

## Fire, wind and prayer



We're in another season of fire and wind. Our landscape is being altered as mighty winds and great fires ravage the country. We knew there would be some. We do, after all, call it hurricane season along the south and east coasts. And fire season in the west. But the level of waste and devastation left by the storms this summer seems beyond. Beyond expectation. Beyond bounds. Beyond our ability to comprehend and cope.

And they seem symbolic in some way of the times we are living through. This season of pandemic, and civil protest, and uncivil violence. And then there's politics. It seems the news spins from one tragedy and devastation to another. And I am left reeling. Unmoored. Not sure what to think, how to process it, where to turn.

I guess this is when my childhood faith returns to me. In the truest sense, it is a gift. I did nothing to earn it. It came in the guise of parents, and sisters, and teachers of faith who shared the stories and sang the songs. And so, when I am upset and undone, words of a chapel hymn come to mind.

*What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear.  
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit. Oh, what needless pain we bear.  
Every time we do not carry everything to God in prayer.*

Oh yeah. Prayer. That's where I can start. By taking that deep breath and turning to God. Giving over my hurts and worries and struggles and accepting the peace that comes.

Prayer doesn't solve the problems of the world. It doesn't undo what has been done. But it restores and renews my heart and spirit, so that I can face what is. It gives me the strength for the day and willingness to do. That's God's promise, you know. Not to stop the wind or beat back the flames. But to be with us, wherever we are and whatever we are going through.

Prayer reminds me that I am not in this alone. God is with me. And so are you. Thank you for being companions on the way.

Let us pray.

*Mother Dina+*

## Sunday School Report

The Sunday school program is going to begin again in September, Jeanie Powell, Pattie McCaverty and Florine Guy are returning as teachers. We are going to use the "Sunday Paper" as the curriculum with a corresponding craft (hopefully) included.





## Come to Church!

As we move into fall, we will begin to come back together in a new way. Our sanctuary is small and cannot safely accommodate a congregation inside, so we will be meeting *al fresco* on the bike yard/parking area on the south side of the school.

On September 27<sup>th</sup> we are planning to have an in-person service of Holy Eucharist in the great outdoors to celebrate St. Michael's Day. After that, we will offer an in-person service of Holy Eucharist on the first Sunday of the month.

This once-a-month Sunday Eucharist will be livestreamed for those who cannot or choose not to attend in person. The other Sundays of the month we will continue to livestream our services on Facebook. Our weekday services will continue to be livestreamed as well.

Please see the article below that details the requirements for in-person participation.

## Be Prepared

As we gather for worship in these days, we have to be aware of our responsibilities to keep each other safe. Your cooperation will allow us to gather. So each of us needs to:

- ♦ Wear a mask (*covering mouth and nose*) at all times.
- ♦ Keep a social distance (6 ft) from people who are not members of your household.
- ♦ Allow the usher to take your temperature.
- ♦ Sanitize your hands as you enter.
- ♦ Sit where directed by the usher.
- ♦ Exit as directed by the usher.
- ♦ Leave immediately after the service *without* gathering to socialize.

And most importantly...

- ♦ ***Don't come if you feel ill.***



## Voices from the Vestry



September is my month for Voices from the Vestry, and well, “I’ve got nothing,” I told my sister. Her first suggestion before I could finish my thought was, “Why don’t you offer Bible verses/prayers relating to the stress, strain and uncertainty of the times we are living.”

I think the prayer attributed to St. Francis has the answer to everything going on in our world.

**Florine Guy**  
(thanks to my sister)

**Lord, make us instruments of your peace.**

**Where there is hatred, let us sow love;**

**where there is injury, pardon;**

**where there is discord, union;**

**where there is doubt, faith;**

**where there is despair, hope;**

**where there is darkness, light;**

**where there is sadness, joy.**

**Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;**

**to be understood as to understand;**

**to be loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive;**

**it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;**

**and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.**

**AMEN**



## 8th Annual Empty Bowls

— VIRTUAL EVENT —

Empty Bowls like you have never experienced before!

OCTOBER 10TH, 2020

Donate an auction item!

Become a Sponsor!

Purchase ad space!

Purchase Tickets

You can sign up at <https://www.familypromiseosb.org/emptybowls2020>

## September Calendar

St. Michael's Children's Center is open under strict guidelines set by the CDC and Los Angeles County Health Department. *No one is allowed to enter the school except for students and staff.*

The church calendar continues to be quite limited. We are only allowing outside activities—and only one of those—the St. Michael's Day celebration on September 27<sup>th</sup>. In addition, Mother Dina is taking her vacation this month so our services will be curtailed.

September 1-5                      Regular weekday online services

Sunday, September 6              Regular online service with Mother Dina on our Facebook page

**September 7-23                      Mother Dina vacation—NO online services on our Facebook page**

Sunday, September 13              This is a good Sunday to explore—online services from anywhere!  
*You could try out someplace you've always wanted to go (say the National Cathedral at 8am PDT) or you could look up the church where you grew up and see if they have services.*

Sunday, September 20              Bishop John Taylor will host a diocesan-wide service.  
*The link for this service will be on our website.*

**September 27                      St. Michael's Day celebration**—in-person gathering w/ Eucharist  
*On the bike yard south of the school—see details on page 2.*

September 28                      Regular weekday online services resume.

In October, we plan to begin a more regular set of activities on our outdoor grounds, including a first Sunday of the month Holy Eucharist and Tuesday afternoon Bible study. *You can read more about those activities elsewhere in this issue.*

## Eucharist Schedule

*Al fresco Eucharist on the bike yard (south of the school) at 10am on first Sundays*

September 27<sup>th</sup> – Celebrating St. Michael's Day

October 4<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

November 1<sup>st</sup> – All Saints' Day

December 6<sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday of Advent

On the days that we gather together, we will also collect for our monthly C.A.S.E. ingathering. See the article on page 5 for items that are especially needed to stock the C.A.S.E. food pantry.

*Note: Dates may change based on changing circumstance.*



October newsletter articles are due Sept. 29th. Please send articles to [melissaasings@gmail.com](mailto:melissaasings@gmail.com)

## Outreach

Hands-on outreach has been a central part of St. Michael's community and identity. So what do we do now when hands-on seems to be hands-off?

With the help and suggestions of members of the congregation, the Vestry discussed our outreach opportunities at the August 27 Vestry meeting. We noted that we had set aside our Christmas outreach donations to support a **Rise Against Hunger** event this fall—but we won't be able to have that event. ***Rather than leave that money in the till, we will spend the money—locally and internationally.***

### Beirut Tragedy

Beirut is less than 150 miles from St. George's Cathedral, the center of Anglican life in Jerusalem. Anglicans in Israel and Lebanon are deeply connected and affected by this tragedy. An emergency relief fund—**The Archbishop of Jerusalem Suheil Dawani Beirut Emergency Fund**

(managed in the U.S. by American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem)—will provide direct relief assistance to All Saints Church of Beirut, its affiliated seminary, and its neighbors as they seek to recover from this devastating tragedy. **Our donation will help.**



### Family Promise



As the school year approaches, Family Promise of the South Bay is getting ready by transforming their space into a **Distance Learning Center**. At this center they will provide educational support Monday-Friday from 8:50am-3:00pm for all of the program's school-age children. During this unprecedented time, they have grasped this unique opportunity to provide an environment of support that will reduce the negative impact learning loss has on vulnerable

families. Our donation will help purchase desks, supplies, new floor (more conducive to constant child use) and create a warmer environment as a whole.

### C.A.S.E.

With our plan to return to church once a month, we will move our C.A.S.E. ingathering to the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month beginning October 4<sup>th</sup>. A collection box will be set up to receive your donations and we'll make sure they are delivered to C.A.S.E. Items that C.A.S.E. is in need of right now include:

Cereals	Sugar
Oatmeal (boxes and packets)	Bottles of juice
Ketchup	Mayonnaise
Cooking oil	Flour
Disinfecting wipes	Dish soap
Laundry detergent	Toothpaste
Cleaning supplies (for surfaces, disinfecting)	



***Thanks to you, outreach is alive and well at St. Michael's!  
Let us know if you have more ideas about how we can help.***



## FAMILY PROMISE

### We are currently serving 4 homeless families with children

Family #1 Esther (Mom), Aiden

Family #2 Jonatan (Dad), Tiffany (Mom), Aallyah, Ethan

Family #3 Ching (Dad), Mika (Mom), William, Faith

Family #4 Miriam (Mom), Christopher, Diego, Genesis, Sebastian, Sofia, Alexa

### Plan for the Rest of 2020

First Christian Church of Torrance has graciously opened their church to our families for the rest of 2020.

Please take the opportunity to help support our families by donating online at [familypromiseosb.org](http://familypromiseosb.org) and/or sending in grocery and gas gift cards to 2930 El Dorado St., Torrance, CA 90503. Please send an email to [Samantha@familypromiseosb.org](mailto:Samantha@familypromiseosb.org) with the following information:

First and Last Name

Congregation Name

Amount Donated/Gift Card Donated

This information is used to track host week donations and who is donating.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Write notes and letters to our families and kids and send them to 2930 El Dorado St., Torrance, CA 90503;

Snack bags for our children; Outdoor, social-distanced Yard Work at our Transitional Housing location.

### Family Promise Distance Learning Center!

We are getting ready for this school year by transforming our space into a Distance Learning Center.

We will provide educational support Monday–Friday from 8:50am–3:00pm for all of our school age children. During this unprecedented time, we have a unique opportunity to provide an environment of support that will reduce the negative impact learning loss has on our vulnerable families. We are looking to raise \$20,000 to cover the costs of desks, supplies, new floors, paint, and a warmer environment as a whole.

We need your help! There's an easy link to direct support on This Week at St Michael's email.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Empty Bowls will be a virtual event October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020!

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year! Please buy tickets online now @ [familypromiseosb.org](http://familypromiseosb.org).

A Dinner package for one is \$80, a Dinner package for two is \$150, and a Dinner package for six is \$450.

Dinner packages include access to event and auction, wine and lemonade, soup mix, cornbread mix, and dessert.

You can also donate an auction item, become a sponsor, and purchase ad space!

### Our 2020 Host Weeks

Third quarter: October 4–10

Fourth quarter: December 6 – 12

### Our 2021 Host Weeks – Please save these dates!

First quarter: February 28 – March 6

Second quarter: June 6 – 12

Third quarter: October 10 - 16

Fourth quarter: December 12 – 18

### Donations Needed

All nonprofits you care about will need financial support to get through this crisis and continue their important work. If you are in a financial position to do so, please give. Mail a check to Family Promise of the South Bay, 2930 El Dorado St, Torrance, CA 90503, or give online [www.familypromiseosb.org](http://www.familypromiseosb.org).

I miss all of you very much! I hope you are well and staying safe.

With love,

Jeanie Powell

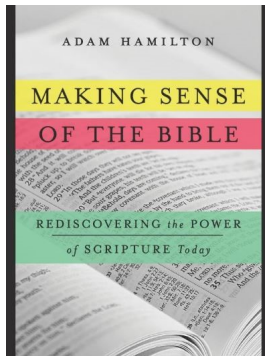
[cheeriochewer@gmail.com](mailto:cheeriochewer@gmail.com)

310-462-9904



## It's Bible Study Time!

(well, in October... so put it on your calendar)



We are anticipating a return to Bible study in October. In keeping with our *al fresco* policy, we will meet outdoors—either on the lawn or in the breezeway between Yeaton Hall and the church beginning Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 2-3:30pm. We will be using Adam Hamilton's book *Making Sense of the Bible* as our text for this 12-week Bible study.

Adam Hamilton is the founding pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City and his books have been recommended by Pastor Lee Carlile of El Segundo Methodist Church. And she's not the only one! The cover blurbs for the book include scholars (Walter Brueggemann), evangelists (Tony Campolo), social gospel advocates (Jim Wallis) and progressive Christian thinkers (Brian McLaren and Diana Butler Bass). Here's one quote to whet your appetite:

*"Wondrously accessible, Hamilton combines good scholarship with a light touch and exhibits his wise, generous pastoral heart. Hamilton does not let us forget that he bears witness to the gospel and the result is a discussion that permits readers to think again and faithfully about the Bible."*

—Walter Brueggemann

Put the date on your calendar and join us. Bring a jacket in case it's chilly or an umbrella if it's too sunny and your own beverage. We'll be socially distancing and, of course, masks will be the fashion of the day. We will share a bit of fellowship, pray with one another, and study the Bible.



O glorious Archangel  
**St. Michael,**  
watch over us during  
life, defend us against  
the assaults of the  
demon, assist us  
especially at the hour  
of death; obtain for us  
a favorable judgment,  
and the happiness of  
beholding God face to  
face for endless ages.  
Amen.

## September Birthday Blessings

3 Gavin Marquez  
11 Victoria Samia  
13 Maryjane Fitzpatrick, Oliver Mason  
14 Ryley Albers  
16 Lindy Markarian, Steve Saylor  
17 Kay Wallace, Adam Behlen  
19 Marilyn McCaverty, Kristie Wallace  
23 James Volturmo  
29 Sally Lowe





# THE GUARDIAN

**St. Michael the Archangel Episcopal Church El Segundo**

Parish Office: 310-322-2589  
Web site: [www.stmichaels-elsegundo.org](http://www.stmichaels-elsegundo.org)  
Email: [StMichaelsElSegundo@gmail.com](mailto:StMichaelsElSegundo@gmail.com)

**St. Michael's Children's Center**  
Ms. Lauren Cherrington  
School Office: 310-322-7522

**Worship Schedule**

Sunday 8:00am Rite I Said Service  
Sunday 10:00am Rite II  
with Music and Childcare  
Sunday School: 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays

**The Reverend Dina Ferguson, D. Min.**  
Rector

**Mission Statement for St. Michael's Church**

*Growing in God's Love.  
Working in God's Spirit.*

# September 2020

**St. Michael the Archangel Episcopal Church**  
361 Richmond Street  
El Segundo, CA 90245

TO: