



The Mike

The Newsletter of St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, Studio City, CA

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 2 • March 2016

Renewal of Vows

By the Reverend Dan Justin

The end of our Lenten journey is in sight. Holy Week begins on Sunday, March 20th, with our observance of Palm Sunday. By the end of that week we will celebrate the great joy of the resurrection. Thanks be to God.

One my favorite aspects of Holy Week is the renewal of vows. You may not be aware of it, but on the Tuesday of Holy Week each year, all the clergy of the diocese are invited to gather at the Cathedral Center of St. Paul in Echo Park where they renew the vows of their ordination. The priests, deacons, and bishops of diocese arrive fully vested. We line up along the lake in Echo Park and process into the Cathedral Center Church, known as St. Athanasius and St. Paul. The bishop presides at the Eucharist. In the middle of that service the bishop invites the clergy to renew their vows.

First, the vocational deacons are invited to stand. The bishop asks them the same questions they were asked in their ordination and they renew their vows. Next, the priests stand. The bishop invites us to renew our vows asking us, "Will you respect and be guided by the pastoral direction and leadership of your bishop; will you be diligent in the reading and study of the Holy Scriptures, and in seeking the knowledge of such things as may make you a stronger and more able minister of Christ; will you endeavor so to minister the Word of God and the sacraments of the New Covenant, that the reconciling love of Christ may be known and received; will you undertake to be a faithful pastor to all whom you are called to serve, laboring together with them and with your fellow ministers to build up the family of God; will you do your best to pattern your life in accordance with the teachings of Christ, so that you may be a wholesome example to your people; will you persevere in prayer, in both public and in private, asking God's grace, both for yourself and for others, offering all your labors to God, through the mediation of Jesus Christ, and in the sanctification of the Holy Spirit?" To each question we answer, "We will."

Finally, the bishops are led in the renewal

of their vows by a member of the Standing Committee (both last year and this year that member is our own Betty Ferrell).

Through this renewal of vows service, we who have been called to these orders of ministry, recommit ourselves to this work. We do it each and every year. It is an important part of Holy Week.



It is not, however, only the ordained clergy who are invited to renew their vows during Holy Week. Each and every member of the church is invited to this kind of renewal and recommitment to Christ. This renewal of vows is at the center of the Great Vigil of Easter. After the stories of salvation history are read and the sermon has been preached, the presiding priest stands at the baptismal font and invites the congregation renew their vows. The priest

says, "Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church." The gathered congregation is then asked the questions of their "ordination," so to speak, "Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ; do you believe in God the Father; do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God; do you believe in God the Holy Spirit; will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers; will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord; will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ; will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself; will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of

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Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday

8:00 a.m.
10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday

6:30 p.m.
10:00 p.m.

Good Friday

Noon and 7:00 p.m.

Easter Eve

7:30 p.m.

Easter Day

8:00 a.m.
10:30 a.m.
11:30 a.m.

March 20

Holy Eucharist
Holy Eucharist with Palm Sunday procession

March 24

Agapé Supper, Holy Eucharist, washing of feet, and stripping of the altar
Compline

March 25

Good Friday Liturgy and Stations of the Cross

March 26

The Great Vigil of Easter

March 27

Holy Eucharist
Holy Eucharist
Easter Egg Hunt for children

Rector

from page 1

every human being?"

This renewal of our Baptismal Covenant is the renewal of vows for all members of the church. It is important always to remember that all members of the church are ministers. It is not just the ordained clergy who are ministers in the Episcopal Church. All the baptized are called by God to love and serve God and God's people. All the baptized are invited to join in Christ's mission of reconciliation in the world. As our new Presiding Bishop is fond of saying, "We are the Episcopal Church, the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement, and God has work for us to do."

As Lent draws to a close and Holy Week begins, I invite you to consider this idea of renewal of vows. What does it mean to you to recommit yourself to promises made in baptism? What will the living of these vows look like in your life this year? We have all been called by Christ. We are all called to the great joy of love and service in the world. Some are called as deacons, some as priests, some as bishops, some as lawyers, teachers, accountants, nurses, doctors, film makers, craftsmen, janitors, mothers, fathers, grandparents, or any combination therein. Each year we come to Holy Week where we are invited to renew our vows. Let us take this moment seriously. Ponder it; consider it; pray about it. And let us also be reminded, these vows always end with a prayer for grace. "May the Lord who has given you the will to do these things give you the grace and power to perform them. Amen."

Blessings,
Dan+

As you do your weekly grocery shopping, remember these items that are always needed by the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry

- Canned fruit and vegetables.*
- Baby food in plastic jars.*
- Tuna.*
- Peanut butter in plastic jars.*
- Powdered milk in individual packets.*
- Individual size snacks.*
- Bags of dry beans and rice.*
- Plastic and paper shopping bags.*
- Diapers and feminine hygiene items.*
- Travel-size soap, toothpaste & disposable razors.*
- And money!*

News About Us

By Sharrell Treat

This is an occasional column with short profiles of our members.

Teddy Adair

I was born in Nassau, Bahamas, the descendant of Loyalists. At that time, the Bahamas was a British colony and we were Anglicans. I graduated high school, and then graduated from the Ontario Business College in Canada. One of the places I worked was at the company that built the tracking bases for the U.S. military between Florida and Guantanamo Bay, before NASA started sending up rockets.



I married an Air Force guy and naturally was stationed at many bases over the years. I have one daughter who is married and they have a daughter with whom I live. From the time I moved to California in 1976, I was a member of St. David's Episcopal Church. I was on the Altar Guild, taught Sunday School, and served on the Vestry twice. I was the Treasurer for two years, and also helped with our project to feed breakfast to the homeless every Saturday morning.

In 2004 the rector of St. David's decided he did not want to be Episcopalian anymore and pulled out. Approximately 15 of us came to St. Michael's. I'm the only one of the group who is still here. I could not have picked a better church. What a lot of great people with a great rector.

Read the MIKE Online! Go to the St. Michael's website, www.stmikessc.org, and click on Newsletter. Back issues are available there as well.

Treasurer's Corner

January 2016—Revenue and Expense Summary

	January Actual	January Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 54,554	\$ 35,863	\$ 54,554	\$ 35,863
Total Expense	38,040	36,616	38,040	36,616
Net	\$ 16,514	\$ (753)	\$ 16,514	\$ (753)

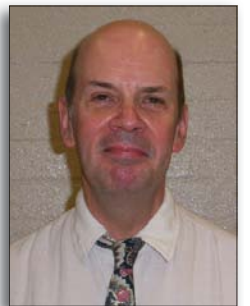
Stephen Billington

Born in Kansas City, I moved to Los Angeles as a child, began singing in school choirs from the age of eight, started working as a church organist and choirmaster while studying music at UC Riverside, and became an Episcopalian while organist at St. George's, Riverside. Through further study at NYU and the Free University of Berlin, I earned a Ph.D. in Historical Musicology, taught every grade from first grade through university, and worked for a number of years as a piano tuner/technician. I am currently employed by the Los Angeles Unified School District as Credit Clerk in the office of John Sutter Middle School in Winnetka. I have travelled extensively in Europe. I have been a member of St. Michael's and sung in the choir for the past dozen years.



Leonard Harman

I have been a member of St. Michael's since arriving in the area in 1999. I serve as an MC and have served two terms on the Vestry. I have also been head usher and taught Sunday School for several years. I came to the church as an adult, joining St. Thomas in Knoxville, Tennessee, about 30 years ago. Recently (though still not officially) retired from the film industry, I worked as Art Director on several television series. Prior to work in television I was a scenic designer in theater for many years and also taught this subject at universities, including the University of Tennessee. I enjoy drawing and painting and take French classes at Alliance Française.





The parish family enjoyed a joyous Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on February 9th and observed Ash Wednesday on February 10th with two services. We are now in the 40 days of Lent, leading up to Good Friday on March 25th, and Holy Saturday on March 26th, the Great Vigil. Easter Sunday will be followed by an Easter egg hunt for the children.



Christians are invited to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word. Beyond fasting and abstinence, St Michael's is a great place

to practice Bible reading by attending the Sunday morning Adult Learning Group at 9:15 am each Sunday morning in the Ministry Center. To participate in corporate worship, attend one of our two Sunday morning services. Works of mercy may be facilitated by joining one of the many outreach opportunities, including PRISM.

As Fr. Dan recently said, "Lent gives us the opportunity to tell the story of Jesus once again. It is our story. We are active participants. Let us be grateful as we offer ourselves to God in remembrance of what God has done for us."

Responses from Our Letters to Prisoners

By Elizabeth Forsythe Hailey

Unexpected and touching responses from over one-third of the prisoners who received holiday cards with handwritten messages from parishioners have been arriving at the office since the first of the year.

Sixty cards were sent to prisoners on a waiting list for a permanent pen pal. First names were supplied by longtime activist and prisoner advocate Virginia Classick who assumed the responsibility for addressing and mailing the cards.

A letter from Father Dan was included with each card, explaining that our Episcopal tradition considers every individual a child of God who deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. He said that our church has been active in the campaign to end prolonged solitary confinement and rejoiced in the historic agreement that was putting an end to the practice in California. This statement elicited some of the most moving responses, including this one from a prisoner transferred from solitary to a mainline prison "the day after receiving your card."

"Dear Rev. Dan Justin,

Today I write to thank you for the joy you brought with your letter and Christmas card.

I was not aware that churches and faith-based organizations played such an active role in our struggle to end the torture associated with long-term, prolonged solitary confinement.

As you are aware, many who have sat in isolation for years now have an opportunity to embrace and briefly kiss what loved ones they have left.... When we were isolated,

our loved ones—mothers, children, wives, family—were isolated as well. My wife divorced me just prior to our historic 2011 hunger strike.

Our fights are not over. My hope is that your tender fury continues to burn until the darkness is brought to light."

Another prisoner shared the good news that his transfer from the SHU (Solitary Housing Unit) was just "four short months away!!!" He wishes our congregation a blessed New Year and prays "our Lord continues to use you as an instrument to touch lives as you did mine."

One respondent was amazed to see the return address on the envelope:

"Let me tell you I've passed your church hundreds of times. I'm from the San Fernando Valley, North Hollywood specifically, and as a kid growing up I used to ride my bike up Laurel Canyon to Mulholland and down Coldwater Canyon to Grant High School and Valley College where I would just hang out and do bike tricks in the parking lot. This was back in the 80s and you've reminded me of better times, allowing me to escape this present reality for a brief moment. Thank you."

Another wrote to share good news:

"I was 18 when I came here—a gang member out of Los Angeles. About a year ago a new law was passed (SB260) that anyone convicted as a juvenile and given life could be given a second chance. Under this new law I could be headed home in 3 to 7 years if I keep my nose clean and get the programs they have requested.

Thank you for taking the time out of your day to tell me God knows where I am and that I am loved and thought of. There are a lot of people that shy away from us and I thank you for running towards us."

All these respondents are waiting for permanent pen pals. For more information on the program, go to www.humanrightspenpals.org.

March Birthdays

Day	Name
3	Tina Wilson
4	Gail Green
8	Lindsay Hebbe-Zubiate Caitlyn Graves
15	Betty Ferrell Samantha Rupnik
17	Ella Sage
21	Gwynneth Renton
23	Margaret Renton
24	Katherine Smith
26	Jaycen Armstrong
27	Steve Wright
28	Crystal Causey Chris Long
29	Austin Baggett
31	Masha Best Vitaly Best

March Anniversaries

Day	Name
3	Ron & Denise Schwartz
10	Julie Meine & Dick Bate
22	Crystal & Jesse Causey
25	Margie & Liz Mullen

Should you be listed here?

Or, if you wish to leave your birthday or anniversary unpublished, give the church office a call or e-mail administrator@stmikessc.org to let us know. Birthdays and Anniversaries will be celebrated on the last Sunday of each month.

The Three Great Days

By the Reverend Dan Justin

I am a person who loves to tell stories. I love stories. I relate to the world through stories. I think this is one of the reasons that I love being a priest so much. My job is to be a storyteller. Of course I get to tell great stories in my sermons about lots of different experiences. But I tell those stories because they help me tell the real story. In fact, all that we do in the church is about telling the real story.

Have you ever noticed it? The calendar tells the story—we start with Advent and Christmas and tell of the coming of the Christ Child. We move to Epiphany where we tell the story about who Jesus really is and how God is revealed to the world in the person of Jesus. Then comes Lent and we tell the stories of how Jesus taught and challenged the religious practices of the day—so much so that it will eventually get him killed. And now the story continues in Holy Week as we tell the stories of the last moments of Jesus' life. We tell how he loved his disciples and taught them to be servants by washing their feet. We tell how Jesus used bread and wine to remind the world of who he is and what he did. We tell how he was arrested in the garden, put on trial, humiliated, beaten, and nailed to a cross. We tell the story of his death knowing deep down that the story does not end there.

Holy Week and the liturgies of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Easter (known as the Triduum—the Three Great Days) help tell this story. But it is more than that. Through these ritual acts and rites we become participants in these stories. By participating in the liturgy we know that these events are not some distant memory or myth but, rather, that these events still make all the difference in the world. We are a part of them. We are active participants. We join the disciples in the Upper Room as we celebrate the Eucharist within the context of the Agape Supper. We understand our own calling to serve as we wash each other's feet. We see our own inability to wait and watch with Jesus in the garden by witnessing the stripping of the altar and praying at the Altar of Repose. We experience the ugly truth of the matter—that we are part of the crowd which cries "Crucify Him!" on Good Friday. We experience the emptiness of that dark day as we come to church only to discover that the Sacrament is not available to us this day. We tell the story. We are participants in the story. And it is the only story that matters.

Storytelling is the key feature of the Great Vigil of Easter—which is the most important service of the entire year. If you don't attend any other service this year—attend the Great Vigil of Easter. All other liturgies of the year flow out of and from the Easter Vigil. It is the climax. We hear the stories of creation, liberation, new life, and hope. We hear the story of what theologians call the Salvation History and find our place in it. We experience the message of John—that light comes into darkness and the darkness is unable to overcome it. The Great Vigil



begins in a dark church into which is brought a new fire; a new light. That light spreads as each person lights their own candles. We witness the power of the resurrection as we come to the font and witness new life given in baptism. We proclaim "Christ is Risen!" and know that we can never be separated from the love of God again. We experience it as the darkness is finally thrown off, the lights come on, the vestments change from red to white and we celebrate Easter joy! We tell the story. And the story tells us that in the end—God wins!

Holy Week begins Sunday, March 20th, with Palm Sunday. It continues on Thursday, March 24th, with Maundy Thursday at 6:30 pm, on March 25th, with Good Friday and Stations of the Cross at 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm, on March 26th, with the Great Vigil of Easter at 7:30 pm.

This is the Triduum—the Three Great Days. And you will not want to miss them!

Updated Vision Statement

What is the vision of St. Michael and All Angels? Where are we going? Who is God calling us to be? The vestry reviewed our current vision statement at its recent retreat. This review was prompted by a few parishioners who approached me asking if the current vision statement was still an accurate representation of our parish. I agreed that it should be reviewed. I have always been of the opinion that vision statements should be brief, easy to remember, and accurately reflect the activities of the church. I also believe that they should be reviewed every few years. Goals and objectives change. Values develop over time; therefore occasional review of the statement is warranted. Do you remember the previous statement? The original version says, "St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church is a welcoming and evolving community of conscience engaged in the renewal of our faith by embracing diversity and encouraging growth through prayer, scholarship, social action, and artistic endeavor."

The vestry agreed that it was time take another look at this statement. They felt that the original version, at its core, was good. It could, however, benefit from some minor adjustment. The result was a revised and slightly briefer vision statement which more accurately reflects our current directions and values. The new vision statement for St. Michael and All Angels is as follows:

To be a welcoming, inclusive Christian community growing in faith through worship, prayer, study, and social action.

The vestry believes this revised vision statement more accurately reflects the direction the parish has been going over the past four years. You will see this new statement both on our website as well as on the cover of our service bulletins on Sunday mornings.

In addition to the revised vision statement, the vestry is also reviewing a new statement of values. Over the next few months the newsletter will present these values which drive the activities of the parish and inspire the decisions of the leadership. Keep an eye out for those articles to start appearing here.

Please be sure to let me know if you have any questions.

Blessings,
Dan+

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 9, 2016





The Calendar

March 2016

Sunday Schedule • *Sunday Services are 8:00 am (no choir) and 10:30 am (with choir) in the Sanctuary.*
 • *Adult Learning Opportunity begins at 9:15 in the Ministry Center*
 • *Sunday School begins at 10:15 with Family Sing in the Ministry Center; the children are brought into Eucharist for the Peace.*
 • *Coffee Hour immediately follows the 10:30 am service unless otherwise noted.*

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1

2

3

4

5

Locations:

CO Church Office
 MR Music Room
 FR Fireside Room
 MC Ministry Center
 L The Loft (formerly the stage)
 S Sanctuary

7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)

6 Lent 4

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (S)
 9:00 am St. Michael's Outreach (CO)
 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S)
 11:30 am Sunday Sack Lunches (MC)
 11:30 am Youth Group (L)

7

6:30 pm Book Discussion Group (Jacobson Home)

8

9

10

7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)

11

12

1:00 pm Concerned United Birthparents (FR)

13 Lent 5
 Daylight Saving Time

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (S)
 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S)

14

15

7:00 pm Vestry (L)

16

17 Patrick of Ireland

7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)

18

19 St. Joseph

6:00 pm Youth Group Bowling (Pinz)

20 Palm Sunday

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (S)
 10:30 am Holy Eucharist with Palm Sunday procession (S)
 10:30 am Youth Group leads Sunday School

21

22

23

24 Maundy Thursday

6:30 pm Agapé Supper, Holy Eucharist, washing of feet, and stripping of the altar (MC, S)
 10:00 pm Compline (S)

25 Good Friday

Noon & 7:00 pm Good Friday Liturgy and Stations of the Cross (S)

26 Easter Eve

7:30 pm The Great Vigil of Easter (S)

27 Easter Day

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (S)
 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S)
 11:30 am Children's Easter Egg Hunt

28

29

30

31



The Calendar

April 2016

Sunday Schedule • *Sunday Services are 8:00 am (no choir) and 10:30 am (with choir) in the Sanctuary.*
 • *Adult Learning Opportunity begins at 9:15 in the Ministry Center*
 • *Sunday School begins at 10:15 with Family Sing in the Ministry Center; the children are brought into Eucharist for the Peace.*
 • *Coffee Hour immediately follows the 10:30 am service unless otherwise noted.*

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1

2

Locations:

- CO Church Office
- MR Music Room
- FR Fireside Room
- MC Ministry Center
- L The Loft (formerly the stage)
- S Sanctuary

3 Easter 2

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (S)
 9:00 am St. Michael's Outreach (CO)
 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S)
 11:30 am Sunday Sack Lunches (MC)
 11:30 am Youth Group (L)

4 The Annunciation

5

6

7

7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)

8

9

1:00 pm Concerned United Birthparents (FR)

10 Easter 3

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (S)
 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S)

11

12

13

14

7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)

15

16

17 Easter 4

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (S)
 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S)

18

19

7:00 pm Vestry (L)

20

21

7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)

22

23

24 Easter 5

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (S)
 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S)
 11:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (MC)

25 St. Mark

26

27

28

7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)

29

Youth Group 30-Hour Overnight Fast (Church of Our Saviour, San Gabriel)

30

St. Michael and All Angels Church

3646 Coldwater Canyon Ave., Studio City, CA 91604

phone • 818.763.9193

fax • 818.763.2172

general e-mail • mail@stmikessc.org

web address • www.stmikessc.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



VESTRY

Tina Wilson, *Senior Warden*
Ron Schwartz, *Junior Warden*
Jenni Hernandez, *Treasurer*
Avi Aazami, *Clerk*
Diane Ballowe
Elizabeth Bartolomea
Gail Green
Karen Holleman
Alex Morales
Amber Russo
Julie Bellevue Smollar
Steven Wright

PARISH STAFF

Rector	The Rev. Daniel Justin (rector@stmikessc.org)
Priest Associate	The Rev. Stefanie Wilson Brown (wilsons@campbellhall.org)
Children's Pastor	Amber Russo (childrenspastor@stmikessc.org)
Director of Music	David Connors (dconnor@calstatela.edu)
Parish Administrator	Duane Steadman (administrator@stmikessc.org)

THE MIKE STAFF

Publisher	Duane Steadman
Editor	David Connors
Editor Emerita	Soni Wright

Vision Statement

To be a welcoming, inclusive Christian community growing in faith through worship, prayer, study, and social action.

Our Mission Priority

Our mission priority is to focus on the United Nations' First Millennium Goal: To eradicate extreme hunger and poverty.