



THE TRUMPET

An instrument of good news



JANUARY 8, 2023

Chalking the Door: "Holy Graffiti" for Epiphany and the New Year! Here's a light-hearted new tradition for families of all kinds to begin the new year. From the Epiphany and continuing for days to come, more and more Episcopalians are joining other Christians around the world in writing this ancient yet ever-changing formula on their doors: 20+C+M+B+23.

The numbers, letters and symbols have been called "holy graffiti," and some people suggest the combination looks like the start of an algebraic equation.

"Chalking the door," as it is known, is seen as invoking Christ's blessing not only on the physical house but on the people who live there and those who visit. There is a long tradition of blessing homes, especially on the Epiphany, which falls on Jan. 6 each year, and the weeks that follow. Europeans have chalked their doors as part of Epiphany house blessings for centuries, especially Roman Catholics. The practice has become popular in the United States only relatively recently. Chalking can be done simply with a short prayer or with songs, prayers, processions, incense and holy water. Clergy or laypeople can do the chalking. —*adapted from an Episcopal News Service article by Christine Havens, Director of Communication*

The Blessing of a Home at Epiphany Chalking the Door: "Holy Graffiti"

INSTRUCTIONS

Using a piece of chalk, mark the lintel of your front door (or front porch step) as follows:

$20 + C + M + B + 23$

Those gathered pray during the chalking:

Leader God shall watch over your going out
and your coming in.

Response From this time forth for ever more.

All pray

O God of and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Light of the nations and the Glory of your people, bless those who dwell in this house. May it be for them a place of peace and health, that they may rejoice in the gifts and graces you have bestowed upon them and dedicate their talents for the good of those for whom your Christ came and gave his life, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

The letters in the "formula" are the abbreviation for the Latin phrase "Christus mansionem benedicat" - "Christ bless this house" (A second meaning and mnemonic device is Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar traditional names for the Magi). The + signs represent the cross, and the 20 and 23 are the year.



NOTES



Save the Date! Ordination of Rev. Josh Kulak | Saturday, January 21, 2023 | 10:30 am All are invited to the ordination of our curate and deacon into the Sacred Order of Priests. This will be a grand event in the life of the St. Michael's community. A reception will follow. Stay tuned for more details to come.



Save the Date!
Annual Parish Meeting Sunday, January 29, 2023
10:00 am

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details in upcoming Trumpet issues.

SUNDAY AT A GLANCE

JANUARY 8, 2023
 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

7:45 am Holy Eucharist: Rite I

9:00 am Holy Eucharist: Rite II
 Sunday School | Ed. Wing

10:00 am Coffee Hour | Parish Hall
 Seekers Group | Rm 4

11:00 am Holy Eucharist: Rite II
 Sunday School | Ed. Wing

Watch the 9:00 & 11:00 am services
st-michaels.org/worship-online

Readings for January 8, 2023
 Isaiah 42:1-9; Acts 10:34-43;
 Matthew 3:13-17; Psalm 29

Bible Study Resumes on January 15 | Sundays @12:45 & Tuesdays @noon Rev. Josh Kulak will teach a 3-week lectionary-based Bible study, on Jan. 15, 22, and 29 (and the following Tuesdays, Jan 17, 24 and 31).

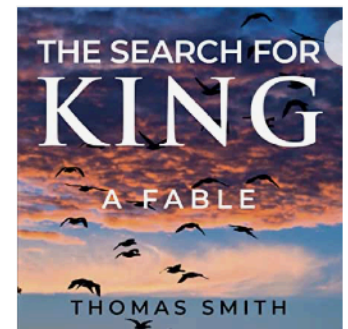
ZOOM INFO: <https://bit.ly/BibleStudyZoomLink> Meeting ID: 832 6049 2080; passcode: bible.

Confirmation Invitation St. Michael's is looking forward to welcoming Bishop Kai Ryan, who will join us at St. Michael's on Sunday, March 26, 2023, at which time she will confirm and receive youth and adults as part of her visitation to our parish. Confirmation is a sacramental rite of the Church, in which the Bishop lays hands on a person as she or he affirms their faith in Christ and their commitment to the Church.

For those already confirmed in a different apostolic tradition (for instance, in the Catholic church), the Bishop also "receives" new members into the Episcopal Church. Practically speaking, this is how one officially joins the Episcopal Church.

If you or your child are interested in being confirmed or received—or if you would like more information—please send Fr. John an email at jnewton@st-michaels.org if you have not done so already. Typically speaking, we begin confirming youth as early as the 8th grade. Classes for youth wishing to be confirmed will begin Sunday, February 5.

Congrats on First Book Publication! Parishioner and poet Thomas Smith just published his first book, *The Search for King: A Fable*. Written entirely in verse, this engaging book is all about birds who need to elect a king and learn much in their search for a leader. Filled with beautiful photos, it's perfect for children and adults alike. [Click here](#) to check it out!

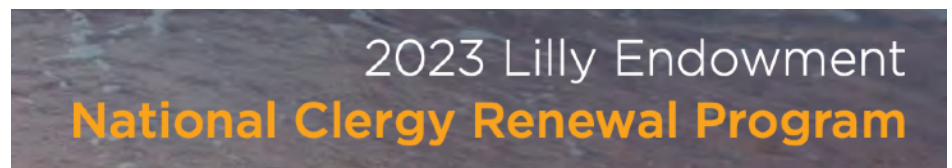


Are you called to be a Stephen Minister? Are you a trustworthy listener? Would you like to belong to a group of people who walk with others through life's storms? Becoming a Stephen Minister is a life-transforming experience—an opportunity to serve God, help others, and grow in faith. To learn about training to become a Stephen Minister, please email St. Michael's Stephen Ministry or call Julie de Wette (512) 925-7029 or Jeff Robinson (512) 963-6687.

A Note from Fr. John

Friends,

I wanted to let you know that I am planning a sabbatical for the summer of 2024. Taking an extended time of rest and renewal every six to seven years is strongly encouraged by the Diocese of Texas, as there is ample evidence to suggest that this will benefit both the congregation and pastor. While eighteen months from now may seem far away, I wanted to let you know because I am applying for a National Clergy Renewal grant through the Lilly foundation. Lilly asks that the pastor bring the congregation into the conversation early, and more specifically, to wonder together about a very particular question: what do we want to open our heart to as a church in Fr. John's absence? I have already formed a group of people who are helping me pray through this question and plan for the summer of 2024, but I also welcome your input. *To be very clear*, the reason I am planning this sabbatical is because I have the intention of serving as the St. Michael's rector for many years to come! Send me an email at jnewton@st-michaels.org with your thoughts!



FAMILY LIFE



Hanging Out with Jesus | Sunday School Resumes January 8 | During 9am & 11am Services Sunday School is a place where children and their families can practice being compassionate in a community that values love and compassion. We start the new year with a new program—*Hanging Out with Jesus*. In this series, kids will be introduced to the love Jesus has for all people, including them. Jesus wants to be with us every day. He sees each of us for who we are and knows our needs before we even tell Him. Jesus offers love and care like no one else can, and His love is so great that He eventually died on the cross to save us from sin.

Ms. Amanda, our Family Minister, and the Family Ministry team welcome children and their parents at the front of the church and guides them to the Family Life Center in the Education Wing. Parents are reunited with their children in the sanctuary at the announcements—in time for communion together as a family. Questions? Contact Amanda at amanda@st-michaels.org.

Be a Sunday School Helper! Do you have a heart for God and for working with children? Family Minister Amanda is looking for adults to serve as Sunday School helpers one or two Sundays a month. If you are interested or for more information, please email her at amanda@st-michaels.org.

Join the Acolyte Team The acolyte program is a way for our children and youth to act as liturgical leaders during our worship services—carrying the cross, lighting the candles, and more. As they offer their time and talent, they will learn more about what it means to serve God and one another, will become better acquainted with the Episcopal tradition, and will discover that they, too, are ministers of God's love.

Please email Rev. Josh (jkulak@st-michaels.org) if you have children interested in participating.

PLUG INTO OUTREACH

It Takes Many Hands to Share God's Bounty with Those in Need The SMEC Community Garden, which is on the far side of the day school, is in need of more friends to help with this ministry. The gardeners have planted broccoli, lettuce, kale, spinach, chard, garlic, onions, radishes, peas, beets, carrots, cilantro, arugula, and sorrel. All the produce goes to folks who don't have much access to fresh food. Our partner is Hope Food Pantry, a non-profit assisting Austin neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity. They love the fresh veggies! Gardeners of all ages are invited to volunteer: plant seeds, water, weed, or harvest. Great for families and individuals! Interested? Contact Beth Michaels at ebethmichaels@att.net.

Outreach Partners St. Michael's Outreach partners for 2022 were the following organizations: Seminary of the Southwest, Trinity Center, Refugee Services of Texas, Casa Marianella, Pauli Murray Scholarship, Episcopal Relief and Development, St. Michael's Day School, El Buen Samaritano, One Good Turn, Nicole's Place, St. Francis Ministries, Honduras Mission Project, Del Valle Book Project, and the SMEC garden. Look for new information soon about our 2023 partners. Throughout the year, we work closely with several of these organizations and offer ways for the parish to "plug in" and participate. Contact Harriett Choffel, Outreach Commission chair, with questions or to learn more: harriettchoffel@icloud.com.

FORMATION & FELLOWSHIP

The Seekers Resume on January 8 | Sundays @10:00am | Rm 4 (Education Wing) and via Zoom The Seekers meet weekly at 10:00am. They're finishing up discussion of *Job and the Mystery of Suffering: Spiritual Reflections* by Richard Rohr; look for a new book to be announced in the new year. Contact Harriett Choffel at harriettchoffel@me.com or Phyllis Bles at phyllis.bles@gmail.com for more info. Here's the Zoom link: bit.ly/SeekersZoomLink, Passcode: 541706.

St. Michael's Book Club | Fourth Wednesdays @2:30pm Looking for fellowship and conversation? Love reading? Join the SMEC Book Club! The group meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 2:30pm. The group is working on an in-person meeting location. *The next meeting is in January as the group takes a break in December.* Here are the first titles for the new year: January—*These Precious Days* by Ann Patchett; February—*Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout. Please email Rhoda Silverberg at rmorrillsilverberg@icloud.com or Sue Allen at tom@northcoastbrewing.com for more information.

St. Michael's Women's Potluck | January Date TBA | 6pm | Parish Hall The Women of St. Michael's are invited to gather for food and fellowship. Stay tuned for January's date. Bring a dish or adult beverage to share. If you don't have time to cook, just join us. There is always plenty of food to share. Email Becky Brindley at rmbrindley@yahoo.com or Gail Reid at reid.gail@gmail.com for more information.

Men's Pub Theology | Second Wednesdays @5:00pm | The Grove on Bee Cave Road Join the men of St. Michael's for fellowship and theological conversation. The group meets on the second Wednesday of the month at The Grove on Bee Cave Road; the next meeting is January 11. Contact Andy Hines at ahines@hinespool.com for more information.

Morning Prayer | Tuesdays @9:00 am You're invited to Morning Prayer each Tuesday morning at 9:00 am. Please note the Zoom link and passcode: bit.ly/SMECTuesMorningPrayer. **Passcode:** prayer.

Centering Prayer | Tuesdays @6:30 pm This ministry is available every Tuesday night at 6:30 pm. Zoom link: bit.ly/SMECCenteringPrayer; passcode: 541706. Please email Phyllis Blees with questions: phyllis.blees@gmail.com. For more about contemplative prayer, click this link: [Heart of Texas Contemplative Outreach](#).

Evening Prayer | Wednesdays @4:30 pm All are welcome to join each Wednesday at 4:30 pm for prayer and conversation. Use Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88082768969> and passcode 826364.

Thursday Afternoon Bible Study @1:00 pm This informal group discusses the Daily Office readings—drop in anytime! Led by Mary Healy, mary.r.healy@gmail.com. Zoom Link: bit.ly/SMECThursBibleStudy ID: 870 3540 9217. Use this passcode: biblestudy.

MINISTRIES

Stephen Ministry Occasionally, worry, pain, anxiety or loneliness feel relentless. Jobs, unemployment, family, or eldercare may bring unique highs and weighty lows. A caring Stephen Minister, a trained and confidential listener, not a therapist or friend, may be best equipped to hold your concerns with you for an hour each week, offering understanding, support and prayers.

Learn more at www.st-michaels.org/stephen-ministry. If you'd like a Stephen Minister, please contact Jeff Robinson (jarobinson100@gmail.com), Julie de Wette (julie@losmadrone.com), or Fr. John Newton (jnewton@st-michaels.org).



Altar Guild The Altar Guild is always looking for women and men to join this ministry. This group makes sure that the sanctuary is clean and readied for services and other liturgical events that happen at St. Michael's. If you are interested in serving or for more information, please contact Gail Reid at reid.gail@gmail.com.

Photography Ministry Our photographers take on the role of capturing the special moments in the parish, may they be during worship, parish gatherings, or special events. If you're interested in helping with St. Michael's photography ministry, please email our director of communications, Christine Havens at chavens@st-michaels.org. If you have any photos of community life or at-home worship that you'd like to share, Christine welcomes those, too. Please send via email at the highest resolution possible.

THIS WEEK'S PRAYERS

Please email Christine Havens at chavens@st-michaels.org with prayer requests or to receive the weekly Prayer Chain emails.

Parish Prayer List

For Theda Maxfield, who died recently, and for her daughter, Becky Brindley, and for the Maxwell family as they grieve.

For Ella Edwards, grandmother of Amanda Evans Lang, as she enters hospice care.

For Dave, brother of Doug Falls, as he recovers from brain surgery.

For Lanier, as she begins a new semester of teaching and for her computer to be fixed.

For Hunter, friend of Christine, as he travels on pilgrimage to Israel.

For Chris Whitty, as he discerns next steps in his life, such as college and a job.

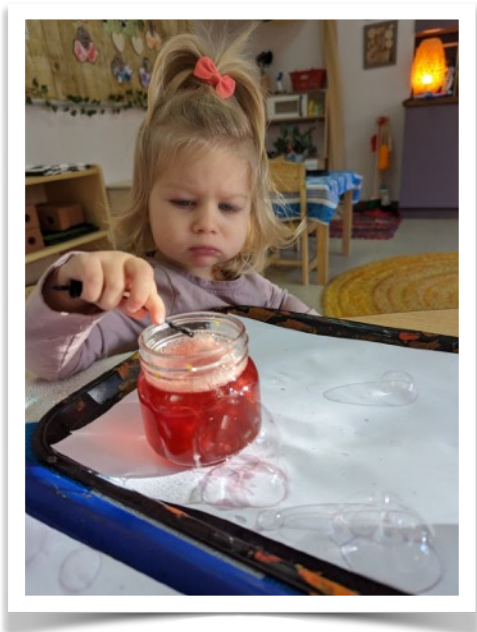
For all victims of gun violence.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: All Saints', Austin; Calvary, Bastrop; Christ Church, Cedar Park; Church of the Cross, Lake Travis; Epiphany, Burnet; Good Shepherd, Austin

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma)

DAY SCHOOL PHOTOS OF THE WEEK

What happens when the bubbles touch the paper? The kids were so excited to see how the bubbles pop on the paper and to see the colored circles left by the liquid on the paper. Blowing the bubbles allowed the children to practice their fine motor skills and their oral motor skills! *Thanks to Ms. Judith for the photos!*



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

STAFF DIRECTORY

Rector

The Rev. John Newton
jnewton@st-michaels.org

Curate

The Rev. Dr. Josh Kulak
jkulak@st-michaels.org

Assistant for Pastoral Care

The Rev. Elizabeth Turner
eturner@st-michaels.org

Assisting Priest

The Rev. Hope Benko
hope.benko@ssw.edu

Senior Warden

Kristen LeClair
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Junior Warden

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Family Minister

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Parish Administrator

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Director of Communications

Christine Havens
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Media Tech & Sexton

Jeremy Aschenbach
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Director of Music

Dr. James Morrow
morrowj@utexas.edu

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God.

Sponsoring altar flowers is a wonderful way to honor loved ones or celebrate an occasion. They are printed here and in the worship bulletins. Your dedication can be emailed to:

chavens@st-michaels.org.

Donate using the "Give Now" button on our homepage, www.st-michaels.org, or send a check to the church office at 1500 N. Capital of Texas Highway, 78746; put "altar flowers" as the memo.

GIVE TO SMEC



THE TRUMPET SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Have a submission for the Trumpet?

Please send your ideas, stories, or photos to Christine Havens, Director of Communications (chavens@st-michaels.org) by 12:00 pm on Wednesdays. We recommend running stories beginning two weeks prior to your event.

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1500 N. CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78746

512-327-1474

OFFICE HOURS: M-TH 9:00AM-4:00PM