

THE TRUMPET

An instrument of good news for our community

DECEMBER 6, 2020

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Dear St. Michael's family,

This Sunday is all about our curate, the Rev. Minerva Camarena Skeith, who will celebrate and preach at all three of our services for the last time. In recognition of all the love and grace she showered on this community, the staff and a few parishioners have shared some thoughts of her time here. We all agree that words cannot express our admiration for you, Minerva! You brought us together in so many new ways—we want to send you off wrapped in our love! *Christine Havens, Assistant for Admin and Communications*



Minerva is a true priest. She has a heart for all of God's people, and she wants nothing more than to nourish all people from the storehouse of God's grace. She will make an exceptional rector, and I will miss working with her greatly.

The Rev. John Newton, Rector



Minerva's ministry exemplifies the task of a priest, as specified during the Examination portion of the ordination service: she is proclaiming by word and deed the Gospel. She is loving and serving the people among whom she works; she is caring alike for young and old, strong and weak; she is preaching and declaring God's forgiveness . . . in short she not only pronounces God's blessing, but she IS a blessing and a delight to serve with.

The Rev. Elizabeth Turner, Assisting Clergy

I knew Minerva before she came to St Michael's and was so happy that she accepted the call! She has more than lived up to my expectations! Her warm personality and care for others has made her beloved in our community. We will miss her greatly! *The Rev. Sherry Williams, Deacon*

Minerva has gifted us with deep listening and a true non-anxious presence that has enriched our life together at St. Michael's. *The Rev. Hope Benko, Assisting Clergy*

Minerva's life is full of passion, and she is a spirit-powered Energizer Bunny. *Gail Reid, Altar Guild*

I always appreciated Minerva's ability to see and clearly articulate in her positive style the next steps to help us move ahead on a project. I'll miss her a lot. *Nancy Springer-Baldwin, Outreach Commission*





Mother Minerva, quite simply, is a remarkable person, leader, and priest. After each interaction I have with her, I feel fulfilled, happy, and walk away with a new perspective. While my heart is heavy that St. Michael's is losing such a wonderful person, I am thrilled for her and for all the parishioners of St. John's.

Julie Hodges, Parish Administrator

Having served on Minerva's curate committee, it would be difficult for me to overstate Mother Minerva's potential as a compassionate and consummate pastor.

Randy Baldwin, Curate Committee

Minerva created such a warm and joyful invitation for me to serve the parish of St. Michael's. Her enthusiasm for her ministry and her love for people is absolutely contagious. It has been a privilege to serve with her and I couldn't be more excited to see how God uses her gifts and energy as rector at St. John's in Austin. *Amanda Evans Lang, Family Minister*

Minerva is extraordinary! She abounds with passion, energy and love as she helps others to grow. *Susie Orum, Chair, Outreach Commission*

Minerva has been such a wonderful mentor and friend for this past year and a half. I have appreciated all the opportunities we've had to talk about theology, ministry, and life in general, and I am so excited for her in this new calling to be the rector at St. John's. I know she will be fantastic and I look forward to worshipping with her there sometime soon! *Luis Rivas, Student Minister*

NOTES

WORSHIP SERVICES *All our in-person services follow COVID-19 precautions as outlined by the Diocese of Texas and the City of Austin.*

CHECK-IN INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES Heading to campus for in-person worship? Please text "SMEC" to 312-487-3550 *each week and follow the text prompt; include your full name and the service you plan to attend. Check in at anytime, right up to the service.* This allows us to contact folks easily and rapidly if we have a COVID-19 exposure and in case of weather issues. We certainly won't turn anyone away. Stop by the Welcome Table on Sunday mornings if you need assistance. If you've checked in successfully using your phone, just grab a bulletin and you're all set!

COURTYARD EUCHARIST A spoken Rite I Eucharist that begins at **8:00 am**. Seating is provided.

PICNIC CHURCH This completely outdoor service, complete with blankets and wiggly baskets for the kids, happens every Sunday at **9:15 am** in the courtyard. Bring your own chairs.

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II WITH MUSIC Join us in the sanctuary at **10:30 am** for this service, which is in-person and livestreamed on our website.

FR. JOHN'S ADVENT MEDITATIONS Our other Advent offering is a series of four video Advent meditations from Fr. John. Each week, a new one will be included in the Friday Trumpet email, beginning on Friday, November 27. These thoughtful yet provocative meditations provide a space in which to abide with scripture in stillness and peace.

SMOKE YOUR OWN OPEN HOUSE (OR JUST DROP BY) SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 8:00AM-4:00PM Bring whatever you want to smoke—meat, fish, veggies, tofu, etc. Once done, take your smoked items home to enjoy. We will socialize outside practicing social distancing and proper COVID-19 protocols. (Weather is going to be dry but chilly, so bring a jacket.) Snacks will be available throughout the day, courtesy of James Russell and Andy Hines, who will be onhand all day to watch the smoker for folks who may need to leave for a bit. You are more than welcome to come to just socialize. If you are planning to smoke something, please RSVP to Andy or James: james@russellcpa.com or ahines@hinespool.com.

SIMPLE GIFTS: ADVENT 2020 As many know, Lake Charles, Louisiana, was hit by two major hurricanes this past summer. With that in mind, the Outreach Commission has designated St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Lake Charles as the beneficiary of the parish's Advent Simple Gifts program, which offers an opportunity to honor a loved one by making a gift in their name. A Simple Gifts table will be in the courtyard each Sunday between December 6 and December 21 for those interested in learning more or in honoring a loved one. Please email Karen Haslund with questions: drhaslund@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS We will have some poinsettias brightening up the sanctuary this year. Dedicate your poinsettias in memory or in honor of a loved one, or in thanksgiving or in celebration of an event, group, or individual. Please email your dedication(s) to Christine at chavens@st-michaels.org, by **Thursday, December 17**, if you want the recognition to appear in the Christmas Eve publications.

ADULT FORMATION & FELLOWSHIP

RECTOR'S BIBLE STUDY: THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES TUESDAYS & SUNDAYS @NOON What was the early church like? How did Christianity spread? What can we learn about the church's mission today by studying the acts and actions of Jesus's first apostles? These are just a few of the questions we will explore over a period of 14 weeks, **September 8-December 13**. Sessions will be recorded and made available on YouTube for those who cannot attend a live one. Click the link for the full [syllabus](#). Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84133373380>.

SEEKERS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP The Seekers are reading the internationally-renowned novel about the life and death of Jesus—*The Last Temptation of Christ* by Nikos Kazantzakis, a book that has generated controversy and conversation since its publication. The group meets at **11:45 am each Sunday** and all are welcome. Join anytime, as they will be reading this title through July 2021. Here's the Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/158321072?pwd=SE9Zc0hscE13REM1U1lWYjVU3YyZz09>. Passcode: 541706. Please email Phyllis Blees at phyllis.blees@gmail.com with any questions.

ST. MICHAEL'S BOOK CLUB All are invited! The next meeting will be in the new year, on January 27, 2021, at 2:30 pm. The book is *Britt-Marie was Here*, by Fredrik Backman. Please email Rhoda Silverberg at rmorrillsilverberg@icloud.com for more information and for the Zoom link.

ST. MICHAEL'S WOMEN'S VIRTUAL POTLUCK Table fellowship with friends via Zoom—women of all ages are welcome to join. Alternate **Monday evenings at 6:00 pm** every other week. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84019837778?pwd=SGRmQXhoYllXSUZCZEkrL0hMdFhldz09>; passcode is 242636.

MORNING PRAYER, TUESDAYS @9:00 AM You're invited to Morning Prayer each Tuesday morning at 9:00 am. Please note the new Zoom link and passcode: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81346686555?pwd=MHFKdmlwWXRnZlVZM2tlb04wUFVhUT09>. **New Passcode:** prayer.

CENTERING PRAYER ON TUESDAY EVENINGS This ministry is available every Tuesday night at 6:30 pm. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/158321072?pwd=SE9Zc0hscE13REM1U1lWYjVU3YyZz09>; 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 Led by Fr. John each Wednesday at 4:30 pm. **NEW** Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88082768969>. **Passcode now required:** 826364. The information is also in Fr. John's weekly Tuesday e-news.

FAMILY MINISTRY

NOT TOO LATE! TAKE HOME KITS FOR ADVENT We are celebrating Advent at home this year with a take-home kit curated by our own very creative Family Minister Amanda—it's perfect for all generations! Parents, grandparents, singles who need some crafty-ness, *it's not too late to reserve your kit*. Please email Amanda at amanda@st-michaels.org. Each kit is filled with devotionals, hands-on activities, conversation starters, and more great ideas to make this Advent a celebration of hope right in your own living space. There's even an online complementary video to watch!

STUDENT MINISTRY

EPISCOPAL YOUTH COMMUNITY

We will be taking a break from EYC for the holidays. Our outdoor hikes will return in 2021, but stay tuned for some exciting events coming up in December, including an EYC bonfire evening and another special event involving carols, cocoa, and cars! You'll find out soon :) Check out <https://www.st-michaels.org/students> to stay up-to-date with all the happenings with SMEC Student Ministry.



THIS WEEK'S PRAYERS

NEW PRAYERS

For Cheryl Veretto and Michelle Waters, for continued healing and full recovery from cancer treatment.

For Jo Kirk, for healing.

For Jack, uncle and brother-in-law to Kirstie & Bunny Cowan, who passed away; for his son, Mike, and his remaining brothers, David & Joe, and for the entire Cowan family.

For Laura Cowan, wife of Mike, who is hospitalized with COVID-19-related pneumonia.

For Peggy DeBerry Bell, who died of COVID-19; for Donna Hulsey and the rest of the family as they grieve. Continued prayers for St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Lake Charles, LA, as they recover from hurricane damage.

ONGOING PRAYERS

COVID-19

For Lily Odle, great-niece of Britt Behrens, who has COVID-19.

For Jim McConaughy, brother-in-law of Karen Haslund, who is gravely ill with COVID-19, and for his family.

For Rick & Dianna Lang, in-laws of Amanda Evans Lang, who have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

For the Jacob and Abramo families.

For all children and teachers during this unexpected style of attending school.

For Suzanne, who is struggling with loneliness and isolation during this time, and for all who struggle with these issues.

For all those living in eldercare facilities, and for the staff, and for their families.

For all those without employment at this time.

All of our hospital and healthcare workers, including Stuart Wiggin, Rosa, J'aime, and Patty, who are keeping healthcare services running.

Miriam Carrillo, and Alfred Carrillo, sister and brother of José, whose livelihoods have been affected by the public emergency.

For Hannah M.

For Ed Erdman.

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH STAFF

Rector

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

Assistant to Pastoral Care

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

Assisting Priest

The Rev. Hope Benko
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Deacon

The Rev. Sherry Williams
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Senior Warden

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Junior Warden

Kathy Wiggin
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Student Ministry

Luis Rivas
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Family Ministry

Amanda Evans Lang
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Parish Administrator

Julie Hodges
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Admin & Communication Assistant

Christine Havens
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Choir Director

Dr. James Morrow
morrowj@austin.utexas.edu

Seminarian

Joel McAlister
joel.mcalister@ssw.edu

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

*The altar flowers this week are given
to the glory of God.*

Sponsoring altar flowers is a wonderful way to honor loved ones or celebrate an occasion. Dedications can be emailed to the office: chavens@st-michaels.org. Your donation can be mailed to the church office or given via the "Give" page of our website, <https://www.st-michaels.org/take-action>.

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

Are you celebrating a birthday or anniversary? We'd love to pray for you during the Sunday service and print your name(s) in the bulletin. The submission deadline is noon of the Wednesday prior to when you'd like to receive a blessing; email to Christine Havens at chavens@st-michaels.org.

DECEMBER 6, 2020 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 40:1-11
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

SHARE YOUR STAY-AT-HOME PHOTOS!

Worshipping with your family, friends, pets? Have something else you'd like to share? We'd would still love to see your photos and share them on Facebook and/or in the Trumpet! Please send in as high a resolution as possible to Christine at chavens@st-michaels.org. Thank you!

THE TRUMPET SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Have a submission for the Trumpet? Please send it to Christine (chavens@st-michaels.org) by 12:00 pm on the Wednesday prior to the date you would like your announcement to appear in the Trumpet. Running it two weeks prior to your event is recommended for most church announcements.

*Your extravagant generosity is appreciated.
Text SMEC1500 to 73256 and follow the prompts to make an e-offering.*