



A message from the Principal

St. Michael Families,

I hope that you had a wonderful weekend together. It was a perfect weekend for spending extra time indoors catching up on sleep, spending extra time in prayer, reading a good book or playing board games with the family. I did quite the opposite and spent a majority of my weekend outside. On Saturday I went apple picking to celebrate a good friend's birthday. I've never been apple picking before and even though it wasn't the best conditions weather wise, I was surrounded by some of my closest and most dearest friends and we laughed so hard as we picked apples in the pouring rain.

Life is all about choices. We could have chosen to let the rain ruin our day together. We could have been mad or upset. We could have canceled the day all together or chosen to do something else. However, this was something we had planned for weeks and the thought of canceling our day together because of inclement weather upset us all more than getting drenched to the bone did. We all have lead very busy lives and we do not often find times in which we can all gather together to celebrate each other and our friendship. It's not what happens to you in life that matters most, it's how you react to it.

This weekend I ended up attending evening mass at St. Mark's Catholic Church. I attended this church regularly for four years when I resided in Huntersville and attending church there yesterday was like visiting an old friend. I'm a true believer that "everything happens for a reason" - God's will and divine intervention - and I feel as though I was meant to attend the service that evening to hear God speaking to me through the message in the homily.

The Gospel reading yesterday was the parable of a king hosting a wedding feast for his son and summoning guests to come, but none would. The priest compared this to God inviting us all to join Him in His kingdom. God wants so badly for us to choose Him and for us to accept His invitation but He does not force us. God gave us free will, the ability to think and decide for ourselves, when it comes to any choice we make. God loves us so much and wants for us to come and

Upcoming Dates

- Tuesday, October 13th is "Feed Your Family, Fund Your School" night at our local Moe's in Gastonia. From 11 - 8, order a family meal kit (feeds 4 - 6 people) for \$29.99 using the code [MoesGives5](#) and \$5.00 will go towards our school! The address of the participating Moe's is 3908 E Franklin Blvd Gastonia, NC
- Mass on Thursday, October 15th and 22nd
- Friday, October 16th is Dress Down day for the month of October! All donations go to Catherine's House in Belmont. \$2.00 for jeans, \$4.00 for shirt of choice and jeans
- October 22nd end of the first quarter
- October 23rd Early Dismissal day Students dismiss @ 12:00
- Thursday, October 29th Report Cards
- Friday, October 30th No School for Students Teacher Workday



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join Him, yet He still gives us the ability to choose whether or not we accept His invitation.

The priest also spoke on why tragedy and hardships happen in our life. We often wonder "why would God allow something like this to happen". I know personally I have pondered this question quite often when things do not go the way I had planned for them to go or when misfortune happens and I think "what I did to deserve this"? As much as it hurts, sometimes this may be God's way of asking us to choose a different journey.

I'm a planner. I plan things out to the very last detail and I like to be in control. So when things don't go as planned, or when a plan that I've had for my life suddenly falls apart, it is hard to see any good in it. I often feel lost, very discouraged and as ridiculous as it sounds, I feel abandoned by God. However, seeing this as a way of God sending an invitation, inviting me to take a different journey, a journey that will ultimately lead me to Him has provided for me a sense of comfort that I hadn't ever felt in the midst of despair. It doesn't lessen the pain of the tragedy, but it gives me hope for the journey ahead.

So throughout this week, I have implored the students to look for ways to accept God's invitation. When things don't go our way, spend time in prayer and listen for how God may be guiding you to take a different journey. Ultimately, in the end, we still have free will and we can choose whether or not to accept His invitations. We can choose whether we say yes to Him. We can choose whether to accept tragedy and loss as the beginning of a new journey or we can try to continue forging ahead, traveling down a destitute road.

I am so blessed that one of my new journeys led me to St. Michael. I know that the St. Michael school community has also recently embarked on a new journey as well. May we be open and willing to accept the invitations that God extends to us over the school year that will lead our school community closer to Him.

God Bless,

Michelle Vollman

Reminders

- Turn in lunch orders by noon Friday at the very latest each week.

- St. Michael Fall Festival!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 25th from 10:00am

- 2:00pm on the church and school grounds. See pg. 3 for more information

- Please try to minimize visits to the front office during the day unless it is to pick up or drop-off your child. If your child forgets their lunch, one will be provided for them. Please no lunch drop-offs during the school day



Father Rossi's Column

Dear Saint Michael School Family, I would like to share this very special video, found below (6:48 sec long) on a new saint just beatified Saturday. His feast day is Monday, October 12th. He died at the age of fifteen on October 12th, 2006 from leukemia. He is an amazing young man and the first millennial to be raised to the altar of sanctity. Click the image below to find the animated video on Blessed Carlo Acutis (a-coo-tees).
In Christ, Fr. Rossi



Virtue of the Week: Affability

Last week we learned about Affability. Affability means being easy to approach and easy to talk to; friendly. What this looks like is smiling and greeting people, even strangers! Affability is asking people how they are doing. It is acknowledging the presence of others and taking time to listen to others. Affability is trying to see Jesus in everyone you meet. Some of the saints that we learned about that embodied the virtue of affability were St. Francis of Assisi, Blessed Jordan of Saxony and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati.

Fall Festival coming to St. Michael!

St. Michael is excited that our Fall Festival is only two weeks away! This is going to be an event you won't want to miss! Check out some of the attractions and events that will be at the Fall Festival:

- Not Just Another Food Truck
- Smokin' Joes Food Truck
- Anniemae & Ivy selling goats milk soap and fresh cheese
- SnoKones & Cotton Candy
- Pie Walk
- Mask tie-dying
- Pumpkin Patch
- Pumpkin Carving Contest
- 50/50 raffle
- Saints Alive & Trunk or Treat put on by St. Michael Youth Group
- Family Photographs
- ... and so much more!

We will be coming out with a schedule of events and a map of where you can locate each attraction or event. Pumpkin order forms will be going home this week on orange paper. Regardless of whether or not you have pre-ordered online, you can fill this form out and include payment with it and return it to the school office. We will make note of your payment. You also have the ability to pay for your pre-ordered pumpkins the day of the festival. There is no guarantee that there will be a pumpkin available for you to purchase at the festival if you do not pre-order (either online or by filling out a form). Click on the link below to place your order!

[Order Pumpkins here!](#)

BINGO Night was a success - Thank you!

On Thursday night, families from both our school and our parish gathered for our first ever St. Michael community BINGO night! I was overwhelmed by the turnout. It filled my heart to see so many familiar faces and new ones! It filled my heart to hear the little voices yell "BINGO" and eagerly run up to me to have their board checked. It filled my heart to hear laughter and chatter of conversation. It filled my heart to see all the smiles on everyone's faces. To me, that night wasn't a success because of how much money was raised, but because for the first time we were able to come together as one St. Michael community. Thank you so much for everyone who came out to support us. We raised a little over \$700 for our school. There has been an overwhelming response for another BINGO night, so we will work on getting another one on the calendar before the end of the year.

