



# ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Geneseo, NY

A Brief Introduction to the Parish  
and the Surrounding Community for  
our Rector Search  
2022

## **An Introduction to St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Geneseo NY**

St. Michael's Episcopal Church is a faithful and committed congregation located, with the accompanying rectory, in the college town of Geneseo, NY, adjacent to the State University of New York at Geneseo. St. Michael's parish mission statement reads: "A people reaching beyond ourselves, extending hospitality, cultivating community, becoming one family in Christ."

With an average pre-COVID Sunday attendance of 95, St. Michael's worship style is at the higher end of the Anglican spectrum.

We have a talented and accomplished Music Director, and an active choir. Music is an important part of life at St. Michael's. In the months before Covid, we had a number of events in the Church: an active Archangel Series with Elisabeth Von Trapp, the Genesee Valley Children's' Choir, a Caribbean Mass, and performances by students from SUNY Geneseo. Our newly renovated Undercroft space should provide more opportunities for smaller more intimate community / Parish events. At the same time we will re-energize our music programming in the main worship space with its outstanding acoustics and historic organ.

As a parish, we have recently gone through a significant and deliberate process of strategic planning and spiritual redevelopment. We used Forward Movement's Renewal Works™ program to study the ways that we could expand, increase, deepen, and enhance our spiritual life.

As we expand our reach further into our community, we have added a telecoil earing loop and we are working to build a more diverse and inclusive congregation by expanding handicap accessibility, live-streaming worship services, and supporting interfaith and college engagement. We are focusing on Christian education, bringing people of all ages into the life of the church, embedding the Bible into all that we do, and creating connection points for people to engage with scripture and the Book of Common Prayer.

Located in the heart of the lively village, St. Michael's strives to be a strong member of the community through service and public engagement. Within Geneseo, St. Michael's maintains a strong relationship with Upper South Street Senior Housing—recently sold by St. Michael's and now owned by Episcopal Senior Life Communities. We continue to support the residents of Upper South Street through monthly dinners. During the COVID lockdown, St. Michael's served nearly 3,000 meals to the residents of Upper South Street.

During the past few years, we have focused on how we can support immigrant and migrant workers. The parish houses and supports two organizations: Cooperativa las Cazuelas and Alianza Agrícola. Cooperativa las Cazuelas is a women's group that prepares authentic Mexican cuisine that they provide for sale to the community, giving them an independent income as well as the opportunity to socialize. Alianza Agrícola is a grassroots advocacy group formed by farm workers in Western New York in 2016.

Initially formed to advocate for the Green Light law, they continue to support farm worker rights, advocate for better working conditions, and speak at countless community functions to educate the public about their organization and mission. Parishioners and other community members serve as Aliados, or allies, providing transportation and supporting them in their advocacy efforts.

Additionally, as a parish, we support the local food pantry, have established a knitting ministry, and hold regular events to raise funds and open the parish to the community. Fellowship with one another and the community is an important aspect of all these events at St. Michael's.

Our membership has grown consistently over the past five years and attendance has held steady. Financially, St. Michael's is stable, and the physical plant is in good condition, with multiple renovation and improvement projects in process. St. Michael's owns Bennett House and 11 Ward Place which are college student rentals and provide financial security for the church.

Through hard work and dedication, we have applied for and received numerous grants and private gifts to assist with recent projects, such as the following: a building condition survey; renovation of the kitchen and undercroft; installation of an ADA compliant restroom; installation of new steps into the parish hall; replacement of the lift; and securing a \$100,000 gift towards roof repairs. Many of these projects will continue through 2022 and beyond.

These projects, especially the kitchen and Undercroft renovation, are intended to open the building for increased community use: interdenominational activities such as the Forum on Public Disagreement with St. Timothy's Lutheran, the Interfaith Dinner Dialogue with the Turkish Cultural Center, and multi-cultural events like the visit of the Mexican Consulate, the Day of the Dead Celebration sponsored by the Genesee Valley Council of the Arts, and the steel drum band that meets on-site.

As we, together as a parish, plan and prepare for another full time priest, we do so prayerfully and with faith. We hope to find somebody who will help us grow our relationship with Christ through grounded teachings and an empathetic demeanor; who can help us better incorporate the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer into our daily lives. As we continue to grow our congregation, we are seeking a person who will join us in reaching out to all members of our community—including local families, farm workers, and members of SUNY Geneseo. In short, we are looking for somebody who is an able administrator, a thoughtful liturgist and priest, and a person who wishes to join our community.

**Learn More About Us!** *Click on highlighted words for more information.*

The congregation of St. Michael's worships in a classic Anglican [Church](#) built in 1866 with an adjacent Chapel and [Rectory](#). Two houses for College students and a lot being transformed into a Thanksgiving garden are located on the same block.

St. Michael's is located on Main Street in the heart of [Geneseo, NY](#), a [National Landmark Historic Village](#) with a very proud heritage. The Association for the Preservation of Geneseo ([APOG](#)) promotes the architectural and historical heritage of the Village. Shopping, dining, and year round activities encourage area residents to be part of many traditions. Active volunteers spread the word about [Village life](#). The name "Geneseo" is an Anglicization of the Iroquois name for the earlier Iroquois town there, Gen-nis-he-yo, which means "beautiful valley". It is pronounced [jeh-nuh-see-ow](#). Our Church sits on the edge of campus of [SUNY Geneseo](#), a selective public, liberal arts college, providing numerous educational, social, and athletic opportunities.

There are two major medical organizations represented in Geneseo: [URMC](#) and [Rochester Regional Health](#). Each has a center with Urgent Care and physicians' offices. Geneseo is the County Seat for [Livingston County](#) and houses the County Court House and Sheriff's Complex.

The village is just 36 miles from the city of [Rochester NY](#) and 60 miles from [Buffalo NY](#), allowing access to major sports, theatre, dining, shopping, and educational choices.

One of the most popular advantages of living in Geneseo is its location in the [Finger Lakes Region](#). You will find everything from waterfalls and gorges to rolling hills and vineyards. For hiking and biking, the [Genesee Valley Greenway](#) is outstanding. Nearby [Letchworth State Park](#) boasts the "Grand Canyon of the East" and of course [Niagara Falls](#) the 8<sup>th</sup> Wonder of the World is only an hour and a half away.

Maps and [Directions](#):

[Geneseo NY](#)

[Livingston County NY](#)

[New York State](#)

More information about the St. Michael's Search is included in our Office for Transition Ministry Portfolio. (<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/transition-ministry/>)

### **Information about the Rectory**

Located next door to the church, the rectory has 3 bedrooms, 2 full and two half bathrooms and a large bonus room (could be a bedroom) with a fireplace on the second floor. The floors on the first and second floors are hardwood. The third floor is carpeted and has 2 bedrooms.

There is a detached single car garage with a paved driveway and additional off street parking.

View from Main Street: Rectory, Chapel, and Church











For more information about the Rector Search at  
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