

**“So long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, goodbye.”**

### **Fr. Michael Tenure in the Mountains**

The Archdiocese of Denver has assigned Fr. Michael to Guardian Angels Church in Mead. He begins there the first week of February. On February 3 Fr. Peter becomes the new pastor, as Fr. Michael departs.

Fr. Michael was assigned as pastor of OLS, StB, and StA from 27 June 2007 to 2 February 2020. He was assigned as pastor of StP and StI from 15 June 2011 to 2 February 2020. He mentored four assistant priests.

With God all things are possible; without God nothing is possible. We accomplished everything by God's grace. **Thanks to all of you who prayed, volunteered, and gave money so that we could move the Church forward in Grand and Jackson Counties. There are too many names to mention! Many of these ideas and programs originated from, and were sustained by, parishioners.**

#### **Some spiritual things we did together with the Lord:**

- Gave 10% of our first collection to the needy
- Visited those in the local jail
- Added Mass preparation prayers (“gold card”) to dispose our hearts for the holy sacrifice of the Mass (our greatest prayer). Also, added the St. Michael prayer after Mass for protection
- Prayed two decades of the Rosary in May and October after weekend Masses, and on Marian holy days
- Prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet after weekend Masses during Lent and celebrated Divine Mercy Sunday
- Added Holy Hours after daily Mass which consisted in: Eucharistic Adoration, Divine Mercy Chaplet, silence, Christian Prayer—morning prayer, and Benediction. Averaged over 20 Holy Hours per week
- Added regular Confession. In June 2007, there were no regularly scheduled confessions. Confession quickly became available after becoming pastor
- Established “That Man Is You!”
- Added novenas: Our Lady of Good Success (January), Divine Mercy (March or April), Holy Spirit (May or June), Assumption (August), Holy Souls (November), and Christ Child (December)
- Increased reverence in receiving our Lord in Holy Communion by installing kneelers in all churches
- Added spiritual resource books:
  - Sold or distributed: 1,070 copies of *My Catholic Faith: Catechism in Pictures*; about 250, *Imitation of Christ* (English and Spanish); about 240, Bibles, including children's Bibles (English and Spanish); about 75, *Married Saints and Blesseds*.
  - For Christmas, we distributed about 500 copies per year: *Rediscovering Catholicism, Becoming the Best Version of Yourself* (CD), *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic*, *St.*

*John Paul the Great, Saints for Our Times, Rediscover Jesus, The Real Story, and Joy to the World, Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary, etc.*

- Encouraged all to support the Pregnancy Resource Connection (PRC) and the Mountain Family Center (MFC). (Some of you really stepped up and helped financially and spiritually, and volunteered.)
- Fr. Michael served on the PRC board for seven years
- Offered the 1962 Traditional Latin Mass
- Offered Fatima First Saturdays devotions of reparation (Mass, Confession Rosary, meditation)
- Established Corpus Christi processions
- Created a prayer team that spent over 1,000 hours of prayer and direction, helping over 250 people
- Educated all five churches through Fr. Michael Gaitley DVD series. Results: mercy teams/projects developed
- Distributed over 3,800 St. Benedict crucifixes in the confessional, to the dying, to families during house blessings, to youth groups, to FOCUS missionaries, and to AF cadets (or to anyone who looked sad at City Market!)
- Distributed 300 copies of the DVD *Science Tests Faith*, which includes Eucharistic miracles and other miracles
- Replaced paperback annual missal/hymnal with hardback St. Augustine Hymnal
- Obtained Spanish books for Sunday Mass readings for Our Lady of the Snow and St. Peter
- Re-established communication with the pastors of the other churches by meeting monthly at the Y.M.C.A. By doing this, we were invited to several group efforts. For example, we participated in the sports-bible camp, including coaching for seven years
- Reached out to the community: Fr. Michael coached as an assistant to the high school volleyball team for a year and coached a recreational team one spring. He ran volleyball camps in Walden for two summers for the grade school and high school. He ran several volleyball camps in Granby
- Consecrated our five churches to Jesus through Mary near May 13, and proclaimed Jesus as King of Grand and Jackson Counties on Christ the King weekend (both of these are renewed each year)
- Created a new website and utilized Flocknote
- Distributed and sold over 450 Rosary DVDs
- Distributed scapulars and miraculous medals to all five churches twice
- Distributed over 300 Rosaries and Divine Mercy Chaplets (Rosaries), and distributed over 2,000 Divine Mercy post cards and over 1,000 Divine Mercy images
- Experienced the joy of having the International, National, and Diocesan traveling statues of the Blessed Virgin Mary at our church
- Increased Mass attendance and the collection significantly
- Prayed Stations of the Cross at Adoration during Lent
- Increased the number of people who are now praying the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet (DMC). (One year 424 people pledged to pray the DMC everyday during Lent!)
- Added: First Saturday prayers at StA; First Sun., at OLS

- Added all kinds of spiritual material in the bulletins, including: Fourteen Rules of St. Ignatius, Natural Law, Natural Family Planning, excerpts from the *Diary* of St. Faustina, *Dialogue* of St. Catherine of Siena summaries, dangers of Freemasonry, virtues, blessing children, etc.
- Used Communion patens out of reverence for Jesus
- Held two Rosary processions at OLS for the World Apostolate of Fatima, Denver Division
- Experienced the blessing of having the Air Force Academy Cadet Choir at Masses many times (What small churches get this privilege?!!)
- Helped the poor of the local community by sponsoring at least five families per year to have a wonderful Christmas
- Brought in Jerusalem handicrafts and sisters from Belarus for availability of religious art

### **Some physical improvements we made together with the Lord:**

#### **St. Anne**

- Tore down the old rectory because of unhealthy mold levels and bat guano contamination
- Replaced the old metal roof with 50-year shingles (lots of leaking with the old roof)
- Created a prayer garden. What magnificent work the parishioners and Father Peter did! Installed a fence around the prayer garden to protect it and keep people from misusing the property
- Remodeled the church interior, including the altar, pews, ceiling, carpet, tiles, etc.
- Restored the exterior of the church
- Converted the old choir loft into a daily Mass chapel and a place for healing prayer sessions. Also, added a rose window of the Holy Spirit in this chapel
- Installed an exterior and interior bell for Mass
- Installed a new furnace

#### **Our Lady of the Snow**

- Re-established relationships with other churches and the community by throwing a parish festival
- Renovated the basement and built a new office within it
- Built a new rectory with a two-car garage
- “If you build it, they will come.” After the rectory was completed, we were given an extra priest and two more churches to administer
- Built a prayer grotto (which saved us \$2,000 worth of taxes each year. So far, we have saved \$20,000 by having the grotto)
- Obtained new altar linens and vestments and a new processional cross
- Installed new carpet in the church and new stairwells
- Installed an interior bell for Mass
- Installed a camera security system
- Installed a fire pump control system (to protect from electrical surges due to lightning strikes)
- Repaired sidewalks twice

- Sealed the parking lot and filled cracks three times
- Cut down tall bushes by the walkway to the small chapel and installed a rod-iron fence
- Cut down at least 10 dead trees
- Renovated the daily Mass chapel: ripped out the carpet and installed laminate flooring, new pews, and painted

#### **St. Bernard**

- Obtained new altar linens and vestments and a new processional cross
- Renovated the church exterior
- Installed a new water line to replace the defective one
- Replaced the old carpet and painted the interior
- Installed an exterior and interior bell for Mass
- Erected a statue of Jesus in the front
- Installed a new furnace
- Extended the back apron of the parking lot
- Built a concrete wall around the back of the log cabin church to protect the wood from rotting
- Added a Tuff Shed garage
- Installed electric blinds
- Tore down the outdoor deck (because it was not being used; snow was collecting on the wood and rotting it)
- Sealed the parking lot and filled cracks several times

#### **St. Peter**

- Renovated the rectory interior
- Erected a statue of Jesus in front of the church with a sign that reads: “**Jesus says: I thirst for the salvation of souls. Please pray with Me.**” This is for everyone driving on highway 40 to see
- Installed an interior bell for Mass
- Obtained a new, glorious monstrance
- Added a safe to protect the collection

#### **St. Ignatius**

- Renovated the church interior
- Installed new carpet
- Installed an interior and exterior bell for Mass
- Added a safe to protect the collection
- Installed six holy windows
- Replaced old entry sidewalk with a new one
- Obtained new vestments and a new processional cross
- Renovated the bathroom

### **Concluding Words from Your Pastor**

I give thanks to Almighty God for allowing me to become His priest and serve you and this territory. I thank you for your love and support. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to grow in virtue. I love you, so I spoke the truth. I prayed for all of you daily and want all of us to get into heaven! Thanks for your prayers and support for me.

“Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, as indeed you do.” -1 Thessalonians 5:11

Peace of Christ, *Fr. Michael*

### **Mission Appeal Next Weekend at StA, StB (Sun.), OLS**

Next weekend, we have our annual mission appeal. Fr. Emmanuel Osigwe will ask for a second collection for the poor diocese of Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Make checks out to our churches; we will transfer the money.

### **Pay Attention to Daily Mass Changes/Cancellations this Month of January due to the Transition of Pastors**

#### **Pint with a Priest on Tuesday, January 7 at 6 p.m.**

The Peak Restaurant in Winter Park. This month we will be talking about Theology of the Body.

#### **US Air Force Academy Cadet Choir Singing**

On Martin Luther King weekend (January 17-19), the cadets will sing on Saturday evening at St. Bernard (4 and 5:30 p.m.) and Sunday at St. Peter (10 a.m.).

#### **Wisdom of *The Dialogue* of St. Catherine**

Summary of Chapter 45. God the Father: "No one born into this life passes through it without suffering of body or spirit. My servants...suffering does not weary them, because their will is in tune with Mine. Those...who taste already in this life the pledge of hell, suffer spiritually as well as physically, while My servants taste the pledge of eternal life."

Those who taste a little heaven in this life see God's goodness and they know His truth; their understanding is enlightened in God. Those with selfish love do not have understanding.

Saintly people only suffer physically, not spiritually, because their will is dead to themselves and is caught up in God's will. God permits sufferings and temptations for our good, out of love for us.

#### **Praying the Rosary for Our Beloved Deceased on First Sundays at Our Lady of the Snow**

All are welcome to pray the Rosary every **First Sunday** of the month at OLS at 9 a.m. before Mass. Members of the St. Theresa of Calcutta Mercy Group will lead the prayers. We will pray for the intention of gaining a plenary indulgence for those baptized Catholics who have died within our parish boundaries or who had their funerals at our churches. On **January 5** we will be praying for those who passed away a few years ago, which includes: Roland Catalane, Barbara Martin, Geraldine McMahon, Laureen Myers, and Jim Erwin.

#### **Quick Apologetics (Defending Your Faith)—The Church And the Bible**

Some people who leave the Catholic Christian faith say that they never really hear about the Bible in our Church. They might say, "I just never heard the Bible in the Catholic Church." Or: "Mass is just a ritual; they never talk about the Bible." Perhaps they were not listening.

If we go to Mass every weekend for three years, we will hear almost the entire Bible. We will not hear every single chapter and verse, but we will hear a majority of it. We

will learn the basics of the story of salvation history and how we need to behave in the Kingdom of God on earth. We will learn through various seasons: Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent, and Easter.

So if you hear some people say that the Catholic Church does not promote the Bible, invite them to Mass.

### **Calendar of Events**

**-Jan 18-19 (Sat-Sun).** USAFA cadets sing:

Sat: StB at 4 and 5:30 p.m. and StP at 10 am

**-Feb 16 (Sun).** PRC Banquet at Young Life Camp

#### **Mass Collections, December 28 – 29**

St. Anne	\$ 4865
St. Bernard	6321
Our Lady of the Snow	3455
St. Peter	1375
St. Ignatius	951
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16967</b>

#### **Mass Collections, January 1**

St. Anne	\$ 1915
St. Bernard	1650
Our Lady of the Snow	1055
St. Peter	217
St. Ignatius	<u>Mass cancelled</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4837</b>

#### **Vocations Prayer Calendar**

***Please pray for our seminarians every day.***

**Sat**—Men in our boundaries called to the priesthood

**Sun**—Women in our boundaries called to consecrated life

**Mon**—Men applying for formation for priesthood

**Tue**—Women applying for formation for sisterhood

**Wed**—St. John Vianney Seminary staff

**Thu**—*Redemptoris Mater* Seminary staff

**Fri**—Men and women applying for formation

#### **Mass Intentions and Schedule for StA, StB, and OLS**

**KEY:** StA = St. Anne; StB = St. Bernard;

OLS = Our Lady of the Snow

-Sat, Jan 4, StA, 5 p.m., +Linola Tetreault

-Sat, Jan 4, StB, 4 p.m., People in our region/visitors

-Sat, Jan 4, StB, 5:30 p.m., Vincent Anderson Family

-Sun, Jan 5, StB, 7 a.m., Edward and Terra Plute

-Sun, Jan 5, OLS, 9:30 a.m., Christopher/Jill Longshore

#### **Weekday Masses**

-Mon, Jan 6, StA, 8:30 a.m., Special intention

-Tue, Jan 7, OLS, 7:30 a.m., +Mary Jo Dougherty

-Wed, Jan 8, StB, 8:30 a.m., Keith and Debbie Morrison

-Thu, Jan 9, OLS, **8:30 a.m.**, +Mary Jo Dougherty

-Fri, Jan 10, OLS, **8:30 a.m.**, Michael and Joan Good

#### **Mass Intentions and Schedule for StP and StI**

**KEY:** StP = St. Peter; StI = St. Ignatius (Walden)

-Sun, Jan 5, StP, 10 a.m., People in our region/visitors

-Sun, Jan 5, StI, 1 p.m., Tim and Barb Lytle