

***“Bringing Faith to Life” by Praying Together***



*Angels  
Ascending  
and*

*Descending on Jacob's Ladder*

*Created by the Children of Saint Michael and All Angels*

***Our Faith Foundation for Saint Michael's Capital Campaign  
A Five Week Journey of Meditation and Prayer***

*September 27, Saint Michael's Sunday to  
November 1, Feast of All Saints*

***Unless the Lord builds the house, their labor is in vain who build it.***

*Psalm 127:1*

*Today as we celebrate the **Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels**, we begin a Capital Campaign to fund the first new construction on this site in over 50 years. We seek to carry out this work in prayerful communion with God and with the desire that God's will be done and God's kingdom come in the life of our church and community.*

*This booklet is offered as a resource for your prayer and reflection over the next five weeks. Texts from Holy Scripture, **The Book of Common Prayer**, our **Hymnal 1982**, and other sources are offered each week around a particular aspect of this challenging work.*

*We begin by considering how richly God has blessed us in our lives and in our church and giving thanks. We celebrate the gift of our parish family and pray that the bonds of Christian love will be deepened and strengthened among us as we meet this challenge together. We pray for faithfulness in responding to God's call to each of us to offer our gifts for the building up of the Body of Christ at Saint Michael's, that together we may respond to God's call to mission, **"Bringing Faith to Life in the Heart of Issaquah."***

*While we may find it uncomfortable to speak about money in church, Jesus speaks more in the Gospels about money than any other single subject. Some of his memorable stories and sayings, along with other writings, are offered as you prayerfully consider your financial commitment to this Capital Campaign.*

*Finally, we pray in remembrance of those who have gone before us in faith -- including those who purchased this land and built this church 50 years ago -- and consider how we will faithfully honor that legacy. What will we offer to our children and those who come after them during the next 50 years and beyond?*

**Week 1: September 27-October 3**  
***Praying in gratitude for God's grace and blessings***

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits.  
He forgives all your sins  
and heals all your infirmities;  
He redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with mercy and lovingkindness;  
He satisfies you with good things,  
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

*Psalm 103:1-5*

Every good endowment and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

*James 1:17*

*For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies,  
Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,  
Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the Church which evermore lifteth holy hands above,  
offering up on every shore thy pure sacrifice of love,  
Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*Hymnal 1982 #416*

A story is told about how God sent out two angels, each bearing a large basket, to gather all the people's prayers. The angels came to earth and one began to collect petitions, the other thanksgivings. One of the baskets, the one containing petitions – requests, appeals, and

complaints – was soon full and overflowing. The other basket, the one containing thanksgivings, was practically empty. Why do we often find it so difficult to live thankfully?

Theodore Stylianopoulos,  
A Year of the Lord

How shall I repay the Lord  
for all the good things he has done for me?  
I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call upon the Name of the Lord.  
I will fulfill my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people.

*Psalm 116:10-12*

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us. We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone. Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. *Amen.*

*A General Thanksgiving*  
**Book of Common Prayer, p.836**

## **Week 2: October 4-October 10**

### ***Praying for our parish family***

Oh, how good and pleasant it is,  
when brethren live together in unity!  
It is like fine oil upon the head

that runs down upon the beard,  
Upon the beard of Aaron,  
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.  
It is like the dew of Hermon  
that falls upon the hills of Zion.  
For there the Lord has ordained the blessing:  
life for evermore.

*Psalm 133*

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

*John 13:34-35*

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

*Colossians 3:12-15*

You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

*Ephesians 2:19-22*

*Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly in your name  
Two or three are met together, you are in the midst of them;  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now your garment's hem.*

*As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,  
Then with thanks to God the giver, break the bread and bless the cup,  
Alleluia! Alleluia! So now bind our friendship up.*

*All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of you,  
That by caring, helping, giving, we may be disciples true.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve with faith anew.*  
Harold Friedell

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Book of Common Prayer, p. 817**

Blessed God, you make all things new: Grant that this community of Word and Sacrament may be leaven for the world's bread, and wine of delight for hearts in need; a gathering strong for service and glad in praise; and a people listening and responding to your presence in our midst; through Jesus our redeemer and steadfast companion. *Amen.*

*Adapted from Book of Occasional Services, p. 249*

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Book of Common Prayer, p. 125**

### **Week 3: October 11-17**

***Praying to respond faithfully as God calls us to share  
in the mission of St. Michael and All Angels,  
“Bringing Faith to Life in the Heart of Issaquah”***

**Q.** Through whom does the church carry out its mission?

**A.** Through the ministry of all its members.

**Book of Common Prayer, p. 855**

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor does one light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before all, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

*Matthew 5:14-16*

Some will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith.

*James 2:18*

*Lord, you bless with words assuring: "I am with you to the end."  
Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend,  
and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity;  
with the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.*

**Hymnal 1982, #528**

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

*Romans 12:4-8*

Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

*Service of Holy Eucharist*

**Book of Common Prayer, p. 372**

*It only takes a spark to get a fire going,  
And soon all those around can warm up to its glowing;  
That's how it is with God's love – once you've experienced it,*

*You spread His love to everyone; you want to pass it on.*

Kurt Kaiser

O God, inspire our minds with a vision of your kingdom in this time and place.

Touch our eyes, that we may see your glory in all creation.

Touch our ears, that we may hear from every mouth the hunger for hope and stories of refreshment.

Touch our lips, that we may tell in every tongue the wonderful works of God.

Touch our feet, that we may take your Good News into our neighborhoods, communities, and all parts of the world.

Touch our hands, that we may each accomplish the work you give us to do.

Open the hearts and hands of many to support your Church in this and every place.

*Petitions from A Litany for the Mission of the Church*  
**Book of Occasional Services**, pp. 247-248

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

**Book of Common Prayer**, p. 832

#### **Week 4: October 18-24**

#### ***Praying for guidance in faithful stewardship of our financial resources***

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name;  
bring offerings and come into his courts.

*Psalm 96:8*

Jesus told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all

my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, and be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

*Luke 12:16-21*

The rich fool went to the wrong person ("He thought to himself") and asked the wrong question ("What shall I do?"). His error was not that he planned but rather that his plans didn't include God. Jesus criticized not the man's affluence but his arrogance, not the presence of personal goals but the absence of God in those goals. What if he'd taken his money to the right person (God) with the right question ("What do you want me to do")?

Max Lucado, *Fearless*

As for the rich in this world, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on uncertain riches but on God who richly furnishes us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good deeds, liberal and generous, thus laying up for themselves a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life which is life indeed.

*I Timothy 6:17-18*

The offertory is integral to the sacramental existence of the church, a way of representing the oblation of the totality of life to God. No more fitting symbol of the involvement of Christians in the everyday life of the world could be imagined, in American society at least, than money, for nearly every relationship in personal and public life is characterized by the obtaining or spending or exchange of money. If then, in worship, human beings offer themselves and all of their decisions, actions, and words to God, it is well that they use money as the witness to that offering.

*William Stringfellow*

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in

abundance for every good work.

*II Corinthians 9:7-8*

Jesus sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the multitude putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came, and put in two copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him, and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For they all contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, her whole living."

*Mark 12:41-44*

Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

*Matthew 6:19-21*

Almighty God, whose loving hand has given us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may honor you with our substance, and, remembering the account which we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.*

**Book of Common Prayer, p. 827**

### **Week 5: October 25-31**

***Praying in communion with those who have gone before us,  
and those who will come after us***

Those who are alive on earth, those who have finished their earthly course, those who, like the angels, were not created for a life on earth, those in future generations who have not yet begun their earthly course – all are united together in one Church, in one and the same grace of God.

*Alexis Khomiakov*

That which we have heard and known,  
and what our forefathers have told us,  
we will not hide from their children.  
We will recount to generations to come

the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord,  
and the wonderful works he has done.  
He gave his decrees to Jacob and established a law for Israel,  
which he commanded them to teach their children;  
That the generations to come might know,  
and the children yet unborn;  
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;  
So that they might put their trust in God,  
and not forget the deeds of God, but keep his commandments.

*Psalm 78:3-7*

David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly; and David said: “Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, for ever and ever. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. . . But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and we given you what is your own. O Lord our God, all this

abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own. I know, my God, that you test the heart, and have pleasure in uprightness; in the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you. O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep for ever such purposes and thoughts in the hearts of your people, and direct their hearts toward you.”

*I Chronicles 29:10-11, 14, 16-18*

The temporalities of a church are sacred. Our churches were built for the same reason the princes and artisans of the Middle Ages built their soaring cathedrals and abbeys – to give glory to God. The buildings themselves are acts of worship. Some are made of cedar and bronze and costly stone, like Solomon's temple, others are small prefabricated chapels without elaborate adornment. But all of them represent the best that their builders had to give.

Go and spend some time alone in your church. The praise and thanks, the hopes and fears, the joys and sorrows, the sins and repentance of those who have worshiped there are as much a part of the fabric of the building as are the brick and mortar. The walls have soaked up all the prayers ever prayed inside them. Stand quietly in the nave and let those prayers flow over you. Summon the memory of a child's christening, a friend's wedding, a father's funeral – all the holy laughter and holy tears that have attended life's rites of passage through generations. Recall the sound of a hundred hymns and anthems swelling in your ears. Watch the light stream in through the stained glass; see the candles flicker as the gospel procession marches by. Remember how it feels when the Host touches your lips and your heart floods with grace. Wander into the Sunday school and imagine all the little ones who met Jesus for the first time at those tiny tables. Taste the coffee and donuts and the fellowship that fill the parish hall. It's all still there, all of it singing praise to God.

*Colleen MacMahon*

*To this temple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of Hosts, today;  
with thy wonted lovingkindness, hear thy servants as they pray,  
and thy fullest benediction shed within its walls alway.*

**Hymnal 1982, #518**

Christ Jesus, you go before and behind us, you are our light and our shield; guide our path, be our clear sight, lift us up in your Gospel joy, and bless the work we do in your name and honor, for you are our beloved, and our life made new. *Amen.*

**Book of Occasional Services, p. 250**

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Book of Common Prayer, p. 832**

O eternal Lord God, you hold all souls in life: Give, we beseech you, to your whole Church in paradise and on earth your light and your peace; and grant that we, following the good examples of those who have served you here and are now at rest, may at the last enter with them into your unending joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**Book of Common Prayer, p. 253**

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*Ephesians 3:20*

***All Saints' Day  
Sunday, November 1***



***Saint Michael and All Angels Columbarium***

*We have reached the end of this five week journey of meditation and prayer. Please pray for our congregation today as we offer our gifts to God through our 2010-2012 Capital Pledges to Saint Michael and All Angels. If you desire to offer your Capital Gift in memory of a loved one, you will have the opportunity note this special intention on your pledge card. May the blessings of God be yours in abundance as we journey together into the future that God holds for us.*