

**ST. MICHAEL the ARCHANGEL**  
**PARISH PROFILE**



**May 2023**

## WELCOME

The following pages provides a glimpse of life at St. Michael the Archangel Episcopal Church located in the heart of El Segundo <https://stmichaels-elsegundo.org/> .

### The Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

The Diocese of Los Angeles, a community of approximately 50,000 Episcopalians in 147 congregations, 40 schools, and 18 major institutions, spans all of Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, and part of Riverside County. One of 108 dioceses in the national Episcopal Church, the Diocese of Los Angeles was established in 1895.



Episcopal Diocese  
of Los Angeles

The Diocese is led by its Bishop John Harvey Taylor. Its administrative and ministry hub is the Cathedral Center of St. Paul, located in the Echo Park district of Los Angeles.

<https://diocesela.org/>

### The Local Community

St. Michael the Archangel is located in El Segundo, California, a 5.5-mile coastal community in Los Angeles' South Bay. The city was founded in 1911 by Standard Oil Company and its name, which means "the second" in Spanish, is the site of Standard Oil's second refinery. Today, El Segundo is an innovation hub with a high concentration of the world's most prominent corporations from dynamic tech start-ups to Fortune 500 companies. More than a dozen of the nation's largest companies are headquartered or have a strong presence within the city's 3 square miles of industry, including Chevron, Mattel, AT&T, Boeing, Northrop Grumman and Aerojet Rocketdyne to name a few. Explore this year's Fortune 500 list to see which other global market leaders made the cut. The west side features a quiet residential area and a quaint downtown.



The city's estimated 2021 population was just under 17,000, which has been stable over the last 20 years. The city's racial diversity is somewhat high. Among individual groups, Whites represent 61.3%, Hispanics/Latinos account for 15.9%, Asians 9.9%, African- Americans 4.8% and the remaining percentage identify with two or more races.

The overall education level is considered very high, with 55.8% of those over age 25 being college graduates. This is an affluent community where the average household income is \$115,846, which is well above the national average.

Looking at the area more broadly, a 3-mile radius around St. Michael's encompasses all of El Segundo, parts of Westchester and Playa del Rey to the north, parts of Manhattan Beach to the south and Del Aire to the east. While El Segundo is relatively small in terms of area and population, it is large in its sense of community. According to residents, people are drawn to El Segundo due to the small-town feel, despite its location in the County of Los Angeles, the largest county in the country. El Segundo is affectionately dubbed by residents as Mayberry by the Sea.

## Congregational service information for the period of June 6, 2021 – June 5, 2022

In June 2021, transition was we were making the transition from Covid restrictions to worship in the church. We had been holding one Sunday service on the blacktop of the preschool bike yard. We set up folding chairs for social distancing and a small table for an altar. We all wore masks, too, and no one moved from their seats. After the service, small groups were dismissed to the exit gate where they received a consecrated wafer to be consumed at an appropriate distance from others. There was no fellowship or coffee hour. In May we began holding Morning Prayer services in the church. Not until the end of June, did we return to Holy Eucharist at 8 am and 10 am. We continue to livestream our 10 o'clock service for those who are at home locally and across the country.

Volumes noted below only reflect in person numbers. Many of the services are livestreamed and views for each event range from 35 – 75.



Description	8 am	10 am	Total
Average Sunday Attendance	9	21	30
Easter Sunday	9	51	60
St. Michael Celebration Sunday	N/A	40	40

### Other services and attendance:

- Taizé: Monthly on Tuesdays @ 7 pm; 18
- Stations of the Cross: Held on several dates during Lent; 12
- Maundy Thursday: 19
- Good Friday: 17
- Compline: Tuesdays and Thursdays @ 7 pm via Livestream only (get dates)
- Preschool Chapel Services: Thursdays @ 11:15 am (attendance?)
- Baptisms: 4
- Memorial Service: 1

## Historic Dates



1928	St. Michael's Church School started with a small group of El Segundo women and their children attending St. Cross Church and Sunday School in Hermosa Beach.
1931	Formed a guild and set up by-laws, taking the name of El Segundo St. Cross Guild; subsequently, a choir was formed to sing with St. Cross.
1937	Decision was made to look for a new building and the group rented the Christian Science Church in El Segundo. The first Sunday school service, as well as church school was held there (with 75 participants) on February 7, 1937.
1939	The group moved "church" to the Girl Scout's building. The children chose the name "St. Michael's" and so at some time in 1940 the El Segundo branch of St. Cross became St. Michael's Sunday School. Sunday school continued in the scout house for 5 years.
1944	The church relocated to the City Hall auditorium. In March 1944, an option was taken on three lots at Holly and Richmond Streets. After escrow, \$800 was paid for the lots.
1948	A Lutheran Church in Westchester was purchased. The building was moved to its present location in El Segundo and became the house of worship known as St. Michael's Church.
1950	Four additional lots were purchased for \$2,000.
1956	As the curate for St. Cross, Reverend Gordon B. Yeaton was responsible for St. Michael's Mission Church. Father Yeaton was called as full-time vicar of St. Michael's where he remained until 1968. The mission also bought a vicarage at 612 Whiting Street.
1957	A building fund campaign was started and an overall plan for a future parish hall, church and classrooms was drawn up. The first phase of the parish hall was completed in 1959. In addition, the women of the church opened a thrift shop on Grand Avenue with all proceeds going to the parish hall loan.
1961	St. Michael the Archangel received parish status.
1966	Final payment was made on the parish hall.
1968	Reverend Charles T. Rines was called to St. Michael's. During his four-year tenure, Father Rines introduced new services to the congregation.
1972	Reverend Richard H. Duval was called as rector. A new Book of Common Prayer and new Hymnal were introduced but the 1928 Prayer Book continued to be used for both services. A private nursery school started renting the parish hall which provided additional income.
1992	Father Duval retired.
1994	Reverend G. Kevin Taylor was called as the new priest. Father Kevin came with much enthusiasm and new ideas. The old "office" area was demolished and a new smaller space, Yeaton Hall, was built. The 1979 Prayer Book Rite I and II were used for weekly services.
2001	St. Michael's began the process to start its own nursery school. The doors to St. Michael's Children's Center opened in 2002 with Melissa Albers, becoming its founding director. A weekly church service was held with the children from the school. Father David Bowser and Mother Elizabeth Morse were both part time clergy.
2004	Father Kevin retired. The Reverend Elizabeth Morse was assigned as priest-in-charge under special circumstances.
2005	Mother Elizabeth was called as the new rector. She involved the congregation by creating ministries of chalice bearers, lectors, intercessors, ushers, and acolytes. Mother Elizabeth welcomed new families and began a more involved outreach ministry. These ministries included a local food bank and a women's shelter.
2011	Mother Elizabeth left St. Michael's. The Reverend Marilyn Omemick has served as priest-in-charge.
2012	Mother Dina was called as the new rector
2022	Mother Dina retired.

## Our Facilities



### Sanctuary Building

The parish is located on the corner of Holly and Richmond Streets in El Segundo. The church grounds and buildings are quite beautiful and charming.

The sanctuary building was purchased in 1948 and was moved onto the property. It has seating for about 80 as well as dedicated space for a choir. There is an electronic organ located opposite the choir stalls at the front of the sanctuary, just in front of the altar rail. Inside the church's front entrance are two rooms, one on either side. One is a Memorial Room, with a glass wall permitting a view of the services, and the other is the Mary Chapel for private devotions.

Over the years various memorial donations have provided for a beautiful carved wood altar, altar rail, pulpit and several accessory items as well as stunning stained glass in all 15 windows that were refurbished in 2021 showcasing the church's light and beauty. The overall impression is one of a peaceful and reverential atmosphere for worship.

There is a wing to the sanctuary providing a sacristy, robing room and restroom.

Yeaton Hall is a large space adjacent to the church, which includes the church office, the rector's office and a "common room" for coffee hour gatherings after services and church functions throughout the year, as well as two restrooms. All restrooms are ADA compliant.

St. Michael's Children's Center (SMCC) was originally built to be the main sanctuary; however, it was repurposed in the early 1960s and became the parish hall. With the assistance of enthusiastic clergy and church members, as well as incredible leadership, in the early 1990s the dream of the pre-school became a reality and is still in operation today.

There are parking areas for approximately 15 cars on the church property and there is ample adjacent street parking.

There is a large front lawn area which is used for outdoor services, Palm Sunday procession and various other activities throughout the year.

The parish also owns a three bedroom, two bath rectory located at 612 Whiting Street, which is located on one of the most desirable streets in El Segundo. The property has a large backyard with incredible city and airport views and a two-car garage. It is located five short blocks from the church or a 5-minute walk. The ability to walk everywhere in El Segundo is part of the city's charm. It is in close walking distance of the city's award winning elementary and high school, the community swimming pool, the city library, and parks, as well as shops and restaurants. El Segundo is affectionately called "Mayberry by the Sea" for these reasons.

## **Ministries**

### Acolytes

After training and guidance, members of the parish are invited to lend their time and talents to the parish through the acolyte ministry. Acolytes are to be committed to performing all duties required of them.

### Altar Guild

There are presently six members of our altar guild. We are tasked to keep the church clean, set up for weekly services and assist the priest as needed. The altar guild also assists during funerals and weddings. We ask for additional help during Christmas and Easter.

### Flower Guild

We have five women volunteers who take turns purchasing and arranging the flowers for Sunday services.

### Sunday School

The congregation feels that educating our parishioners should be amongst our highest priority as we move toward our future. St. Michael's Sunday School program over the years has been taught by volunteers and consisted of kindergarten and elementary school children.

### Ushers

Volunteers have chosen as one of their ministries to welcome visitors and parishioners to worship. Ushers serve God and St. Michael's by facilitating the flow of the worship services.

### Lay Eucharistic Ministers & Lay Readers

St. Michael's incorporates the use of Lay Readers and Lay Eucharistic Ministers during the worship services. Adults, after additional training, may serve as Lay Eucharistic Ministers. Lay Readers may be of any age if they are able to read the lectionary with ease. Lay Readers may be asked to read the lessons for the service or to act as the intercessor.

### Music Program & Choir

Our congregation feels that music greatly enhances worship and elevates our fellowship gatherings. Presently we are fortunate to have an organist who is an accomplished musician and soloist.

Our weekly 10 am service is a choral Eucharist. Due to age and ability, our choir has shrunk to only a few members. During festival services we often hire outside musicians, both vocal and instrumental. Also, we ask young member musicians to assist with services.

## Outreach

### C.A.S.E. (Community Alliance to Support and Empower, Inc.)

A locally organized and operated agency preventing homelessness in El Segundo, C.A.S.E. assists legal residents of El Segundo primarily by providing access to a food pantry.

On the 3rd Sunday of each month, St. Michael's congregants make donations of food and other specified items during the church service.

### Family Promise

Family Promise is a community-based approach to solving family homelessness, engaging both the local community as well as faith-based organizations. Families in the program receive a full complement of resources, support, and training as they work towards their own stability and self-reliance. Our host partners are El Segundo Methodist Church and Manhattan Beach Community Church and together, we commit to provide support to the homeless families with children in our Shelter Program four host weeks each year. We also support summer camp and fundraisers, including Empty Bowls.



### Veterans

Created and led by one of our parishioners, Elizabeth Tobias, the Veterans outreach has grown to include giving by our whole community. Each month parishioners and our community join in donating food and other specified items to grateful Vets that have very little. Holidays are made special. In December, gift packages, homemade cookies, socks, and Christmas tree decorations were provided. Coffee and chocolates were provided in February; Easter baskets filled with bread, butter, Easter eggs, chocolates, homemade cookies, and beautiful cards in April; Pre-Thanksgiving meals in November. Other months have included hot chicken dinners, soup, and instant oatmeal, shaving cream and Girl Scout cookies, and a very simple one- toilet paper.

### Rise Against Hunger

St. Michaels joins the Methodist Church, and the rotary to support Rise Against Hunger each October. Volunteers work together to package meals comprised of rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and essential vitamins and minerals into bags. An assembly line process is combined with an educational experience to not only make a huge impact worldwide, but also touch the lives of the volunteers. The meals are distributed to people in need around the world. We cover the cost of the meals packaged: only 29 cents per meal. Together, we packaged 10,000 meals in one morning.

### ERD (Episcopal Relief and Development)

Working in partnership with the worldwide Church, ecumenical agencies and local organizations, Episcopal Relief & Development saves lives and strengthens communities around the world. St. Michaels has supported various ERD programs over the years including the Gifts for Life program (Animals & Agriculture, Health & Wellness) and Disaster/Emergency Relief.



## Vestry

The parish vestry consists of six elected members serving staggered three-year offices. They are elected in groups of two members. The Senior Warden is appointed by the rector while the Junior Warden is selected by the Vestry. The vestry members are elected at the congregation's annual meeting held on the last Sunday in January.

## Worship Services

The Sunday 8:00 a.m. service follows Rite I from the Book of Common Prayer. The 10:00 a.m. service uses Rite II, accompanied by music and choir.

During the Lenten season a variety of worship services are held to prepare us spiritually for Easter, including weekly Stations of the Cross and Holy Week services.

The Feast of St. Michael the Archangel is a celebration day close to the heart of the congregation. Each year we celebrate with a festive Holy Eucharist on September 29, followed by a gathering.



## Stewardship & Finances

Description		Prior Year Actual	Current Year Budget
<b>Income</b>			
Contributions	Plate, Pledge, Christmas, and Easter	\$83,939	\$78,160
Rectory Rent	\$39,600 offset to rector salary	0	0
Preschool		38,616	38,616
Total Income		\$122,255	\$116,776
<b>Expenses</b>			
Salaries	Net of \$39,600 rectory income	\$57,645	\$63,990
Benefits		22,105	22,360
Campus Facilities	Budget net of \$11,000 SMCC fund	23,491	8,846
Program & Mission		16,979	17,700
Office		3,211	4,240
Total Expenses		\$123,431	\$117,136
<b>Financial Summary</b>			
Income over Expense (Net Loss)		(\$1,176)	(\$360)

Account Balances as of December 31, 2021	
General Checking	\$63,694
Building & Grounds	6,128
St Michaels Money Market	66,648
DIT General Fund	106,374
G. Kevin Taylor Scholarship Fund	7,124
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$257,114</b>

### St. Michael's Children's Center (SMCC)

St. Michael the Archangel Church is proud of its Children's Center. In 1990 St. Michael's began renting their parish hall to a for-profit nursery school. The school helped tremendously with finances during its time in the hall.

In 1999 Father Kevin approached Melissa Albers about the idea of starting a church nursery school as a local ministry of the parish and Melissa agreed to lead this project. Following vestry approval, Sr. Warden Michael Bergeron and Melissa Albers began the lengthy process of setting up a school. Father Kevin arranged a loan from Church of Our Saviour in San Gabriel to pay for start-up costs including furniture, supplies, parish use fee and salaries. The loan was paid off in eight years. The for-profit nursery school vacated the building in 2000 and St. Michael's Children's Center (SMCC) opened January 2001 with Melissa Albers as director.

The Children's Center pays a monthly use fee and an additional \$1000 a month toward deferred maintenance on the building.

In December 2010, Melissa retired after ten years of leadership. An unexpected eighteen-month transition period followed her retirement. In August 2012, Ms. Lauren Cherrington was hired as the director.

SMCC is fully licensed for twelve infants, ages six weeks to two years, and for 45 preschoolers ages two to five years. There are approximately fifteen staff members. One of the SMCC goals is to keep tuition reasonable for working families. SMCC has a great reputation in the community and the classrooms have waitlists. Enrollment includes full-day options with weekly chapel time required for preschoolers. Music and movement classes are also offered weekly for all children.

The parish priest and the director meet as needed to discuss the school and any other issues. The priest attends the

monthly staff meetings and is a member of the school advisory board. This maintains the great working relationship between the school and the church. The Children's Center is included in the church's weekly prayers.

It is helpful if the priest has experience with children's ministry. The priest is responsible for the weekly chapel service. The priest also provides a 'ministry of presence' for the school staff and families by greeting family members during drop-off and pick-up times along with walking through the school on a regular basis.

### **The Ministry of Our Priest**

As St. Michael's moves to the future, we seek a Rector who will be able to lead us, follow us, join us, and help us identify and reach our goals. We also hope that our Rector will be a presence in the local community of El Segundo.

From the survey results and as highlighted on Story Day, the Rector we seek should have strengths in the following areas:

1. Preaching- the ability to preach with clarity and to make the Gospel relevant in people's lives.
2. Administration - the ability to manage the affairs of the congregation, diocese, or other institutions, including programs, organizations, finances, etc.
3. Teaching - the ability to help persons of all ages to understand and live the Christian Faith.
4. Spiritual Guidance - the ability to lead and encourage others in the formation and development of a deeper spiritual life.
5. Youth Work - the ability to inspire youth and incorporate them in the full life and ministry of the church.
6. Crisis Ministry - the ability to provide pastoral care by responding to people at significant points in their lives: death, dying, sickness, birth, trauma, and success.

## Survey Results

A survey was sent to active parishioners in November 2022 with an 85% response rate. The highlights of the survey are noted below.

What is special about St. Michael's?

- Friendly and welcoming
- Like family
- Inclusivity – LGBTQ+
- Intimacy
- Offers Rite I
- Beautiful church

Important Things that aren't offered or changes desired.

- Growth; Younger families
- Choir/Contemporary Music
- Sunday School
- Active younger outreach
- Book club/Bible study
- More fellowship events

Describe the next rector.

- Meaningful sermons that aren't read/Storyteller
- Warm, friendly, trustworthy counselor
- Organized with Excellent Verbal and Written communication skills
- Connected and involved in the Community
- Fun and enthusiastic
- Younger, family person
- Engaging and committed

## Story Day

The congregation met in Yeaton Hall on Sunday, April 16, 2023, for Story Day as a prerequisite for preparing the parish profile to begin the search for the next rector of St. Michael's.

The day was led the Rev Canon Thomas Quijada-Discavage, who is the Canon for Formation and Transition Ministry. Approximately 25 parishioners were in attendance.



The following reflection questions were asked to promote discussion:

1. Based on your photos and remembrances, what do they stir up in you, and what does it say to you about your experience of St. Michael's?
2. What part does your own personal St. Michael's history play into the story of the richness of St. Michael's as a parish community?
3. With the rich and amazing history that St. Michael's has already experienced, how do you see her respecting and celebrating what has been and also being excited about the next chapter in the story?
4. What would your great dream be for ministry inside and outside the walls of St. Michael's going forward?
5. Paint a new picture, what will the new vicar be like – gifts, talents, style, focus?



**Key Takeaways from Story Day  
Dreams for St. Michael's**

- See choir come back
- Continue and build on current outreach
- Team up with other local church leaders
- Promote diversity and inclusion
- No re-invention needed; Join with existing programs that already exist on the outside
- Engage the pre-school

**Attributes of the New Vicar/Rector**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People person</li> <li>• Dynamic</li> <li>• Gives a feeling of accomplishment</li> <li>• Memorable sermons</li> <li>• Relatable and real sermons</li> <li>• Understands El Segundo</li> <li>• Charismatic</li> <li>• Uses wit/humor</li> <li>• Focuses on talents; No set expectations</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has administrative skills to oversee the school</li> <li>• Computer literate and understands the business side of the church</li> <li>• Social media savvy</li> <li>• Has youth leading longevity</li> <li>• Out in the community; Face of the community; Part of city council meetings</li> <li>• Congregation needs to support clergy; Clergy can't do everything</li> </ul> |
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The Parish Profile was completed on May 25, 2023, with primary input and compilation from Melissa Albers, Jorge Cortes, Melissa McCaverty, Chris Powell, Jeanie Powell, and Kathy Van Orden.