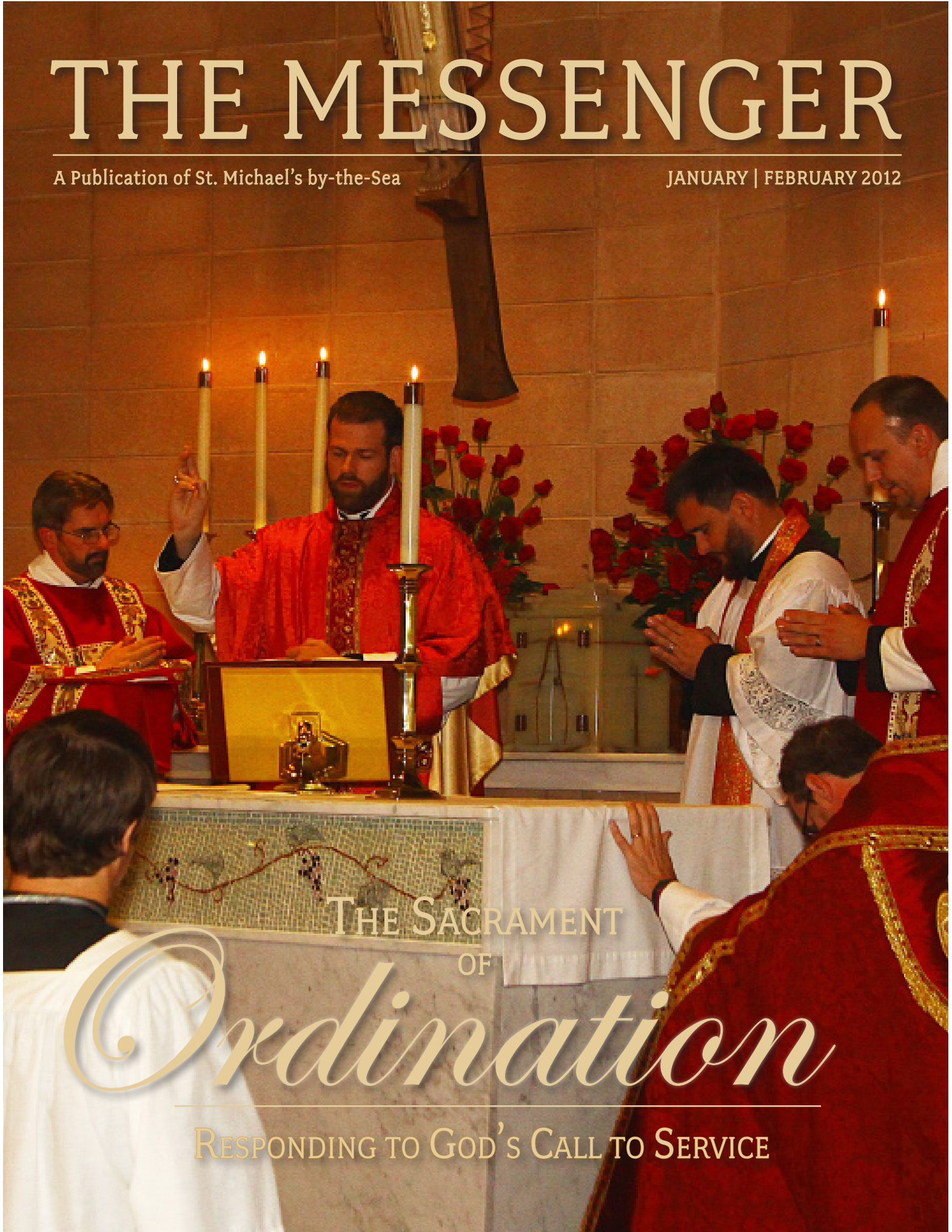


THE MESSENGER

A Publication of St. Michael's by-the-Sea

JANUARY | FEBRUARY 2012



THE SACRAMENT
OF

Ordination

RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL TO SERVICE

FROM FR. MATTHEW CANTER

God's call to service

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

After some eleven years of discernment and three years of formal education, I have finally come to the position in life to which I believe God has called me. It is with profound joy that I can say that I am now a priest in Christ's One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, and furthermore the curate at St. Michael's by-the-Sea. Of course, I haven't always wanted to be a priest. There was a time when I quickly ran from it. Yet, opportunities continued to arise that drew my mind back to the idea that I was called to become a priest, regardless if I wanted to or not. In short, doors closed where I wanted to go, and as doors opened I came to know that God was calling me to walk through them.

Since I've embraced the idea of this vocation, and seriously began both pastoral discernment as well as a formal education, it became all too obvious that it was the right decision. In my experience, right decisions (especially ones concerning our faith), tend to be affirmed by our engagement with them. As soon as I decided to begin the life of an aspiring priest, I found myself in situations where a priest was needed, or as a last resort, a seminarian was sufficient to handle the task. It seemed to me that God was looking down upon me, throwing a thumbs up, and saying: "That's it! You're on the right track! Keep it up!"

Of course, for all that I have said, it is still necessary for us all to make the choice of following after God's will in our respective lives. Though our Heavenly Father has a plan for all of us, this is not to say that the plan is how it will turn out. Rather, He gives us a choice. Think of Mary's Fiat of "Be it unto me, according to Thy word," or of our Lord's prayer in Gethsemane: "Abba, Father, all things are possible to thee; remove this cup from me; yet not what I will, but what thou wilt." All of us have a singular calling from God: we are to love others and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. All of us have an individual calling too, making up the various manifestations of how we are to specifically serve in God's Kingdom in the here and now.

In this season of the Church, and in this season of your lives, try to listen with both your ears and eyes to where God is calling you to serve. See what doors are opened and which ones are closed. Then, take a deep breath, say a quick prayer, and boldly walk through them. You won't regret it! ✠

May God bless you all,

Fr. Matthew



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Dial 760.729.8901
When instructed to do so, press 1,
leave your message and
phone number.
The emergency pager will be
activated when you hang up.

MINISTRY STAFF

Music Director Susan Lutz
Organist Dr. Josephine McGrath
Sub Organist Mary Beth Lutz
Membership Coordinator
Ginny Unanue
Children's Minister Maria Mahaffey
Youth Ministers
Mark and Naomi Nielsen

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THE MESSENGER

Submissions can be sent by email to
messenger@stmichaelsbythesea.org
or dropped off during office hours.

Deadline for March-April issue:

Thursday, February 16

THE MESSENGER can be viewed
in color on our website
www.stmichaelsbythesea.org

COVER PHOTO

Fr. Matthew gives the blessing at his
ordination to the Sacred Order of Priests
on December 3, 2011.

See more photos on pages 4 and 5.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SEAN DAVID WRIGHT



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AN ORDINATION AT ST. MICHAEL'S BY-THE-SEA



Dear Friends in Christ,

There are no words to express our gratitude to you, the people of St. Michael's, for the love you have shown to our family in the weeks leading up to Fr. Matthew's ordination. We were overwhelmed by the support of everyone in the parish, from all those who cooked, cleaned, housed visitors and ran errands, to those who prayed and came to witness this rare and beautiful sacrament. We are truly blessed to live and serve among you, and pray that this is merely the beginning of a fruitful ministry together. Thank you for celebrating with us; it was a gift to be able to share our joy with all of you. God be praised!

With love,

Fr. Matthew, Ashley, Margaret and Helen



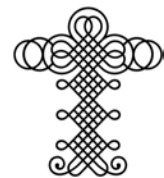


The Rev. Matthew A. Canter was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests on Saturday, December 3, 2011.

The Rt. Rev. James Mathes, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego celebrated the mass, co-celebrated by The Rt. Rev. Edward Salmon, Jr., Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina and Dean of Nashotah House Theological Seminary. Fr. Doran Stambaugh served as the Bishop's Chaplain.

The Rev. G. William Pursley, Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Lancaster, Ohio (and Fr. Matthew's father-in-law!) preached. (His sermon can be heard on St. Michael's website - click "sermons").

The service was followed by a lovely reception in Ede Hall. Thank you to all who contributed their time and talents towards making this evening such a blessed event. ✠



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Worship ministries

Join a choir (p. 6)

Become a lay reader (p. 6)

Join the altar guild (p. 6)

Fellowship ministries

Prepare, serve and clean up at coffee hour

(Call the office at 760.729.8901)

Formation ministries

Volunteer in the nursery or preschool classrooms (p. 9)

Donate needed supplies to the Children's Ministry (p. 9)

Donate to the Library Ministry's wish list (p. 9)

Stewardship ministries

Volunteer for the Lawn Mower Brigade (p. 11)

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SEAN DAVID WRIGHT

LAY READERS

Reviving an old tradition

BY DEBRA SAENZ

Thank you to our wonderful group of lay readers at St. Michael's by-the-Sea!

You may have noticed that in September the practice of having a member of the congregation read the first (Old Testament) reading at the 10:30 am mass was re-instituted. Thank you to Ben Conarro, Jesse Saenz, Len Smith and Dennis Huckabay for responding to the call for new readers to revive an old tradition.

In December, several lay readers took part in the beautiful Lessons and Carols service - a harmonious reminder of the wonder of Christmas and our foundation as Christians.

The Lay Reading Ministry still has some space for your voice! If you can read, you can help! We have a couple spaces open in our almost-full schedule. If you don't think you can commit to regular volunteering, you might be surprised to know that just by simply attending Morning or Evening Prayer, you are serving our Church. The Prayer of St. Chrysostom reminds us that "whenever two or three are gathered together in His Name, Thou wilt be in the midst of them." Join us when you can! ✠

ALTAR GUILD

A rewarding ministry

BY PHYLLIS GILBERT

If in 2012 you've determined that you'd like to be actively involved in a ministry at St. Michael's, here's an opportunity: become a member of the Altar Guild. Men and women are invited to serve in this group which prepares the altar for each Mass. It's not only rewarding, but involves commitment that will *not* consume hours of your time. To learn more, visit either the church or chapel sacristy after Mass and talk to the Altar Guild member(s) on duty. Or, get in touch with Becky Gleason at bgleason5@gmail.com. Training is on the job. ✠

MUSIC MINISTRY

Hosanna!Choir to shine in 2012

BY SUSAN LUTZ

Another joyous Christmas has come and gone and now we are looking into the brightness of Anno Domini 2012.

Some of that brightness will, no doubt, come from our lively and talented *Hosanna!Choir*. What a joy in Advent to hear and see so many enthusiastic new kids in the choir. It seems that lowering the starting age to allowing our 5-year-olds to sing in the choir has had a marvelous result. I am certainly looking forward to watching these youngsters grow spiritually and musically. *Hosanna!Choir* will resume in late February – be watching for more notices for your child. Don't miss out!

Once again, many thanks to all the choirs, and clergy, and staff, and volunteers, that made the music of the Christmas Season so beautiful and meaningful.

Now, about those New Year's Resolutions... Why not join a choir?! ✠

WEEKLY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

WEEKEND MASSESSATURDAY

5:30 pm Rite II

SUNDAY

8 am Rite I

10:30 am Rite I

WEEKDAY MASSESTUESDAY

9 am Rite I

WEDNESDAY

8 am Rite I

6:30 pm Rite II

8:30 pm Compline

THURSDAY

9 am Rite I

FRIDAY

12 noon - A Public Service of Healing (Rite II)

DAILY OFFICE

Morning and Evening Prayer are offered daily at 8:45 am and 5:15 pm, or 15 minutes before Mass.

PARISH EVENTS

JANUARY 2012

- 31, 1 **Feast of the Holy Name ***
Saturday & Sunday, all Masses
- 6 **Epiphany, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**
Friday, 11:45 am, chapel
First Friday Lunch Bunch & Bible Study
12:30 pm, Ede Hall
- 7 **Brotherhood of St. Andrew Service Day**
Saturday, 8:45 am, church campus
- 7, 8 **Baptism of Our Lord ***
Saturday & Sunday, all Masses
- 4, 11 **SOUL Youth Catechumenate**
18, 25 Wednesdays, 7 pm, Boyd Bldg.
Bible 101: 7 pm, Ede Hall
- 14 **Daughters of the King meeting**
Saturday, 9 am, Ede Hall
- 15 **Newcomers' Coffee**
Sunday, 12 noon, library
- 18 **Confession of St. Peter, Apostle**
Wednesday, 8 am & 6:30 pm, chapel
- 19 **ABCD Club**
Thursday, 7 pm, Atamian home (Vista)
- 22 **Carlsbad Marathon**
Sunday. Check bulletin for more info.
- 25 **Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle**
Wednesday, 8 am & 6:30 pm, chapel
Catechumenate begins
7 pm, library
- 26 **Vestry meeting**
Thursday, 7 pm, library
- 29 **Annual All-Parish Meeting**
Sunday, 12 noon, Ede Hall

FEBRUARY 2012

- 1, 8, 15 **SOUL Youth Catechumenate**
22, 29 Wednesdays, 7 pm, Boyd Bldg.
Bible 101: 7 pm, Ede Hall
Catechumate: 7 pm, library
(no Catechumenate on Feb. 15)
- 3 **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**
Friday, 11:45 am, chapel
First Friday Lunch Bunch & Bible Study
12:30 pm, Ede Hall
- 4 **Brotherhood of St. Andrew Service Day**
Saturday, 8:45 am, church campus
- 4, 5 **Presentation of Our Lord ***
Saturday & Sunday, all Masses
- 11 **Daughters of the King meeting**
Saturday, 9 am, Ede Hall
- 16 **ABCD Club**
Thursday, 7 pm, Bennett home (Vista)
- 21 **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**
5:30 - 7 pm, Ede Hall
- 22 **Ash Wednesday**
8 am & 12 noon, chapel
6:30 pm, church
- 24 **Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle**
Friday, 12 noon, chapel

* Solemn High Mass on Sunday at 10:30 am

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

Hello Family and Friends,

In October 2011 we moved from Sugar Pine to Valley Springs, CA, within a half mile from our son and his family. We love living near our grandchildren. We are attending St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in San Andreas. the Priest-in-charge wants Verne to assist there. Verne is also meeting with the local bishop to register as a supply priest. This move has turned out to be a positive one for us; however, every time we were in a new area we made wonderful friends and leaving them behind has been heartbreaking. Many of you have not heard from us for a while, for settling Verne's mother's estate was very hard and time consuming. We will do our best to keep in touch with you, and we pray you will keep in touch with us. Please feel more than welcome to come and stay with us and enjoy our beautiful environment; we have a guest room waiting just for you. Our contact information is: P. O. Box 1497, Valley Springs, CA 95252, vernelwalter@yahoo.com, 209.985.9970.

Much love and blessings,

Fr. Verne and Ruth Walter

Editor's Note: Fr. Walter served as curate at St. Michael's by-the-Sea from July 1999 through April 2005.

Dear St. Michael's parishioners,

Ede Hall was aglow in a red and gold shimmer on December 18 at the wonderful Lessons and Carols dessert reception! Just walking around the dessert table and smelling the different cookies and cakes put one into an excited and festive Christmas mood. A big "thank you!" to Addie McKinley for the beautiful decorations, and to all of you who so generously provided us with cookies, brownies, and sweets. They were delectable! (Left-over goodies were distributed to children and grown-ups at the Guild of St. Martin's holiday dinner on December 21.) A big thanks also to all of you who helped in the kitchen - sore feet and all - especially my husband Ron, head-elf of the Evans household.

Christmas love from Rosemarie Evans

ALL WOMEN'S BOOK, CRAFT, and DESSERT (ABCD) CLUB'S JANUARY MEETING

Attention all St. Michael's women! Please join us for the next ABCD Club meeting on **Thursday, January 19** at 7 pm at the home of Rachael Atamian, 260 Plumosa Avenue, Vista, 92083. (Carpooling is encouraged as parking is limited.)

We will banter about brilliant books (for January's meeting, read *Heaven is for Real* by Todd Burpo), create captivating crafts, devour delicious desserts, and form fabulous friendships! Sign up online at www.stmichaelsbythesea.org or call the office at 760.729.8901.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Marty Sullivan	19	Sue Bannan
	Debbi Palmer	20	Jeremy Brockmeier
5	Jared Dorsey		Finn McIlroy
6	Katie McAleavey	24	Pauline Munn-Thacker
	Bill Norton	25	Patricia Jones
7	Jim Bennett		James Mullen
	Allen Sweet		Marin Patterson
9	Joan Grover	27	Ardath Browne-Farner
11	Karen Campbell		Michael Kappelmann
	Sarah Johnson		Makennah Layng
12	Joan Noble	28	Karensa LeGear
13	Guy Close		Kyler Walsh
14	Ron Smeltzer	29	Harmony Palmer
15	Jacob Saenz	30	Danny Peterson
18	Oriole McLean	31	Vic Freudenberger

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Nedra Grabowsky	13	Wendy Belt
	Joseph Kish		Caroline Moss
2	Sue Pagano	14	Lindsey Gleason
	Joseph Thompson		Vivian Brockmeier
	Erin McIlroy	15	Denise Hoey
3	Chuck Hall		Justin Weaver
5	Sandy Stinson	16	Marjorie Ahlquist
	Kim Speak		Tori Cudal
6	Maurie Brown	17	Roland Spelich
7	Virgina Brohard		Tom Anderson
8	Daniel Hoppen	20	Ellie Morelli
9	Dottie Conner		Folake Afolayan
	Jackie Close	21	Jackie Montamble
10	Jack Meyers	22	Ed McCambridge
	Dafnee Poirier		Izzabelle Irrera
	Kathleen Ables	23	Donald Laux
12	Helga Weickgenant	27	Camille Strey
	Marlene Carter	28	Christina Brookhart

If you have a birthday in January or February and your name does not appear above, please contact the office at 760.729.8901 ext 109 to update our records. Thank you!

THE DEPARTED

We continue to pray for the souls of the departed. May light perpetual shine upon them, and their souls rest in peace.

We pray especially for

Pauline Stewart

Nov. 3, 1920 - Nov. 6, 2011

George W. "Billie" Brown

May 19, 1949 - Nov. 22, 2011

Claud Phillips

Dec. 18, 1921 - Dec. 10, 2011

The role of imagination in the Christian life

BY HOLLY ORDWAY



What does it mean to be made in the image of God?

How can we share the good news of God in Christ to those who do not yet believe?

Part of the answer to both these questions can be found in the right understanding of the Imagination! The Imagination is an essential part of what it means to be human. We can't get along properly without it -- and if we can learn the right way that Imagination can work in our lives, and how it relates to the human faculty of Reason, then we will be better able to live joyfully and wholeheartedly as God calls us to live.

We are made in the image and likeness of God, who is the Logos, the source and fount of all Reason. Holy Scripture affirms that we are to use our God-given Reason in His service: we are to love Him with all our heart, and all our soul, and all our mind. St. Peter tells us to be ready to give a reason for our hope. St. Paul reminds us that our faith is based on actual events in history, confirmed by multiple eyewitnesses to these events. However: Reason is not sufficient by itself. To know *about* Christ is not the same as to *know* him and to be in personal relationship with him.

Imagination can help us here, because Reason and Imagination are two sides of the same coin. The coin is Truth; it is Reality itself, the Person of Christ.

Reason allows us to understand true things; Imagination allows us to enter into those true things, to make them our own -- to let the Truth shape us. To create meaning.

The human faculty of the Imagination exists because of the reality of the divine Imagination. God created everything from nothing.

Before all creation, before time and space and matter, God imagined all that is, and then brought it into being. And so, as God made us in His image, our Imagination is part of the Imago Dei, the image of God in us.

Imagination is the source of creativity: for creativity means that we first imagine what is not, and then bring it into being. In using our Imagination in this way, we are responding to being made in the image of God, who is the divine Artist, the divine Author.

In a world that struggles with the problem of evil, as Christians we ought to be confronting the world with beauty, because beauty and creativity point directly to our Creator God. As JRR Tolkien put it: "We make in our measure and in our derivative mode, because we are made: and not only made, but made in the image and likeness of a Maker."

As Christians, we ought to be on the forefront of creating beauty: in art, in literature, in music, in architecture, in science, in philosophy, in everything we do. And this will be a witness to the truth of the Christian faith.

Imagination is particularly important for Christians, because we are people of the now and the not-yet. We are part of the Kingdom, yet we still pray, *Your Kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven*. Christ has broken the power of death and defeated darkness and evil, forever -- yet we still await his coming again in power and great glory.

We are called to be a people of hope. St. Peter says, be ready to give a reason for the hope that is within you. We will only be called upon to give a reason for that hope if those around us can see that hope in us.

Let us be so illuminated by the light of Christ, that others -- who cannot imagine the grounds for such joy in this broken world -- that they will have their Imagination sparked into hope, into desire, into longing.

Let us cultivate Imagination in the service of the Kingdom, telling stories, making art and music, writing poetry, finding ways to share a glimpse of our Christian vision. How can one desire that which one cannot imagine? So let us find ways to wake up the Imagination of the world, to fling wide the gates of the heart and mind to the work of the Spirit. ✠

Dr. Holly Ordway writes and speaks frequently on the role of the Imagination, the arts, and literature in the Christian life. Her blog is www.hieropraxis.com.



Newcomers' Coffee

Are you new to St. Michael's within the last several months? Come join the parish clergy for coffee and conversation in the library on **Sunday, January 15** following the 10:30 am mass. We look forward to getting to know you!

ST. MICHAEL'S LIBRARY

Library ministry is growing

BY HOLLY ORDWAY, PARISH LIBRARIAN

The Library Ministry is growing! We are pleased to welcome two wonderful new members to this important ministry. Phyllis Gilbert and Ashley Canter have been doing important behind-the-scenes work in updating and organizing the library's collection (much appreciated!), and are available to help with any book selection and recommendation needs that you may have.

I encourage everyone to browse through the library (open every Sunday) and find a book or two for enjoyment and edification. Monetary donations or *Amazon.com* gift certificates are always welcome as we continue to build a fine collection to support the spiritual needs of our congregation.

Children's and Young Adult books are still in the section to the left as you enter the library; other sections have been re-arranged since we got new shelving, so come in and take a look! ✕

ADULT CATECHUMENATE

Catechumenate winter session

BY DR. HOLLY ORDWAY

Are you new to St Michael's by-the-Sea? Are you interested in getting an introduction to the essentials of the catholic faith? The Adult Catechumenate is designed to help orient new parishioners to the fundamentals of Christian faith and the Anglo-Catholic tradition, as well as to provide instruction for individuals who wish to receive the sacraments of baptism or confirmation, or to reaffirm their faith.

The Catechumenate class is an 8-week program, taking place on Wednesday evenings. The winter session runs from January 25 through March, and it repeats in the fall. We will meet 7-8:30 pm in the St. Michael's library. The primary instructors are Fr. Doran Stambaugh and Dr. Holly Ordway.

The topics that will be covered include: Salvation history; the Trinity; the Incarnation of Our Lord; the sacraments; liturgy (also known as "why we do what we do!"); stewardship; and prayer. Our central objective for the Catechumenate remains the same. The entire class is designed toward the objective that each participant will more fully and deeply:

Relate with God the Father, through Jesus Christ, in the power and unity of the Holy Spirit, both individually and corporately.

Registration can be done online or in person at the first class (January 25). The specific dates are listed online as well. The fee is \$20 (for books and materials) and can be paid at the office or at the first class. Hope to see you there! ✕

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

A heart for children

Updated Ministry Webpages

Continue to use the St. Michael's website to access information regarding Children's Ministry programming. Follow the *Equipping the Saints* links to check the events calendar, volunteer schedules, and links to "Parent Pages" offered by our curriculum publisher.

Volunteers needed!

Do you have a heart for children? Prayerfully consider joining the volunteer rotation to serve in our nursery and/or preschool classrooms. The commitment can be as minimal as 1 hour per month, and all volunteers serve alongside trained caregivers. Parish mothers with young children will thank you for giving them the opportunity to engage in formation and worship!

Wish List

Help to supplement our program budget by donating inexpensive items from our wish list found on the message board in Ede Hall. Sincere thanks for your financial and prayer support! ✕



It is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs.

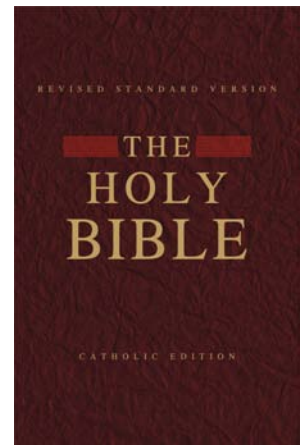
FIRST FRIDAY LUNCH BUNCH & BIBLE STUDY

The Biblical narrative

First Friday Lunch Bunch is back after summer break! Join us for each month's first Friday - January 6 and February 3 - for a delicious lunch at 12:30 pm in Ede Hall (prepared by the Hospitality Guild's David and Barbara Sandwell), followed by a Bible study led by Fr. Kraft.

Fr. Kraft continues his series begun in December on understanding the Bible as one overarching narrative that connects all the stories from Genesis through Revelation. Be sure to bring your Bible.

All are welcome. Invite a friend. If you do plan to join us, be sure to let us know you're coming! (David and Barbara need to know how many to expect for lunch.) Please RSVP no later than noon on Thursday, January 5, and again on Thursday, February 2, by calling the church office at 760.729.8901, or RSVP online at www.stmichaelsbythesea.org. ✕



BIBLE 101

Bible 101 welcomes you to the study of John's gospel

BY PHYLLIS GILBERT

On January 11, 2012, Bible 101 students will read in the 5th chapter of John this question: "Do you want to get well?" Jesus has gone to a pool in Jerusalem near the city's Sheep Gate. Around the edges of this pool lay the blind, the lame, the sick, the paralyzed—all hoping to be the first in the water when an "angel troubled it." At that movement of the water, the first in would be healed. Jesus sees a man who's been there for 38 years waiting for someone to help him to be the first; he's still there. Still paralyzed. Still an invalid. And Jesus, knowing his situation asks him: "Do you want to get well?" (John 5:6b). Now any reader, having been introduced to this man's helpless, long-term condition, would say "What a dumb question; of course he wants to be well!" But remember, Jesus doesn't ask "dumb questions." He asks to test the man.

In Israel, it was considered a religious obligation to give alms to someone blind, lame, or otherwise incapacitated; it was a way to show one's righteousness. So the man, for 38 years, had been supported by such contributions. It was a way of life. Does he want to be well? What will he do if he's no longer paralyzed? Who will support him? What Jesus asks is a legitimate question.

Instead of saying, "Yes, please," the man gives excuses: "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me" (John 5:7).

It's worth pointing out here that the man does not recognize Jesus either in person or by reputation. He probably wonders why anyone would ask him a question instead of helping him into the pool.

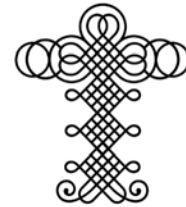
In reply to the man's excuses, Jesus says "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk" (John 5:8). Jesus reads in the man's litany of helplessness a desire for health. Jesus thus orders him to show that desire by getting up. What a command! It will require faith for the paralytic to respond; after all, for almost four decades, he's depended on others to move him here and there. But he gets up! We're told: "At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked" (John 5:9).

What a story of the way Jesus works! Does he ask us: "Do you want to get well?" when we're stuck in bad habits, lazy spiritual routines or unhealthy ways of life? I think he does. And we have to respond.

John's gospel presents over and over Jesus confronting people who are dis-eased by illness or sin. The way they respond shows us that no one is neutral to Jesus: either individuals get up and walk, change their lives and praise God, or they accuse Jesus of being in league with Satan, breaking religious laws (Jesus healed this

man on the Sabbath, forbidden "work" on that day). They fought against Jesus; they denied his legitimacy as a man who knew God, and even worse, his claim that he was God's son.

Come and study this wonderfully rich gospel with us. It's not too late to dive into John's reflections on Jesus' ministry and his Passion. Bible 101 meets at 7 pm in Ede Hall on Wednesdays. Bring a Bible; bring a desire to learn. Notes are on the Bible 101 pages of the St. Michael's website. For more information, contact instructor Phyllis Gilbert at pgilbert@miracosta.edu. ✦



ADULT FORUM

Upcoming topics in 2012

SUNDAYS, 9:15 AM IN EDE HALL

No Forum (New Year's Day)

January 1

The Baptism of Christ and Christian Baptism

January 8 Fr. Kraff

Haiti Fundraiser

January 15 - Guest speaker Jerry Campbell

The Year of Saint Mark

January 22 - Fr. Matthew

Annual All-Parish Meeting

January 29

**The Old Covenant and the New:
The Letter to the Hebrews and Life in Christ**

February 5, 12, 19 - Fr. Kraff

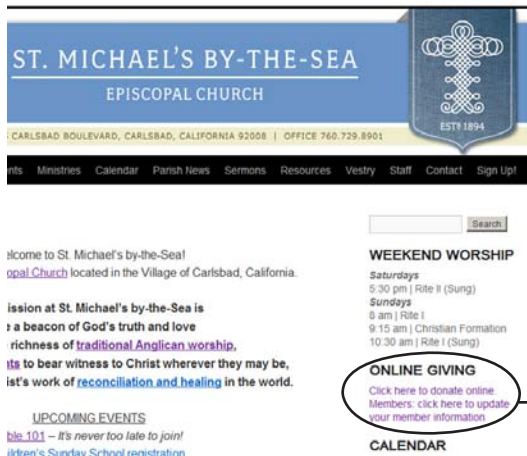
Praying the Way of the Cross

February 26 - Dr. Ordway

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Or, you may fill out a Request for Individual Information Form. These forms are available in the office or on the website (just click the Resources tab, then scroll down to Forms). The Request for Individual Information form can be mailed to the office at P. O. Box 127, Carlsbad, CA, 92018; faxed to 760.729.0737; emailed to diana@stmichaelsbythesea.org, or dropped off to the office during office hours. All email addresses and membership details will be securely protected and will not be distributed outside of the church office.

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For more information, please call the parish office at 760.729.8901. ✕

GARDEN GUILD

Winter work will foster spring blossoms

BY GINNY UNANUE

It's the beginning of another year, and we have plans for the gardens and grounds of St. Michael's. Right now, most plants are in a dormant, winter snooze mode. Some plants are blooming now, like a few of our bulbs and some of the orchids (yes, orchids!) near the east door of the church, by the St. Francis statue. They may not look like orchids, but they are indeed.

Soon it will be early spring, and then things will really be bursting open and into bloom. We'll be fertilizing everything then, and giving the roses their annual pruning in late January or early February to get our new and beautiful roses come summer.

The lawns will be aerated and fertilized to continue to look green and lush. Since they have been reseeded, they have really taken on a new look! We're going to keep it that way. Speaking of lawns, did you know that we have a riding mower? It's fun to use, and makes mowing the lawn quick and easy. If any of you would like to take turns on it, say, once a month, contact the office.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our formidable Garden Guild members, a small corps who come once a week to weed and trim and keep our grounds looking good. Please feel free to pass on your thanks to Kee MacFarland, Valerie Cumming, Sandra and Richard Yaros, Linda Mumford, and Leigh Haddad, for all that they do to keep St. Michael's looking so vibrant. ✕

ARCHIVES

Archival treasures to be displayed in Ede Hall

BY GINNY UNANUE

There is a wonderful old, red leatherbound book in our archives entitled *The Book of Remembrance* with this inscription on the title page: *This book given to the Glory of God and in honor of Sister Mary Visitation and Guest Register in memory of Suzanna Dougherty by Mr. and Mrs. David w. Reedy, 1959.* Each page of this book is a treasure trove, listing items that were donated to the church as it was being built, and by whom. Here's an example:

High Altar given to the Glory of God and in memory of
Lt. Col. Wesley Greer Ling (1918-1956)
James Wesley (1855-1924) and Ida May Ling (1866-1952)
Elbert Rush (1864-1926) and Lillian Harris Greer (1868-1945)
by Harvey and Vivian Greer Ling 1955

Some of us can remember when Mrs. Ling was making the tile and jewel mosaic on our high altar. It was truly a labor of love. There is a newspaper article and photo about the altar in our archives, and it is a true joy to look at them and reminisce.

Look soon in Ede Hall where these and other items will be displayed so we can all share in the history of St. Michael's by-the-Sea! ✕

The perfection and precision of my Partner's plan

BY JEAN HOUGH

"The Holy Spirit is God working in and through us," said the Reverend Shradly Hill, rector of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Poway, California. These were the seeds of wisdom which helped the dream I had been cultivating for four years to blossom.

Baptized into the Episcopal Church in infancy, my religious upbringing included study of the Bible, The Book of Common Prayer and the history and doctrine of the Anglican expression of the Christian Faith. I thought I understood the Holy Spirit. I was wrong. My mind failed to comprehend the Third Person, the Helper, the Comforter.

Fr. Hill's enlightening definition of God the Holy Spirit enabled me to discern that the Helper would be my partner; and the perfection and precision of my partner's plan for my life, for my dream fulfillment, required only that I banish my habit of worry, to let go and let God. To the degree I was able to achieve this, to that degree my dream unfolded serenely.

What I dreamed of was resigning the captive employment of my first career as a professional secretary and inaugurating a second career as a self-employed, home-based entrepreneur.

I was thinking in terms of a home-based secretarial service. God had a better idea – a career custom-designed for my strengths and weaknesses and for the challenges He would give me later.

Medical transcription would combine my interest in the field of medicine with my language skills. My internist advised, "You'll need to learn the language of medicine."

God's timing was perfection. After ten years of captive employment at a large corporation, I would be eligible for a small pension upon eventual retirement, a comforting nest egg. The month I achieved my tenured status, a local newspaper announced a Regional Occupational Program class in medical terminology and transcription to begin shortly.

Still, a pesky doubt perturbed me. Could I become a successful entrepreneur? A college counselor once said, "Your entrance exam scores show average intelligence... What distinguishes you is your motivation." My parents urged, "Go for it! We believe in you and are behind you one hundred percent." God's nudge seemed to say, "Go." So I took the leap of faith, quit my job and returned to the classroom.

The medial transcriptionist (MT) masters the language of medicine and the ability to interpret and edit medical dictation for content and clarity. She learns to detect medical inconsistencies in dictation. A skilled wordsmith, the MT produces a document that is medically and legally sound. She possesses professional and personal integrity.

For the next nine months I dedicated myself to assimilating the language of medicine and practicing transcription of physician dictation. The final phase of the class, a six-week internship in a medical office, tested my readiness. God nudged me to decline my first opportunity, so as to open the door to His choice, Dr. David Daniels, our family's dermatologist. When my internship ended, he became my first client.

*A*s in any new endeavor,
perseverance, practice and
patience invites success.

God's grace ensures it.

As a novice MT, I worked at the speed of a disabled snail. Dictation comes lickety-split, prompting my questions of staff: "What's he saying?" As in any new endeavor, perseverance, practice and patience invite success. God's grace ensures it.

With the perspective of time, I realized how gently God was easing me into my new career. My light workload allowed time to home-study the subject of anatomy.

God's nudges led me to wise purchases for our home office. Most significant, with divine timing, Xerox Corporation introduced its Memorywriter typewriter. Beneficial features for me included its light touch and small memory capacity. A visual screen enabled me to edit as I transcribed, then proof and print final copy from the machine's memory. I named my typewriter Genesis and my transcription machine Emmanuel.

Joyful creativity enveloped me as I wore the many hats of self-employment. I designed a letterhead and a brochure. My business card featured the dove as my logo. I composed an introductory marketing letter offering regular contract work, temporary vacation fill-in and overload transcription.

I soon realized it would behoove me to visit medical offices in person with my portfolio and a marketing package, a tickler to remind them of my availability. As I'm basically shy, this was the most challenging hat for me to don. I persevered and, in God's time, He gave me two new clients, Dr. Kemp Massengill, a cataract surgeon, and Dr. Robert Cummings, an orthopedic surgeon.

My transcription workload was a fascinating blend of chart notes, referral letters and lengthy (20-plus pages) medicolegal reports. Two special projects captivated me. Dr. Massengill asked, "Will

you prepare the index for my new book?” Dr. Daniels wondered if I would transcribe tapes he had recorded at a weekend Christian conference for men.

With 30 to 35 hours of income-producing work a week, plus the non-income producing duties of self-employment, I was performing at my comfort level. Still, my income could not sustain a normal life. I relied heavily on my savings and lived without frills. But I found joyful work performed with love trumps financial perks.

Self-employment was a boon to my health. God chose for me work environments minimizing stress and exposure to germs, my nemeses in captive employment. Even while ill, I could do the job working at home, missing less work in 20 years than I had in one year of captive employment.

God’s choreography undulated like the sea upon the shore. Dr. Massengill moved his practice out of the area. Time passed.

Dr. Cummings retired. Time passed.

Doctors Daniels and Kooistra dissolved their partnership; I continued to work for each. Time passed.

Dr. Daniels retired.

As the waves danced rhythmically, I trusted. My eyes were yet scabbed and unseeing of the approaching storm: changes in my parents’ health.

Daddy courageously endured four fractured vertebrae, a massive heart attack, emphysema, a broken hip, congestive heart failure. Mother’s health plummeted as well. One body organ after another deteriorated, but she soldered on valiantly, until God lifted her, too, into His loving arms.

For me, watching beloved parents suffer was terrifying. I yearned to crawl under my desk and bawl like a baby. I felt overwhelmed and inadequate. “You have every reason to feel as you do,” reassured a psychologist friend.

How incredibly blessed I was that God entrusted me with the gift of care giving my parents for ten years. I praised and thanked Him for orchestrating the miracle of home-based self-employment, thus enabling me to be on-site when my parents needed me.

For me, bereavement is a soggy protracted journey with intermittent spells of conscious comfort and clarity.

During one such interlude, I asked, “Why me, Lord? Why did you choose to bless me with your perfect and precise plan?”

The response I perceived exemplifies our loving Heavenly Father, omnipotent Lord of all creation, who at once orchestrates mighty miracles and tends to tiny details.

The miracle God gave me was triune: three in one and one in three. I came to know the Holy Spirit as partner, helper, comforter. I delighted in a fulfilling career as a home-based self-employed

MT. This situation enable me to immerse myself in care giving my parents, which I believed was my mission in life, my reason for being.

In the spring of 2003, my health problems necessitated closing our business and moving to a continuing-care community.

My partner’s perfect and precise plan achieved denouement. Its lesson for me here and now lies in its beginning – realization of the presence of the Holy Spirit beside me, guiding, protecting, strengthening, and bestowing peace. ✠

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

For His Sake

BY DEBRA SAENZ

For His Sake...

I am but one, but I am one.

I cannot do everything, but I can do something.

What I can do, I ought to do.

What I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do.

Lord, what will you have me do?

Above is the Motto of the Order, and the spirit of this motto is alive and well within the Agape Chapter at St. Michael’s by-the-Sea. Cheryl McKean and I have been blessed to co-lead this devoted group of ladies in the year 2012 and have been inspired by the growth that we’ve witnessed - growth in participants and most importantly in spirit.

Our program year began a yera-long, focused study of “Spiritual Formation” led by Mrs. Ashley Canter, and the opportunity to “go deeper” (as one Daughter described) into our own spiritual journey has been received with great enthusiasm.

On December 10, we hosted an Advent Quiet Day with thoughtful discussions led by our own Phyllis Gilbert and Ashley Canter. If you missed it, don’t despair! We’ll host another in Lent, and I highly recommend you give it a try! Also in December, we received four new candidates into the Chapter: Linda Vanaria, Katie Morrissey, Allison Graves and Rachael Atamian. Please keep these new Daughters in your prayers as they take on our “Rule of Life: Prayer, Service and Evangelism.”

If you have an interest in learning about the Order, check out www.doknational.com.

Our meetings continue to be held on the second Saturday of each month, beginning with Morning Prayer in the Chapel at 8:45 a. Feel free to join us if you’re interested. There’s nothing mysterious about the Order, I promise you... we’re all Sons and “Daughters of the King.” ✠

FOREIGN & DOMESTIC MISSION

Thank you, St. Michael's!



October's "Evening of Wine Tasting and Fellowship" a fruitful event

BY MARY MILLS

St. Michael's Foreign and Domestic Mission's Wine Tasting Party, held on October 21, 2011, was a huge success. This was due to the combined efforts of every member of the Mission who met every two weeks from August 4 until the night of the event.

The Mission's members put their hearts, souls, time and money into an all-out effort to make this an evening to be remembered. As their chairperson, I wish to thank them all for what was truly a "work in progress." They settled on an Italian Night, planned the menu, and adjusted the food amounts as ticket sales increased. Even friends got involved! Tay Cooper's friend Dale Simpson is a wine distributor. He not only chose the wines for us, but also donated one and a half cases. Procuring the wine was a problem almost solved, but not quite. Checking once again on the ticket sales, I made a quick call to Tay: better get another case! And so it all came together.



PHOTO BY WAYNE WRIGHT

Marcia, Sarah, Diane and Cheryl did kitchen duty once again, Gillian and Joe served the wines, Lindy decorated the tables, Maria was our baby sitter, Marti kept tabs on the money and Diana put her artistic talents to work advertising the event and designing the menus.

Seeing the smile on the face of Chuck Atkinson, President of the Veterans Association of North County, and hearing the gratitude he expressed as he was handed a check for \$4,000 was a worthwhile result (as everyone involved would agree). ✠



Annual holiday food drive for Brother Bennos a great success

BY SARAH KRIEGER

Parishioners: thank you for participating in the annual Brother Benno Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Drive! We had a SUV full of groceries to deliver to Brother Bennos, over twenty-five bags and a handful of grocery gift cards for turkeys! We appreciate the outpouring of support for those in need.

Also, St. Michael's parishioners donated Target gift cards to our three Christmas charities: *Straight From the Heart Foster Care*, *Brother Bennos*, and *Casa de Amparo*. These charities are always grateful for gift cards, especially those for teens as they like to pick out their own gift.

We appreciate all your efforts to support the Foreign and Domestic Mission and make the New Year brighter for others. ✠

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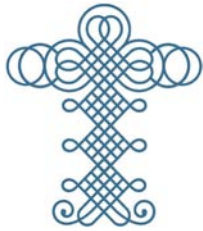
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THE ORDINATION OF THE REV. MATTHEW CANTER Photos on pages 4 & 5



OUR MISSION

The mission of St. Michael's by-the-Sea is to

be a beacon of God's truth and love through

the richness of traditional Anglican worship,

in the equipping of saints to bear witness to

Christ wherever they may be,

and by sharing in Christ's work of

reconciliation and healing in the world.