



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Mar 13, 2023)

St. Michael and All Angels, Rio Grande

601 Montañó Rd NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 05/01/23.

lcurtis@dioceserg.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
203	3	8	1
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
\$90000			
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$90000		We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Negotiable	Yes	No	
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
Other	6	2 (standard)	
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
\$501-\$1000/year	Yes	Yes	

\$90,000.00 (cash stipend + housing allowance) and 1/2 SECA reimbursement

St. Michael and All Angels, Rio Grande

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 05/01/23.

lcurtis@dioceserg.org

Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment. In early 2019, Annunciation House in El Paso and a network of border shelters were struggling to handle a dramatic increase in migrants crossing the border. They asked faith communities in Albuquerque to receive weekly busloads of migrants from ICE and help them unite with their US sponsors. St. Michael and All Angels' leaders and parishioners promptly responded along with four other nonprofits and faith communities to provide meals, housing, transportation, medical care, clothing, translation, and logistics for travel to sponsors. Bishop Hunn made the Diocesan retreat center available for short term housing. We saw migrant children and adults visibly transformed as they were able to rest, eat, shower, and play. The experience of living the values we profess by lovingly welcoming the stranger was unexpectedly transformative for our parishioners. Those who were present remarked on feeling the presence of Christ, experiencing "a God moment," and invoked Matthew 25. Albuquerque assisted over 5,000 migrants by early June 2019, when the Remain in Mexico policy closed the border to asylum seekers.

How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

St. Michael's has long sought to incorporate inclusive and expansive language in our worship and practice. Our congregation recently celebrated the first Service of Renaming in the Diocese and continues to draw on Episcopal liturgical resources and progressive theology.

When COVID created novel challenges for worship in community and for sustaining relationships, the worship team learned new, digital ways of connecting: online Sunday Eucharist as well as daily Morning Prayer and Compline. Online and in-person Family Fun Church addressed families' needs and welcomed children into liturgical roles. Laity lead some of the new services. Now we're revitalizing in-person worship, fellowship, and family offerings and continuing online offerings as a way to address isolation and incorporate spiritual growth into busy schedules.

Recent formation offerings have included explorations of "future church," the role of Christian institutions in perpetuating systemic racism, and calls to deeper discipleship with Jesus. While these issues have not yet been translated into initiatives, many parishioners yearn to go deeper and renew our Episcopal identity in light of these challenges.

Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.

The leader we seek either has these talents or brings them out in others.

Centered In God:

- Compassionate, welcoming, and energetic
- Insightful, challenging, and intellectual sermons that relate contemporary events and conflicts to Jesus' life and teachings
- A prayerful presence whose devotional practice pursues God's love
- Embraces uncertainty as a vital element of their spiritual journey and those of others
- Helps us reconnect with Christ and one another

Serving Our Neighbor:

- Develops and supports strong lay leadership
- Engages young families, youth, and young adults in our common life
- Seeks ways to direct our generosity in service to those in need

Striving for Justice:

- Authentic leader who lives their values
- Leads us through and beyond conflict rather than avoiding it
- Committed to our progressive identity

Administration:

- Trusting, respectful manager of a complex church organization, including a church-affiliated preschool, nurturing and guiding multiple clergy and staff in their roles
- Knowledgeable in budgeting, finances, and endowments, and who will help lead the church to develop a well-articulated philosophy for steadily increasing our stewardship

St. Michael and All Angels, Rio Grande

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 05/01/23.

lcurtis@dioceserg.org

Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by your community.

We use *Enriching Our Worship and Rite II* (BCP 1979) as the basis for our worship services. We are eager for newly approved expansive and inclusive language sources. Three distinct Sunday services reflect diverse expressions of music and worship. Our early service prefers stillness and chant. The mid-morning service offers a folk sound using the *Gather* hymnal. The late service features a choir with piano or organ, music from several hymnals and from 500 years of sacred music. We mark the liturgical seasons and honor our New Mexican heritage with seasonal banners and decorations. Our mid-week contemplative service includes unaccompanied chant and call-and-response. Online services include a Sunday service, Morning Prayer, Compline, and Night Prayer from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*.

The Sanctuary includes family- and children-friendly spaces. Children's Chapel takes place during the 9:30 Sunday service as does nursery care. Children serve as readers, acolytes and offerors.

Special celebrations throughout the year include LGBTQIA+ services, jazz services, Michaelmas, and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Our celebration of All Saints includes an ofrenda to honor and remember loved ones.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

St. Michael's is an active congregation! Parishioners and community members serve the church, the community of Albuquerque, and beyond through many ministries as they seek to worship God, care for one another, and be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. St. Michael's clergy and Vestry have a history of being open to parishioners identifying new needs for community care and outreach ministries and partnering with other faith communities.

Ministry leaders make personal invitations, share information on Sundays, and hold an annual Ministry Fair introducing parishioners to opportunities for service and fellowship. The Newcomers class informs new members of ways to engage in the church community. Facebook provides a forum to post and comment on events, meetings, and pictures of our congregation at work and play.

As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

Our Formation program offers seasonal retreats, small study groups, and regular Sunday programs on spiritual practices, Scripture, theology, seasonal devotionals, and challenges within the Church. For a deeper dive, St. Michael's offers the Education for Ministry curriculum.

The Seniors Ministry meets monthly for companionship and mutual support. A vibrant LGBTQIA+ community finds a home here. Caring for Caregivers helps those caring for loved ones learn from each other in their challenging journey.

Periodically, during Sunday Liturgy, our clergy offer prayers and anointing for healing, and visit the hospitalized or grieving. Parishioners have deeply appreciated the pastoral presence, including for loved ones without a church. A volunteer group assists by making phone calls and checking on parishioners in need. The Meals in Crisis team and Intercessory Prayer Guild offer material and spiritual support.

Community care comes out of love (and fun). In 2020, we brought 120 May Baskets and Christmas cookies to everyone on the prayer list or over age 75. Our robust Eucharistic Visitors program was suspended during the pandemic, but we aim to revive it this Spring.

St. Michael and All Angels, Rio Grande

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 05/01/23.

lcurtis@dioceserg.org

How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

St. Michaels welcomes everyone to participate in Holy Communion. Reaching those outside our parish, we livestream the 9:30 Sunday service and Morning Prayer. Pre-pandemic, Morning Prayer was held in the church sanctuary with limited attendance. Now on Facebook, this service reaches a growing community. Evening Compline is available on Zoom via our website.

Clergy perform weddings, memorial services, and offer the sacraments to those who may not be active in the church, who don't have a church home, and to those who have been excluded from church families. On Ash Wednesday, the clergy offer "Ashes to Go," a blessing and a moment of renewal for all who stop by.

During the pandemic, we held Halloween Trunk-or-Treats and virtual Christmas pageants, engaging community members outside SMAA.

Casa San Miguel Food Pantry serves 300+ guests per month who are experiencing food insecurity.

Continuing our history of support for education, All Angels Episcopal Day School provides high quality early education to as many as 55 young children from the community, developing their knowledge of God's love, awareness of the wonders of God's creation, and respect for others.

Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

Partnerships with local and regional churches, faith-based organizations, and non-profit agencies augment our strong outreach efforts. These include ABQ Faithworks Collaborative, Roadrunner Food Bank, Heading Home, Borderland Ministries, Dismas House, and Annunciation House (in El Paso).

The Landing (see below) offers short-term housing to immigrants and asylum seekers. Las Familias Solidarity brings monthly van-loads of clothing and supplies to asylum seekers at our border.

St. Michael's participates in the monthly Eucharist and potluck of the Diocese of the Rio Grande LGBTQ+ Ministries which rotates among Episcopal parishes in Albuquerque.

St. Michael's has nurtured over twenty individuals to the diaconate and the priesthood. This includes Jean Pierre (JP) Arrossa, a member of our clergy team, and Susan Allison-Hatch, affiliated clergy. Others who have gone on to serve the church and be public servants of Christ include Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania and James Adams, Jr., later Bishop of Western Kansas. Fr. JP is Treasurer of our Diocese. Current members of the church serve at the Diocesan and national level.

Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

Developed and led by the laity, The Landing engages the hearts and energy of clergy and parishioners. This ministry began when our Rector gave up his office for an Angolan family seeking asylum. For 10 months they were supported financially and with legal assistance. They received medical care and enrolled their children in school until the father was released from detention.

The Landing provides short-term hospitality, primarily to asylum seekers and immigrant families, and also to Native Americans traveling for medical appointments, to traveling clergy, and to youth groups. Our hospitality includes shelter and food for the night, and sometimes clothing, laundry, transportation, and coordination with federal officers including ICE and TSA. Through The Landing we live what we teach: love our neighbor, welcome the stranger, and feed the hungry.

We work with attorneys who help migrants get out of detention and sometimes gain asylum. Our 20 regular volunteers partner with our other ministries, especially Casa San Miguel food pantry and Las Familias Solidarity. Parishioners and many local partners step up with needed meals, tickets for travel, or donated items. Contact: David Odegard.

St. Michael and All Angels, Rio Grande

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 05/01/23.

lcurtis@dioceserg.org

What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

The Stewardship Committee administers the autumn pledge campaign. This includes a Ministry Fair, inviting parishioners to share both their time and their talents. As with many churches, the pandemic led to a decline in attendance, yet individual and overall giving increased. In fact, with the theme “More than Enough: Reconnecting to our Generosity,” the 2023 Stewardship campaign resulted in an 8% increase in the total pledge amount over the prior year. Overall giving and contributions are expected to increase by 10%. Though we felt the relief of collective action when we paid off our mortgage shortly before the pandemic, the church now faces increasing costs and is projecting a budget deficit. Fortunately, St. Michael’s has more than enough cash reserves to cover the shortfall. While this year’s increase in funding was encouraging, our Vestry has committed to a year-round Stewardship process that includes providing regular information about the status of church resources and encouraging the thoughtful contribution of time, talent, and financial support. We seek creative and steady leadership who can help us increase commitment and attract members through strong ministries

What is your worshipping community’s experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

Early in 2017, a faith-based immigration NGO asked Albuquerque churches to be Sanctuary sites for resident migrants under threat of deportation. The ensuing discernment process within St. Michael’s continued over a six-month period and included panel discussions, forums, prayers for guidance, and a campus security review. While many were in favor, some held deep concerns about potential legal consequences, security challenges posed by the church campus layout, and the grueling work Sanctuary would require. The issue remained unresolved until the Holy Spirit opened a path both honoring the desire to serve during this humanitarian crisis and removing the risks of aiding those under deportation orders. St. Michael’s was able to say “Yes” to housing the Angolan family mentioned above. Other local churches offered Sanctuary; some of our parishioners joined their 24-hour teams. Since then, many parishioners have unified in an embrace of displaced persons. However, we fell short in sustaining constructive dialogue during this time, resulting in hurt and anger. We seek leaders who can help us improve how we negotiate differences with curiosity, dialogue, prayerful reflection, and faith.

What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

St. Michael’s has a long history of advocating for the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ persons in the community and church. This commitment has been part of our ethos since 1974. The road has not been easy. In 1996, St. Michael’s offered a Eucharist of Reconciliation in acknowledgment of the larger Christian Church’s harms against the LGBTQIA+ community, bearing a significant cost from the diocese at that time. Clergy, Vestry, and the congregation strove to find their way together, seeking to remain in dialogue with the Diocese and carefully choosing when and how to take a stand. Nevertheless, some members felt compelled to leave over this issue. St. Michael’s stance raised our visibility in Albuquerque and in the country and placed us in the forefront of LGBTQIA+ issues. It sharpened our focus on social justice, taught us how to take a principled stand, and still informs our life together, in pursuit of being an inclusive, loving parish. As the views in our diocese and the national church evolved, our then-rector was asked to chair the church’s Task Force on the Study of Marriage, leading to provisional ceremonies blessing same sex relationships. And now, just this January, we joyfully celebrated a new name and the affirmation of the authentic identity of a long-time parishioner using the Episcopal Church’s Service of Renaming as a part of one of our Sunday morning liturgies.

St. Michael and All Angels, Rio Grande

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 05/01/23.

Contact:

lcurtis@dioceserg.org

Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. H. Lee Lowery	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2022-08	

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Joseph H. Britton	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2015-06	2022-05

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Doug Travis	Specialized Ministry, other	2014-09	2015-05

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
St. Michael and All Angels Day School		

Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School	Number of Students for Adults School

Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School
Pre-K	48	11	12

St. Michael and All Angels, Rio Grande

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 05/01/23.

Contact:
lcurtis@dioceserg.org

Worshipping Community Web site: www.stmichaelsabq.org

Media Links:

Online References:

> <https://www.facebook.com/smaaabq>

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop: 505-881-0473, bishophunn@dioceserg.org

**The Rt. Rev. Michael B.
Hunn**

Diocesan Transition Minister 321-501-9939, lcurtis@dioceserg.org

The Rev. Canon Lee Curtis

Current Warden/Board Chair patdanareilly@msn.com

Patrick Reilly

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Jane McGuire

Search Chair davidcodegard@gmail.com, elizabeth.m.forster@gmail.com

**David Odegard & Elizabeth
Forster**

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader