

Clergy Corner: The Light of Christ



Easter is a season of glorious, stirring hymns. I'll bet you have a favorite! I have a hard time choosing. There are so many that I love. For now, here's the first verse of my favorite:

*"Welcome, happy morning!"
age to age shall say:
"Hell today is vanquished;
heav'n is won today!
Lo, the dead is living,
God forevermore!
Him, their true Creator,
all his works adore."*

The words speak to me across the centuries, as they were written by a 6th century bishop. Across a span of nearly 1500 years—"age to age" indeed!

The Easter icon above is also a favorite of mine—a vision of that happy morning. It's called the "Anastasis" from the Greek for "raising up." It's a particularly fulsome icon with lots of people and symbolism. Jesus, in the center, is seen on the broken gates of hell pulling up Adam and Eve (as representatives of all people) from their tombs. The figures on Jesus' left and right are his ancestors in life and faith. Floating beneath him are open locks and keys, symbolizing that he has conquered both death and hell. Deeper in the pit (and perhaps hard to make out) is a bound skeletal figure—the one who is left in chains is Death itself.

But it is the *mandorla* that fascinates me this year. The mandorla is the almond-shaped frame around Jesus. In iconography the mandorla is particularly used around Jesus representing his majesty, glory and divinity. I knew this. But I didn't know that the mandorla is also symbolic of the uncreated and eternal light of Christ and it is typical for the colors within the mandorla to become progressively darker toward the center—toward the heart of God. Hmmm, light is darker as it approaches God? One source* explains this seeming contradiction—

*If God is represented by light, the Mandorla may seem confusing.
However, those who seek God will find that the more they know Him,
the less they comprehend Him.
To know God, to experience Him, is to walk in the darkness of His light,
to enter into the mystery of His presence.*

In this happy season we especially welcome the light of Christ. But deep within us we know it is all mystery. The mystery of the resurrection. The mystery of Christ. The mystery of walking with Jesus into the very heart of God.

This happy Easter season, let us walk in the light and the darkness and the mystery of Christ. Alleluia!

Mother Dina+

* From the website "Orthodox Road" at orthodoxroad.com

Voices from the Vestry: Morning Has Broken

The past two Sundays at St. Michael's have been very special ones. First with the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord and last Sunday with the baptism of our two newest members, John and Brady. Easter is always a special day at St Michael's with the many lilies, the votive candles on the walls and, of course, the flowering of the Cross. Having the vocalists and strings (courtesy of the Adeline Crable Music Fund) added to the morning. It is the commencement of a new season and is filled with celebration and joy. It was wonderful to see such a great turnout to join in this celebration. We haven't heard this many alleluias in a long time!



Baptisms, while not as regular as they used to occur, are a very special celebration as well. You never quite know how it's all going to flow but it's always special when it's young children. I asked Mother Dina after the service if she will miss performing baptisms. She said it's one of her very favorite Sundays. I was baptized as I recall about age twelve when my family moved to California after having been Baptists in Pennsylvania. I don't recall crying when they poured the water over my head but it was many years ago. Baptisms are also a commencement of a new day for both the family as well as the congregation.

We all have these times in our lives of new commencements. Some are a welcome change but more than likely may be just going to the next stage of our lives—whether it's the commencement of a new life, the graduation from school (my favorite day as a member of the El Segundo Board of Education), or retirement from a career. I recently celebrated that day the end of last year and my official retirement party last Monday. These are all times of celebration but also of anticipation of what comes next. In any of these cases it's wonderful to have caring family, friends and church family to be there with you.

I know we will be experiencing another of these commencements when Mother Dina gets to start her third life and we begin the task of choosing a new rector for our church family. A commencement for both Mother Dina and St Michael's El Segundo.

Chris Powell

The Bare Necessities!



THANK A VETERAN.

The **Veterans Outreach** for May is toilet paper! It may not seem exciting, but it is always needed. This was a special request from the caseworker who says it is a much requested item from the Veterans.

Click [here](#) to sign up. And you can drop donations at my house (612 W. Oak Ave., ES) by Sunday, May 15th. You can leave on the porch if I'm not home.

Thanks as always for your contributions.

Elizabeth

May Dates

Bible Study begins on Tuesday, May 10 at 2pm.

Sunday, May 1	May Day! Coffee hour fellowship after the 10am service
May 2-4	Mo. Dina at clergy conference in Riverside
Thursday, May 5	National Day of Prayer
Sunday, May 8	Mother's Day Dan Ince is preacher at both services
Tuesday, May 10	Bible study begins, 2pm Candlelight & Meditation service
Sunday, May 15	C.A.S.E. ingathering Book discussion, 2pm in the church
Tuesday, May 17	Vestry, 10am at the church
Thursday, May 26	Ascension Day
Monday, May 30	Memorial Day
Sunday, June 5	Pentecost – Mo. Dina last Sunday
Sunday, June 12	Fr. Bob starts as supply for summer (through Sept. 6)



You've Read the Book – Let's Talk!



I hope you've had a chance to read *The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride*. If you haven't there are a few copies at the church entrance—and it's a quick and enjoyable read! Take an afternoon with this book (and maybe a cup of tea), then join us on Sunday, May 15 at 2pm in the church to talk about it with some friends. It's another lovely way to spend an afternoon!

Children's Center news

April showers bring May flowers! Well, April didn't bring many showers, but we still planted flowers. This month the preschoolers will be learning all about the parts of plants and doing lots of gardening. We planted flowers that didn't grow last month, so we will be trying again this month with different flowers and a few veggies. The children will also be learning about the life cycle of a butterfly. The children will also be talking about families, most specifically moms. We will make something special to celebrate moms at home and at school.

We will show our teachers how much we appreciate them during the first week of May for Teacher Appreciation Week. Thank a teacher this week!

Happy Mother's Day!

Lauren



May Birthdays

Olivia Plunkett 18

Ava Markarian 19

Florine Guy 24

**Tuesday Meditation Service ~ May 10th**

Our **Candlelight & Meditation** service for May is scheduled for Tuesday the 10th at 7pm. Our theme for this month is

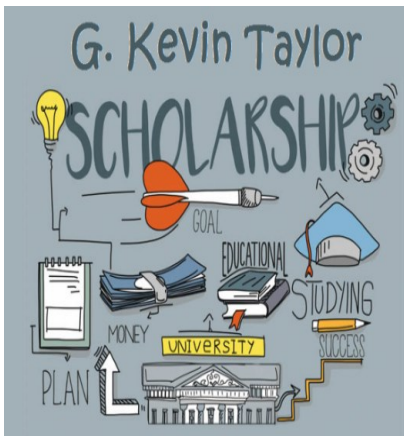
“Resurrection”

You are invited to end this day with us in prayer.

The service will be in-person at St. Michael's and livestreamed on our Facebook page.

Candlelight & Meditation

Music * Prayer * Silence
Tuesday ~ 7pm

**The G. Kevin Taylor Scholarship Fund**

It has long been a tradition at St. Michael's to give scholarships to our graduating high school seniors going on to college and to our continuing undergraduate-level college students. These scholarships are possible because of the fund established long ago and then designated as the preferred option for retirement gifts for Fr. Kevin. This year we have eight scholarships for eight great kids—continuing college students Maddie Albers, Zoe Espinosa, Oliver Mason, Sam Nilsson, Amy Powell, Chloe Samia, and Jacob Samia, along with new high school graduate and incoming college freshman Nate Albers. We hope to see them in church so they can receive our scholarship checks and tell us a little about their college and life ambitions. We'll keep you posted on when they will be with us so you can be sure to come and hear from them!

In addition, **you can help keep this fund going for future students** by making a donation at any time. Simply put “Taylor Scholarship Fund” on the memo line of your check, or mark the outside of the envelope clearly so that your gift can be recorded properly by our faithful counters. Thank you!



Family Promise

I really miss the in-person, hands on, rotational housing, where our homeless families moved from church to church each week. Do you? It's what made Family Promise so special. Don't despair! We are serving more families than ever right now! And we have many opportunities to volunteer directly with them! We can volunteer tutoring, mentoring, leading an activity for the kids, putting on an event for families, picnic days, helping at the Family Resource and Respite Center in San Pedro and Summer Camp!

Where We House the Families in Our Care

First Christian Church is back to in person church and there is 1 room available to house 1 family. The Family Resource and Respite Center houses 4 families. These 5 families stay until they are permanently housed or meet criteria for transitional homes.

We have 3 transitional homes. Several families live together in one home. These families are working and saving and looking for permanent homes.

We have a transitional home in Long Beach that houses 3 families, a transitional home in Wilmington that houses 2 families and soon we will have a transitional home in Hawthorne that has 5 bedrooms!

We can house 10 families right now! Soon we will be able to house even more in Hawthorne! With rotational housing we could only serve 4 families.



The Family Resource and Respite Center is Furnished With Brand New Ikea Furniture!

The Respite Center is located at San Pedro United Methodist Church and is a static shelter space for 4 families. IKEA donated all the furniture and decor for the 4 family rooms and 2 office spaces. Awesome! Each family has their own room with a small bathroom. The rooms are very inviting with real beds, a table and chairs, a sofa, storage and decor. There are showers, a laundry room and kitchen located in another part of the church. The kitchen is being renovated now and will be a teaching kitchen this summer! The kitchen is a joint venture with San Pedro United Methodist Church, YMCA and Family Promise. The Teaching Kitchen has a mission to create sustainable solutions that will best serve those in the community experiencing food insecurity. The solutions include eating healthy, learning new cooking skills and having fun!

Wrigley Coffee is Open! Please visit and buy some coffee!

Monday - Sunday 7am - 4pm
437 W Willow St., Long Beach, CA 90806

Wrigley Coffee is a trauma-based work place providing transitional employment to parents as baristas.

2022 Host Weeks

Second quarter: June 19 - 25
Third quarter: Oct 9 - 15
Fourth quarter: Dec 11 - 17

Jeanie Powell
cheeriochewer@gmail.com
310-462-9904

C.A.S.E. Ingathering May 15

Oil—vegetable, canola, olive

Coffee—regular & decaf

Canned tuna—albacore & chunk light

Canned chili—turkey chili, no beans chili

Bottles of juice—apple, orange, cranberry

Oatmeal—in canisters, not individual packets

Salad dressings—1000 Island, Honey Mustard

Laundry soap / Body wash / Shampoo & conditioner / Toothpaste / Toilet

Sugar—granulated, powdered, brown

Dry beans—pinto, black, lentils

Canned pinto beans

Jell-O boxes

Cereal—kid friendly, sugary

Honey

Mayo



Our outreach spotlight for May is Episcopal Relief and Development

Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) is the compassionate response of The Episcopal Church to human suffering in the world. ERD serves to bring together the generosity of Episcopalians and others with the needs of the world. In times of great need in our country and the world, St. Michael's turns to ERD to help us make a direct difference. Recently, as a response to the suffering and devastation caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, we made a collective donation of \$1000 to ERD for humanitarian relief in Ukraine. You can make a further donation toward helping families in Ukraine on the [ERD Ukraine Crisis donation page](#).

Since much of the overhead required by ERD is included in the national budget for the Episcopal Church, ERD is able to use the great majority of every donation for direct relief and development projects.

The ERD mandate comes from Jesus' words found in Matthew 25:

*"Lord, when was it that
We saw you hungry and gave you food?
We saw you thirsty and gave you something to drink?
We saw you a stranger and welcomed you?
We saw you sick and took care of you?
We saw you in prison and visited you?"*

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Time to Catch Up



We'll have coffee (and some nosh!) out front after church on the first Sunday in May—May 1st. It's will be a good time to catch up with friends and perhaps make some new ones!

We'd like to continue this "First Sunday Coffee" but we need your help. It's really pretty easy to bring a hot pot of coffee (or make one at the church) and some goodies for us to share while we chat. We'll have a sign up at coffee this month if YOU would like to volunteer. Thanks!



THE GUARDIAN

St. Michael the Archangel Episcopal Church El Segundo

Parish Office: 310-322-2589
Web site: www.stmichaels-elsegundo.org
Email: 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

Mission Statement for St. Michael's Church

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

The Reverend Dina Ferguson, D. Min.

May 2022

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

TO: