



# THE TRUMPET

*An instrument of good news*



DECEMBER 10, 2023

## HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES AT ST. MICHAEL'S DECEMBER 17

10 AM

### SANTA VISITS & GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING

*Santa's coming to visit St. Michael's! Every ONE is welcome in the parish hall for fun, fellowship, and decorating gingerbread houses, too.*

11 AM WORSHIP

### ST. MICHAEL'S DAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS RECITAL

*A beloved tradition! Our day school students brighten up the season with a short Christmas program during the service.*

### Greening of the Church | Sunday, December 17 | Noon-ish

The traditional Greening of the Church happens on Sunday, December 18, after the 11:00 service. Please stay and help us deck the halls (the church) for Christmas. We'll be hanging the greens and sharing in fellowship. There will be lunch available and all ages are welcome to take part. RSVPs are helpful, but not necessary—contact Claire Bray at [claireelizabethbray@gmail.com](mailto:claireelizabethbray@gmail.com). Thank you.

DEC  
24

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
RITE I WORSHIP

9:00 am

St. Michael's  
Episcopal Church

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 pm

### CHILDREN'S PAGEANT WITH EUCHARIST

Calling all angels, sheep, shepherds,  
and wise ones--join the pageant!  
Gather at 4:45 pm

7:00 pm

### FESTIVE EUCHARIST

9:30 pm

### CHORAL PRELUDE

10:00 pm

### SOLEMN EUCHARIST



*No children's programming this evening*

## NOTES

### Extravagant **GENEROSITY**

#### Stewardship 2024

“Go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage. Do good, be rich in helping, be extravagantly generous.”

1 Timothy 6:18, *The Message*

Ready to make  
your pledge?  
Commitment cards can be found  
online at [st-michaels.org/giving-at-smec](http://st-michaels.org/giving-at-smec) and in the narthex.

**Christmas Flower Memorials** Sponsoring the poinsettias in the sanctuary at Christmastide is a wonderful way to celebrate your loved ones. Your commemoration will be printed in the 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm Christmas Eve bulletins.

**Please call or email Christine** (512-324-1474 / [chavens@st-michaels.org](mailto:chavens@st-michaels.org)) **by Tuesday, December 19, in order to have your dedication included.**

Donations toward the cost of the flowers are appreciated—you may mail a check to the church office or use the QR code on the back page of the Trumpet. You can also go to [st-michaels.org/altar-flower-donations](http://st-michaels.org/altar-flower-donations). Please make sure to indicate your donation is for Christmas flowers.

**Episcopal 101 | December 10 | 10:00 am | Church Office** New to the Episcopal Church? A cradle Episcopalian who needs a refresher? Wondering if we are Anglicans or Episcopalians or both? Join Fr. Josh on December 10 from 10:00-10:50 am in the church office for a final conversation about the the basics of The Episcopal Church and the Anglican expression of Christianity. We will dive into the history of Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church, the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), and the Bible. All participants will receive a copy of *The Liturgy Explained*. Bring your curiosity and questions as we explore our great tradition!

A graphic for a coffee event. It features a dark diamond shape in the center with white text. The background is a collage of coffee-related images: a white cup of coffee being poured, a coffee machine dispensing coffee, and a hand holding a glass of coffee with latte art. The diamond contains the following text:

**Coffee with the Curate**

Get to know Fr. Josh on every second Thursday from 9:30 to 11:30 am at Trianon Coffee (3654 Bee Caves Rd)

Email [jkulak@st-michaels.org](mailto:jkulak@st-michaels.org) to RSVP

December 13 (Wednesday)  
January 11  
February 8

CELEBRATING  
CHRISTMAS  
WITH  
ST. MICHAEL'S

DECEMBER 25  
CHRISTMAS DAY

9 AM  
EUCCHARIST

DECEMBER 31  
1ST CHRISTMAS

8 AM & 10 AM  
EUCCHARIST

No Sunday School - wiggle bags available

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## FAMILY LIFE

**Sunday School | 9:00 & 11:00 am | Family Life Center (Rm 8)** Ms. Amanda, our Family Minister, and the Family Ministry team welcome children and their parents at the front of the church and guide 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. No Sunday School will be available from Christmas Eve through December 31; programming will resume on January 7. Contact Amanda at [amanda@st-michaels.org](mailto:amanda@st-michaels.org) for more info.

**The St. Michael's Episcopal Youth Community (SMEYC)** welcomes youth 5th-12th grade to experience community and connection, to question and explore our faith and ourselves through our relationships with the church, with each other, and with the world beyond Westlake. Here's what the remainder of December looks like.

### ***December 10***

10:00 am Service project—making gift bags for St. Francis Lubbock foster care; meet in the church office.

12:30-2:30 pm Ice Skating at the Long Center! Carpool available after the 11am service, skate from 12:30-1:30 and we'll grab lunch after. Pick up at 2:30.

No 5pm EYC

### ***December 17***

10:00 am Gingerbread Houses in Parish Hall

1:00-3:00 pm SR HIGH ONLY Photo Scavenger Hunt at Laguna Gloria. Join us for lunch beforehand around 12:30.

No 5pm EYC

### ***December 24***

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service—youth reading for the pageant.

Questions? Email Bonnie Walton, Youth Coordinator, at [youth@st-michaels.org](mailto:youth@st-michaels.org).

## PLUG INTO OUTREACH

**2023 Outreach Partners** The Outreach Commission is excited to support these organizations in 2023 and seek to grow opportunities for purposeful connections with many of them. Click on the links to learn more about each organization or check out the new Outreach webpage at [st-michaels.org/outreach](http://st-michaels.org/outreach).

**Seminary of the Southwest** (*theological and pastoral education*)

**The Texas Pauli Murray Scholarship** (*scholarship for seminary students of color*)

**Episcopal Relief and Development** (*disaster relief & sustainable development*)

**Interfaith Action of Central Texas (iACT)** (*interfaith outreach*)

**Trinity Center** (*homelessness*)

**Casa Marianella** (*displaced immigrants*)

**Saint Francis Ministries** (*foster care*)

**El Buen Samaritano** (*family services*)

**One Good Turn** (*global health in underserved communities*)

The Outreach program funds a variety of theological and social service organizations and also continues to support St. Michael's Day School, SMEC community garden, Honduras Mission project, and the Del Valle Elementary School book drive. We also provide volunteer opportunities with several local organizations during the year. If you have a passion for spreading love and grace throughout the community, please connect with Harriett Choffel, Outreach Commission Chair, at [harriettchoffel@icloud.com](mailto:harriettchoffel@icloud.com); or Fr. Josh Kulak at [jkulak@st-michaels.org](mailto:jkulak@st-michaels.org)

**Hygiene Items Needed for Trinity Center** The Trinity Center is running low on the following hygiene items for the homeless. If you would like to donate, please click on the Amazon Wishlist Link: [www.amazon.com/registries/guest-view/3RBF7FTTI9NUV](https://www.amazon.com/registries/guest-view/3RBF7FTTI9NUV). The items will be delivered directly to the Trinity Center.

**Drive a Senior & Chariot Volunteers Needed** Looking for a way to plug into outreach? Get involved with *Drive A Senior ATX* ([www.driveasenioratx.org](http://www.driveasenioratx.org)) and *Chariot* ([chariot.org](http://chariot.org)), two local non-profit organizations that provide free rides to senior citizens, taking them to doctors, stores, and other essential destinations within the greater Austin-Travis County area.

Drivers are greatly needed and scheduling is easy. If you are interested in volunteering as a driver or in another capacity OR if you or someone you know is over 60 and needs transportation assistance, please contact either of the organizations directly or contact Harriett Choffel at [harriettchoffel@icloud.com](mailto:harriettchoffel@icloud.com) or John Boehm at [jboehmjr@utexas.edu](mailto:jboehmjr@utexas.edu).



**Refugee Youth Mentors** Our ministry partner Interfaith Action of Central Texas (iACT) is searching for adult volunteers for their refugee youth mentorship program. Mentors meet with students for an hour at least once a week for a minimum of 10 weeks to help with adjustment to life in the US. iACT currently has a backlog of 50 students so volunteers are in high demand. Contact Fr. Josh at [jkulak@st-michaels.org](mailto:jkulak@st-michaels.org) if you are interested in this opportunity.

Parishioner Nancy Weller drops off a gift for the Angel Tree benefitting El Buen Samaritano. The tree is now bare, but the gifts are piling up around its base. Big thanks to Karen Moody (pictured) and Harriett Choffel organizing this project.



## FORMATION & FELLOWSHIP

**Prophetic Insights from the Book of Jeremiah: Rector's Bible Study | Sundays @12:45pm and Tuesdays @noon** Jeremiah's journey is one of faithfulness, sorrow, exile, and redemption. Join us this fall as we examine Jeremiah's life and prophetic proclamations, as well as how the various themes of the book are ultimately answered and clarified in the life and ministry of Jesus. Contact Fr. John at [jnewton@st-michaels.org](mailto:jnewton@st-michaels.org) with any questions.

Zoom Info: [bit.ly/BibleStudyZoomLink](https://bit.ly/BibleStudyZoomLink) Meeting ID: 832 6049 2080; passcode: bible. Dial by location: +13462487799, ID 83260492080#; passcode 543331# US (Houston)

**The Seekers Adult Formation Group: *The Universal Christ* by Richard Rohr | meets Sundays at 10:00 am in Rm 4 (Education Wing) and via Zoom** Looking for engaging discussion of theological and spiritual topics? Join the Seekers on Sunday mornings. The group started discussing a new book on October 22: *The Universal Christ*, by Richard Rohr. Franciscan friar and ecumenical teacher, Rohr bears witness to the deep wisdom of Christian mysticism and traditions of action and contemplation.

Drop in anytime, regardless of whether you've read the book. Contact Harriett Choffel at [harriettchoffel@me.com](mailto:harriettchoffel@me.com) or Phyllis Bles at [phyllis.blees@gmail.com](mailto:phyllis.blees@gmail.com) for more info.

Here's the new Zoom link: [bit.ly/SeekersBookGroup](https://bit.ly/SeekersBookGroup), Passcode: 541706.

**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](https://bit.ly/SMECTuesMorningPrayer). **Passcode:** prayer.

**SMEC Tuesday Night Women's Bible Study Now through Dec. 12 | Tuesdays at 6:00 pm Church Office** Our new study on friendship begins Tuesday, Nov. 7, and runs six weeks until Dec. 12. It is open to all women. We were created for community. And because our Father is generous, he's given us one of the most essential, fun, and life-changing relationships for community: friendship. The group meets on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm in the church office. Contact Trish Thompson at [home.thompson@gmail.com](mailto:home.thompson@gmail.com) for more info.

**Centering Prayer—Now In-person and via Zoom | Tuesdays @6:30 pm** This ministry is available every Tuesday night at 6:30 pm. Join the group in-person on the SMEC campus (Gathering Room) or join via Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85765348257?pwd=dnlMUXh3dHdBOTBDeUROS2hMRXV6Zz09>; passcode: 541706. Please email Phyllis Blees with questions: [phyllis.blees@gmail.com](mailto:phyllis.blees@gmail.com). For more about contemplative prayer, click this link: [Heart of Texas Contemplative Outreach](#).

**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 last Wednesday of each month at 2:30 pm unless there's a holiday. The group is now meeting *in person at St. Michael's*. ***There is no meeting in December.*** The next gathering is January 31; the book chosen is *The Soul of America* by Jon Meacham. Please email Rhoda Silverberg at [rmorrillsilverberg@icloud.com](mailto:rmorrillsilverberg@icloud.com) or Sue Allen at [tom@northcoastbrewing.com](mailto:tom@northcoastbrewing.com) for more information.

**Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study | Wednesdays at 1:00 pm** *Our Thursday afternoon Bible study group is now gathering on Wednesdays.* The group will continue to meet by Zoom (using the same link); and for one hour beginning at 1:00 pm CT. This is a perfect time to invite others to join our group. This informal group discusses the Daily Office readings—drop in anytime! Led by Mary Healy, [mary.r.healy@gmail.com](mailto:mary.r.healy@gmail.com). Zoom Link: [bit.ly/SMECThursBibleStudy](https://bit.ly/SMECThursBibleStudy) ID: 870 3540 9217. Use this passcode: biblestudy.

**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/88196769453> and passcode 945676.

**Men's Pub Theology | Second Wednesdays @5:00pm** Join the men of St. Michael's for fellowship and theological conversation. ***The next meeting is December 13, at County Line BBQ on FM 2222.*** Contact Andy Hines at [ahines@hinespool.com](mailto:ahines@hinespool.com) for more information.

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## MINISTRIES

**Daughters of the King** The Daughters of the King® is an order for women who are members of the Episcopal Church. The DOK's mission is the extension of Christ's Kingdom through prayer, service and evangelism. St. Michael's chapter was established in 2014 and they are meeting regularly again. If you're interested in learning more about the group, they meet in the Gathering Room (next to the sanctuary) the third Saturday of each month at 10:30am. Contact Jonea Raney at [jcsrcc@gmail.com](mailto:jcsrcc@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

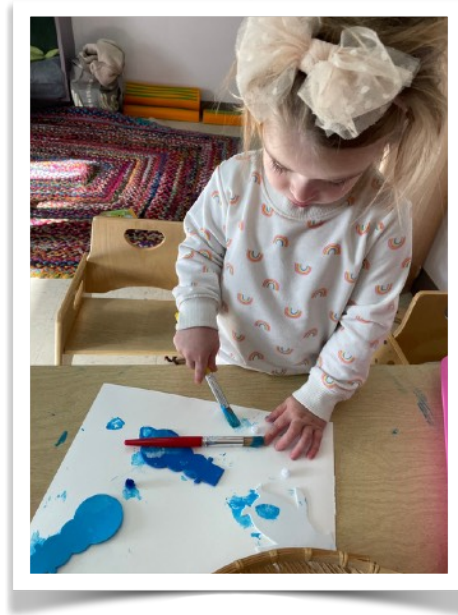
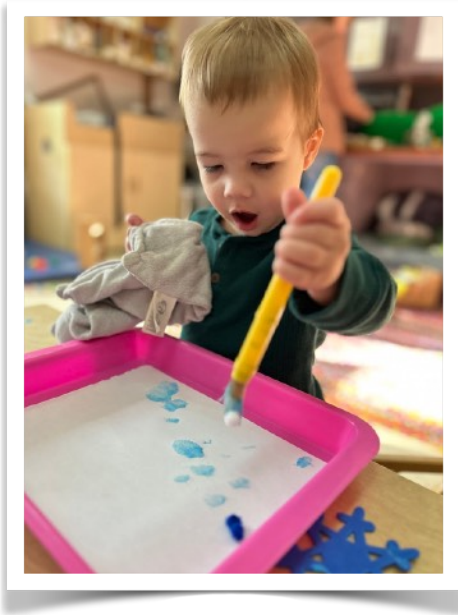
**Altar Guild** The Altar Guild is always looking for women and men to join this ministry. This group makes sure that the sanctuary is clean and readied for services and other liturgical events that happen at St. Michael's. If you are interested in serving or for more information, please contact Gail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

**Feeling Overwhelmed? Stephen Ministers Care** Sometimes, I tremble under the weight of life. I'm being stretched too thinly by a shredding relationship, others' ceaseless needs, or my exhaustion. Imagine what it might be like to have someone hold, with you, the sources of that heavy pressure that tightens and presses on you. To know and understand. A Stephen Minister will listen for an hour, week after week, and not grow weary or frustrated or try to fix you. Stephen Ministers are trained to provide safe, confidential Christian care.

Contact the Rev. John Newton ([jnewton@st-michaels.org](mailto:jnewton@st-michaels.org)) or Stephen Ministers Julie de Wette ([julie@losmadrone.com](mailto:julie@losmadrone.com)) or Jeff Robinson ([jrobinson100@gmail.com](mailto:jrobinson100@gmail.com)).

## DAY SCHOOL PHOTOS OF THE WEEK

This week, in keeping with the winter theme, the Ducklings stuck snowflakes, penguins, and pompoms onto paper! *Thanks to Ms. Ileana for sharing these photos & story.*



**SMEDS Chapel** takes place every Wednesday at 12:30 pm. Fr. Josh and Ms. Amanda gather with the students, parents, and teachers in the sanctuary for worship & Bible-based lessons.

*Lessons in December are all about Advent.*

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## THIS WEEK'S PRAYERS

Please email Christine Havens at [cbavens@st-michaels.org](mailto:cbavens@st-michaels.org) with prayer requests or to receive the weekly Prayer Chain emails.

For Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's continued recovery after a fall.

For Jane Butler, who is the mother of Mary Hermes's grandson's fiancée; Jane has received a difficult cancer diagnosis.

For Mary Hermes, who is dealing with leg issues.

For Marky, who is undergoing a number of surgeries on her legs.

For Bunny.

For Elijah, and his parents, Holly & Ian.

For Palestinians, Israelis, and all victims of violence in the Middle East.

For all those affected by gun violence.

**Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** Hope, Houston; San Mateo, Bellaire; San Romero, Houston

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Church of Pakistan (United)

## ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

### STAFF DIRECTORY

#### **Rector**

The Rev. John Newton  
[jnewton@st-michaels.org](mailto:jnewton@st-michaels.org)

#### **Curate**

The Rev. Dr. Josh Kulak  
[jkulak@st-michaels.org](mailto:jkulak@st-michaels.org)

#### **Assistant for Pastoral Care**

The Rev. Elizabeth Turner  
[eturner@st-michaels.org](mailto:eturner@st-michaels.org)

#### **Assisting Priest**

The Rev. Hope Benko  
[hope.benko@ssw.edu](mailto:hope.benko@ssw.edu)

#### **Senior Warden**

David Gross  
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#### **Junior Warden**

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#### **Family Minister**

Amanda Evans  
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#### **Youth Coordinator**

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#### **Parish Administrator**

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#### **Director of Communications**

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#### **Media Tech & Sexton**

Jeremy Aschenbach  
[jaschenbach@st-michaels.org](mailto:jaschenbach@st-michaels.org)

## ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

*The flowers are given to the Glory of God.*

*Altar flower dedications are a wonderful way to celebrate the special people in your life or honor an important event or memory. They are printed here and in the 11am service bulletin.*

*You can use this link to send your dedication and make a donation: [st-michaels.org/altar-flower-donations](https://st-michaels.org/altar-flower-donations). You may also donate using the QR code below 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](mailto: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