



# THE GUARDIAN

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

Parish Office: 310-322-2589  
Web site: [www.stmichaels-elsegundo.org](http://www.stmichaels-elsegundo.org)  
Email: [StMichaelsElSegundo@gmail.com](mailto: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.*

# December 2024

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

TO:

# Rector's Thoughts



Silent Night, holy Night  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round you Virgin, Mother and Child  
Holy Infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace  
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night  
Shepherds quake at the sight  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly host sing alleluia  
Christ the Savior is born  
Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

When the chapel is dark, late at night, with the only lights flickering from our candles, this is my favorite Christmas hymn, especially when sung as the last hymn during the end of the Christmas Eve service.

I ask the children every Wednesday at chapel, what does it mean when we light the candles? They reply, "It means that Jesus is present."

Jesus is indeed present during this time, quieting our hearts from all the chaos and hustle and bustle of 2024, to what really matters throughout our busy year—Jesus our savior is born, not as a warrior to save the world, but as a child teaching us about peace and reconciliation.

May we live in that peace all year long, a peace generated by love, and a peace that comes from knowing we have eternal life. May it propel us to love him more and our neighbor as ourselves.

-Father Joshua+

*On behalf of St. Michael's Church,  
The Clergy, Vestry, and Staff, wish you a joyous and blessed Christmas.*

### Children's Center News

December is here! The children's center is filled with joy as we anticipate the celebration of Christmas. This month the children will learn about the spirit of giving through our toy drive for Connections for Children. The children will bring in new toys that will be given to children in the Connections community.

There will be lots of holiday arts and crafts and stories about the Christmas season this month as well.

We will have our annual holiday party on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 to 11:30.

School will be closed December 23-January 3 for winter break.

Happy Holidays!



Lauren

### C.A.S.E. Ingathering December 15

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

Multi-purpose cleaning solution

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



### December Birthday Blessing

8 Randy Albers

9 Stuart Galloway

24 Chris Powell

27 Ray Gross



January newsletter is due December 27th. Send articles and pictures to [melissaasings@gmail.com](mailto:melissaasings@gmail.com)



### HOLIDAY FEELINGS

The end of the year holidays are frequently a challenge. For Thanksgiving it helps to combine thanks with giving. If you couldn't think of anything to be especially thankful for this year, or if you find yourself comparing what you have to what some other people have, think about the things other people have that you are grateful you don't have! Certainly, it helps put it in a new perspective.

Spending the holiday with family can sometimes be a challenge. Some families are just more problematic than others, but we have to remember we can't control other people. The only thing we can control is ourselves and how we react to them. You might want to think ahead of some of the problem people and what it is they do that causes friction. Then plan how you might react if it is still the same.

Frequently the holidays bring a mix of sadness along with joy, as we are reminded of the people we don't have with us. We may even feel "we didn't appreciate them enough at the time." It may help to focus on the things you most admire about the people you presently have and be grateful for having those people in your life. Feel thankful they are here to celebrate with you, and you can still be together. The holidays now may become ones you look back on years from now with warm feelings and think "I wish I had appreciated it more at that time."  
Gerri Pisciotta

### A REUNION IN BELFAST AND ANOTHER IN LONDON

My daughter, Jeanette, and I visited England and Northern Ireland in October to visit with our family and friends. In Belfast we stayed with Michelle and Niall McKeown, whom we have known for many years through St. Michael's. We also met their daughter, Keira, who is now in High School in Belfast. She is now so tall and a lovely young lady.

Shortly after our reunion with Michelle and Niall, my granddaughter, Alex, who is studying at the University of Maastricht in Holland, went to London and met up with Michelle and Niall's daughter, Dannan, who had just started at university in London. Dannan and Alex were in the same class at St. Michael's preschool!

As always a delightful reunion with the McKeowns.

Michell and Niall asked me to send best wishes to all friends at St. Michael's and said "cmon over!"  
Gillian Madden



### Voices from the Vestry

Over the past few months I've had the opportunity to take a couple overseas trips. The one that I want to share is my trip to Japan. I've traveled to several European countries but it was my first visit to that part of the world. I was taken with the many varied aspects of the country. Japan was much more diverse than I knew. We all know about the intense crowds and vibrancy of Tokyo and the much photographed shrine filled areas of Kyoto. What I was not as familiar with was the scenic beauty of the country. The vast forests and beautiful rivers and lakes were a welcome change upon leaving Tokyo. There is a city called Hakone high in the mountains of the National Park outside Tokyo. It has natural volcanic hot springs and amazing views of Mt Fuji. The city of Hiroshima was the most memorable and moving of my trip. Seeing the thousands of school children who visit each day to lay wreaths of 1000 paper cranes at the Children's Memorial and our group getting to talk with a survivor of that tragic day made it even more impactful than my visit to Auschwitz.

Of course there are so many cultural differences to the United States but I wanted to highlight one in particular. While all countries including the United States and most European countries are dealing with the decline of religion in our countries Japan would not be considered religious at all. Less than 1% of the population is considered Christian and there is really no tradition of regularly attending a house of worship. Churches, synagogues and mosques are commonplace in communities throughout our country. That is not the case in Japan. What there is in Japan are Buddhist and Shinto shrines. At last count over 160,000. People will go to a shrine to pray or mediate. There are a few national holidays that many people will make a special point to visit one of those shrines. Many of these fall on special days that include New Years Day, start of autumn or the birth of a child. People will visit a shrine to ask for special prayers but don't regularly gather together. I'm glad that our traditions emphasize us gathering together to pray and worship. It's such a key part of our religious faith. As it says in Matthew "when two or three are gathered in my name I will be there." I'm especially thankful for my home here at St Michael's. I hope you feel the same. I look forward to worshipping with all of you in this advent season.

Chris Powell



### Poinsettias for Christmas

Each Christmas our altar is beautifully decorated with poinsettias to help us celebrate the joy of the season. It has been our tradition to give everyone the opportunity to remember loved ones and blessings in our service leaflets as we celebrate Christmas Eve services.

Please fill out this form and leave on the office desk, or put it in the collection plate or email Melissa (melissaasings@gmail.com) the information by Dec. 20th so she will have time to add your offering to the leaflets.

The cost is about \$20 per plant, and you are welcome to take one after the Christmas season is over.



### Christmas Poinsettias

(Please Print Clearly)

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email: \_\_\_\_\_

In Thanksgiving/Memory of  
(circle one)

\_\_\_\_\_



**Congratulations to Judith, Victoria and Mieko on their baptisms**



# DECEMBER



- Dec. 1. First Sunday of Advent 8:00am Rite 1, 10:00 Rite 2
- Dec. 4. Children's Chapel 11:00
- Dec. 8. Second Sunday of Advent 8:00am Rite 1, 10:00 Rite 2
- Dec. 11. Children's Chapel 11:00
- Dec. 15. Third Sunday of Advent 8:00 am Rite 1, 10:00 am Lessons *and Carols*
- Dec 17. Vestry Meeting 9:30
- Dec. 18. Children's Chapel 11:00
- Dec 22. Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:00am Rite 1, 10:00 Rite 2. *CASE donations*
- Dec 23. (Monday) All materials due for Jan. issue of The Guardian.
- Dec 23-Jan 3. SMCC closed
- Dec. 24. Christmas Eve 4:00pm Family Service, 9:00 pm Choral Eucharist
- Dec 25 Christmas Day, church office is closed
- Dec. 29. First Sunday after Christmas 8:00am Rite 1, 10:00 Rite 2
- Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 church office is closed.

## A prayer for our time

In the heart of every person in the world there is a light of love and goodness. Some hearts burn a small spark of light while others burn radiant shining lights.

Jesus, help us all to follow your commandment to "do to others as you would have them do to you" and fill each of our hearts with Your brightest light of goodness and love.

God please grant our vision of a world where justice is guided by love. Give each of us the courage to stand up for what is right and to be advocates for those who are oppressed.

Holy Spirit, we pray for hearts that are open to your guidance. We pray for wisdom to clearly understand your voice. Please work within the hearts of all Americans that love will dissolve division, hatred and fear.

In Jesus' name, Amen

## Palos Verdes Resale Thrift Shop and Family Promise

Instead of my regular article about Family Promise, I would like to share some information about Palos Verdes Resale Thrift Shop. In every article I've written for Family Promise, there's always an ask for donations for this shop.

I volunteered for PV Resale Thrift Shop for many years, and have my own apron and everything. It's a nonprofit organization supported entirely by volunteers, and an amazing outreach all by itself. Fran Pitts, a parishioner of St. John Fisher Church in Rancho Palos Verdes spearheaded the creation of the thrift shop that disburses notable sums of money to over a dozen charitable organizations, including Family Promise, in the South Bay and greater Los Angeles area.

The proceeds, far more than ever dreamed of, are disbursed in a very democratic fashion. Volunteers have a vote in where the money raised is distributed. For every hour worked at the shop, a volunteer has one vote to cast for the charity of their choice; more hours worked equals more votes. Each quarter the votes are tallied and the proceeds are disseminated, based on the votes of the volunteers, to those on the established list of charities. This inventive and motivational technique gives each volunteer a feeling of ownership in the sales of the shop and the opportunity to direct financial assistance to a charity that is near and dear to their hearts. I was able to raise \$18 per hour I volunteered for Family Promise by sorting merchandise, hanging and tagging clothing, emptying dressing rooms, straightening clothing and assisting customers in the store. And I met some wonderful people!

The system of keeping the merchandise moving is both meticulous and amazing. Anything not sold within two weeks is marked down to half-price. Any of these items still unsold after another week are put into a special "Dollar Day" sale that takes place regularly in the parking lot behind the shop. "Dollar Day" draws large crowds and is a surprisingly lucrative part of the shop's revenue.

The volunteers, wonderful workers that they are, acknowledge that they have a higher mission. They are all aware that they are the face of the Church in the community and they remind themselves often that the kindness, caring and the respect they show all customers are as important as the money they make.

### **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. 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





## Cookie Corner

### Florine's Delights AKA S'mores Cookies

1 Cup unsalted butter  
1 Cup Brown sugar  
½ Cup white sugar  
2 large eggs  
2 tsp. vanilla extract  
1 ¾ Cups white flour  
½ Cup ground graham crackers  
1 TBS ground cinnamon  
1 tsp baking soda  
10 ounces bag of VEGAN marshmallows minis or cut large marshmallows into pieces  
10 ounces dark chocolate chopped course

Preheat oven at 375 F

In a bowl whisk together. Flour, graham crackers. Cinnamon, and baking soda.

Set aside

In a mixer

Cream butter and sugars together

Add eggs one and at time, mix until combined

Mix in Vanilla

Mix in flour mixture, until no streaks of flour visible

Stir in chocolate chunks and marshmallows

Scoop 1 TBS dough onto cookie sheet with parchment paper

Fit 8 ball of dough on a sheet

Bake until edges crispy, but middle still soft 8-10 minutes

Let cool on cookie sheet

EAT!



If you'd like to try these cookies, come to coffee hour on Dec. 8. Florine's going to make these yummy cookies!

### Molasses Cookies (everybody's favorite)

¾ cup shortening or unsalted butter

1 cup packed brown sugar (light or dark is ok)

1 large egg

½ cup molasses

2 ½ cup flour

1 tsp salt

2 tsp baking soda

½ tsp ground cloves

1 tsp ground cinnamon

1 tsp ground ginger

Cream shortening/butter and sugar

Stir in egg and molasses

Fold in dry ingredients

Chill dough for 1-2 hours

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Roll dough into balls and roll in sugar

Bake 9-10 minutes

