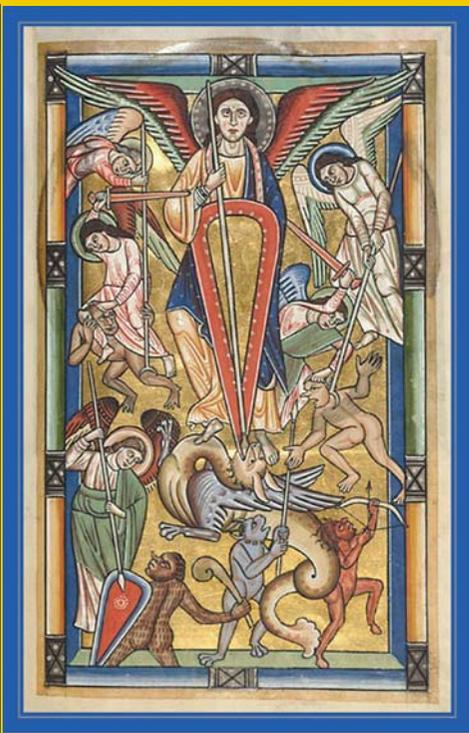
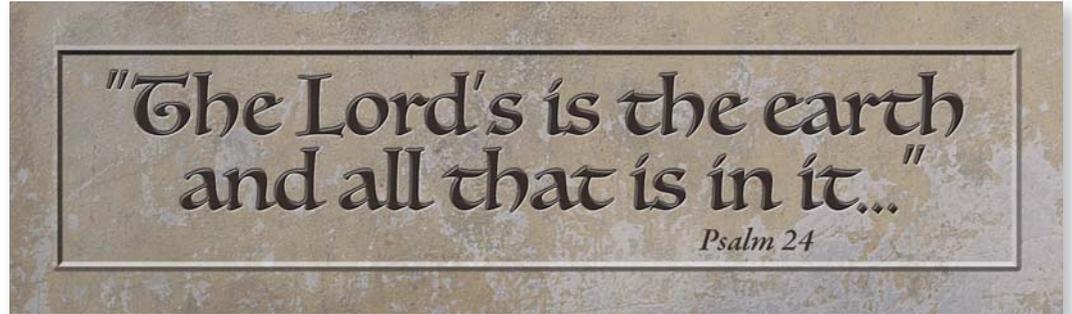


# The St. Michael Messenger



The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, Ms. 64, fol. 152 (detail)



Dear Friends,

Recently the Sunday Gospel taken from St. Mark narrated the story of "The Poor Widow's Contribution," better known as the widow's mite (Mark 12:41-44). The most remarkable thing about this story is the widow's faith in God's providence. She gave a sizeable portion of her whole livelihood to the temple trusting that God would sustain and care for her.

As I write this we are about to celebrate the Thanksgiving Holiday, and soon after begin the Advent Season, then Christmas and then the New Year. Looking back over this year I see many moments we here at the abbey could have fret over, like a less trusting poor widow might. The purchase of a sizeable piece of land and the uncertainty of the outcome of the process of entitlement enabling us to build our New Abbey on it loomed large as we worked with neighbors, advisors and the County of Orange.

Thanks be to God and the generosity of many, especially several key individuals, the project was approved and the land is now entitled, enabling us to move ahead. Like our Lord with the widow, I am always in awe at those who give so much to us here at St. Michael's: the many friends and neighbors who came and supported us at the Planning Commission Meeting, taking precious hours out of their daily lives to encourage the Board to approve the project; those lifting up our cause in prayer; and of course the many benefactors donating so much of their daily livelihood in monetary support to help move the vision of the New Abbey forward.

There is still much to be done before the New Abbey is built. But for now I am intensely grateful for the two great milestones this past year; our purchase and entitlement of a suitable piece of property. Yes, there is still more to do, but like the widow in Mark's Gospel we will trust in God's providence, and we pray you do the same, keeping in mind the words of Pope St. Leo the Great heard recently at Matins in which he praises the generous souls of his own time, like so many of you who have contributed to our efforts this past year: "with the help of God's grace, even earthly possessions are transformed into heavenly blessings; it is a fact that many people use the wealth which is either rightfully left to them or otherwise acquired, as a tool of devotion. By distributing what might be superfluous to support the poor, they are amassing imperishable riches, so that what they have discreetly given cannot be subject to loss. They have properly placed those riches where their heart is; it is a most blessed thing to work to increase such riches rather than to fear that they may pass away."

We will especially remember you during this Advent and Christmas seasons in our daily Office and Mass.

May the Lord Jesus provide for your every need.

*Eugene J. Hayes*  
✠ Eugene J. Hayes, O.Praem.



Update on the Planning Commission Meeting of Monday, September 17, 2012

Everything is subject to His Providential guidance. We were reminded of this truth which stands as the foundation of all things created, when on Monday, September 17, 2012 the OC Planning Commission voted 4:0 to approve our use permits and certify the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the relocation project of St. Michael's Abbey. Amid a sea of supporters - loyal friends from both the canyons and surrounding areas - the confreres of St. Michael's waited expectantly as the Planning Commission presided over the public hearing, with a standing-room-only audience.

The hearing began with a complete and well-delivered review of the proposed project application by Chief County Planner Channary Leng. Next, our project manager, Michael Recuperero, spoke on behalf of the Abbey to further fill out the design features of the project and describe the extensive community outreach process we conducted. Last of all there followed almost two and a half hours of public comment, both in support of and in opposition to what St. Michael's intends for the new site.

As the time pressed on, it became clear that there were more supporters desiring to speak than the time would allow. After a brief huddle, it was decided to wrap up the public hearing portion and provide time for the Commissioners to question county staff and all the EIR experts who quickly illustrated to the Planning Commission that the County's analysis of the project was sound and complete. The Commissioners felt plenty comfortable to move on to a vote. And the rest is history.



Let there be no mistake: the Fathers of St. Michael's do not take this important victory for granted. Many months of hard and dedicated work laid the groundwork for this day's success. We are deeply appreciative of the many who contributed in different ways, from finance and prayer power right down to those who sacrificed many hours from work and family to show their support both on this milestone day and throughout other meetings and special events. Nor are we insensitive to those canyon neighbors, decidedly in the minority, who expressed their opposition to our project. We are fully confident that time and goodwill will build mutual trust and bonds of friendship - especially as we continue our movement forward with our continued discussion with the environmental resource agencies.

We stated it at the beginning of this effort and we continue to believe that true Christians just make good neighbors! God bless us all.

# Life at St. Michael's

## Abbey Life

Photos by R. Belcher

The end of August is an important time of the year for the house of formation at St. Michael's. The new postulants arrive on St. Monica's Day (August 27<sup>th</sup>) to begin their life here among our ranks. The purpose of the postulancy is to help the community and the postulant make a fully responsible choice whether he should be vested in the habit of the Order. This is more concretely determined as the postulant familiarizes himself with religious life in the context of Abbey life. It concludes with vestition in the habit and the reception of the religious name (on Christmas Eve). This year we had five new postulants join our community.

Once we welcome the postulants into our house, we all rejoice in the religious professions that happen on the Solemnity of our Holy Father St. Augustine. Four of our confreres completed their 20-month novitiate and made their first temporary profession of the religious vows. The novitiate is the time during which a man is initiated into the essential and primary requirements of the Norbertine religious life. In view of greater charity he strives to live the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience within the context of a common life. He then crowns this time of initial formation with his first profession of those three vows. With that profession on August 28<sup>th</sup>, our four confreres began their juniorate.



*fr. Simeon makes his first temporary profession to Fr. Abbot Eugene*

The juniorate is a time of three to six years when the junior-professed religious lives the life of the evangelical counsels with the obligation of a vow. He prepares for perpetual or solemn profession and he strengthens and deepens his religious commitment to God and to the community. In preparation for his future service as a Norbertine priest, the junior studies philosophy in the abbey seminary, and then goes on to study theology in Toronto and in Rome. At some point during his juniorate he also engages in the apostolic work of our community. During these years of temporary religious profession, the junior periodically renews his vows in a ceremony much like the first profession. This year five of our confreres renewed their temporary profession in the hands of Father Abbot Eugene.

With five new postulants, four newly professed juniors, and five confreres renewing their vows, you can see how abundantly God is blessing us with worthy vocations! Including everyone from the postulants up through the deacons, we have 25 men in formation, and already there are many young men interested in entering our community next August. Thanks be to God for His abundant blessings upon our community!



*The juniorate: fr. Vianney, fr. Joachim, fr. Jacob, fr. Herman Joseph, and fr. Cyprian renew their temporary profession*



*Fr. Abbot Eugene blesses the new sashes*



*fr. Simeon, fr. Edmund, fr. Matthew, fr. Emmanuel completed their novitiate with their first temporary profession*



# The Pioneer Press

News from St. Michael's Preparatory School • [www.StMichaelsPrep.org](http://www.StMichaelsPrep.org)

## Those Who Sow In Tears Shall Reap In Joy

These words of the Psalmist are food for meditation for every teacher as a new academic year begins. It's so easy to forget in the midst of grading papers, taking attendance, drawing up lesson plans, and the million-and-one other things teachers do on a daily basis—it's so easy to forget that much fruit will be borne from all of one's labors. Very often that fruit is not seen until years later; and that's all the more reason to rejoice when those shoots start springing up early!

Just consider a few of the reasons that we here at St. Michael's have for rejoicing this year. Our ACT scores have improved greatly in every category. St. Michael's scores are well over the national and state standards in every area:

	English	Mathematics	Reading	Science	Composite
State	21.6	22.8	22.1	21.5	22.1
National	20.5	21.1	21.3	20.9	21.1
<b>St. Michael's</b>	26.7	26.7	26.0	25.3	26.2

It should be noted that both the state and national average ACT scores have declined in most areas over the past four years; at best they have remained the same. St. Michael's success in this area can be attributed to its dedicated faculty, small classroom size and classical curriculum.

Our enrollment has increased beyond 100% capacity. Because this year we received far more applications than spaces available, we decided to squeeze two more beds into the dorms, enabling us to accept two more students. Meanwhile, many other Catholic schools are sadly closing their doors. St. Michael's success in this area can be attributed to its fidelity to the Church's Magisterium, the fine example of the abbey's priests and seminarians, and the fact that our families have helped spread the good news about the school.



A recent article in the New York Times ("To Survive, a Catholic School Retools for a Wealthier Market") noted that some catholic schools are being reenergized by returning to stricter discipline, smaller classroom sizes and Catholic values. This is great news; it's also what St. Michael's has always done. The daily Mass, nightly holy hour, and traditional boarding school rigor all play significant roles in forming our students into catholic gentlemen and future leaders. "Looking forward from the vantage point of tradition" has put St. Michael's in the forefront of Catholic education.



For all these things we must give thanks first to God, Who continues to bless our efforts here on the hilltop. We also give heartfelt thanks to all our benefactors, whose generosity continues to edify us and to allow our students to obtain a first class education and extraordinary formation!



Students go on a hike



St. Michael's students at College Fair

# St. Michael's Prep Alumni News

**Peter Gyben '72** is now a member of our school's Board of Directors.

**Adam Wilson '00** is happily married and living in the Sacramento area. Adam visited the abbey with his wife last week. Adam is serving as an MP in the US Navy Reserves.

**Jesse Guerena '02** recently began medical school this past July. He and his wife Hope had their first baby on September 12, Gloria Rose Guerena. They live in Nashville, TN.

**John Hitchcock '04** is a residential administrator for St. Bernard Catholic (boarding) school in Eureka, CA.

Holke Brothers: 1) **Ryan '04** is continuing his formation for the priesthood, working on his degree in theology, and working with several other ministries in his community within Sao Paulo, Brazil; 2) **Tyler '08** visited Peru this summer and is now working an internship for the summer with a structural engineering firm in Castro Valley, Ca. He will be going back to school at UCSD in September; 3) **Jake '11** just left for his second year at Notre Dame, South Bend Indiana.

**Jack Goodwin '06** came up for the Feast of St. Augustine. The topic he had chosen for his senior maturation from St. Michael's was the inspiration for his senior research paper from the University of Dallas - Catholic Chaplains in the US Military.

**Paul Ledbetter '09** is on a ship with the US Navy, headed for the Arctic Ocean.

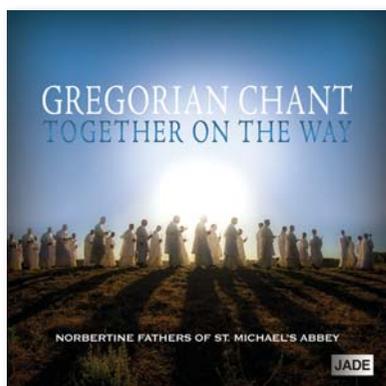
**David Suh '11** came up to have his car blessed. He is majoring in Engineering at UCI; **Jonathan Bonello '11** was with him, and he is majoring in Engineering at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

**Giorgio Navarini '12** is working as a lay missionary in Brazil.

**For more alumni news, go to [www.StMichaelsPrep.org](http://www.StMichaelsPrep.org).**

Do you want to stay in touch with teachers and friends from your days on the hilltop? Please send us news about and photos of yourself and your family. You can do this by sending an email to [alumni@StMichaelsPrep.org](mailto:alumni@StMichaelsPrep.org). Be sure to tell us whether you wish to make your contact information available to others, so we can respect your wishes.

## GREGORIAN CHANT TOGETHER ON THE WAY



For three grace-filled nights in February of 2011 the choir of St. Michael's chanted at Segerstrom Hall to introduce and complement Maestro Carl St. Clair's conception of Anton Bruckner's *Symphony 9* as performed by the Pacific Symphony Orchestra. Then, in March of 2012, Biola University asked the Norbertines to chant at the close of their Art Symposium on Sacred Space as a demonstration of what sacred music should fill a sacred space. Although the Fathers knew those who heard them would for the most part not understand what they were chanting, it was their fondest hope that by listening they would be inspired to join their hearts in prayer.

Since none of these concerts were recorded, the Norbertines thought to capture the experience in the only way possible—to produce this album with the same pieces sung before, yet in the very homely studio of their own abbey church.

This fourth album of the Norbertine Fathers was released on November 6, 2012 and is available on Amazon.com.

### ST. MICHAEL'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL HAS A WONDERFUL MUSIC PROGRAM WHICH INCLUDES A FINE CHORUS.



Photo by R. Belcher

The general public is warmly invited to join us for

#### *Advent Lessons and Carols*

Prayer, Scripture, preaching and music come together to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Savior.

Presented by

The St. Michael's Preparatory School Choir

Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.  
in the Abbey Church

*Reception afterwards in the school building*

# St. Michael's Abbey Foundation

## 13th Vantage Point Gala



On September 29<sup>th</sup>, the feast of St. Michael the Archangel, the Abbey and School had their 13<sup>th</sup> Vantage Point Gala at the Montage Resorts in Laguna Beach to close the Golden Jubilee Year.

The evening started out at the Resort's lawn overlooking the Pacific Ocean where the silent auction items were held. Guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres while listening to the string quartet of the J. Sterling Band. As the sun was setting, guests were escorted to the ball room for dinner, live music from the full J. Sterling Band and live auction, which included a sailboat adventure that ends with private dinner cooked by Fr. Hugh Barbour.



Sherry Van Meter and Casey Cook worked tirelessly along with many volunteers to make the evening memorable for all who attended. Proceeds from the evening went to help the Prep School and to raise funds for the newly acquired land, the Holtz Ranch, where the New Abbey will be located.

Fr. Joseph and Fr. James wait for guests to arrive

Photos by R. Belcher



Ric Brutocao with Fr. Hugh



Fr. Abbot with Maria and Gabriel Ferrucci and friends



Jeanne and John Sawyer with Fr. Justin



Above: The many bidders of the live auction  
Right: The Norbertines sing Salve Regina at the Gala





# From the Hilltop

News from St. Michael's Abbey • [www.StMichaelsAbbey.com](http://www.StMichaelsAbbey.com)

## St. Michael's Day Homily

---



Photo by R. Belcher

*I thank you, Lord, with all my heart; you have heard the words of my mouth. In the presence of angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple.*

Words from the 138<sup>th</sup> psalm which so aptly express our sentiments, deeply felt, and fitting for this day.

Fifty years ago our founding fathers first celebrated this day in this place, new to them, but already home because of the Eternal One who dwelled here and who remains here now — Our Lord in his Eucharistic presence.

The texts of today's Sacred Liturgy refer to the multifaceted dimension of the archangels' unique role: ministers of adoration and praise in heaven; bearers of God's word to earth; guardians at the Eucharistic sacrifice, guides to those who journey on their pilgrim way. And in honoring their role today we are reminded of the unique role which we have received as priests and religious. As their angelic ministry so ours as religious is one which harkens to often unseen and always profound realities.

And in this perspective of the religious life as sign of the unseen and foretaste of future blessings, we do well to consider some aspects of our call to a spiritual and religious, indeed, an angelic life.

Our vocation as religious is one that involves a mission as messengers, from the initial fervor of novitiate until the completion of the final year of religious life. As the angels so those called to religious life, our vocation reminds the world

of God's existence. This testimony is not based on great knowledge or great study alone; it is first and foremost based on our personal experience, our experience of a call made by God, to each of us individually. Although we have been called to this community to the same life and same place, still, in its origin, the call was One to one.

This call, retaining all its freshness and vitality, equips us to say that, indeed, there is no one like God. No one can compare with Him. Nor is there anyone more worthy of our love and service than God.

It is also fitting on the solemnity of the archangels to recall that the religious must also be and give to the world God's strength — announcing the message of God's salvific work and being an instrument of his grace. We, whose garb recalls the angels bringing knowledge of the Resurrection, bring to the world the knowledge of God not only as the spoken word, as the preached word, or as the word taught in the classroom. First and foremost, we bring the lived word.

Finally, we religious must transmit to the world the message of God's healing. To do this there must first be knowledge of God— sought intimately in faithful fulfillment of the first duty of religious, that is, in the prayer and in the sacrifice, which welcomes God as the center of our life.

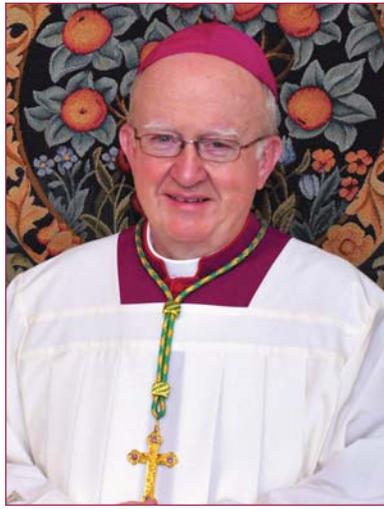
And when we are remiss in this primary duty or those others flowing from religious consecration, we must seek God's healing. Through the experience of personal weakness and experience of God's even greater forgiveness and strength, our vocation communicates the love of God which can heal even the deepest wounds. For God's love and splendor are greater than all of creation, as the preface reminds us.

As we continue to celebrate this Eucharistic sacrifice, may our hearts be filled with thankfulness for the call we have received, for the graces we have been given and especially for the message of which we have been made the privileged bearers, a message which is but the foretaste of those still greater things yet to be seen in the presence of the angels.

*By Fr. Abbot Eugene Hayes, O.Praem.*

---

# Norbertine Notes



## A Prayerful and Warm Welcome to our New Bishop The Most Reverend Kevin William Vann

from

Father Abbot Eugene Hayes and  
the Norbertine Fathers of St. Michael's Abbey

*"...The priests of our churches are bound by sacramental fraternity with the bishop... Through the sacrament of Orders and through the apostolic mission received from the bishop, but also through canonical profession which has the character of incorporating them into a particular church, they are constituted members of his "presbyterium" by an intimate and specific title. Wherefore, through the truly common life which they have embraced, they should be a leaven of communion among the diocesan priests."*

—Constitutions of the Norbertine Order, 21

*We will work through our common life and apostolate to be a constant help to you in your ministry as sons of Saint Norbert, bishop and reformer of the clergy!*

*Come join us as we celebrate  
the birth of our Lord at Christmas.*

**Monday, December 24, 2012**

First Vespers of Christmas, 5:00 p.m.

Matins of Christmas with Genealogy, 10:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, December 25, 2012**

Christmas Midnight Mass, 12:00 a.m.

Christmas Day Mass, 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Day Vespers, 3:30 p.m.

[www.StMichaelsAbbey.com](http://www.StMichaelsAbbey.com)

## Norbertine Saints

Patron saints are chosen as special protectors or guardians over areas of life that are important to us. The saints listed are either Norbertine saints or patrons of the confreres of St. Michael's.

**November 1** All Saints' Day

**November 3** St. Hubert

*Patron saint of forest workers, hunters, mathematicians and metal workers*

**November 3** St. Martin de Porres

*Patron saint of African-Americans, barbers, hotelkeepers, public health and television*

**November 10** St. Leo the Great

**November 11** St. Theodore

**November 13** All Saints of the Norbertine Order

**November 14** St. Siard, O.Praem.

**November 23** St. Clement I

**November 23** Blessed Miguel Pro

**November 24** St. Andrew Dung-Lac

**December 1** St. Edmund Campion

**December 6** St. Nicholas

*Patron saint of brides, children, judges, longshoremen and travelers*

**December 7** St. Ambrose

*Patron saint of bee keepers, candle makers, schoolchildren and students*

**December 25** Christmas - the Birth of Our Lord

**December 26** St. Stephen

*Patron saint of coffin makers; deacons and stone masons*

**December 27** St. John the Evangelist

**January 3** Most Holy Name of Jesus

**January 7** St. Raymond of Penafort

*Patron saint of lawyers*

**January 14** St. Godfrey, O.Praem.

*Patron saint of benefactors*

**January 14** St. Gerlac

**January 20** St. Sebastian

*Patron saint of athletes*

**January 25** Conversion of St. Paul

*Patron saint of public relations personnel*

**February 3** St. Simeon

**February 4** St. Frederick, O.Praem.

**February 10** Blessed Hugh of Fosses

*1st - Abbot of Premontre, Abbot General of Norbertines*

**February 15** St. Claude de la Colombiere

*Patron saint of toy makers*

**February 15** Blessed Jordan of Saxony

**February 27** St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother

*Patron saint of seminarians and students*

**March 17** St. Patrick

*Patron saint of Ireland, against snake bites*

**March 19** St. Joseph

*Patron saint of peaceful death, the Church, husbands & working men*



## ST. MICHAEL'S ABBEY & PREPARATORY SCHOOL

19292 El Toro Road • Silverado, California 92676-9710  
[www.StMichaelsAbbey.com](http://www.StMichaelsAbbey.com)

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID  
EL TORO, CA  
PERMIT NO. 122

### **MOVING?**

Please let us know before you move. Send us both your current address and the new address. That way we will save postage, and you will not miss an issue of the St. Michael Messenger.

If you receive duplicates, please send us both mailing addresses, and tell us which one is correct.

## Calendar of Events

### December

- 2 Prep School Open House, 3:30 p.m.
- 8 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, 11:00 a.m. Mass
- 16 Advent Lessons and Carols, 7:00 p.m.
- 24 Christmas Eve: First Vespers of Christmas, 5:00 p.m.  
Matins of Christmas with Genealogy, 10:00 p.m.
- 25 Christmas Day: Midnight Mass, 12:00 a.m.,  
Day Mass, 11:00 a.m., Pontifical Vespers 3:30 p.m.
- 26 St. Stephen's Day, 11:00 a.m. Mass
- 31 New Year's Eve: 11:30 p.m. Solemn Te Deum and  
Benediction

### January 2013

- 1 Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, 11:00 a.m.  
Mass
- 6 Solemnity of the Epiphany, 11:00 a.m. Mass
- 12 Mass in Memory of Fr. Werenfried Van Straaten,  
O.Praem., 10:00 a.m.
- 26 Prep School Entrance Exam (8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)\*

### February

- 2 Solemnity of the Presentation of the Lord,  
11:30 a.m. Mass
- 13 Ash Wednesday, 7:00 a.m. Mass
- 23 Prep School Open House, 3:30 p.m.

### March

- 10 Prep School Open House, 3:30 p.m.
- 19 Solemnity of St. Joseph, 11:00 a.m. Mass

\* Registration required for Prep School Entrance Exam. Please contact [admissions@StMichaelsPrep.org](mailto:admissions@StMichaelsPrep.org) or call (949) 858-0222 Ext. 237.

Mass is celebrated each day at 7:00 a.m. and on Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

For further information on the Liturgies and events, please visit [www.StMichaelsAbbey.com](http://www.StMichaelsAbbey.com)

*Photo by R. Belcher*

