



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.*

October 2024

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

TO:

Rector's Thoughts



October is a time to give thanks

Now that “summer fun in the sun” is winding down, we anticipate the “fall sweater” weather arriving soon, with golden fall leaves cascading down from above...or at least we dream of the four seasons that we have here in beautiful Southern California.

Fall is also a time to prepare our minds towards giving thanks, for our church, lives, friends, health, family, work and everything else we are grateful for. Fall is when our choir is back filling our chapel with praise to God, and when we anticipate baptism, Thanksgiving with family and friends, and soon Advent. It is a time to thank God for his love, for giving us the beautiful and bountiful created world, and for our pets that provide so much joy and companionship in our lives.

October is also our Stewardship Campaign, a time for us to offer our dedication to God in the form of our monetary tithing. You may have heard some churches say that we should aim for 10-15% of our income to God each year, but, in the New Testament, Jesus says we owe God all that we have. So, it's not the percentage that matters, but rather what is in our hearts. And to each, what God asks of us.

We have been hearing in our pulpit this past month about “purity of heart.” I believe that this is a core teaching Jesus has for us becoming a disciple in the New Testament. It's not about obeying rules, but about giving of oneself from a pure heart. Jesus praised the widow in Mark 12 who gave of her all: “Then a poor widow came along and put in two small copper coins. Jesus teaches the disciples that the woman gave more than the rich. The poor woman, as a widow, would have had no source of income after her husband's death. Therefore the two small copper coins were all she had - and yet she offered them to God.” She was an example of someone who loved Jesus with a pure heart. This love involves trust, faith and enthusiasm for what Christ has done for her and will be faithful to do for her in the future.

So, as the cooler weather comes upon the Southland, may we ponder the generosity of God's love towards us in all we have, and respond with a generous heart to the needs of the Church. The theme for the 2025 stewardship campaign is taken from James 17:1, “*Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights.*”

May God continue to speak to you through our community at St. Michael's, as our place of spiritual growth and transformation, and as a place we learn more about the abundant life of God. Blessings to you and your family. —Father Joshua+

"Catechism helped me to better understand what I was learning at church. It helped me to go from a bit clueless, to understanding a lot of what was being preached." ~ Donovan

Sun. Oct. 6	Blessing of the Animals Service 8am & 10am
Sun. Oct. 13	Holy Eucharist 8am & 10am
Sun. Oct. 20	CASE Ingathering
Sun. Oct. 27	Holy Eucharist 8am & 10am Pledge Ingathering
Tues. Oct. 31	Halloween
Wed. Nov. 1	All Saints day
Sun. Nov. 5	Daylight Savings time
Sun. Nov. 3	All Saints observed -Baptisms



C.A.S.E. Ingathering October 20

Coffee—regular & decaf	Dry beans—pinto, black, lentils
Canned tuna—albacore & chunk light	Canned pinto beans
Canned chili—turkey chili, no beans chili	Jell-O boxes
Bottles of juice—apple, orange, cranberry	Cereal—kid friendly, sugary
Oatmeal—in canisters, not individual packets	Honey
Salad dressings—1000 Island, Honey Mustard	Mayo
Oil—vegetable, canola, olive	Sugar—granulated, powdered, brown
Laundry soap / Body wash / Shampoo & conditioner / Toothpaste / Toilet paper	



October Birthdays

12 Brady Gillam
 18 Elizabeth Tobias
 22 Amy Powell
 30 Eric Amarosa



Pledge Cards

Look for your stewardship letter and card in the mail. Please thoughtfully fill out your pledge card and return it on October 27. You may also mail your card into the church office. 361 Richmond St. El Segundo, CA 90245

St. Michael's is important to us because it provides an extended family to our children so that they can grow up with a sense of religious and spiritual purpose.— Michelle

Photos needed! We are in need of photos you have taken recently or from the past of St. Michael's Church for our new website. Please send them to: stmichaelsegundo@gmail.com. Feel free to take pictures of your friends or moments in church that would be useable on our website. Make sure everyone is willing to have their pictures on the website. Thank you in advance.

"Catechism has deepened my understanding of and relationship with God." ~ Marcus

Family Promise

Homelessness remains one of our country's most critical issues. 1 in 16 children will experience homelessness before the first grade. Our Family Promise Resource & Respite Center is filled. All of our transitional homes are filled. Our current shelter waitlist is 12 months. Our waitlist includes more than 200 families!

Please support Family Promise.

Our biggest fundraiser of the year, "The Art of Resiliency Gala will be on Saturday, October 26th, at the Toyota Meeting Hall, 3330 Civic Center Dr, Torrance, CA 90503, from 5:30 - 9:30.

It will be a really fun night featuring dinner, live music, and silent and live auctions. Tickets are \$250. Please donate online at www.familypromiseosb.org. Any amount helps! Your investment in Family Promise of the South Bay is not just a financial contribution, it is a powerful statement of your belief in positive change and a brighter future, especially for the children.

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.

Visit Wrigley Coffee and have some fun!

Wrigley Coffee is not a chain and you won't find it anywhere else - it's strictly ours! Through Wrigley Coffee, our goal is to give parents facing housing insecurity a fresh start and a path to independence through career training, coffee, and community. The idea is similar to Homeboy Industries. If you haven't been yet, you're really missing out.

Monday - Sunday 7am - 4pm 437 W Willow St., Long Beach, CA 90806

Posted in Instagram:

"We are deeply thankful for our amazing Congregation Partners: St. Paul, Anchor South Bay, St. Michael's, El Segundo UMC, & American Martyrs. Your abundant donation of school supplies and backpacks are equipping students of all ages to thrive in the classroom."



Jeanie Powell
Family Promise



It is important for me to go to church every week--St. Michaels is a friendly, welcoming church and the service still feels traditional.—Gerri

Blessing of the Animals



Many of us are thankful for the presence of the pets in our lives. The Blessing of the Animals is coming up October 6, so today we will talk about our pets.

They can be a different species—dogs, cats, birds, etc. Probably the most common pet most of us have is a dog, so we are going to focus on dogs. There is something so special about a dog—they bring reciprocal love into our lives.

They always seem to want to be there for you—whether it’s just a head on your lap when you are having a rough day or a comforting presence when you are going through a stressful time. Studies have shown having a dog benefits its owner in ways besides the obvious—like you get exercise when taking them for a walk. You have lower blood pressure and anxiety levels in their presence, and their just being there with that unconditional love provides comfort and nurturing.

Many battered women have remained in the abusive home because they can’t find a shelter where they can take the dog. They can’t let that love go, and they won’t risk danger to the pet by leaving it with the abuser. Someone gave me a bookmark that says “your dog is the only one who loves you more than he loves himself.”

Your dog doesn’t care if you have gained a few pounds, or if you don’t look as good as you did years ago. They provide unconditional love and devotion and don’t ask for more than a hug and a meal. And—the later you get home, the happier they are to see you! My husband had a t-shirt that says, “Lord, help me to be the person my dog thinks I am.”

We seem to be learning more and more about their amazing capabilities every year. With their vastly superior sense of smell they are now being used to sniff out and detect illnesses—cancer, diabetes, seizures, as well as money, explosives, and drugs. There seems to be no limit to their ever increasing value.

Frequently there are stories on the news about a dog rescuing a person, whether by alerting that someone is in need, or even (after being trained) putting a paw on the person’s cell phone that calls 911.

When a child has a treasured pet, they remember it for the rest of their lives. This is evidenced by the fact that so many places will ask “what was your first pet’s name?” when making up a password. I recently came across a poem I had written over 40 years ago when a beloved pet died, and it still brought tears to my eyes.

When I was a teenager babysitting, a mom told me her culture had a custom of naming someone after their predecessors—not by using the whole name but by the first initial. Every pet I have had since has been named after someone (human or animal) using their first initial.

We are happy to bring our pets to the annual Blessing of the Animals Service—we are realizing how blessed we are to have them in our lives. Remember, it is October 6, and if you can bring a photo of your pet, whether living with you now or loved previously. All pictures will be blessed.

Gerri

What did I learn from Catechism?" After participating in the classroom activities and a bit of personal study, I was thrilled to discover that the few areas for which I've had "conscientious objections" with the Roman Catholic faith are fully mitigated under Episcopal Doctrine (e.g. I can receive Communion!!). I also learned, however, that the "core tenants" of Christ's Grace and Salvation appear to be fairly indistinguishable between Catholics and Episcopalian. I was happy to learn that Sacraments such as Confession are still available and that Jesus Christ is (also) considered as "actually present" in Communion (though not articulated as "Body & Blood" as Catholics believe).

"How did Catechism change my life?" The Catechism confirmed a desire/passion for continuing with Episcopal Fellowship and Community.—Tom

It's important for me to give to St Michael's exactly because St Michael's IS important to me. It's the way I can show my faith in our church community and in my Lord. We all need to be in this together for our church and our faith to thrive. —Chris

Voices From the Vestry



Transitions of Autumn

Summer break is winding down and back-to-school supplies are nearly sold out. Our glorious sunshine has been replaced with low clouds and fog as we notice the days getting shorter. Starbucks already brought back their seasonal pumpkin spice latte and Halloween decorations and costumes are in the stores. Labor Day Weekend marked the unofficial end of summer and the start of football season. In church we continue with the season after Pentecost which lasts until the start of Advent. November will bring a national election and Thanksgiving. I look forward to hosting my annual gathering for family and friends on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. I love being able to invite the church and the unchurched, the Episcopalians and those of other denominations and faiths. In my table grace at our Thanksgiving Feast, I recognize and honor the Tongva who are the first people of the land I call home. I added this after participating in The Episcopal Church's film based dialogue series on race and faith called Sacred Ground. I am grateful and proud of TEC for this program. My favorite December practice is AdventWord, an offering of Forward Movement which is a ministry of The Episcopal Church. AdventWord is an inspirational online Advent calendar featuring a daily prompt word selected from the Sunday Lectionary reading. The words for 2024 were recently published by Forward Movement. Each day during Advent, email subscribers and social media followers receive a daily meditation and visual image inspired by the day's word. Followers are invited to share their own personal reflections, art, poetry, or other creative expression on their social media profiles, tagging #AdventWord to share with the wider community. As we await the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we are invited to find quiet moments of reflection to help stay connected to our faith, to others, and to God. I find this practice very helpful in taking the focus off of excessive consumption of material goods and services. And then 2024 will wind down and it will be time for a transition to 2025.



Kathy

St. Michael's is one of the most important things in my life, because it is the place I worship, learn, and feel God's presence together with you, our wonderful loving congregation, and find in each other, the blessings of love, peace, encouragement, comfort, and sympathy.-Jeanie

Children's Center News

It's the Children's Center's favorite month! October is here and the children are already talking about costumes and Halloween celebrations. This month will continue our lessons on feelings and getting to know each other through games and circle time talks. As always, we will continue to enjoy our weekly visits to Chapel with Father Joshua to hear about God's love for us and how we should love each other. We will definitely have lots of fun with Halloween arts, crafts and stories as we also learn about the fall season. We will end the month with our annual Halloween parade around the bike yard.



Lauren