

Welcome to St. Michael's Day, Everybody!



As usual, fall seems to have jumped on us unawares this year — no matter how far in advance we plan, the program year still rushes in with such surprise. Today is our glorious St. Michael's Day and our first-ever block party! Weeks of preparation and days of panic result in a festive liturgy with angels of all kinds in attendance, and festival fun with the angels of our neighborhood. It's a great day to celebrate.

With so much change afoot in our community and our nation, it's like us to plan a Big Event that

stretches us to new levels of hospitality. We don't often take the safer route of the tried and true here. So we don't know what angels we'll welcome today and how it'll all unfold — just as we don't know exactly how we're navigating the next months together as a community.

But we're finding that angels come in all kinds and forms. With new staff and clergy, new neighbors, new spaces in our buildings, we're trying new things and building new relationships. With 217 years behind us, we're flying forward into the next one, in faith and hope. Come and celebrate today!

— Mother Kate

'Doors Wide Open' Has Become a Reality

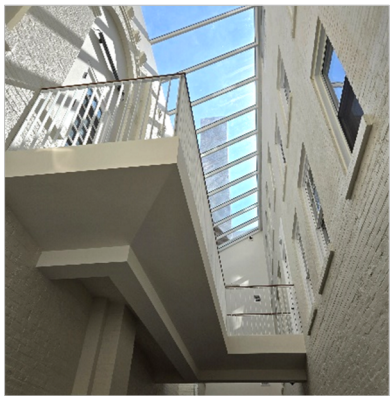
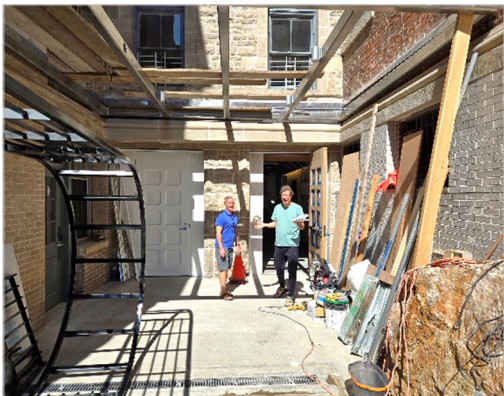
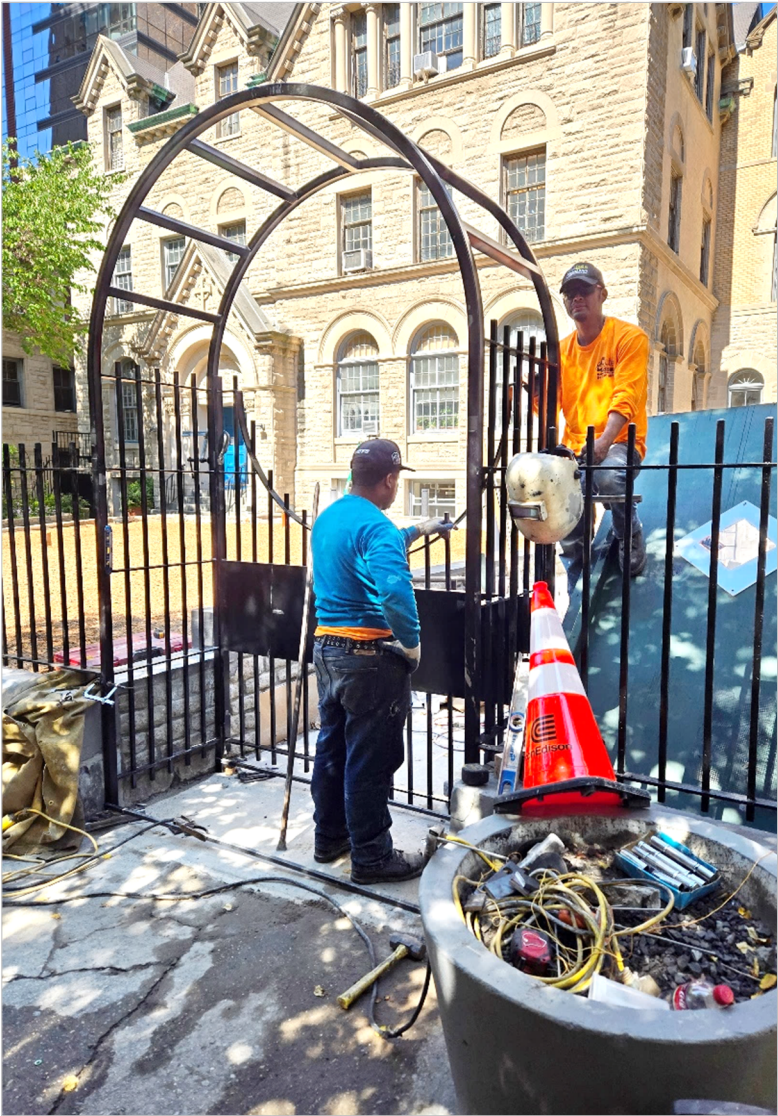
The construction fence has come down, but work continues to build out the Doors Wide Open vision of a new community of worship and service.

John Avery and Walter Cain, who have long been involved in the site, led a tour of the new features. "We're literally putting the finishing touches on," John says. "We're late and it's long overdue but we're gratified by the results. The construction is beautiful and functional and we feel that it will serve us well for generations."

"This work represents the biggest investment since the Parish House was completed, financed by historical resources left to us and the generosity of nearly all of our parishioners," Walter says. "It has been a trying couple of years for the church staff, our tenants, the parish and the community. But now we're at the punch-list phase."

"How does this serve God's mission and our own?" John says. "By making the space accessible, we can welcome more people in. And with buildings that function in a modern way, this is a place that people will want to come to."

And the elevator? "All that remains is the inspection," John says. "Then we ride, baby, ride! Or should I say 'rise'?"



Counterclockwise from top right. The future takes shape: A new gate rises to the east for what will become the main ramped entrance to the Parish House and the elevator. The gate echoes all the arches on the Parish House facade. A stepped-down terrace and side planters mean that the garden space has now expanded. Walter Cain and John Avery inspect the east entryway, which will have a glass roof. Inside the Parish House: the new nursery, just off the atrium; and the repositioned bridge to the sanctuary organ-and-choir loft, a Bridge of Sighs no longer.



In Northern Ireland, Lessons in Peacemaking

For eight days in July, teenagers from St. Michael's and the Muslim Community Network in Manhattan gathered at the Corrymeela Community retreat center in Ballycastle, Northern Ireland, the land of the Troubles, to practice the techniques of peacemaking.

The roots of the Troubles stretch back at least a millenia. During the 1960s a particularly vicious cycle of bloodshed broke out and led to Bloody Sunday, Jan. 30, 1972, in Londonderry (Derry) where British soldiers fired on peace marchers, killing 13. The son of one of the victims led the Corrymeela group on an emotional tour of the scene. The Good Friday Agreement in 1998 marked a cessation in

what seemed an irreconcilable conflict. Mary Ellen Lehman organized the parish-sponsored trip. "I was drawn to the idea of visiting Northern Ireland and learning about a real-life example of a modern-day-achieved-peace," she says. "We learned about how history repeats itself in so many different conflicts," Gillian Okimoto says. "It's crucial to have strong communication and understanding from multiple sides." The group discussed the Israel-Gaza conflict and the legacy of slavery in the United States. Another point of discussion came on July 13 when the group learned that former President Trump had been shot.



Blessed are the peacemakers: The group gathered at a commemorative marker for a slogan painted on the side of a building in Londonderry (Derry) in 1969 to declare the Catholic/nationalist area of the city.



The things that abide: Early on, the group trekked Giants Causeway, a UNESCO World Heritage site, with spectacular basalt cliffs along the seacoast. On the hike the kids split up into groups of two and three and "totally bonded," Gillian Okimoto says. She brought her sketchbook.

The Rev. Deacon Marcia Blaize Callender Focuses on Community

Marcia Blaize Callender is a lifelong New Yorker, a cradle Episcopalian, a veteran community organizer, mother of three, a grandmother and a newly ordained deacon in the Diocese of New York. She chose St. Michael's as the place to begin serving God while wearing a collar.

Becoming a deacon is "something I'd thought about for a long time," she says. And a few years ago she realized it was time — not the best time for her, dealing with multiple challenges at work and home, but God's time.

Marcia grew up in St. George's Episcopal Church in Bedford-Stuyvesant. She raised her children in the Bronx. Christ Church Riverdale lifted her up in worship, service and purpose.

Once ordained, she was determined to go to a church where she could lend her voice "to bring diverse populations together to build a beloved community," she says.

Visiting St. Michael's, she found it vibrant — "so much going on," she says. She was particularly taken with our youth programs, and the parish commitment to Reparations — to "making that piece right."

Marcia's focus is on community. "I talk to everybody," she says. "Church begins when the service ends." And outreach begins by walking across the street, saying "Can we talk?" She doesn't expect to be greeted with open arms: "You win some, you lose some. If you talk to 10 people and get one to come to church, that's success."

She's still working two other jobs — part-time chaplain at NYU Langone Hospital, and associate director of outreach at the Manny Cantor Educational Alliance on the Lower East Side.

Her apartment in the Bronx is filled with her collection of African-American art and plastered with post-it notes about places to be and people to talk to. How is she going to juggle all this? "I trust in God," she says with a smile. — *Tom Phillips*



On Sept. 8, the newly ordained Rev. Deacon Marcia Blaize Callender made her debut at St. Michael's and seemed right at home, delivering the dismissal in a strong voice, "Let us go forth in the name of the Lord in peace and love."

Bicentennial of a 'Daughter Church'



The original wooden frame church of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Manhattanville, was consecrated in 1826. At a St. Mary's Bicentennial celebration on Sept. 8, St. Michael's archivist Jeannie Terepka joined the Rev. Dr. Mary Foulke, rector of St. Mary's, by a plaque commemorating the Rev. William Richmond, St. Michael's third rector and St. Mary's first.

On Sept. 8, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Manhattanville, concluded its Bicentennial celebrations. St. Michael's and St. Mary's histories commingle. During the 1820s, St. Michael's helped establish the "daughter churches" of St. Mary's and All Angels. Our third rector William Richmond was the founding rector at St. Mary's. He was succeeded by his brother James Cook Richmond, who later served as the rector at St. Michael's while William was founding other churches in the West, including Trinity Church in Portland, Ore., now the cathedral there.

In 1908, the original St. Mary's wooden frame church gave way to a Carriere & Hastings brick building, its home to this day. In the last sermon in the old church, John Punnett Peters, our sixth rector, preached: "Hold fast the things that have been good in your past, and so develop and translate them into the terms of present needs and present conditions, that men shall say of you: 'Here truly the religion of Christ is taught and preached — and lived.'"

— *Jean Ballard Terepka*

