



ST. MICHAEL'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EASTER SEASON MAY 11  
9 AM

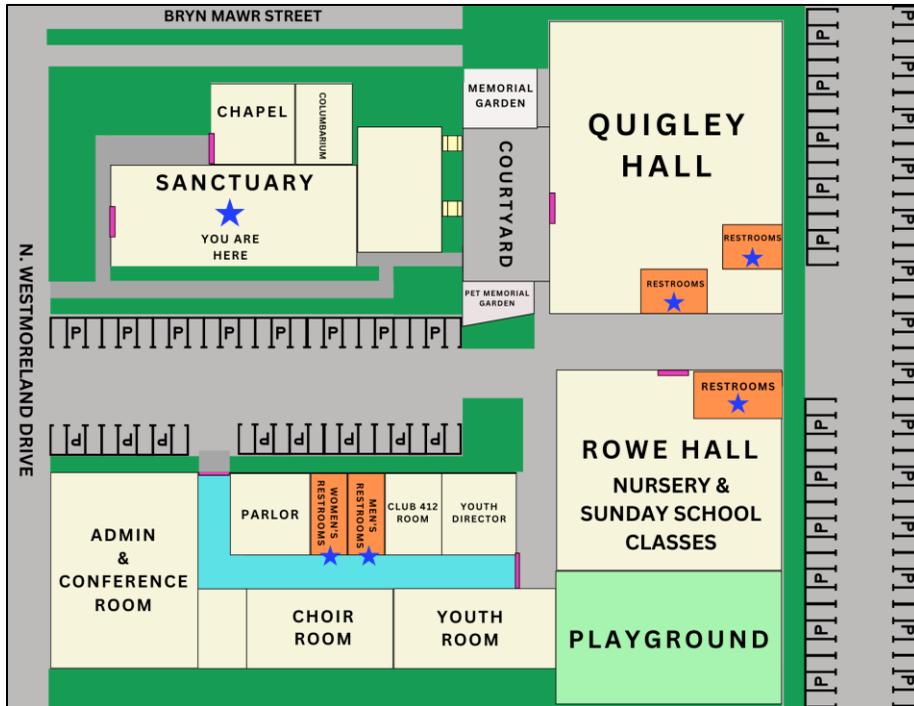
# Family Service

*He is Risen!*



# Welcome to St. Michael's Church

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, we welcome and accept you, and we trust God to take you where God wants you in God's timing. We want to be a safe place for you to experience God's grace, love, and presence with us. **Welcome home.**



## Today is Mother's Day

**Today** is Mother's Day. While we know that this day may come with much celebration and joy as we honor those in our lives whom we love and those who have loved us, we also acknowledge that this can sometimes be a difficult day for many reasons. We pray wherever you find yourselves in joy, sadness, or even both, that you will experience the deep love and presence of God. May this be a blessed day.

## WE GATHER

*(please stand)*

### OPENING SONG

He is exalted  
The King is exalted on high  
I will praise Him  
He is exalted, forever exalted  
And I will praise His name

He is the Lord  
Forever His truth shall reign  
Heaven and earth  
Rejoice in His holy name  
He is exalted  
The King is exalted on high

He is exalted  
The King is exalted on high

### HE IS EXALTED

I will praise Him  
He is exalted, forever exalted  
And I will praise His name

He is the Lord  
Forever His truth shall reign  
Heaven and earth  
Rejoice in His holy name  
He is exalted  
The King is exalted on high

He is exalted  
The King is exalted on high (rep)

Priest: Alleluia, Christ is Risen

**All: The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

Let us pray:

**All: Loving God, whose word is life: Come to us with saving power to free our praise  
inspire our prayer and shape our lives. For the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ  
our Lord, Savior, and Friend. Amen.**

## SONG OF PRAISE

## THIS IS MY DESIRE

This is my desire to honor You  
Lord, with all my heart, I worship You  
All I have within me, I give You praise  
All that I adore is in You

Lord, I give You my heart  
I give You my soul, I live for You alone  
Every breath that I take, every moment I'm awake  
Lord, have Your way in me

This is my desire to honor You  
Lord, with all my heart, I worship You  
All I have within me, I give You praise  
All that I adore is in You

Lord, I give You my heart  
I give You my soul, I live for You alone  
Every breath that I take, every moment I'm awake  
Lord, have Your way in me

*(please be seated)*

Priest: The Lord is here.

**All: God's Spirit is with us.**

Priest: Let us pray:

**All: Lord God, help us see Jesus and hear his voice, that we may love him in our hearts, think about him in our minds, and experience him in our lives. Amen.**

## WE LISTEN

### THE PSALM FOR THE DAY

Psalm 62

I wait patiently for God to save me;

**I depend on him alone.**

He alone protects and saves me;

**he is my defender, and I shall never be defeated.**

I depend on God alone;

**I put my hope in him.**

He alone protects and saves me;

**he is my defender, and I shall never be defeated.**

My salvation and honor depend on God;

**he is my strong protector; he is my shelter.**

Trust in God at all times, my people.

**Tell him all your troubles, for he is our refuge.**

*(please stand)*

## **THE GOOD NEWS**

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (10:22-30)

All: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

Priest: The Gospel of The Lord

All: **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

## **THE TALK**

### **THE ST. MICHAEL'S CREED**

I believe in God the Father,  
who created me and all the world.

I believe in God the Son, who saved me on the cross and loves me.

I believe in God the Holy Spirit, who is in me and gives me life.

I believe in one God, who lives forever and ever.

## WE PRAY TOGETHER

*(sit or kneel)*

Let us pray to the Lord of Love for His Church and the world:

Loving God, we thank you for our time together today: for all the people gathered here, and those gathered elsewhere.

**All: We hold them in our hearts, and we lift them to you, God.**

Gracious God, we pray for people in our neighborhood, our country, and around the world--for everyone who needs help, and for everyone who is hungry.

**All: We hold them in our hearts, and we lift them to you, God.**

Merciful God, we pray for the leaders and future leaders of our world--send us leaders with a heart for goodness and truth.

**All: We hold them in our hearts, and we lift them to you, God.**

Ever-present God, we pray for those especially on our hearts and minds today. Make your presence known to them, Lord.

**All: We hold them in our hearts, and we lift them to you, God.**

God, we pray for all of these things, and for everything we are thinking and feeling but haven't said out loud.

**All: We hold them in our hearts, and we lift them to you, God.**

Priest: Loving God, we thank you for always being with us. Open and transform our hearts so that we may fully love you and our neighbor as ourselves, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **WE FIND REST & RELEASE**

Priest: God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for turning away from you and ignoring your will for our lives.

Priest: We have wounded your love by behaving as we wish, without thinking of you or others.

**All: O God, heal us.**

Priest: We stumble in the darkness and fail you in what we think, say, and do.

**All: Light of the world transfigure us.**

Priest: We forget that we are your home by letting ourselves be drawn away from you by the temptations in the world about us.

**All: Spirit of God, dwell in us.**

(silence)

**All: Merciful God, take all these our burdens into your life. We lay them down in faith for healing, forgiveness, re-creation and release through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Priest: May God forgive you, Christ befriend you, and the Holy Spirit renew and change your life. Amen

## **THE PEACE**

Priest: The peace of Christ be always with you.

**All: And also, with you.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS & BIRTHDAYS**

### **BIRTHDAY PRAYER:**

Watch over this your child, O Lord.

Bless and guide (him/her) wherever (he/she) may be.

Strengthen and comfort (him/her) to do that  
which is good and right.

May (he/she) feel the touch of Thy Divine Hand,  
and receive the joy and power of the Holy Spirit,  
that (he/she) may be blessed forever more,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

### **THE OFFERING**

## WE SHARE A MEAL TOGETHER

*(sit or kneel)*

Priest: Gathered round a table is where Jesus so often met people. So let us gather and give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise**

Priest: Jesus said, I am the living bread which came down from heaven.

**All: Lord, we thank you for this gift of bread.**

Priest: If anyone eats this bread, he or she will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh, for my flesh is food indeed.

**All: Lord, give us this bread that we may live.**

Priest: And my blood is drink indeed. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.

**All: Lord, fill us with your grace, and make your home in us that we may be one with You.**

Priest: Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Sanctify this bread and this wine that it may be for us the food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a promise of life with You now and forever. **Amen.**

## JESUS' FAMILY PRAYER

*(all pray together)*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## WE BECOME ONE

**Priest:** Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**People:** Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

**WE GO**

*(sit)*

**Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim and demonstrate your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## CLOSING SONG

## WHO'S GONNA TELL THEM

Who's gonna tell them Jesus loves them  
Who's gonna tell them there's a better way  
Who's gonna warn them of the things coming on them  
So God can turn their nights to day

Who's gonna tell them Jesus loves them  
Who's gonna tell them there's a better way  
Who's gonna warn them of the things coming on them  
So God can turn their nights to day

I'm gonna tell them Jesus loves them  
I'm gonna tell them there's a better way  
I'm gonna warn them of the things coming on them  
So God can turn their nights to day

So God can turn their nights to day

## FINAL BLESSING

The love of the Lord Jesus Christ draw you to himself,  
the power of the Lord strengthen you in his service,  
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit  
be among you and remain with you always.

## DIMISSION

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

# We need your support for VBS

Did you know we have over 100 children  
and 45 volunteers attend VBS?

We have three ways you can show your support!

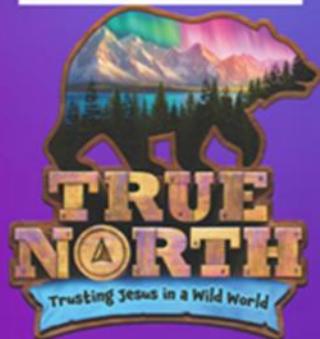
Buy items from  
our Amazon  
Wish list



Donate or let us  
borrow items on  
our sign up  
genius



Register to be a  
volunteer. We  
need more adults  
and youth to help  
us the week of VBS





# Round-up

Hey parents of 6th-12th graders! Discover the epic adventures at St. Michael's Youth Group and see why our EYC is the ultimate adventure zone!

**13**

**May 2025**

**6:30 PM to 7:30 PM**

**Conference Room, Fordham Hall**

**St Michael's Church**

**More info Contact**

**[mark@stmichaelschurch.com](mailto:mark@stmichaelschurch.com)**



# Fr. Rick's Sabbatical

*"Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while."*

Dear St. Michael's Family,

Thank you for your kind, generous, and gracious expressions of love, encouragement, and support as Katrena and I prepare to enter our extended Sabbath after Easter Sunday. Clergy in the Episcopal Church are encouraged to take a sabbatical every five to seven years. As I enter my 20<sup>th</sup> year as a priest, this is my first "official sabbatical", and I am privileged to take some time for renewal and it will be good for my soul, the soul of my marriage and family, and the soul of my ministry.

## HERE ARE OUR PLANS:

**RESTORATION:** Katrena and I will spend several weeks in the Italian countryside. Our intentions are to avoid the major tourist areas and spend time visiting small villages and simply relaxing and being together. The place we've chosen to stay in is a former monastery that has been converted into apartments and is somewhat secluded which will allow for quiet walks, reflection, prayer, and solitude-- along with good wine and delicious Italian food!

**RENEWAL:** A week after we return home, I leave by myself for the rolling hills of Kentucky for an intensive workshop tailored for behavioral health professionals and clergy. I will spend eight days in a remote and rustic setting with seven other people and a team of assisting professionals who will lead the group into deep soul work. The spiritual and emotional work will be intense, but I know it will bring me even closer and more deeply connected to God and my true self.

**RECONNECTING:** In the remaining time, we intend a few overdue family visits in North Carolina, and perhaps West Virginia.... (And I MAY even wash my car and clean my garage.)

Freddy Clayton, our Senior Warden, will oversee leading Vestry meetings. Ashleigh will continue to assist in the daily administrative operations. Fr. Greg will lead the liturgical and pastoral life of the parish. Joan will work with Freddy, Ashleigh, and Fr. Greg in the business and financial life of St. Michael's.

Again, thank you for your love, prayers, and support. I also want to thank our dedicated staff and vestry for their leadership in my absence. God is doing something amazing and beautiful in the life of St. Michael's and I cannot wait to return in July with fresh perspectives and renewed energy for ministry and what God has in store for us!

In Christ's love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Rick". The signature is written in black ink and includes a horizontal line underneath the name.

Thank you for worshipping with us today!



**St. Michael's Episcopal Church**  
**Your Church Home in College Park**  
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"Your Church home in College Park"  
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