

Forward in Grace With St. Michael and St. Jude



Our second patronal feast is today, St. Jude's Day. On this day we remember and celebrate the gifts and legacy of St. Jude's Chapel, and recommit ourselves to the work of God's reconciliation and reparation. We follow in the footsteps

of people whose faith and resilience are powerful examples for us. Thanks be to God for their witness through difficult times.

Now it is our time for faith and resilience, moving forward in service for our neighborhood even as we fret over politics and the economy. How do we manage it? We do what we can. We feed all who are hungry in body, mind and spirit. We raise up our children and youth to love and serve others. We make music together and open

our hearts further to God. We love each other and we work to expand the circle. It's all an act of grace, responding to grace.

In a few weeks we'll offer our gratitude for this grace with our pledges for 2023. These are difficult times. But we abide in grace today because St. Michael's and St. Jude's have carried the faith for centuries. May we take part in doing so for centuries to come.

— Mother Kate

Why We Pledge



A sampling of the activities this year that enable us to live into our Core Values: **Following Jesus Christ. Spiritual Growth. Diversity. Community. Joy. Stewardship.** The latter helps enable us to maintain our parish life, including, from left to right: the welcome of new members; weekday prep for the Saturday Kitchen; the September barbecue; and a blessing of Sunday schoolers.

The Forward in Grace stewardship campaign is underway, headed toward the Ingathering on Sunday, Nov. 20. Everyone is invited to come to the altar then with a pledge card to proclaim thanks for our shared life together. At a time when all of us feel the sting of rising prices, co-warden John Avery puts the pledges in perspective:

We are a church with many blessings — people, spiritual and financial. Thanks to the foresight and generosity of our forebears, we have beautiful buildings and various sources of income to keep things in shape.

But we depend on you and your giving to maintain the staff that helps us keep the faith: Mother Kate,

Mother Julie, Father Frank, Deacon Richard, John Cantrell, Galina, Raj, Samuel, Omar and many others.

We're also talking about the community life that they — and you — inspire and sustain.

Praying together in small groups. Sending kids to Sunday school. Serving at Saturday Kitchen or Homework Help. Saying Amen to a moving sermon. Enjoying a backyard barbecue. Observing the timeless sacraments of baptism, marriage and burial. Knowing that you belong. Yes, belong — because here Jesus too might say Amen.

Pledges also support the countless pastoral interactions that often happen under the radar:

a hand or a word for people who are at risk or grieving or celebrating or trying to become a citizen or feeling lost who might otherwise feel they don't have a prayer.

Your pledge of financial support helps make all this possible. St. Michael's relies on us parishioners to provide a healthy nearly one-third of our revenue. The fundamental issue is spiritual: What kind of parishioners — and Christians — would we be without giving of ourselves to help sustain, and act upon, what we believe?

If you have never pledged, if your pledge is modest compared to your means, if you've given about the same amount for years, please give some thought to the spiritual value of doing even more for this place we love — this place where love is affirmed.

St. Francis Meets Hurricane Ian



Mother Julie, Cosmo, MeKo



Bonnie Rose



Atticus, Patrick, Anja, Julie



Blaze, MeKo



Jack



With Hurricane Ian aftermath as uninvited guest, the Blessing of the Animals moved indoors. "That was the quietest pet blessing I've ever officiated," Mother Julie said. "These animals were already full of the Holy Spirit and joined us peacefully without making so much as a peep, let alone a joyful noise!" Julie didn't bring her pooch Amos, "part Basset hound, part hellhound," she says. "He needs an exorcism, not a blessing."

Photos by Dorinda Angelucci



Samuel Francois: Our Parish House's Chief Welcomer

St. Michael's has a new face up front — calm, with a quick smile and a luxuriant beard. Samuel Francois has been our Parish House front desk receptionist and administrative assistant since June. He loves his job and it calls out his best skills — organization, and a way with people.

Sam grew up in Bushwick, Brooklyn, graduating from public schools and Hunter College, where he majored in psychology, with a special interest in the topic of personality. His takeaway was “reading and understanding different personalities, body language, how to interact with people.” That knowledge is essential at the Parish House front desk, a community crossroads.

Sam grew up in the Victorious Church of Jesus Christ, a Haitian-American congregation in Brooklyn where he played drums, worked with younger kids and learned the gospel of turning the other cheek. All this carried over to his first job — intercepting shoplifters on their way out of a Sears store in Flatbush, trying to



Our new front desk receptionist and administrative assistant Samuel Francois is part greeter, gatekeeper, diplomat, pastoral counselor, traffic director and project manager.

convince them to give up their stolen goods. “I’d talk to them and tell them what they were doing was wrong,” he says. “Sometimes that wouldn’t work, they would just run through me.” But sometimes it did work.

“At St. Michael’s, some people come in who remind me of working at Sears,” Sam says. “I will just ask them what they need, how can I help them. Even if they’re insulting me, I just shake my head and say OK. If I were to say something back, or show them that same energy, it would make the situation worse.”

Sam likes working in a church where his colleagues are all “respectful and genuine.” He helps them out with his organizing skills: recently, for example, streamlining the church’s service record-keeping. People appreciate his efficiency and laid-back style.

The biggest challenge? “It’s a lot of work. You have to stay on top of things, and prioritize,” Sam says. His dream is to be a project manager on big projects, leading teams to exceed clients’ expectations.

— Tom Phillips

What Does It Mean to Lose a Church?

At the Reparations Committee presentation on Jan. 30, committee member Gregory Bryant concluded with personal remarks.

Before the St. Jude’s Day centennial, Jeannie Terepka gave a forum on what the St. Jude’s Chapel meant to its members and the community around it. I was reminded of the Episcopal church I grew up in, St. George’s, in Bedford-Stuyvesant. The parishioners included many new immigrants to the United States from the Caribbean. Their children and I were the first generation in the United States.

I started off in Sunday school and my life really revolved around that church from pre-K through college. I was involved in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, summer camp, the youth group and church services. Recently I was telling my kids about my youth and how by the time I was 21 I had lost five friends, one from natural causes and the others due to violence or drugs.

I thought about what my church did for me, and why I’m here today, and my friends who aren’t here today. And I reflected on how St. Michael’s didn’t fully help keep St. Jude’s as an existing church. It served over 300 people on a Sunday and had programs throughout the week. How many lives were lost,

and how many people didn’t meet their full potential, because St. Jude’s isn’t here today? So I ask you to help us develop a working plan to address the issues around reparations.



The child is father to the man: Gregory Bryant, back in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Today Gregory, formerly on the vestry, serves as an acolyte as well as a member of the Reparations Committee.

Our First Neighborhood Ministry: a School

Our Monday-night ministry Homework Help, with 15 students and 16 volunteer tutors, echoes St. Michael’s deep past.

In 1815, only eight years after St. Michael’s was founded, William Jarvis, the second rector, reported to the diocesan convention, “A school has been established in which several poor children are educated at the expense of the parish.” St. Michael’s Charity School was supported by parish donations, a grant from Trinity Church and a congregation subscription.

In 1817, St. Michael’s hired a teacher, William Morgan, at \$400 per year, and the year-round school calendar was established. Some 40 boys and girls studied “the doctrines and discipline” of the church “as well as other branches of education,” Jarvis reported.

In the mid-1820s, both church regulations and local city ordinances about education were evolving rapidly. Trinity withdrew its support in 1825, and St. Michael’s was forced to relinquish the school to the newly organized New York Public School Society.

By 1830, St. Michael’s Charity School was transformed into the first public school in the neighborhood — in a system of public schools that endures to this day.

— Jean Ballard Terepka

Dr. St. Michael's Charity School in A/c Current with Saml J. Jarvis New Wryman

1817	June 23 To Cash P. P. McKay for 2 dshs B & B bread	10	1817	June 23 By Cash from Communion Mary & Michael	20
	Wm Morgan Schoolmaster	10	"	" 24 " " Frederick Depeyster sub	20
Aug. 26	" " " "	58	"	" 1 " " Joz C. Clarkson subscription	10
Octob. 6	" " " "	10	"	" " William Sauncey on acct.	25
Nov. 10	" " " "	40	Octob. 6	" " Communion Alms St Michael	10
" 26	" " " "	40	"	" " Wm Wryman's subscription	20
1818	Jan. 5 To Cash " " "	20	"	" " H. M ^o Farlan's "	20
Feb. 18	" " " "	45	Nov. 26	" " Whitehead Fish	20
Mar. 6	" " " "	20	"	" " William Heyward	20
Apr. 6	" " " "	10	1818	Jan. 5 By Cash from Wm A. Davis	20
			Feb. 11	" " Gerard Depeyster	5
		Dolls 260	"	" " Mrs Renwick	20
			" 18	" " Saml J. Jarvis	20
			Mar. 6	" " Estate of Wm. Rogers	10
			Apr. 6	" " "	10
					Dolls 260

E. E. (signed) Saml J. Jarvis Wm Wryman.

Vestry minutes from 1818 show a balanced budget of subscriptions and expenses for the first quarter of the year for the St. Michael’s Charity School.