



# THE GUARDIAN

**St. Michael the Archangel Episcopal Church El Segundo**

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**St. Michael's Children's Center**

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

**Worship Schedule**

Sunday 8:00am Rite I Spoken Service  
Sunday 10:00am Rite II Choral Eucharist

**The Reverend Joshua Wong, Rector**

**Mission Statement for St. Michael's Church**

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

# April 2025

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

TO:

# Rector's Thoughts

Do you ever wonder why there are so many Bible translations?



The following is a reflection from *Introducing the Lessons of the Church Year* by Frederick Hook Borsch and the article entitled, “Why are there so many translations in the Bible,” by Greg Gilbert, MDiv., Senior pastor at Third Avenue Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky.

You may wonder why there are many versions of translations for us to choose from. There are a number of fine translations of the Bible available today, but we should be careful that these translations pay attention to the basic historical questions involving the text.

Some of the translations you may have heard of include: The New American Bible (NAB), New English Bible (NEB), The Jerusalem Bible (JB), The King James Version (KJV), The Message (MSG), and many others. For a good reference guide to how each translation reads, and the differences among them, check out: [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com). The most frequently used modern English Bible translation that the Episcopal Church uses is The New Revised Standard Version. (NRSV). While it retains a fair amount of the language and cadence of the familiar King James Version, it is rooted in a better knowledge of the original texts and avoids outdated words. Its soundness, familiarity and widespread use continue to make it commendable for regular reading in many churches.

I find while preparing a sermon that reading the different translations can be very helpful in understanding some of the nuance differences in history, culture and emphasis. In this list, I also enjoy using Tree of Life (TLV), that brings a Jewish historical and cultural perspective into the cultural times of Jesus.

Why are there so many different translations of the Bible? Is it because the people who worked on the New English Bible thought the people who worked on the King James Version got the Bible largely wrong? In short, the answer to all these questions is “no.” Sometimes, each translation is aimed at different audiences, for example, there are some translations for youth, for men and women Bible studies, etc. Even when different translations use different words to render the same Greek or Hebrew phrase, that does not necessarily—or even very often at all—leave us with any doubt about what the original was saying. The reasons come down to recognizing all the different ways people use the Bible in their lives. People read the Bible devotionally, they preach from it, they use it in Bible studies, they do scholarly work on it, they study it, they have conversations about doctrines from it, they defend their understanding of the faith with it. And the fact is, for most of these activities, a strict word-for-word translation of the original Greek or Hebrew would not be very useful. If we translated the original strictly word-for-word from the Greek, it would not come out making any sense. That is the main reason we have different translations—for different uses of the Bible. Sometimes a stricter, more word-for-word translation of the original language is exactly what you need. But at other times, you want something a bit more readable, a bit more readily understandable, and so some translations offer a more phrase-for-phrase (or even thought-for-thought) approach, smoothing out word order, preferring English syntax over Greek or Hebrew syntax, and generally just rendering the thoughts of the original in a form that an English-speaking reader will better understand.

To put it slightly more technically, every translation of the Bible has to aim, to one degree or another, at both accuracy and readability. Take for example, The Message translation, the committees set out to produce a version that is eminently readable, but that decision necessarily means the translators will have to rearrange some of the original language’s word order so that the sentences will sound “right” to an English-language ear. The Message may be better used in a community environment than as a study Bible.

I hope this was helpful in learning more about our Bible. Keep discovering.

Shalom Father Joshua+



### C.A.S.E. Ingathering April 27 (New date!)

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 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   | Canned Tuna                          |
| SPAM   | Pasta Sauce                          |
| Rosarita Refried Beans   | Progresso or Campbells Chunky Soups  |
| Ketchup  | Mayonnaise - Best Foods is preferred |
| Sugar  | Flour                                |
| Salt   | Cooking Oil                          |
| Cake Mixes - Chocolate or Yellow   | Frosting - Chocolate or Vanilla      |
| Brownie & Cookie Mixes   | Pancake Mix - Store brands please    |
| Syrup  | White Rice                           |
| Strawberry and other fruit jams (not grape)  | Honey                                |
| Peanut Butter - prefer Skippy, Jif or recognized store brand   |                                      |
| Juice  | Snacks                               |
| Cookies  | Coffee (No decaf)                    |
| Toothpaste   | Shampoo                              |
| Dish detergent   | 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

#### **Children's Center News**



Happy April! This month in the children's center we will be learning about Spring and all that comes with it. We will learn about the new season, the bugs that emerge as the weather changes, and of course the Easter holiday!

Thank you to everyone who supported our See's Candy fundraiser for the past month. We appreciate you!

School will be closed on Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> for Good Friday.

Lauren



Patrick used the language of the people he was converting

### Who was St. Patrick?

Last month, when we celebrated St. Patrick's day, you may have joined in the fun, wearing green and wondering who is St. Patrick? Every year on March 17, the supposed date of St. Patrick's death, millions around the world celebrate this religious and cultural holiday. In the dioceses of Ireland, it is both a solemnity and a holy day of obligation; it is also a celebration of Ireland itself.

It might be surprising for some to learn that this symbol of Irish identity was not born in Ireland. The saint known as Patrick was born in Roman Britain, likely Scotland. Scholars agree that Patrick was a real person, whose presence in Ireland is referred to in historical accounts. Patrick was a fifth-century Romano-British Christian missionary ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RomanoBritish\\_culture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RomanoBritish_culture)) and bishop in Ireland. He is known in the Anglican Church as the "Apostle of Ireland," and is the primary patron saint of Ireland, the other patron saints being Brigit of Kildare and Columba, both of whom are also worth learning about.

Although Patrick was never officially declared a saint, nevertheless, he is venerated in the Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion, the Lutheran Churches, the Old Catholic Church, and in the Eastern Orthodox Church as equal-to-the-apostles of Ireland. The dates of Patrick's life cannot be fixed with certainty, but there is broad agreement that he was active as a missionary in Ireland during the fifth century, or even as early as the late fourth century. Early medieval tradition credits him with being the first bishop of Armagh and Primate of Ireland, and regards him as the founder of Christianity in Ireland, converting a society practicing a form of Celtic polytheism. But this is not for certain, despite evidence of some earlier Christian presence in Ireland. If you want to learn more about Christian history, Celtic spirituality is rich with meaning, and you will discover how inclusive they were as a religion. Better yet, go on a Celtic vacation/study trip with fellow Episcopalians led by a trained Episcopal priest/scholar. You can often find these and other similar trips offered in the Diocese monthly Newsletter. You can subscribe here: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/The-Episcopal-NewsUpdate---March-9--2025.html?soid=1101307179673&aid=LmdjdydLI1E>

If this is interesting to you, here is a good article to learn more: <https://anglicanjournal.com/stpatrick-from-missionary-bishop-to-irish-national-icon/>. Now, when next St. Patrick's day comes around, you'll know who he is. Enjoy!



Wednesday April 2	Children's Chapel
Sunday April 6	8am and 10am Service
Wednesday April 9	Children's Chapel
Palm Sunday April 13	8am and 10am Service
Wednesday April 16	Children's Chapel
Maundy Thursday April 17	5:30 Service
Good Friday April 18	No school
Good Friday April 18	noon Service
Easter Sunday April 20	8am service, 10am <b>Children's Worship Service</b>
Tuesday April 22	Vestry meeting, 9 am
Wednesday April 23	Children's Chapel
Sunday April 27	8am and 10am Service
Wednesday April 30	Children's Chapel



### HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### *Special Services for Lent and Holy Week*

##### **Palm Sunday & the Sunday of the Passion—April 14 at 8am & 10am**

Beginning on the lawn for blessing of the Palms and Triumphal Entry  
Ending with the story of Jesus' Passion as told in the Gospel of Luke  
YouTube video of 10am service

##### **Maundy Thursday—April 17 at 5:30pm**

Eucharist and stripping of the Altar  
Followed by keeping vigil in your own home

##### **Good Friday—April 18 at 12noon**

*Readings from the Passion*

##### **Easter Day—April 20 at 8am & 10am**

Celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord  
With the Lighting of the New Fire at 8am and Choral Eucharist at 10am  
In person in the church and on YouTube Video

## Voices from the Vestry

The season of Spring arrived in what I can only explain as a welcome embrace. The rain and chill of the recent weather from Winter was nothing short of seasonal gloom that only a spoiled Southern Californian like me can bemoan. I jest, but there are also many other reasons to welcome this season of Spring. Much of our community was recently affected by the awful start to the year with the Los Angeles fires. It is very rare to find someone who was not directly or indirectly affected by what was such a horrible start to the year. Winter was harsh, rough, and long. My recent walks with my dogs and Judith during these few sunny Spring days got me thinking though, what is the existence of Spring without Winter?

This realization got me meditating on some thoughts during this season of Lent. What is the time of Lent if not a reflection and a preparation for what is to come? I was thinking about this a little during Ash Wednesday. It was probably one of the wettest Ash Wednesdays to date with rain pouring in SoCal and weather promising to match the somberness of the words “to dust you are and dust you shall return”. As I picked up Judith from daycare after the service, I thought a little more of what we do to prepare. We pray, we meditate on scripture readings, we come together as a community in Christ as we did on Ash Wednesday. Why? My revelation was that it is to reflect on Christ’s love and participate in his grace during this time. How can we celebrate the Spring of Easter if we do not have the Winter of Lent, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday? How do we not move on from the “Winter” that was the Los Angeles fires if not by actions of charity, love and support to those affected by it? I saw “Spring” occur in our community when I witnessed loved ones opening their doors to the recently displaced, food banks and charities filled to the brim with donations, and first responders from communities and nations outside our own coming to our side to help.

The way of the cross and walking in Christ is no easy task and a lot is asked of the community of Christ to prepare the way for what is the most amazing gift of all: the grace of Christ through his death and resurrection. God asked for the ultimate sacrifice of Christ. Was this not Christ’s “Winter”? But, He did so for the promise of “Spring” to come through his resurrection. How are we preparing the way during this “Winter” of Lent? Are we making our way to “Spring”?

I am reminded of the Ecclesiastes Chapter 3, which also happens to be an amazingly performed song by the Byrds. To echo some of the verses and song,

“1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:  
2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;  
4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; 5 A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
7 A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;”

There will always be seasons to our lives, and we are in the season of preparation for what is to come. I was rest assured that, no matter the season, we are never alone for “11 He hath made every-thing beautiful in [our] time: also he hath set the world in [our] heart[s]”. I hope these thoughts echo as loudly in your hearts as they did in mine.

Daniel Duarte

