near the middle on the wood beams and the third at the entryway. Many positive comments were received on the snowshoes.

The Paschal candle was decorated by Bernie Park this year. His artistic ability and creativity are evident in the inspiring fashion in which it was decorated.

### ***Liturgical Music Ministry***

The St. Michael Liturgical Music Committee, consisting of the choir directors, accompanists and pastoral assistant for liturgy, meets twice a year with our pastor and associate pastor to plan parish seasonal and special liturgical celebrations. This committee also evaluates past liturgies for enhancement opportunities and to incorporate any diocesan recommendations for future liturgical celebrations.

Choir Directors Loreene Zeno Koskey and Debbie Carlson remained the same for this year. Anna Martin is accompanist for the Sat-



urday 5 p.m. and Sunday 10:30 a.m. Masses. The choirs come together to provide liturgical music for Holy Week and other special liturgies. Our "Resurrection Choir" continues to volunteer to sing and be a support for our St. Michael parish families during funeral Masses.

Several choir members sang in the Cathedral Concert this May which presented hymns that will be in the new Diocesan Hymnal. The new hymnals will arrive this fall and will start being used the First Sunday of Advent, Dec. 2, 2018. The new hymnal will include the three-year cycles of readings, hymns, some Mass settings, psalm settings and antiphons. The parish will still be able to sing the Mass settings and psalms not in the hymnal that are familiar to our parishioners.

### ***Liturgical Ministry***

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 the Eucharist, altar server, usher, greeter, coffee barista and parish registrar. Several of these volunteers have also taken on serving coffee after all of our Masses, which has been much appreciated by our parishioners. All new parishioners are invited to become part of this ministry when they join the parish. The goal for this year will be to have a Liturgical Ministry Workshop morning where the Parish Emergency Plan will be explained and attendees will be provided an opportunity to attend a training in their ministry. Please contact Cindy Ampe, pastoral assistant for liturgy, if interested in learning about this ministry.

### ***Worship Committee***

The Worship Committee, chaired by Cindy Ampe, pastoral assistant for liturgy, along with 10 members plus Pastor Greg Heikkala and Deacon Dennis Maki, meets six-eight times per year. The Worship Committee's focus is to "enhance the spiritual life of St. Michael's parish family by directing the preparation of and the substance of our liturgical celebrations to promote the active participation of our entire parish family to glorify God during all liturgical celebrations." The committee continues to grow in understanding of liturgical worship by dedicating a portion of its meetings to review of The Sourcebook, a resource for Pastoral Liturgy.

Some accomplishments are: planning and reviewing parish liturgical celebrations, includ-

ing Blessing of the Pets, Mass of Remembrance and all liturgical seasonal liturgies; sharing reflections on Mass readings with Father Greg to consider for his homily preparation; leading the process to have the Baptismal Font filled with water for weekend liturgies; and assisting with the planning and preparation for the Women and Men's Days of Reflection. This committee is open to parishioners who would like to learn more about liturgy and assist with liturgical celebrations.

### ***RCIA***

St. Michael currently has a Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) team, which is composed of Cathy Savelle, Mary Rule, Father Brandon Oman (NMU only), Paulette Hytinen, and Dennis and Mary Maki. An additional guest is Sally Luft. This past season the team had no candidates to prepare to receive the sacraments at the Easter Vigil. The NMU Campus Ministry Center also had no candidates.

This is a yearlong ministry. Inquirers meet with the director (Deacon Dennis Maki) individually in the summer and advance to the RCIA sessions if ready. Weekly RCIA meetings start in September and conclude after the Easter Vigil. Should there be no candidates or catechumens, the team still meets on a limited basis and offers an adult faith formation program known as Catholic Topics.

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

### ***Adult Faith Formation***

Many Adult Faith Formation efforts this year were a continuing response to a parish survey through which parishioners indicated the need for more faith formation opportunities. Several parishioners have taken part in the St. Michael Parish retreat in September at Marygrove, along with parishioners from neighboring parishes. Twelve St. Michael parishioners also made Men's and Women's Cursillo weekends at Marygrove and returned with a renewed spirit to witness to Christ. A Women's Day of Reflection was presented in November by Mary Sellars Malloy, and women from our parish and beyond engaged in scripture, prayer, sharing and Mass. A Men's Day of Reflection was presented in February by Dominick Albano. Many books, CDs and pamphlets are available on the education cart in the gathering space.



*Altar Society Christmas Lunch*



*Stewardship and Estate Planning Workshop*



*AED Training*



*Campus Ministry helps Knights of Columbus in Tootsie Roll Drive*



*Totus Tuus  
Summer Program*



*Boy Scouts  
With Men's Club*



*Confirmation*



*Independence Day Parade*



*Middle School Musicians*

St. Michael is home to many parishioner groups that gather for prayer, study, and discussion on timely books. Family faith groups, follow-up groups, and efforts for young adults are encouraged. The parish is also happy to partner with other parishes and publicize faith formation opportunities. Looking ahead, Father Greg has asked our committees and groups to revisit Bishop John's Pastoral Letter on Evangelization and refer to it as a roadmap for present and future evangelization efforts. As Catholics, we want to witness our faith and invite others to follow Jesus our Lord.

### ***Catholic Campus Ministry***

Catholic Campus Ministry's (CCM) purpose is to guide young adults in building relationships with Jesus, His Church and one another. Bishop John Doerfler's vision for evangelization in the Diocese of Marquette—be a friend of Jesus, make a friend, and introduce that friend to Jesus—is the model members practice. This is a family centered on Christ, desiring others to share in its joy.

New Knights of Columbus! This year eight of our CCM men joined the K of C and got involved with the Tootsie Roll Drive and the Care Clinic dinner at St. Peter Cathedral.

### ***Sacramental Life***

Twenty-two infants were baptized at St. Michael Parish last year, and 15 children made their First Confession and First Holy Communion. Four couples were married at our parish, and thirty funerals were celebrated.



## ***HOSPITALITY***

### ***Room at the Inn***

This past year, Room at the Inn had one of the best seasons in a long time. Coordinators Michelle Fortunato and Miguel Valenzuela welcomed new parishioners as volunteers, sent a daily email update during the week at our parish and performed a feedback session at the end of the season. Thanks go to the great helpers behind the scenes like Karen Reese, Denise Herron, Pat Geoffrion, the Men's Club and the office staff. Special thanks for the volunteers that sacrificed their personal time to attend such a great charity mission right in our par-

ish. Many homeless guests expressed great appreciation for the hospitality of the volunteers and the nicely prepared meals at our parish. During 2017-2018, Room at the Inn served 124 unduplicated guests, provided 2,966 bed nights and 24,000 meals and amassed 20,000 volunteer hours.

### ***Altar Society***

The Altar Society of St. Michael Parish is open to all women of the parish. Members work together to provide hospitality to families who come to the parish for funerals and other parish events. The women have 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, plus supplies and equipment for the Zryd Parish Center and kitchen, as well as for support of an elderly woman through UNBOUND, annual calendars, cards and gifts for shut-ins and other needs. Funds also pay for cleaning chairs in the Zryd Center.

Members gather for three annual meals: Mother-Daughter Dinner, Christmas Luncheon and Spring Luncheon. This year members decided to establish a recognition scholarship for one outstanding graduating student at Father Marquette Catholic Academy. A plaque was purchased and given to the academy to include the name of each award winner in future years. The student received a small plaque and \$100. This award matches what the Men's Club has been doing for many years. Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 1 p.m. All women are welcome to attend the meetings and/or help with various events and activities.

### ***Men's Club***

The club has two fundraising events: a Pancake Breakfast on the last Sunday in October and a French Toast Breakfast on the third Sunday in March. The men are now sponsoring two Catholic Campus Ministry Food For Thought dinners, one in the fall and one in the spring. The club also provides snacks for Room at the Inn guests.

### ***Knights of Columbus***

Knights of Columbus Msgr. Nolan McKevitt Council 689, with over 215 members, serves both St. Michael Parish and St. Peter Cathedral. Locally, K of C Council 689 in 2017-2018



raised and distributed nearly \$40,000 to support seminarian education, Catholic Campus Ministry and Father Marquette Catholic Academy's new Catholic history books. The council donated a state-of-the art Ultrasound machine to The Care Clinic of Marquette, which has already documented lives saved. It will continue to support WNOA Catholic Radio, "Coats for Kids," Special Olympics and Christians in the Middle East Emergency Fund and of course, daily ministries at St. Michael.

You will see Knights serving the Lord and His Church as priests, eucharistic ministers, ushers, music ministers and of course as devoted husbands and fathers.

Please consider joining the Knights of Columbus to expand your opportunities to serve our parish, make new friends, strengthen your faith and be an evangelizing and energized Catholic. Visit [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org) or [www.knights.net](http://www.knights.net) or contact the parish office.



## **CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

### ***Faith Formation And Confirmation***

Faith Formation at St. Michael's had a group of roughly 15 students most weeks. Each week, the students learned about various topics including the Mass, prayer, sacraments, Triduum, and a very brief look at salvation history. They also met periodically as a large group for activities such as creating a Jesse Tree in the parish gathering space during Advent and going on a church tour. They will be using the diocesan curriculum to continue an engaging catechetical program.

The Confirmation program at St. Michael's went well this year. Eleven high school and two NMU students received the sacrament of Confirmation at St. Peter Cathedral on April 15. Two NMU students taught the majority of the lessons, using group discussion and personal experiences to communicate the truths of our faith.

### ***Father Marquette Catholic Academy***

Father Marquette Catholic Academy has seen many changes for the 2018-19 School Year. In keeping with the "One Family, One Mission, One Campus" campaign, FMCA has consolidated resources by combining the elementary and middle school at the Fourth Street site, adjacent to the Cathedral. This summer, countless volunteers have prepared the campus.

Mrs. Jessica Betz, an FMCA graduate, former teacher and current parent, takes the reins as the new principal. Mrs. Mary Jo Scamperle will continue to serve the academy in her new role as curriculum director for FMCA and the other eight Diocese of Marquette Schools. The 2017-18 school year ended with 129 students, 35 (27%) from St. Michael Parish. Many will miss the academy's proximity to St Michael church and the warm support of priests, staff and parishioners.

### ***Boy Scouts***

Boy Scout Troop 302 is open to boys ages 11 to 18. The troop is planned and run by the boy-run Patrol Leaders Council with a year-round program, including a week at Camp Hiawatha Scout Camp, three camporees, canoeing and hiking. This year's big trip was a two-month bike training for a 50-mile day cycling trip in southern Wisconsin. The troop works on service projects for St. Michael's, the Men's Club breakfasts, Salvation Army bell ringing and flag ceremonies in the community.

### ***St. Michael the Archangel Softball Team***

The 2018 St. Michael the Archangel softball team had a regular season record of 4-4. The team made it to the third round of the playoffs and a postseason record of 1-2. The group finished fifth out of nine teams.



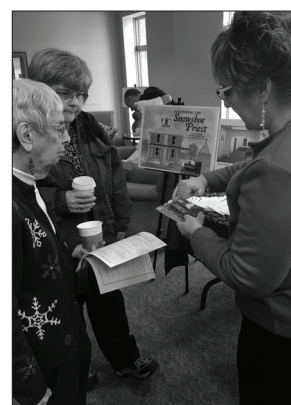
*Father Marquette  
Catholic Academy Students*



*Family and CPR Training*



*Cinnamon Roll Sunday*



*Bishop Baraga  
Educational Center  
Campaign*



*Boy Scout Event*

# St. Michael Catholic Church Annual Report 2017-2018

*Totus Tuus Summer Program*



*Men's Morning of Reflection*



*Women's Day of Reflection*



*Father Marquette Catholic Academy*

