



Saint Michael
— Catholic Church —
A Family United In Christ

"I chose you"
John 15:16

Dear St. Michael Families,

As I look back over the past two years, I am overjoyed with how this parish remained faithful to its mission. Your support, through a most challenging time, has borne new fruit. We have welcomed more than 75 new families to our parish! Mass participation has increased. Our faith formation programs have accelerated. Our parish school has experienced new vitality and increased enrollment. I say the following with confidence. St. Michael Catholic Parish is on the rise! A new day for our parish is at hand and it is only the beginning!

Jesus said to his disciples, *You did not choose me, but I chose you*. Christ has appointed each of us to be His disciples but it is up to us to respond to his invitation. Saying "yes" to Jesus happens in three ways:

By Committing To Worship: We worship at the parish we call home, committing to its mission, and avoiding "church-hopping" out of convenience. Sunday is the most important day of the week. It is essential we participate in the Eucharistic Sacrifice as a united parish family. Disciples worship together.

By Committing To Engage: Our parish offers a variety of ways to deepen our faith: catechetical opportunities, Daily Mass, weekly Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, and social events. Would you and your household consider attending *one* parish event or activity each month other than Sunday Mass? Disciples remain engaged.

By Committing To Give: Ministry and staffing have their costs and our parish is no exception. When we *consistently* give a portion of our income, we imitate the Lord who sacrificed everything for us. Generous giving declares how Jesus, rather than cash, is our King. Although our parish needs your giving, it is also true to say that we need to give. Financial generosity is an expression of committed discipleship. Disciples give.

In the biblical tradition generosity begins with a tithe (or a tenth). The biblical benchmark for measuring our financial generosity is through the act of giving away the first ten percent of every dollar we earn; \$10 for every \$100, or \$100 for every \$1000. When was the last time each of us calculated the percentage of income we have released for the work of God? Was our annual percentage 1%? 5%? 10%? We should know our number.

I challenge all of us to conduct a prayerful exercise and to pledge a consistent percentage of our income to the mission of St. Michael Catholic Parish. Disciples give and they give *regularly* as a spiritual discipline.

On Sunday, Oct. 31, Discipleship Sunday, bring the enclosed Commitment Card with you to Mass. You may also pledge online at www.stmccg.org. We will collect it, bless it, and together praise our generous God for the blessings in store for us in the year to come.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Lucas Rossi