



THE GUARDIAN

St. Michael the Archangel Episcopal Church El Segundo

Parish Office: 310-322-2589
Web site: www.stmichaels-elsegundo.org
Email: StMichaelsElSegundo@gmail.com

St. Michael's Children's Center

Ms. Lauren Cherrington
School Office: 310-322-7522

Worship Schedule

Sunday 8:00am Rite I Said Service
Sunday 10:00am Rite II
with Music

The Reverend Joshua Wong, Rector

Mission Statement for St. Michael's Church

*Growing in God's Love.
Working in God's Spirit.*

February 2025

St. Michael the Archangel Episcopal Church
361 Richmond Street
El Segundo, CA 90245

TO:

Rector's Thoughts



Why do we read the Bible in Church? This month, we begin a reflection from a book entitled, *Introducing the Lessons of the Church Year* by Frederick Hook Borsch. His book speaks about different aspects of how the Bible is relevant to understanding what is the purpose of the church.

You can image coming to church as if you were meeting a friend. There, we bring up stories from the past that remind us of our relationship. The highs and the lows, but more importantly, it is at these gatherings that we establish our sense of connection with one another. It's making community. It's recalling common stories around a dinner table, or during a holiday with family we haven't seen in a while. There are times when the family wants to trace their roots deeper and learn more about their past. Such narratives provide threads of continuity, order and belonging.

At church and through the scriptures, customs, symbols and rituals arise out of the stories, and we welcome people into these new and familiar connections. Wherever we go on our travels around the world and enter into church, you can meet with people who have the same connections, bonds and stories, because of our connection with liturgy, the Book of Common Prayer and the Bible stories. Additionally, whatever language people speak, they are all connected with the common language of the Bible. Especially in the Gospel readings, Christians of different centuries draw upon the same stock of adventures, prophecies, songs, commandments, visions and parables.

By word of mouth, stories of the remembrance of exodus and Moses, and the narrative of the child's humble birth shape the community of believers from one generation to the next. When we read the scriptures together, they come alive. When we read them together, just like friends reminiscing times together, our stories become touchstones to help us interpret and understand our present experiences.

As Christianity began to spread and as a variety of new documents were written— some claiming divine inspiration, it became evident that there had to be a limit or rule. This came to be called the canons of agreed-upon scriptural writings. The Gospels, letters, prophecies, psalms, wisdom books and histories within this canon were felt to have the breadth, authenticity and depth necessary to cover and to preserve the foundational experiences of Christianity and of Judaism on which it is based.

These biblical narratives are what we might call the “master” stories of the Christian faith. When we hear them with new ears, they are meant to offer experiences which the total community can in some sense relive. Each week, each day, when we read scripture, the Bible stories and contexts guides the interpretation of our lives and inspire the formation of new stories of grace and courageous belief.

Next time you hear the lectionary read, imagine the universal message of meaning that comes from God and be mindful of its contemporary relevance. If you wish to gain more in depth learning, the book is available on Amazon.

Happy learning,
Father Joshua+



C.A.S.E. Ingathering February 16

Honey Nut Cheerios, Frosted Flakes, Fruit Loops, Lucky Charms, Captain Crunch
Oatmeal – Plain Old Fashion or instant Quaker Oats in the cardboard cylinder or name brand (NO off brands or steel cut oatmeal please)

Canned Chicken
SPAM
Rosarita Refried Beans

Ketchup
Sugar
Salt
Cake Mixes - Chocolate or Yellow
Brownie & Cookie Mixes

Syrup
Strawberry and other fruit jams (not grape)
Peanut Butter - prefer Skippy, Jif or recognized store brand

Juice
Cookies
Toothpaste
Dish detergent

Canned Tuna
Pasta Sauce
Progresso or Campbells Chunky Soups
Mayonnaise - Best Foods is preferred
Flour
Cooking Oil
Frosting - Chocolate or Vanilla
Pancake Mix - Store brands please
White Rice
Honey

Snacks
Coffee (No decaf)
Shampoo
Laundry detergent



Please remember PV Resale Thrift Shop as you clean out your cabinets and closets!



PV Resale Thrift Shop is a huge blessing to Family Promise. The thrift shop provides funding quarterly from their proceeds to 13 local charities, including Family Promise. Each of these 13 charities receives an average of \$4,000 four times a year! It is an extremely successful outreach that has given millions of dollars to local charities. Please support this non-profit committed to community service and the support of charities by donating items in clean, working, and very good condition. They sell almost everything: clothes, bedding, towels, dishes, furniture, small appliances, books and toys. I am happy to take donations for you if they fit in my car – let me know if you want a receipt. Palos Verdes Resale Thrift Shop is located at 2321 PCH in Lomita. The store hours are Tuesdays through Fridays, 11am - 4pm, Saturdays, 11am - 3pm, closed Sundays and Mondays.

With love,
Jeanie Powell

Annual Meeting February 9 after the 10am service.

Please join us on Sunday, February 9th after the 10am service for our Annual Meeting. It is very important to the health of the church for us to meet annually to discuss the business of the church. We will be presenting reports from committees of the church and going over the budget for the year. Please turn in your reports by February 2 so they may be included in our packet.

Congregational Meeting





- Feb. 1. Installation Service 10 AM
- Feb. 2. Feast of Candelmas, the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple
8 AM Rite One Quiet Service,
10AM Choral Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 Service
- Feb. 5 Children's Chapel 11 AM
- Feb 9. Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany 8 AM Rite One Quiet Service,
Annual Church Meeting 11 AM 10 AM Choral Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 Service
- Feb 11 Vestry Meeting 9 AM
- Feb 12. Children's Chapel 11 AM
- Feb 16 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany 8 AM Rite One Quiet Service,
CASE food donation 10AM Choral Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 Service
- Feb 17. SMCC closed, President's Day
- Feb 19. Children's Chapel 11 AM
- Feb 23. Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany 8 AM Rite One Quiet Service,
10 AM Choral Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 Service,
- Feb 26. Children's Chapel 11 AM

Children's Center February News

Happy February! The Children's Center is happy to announce the completion of the bathroom renovation. New tile, new floor and new paint makes all the difference. It's bright and beautiful now.

The children will continue learning about winter this month with activities and stories surrounding arctic animals like penguins and polar bears. They will also learn about President's Day.

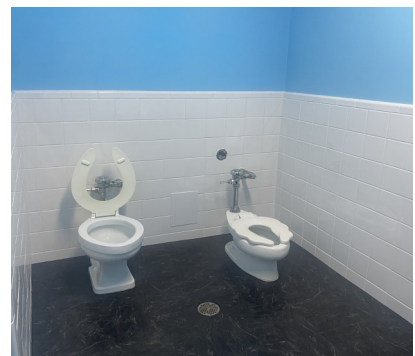
School will be closed on Monday, February 17th for President's Day Holiday.

Lauren

BEFORE



AFTER



Voices From the Vestry

My first vestry experience was in 2008. I was at Christ Church where Father Bob was the rector. We had been friends for many years and my children attended his confirmation class. We both were educators at continuation schools and fierce advocates of twelve step programs. He often tried to recruit me to teach Sunday school. Then, as my daughter was heading to an east coast college, he sought me out for the vestry. He explained that it is a three year commitment, but the first year is mostly for listening and learning. He tried to balance the talents of the vestry members so there is a spectrum of expertise. He wanted me to bring my heart. Flattered, I agreed to serve.



One continuing vestry item was the aging, too small restrooms. Bishop Bruno was refusing to visit unless there was a lavatory space that could accommodate his football player physique. A vestry member's spouse sketched possible layouts of the existing facilities. Then the parish hall kitchen had an electrical fire and suffered extensive damage. The insurance company wanted to quickly restore it to the previous footprint, but the parish had another vision. Using a grant from the bishop, the insurance money, and parish contributions we worked with an architect to design a wonderful kitchen, pantry, parish hall with a coffee bar and four new single person restrooms. Two were ADA compliant and two were not quite big enough to qualify.

When Father Bob retired, we had an interim priest for a year as the search committee looked at the **35 priests** available to be called. In 2017, I transferred to St Michael's after meeting with Mother Dina who I also had know for quite awhile. Four years ago she asked me to serve on the vestry as she neared retirement and a search for a new rector would begin. Of course, Covid appeared on the global scene and California had a very long lockdown.

Zoom coffee hour before the livestream of Morning Prayer, Eucharist on the tot lot, livestream of weekday Compline and Taize services are positive memories of our ability to creatively adapt.

The search for a new rector was very different this time as many priests had retired during Covid and there were barely a handful of priests who already lived within driving distance of St Michael's. Luckily, Father Joshua was newly ordained and the perfect fit for our parish.

All these reflections and memories were brought about as my time on the vestry draws to a close coupled with the recent celebration of a big birthday that ends in a zero. I am 99.99% certain that I will never again be on a vestry. However, I will be cheering for the next vestry that will be elected at the annual meeting on February ninth.

Kathy Van Orden

February Birthday Blessing

8 Terri Conn
 10 Jonathan McCaverty
 11 Laura Nilsson, Nicole Albers
 18 Jorge Cortes 2
 3 Jay Gillam



March newsletter articles are due February 25th. Send articles and pictures to melissaasings@gmail.com

Disaster and Its Impact



We have all been watching and listening to the news about the terrible fires and the impact they are having on families. Thinking about how terrible it is to lose everything except what you wore to work that day, for me brought back memories of “been there, done that.” It was decades ago, but hearing of similar situations stirs up old memories.

The home I grew up in and where my family lived was on a busy highway. I remember my sister calling me at work one day and saying “can you come home?” I asked why, and she said, pretty calmly, “a truck hit the house.” I asked “was there much damage” and her response was a burst of tears as she said “there’s nothing left!”

I went home and as I approached, saw throngs of people standing on our front lawn and in the driveway. When I was able to park and see what everyone was looking at—it is almost impossible to describe. The front of the house didn’t look too bad, but the side view!

There was the front porch, the back porch, and the attic connecting them. Everything in between was a pile of rubble under a huge truck, the back half of which was sticking out the side of the house. Of course, my first thought was if anyone was injured, but thank God my parents, sister, and our two dogs were all ok.

Everything destroyed was just “stuff.” It takes a while for the loss of everything you had to sink in. My wardrobe now consisted of whatever I had worn to work that day. In the rubble was a lifetime of things accumulated to that point--clothing, pictures, and everything else that seemed important at the time. The disaster also showed who were the kind, caring people we lived near. I moved in with a girlfriend’s family, my family found accommodations, as we all resumed life without possessions.

That kind of experience certainly puts into perspective the things you considered important and non-replaceable as you resume life without possessions.

Hopefully the families involved in the recent fires will be able to re-establish their lives without too much trauma and will have people to comfort and support them.

Gerri Pisciotta

*** If you would like to help those impacted by the So. CA wildfires, please go to : Episcopalrelief.org**

Thank you from Blue Butterfly Village for all the gift bags we sent...

I hope you had a lovely Christmas. Thank you for all the treat/snack bags! They were a hit. We gave them out at the same time we were giving out donated toys, on Monday. As always, there were lots of smiles. You and your friends are so kind and generous to our little enclave over here. We are so grateful!

Wishing you a Happy New Year and 2025,
Kate

Kate Walsh

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