



The Mike

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

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 2 • April 2012

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 whom he is and what he did. We tell how he was arrested in the garden, put on trial, was 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 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.



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

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 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, April 1st with Palm Sunday. It continues here at St. Michael and All Angels on Thursday, April 5th with Maundy Thursday at 6:30 p.m., on April 6th with Good Friday and Stations of the Cross at 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., on April 7th with the Great Vigil of Easter at 7:30 p.m.

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

Holy Week and Easter

at St. Michael and All Angels

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.

April 1

Holy Eucharist
Holy Eucharist with Palm Sunday procession

April 5

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

April 6

Good Friday Liturgy and Stations of the Cross

April 7

The Great Vigil of Easter

April 8

Holy Eucharist
Holy Eucharist
Easter Egg Hunt for children

St. Michael's Easter Egg Hunt

by Sarah Cook

We invite all children to participate in St. Michael and All Angels' Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 8, 2012. This year the egg hunt will follow the 10:30 service, rather than asking families to gather before the service as we've done in years past. Our wish is for even more children to participate, and to allow the whole parish to enjoy the fun.

If you would like to contribute to this year's hunt, we are currently in need of small pieces of individually wrapped candy to fill our plastic Easter Eggs. Please drop off candy donations in the back of the church or in the Parish Hall by Palm Sunday, April 1, 2012. A group of us will be stuffing eggs during coffee hour and help is appreciated.



Also, we are also collecting small, new toys to be given out to the children who find the special prize eggs. Typically we hide about 50 of these eggs for the two younger groups of children. In the past, we've given out small stuffed animals, bubble wands, small crafts, coloring books, and wooden toy paddles, just to give you a few ideas. If you have any questions, please get in touch with me.

We look forward to a great community event.

April Birthdays

Day	Name
4	Camille Lake
5	Jackie Desbrow
8	Judy Davis
11	Bradley Robertson
15	Russell Desbrow
18	Reeve Carney Trevor Vincent
19	Lizzy Aukee
22	Zane Carney
24	Betty DuVall
25	Michael Mitchell
28	David Piser
29	Liam Fields

April Anniversaries

Day	Name
9	Bill & Gail Wright

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. *Please Note: Birthdays and Anniversaries will be celebrated on the last Sunday of each month.*

St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church

3646 Coldwater Canyon Avenue, Studio City, CA 91604

phone • 818.763.9193 general e-mail • mail@stmikessc.org
 fax • 818.763.2172 web address • www.stmikessc.org

VESTRY

Anne Kelly, Senior Warden
 David Connors, Junior Warden
 Peter Juzwiak, Treasurer
 Alex Morales, Clerk
 Diane Collins
 Sarah Cook
 Scott Fuchs
 Betsy Hailey
 Mary Ann Jacobson
 Hank Meiman
 Meredith Reese
 Amador Rondilla
 Ron Schwartz

PARISH STAFF

Rector The Rev. Daniel Justin
 (rector@stmikessc.org)
Parish Administrator Duane Steadman
 (administrator@stmikessc.org)
Director of Music Kristen Toedtman
 (kristentoedtman@gmail.com)
Organist Emil Iliev
 (emil_iliev@yahoo.com)

THE MIKE STAFF

Publisher Duane Steadman
Editor Emerita Soni Wright

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!*

Treasurer's Corner

February 2011—Revenue and Expense Summary

	February Actual	February Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 26,553	\$ 26,036	\$ 50,473	\$ 50,854
Total Expense	41,523	37,475	75,433	75,947
Net	(\$ 14,970)	(\$ 11,439)	(\$ 24,960)	(\$ 25,093)



Parish Clean-Up Day, a Recent St. Michael's Tradition

About two or three years ago the first Parish Clean-Up Day was organized by Ed Sugar and Preston Fray. Both were members of the Vestry and also were on the Building and Grounds Committee. They had noticed that the sanctuary needed some serious attention. They scheduled the event for the Saturday before Palm Sunday so that the sanctuary would shine and sparkle for Easter.

About 10 people showed up at 9:00 am and quickly got to work. Ed and Preston had already set up all the needed equipment and materials. We cleaned the carpet, washed the floors, cleaned the pews, washed the windows (both inside and outside), dusted the altar and choir area, and cleaned anything that needed to be cleaned. It was hard work and we were amazed at how much dust had

accumulated. In spite of the work we all had a good time. Nothing can compare to the sense of fellowship and accomplishment one has when viewing the results of community labor.

This first Clean-Up Day sparked additional efforts to spruce up the sanctuary. Tom Heuer refinished the benches at the altar and, later, refinished the altar rail. Some of the pews were repaired and, eventually, the carpet was replaced.

The second Clean-Up Day was scheduled for the Saturday after Thanksgiving. We wanted to have everything in great shape for Advent and Christmas. I arrived that morning expecting a similar amount of work as the previous April. I was quite surprised to find only a fairly light amount of work needed to be done.

We also decided that day to just wash the inside windows as the rainy season would (hopefully) soon arrive.

Now, the Parish Clean-Up Days (always the Saturday after Thanksgiving and the day before Palm Sunday) are a wonderful St. Michael's tradition. The next Clean-Up Day is Saturday, March 31st from 9:00a.m. to noon. All are invited to spend the entire morning or, to just come for an hour. We will find light maintenance rather than heavy cleaning and it is an opportunity to give a little back to God for all the wonderful blessings that have been bestowed on St. Michael's.

ST. MICHAEL'S COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECTS

Our Sponsored Families

by Jane Wilson

We need people to help us with ongoing support. Here are their stories and needs:

Sponsored Family #1: A mom, only 29 years old, with six kids (ages 3 to 14) living (squatting) in South LA. She was brought here from Mexico as a teen and put straight to work. The father of her kids was extremely abusive and she escaped him, living for awhile in a car, now a house with no heat or air conditioning. We are working to get her citizenship expedited and find her housing as well as helping her to get her kids into charters and magnets and we got the two oldest kids a "big brother" and "big sister". They have been on a wait list for a year and a half hoping for housing in a better neighborhood. Ideally we'd love to find them a guest house in a really nice neighborhood. Mom can offer \$500 rent plus housekeeping services in exchange. It is mom's dream to see her kids have the best education and safest housing they can. She is beyond a survivor. Her kids are angels and amazing students. Please, if you know of an empty-nester that might be willing to take in this family for a year or so until she gets on the road to citizenship,

it would make their lives so much better. The family can use deliveries of groceries, cash, payment of their internet bills (mom keeps up with housekeeping jobs this way) and gift cards to local stores. Mom also sells a make-up line door to door and cleans houses.

Sponsored Family #2: A mom and small baby boy. Mom recently paid for a low income housing somewhere in the Inland Empire. When they entered the apartment things looked great but after a very short time it became evident that there was a severe roach infestation. The insects were swarming all over everything and the complex would do nothing to address the situation. The health risks were too severe for the baby in that place and so they have moved out. The complex is not willing to give mom any money back—this is a loss of just over \$800. Mom is living on only \$412 per month already so this is a significant loss. She was then staying at the Super 8 Hotel on Laurel Canyon but has now moved in with her mother in a senior care facility. Both she and her mother could be fined if anyone knew she and the baby were there. Again, a room

rental in a house or small guesthouse on a property for \$400 a month for at least a year would help this mom and child survive. She can always use cash, gift cards and donations of groceries.

Sober House: In North Hollywood—about 12 women making their way back into society after being in rehab. These women need basic grocery and paper staples once a month.

Want to help/donate? Call Jane Wilson 818.267.4058 or email superqueerjane@yahoo.com.

Read the MIKE Online! All you do is go to the website, www.stmikessc.org, and click on "THE MIKE ONLINE." Back issues are available there as well.

Big Sunday is May 6!

by Meredith Reese

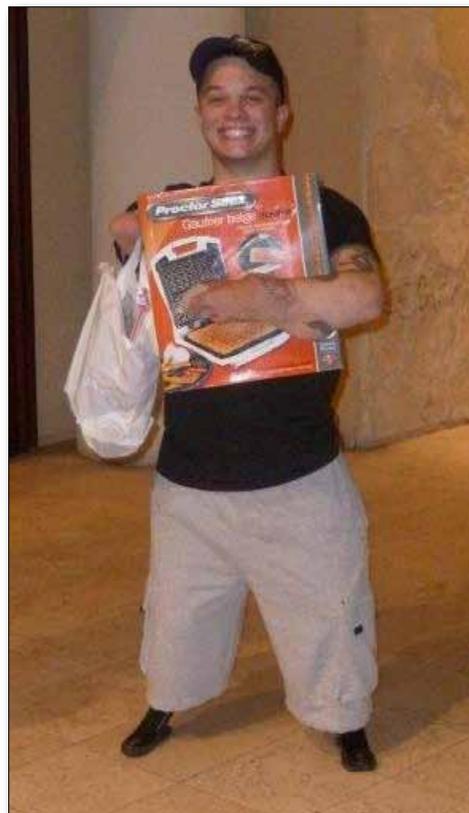
Family Festival to Benefit SoldierCare
12:00 Noon at St. Michael's!

Big Sunday puts thousands of people from California, of all ages and all backgrounds, to work together at hundreds of nonprofits, schools and other agencies that need their help. St. Mike's is once again pleased to be a Big Sunday location. We'll host the cause and several volunteers to help out at our family carnival to raise funds for SoldierCare. It's a wonderful afternoon that brings our community together and raises awareness about our wounded war veterans. There will be letter writing stations to soldiers, a bake sale, a cakewalk, outdoor games, live entertainment, stations to make soldier care packages and more!

SoldierCare is one of our most successful St. Michael's Outreach causes. The Big Sunday Festival is our sole fundraising event. All proceeds will host a VIP weekend in LA for young men and women who have been injured in the line of duty. Most have suffered serious brain injuries and have lost limbs. The weekend is a time for them to take a break from rehabilitations treatments. They'll meet with celebrities and friends across political party lines that care about getting our soldiers home safely. The connections they make bring mentors for these young veterans for the rest of their lives.



Todd Simpson Love is currently in Washington, DC



Tyler Southern is from Jacksonville, FL

The Marine Corps Corporals we are hosting this summer for the SoldierCare Weekend are pictured below. Both are triple amputees, having lost both legs and one arm. Tyler's remaining limb is compromised and has a wife at home.

Please help St. Michael's help Tyler and Todd!

You can support their trip out to LA in the following ways:

- Attend our Big Sunday Festival!
- Bring friends, co-workers, neighbors to our Big Sunday Festival
- Make a monetary donation to SoldierCare directly
- Bring baked goods and cakes for the event
- Collect and donate items for soldier care packages
- Buy gift cards to national chain stores and restaurants for their gift baskets and home needs.

Go to www.bigsunday.org or contact the chair of SoldierCare, David Rosenberg inkdrone@gmail.com.



Tyler and his wife



The Calendar

April 2012

Sunday Schedule • *Sunday Services are 8:00 am (no choir) and 10:30 am (with choir) in the Sanctuary.*
 • *Adult Forum begins at 9:30 am.*
 • *Sunday School begins at 10:30 and 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 Palm Sunday <i>The Healing Prayer Gathering will not meet</i>	2	3	4	5 Maundy Thursday 6:30 PM Agapé Eucharist (PH) 10:00 PM Compline	6 Good Friday Parish Office Closed 12:00 Good Friday Liturgy & Stations 7:00 PM Good Friday Liturgy & Stations	7 Holy Saturday 7:30 PM Easter Vigil
8 Easter Day 11:30 AM Easter Egg Hunt	9 Parish Office Closed	10	11 7:00 PM Finance Committee (CO)	12	13 12:00 Fourth Quarter Luncheon (PH)	14 8:00 PM Lit.Up! (PH)
15 Easter 2 12:00 Healing Prayer Gathering (FR) 12:15 PM SMCOP (YL)	16	17 7:00 PM Vestry (UR)	18	19 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (MR)	20	21
22 Easter 3	23	24	25 Saint Mark	26	27	28
29 Easter 4 12:15 PM Pastoral Care Committee (FR)	30					

Locations:
 CO: Church Office
 CR: Choir Room
 MR: Music Room
 FR: Fireside Room
 PH: Parish Hall
 UR: Upper Room
 YL: Youth Lounge
 S: Sanctuary



The Calendar

May 2012

Sunday Schedule • *Sunday Services are 8:00 am (no choir) and 10:30 am (with choir) in the Sanctuary.*
 • *Adult Forum begins at 9:30 am.*
 • *Sunday School begins at 10:30 and 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 Saint Philip and Saint James	2	3 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (MR)	4 12:00 Fourth Quarter Luncheon (PH)	5
6 Easter 5 Big Sunday 12:00 Healing Prayer Gathering (FR)	7 6:15 PM Book Discussion Group	8	9 7:00 PM Finance Committee (CO)	10	11	12 8:00 PM Lit.Up! (PH)
13 Easter 6	14	15 7:00 PM Vestry (UR)	16	17 Ascension Day 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (MR)	18	19
20 Easter 7 12:00 Healing Prayer Gathering (FR)	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Pentecost	28 Memorial Day Parish Office Closed	29	30	31 The Visitation of the BVM		

Locations:
 CO: Church Office
 CR: Choir Room
 MR: Music Room
 FR: Fireside Room
 PH: Parish Hall
 UR: Upper Room
 YL: Youth Lounge
 S: Sanctuary