

## Father Joshua Wong Rector, St. Michael the Archangel, The Episcopal Church in El Segundo, California



When Father Joshua Wong was in elementary school, there was a boy in his class who took his crayons because he thought they possessed “special artistic abilities”. This was the beginning of his life as an artistic creator. Not knowing that many years later, after two successful careers in advertising and fashion, God has called him to bring the message of love to others in a relevant way that will change lives.

At age four, when Father Joshua was drawing cars and women’s stilettos, he discovered that products have the ability to stimulate an emotional response in others. He was always intrigued with looking deeper into a problem in order to find solutions that spoke to people, creatively and effectively. Whether it was designing an advertising campaign for United Airlines, deciding why a woman would choose to buy a pair of stilettos he created, or relating how a message in the Gospel still speaks to us today—everything we communicate needs to make sense to the audience.

Father Joshua was born in Hong Kong and, after immigrating to California when he was four, his family settled in Santa Barbara where his father was an evangelical pastor. After high school in Los Angeles, Joshua graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California, majoring in Fashion Illustration and Advertising Design. In the advertising industry, Father Joshua was an award winning Art Director in both New York City and Los Angeles, designing successful campaigns for I.B.M, Warner Bros., The Disney Channel, United Airlines, Hilton Hotels, and numerous others.

After fourteen years in the Advertising world, he moved to New York City to become a footwear designer for Charles Jourdan Paris in New York City and quickly thereafter was hired by Ralph Lauren to be the head footwear designer for his premiere Collection label and for all runway shows. While leading a global design team for multiple annual collections, he traveled to Tokyo, Hong Kong, Paris, and London, also working closely with factories throughout Italy. From the halls of Ralph Lauren, Joshua was hired as Vice President of Men’s and Women’s shoes in New York City for Banana Republic, where he led global design and production teams in Europe and China.

Fluent in Cantonese and with conversational Mandarin, Joshua is a true global citizen. His philosophy as a designer has always been, “listen to the consumer and make them want it! If it doesn’t speak to them emotionally, than it’s either not the right time or you have not done a good enough job.”

After his successful corporate career, Father Joshua sensed a strong calling to bring truth and love to our world. He obtained a Masters of Divinity degree at Claremont School of Theology, followed by his priestly ordination in the Los Angeles diocese of the Episcopal Church.

With gratitude for God’s guidance, Father Joshua is grateful to be Rector of St. Michael the Archangel Episcopal Church in El Segundo, CA. A loving, compassionate community, he looks forward to working together to build a church where God’s inclusive love shines to everyone in El Segundo and the South Bay.

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On his days off, Father Joshua likes to draw, play his cello, and bake. His heart is excited for three areas of ministry. He launched POSE, serving the LGBTQIA community at St. Edmund’s Church in San Marino. Also, he launched and led The Artist Group, an inspiration ministry to the creatives at Thad’s Episcopal Church in Culver City. Father Joshua serves on the planning committee for The Gathering, the Asian Pacific American ministry in the Los Angeles Diocese.

He resides in Pasadena with his husband and beloved standard poodle YoYo who is ready to lick everyone she sees. St. Michael’s is excited to welcome you to worship with us. Father Joshua Wong looks forward to having coffee with you and hearing your stories.



You may visit his websites at: <https://www.joshuawongdesign.com>; <http://sidewalkrunway-joshuawong.squarespace.com>

**The vestry of St. Michael’s would like to thank Randy Albers for his many years of service as our building and grounds committee. Randy is retiring from this position and we are looking for someone who can take his place. Randy is willing to work with the new person while they get up to speed. Please see a vestry member if you want to volunteer for this very important job.**

### March Calendar

Friday, March 1	Stations of the Cross 6PM Sunday, St. Francis, Palos Verdes Estates
Sunday, March 3	Holy Eucharist at 8 & 10am Fr. Joshua’s first official Sunday
Friday, March 8	Stations of the Cross 6PM St. Andrew’s Church, Torrance
Sunday, March 10	Holy Eucharist at 8 & 10am
Friday, March 15	Stations of the Cross 6PM Christ Church, Redondo Beach
Sunday, March 17	Holy Eucharist at 8 & 10am CASE ingathering
Friday, March 22	Stations of the Cross 6PM St. Cross, Hermosa Beach
Sunday, March 25	Palm Sunday Holy Eucharist at 8 & 10am with blessing of the palms
Wednesday, March 27	Tenebrae 7Pm, St. Andrew’s, Torrance
Thursday, March 28	Maundy Thursday Holy Eucharist 7PM– stripping of the altar
Friday, March 29	Good Friday– 12 noon and 7PM services
Saturday, March 30	7PM The Great Easter Vigil– St. Francis Palos Verdes Estates
Sunday, March 31	Easter Holy Eucharist 8 & 10am Flowering of the Cross at 10 followed by Easter egg hunt



## Family Promise

### **Our Family Resource & Respite Center is filled. All of our transitional homes are filled. Our current shelter waitlist is 12 months. Our waitlist includes more than 230 families!**

Please support Family Promise. You can contribute financially, through advocacy, and volunteering. Whichever you choose, you can make a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve. Please donate online at [www.familypromiseosb.org](http://www.familypromiseosb.org). Your investment in Family Promise of the South Bay is not just a financial contribution, it is a powerful statement of your belief in positive change and a brighter future, especially for the children.

### **There are many volunteer opportunities. Please let me know if you would like to do any of these together as a congregation or have other ideas!**

St. Michaels could do meal drop-offs, donate towards the food pantry, host a family lunch, have a drive (shoe drive, backpack, school supplies, mother's day hygiene kits, summer fun survival kits, etc.)

If you would like to interact directly with our homeless families, volunteers will need to complete an online trauma-informed training:

<https://family-promise.coassemble.com/unlock/Ds9ckbl>

3 modules to complete that will take about 2-3 hours total:

Coassemble 101

Coassemble 102

Coassemble Accessibility DEIA

### **Lori Eastman, our executive director, is resigning.**

Lori was offered a position with another non profit that she felt led to accept. The new position will allow her to continue to grow professionally. She will be working closely with the leadership team to ensure a smooth transition. Lori's last day is March 1st.

### **Please remember PV Resale Thrift Shop as you clean out your cabinets and closets!**

PV Resale Thrift Shop is a huge blessing to Family Promise. The thrift shop provides funding quarterly from their proceeds to 13 local charities, including Family Promise. Please support this non-profit committed to community service and the support of charities by donating items in clean, working, and very good condition. They sell almost everything: clothes, bedding, towels, dishes, furniture, small appliances, books and toys. I am happy to take donations for you if they fit in my car – let me know if you want a receipt. Palos Verdes Resale Thrift Shop is located at 2321 PCH in Lomita.

### **Visit Wrigley Coffee and have some fun!**

Wrigley Coffee is not a chain and you won't find it anywhere else - it's strictly ours! Through Wrigley Coffee, our goal is to give parents facing housing insecurity a fresh start and a path to independence through career training, coffee, and community. The idea is similar to Homeboy Industries. If you haven't been yet, you're really missing out.

Monday - Sunday 7am - 4pm

437 W Willow St., Long Beach, CA 90806

With Love, Jeanie Powell, [cheeriochewer@gmail.com](mailto:cheeriochewer@gmail.com), 310-462-9904



## St. Valentine's Day

Here we are just after Valentine's Day in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The true origin of Valentine's Day is unknown. The festival, which initially celebrated the coming of spring, included fertility rites and the pairing of women with men as early as the third century.

It is believed the Catholic church started St. Valentine's Day to honor two martyrs named Valentine, one of whom was executed for performing secret marriages of Roman soldiers, but the true origins are not known. In 1969 the Catholic church removed the feast day from its calendar, but still continues to recognize St. Valentine as a saint.

Why just one day of the year to think about and acknowledge the love in our lives? Like so many holidays Valentine's Day has become commercialized. The emphasis is on "romantic" love, where everyone acknowledges their spouse, significant other, or whatever the current term for that person is. The tradition started to send romantic letters and cards, and progressed to flowers, chocolates, etc. By the early 1900's an American company, that eventually became known as Hallmark started making Valentine's Day cards. Google says there are actually Valentine cards on the market costing several thousand dollars that contain Swarovski crystal or other precious stones.

As wonderful as romantic love is, what about all the other love in our lives--relatives, friends, co-workers, and yes, pets. The bonds of platonic love we may not acknowledge with mushy cards, etc. but connections that exist in our lives and that we treasure.

What about the affinity that develops between co-workers when they have shared a crisis, or perhaps even saved lives together. Those whom we can count on to be there when we need them--to provide love, support, a listening ear or just leaning on you when they know you need comfort. You know who I mean, those to whom we wouldn't send romantic cards, but we might say "I'm glad I know you" or "You have been a big help to me," or with whom you can share a silly joke and understand each other.

I sent a valentine card to my closet female friend that showed two old (sorry—mature) ladies having coffee, and one says to the other "my doctor said I have to give up my coffee and chocolate habits." The other one says "Oh, my, what are you going to do?" and the first one answers, "find a new doctor of course!!" I edited the card to fit our habits and she loved it! Isn't it love when we help a stranger, or contribute to a charity that helps people we have never met? Love has many forms and definitions, and we are always grateful when we realize it's there. And all we need to do is look around to recognize bonds of affiliation that may not be overwhelming but exist nonetheless and enrich our lives.

Gerri Pisciotta

[talkingitover@aol.com](mailto:talkingitover@aol.com)



Several South Bay Episcopal Churches have invited St. Michael's congregation to attend Stations of the Cross and Holy Week services. Take a look at our calendar on page 2 for services and locations. This is a great opportunity to worship with others and share this holy time together.



## Voices from the Vestry

Thank you, Lord, for this beautiful world to share with each other and all of its magnificent creatures! Give us courage and confidence to try new things. Remind us to look up and down and all around to see and feel your handiwork in everything, especially in ourselves and others, for that is where your Holy Spirit lives!



I recently had an awesome adventure in Costa Rica with my 3 sisters, Julie, Cathy & Betty! Except for Betty, it was our first time in Costa Rica.

We spent our first week at Playa Del Coco, near the beach. The weather was hot, about 95 degrees. Our resort was lovely, with gardens, 4 swimming pools, air-conditioned rooms, and lots of iguanas! We enjoyed the pools, but we absolutely loved the beach and spent most of our time there. We all love to snorkel and brought our own equipment. Going into the ocean, we really hoped to see colorful fish and turtles, but instead, we were surprised, shocked, and nervous to see an extremely large Manta Ray glide right by us! We felt the push of water on us as it gracefully went by. We also saw smaller Eagle Rays, White Tipped Reef Sharks, schools of large silver fish and some eels. When we came out of the water an hour later, we all had huge smiles on our faces and felt we had each experienced magic! We were filled with awe and wonder seeing these creatures that were so much bigger, closer, and more breathtaking than we ever expected. And... we survived and came out alive! Honestly, we experienced nature at its very best. We all crave that, but maybe don't know it! Pre-conceived ideas about the ocean and large creatures like Manta Rays and White Tipped Reef Sharks turned out to be the opposite. The ocean is actually a wondrous place and we snorkeled every day hoping to see these creatures again and again.



We spent our second week, at La Casona Lodge, right in the middle of the Monteverde Cloud Forest. The weather was cool and damp and perfect for hiking. The lodge is dedicated to conservation, research and education. It's a simple, warm and clean facility where you can rest comfortably after spending all day in the woods. All of our meals were included and we slept to the sounds of nature. Maybe a little rustic - no televisions here! But our rooms had floor to ceiling windows and we all got to hear and see the Howler monkeys several times! Staying at the lodge, we had access to all of the trails during the day for free, which meant, we could be the first to experience the forest in the morning and the last to see it at night! No standing in lines to buy tickets for us! And that's just what we did - lots of hiking! Unless we were eating or sleeping, we were hiking! The cloud forest is a nature enthusiasts paradise with beautiful woods, colorful flowers, waterfalls and streams, and lots of birds and animals. We saw Howler monkeys, coatis (they look half monkey and half anteater), lots of colorful birds including turquoise-colored quetzals and hummingbirds, frogs, and lots of tarantulas! I loved this trip.



Pura Vida, Jeanie

### C.A.S.E. Ingathering March 17

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  
 Oil—vegetable, canola, olive  
 brown

Dry beans—pinto, black, lentils  
 Canned pinto beans  
 Jell-O boxes  
 Cereal—kid friendly, sugary  
 Honey  
 Mayo  
 Sugar—granulated, powdered,  
 brown



### Coffee hour after 10am

Thank you to all who signed up for Coffee Hour treats for March. We would like to keep things simple so, coffee, juice and donuts or coffee cake, etc. is easy. Let's enjoy a few minutes of fellowship each week. Join us for fellowship and conversation!



### March Birthday Blessing

4 Michelle Bright  
 7 Shirley Chernushin  
 14 Jeanette Volturno  
 21 Gillian Madden



### Prayer requests

Please forward any prayer requests to melisaasings@gmail.com I will add them to our weekly Prayers of the People. Also let me know if you have names on the list that no longer need to be there.

### Children's Center News

Happy March! This month, the children will be learning so many things. We will start the month with a celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday by reading the classics Dr. Seuss stories and trying some green eggs and ham! The older children will also explore books by an author named Eric Carle. As we move toward the middle of the month, lessons about St. Patrick's Day, Easter and Spring will be emerge with lots of fun projects and stories.



Welcome Father Joshua! We are looking forward to meeting you and having Chapel time again.

School will be closed on Friday, March 29 for Good Friday.

Have a great month. Lauren



# 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

**The Reverend Joshua Wong, Rector**

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

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

# March 2024

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

TO: