



# Saint Michael the Archangel CATHOLIC CHURCH

## February 2017 Newsletter

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### Important Dates

February 15, 2017 - Sainly

Salads

February 19, 2017 - Men's Club

Pancake Breakfast

March 1, 2017 - Ash Wednesday

March 13, 14, 15th Parish

Mission

## *Ash Wednesday*

*Wednesday, March 1, 2017:*

### *Schedule:*

**6:00 & 9:00 am**

*Mass with distribution of ashes*

**4:00, 5:30 & 7:30 pm**

*Liturgy of the Word with  
distribution of ashes*



Although Ash Wednesday is not a Catholic Holy Day of Obligation, it is an important part of the season of Lent. The first clear evidence of Ash Wednesday is around 960 and, in the 12th century, people began using palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday for ashes.

In the Roman Catholic Church, Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, the season of preparation for the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. (In Eastern Rite Catholic churches, Lent begins two days earlier, on Clean Monday.)

Ash Wednesday always falls 46 days before Easter. Since Easter falls on a different date each year, Ash Wednesday does, too. While Ash Wednesday is not a Holy Day of Obligation, all Roman Catholics are encouraged to attend Mass on this day in order to mark the beginning of the Lenten season.

### ***A Prayer for Ash Wednesday***

*Blessed are you, O Lord our God, the all-holy one, who gives us life and all things. As we go about our lives, the press of our duties and activities often leads us to forget your presence and your love. We fall into sin and fail to live out the responsibilities that you have entrusted to those who were baptized into your Son.*

*In this holy season, help us to turn our minds and hearts back to you. Lead us into sincere repentance and renew our lives with your grace. Help us to remember that we are sinners, but even more, help us to remember your loving mercy.*

*As we live through this Ash Wednesday, may the crosses of ashes that mark our foreheads be a reminder to us and to those we meet that we belong to your Son. May our worship and prayer and penitence this day be sustained throughout these 40 days of Lent. Bring us refreshed and renewed to the celebration of Christ's resurrection at Easter.*

*We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.*

## Finding your own way to pray....

One person isn't comfortable raising her arms in praise while another person found Forty Hours devotion less than satisfying even as an altar boy. As children, they both learned the rosary but seldom say it now. None of these prayer styles is wrong, it's just that prayer is such a personal experience. What seems old-fashioned to one connects another with her religious heritage.



Prayer, be it memorized or spontaneous, individual or communal, filled with incense or the fragrance of pine needles in the woods, is communication with God. On some level it flows from a human yearning that reaches beyond any particular religion. Most people eventually seek answers to life's persistent questions: *Is there anything more than what meets the eye? Is there really an afterlife?*



We may not often be aware of these

yearnings, but sooner or later, a crisis occurs, a life-changing decision is before us or we simply marvel at the miracle of a newborn child - and we pray.

But how? And are we holier if we pray more? Conventional wisdom answers the latter

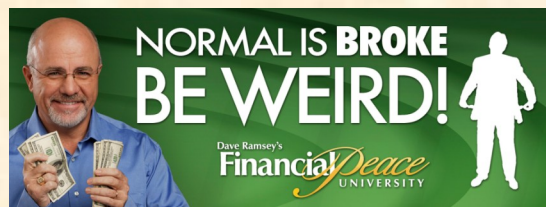
question. Yes, prayer puts us in a more conscious relationship with God. This relationship of thankfulness, dependence, trust and honor should make us better people - more aware of our inner selves and more attentive to the needs of others. It is the "how" that stymies many of us.

Prayer generally falls into the broad categories of verbal or nonverbal, individual or communal, memorized or spontaneous, contemplative or active. Seekers might experiment with many of the following forms of prayer and let trial and error lead them to deeper conversation with God.



Familiar prayers	Eucharistic adoration
Weekday Mass	Communal prayer
Spiritual reading	Nature
Liturgy of the Hours	Prayers of the heart
Spontaneous prayers	Prayer with children
Meditation	

adapted from Every Day Catholic



**FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY IS COMING TO ST. MICHAEL'S!** Imagine yourself debt free by attending Dave Ramsey's "FPU" workshop every Tuesday, starting May 2nd and continuing through June 27th. Watch the bulletin for more information!

# St. Michael the Archangel Parish Mission

Pope Francis has invited each of us to a “renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ” on an “unfailing daily basis.”

“Lord Teach Us to Pray” will be presented by Fr. Greg Cleveland, OMV, director of the Lanteri Center for Ignatian Spirituality. The Mission will include instruction and practice of prayer according to the time-honored method of St. Ignatius of Loyola.



## **Schedule:**

Fr. Cleveland will celebrate the 6:00 & 9:00 am Mass each day and will have short talk afterwards. Each evening's presentation will take place from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

Monday - **Adventures of the Heart:** Meditative Prayer

Tuesday - **Your Face, O Lord, I Will Seek:** Imaginative Contemplation

Wednesday - **Harvesting the Wheat, Burning the Weeds:** Discerning the Spirits

Fr. Greg Cleveland, O.M.V. is a retreat master, prayer instructor and Director of the Lanteri Center for Ignatian Spirituality in Denver, Colorado. He is author of the upcoming book *Awakening Love: Spiritual Exercises with the Song of Songs*.

Fr. Greg is a native of Chicago and the youngest of 11 children. He graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in Business Administration and worked in marketing after college. He followed God's call to priesthood in 1987, joined the Oblates of the Virgin Mary [OMV] and attended *Our Lady of Grace Seminary* and *St. John's School of Theology* in Boston. After completing an M.Div. in Theology and an M.A. in Spiritual Theology, Fr. Greg was ordained a priest in 1995. His first assignment was to St. Andrew's parish in Avenel, New Jersey, where he worked especially with the poor, disabled and imprisoned. He obtained certification in spiritual direction from the *Center for Spiritual Development* in New York City, and returned to Boston to work seven years in seminary formation, as Rector and Novice Master. Fr. Greg is currently Executive Director of the *Lanteri Center for Ignatian Spirituality* in Denver, Colorado ([www.lantericenter.org](http://www.lantericenter.org)), where he offers spiritual guidance and retreats, as well as spiritual director training.

**Watch the Bulletin for more information!**

# February 2017

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## St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10:00 am 1st Fri. Adoration	<b>4</b> 4:30 pm 1st Sat. Rosary
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Women's Club Bake Sale
<b>12</b> Women's Club Bake Sale	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 12:00 pm Sainly Salads	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Men's Club Pancake Breakfast	<b>20</b> Presidents Day <b>Parish Office &amp; Preschool Closed</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Respect Life Bake Sale
<b>26</b> Coffee & Donuts Respect Life Bake Sale	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>				

*\*Please be advised, dates and times are subject to change*

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