

Rector from page 1

III

I have a sin of fear, that when I have spun
My last thread, I shall perish on the shore;
Swear by Thyself, that at my death Thy Son
Shall shine as He shines now,
and heretofore;
And, having done that, Thou hast done,
I fear no more.

Are you able to recognize the various types of sin Donne writes about? More importantly, are you able to relate to them? He writes of two types of sin in the first stanza. The first is what St. Paul addresses in Romans 5:12, "Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned." Donne identifies the first type of sin with what we might still call "original sin." Humanity is fallen. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23). Before sin is an act, it is a state. We are all afflicted by sin. It is our sin, "though it were done before." The second type of sin mentioned by Donne in the first stanza reflects what Paul writes about in Romans 7:15, "I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate." Donne asks if God will forgive those sins that, try as we might, we just keep committing, despite our best efforts. By the end of the first stanza Donne acknowledges that God will indeed forgive, but even though God forgave, we have more sins on the way.

The second stanza deals with two new types of sin. The first are those occasions when our own actions entice and encourage others to join us in our sin. Jesus warned his followers against this kind of thing in Luke 17:1-2. Donne knows that when we are doing the wrong thing, we often want company. We can convince others to do what we are doing. So, he asks if God will forgive that sin which becomes a "door" for others to sin. Bad as that may be, Donne seems to feel an even worse type of sin could be what we might call "habitual sin." He writes about those sins that we just keep coming back to, even when we think we are done with them. They are like an addiction. Even if we keep them at bay for a year or two, eventually we "wallow" in them once more. By the end of the second stanza, Donne comes to the same conclusion on these two types of sin as he did for the first two. God does indeed forgive, but even though God forgave, we have more sin on the way.

The third stanza is different from the first two. The sin he writes about in the final stanza is deeper and perhaps more serious than the first four. While the previously mentioned sins are important, it is the last one that haunts him. It

is the sin of fear. Donne admits a fear of death, but more importantly, a fear of damnation. What if, because of these sins mentioned above, when he dies he does not find grace in God's presence? His questions become a prayer or a request in this final stanza. He asks that at his death Jesus, God's Son, shine on him and save him.

In the final sentence of the poem Donne reveals what he really believes about all this sin and his request for grace. "And, having done that, Thou hast done, I fear no more." In the end, John Donne knows the grace of God and understands that Jesus has already done all the forgiving he has been wondering about. In the end, because of the grace Jesus offers, he has no more fear.

My friends, as we walk the final days of Lent and begin Holy Week, let's allow the message of this poem to fill our hearts with hope. Yes, we have sinned. We sin all the time, and we will likely keep right on sinning. However, the message of the gospel is that Jesus has forgiven our sin and secured our future. We need not fear. In this beautiful poem Donne catalogues our sin, leads us through our fear, and brings us to the hope of the resurrection. What better poem for Lent and Holy Week could we want? I certainly hope you find it as meaningful as I do.

Blessings,
Dan+

April Mid-Week

All are invited to join us for our final Spring 2017 Mid-Week dinner and discussion. 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.

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.

April Birthdays

Day	Name
1	Joyce Armstrong
9	Scout Reese
11	Bradley Robertson
12	Max Schouweiler
15	Ann Hamilton
18	Reeve Carney Trevor Vincent
22	Zane Carney
24	Betty DuVall
25	Michael Mitchell
27	John Schouweiler
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. Birthdays and Anniversaries will be celebrated on the last Sunday of each month.

Treasurer's Corner

February 2016—Revenue and Expense Summary

	February Actual	February Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 28,427	\$ 33,293	\$ 71,649	\$ 66,587
Total Expense	40,090	39,379	78,878	78,757
Net	(\$ 11,663)	(\$ 6,086)	(\$ 7,229)	(\$ 12,170)

From the Vestry

Tina Wilson, Senior Warden
Alex Morales, Junior Warden



This past month, your vestry had the opportunity to engage with you directly via a Parish forum and information session regarding our proposed partnership with Harvard Westlake. Thank you to all that attended the forum. It was truly an amazing opportunity to engage in thoughtful prayer and reflection on God's mission for our church, and focusing on building a sustainable future for St. Michael's. For more information, please refer questions to Father Dan.



We continue the tradition of our Annual Parish Clean Up Day on Saturday, April 8th. A big thank you to everyone that signed up to assist with this endeavor. The sense of fellowship when we come together in prayer or community labor is a living example of God's work at St. Michael's.

The ministries of St. Michael's are preparing for Holy Week, the week before Easter. This is the time that is at the heart of the Christian year and culminates in the *Triduum*, "the three great days."

There are many opportunities for worship and contemplation at St. Michael's this Holy Week. We look forward to seeing you.

Palm Sunday, April 9th, begins with joyous shouts of "Hosanna!" We enter with music and prayers, not unlike the pilgrims of Jerusalem walking the way of the cross. We will continue with Maundy Thursday, April 13th, at 6:30 pm. Please join us for Holy Eucharist and our Agapé Supper, followed by washing of feet and stripping of the altar.

Good Friday services will be April 14th at noon and 7:00 pm. The Great Vigil of Easter, the first celebration of Easter, will be held Easter Eve, April 15th, at 7:30 pm. We gather to celebrate the greatest truth we know—that in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has entered into our world to bring hope, love, healing, and new life!

Easter Day, April 16th, we will celebrate both 8:00 am Holy Eucharist and 10:30 am Holy Eucharist followed at 11:30 am by our annual Easter Egg hunt for children.

As we prepare for Holy week, we continue to pray for all that God has given to St. Michael's and that we may continue to grow in our faith. We wish the parish family a blessed and joyous Easter season.

Tina Wilson

Revisiting Sunday School

By the Reverend Dan Justin

I grew up attending Sunday School each and every week when I was a kid. Our lessons in those Sunday School rooms presented some of the great stories of the Bible—and usually the characters were represented by felt cut-outs, old pictures or posters, or sometimes even puppets. But, is what we learned in Sunday School about these great stories really the whole story? Perhaps it is time to revisit a few of them.

That is exactly what our 9:15 am Bible Study is doing. We are revisiting Sunday School. Each week we will read one of the more famous stories of Bible. We will ask questions about it, reflect on it, and attempt to discover what they could possibly mean for our lives today. Here is the schedule:

April 2nd	Jonah and Whale
April 9th	Daniel in the Lion's Den
April 16th & 23rd	No Class
April 30th	The Walls of Jericho

Directory of Members and Friends Is Being Updated

We are grateful to Denise Schwartz, who has taken on the project of updating our Directory of Members and Friends with new pictures. Over last few years, many new families have joined St. Michael and All Angels. We wanted to have their pictures included in the directory. Additionally, some of the pictures needed to be updated. Our goal is to have a directory that accurately reflects the current parish.

If you would like to have your picture taken for the directory or, if you would like to update your picture, please see Denise Schwartz. She always has her camera with her and will be thrilled to make sure your information is up to date, current, and included.

Again, thank you to Denise, for all the work she is doing on this project

St. Michael's Clean Up Day

Time to Spruce Up St. Michael's!

Date Saturday, April 8, 2017

Time 8:30 am–10:30 am

Place Church and Outreach Office

Please join us for a bit of spring cleaning and fellowship in the Church and the Outreach Office. In preparation for the Easter season, we need assistance with: dusting the altar, choir, devotional areas, the pews, and the tables in the Narthex; vacuuming the rugs; washing the windows; assistance with cleaning and organizing the Outreach Office. Also, it would be very helpful if you could bring any of the following cleaning supplies with you: vacuum; furniture polish; rags; sponges; Swiffer dusters; glass cleaner; squeegee; buckets.

A sign-up sheet will be in the back of the church, and school-age children are welcome to assist. You do not need to be here for the entire two hours: any time that you can give would be much appreciated! We will provide a snack of donuts, juice, and coffee.



The Passion on Good Friday

By David Connors

In Christian music, a *Passion* is a setting of the Passion of Christ. These settings were intended to be performed during Holy Week. The word "Passion" comes from the Latin word *passionem* which means "suffering, enduring." The Passion tells the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper, and the Agony in the Garden, followed by His arrest, the trial of Pontius Pilate, His crucifixion, and death.



On Good Friday, the choir will present the story of the Passion of Jesus. The version that will be sung by the choir is by the composer Tomás Luis de Victoria. Victoria lived from 1548 to 1611 and was the most famous composer in Spain at that time. He devoted himself exclusively to sacred music and he was praised for his melodic phrases and joyful inventions.

Victoria has set the Gospel of St. John. The majority of the story is told by the narrator, who is called the Evangelist. Other characters include Jesus, Pontius Pilate, Peter, and a woman standing near the gate. The chorus members form the crowd of angry people asking Pilate to crucify Jesus.

I hope that you will be able to join us on Good Friday. The choir will sing the Passion at both the noon and the 7:00 pm services.

ASSI- O Dó-mi- ni nostri Je- su Chri-
sti se-cúndum Jo- ánnem. In il-lo tén-
po-re : Egréssus est Je-sus cum di- scí- pu- lis
su- is trans tor-rén-tem Cedron, u- bi e- rat hortus, in
quem intro- í- vit ipse, et di- scí- pu- li e- jus. Sci- é- bat autem et Ju- das,
qui tra- dé- bat e- um, lo- cum : qui- a frequén- ter Je- sus convé- ne- rat il- luc
cum di- scí- pu- lis su- is. Ju- das ergo cum acce- pís- set co- hór- tem, et a

Vestry Votes to Partner with Harvard Westlake

Last month we had an excellent parish forum/listening session regarding Harvard Westlake's proposed Parking and Athletic Field Improvement plan.

The parish leadership was originally, and rightfully, concerned about the potential impact the proposed construction would have on our parish and property. We were concerned about the fate of the lower, north parking lot which we use on Sunday mornings but, has always been owned by the school. As a result of these concerns, the parish initially publicly opposed the construction project. However, over the course of the last several years, it has become evident that the project is most likely going to be approved by the City. It was also the preference of the Diocese of Los Angeles, that St. Michael's and Harvard Westlake (both Episcopal institutions) find a way to move into the future together, rather than apart.

In September of 2016, Fr. Dan began meeting on a regular basis with the new leadership at Harvard Westlake. This included the school's new president, Rick Commons, and new CFO, David Weil. They began to explore the possibilities of a partnership between the

school and the church, which would address our concerns and protect the future of St. Michael and All Angels.

After many meetings, conversations, and considerations we believe we have achieved an agreement that makes sense for both institutions. These considerations were presented to the parish family on Sunday, March 19th. Questions were asked and answered. The response from the parish was overwhelmingly positive. The vestry was present at the meeting in order to listen to the parish. Remember, in the Episcopal Church only the elected members of the vestry have the right to vote and make decisions on behalf of the parish.

Based on what was shared and heard at the parish forum/listening session, the vestry voted unanimously to enter into partnership with Harvard Westlake. By entering this partnership, St. Michael and All Angels, as an institution, is no longer actively opposing the proposed project. The parish is therefore now neutral and will soon issue a "Letter of Neutrality" regarding the project. As stated at the meeting, the neutrality of the parish

means that the Rector, Vestry, or any other entity will not publically oppose the project. This neutrality does not mean that individual members of the parish must change their opinions or actions. Stakeholders who live in the Studio City/Sherman Oaks area, who also happen to be members of St. Michael's, obviously, cannot be restricted by the neutral stance of the parish.

The exact details of the partnership cannot yet be printed in our publications. There are natural steps that must be taken before we can do that. The legal counsel of the school will prepare an official document. Once completed, our attorney (a volunteer working at no cost to the parish) will review the document. At that point, the Rector and Wardens will present the agreement for consideration and approval to the Corporation of the Diocese, the Standing Committee, the Chancellor, and the Bishop Diocesan. Once all has been reviewed and approved, we will be able to provide all the details in writing. Until that time, please feel free to see Fr. Dan with any questions. He will be happy to explain every aspect of the agreement, as well as address any concerns you may have.

St. Michael's Outreach 2017 Planning Meeting

By Meredith Reese

Have you heard about St. Michael's Community Outreach Projects? Have you wanted to join a cause and make a difference in your community? Do you know of organizations that need volunteers or resources?

Please come to a very special Outreach meeting on Sunday, April 2nd, at 9:00 am in the Fireside Room.

The Outreach committee will be discussing the plans for the rest of the year and settling on a budget for each of our causes. The next Outreach event and opportunity to get involved is GET ON THE BUS on Saturday, May 20th.

GET ON THE BUS brings children and their guardians from throughout the state of California to visit their mothers and fathers in prison. Each year, around Mother's Day and Father's Day, hundreds of children and their caregivers board buses and travel from cities all over the State of California to be united. The ability to connect with a parent for these children is an opportunity they might not otherwise have. Studies have shown that even a short connection to a mother or father makes a world of difference in a child's development, and overall self-esteem. The organization relies entirely on volunteers, donations, and the cooperation of the California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitations.

St. Michael's supports the cause by providing caregiver backpacks, or "comfort bags", with activities for the long bus rides for children of all ages, along with breakfast and snack foods. This year we will help send off a bus to the Men's Colony Prison in San Luis Obispo. The volunteer commitment is to show up on an early morning to help load the bus or, help arrange the comfort bags leading up to May 20th. Contact Nancy Woods to get involved at nancyjwoods1128@gmail.com.



From the Children's Pastor

Our Easter celebrations are quickly approaching, and we are once again seeking donations for our wonderful Easter egg hunt! Below is a list of items needed. Please contact Amber at childrenspastor@stmikessc.org if you would like to donate or volunteer. All donations are needed by April 9th.



Thanks!

- plastic buckets
- paper gift bags
- fruit snacks
- candy for eggs (*no chocolate or nuts*)
- small stuffed animals
- coloring books
- crayons/markers
- small puzzles
- bunny ears
- children's sunglasses
- stickers
- tattoos



The Calendar

April 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 Lent 5

- 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 MS Youth Group (L)

3

4

5

6:30 pm Mid-Week (MC)

6

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)

7

8

8:30 am Parish Clean-Up Day
1:00 pm Concerned United Birthparents (FR)

9 Palm Sunday

- 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 HS Youth Group (L)

10 Monday in Holy Week

11 Tuesday in Holy Week

12 Wednesday in Holy Week

13 Maundy Thursday

6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Liturgy (MC)

14 Good Friday

12:00 noon Good Friday Liturgy (S)
7:00 pm Good Friday Liturgy (S)

15 Holy Saturday

7:30 pm Easter Vigil (S)

16 Easter Day

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (S)
- 9:00 am Coffee Hour (MC)
- 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S)
- 11:30 am Easter Egg Hunt
- 11:30 am Coffee Hour (MC)

17 Monday in Easter Week

18 Tuesday in Easter Week

7:00 pm Vestry (L)

19 Wednesday in Easter Week

20 Thursday in Easter Week

21 Friday in Easter Week

22 Saturday in Easter Week

23 Easter 2

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

24

25 St. Mark

26

27

28

29

30 Easter 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)



The Calendar

May 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
	1 St. Philip and St. James 6:15 pm Book Discussion Group (Woods Residence)	2	3	4 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)	5	6
7 Easter 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 Sunday Sack Lunches (MC) 11:30 am MS Youth Group (L)	8	9	10	11 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)	12	13 1:00 pm Concerned United Birthparents (FR)
14 Easter 5 <i>Mothers' Day</i> 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 HS Youth Group (L)	15	16 7:00 pm Vestry (L)	17	18 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)	19	20
21 Easter 6 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (S) 9:00 am Coffee Hour (MC) 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S) 10:30 am Sunday School 11:30 am Coffee Hour (MC)	22	23	24	25 Ascension Day 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)	26	27
28 Easter 7 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (S) 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S) 10:30 am Sunday School 11:30 am Coffee Hour (MC) 11:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (MC)	29 Memorial Day	30	31 Visitation of the Virgin Mary			

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

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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.