



HARK

Announcing the Good News at St. Michael Parish

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When Irish Eyes Are Smiling



What a great evening for the parish! In spite of the rain and the threat of possible flooding in our area, the Angelus Center was filled with excitement as over 400 people came out to enjoy our first (and definitely not last) parish Irish Evening. The Holy Name Society was searching for a way to benefit the needy of the area at a time when winter needs are often the greatest. ALL the proceeds from this event were given to the 18th Street Neighborhood Center of Catholic Charities WV. Sister Linda Sevcik,

Director of the Center, gratefully accepted the \$3300 which was raised.

Irish stew and Irish soda bread headlined the dinner, accompanied by either cole slaw or cabbage & noodles. Beverages as well as desserts were also included in the \$3 ticket price.

Following dinner, those in attendance enjoyed entertainment. MC Tom Burgoyne kept it all moving along! Some of the youth of our parish provided musical entertainment as well as singing and Irish step dancing. A bit o' blar-

ney was shared by our Irish pastor Father Jerry McSweeney and Sister Teresa O'Connor of the 18th Street Center staff. Professional musical entertainment was provided by Shaney Faini, Matt Heusel, Matt Smith, and Adrian Niles. And who can forget William the Leprechaun who visited the crowd and delighted them with his antics!

Over 100 parishioners contributed their time and talent to this event. Many good stewards stepped forward offering to bake desserts and soda bread. Others used their talents in setting up

the Angelus Center and decorating. Still more were there that night helping with anything and everything that was asked of them. It was truly a wonderful experience for all those who worked at the event, as well as everyone who came to attend the first dinner/entertainment function in our new facility. It won't be the last one! Watch the church bulletin and the Hark for news of upcoming parish events like this one!



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Sharing St. Joseph's Table



table. It seemed that all we did that day was eat and visit with new friends! If you haven't had an occasion to visit the Parish Office lately, please come by and introduce yourself. The offices are open from 8am - 5pm and closed for lunch from 12:30 - 1:30.

The Parish Office staff invited parishioners to share a table of hospitality on March 19th, the Feast of St. Joseph. Breakfast fare was provided for those who visited after the 7:30am Mass and by mid-morning you could smell the Undo's meatballs as the foods reflected the lunch hour. (Since St. Joseph's Day is a Solemnity, the Lenten regulations are relaxed.) Some visitors generously brought food to share with the others who were there. Biscotti, homemade bread, and pasta fagioli were welcome additions to the



Catechesis at All Levels

Supplying the parish with opportunities for catechesis (religious education) at all levels is a goal of our pastor, Father McSweeney. Children who have not yet celebrated their First Communion are invited to the Children's Worship services which are available during the 9:00 and 11:00 masses. Alecia Blair coordinates volunteers who help the children understand the gospel story on their level.

For those who choose to attend public or private schools, our PSR (Parish School of Religion) program offers sessions for K-8 on Sunday mornings between the 9:00 and 11:00 masses. Dedicated catechists volunteer their time and talent to present their lessons and share their faith.



St. Michael Parish School teaches faith formation to students from 3 years of age to eighth grade through religion classes, mass attendance, and incorporating gospel values in daily living.

Our Catholic high schools offer religious education for students from grades 9-12. All of the high school youth of the parish and surrounding area are invited to join LIFE TEEN and experience their faith in creative ways twice each month.

Our parish Mission at the end of February provided information on basic teachings of Catholicism. On an ongoing basis, adults have the opportunity to join study groups and pursue their knowledge and application of faith to daily life. These groups of about 12 people meet weekly each semester and use contemporary writers to ignite their discussions.

We are well on our way to an overall catechetical program which will enliven the faith of all ages!

WHO AM I?

I am not ordained,
I have not been anointed
with holy oils,
I am not a religious brother or sister, but
I am Church.

I am a Eucharistic minister,
I take Communion
to the homebound and the sick.
I am Church.

I greet visitors to Mass,
welcome new parishioners,
proclaim the Word,
and make music
to praise God with joy.
I am Church.

I serve in a homeless shelter,
gather food and clothing
for families in hardship.
I counsel engaged couples,
help them plan their wedding.
I do chores and
drive the elderly to the doctor.
I am Church.

I comfort the widowed, separated,
and divorced.

I take food and consolation
to the bereaved.
I am Church.

I teach English
as a Second Language.
I advocate for the unborn
and new immigrants,
for safe neighborhoods and
housing for the working poor.
I teach God's love and
the riches of the faith
to young and old.
I am Church.

I pledge a portion of my finances to the
Church and charities.

I plan and organize,
sit on committees,
and clean up.
I celebrate, pray, and listen.
I am Church.

I am a minister
because I am baptized.
I serve in countless ways
because I am blessed.

I AM CHURCH.

Glory Garden



In a wonderful revival of generosity, our parish Glory Garden bloomed near the end of the Lenten season. Paper flowers were available at the entrances of the church for two weeks. Parishioners were asked to return the paper flower with a potted plant on Palm Sunday. Stewards of all ages gathered that rainy afternoon and loaded plants into their vehicles and traveled to Wheeling Hospital 6th floor, Continuous Care Center, Liza's Place, and Mt. St. Joseph. Residents there were thrilled with the surprise visits and fragrant gifts - especially those who are not even part of our parish, but were recipients of our kindness! We hope to grow the project even bigger next year and provide outreach to even more of our area facilities.

Parishioners of St. Michaels,

Thank you so very much for the beautiful flowers that you brought to Liza's Place for our patients. Everyone was so appreciative. With the nice weather and the beautiful spring plants, it was a nice reminder of the new season, but also of the joyous holiday. Thank you for keeping our patients in your thoughts, prayers, and most of all your heart.

Debbie Barto, Director of Volunteer Services

Small Faith Communities

We want to thank the:

61 Altar Servers

40 Lectors

80 Eucharistic Ministers

41 Ushers

9 Children's Worship leaders

who assist us by

their ministries

during our 5 weekend liturgies.

We are hoping to start a group of

GREETERS for our masses soon.

These individuals would provide a

warm welcome as people enter

the church each weekend.

Yes, we would love to count

YOU as one of those who

assist with our

worship each weekend!

Contact the Parish Office to join.

Why not do it as a family?!

Michelle Tomshack, Diocesan Director of the Office of Faith Formation, presented a workshop for the parish titled "Share the Light - Be the Light" in March. Participants were invited to identify ways of revitalizing spiritual activity in our parish through small faith communities. Many parishioners have positive memories of their TEC, RCIA, or CRHP experiences. Some belong to groups who meet weekly to pray the rosary or attend daily mass. Some even remember the days when the Cursillo movement was well established in our area. These small faith communities enable people to strengthen their connection to God and His Church.

Small faith communities help adults keep their faith alive beyond their Sunday worship experiences. Within these groups, individuals provide mutual

support to each other, drawing strength and offering encouragement so that living a life of faith becomes easier and more enriching. Moving into summer and early fall we hope to put some of the ideas into action so that small faith communities can thrive.

Consider being part of this continuing dialogue by attending a CRHP reunion scheduled for May 23rd in the Angelus Center where former CRHP participants can share their experiences over dinner and talk about how they can rekindle those embers that made that program so successful in revitalizing our parish. Be part of the development of a future new program to connect parishioners to one another and renew our community!



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Return Service Requested

Have you seen the new parish website?
www.stmikesparish.org

Look there for:
Announcements concerning current parish events,
Stewardship opportunities and sign-up,
Parish registration forms,
Parish Email contact.

Become a Facebook fan! Check us out!
St. Michael Parish - Wheeling, "Almost Heaven" West Virginia
and
The Official Site of St. Michael Parish School