



The Mike

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

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Five Over Five

By the Reverend Dan Justin

January marked my five-year anniversary of serving as Rector of St. Michael and All Angels. I can still remember the first time I attended a service here. I knew the parish was seeking a rector. I was in Los Angeles on vacation and decided to sneak into a service in order to check the place out. I had been reading the monthly newsletter and knew that you all had nearly called a rector, but for any number of reasons it had not worked out. I wanted to see the church personally to make sure that I really wanted to apply for the job. An amazing thing happened that Sunday morning. I walked into the church, and I just knew. I knew that God was calling me to serve this church. I returned to Chicago and immediately submitted my resume and application materials. That was in August of 2011. Just two months later, I received and accepted the call from the vestry to be the seventh Rector of St. Michael and All Angels.

It has now been five full years. A lot has happened in those five years. I thought it would be interesting to reflect on our time together. So, I have decided to create a list I am calling *Five Over Five*. It includes five of my most favorite moments, five of my least favorite moments, five successes, and five failures over the past five years.

Five favorite moments over the past five years, in no particular order...

1. **Bishop Glasspool sees the renovated campus for the first time.** We had just completed the renovations in the Parish Hall and renamed it the Ministry Center. The classrooms had been completed as well. The occasion was my installation service and, then Bishop Suffragan, Mary Glasspool, was coming to lead that service. After the service was over, the bishop and I headed up to the newly completed Ministry Center for the reception. I had told her that we had done some work updating the place, but she was not prepared for what she saw that night. You should have seen her face when she walked in and saw the remodeled Ministry Center. That moment is one of my favorites.

2. **The first Feast of St. Michael and All Angels.** In 2013, I suggested that we should try to make our Patronal Feast day a more significant event. I wanted to make the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels extra special. We hired Mo MacReady, who was a new member of the parish, to professionally cater a dinner. The choir was tasked with



executing a festive, choral Evensong. We hired Brooks Taylor and his band to provide live music at the dinner. The event was to be held on a Friday night. I wasn't sure how many people would be interested in

attending. I told Mo to prepare enough food for fifty people, although deep down I only expected about thirty. As the event drew closer, more and more RSVPs began rolling in. It quickly became obvious that we were going to have far more than fifty in attendance. That night we packed the Ministry Center. We even had to set up additional tables outside. The worship service was heavenly, the food was outstanding, the band was fantastic, the dancing was a blast, and the event goes down as one of my most favorite moments of the past five years.

3. **Running out of bulletins for the Great Vigil of Easter.** It was Holy Week of 2014. We had

already had beautiful Maundy Thursday and moving Good Friday services. I had been telling the parish for two years that the Great Vigil of Easter is the most important service of the entire year. I had written newsletter articles about it. I had talked about it during the announcements at church. Yet, despite my encouragements, the service had a fairly lackluster attendance the two previous years. As always when we print bulletins, we look at the attendance numbers from the previous year to determine how many bulletins we should print. It was just before the service was scheduled to begin when one of the ushers came to the sacristy saying, "We need more bulletins." I honestly didn't comprehend what he was saying. I told him that all the bulletins were in the back of the church. He said, "I know, we need more." I was still confused. I asked him why on earth he needed more? He replied, "We have run out. We have already given out all the bulletins that were back there. More people are arriving and we don't have any more bulletins." I finally understood what he was saying. I was amazed! I was thrilled! We ran out of bulletins for the Great Vigil, oh happy day! It might be odd to say that running out of bulletins for that service is one of my favorite memories of the past five years, but it is.

4. **Stefanie Wilson comes to St. Michael's.** My office phone rang one afternoon. It was the Rev. Canon Joanna Satorius, the Deployment Officer for the Diocese. She wanted to tell
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Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday

All are invited to our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. We will gather in the Ministry Center for fun, pancakes, parades, and games on Tuesday, February 28th, at 6:30 pm. There will be fun for the whole family.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 1st. We will offer two services, both including the imposition of ashes, at 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm.



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me about a young lady who was about to graduate from the General Theological Seminary in New York. Joanna told me that this soon to be priest had been hired to be the chaplain at Campbell Hall. In a somewhat surprising, unexpected, and unusual move, Bishop Bruno decided that this new chaplain must also be assigned to a local parish for a period of two years. The headmaster of Campbell Hall was recommending that she come to St. Michael's. I told Joanna that I would be happy to meet her. I called Stefanie on her cell phone. I managed to catch her right during her finals week at General. She told me that she was going to be in town and wondered if we could meet in person. I agreed. So, one day, I walked Stefanie. We sat in the church and talked about St. Michael's. We talked about my vision, hopes, and prayers for the church. We talked about what her potential roles could be. We talked about the reality of serving at St. Michael's while also working full-time at Campbell Hall. Both Stefanie and I agreed that this was a good fit, and the parish welcomed her as affiliated clergy. We are beyond lucky to have had Stefanie with us for these past three years. Meeting Stefanie and welcoming her to St. Michael's is absolutely one of my most favorite moments.

5. **The choir chants St. John's Passion on Good Friday.** I was working with Kristen Toedtman to plan the music for Holy Week. I had a habit of springing things on her when ideas came to me. To her credit, she always heard me out and did her best to accommodate my requests. When I was a member of All Saints' in Beverly Hills one of my favorite elements of Holy Week was when the choir would chant the Passion on Good Friday. I also remember being loudly and aggressively voted down when I suggested this idea to the clergy of St. Mary's in Park Ridge when I worked there. Now that I was the Rector of my own parish, I thought I would float the idea again. Kristen agreed to investigate the possibilities. She consulted with Duane who provided some good options. And, on Good Friday of 2013, our choir chanted St. John's Passion. It was wonderful and wonderfully moving. It certainly ranks in my top five most favorite moments.

Naturally, these past five years have not always been a bed of roses. There have been hard times. There have been frustrating times. There have been times that have not been my favorite.

In no particular order, my top five least favorite moments are...

1. **The LADWP notifies us they are closing Coldwater Canyon for one month.** And, the closure was to begin on Monday of Holy Week. When I became Rector, Coldwater was under major construction. The DWP was installing a trunk line which required tremendous amounts of messy road work, heavy equipment, noise, dust, and debris. However, even with all that work going on, one could always drive to the church. The powers that be at DWP made an appointment with us one day. We met in the Fireside Room where they rolled out large blueprints and plans. They told us that in order to complete the work they were doing they would need to close Coldwater Canyon for a one-month period of time. We complained. We cried. We argued. We stomped our feet. But it didn't help. All we managed to do was convince them to keep the road open on Good Friday. We would have to mail out passes to our members that would allow them to travel through the construction zone in order to reach the church. That was definitely one of my least favorite times.
2. **Every bathroom on the campus backed up...at the same time.** And, it happened right in the middle of a major event. Progressive Christians Uniting was using our newly renovated campus. The DWP construction had just ended. It was wonderful to welcome so many people from all over Los Angeles to visit our campus for a reception and a service. However, all did not go well. Suddenly, and without warning, every toilet on the campus experienced reverse motion. And it was not just the toilets, it included the drains as well. I found myself running all over the place, mop in hand, trying to clean up the mess. I had to announce to our guests that there were no working restrooms anywhere on the campus. And this was just the beginning. These back-ups began happening on a weekly basis. Sometimes more often than weekly. I spent more time with a mop in my hands than I did working on my sermons during that time. It turns out that some roots had pushed a pipe out of place. We had to dig up and replace a tremendous amount of plumbing that year. No fun. Not my favorite time.
3. **Our relationship with some of our renters goes south.** I actually can't write too much

about this experience. My tenure as Rector got off to a rocky start with some of our renters. Leases needed to be renegotiated. Rents needed to be increased. The parish had to take a strong stand in order to reassert itself as the property owner. The mission and ministry of the congregation needed to be made a higher priority than our role as landlord to various outside groups. It was a very difficult time and was absolutely not my favorite period of time.

4. **I agree to be Co-Dean of Deanery 2.** The Diocese is divided up into a number of smaller regions known as Deaneries. St. Michael's is a part of Deanery 2. Ideally, the clergy of all the parishes in their Deanery meet on a monthly basis, the parishes engage in ministry together where possible, and the Deans help provide information and opportunities for the parishes. I think it was the summer of 2012 when Bishop Glasspool called me on my cell phone. She was calling to ask me to serve as one of two Co-Deans of Deanery 2. She indicated that in the past our Deanery had not functioned all that well. She wanted to find new Deans to help move it back on track. I said yes. Big mistake. That began an exercise in futility and annoyance that lasted about three years. I did not enjoy my time as one of the Deans. Not my favorite job. Blessedly, I was released from my role as Co-Dean by the Bishop in 2015. Now I happily participate in the Deanery when I am able, and I don't have to be in charge of anything.
5. **Attending Studio City Neighborhood Council Meetings.** This is actually ongoing. Our parish finds itself in the unfortunate situation of opposing the proposed parking improvement plan of our neighbor, Harvard Westlake School. There is a saying that goes "I spent a year there for a couple hours last week." That is exactly what attending those Neighborhood Council meetings feels like. They are no fun. I realize that there may be more in my future. But, they are not my favorite thing to do.

Those were my favorite and least favorite times over the past five years. I also want to reflect on my successes and blunders. Over the past five years, I have attempted many different things. Some of them have worked really well, while others have fallen flat

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Treasurer's Corner

December 2016—Revenue and Expense Summary

	December Actual	December Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 47,381	\$ 35,863	\$456,739	\$430,352
Total Expense	41,154	39,105	458,106	460,853
Net	\$ 6,227	(\$ 3,242)	(\$ 1,367)	(\$ 30,501)

Zofie Basta's Art Honored and Displayed at Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral in Los Angeles

Our own Zofie Basta was honored with the Certificate of Excellence at the Robert Graham Memorial Student Art Exhibit for her photograph entitled Thorns. The art exhibit at the Cathedral is a selection of outstanding work from students at each of the Catholic High Schools in the Archdiocese. Zofie's work represented her school.

About this photo, Zofie writes, "Ever since my dad gave me a 35 mm Fisher Price camera at age three, I have loved photography. I love how slow and tangible analog photography is, and how connected this deliberate slowness makes me feel with my subjects. In my work, I transfer my mundane surroundings into the unconventional. In this particular piece, Thorns, I set out to portray Christ's passion through a modern perspective. I used everyday objects—screws, washers, and nails illuminated, and made extraordinary, by a shaft of light. Jesus calls every one of his followers to take up the cross—what would that look like today?"

We are so proud of Zofie and her accomplishments!



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on their face.

In no particular order, the five things I consider to be my biggest successes are...

1. **The remodeling of the campus.** Dreaming big pays off. And talking about those dreams pays off as well. I floated an idea of repurposing the stage in the Parish Hall to be a space for our youth group to meet. This idea grew into a real possibility of remodeling the entire Parish Hall. We received an anonymous donation and executed the Faith in Action Capital Campaign. This led to even more anonymous donations. By the end of it all, the Parish Hall was transformed into the Ministry Center, the kitchen was remodeled, the Fireside Room was redone, bathrooms were added, the Sunday School rooms were redesigned, the Meditation Garden was transformed, and the church was air conditioned.
2. **Selecting David Connors to be our new Music Director.** When Kristen announced that she would be resigning as our Director of Music I was naturally concerned. We had a very strong music program and we worked so well together. I immediately turned to David Connors hoping that he would be interested in stepping into the role Kristen was leaving. He agreed. Now, after two years in the position, it is obvious that we could not have made a better choice. The choir has thrived under his leadership. I am so thrilled he agreed to take on this role. I count this as a huge success.
3. **The practice of outside fundraisers has ended.** Five years ago, both our music program and our outreach program were allocated zero dollars in our budget. Those programs were funded by outside fundraisers. I was concerned about this practice. It seemed to me that members of the parish were withholding money from their annual pledges in order to give to these fundraisers for music and outreach. We decided to do away with fundraisers and instead fully fund both music and outreach in the budget of the church. This is one of the best things we could have done. Now we can honestly say that a percentage of every pledge goes to support these important ministries. Both have grown as a result of this decision. Also, the parish is able to operate in the way it is meant to operate, rather than leaving room for individuals to only support the special projects they believe in the most. St. Michael's is stronger as a result of this decision and I count it as a huge success.
4. **I begin writing *What I Did Not Preach On***

each week. What seemed like a silly idea has become one of my most successful ideas. Each week I write a letter to the parish in which I discuss one of the lectionary texts that will not be part of the sermon. I had three goals in mind as I began writing this letter. First, I wanted to have the opportunity to address more than one text on a Sunday. I believe a sermon is best when it is only about one text. Yet, each Sunday we get four different biblical lessons. There are some that will not be read in church again for another six years. I hated not having the chance to reflect on those readings. Secondly, I wanted to create a greater sense of dialogue with the congregation. I am not the only expert in the room when it comes to the Bible. I wanted to engage the congregation in thoughtful discussions on the lessons. Interrupting the flow of the service for discussion time after the sermon did not seem like a good idea to me. These letters allowed for that dialogue by inviting readers to respond via e-mail. Finally, I wanted to learn to be a better writer. Every book I have read about writing indicates that the only way to improve as a writer is to write. This letter gives me one more opportunity to write. I am not sure if my writing is improving or not. But, I certainly enjoy the process. I also know that

many different people read the letter. I get responses from all over the country. I count it as a big success.

5. **9:15 am Adult Formation becomes a weekly Bible Study.** Each Sunday a group of parishioners gathers to read and discuss the Bible. We share, we tell stories, we ask questions, we learn, and we do it together. Initially this time was set aside for topical classes. After trying one of those, we switched to just reading the Bible together. We have never looked back. This group has tackled all sorts of biblical genres. We have read and discussed so many different books of the Bible. My favorites have been when we read Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers together. I learned so much through those conversations. I was inspired by those biblical books in ways that I never had been before. We gather almost every week. Currently we are reading the Gospel of John. I love this. I love that people are so interested in engaging the scriptures. I love that we are growing in faith together. It is one of my biggest successes to be sure.

I have always said that ministry is basically trying about 100 different ideas. 99 of them fail. One takes off and soars. That means I

2017 Stewardship Update

St. Michael and All Angels Church thanks its pledging members for their support.

Avisheh Aazami	Andrea & DJ Fuller	Margie Mullen
Teddy Adair	Peer Ghent	Jennifer Nelson-Dupke
Bea, Karen & Linda Andrews	Johnny & Catherine Graves	Kim O'Reilly
Michael J. Austin	Gail Green	David Peterson & Judie Fox
Diane Ballowe	Susan Guire & Cece Tsou	Bruce Rankin &
Frank & Kristen Barberia	Elizabeth Hailey	Catherine Wagar
Elizabeth Bartolomea	Mitchell Hampton	Paul & Meredith Reese
The Bassman Family	William Hendley & Jon Albert	Nicholas & Sharon Renton
David & Melissa Basta	Nicholas &	Amador Rondilla
Barbara Beckner	Jennifer Hernandez	Amber & Andrew Russo
Stephen Billington	Patrick & Kaoru Holder	John Schouweiler &
Sarah & Ryan Brown	Ian Holder	Ann Hamilton
Stefanie & Greg Brown	Karen Holleman	Ron & Denise Schwartz
Donald Browne	Mary Ann Jacobson	Jule Bellevue Smollar
Sarah Bull	Donald & Norma Johnson	Duane Steadman
Eileen Carhart	Daniel Justin	Sonya Steele
Steven Clark, Alfonso Zavala, and Family	Peter Juzwiak &	Petra Sutter
Susan Clark	Donald DeRose	Brooks & Kathleen Taylor
Ed & Diane Collins	Marion & August Kammer	Sharrell Treat
Polly Davis	Anne Kelly	Granville & June Van Dusen
William & Doreen Dean	Alexander & Janet Kirkpatrick	Lois Vaughan
Eliza Diliberti	Anastasia & William Lefler	John & Laurie Vincent
Betty DuVall	Rose Leibowitz	Ruth Warson
Theodore &	Peggie Leidelmeijer	Bonnie Winings
Jacqueline Eckberg	Chris Long	Anna Wilson
Betty Ferrell	Julie Meine	Tina Wilson & Jennifer Best
Alan & Bill Fields	Ging Molera	Nancy Woods
Preston Fray	The Mooradian Family	Steven Wright
Lise Friedman	Alex Morales &	Bill & Gail Wright
	David Connors	

This list includes pledges received as of February 6..

have had plenty of blunders, bad ideas, false starts, and bloopers over the past five years.

In no particular order, my five biggest blunders, bloopers, or failures are...

1. **Trying to change the way communion was distributed.** I thought the steps leading to the altar rail in the church were too dangerous. I was watching members of the parish struggle with them week after week. I decided the hospitable thing to do would be to eliminate kneeling at the altar rail, and distribute communion from stations on the floor. That way people would not have to go up the steps. We began the practice one Lent. And boy did the complaints come in. People wanted to kneel. They loved kneeling. I received complaints, I was sent letters, and I received threats. I decided compromise was the only way forward. I reinstated communion being distributed at the altar rail and added one additional station on the floor for anyone who prefers to avoid the steps. That has worked well. So, in this instance, a blunder became a success.

2. **We painted over a meaningful mural.** When we were remodeling our classrooms we painted over a mural that I was unaware had so much sentimental value. I received a phone call from an annoyed parent whose child had contributed to that work of art. It had never occurred to me to ask about it. I was just excited about the improvements we were making. I have learned my lesson. Never change or remove something until

you have investigated its history. I still feel very badly about this blunder.

3. **I introduced incense to the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service.** And in the process, almost killed an asthmatic Rabbi. St. Michael's was hosting the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. It was my idea to offer the service in the form of a choral Evensong. I felt it would be a wonderful way to showcase this unique Anglican form of worship. It was also something that could include a variety of different faith traditions and music. Where I went wrong was deciding to add incense to the service. During Evensong, it is the tradition to cense the altar during the *Magnificat*. So I did. Big mistake. The poor Rabbi in question could hardly breathe. She started coughing and eventually chose to leave the service. Oops.

4. **I set myself on fire during a funeral.** Some of our vestments have pretty long and elaborate sleeves. I was presiding at a funeral for a beloved member of the parish. The service was held at the Wee Kirk of the Heathers located at Forrest Lawn Cemetery in Glendale. It was the end of the service. I had extended my hand to bless remains during the portion of the service known as the commendation. Little did I know that there was a small votive candle hidden behind a framed photo sitting right next to the urn. When I extended my arm, my sleeve went right into the flame. I could smell something burning, but did not know what it was. I also noticed a look of horror on

the funeral director's face. That was when I began to realize that the burning smell was coming from me. Fortunately, I was able to pat myself out. As I greeted at the end of the service people kept asking, "Father, did you catch on fire?" "Yes, yes I did." I would reply. How embarrassing.

5. **I failed to convince Duane NEVER to retire.** As I announced at the January Annual Meeting, Duane has decided it is time to retire. Every time this topic has come up in the past I have told him that he is not allowed to retire. Working with Duane has been such a delight over these past five years. He has kept things running smoothly here at St. Michael's through good times and bad. The good news is that he is only retiring from his position as Parish Administrator. He will continue to serve as our organist. And for sure, we are NEVER going to allow him to retire from that job!

So there they are, my five over five. The reality is that I could have written so many different things in each category. Serving as Rector here at St. Michael's has never been dull. It is, and will continue to be, challenging, interesting, unique, and fun. It's that last one that is the best. This work is fun. I love it. I love being your priest. Thank you for these past five years. I look forward to what God will do in and through this parish in the future.

Blessings,
Dan+

Spring 2017 Mid-Week Dates and Topics

All are invited to join us for our Spring 2017 Mid-Week dinners and discussions. We gather in the Ministry Center at 6:30 pm where we share a meal together. Dinner usually consists of pizza, chicken, salads, and desserts. There is a suggested donation of \$5 per person, \$20 maximum per family. At 7:00 pm, we begin the presentation. There is always time for discussion after. We always conclude by 8:30 pm. If you would like to attend Mid-Week, please RSVP by e-mailing Duane Steadman at administrator@stmikessc.org.

What Does the Bible Really Say About Homosexuality?

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

There are seven passages of scripture, some located in the Old Testament and others in the New, thought to address the topic of homosexuality. These passages are often called Clobber Passages as they have been used over the years to clobber LGBTQ people. But, does the Bible really have anything to say on this topic? Join Fr. Dan as we explore each of these seven verses in hopes of discovering what the Bible really says about homosexuality.

Balak, Balaam, and the Ass Wednesday, March 8, 2017

The book of Numbers includes one of the most interesting and odd stories found in the Old Testament. It is the saga of Balak and Balaam and their high stakes drama of blessings and curses. By the end of the story, readers have been witness to one of the greatest dramas to unfold in the Bible. It even includes a talking donkey. What is the purpose of this story? Why does it interrupt the flow of this book of the Bible? What can we learn from it today? Join Fr. Dan as we explore the story of Balak, Balaam and the Ass.

The Most Important Service of the Year

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Each and every Lent Fr. Dan invites the congregation to attend the Great Vigil of Easter saying it is the most important service of the year. Every liturgy of the Church Calendar flows either to or from the Great Vigil of Easter. What makes this service so important? What story do we experience and reenact in this liturgy? Why should we clear our busy schedules in order to attend the Vigil? Join Fr. Dan as he unpacks the meaning and theology of the Great Vigil of Easter.

Holiday Cheer

December 10, 2016

By Meredith Reese

Christmas is a time for traditions. St. Michael's and its Outreach community has kept up a wonderful tradition for 19 years: the Holiday Cheer party to bring cheer to needy families. This year we were honored once again to host families from MEND in Pacoima and Good Shepherd Women's Shelters of Los Angeles. Thanks to the help of many volunteers and donors, 120 guests were served a hot lunch, given gift bags, and each child received a brand-new outfit and gift from Santa.

The elves of Holiday Cheer worked tirelessly to make sure each child received a gift from their wish list. This year we were blessed with the generosity of St. Michael's members and from the families of Sunnyside Preschool who held an enormously successful toy drive. Piles of new toys for children of all ages filled the offices at St. Michael's leading up to the week of the event. Not only were we able to give out extra special gifts at the party, we were also able to make additional donations to MEND's toy drive, and two additional Christmas parties benefitting North Valley Caring Services and CRI-Help.

We also gathered supplies for CRI-Help's client gift bags, which provide toiletries to women and men who have recently been released from jail, prisons, or to those living on the street. Truly, every single donation benefitted our Outreach partners and I cannot thank the parish and our friends enough.

I would especially like to thank the following dedicated volunteer and Holiday Cheer team leaders:

- Melissa, Dave, and Zofie Basta for the family portraits. It warms my heart to see families dress up in their holiday best to attend our party and have a family photo taken. What an incredible gift to families who are not united very often.
- Julie Quinlan for taking up the kitchen charge, who, along with David and Suzanne Rosenberg, fed all our volunteers and guests. Julie cooks 80 pounds of delicious chicken each year!
- Daniel Frank for leading the Elf Room, one of the most demanding jobs at Holiday Cheer, who ensures every child receives a gift. Daniel and a dozen elves sort, wrap, and distribute toys in record time and make sure no child is left out. Daniel also provides the giant pizzas!
- Lara Sage Black for running the craft tables, one of our most popular party activities, which included decorating picture frames and making cards this year. Lara also recruits a dedicated volunteer force of girl scouts and their families.
- Cynthia Mazza for organizing our check-in table and making name tags for each guest. Her organization and grace is envious.
- Danielle Koenig for organizing the outfits distribution and volunteers, who this year included her son, Oliver.
- Stefanie Wilson, Tina Wilson and Jennifer



Best, who, along with St. Michael's Youth Group, run several unique games for the kids.

- Nancy Woods and Rosemary Leibowitz who worked all day at the volunteer table to check-in our many volunteers and keep track of each assignment.
- Paul Reese and Dan Doyle who grilled 200 hot dogs.
- Christopher Montella who secured the donation of 60 gorgeous scarves and gift bags.
- Lisa Woods who donated and served ice cream from her ice cream shop, Local Ice.
- Norma Johnson who runs the knitting tables.
- Trisha Lendo who made balloon animals.
- Kent Myers who runs the gingerbread decorating station. Thank you gingerbread bakers Karen Rogers, Jenni Hernandez, and Eliza Diliberti.
- Thank you Outreach chairs Julie Bellevue and Avi Aazami.
- Thank you Jane Wilson for organizing the entire wish lists and gift-

giver process, not to mention securing many large donations, and starting Holiday Cheer in the first place!

A very special thank you to each person who shopped for a child or donated supplies. Holiday Cheer is a group effort and we cannot do what we do without everyone's participation. Blessings to you all.

To learn more about our Outreach partners who benefitted from Holiday Cheer and if you're looking for volunteer opportunities please visit:

MEND (Meet Each Need with Dignity): <http://mendpoverty.org/>
Good Shepherd for homeless women and children: <http://gschomeless.org/>
North Valley Caring Services: <http://nvcsinc.org/>
CRI-Help Addiction and Drug Rehab Center: <https://www.cri-help.org/>







A Special Thank You to the Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is always working behind the scenes to make worship here at St. Michael's possible. They prepare the church for worship each week. In addition, they decorate the church for the various seasons of the church year. After Christmas, a whole team braved the road construction and road closures on Avenida Del Sol to take down the greens and prepare the church for Epiphany. We all benefit from their work each week. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank them for all the wonderful work they do. I especially thank Gail Green who leads these efforts. The members of the Altar Guild are a real blessing to this parish. Thank you!

Fr. Dan



From the Children's Pastor

By Amber Russo

The lights were dimmed while the twinkle lights sparkled. The smell of popcorn and home-made fudge filled the room. Jolly Christmas music was heard while a silent movie played in the background.

This was the atmosphere of our annual Christmas party that took place after the 5:00 pm service on Christmas Eve. This was the second year for this event, and it was once again a huge success.

Children played bingo and decorated cookies for Santa. There was delicious food and fun snacks like popcorn and cotton candy. Many people snapped a fun family photo at the photo booth, while some danced under the twinkle lights late into the evening.

I want to say thank you to all of our volunteers for making this event happen. It was truly a special night, and I hope we can make it a tradition we celebrate for many years to come.

Congratulations to Fr. Christopher

Congratulations to our friend and former seminarian, the Rev. Christopher Montella, who was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests, at St. John's Pro-Cathedral on Saturday, January 14, 2017. A group from our parish were present at the service, cheering Christopher on as his long journey to ordination was finally completed.

Fr. Christopher completed his service at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Winnetka, the following day where he presided as a priest for the first time. St. Michael's welcomed him back to our parish to serve as special guest presider on Sunday, January 22nd, and Sunday, January 29th.

Please keep Christopher in your prayers as he discerns the next steps in his journey. For now, he will serve as a supply priest at any parish in the Diocese who might invite him to help out on a Sunday. In fact, he is already scheduled to serve as a supply priest here at St. Michael's for one Sunday in May.



Christmas Pageant, December 24, 2016

February Birthdays

Day	Name
5	Andy Clark Jackson Clark Maggie Clark Donald Robertson
8	Peter Juzwiak
14	Patrick Holder
15	Jon Albert David Basta
16	Emery Russo Ron Schwartz
20	Coraline Causey Naomi Fox Meredith Reese
21	Anaïs Rodriguez
28	Michel Rodriguez

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 Calendar

February 2017

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 10:30 am.
• Coffee Hour immediately follows the 10:30 am service.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Locations:

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

1

2 The Presentation
(Candlemas)

3

4

5 Epiphany 5

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (S)
9:15 am Adult Education (MC)
10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S)
10:30 am Sunday School
11:30 am Coffee Hour (MC)
11:30 am Sunday Sack Lunches (MC)
11:30 am Middle School Youth
Group (L)

6

7

8

6:30 pm Mid-Week (MC)

9

7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal
(MR)

10

11

8:00 am Vestry Retreat
(MC)
1:00 pm Concerned United
Birthparents (FR)

12 Epiphany 6

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (S)
9:15 am Adult Education (MC)
10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S)
10:30 am Sunday School
11:30 am Coffee Hour (MC)
11:30 am High School Youth
Group (L)

13

14 Valentine's Day

15

16

7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal
(MR)

17

18

19 Epiphany 7

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (S)
9:15 am Adult Education (MC)
10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S)
10:30 am Sunday School
11:30 am Coffee Hour (MC)

20 Presidents' Day

21

7:00 pm Vestry (L)

22

23

7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal
(MR)

24 St. Matthias
the Apostle

25

6:00 pm Youth Group
Laser Tag

26 Epiphany Last

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (S)
9:15 am Adult Education (MC)
10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S)
10:30 am Sunday School
11:30 am Coffee Hour (MC)
11:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry
(MC)

27

28

6:30 pm Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper (MC)



The Calendar

March 2017

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 10:30 am.*
 • *Coffee Hour immediately follows the 10:30 am service.*

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Locations:

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

1 Ash Wednesday

12:00 noon Ash
 Wednesday Liturgy (S)
 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday
 Liturgy (S)

2

3

4

5 Lent 1

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (S)
 9:15 am Adult Education (MC)
 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S)
 10:30 am Sunday School
 10:30 am Confirmation Class
 11:30 am Coffee Hour (MC)
 11:30 am Sunday Sack Lunches (MC)
 11:30 am Middle School Youth
 Group (L)

6

7

8

6:30 pm Mid-Week (MC)

9

7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal
 (MR)

10

7:00 pm Youth Group 30-
 Hour Lenten Fast

11

1:00 pm Concerned United
 Birthparents (FR)

12 Lent 2

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (S)
 9:15 am Adult Education (MC)
 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S)
 10:30 am Sunday School
 10:30 am Confirmation Class
 11:30 am Coffee Hour (MC)
 11:30 am High School Youth
 Group (L)

13

6:15 pm Book Discussion
 Group (Jacobson home)

14

15

16

7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal
 (MR)

17 St. Patrick

18

19 Lent 3

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (S)
 9:15 am Adult Education (MC)
 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S)
 10:30 am Sunday School
 10:30 am Confirmation Class
 11:30 am Coffee Hour (MC)

20 St. Joseph

21

7:00 pm Vestry (L)

22

23

7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal
 (MR)

24

25 Annunciation

26 Lent 4

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (S)
 9:15 am Adult Education (MC)
 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S)
 10:30 am Sunday School
 11:30 am Coffee Hour (MC)
 11:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry
 (MC)

27

28

29

30

7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal
 (MR)

31

St. Michael and All Angels Church

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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.