
THE TRUMPET

An instrument of good news for our community

MAY 10, 2020

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

St. Michael's Prayer Desk Ministry: A Reflection from Jackie King

Prayer seems to be even more important during this difficult time. I would like to share a part of my faith story as it revolves around prayer and St. Michael's. I grew up in the Episcopal Church. For most of my first two decades, I believed that prayer had to come from the Book of Common Prayer in order to be official, effective, and worthwhile. Spontaneous praying, silently or aloud, was not part of my experience; neither was laying hands on a person while praying for them.

Fortunately, I encountered several different forms of prayer, both within and without church settings, over the next decades of my life. Landing at St. Michael's almost 30 years ago, broadened and deepened my practice and knowledge of prayer even more.

My life has had its ups and downs. When I experienced a life-threatening illness several years ago, the constant and supportive prayers of the people at St. Michael's made all the difference in my fight. I was also added to prayer lists across the country as friends and family prayed for my recovery. Many times, I could almost feel a physical sensation of being lifted up in prayer.

Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, St. Michael's offered a prayer ministry at both the 9:00 and 11:00 am services during and after communion at the prayer desk behind the altar. Trained prayer ministers are there each week to pray with individuals in thanksgiving, intercession, and comfort for themselves and for others. Knowing others care and hold you in prayer can be life-changing. Once we are able to regather, I hope you will come to us at the prayer desk from time to time, and let us lift you up.



GLIMPSES OF GRACE

Thoughts for the Fifth Sunday of Easter by Sally Lombardo, MDiv

I have been reading St. Thérèse of Lisieux again. The days are long, and in between serious work, I need to feed my soul; hence, my retreat to the women saints. In her well-known book, *The Little Way*, Sister Thérèse reminds us that sometimes the path of life is made clear not by doors opening and fanfare leading us forth in joy, but when the Way closes behind us, rendering the journey down that path impossible. Such direction, the author writes, gives us the humble confidence to abandon former desire and to seek Jesus with hope.

This strange season of isolation has presented a lot of closed doors. "Where is God in this?" we sometimes ask. Former practices have receded. Our old way of life ended abruptly, and daily activities we enjoyed shifted when we locked down. Some days, we don't feel like ourselves. However, God still knows us, and to Him we are the same as we were in the time before. God's mercies continue to be new each morning, and often He still whispers in my ear saying, "This is the way; walk in it" (Isa 30:21). In spite of Ways closing behind, God is opening new doors, and this is part of the Grace of God that we only appreciate in retrospect. I have never noticed people's eyes as much as I do now. Eyes peer out above the masks at the grocery, and sometimes they smile. I have not seen color the way I do now. . . in the birds, the late evening sky, the color of my son's tanning skin. Quietness has produced another sense: awareness—of others and of new Ways to go.

NEWS

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL MEETINGS If you've not had a chance yet to sign up for a virtual town hall meeting about regathering at St. Michael's, here are the links:

May 11, 4:00 pm / [Click HERE to register](#)

May 12, 5:00 pm / [Click HERE to register](#)

May 14, 12:00 pm / [Click HERE to register](#)

May 14, 7:00 pm / [Click HERE to register](#)

HONORING OUR HIGH SCHOOL (AND OTHER) GRADUATES Graduation is nearly here, and even if we can't honor our graduates in person, we'd love to give them a shout out in other ways. *Parents of high school seniors*, please email Luis Rivas, Student Minister, at Lrivas@st-michaels.org—he's putting together a recognition. We would also like to name all of our graduates in the May 24 issue of the Trumpet, so send your graduate's name and a brief, one-sentence bio to Christine Havens at chavens@st-michaels.org by Wednesday, May 20.

SHARING YOUR STORIES Thank you to the folks who have sent photos and videos or shared them by tagging us on Facebook—they are marvelous and beloved! Keep them coming! If you post something on your Facebook page or on Instagram, please consider tagging St. Michael's, so that we can see it more easily. Just type @St.Michaels.Austin anywhere in your post (it should become a blue link) and viola! Please send items to Christine Havens, Admin and Communication Assistant, at chavens@st-michaels.org. Photos should be sent at the highest resolution possible. Please keep videos to about 3 min.

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS DURING SUNDAY WORSHIP A prayer for birthdays and anniversaries has been added near the end of the Sunday service. We would love to print names of parishioners celebrating one or both of those occasions in the worship bulletin and in the Trumpet. The **submission deadline is noon of the Wednesday** prior to when you'd like to receive a blessing; email to Christine Havens at chavens@st-michaels.org. We also encourage you to type your requests in the Facebook Live chat feed on Sundays during the service.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL ON ZOOM Each **Sunday at 12:00 pm**, join Fr. John on Zoom to discuss the Gospel According to John. Even if you are new to the class, it is never too late to join; we pick back up with John 19. Please email jnewton@st-michaels.org for Zoom info.

ST. MICHAEL'S BOOK CLUB RESUMES! All are welcome to join the next book group discussion at 2:30 pm on May 27, which will probably be via Zoom. May's book selection is *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. Please email Jackie King at jsking2010@yahoo.com for meeting ID and link; any updates regarding location will also be shared in upcoming Trumpets.

MORNING PRAYER ON ZOOM Join Mthr. Minerva and others for Morning Prayer each **Tuesday morning at 9:00 am** on Zoom. Please email mskeith@st-michaels.org for Zoom meeting link.

EVENING PRAYER VIA ZOOM Led by Fr. John **each Wednesday at 4:30 pm**. Please email jnewton@st-michaels.org for the Zoom meeting info.

VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY MEETS VIA ZOOM Mother Minerva leads the weekly **Tuesday Bible Study at 1:00 pm**, via Zoom. Please email mskeith@st-michaels.org for the Zoom link and meeting ID.

CENTERING PRAYER IS NOW MEETING ONLINE This ministry is available every **Tuesday night at 6:30 pm**. Please email Phyllis Blees with questions: phyllis.blees@gmail.com or for the Zoom meeting link and ID.

SEEKERS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP ON ZOOM—NEW TIME! The Seekers are currently reading *Divine Dance: The Trinity and Your Transformation* by Richard Rohr and Mike Morrell. They are meeting via Zoom at **9:15 am each Sunday**. Please email Phyllis Blees at phyllis.blees@gmail.com for the Zoom meeting info.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION AVAILABLE One of our parishioners, Sally Lombardo, is offering free spiritual direction to St. Michael's parishioners during this time. Sally has an MDiv from Truett Seminary at Baylor and a Certificate in Spiritual Direction. Sally lives in Barton Creek and is happy to meet via FaceTime. If you are interested, please email Sally at shlombardo@gmail.com.

FAMILY MINISTRY

VACATION BIBLE CAMP (VBC) POSTPONED Lizzie McManus and Amanda Lang are sorry to announce that our Off to Oz VBC has been postponed. Stay tuned for any updates later in the summer. If you have questions, please email lizzie@st-michaels.org or amanda@st-michaels.org.

STORYTIME WITH FAMILY MINISTER LIZZIE ON FACEBOOK LIVE | THURSDAYS AT 1:00 PM Join us for the reading of two books that are fun for the whole family. While this event, like worship, is "live," the recording stays up on the St. Michael's Facebook page, so you can tune in whenever you're ready for some comedic relief and sweet tales. *Lasts about 20 minutes.*

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL IS POSTED TO FACEBOOK | SUNDAYS AT 11:30AM Rev. Hope and Family Minister Lizzie take turns leading a special message for kids, a story from the Bible, our favorite songs, and our five-finger prayer—just like we would do in Children's Chapel in person! *Lasts about 20 minutes.*

SUNDAY SCHOOL VIA ZOOM | SUNDAY 11:30 AM - 12:15 PM All kids (with a parent in the room) 5th grade and below are invited to join us for this time together where we make a craft (supply list sent out the week before), check in with each other, sing our favorite songs, and say prayers for each other. Parents must email Lizzie (lizzie@st-michaels.org) for the link to join. All welcome!

STUDENT MINISTRY

AUSTIN AREA EYC ON INSTAGRAM! The Austin Area EYC continues having fun activities at a safe distance. Follow [@austin_eyc](https://www.instagram.com/austin_eyc) on Instagram to stay connected to future opportunities for virtual worship and fun with other Episcopal youth from around the city. Direct Message on Instagram for Zoom links.

Please contact Luis Rivas, Student Minister, at Lrivas@st-michaels.org for updates on events that were scheduled to take place in May and beyond.

THIS WEEK'S PRAYERS

New Prayers

For Ken, friend of Chris Whitty, who was seriously injured in a fall.

For Sarah, whose husband, Caleb, died of cancer at age 40.

For Kay, sister of Janis Irvin, who is suffering from dementia.

For Glenna Carlton, who recently passed away. For Lori and her family, who mourn her loss.

For mothers and for those who have served as mothers.

For all victims of gun violence.

COVID-19 Related

For all those living in eldercare facilities, and for the staff, and for their families.

For Stuart Wiggin, who is an EMT, that he might be safe and stay well.

Prayers for Drew Marye's stepsister, Sherry, who was diagnosed with COVID-19.

In thanksgiving that Karen, daughter of Mary Hermes, has fully recovered from the virus.

For Kory Killough, son of Lisa and Kirk, who is unemployed.

For all those without employment at this time.

For Greg Stiles, in Philadelphia, who is in the vulnerable, high-risk population.

For Greg and Kelly's daughter, Amanda, who is pregnant.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

For Hannah M.

All of our hospital workers, including J'aime, and Patty who works in Yale's ICU, and all who are keeping services for us.

Miriam Carrillo, and Alfred Carrillo, sister and brother of José, whose livelihoods have been affected by the public emergency.

For Ed Erdman.

RESOURCES

This is by no means an exhaustive list of available resources. Please feel free to email Christine Havens (chavens@st-michaels.org) with suggestions.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Episcopal Diocese of Texas: www.epicenter.org

The Episcopal Church: <https://episcopalchurch.org/>

Article from the Office of Government Relations:

<https://episcopalchurch.org/posts/ogr/misinformation-disinformation-fake-news-why-do-we-care>

PRAYER

Prayers for Use During the COVID-19 Pandemic: https://episcopalchurch.org/files/wol_prayers_for_pandemic_final.pdf

Society of Saint John the Evangelist: <https://www.ssje.org/>

Mission of St. Clare—Daily Office: <https://missionstclare.com/english/index.html>

Online Book of Common Prayer: <https://www.bcponline.org/>

Venite App: <https://www.venite.app/>

iACT's Daily Dose of Hope: <https://interfaithtexas.org/category/the-daily-dose-of-hope/>

GROCERIES, PHARMACY, AND OTHER DELIVERY SERVICES

HEB Senior Grocery Delivery (via Favor): <https://favordelivery.com/seniors>

Special Shopping Times for Vulnerable Populations—USA Today Article: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2020/03/17/coronavirus-shopping-stores-introduce-time-for-vulnerable-elderly-pregnant/5074064002/>

MEDICAL

One Good Turn: <https://www.onegoodturn.org/covid-19-resources>

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE—INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES

United Way Emergency Food and Other Assistance: connectatx.org/

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE-BUSINESSES

Small Business Association Disaster Relief: <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>

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Rector

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A WORD ABOUT ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

Normally after Lent and Easter Sunday, we would have flower arrangements on the altar each week and would invite dedications in honor of loved ones and/or special occasions. However, during this time of encouraging safe social distancing practices, we will not be having flowers delivered.

If you have a dedication that you would normally request at this time of year, send it to Christine Havens (chavens@st-michaels.org) and we will publish them all once we are back to worshipping within the sanctuary together. Thank you to those who have sent dedications in already.



Safe practices while prepping for the Sunday service.