



THE TRUMPET

An instrument of good news



DECEMBER 24, 2023 - JANUARY 6, 2024

PEACE, HOPE & JOY

WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, AUSTIN, TX



Scenes from Santa's visit and the Gingerbread House Decorating party on December 17. So many smiling faces! A big thanks to Jason Evans for the marvelous photos.

WORSHIPPING WITH ST. MICHAEL'S AT THE HOLIDAYS

All Christmas Eve services will be livestreamed at st-michaels.org/worship-online. Our Christmas Day service will be in-person only. The 10am service on December 31 will be livestreamed as well. Our regular Sunday worship schedule of 7:45, 9:00, and 11:00am services will resume on Sunday, January 7, 2024.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
ONE SERVICE @9:00 AM
HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE I
LIVESTREAMED AT
ST-MICHAELS.ORG/WORSHIP-ONLINE
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
GATHERING ROOM & WIGGLE BAGS AVAILABLE

ST. MICHAEL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**CHRISTMAS EVE
SERVICES***

SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 24

**No children's programming this evening;
the Gathering Room & wiggle bags will be available*

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**



**CELEBRATING
CHRISTMAS
WITH
ST. MICHAEL'S**

**DECEMBER 25
CHRISTMAS DAY**

9 AM
EUCHARIST
IN-PERSON ONLY

**DECEMBER 31
1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

8 AM & 10 AM
EUCHARIST
10AM LIVESTREAMED

No Sunday School - wiggle bags available

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OFFICE HOURS DECEMBER 25-JANUARY 1

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, CHRISTMAS DAY: CLOSED

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY: 9:00AM-4:00 PM

THURSDAY: 9:00AM - NOON

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY: CLOSED

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, NEW YEAR'S DAY: CLOSED

YEAR-END GIVING

Make a Special Year-End Gift

- Please consider making a one-time gift to St. Michael's; it would make a big difference as we head into 2024.
- Give to honor a loved one or in thanksgiving for a ministry that has made a difference in your life.
- Scan the QR code or visit donorbox.org/online-giving-129



Giving Details

To declare a contribution on your 2023 tax return, gifts must be:

- POSTMARKED by Dec. 31, 2023; or,
- Donated online by midnight Dec. 31; or,
- Delivered to the church office (1500 N. Capital of Texas Hwy) by midnight Dec. 31 (we have a locked mailbox in which you can place a check in an envelope).

The church office will be open Tuesday & Wednesday, Dec 26-27, from 9 AM to 4 PM and on Thursday, December 28, 9am-noon.

Consider Donating Stock

It's easy to give stock and realize a tax-related benefit.

- For non-RMD related gifts, and assuming the stock was held longer than one-year, you will be credited with the full value of the stock at the time of the gift; however, neither you nor the church will pay capital gains or other taxes on the proceeds. Keep in mind brokerage firms are often very busy at year end, so allow time for the transaction to be processed prior to the close of business on the last day of the year.
- IRA Required Minimum Distributions (up to \$100k) may also be satisfied by donating directly to the church; however, those RMD-satisfying contributions won't appear on your giving statement.

For stock gifts and all giving inquiries, please contact:

Fr. John Newton, Rector

jnewton@st-michaels.org

Lisa Killough, Finance Chair

lkillough@austin.rr.com

St. Michael's Episcopal Church
1500 N. Capital of Texas Highway, Austin, TX 78746
Church office: 512-504-4504

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

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

NOTES

Epiphany Eucharist on Saturday, January 6—Mark Your Calendars All are invited to a celebration of Epiphany, a date set aside to recall the Magi's visit to Jesus. Fr. Josh will be "chalking the SMEC door"—a blessing traditionally done at this time of year. We'll be giving out chalk & instructions for folks to bless their own homes for the coming year.

First Taco Sunday of 2024 | January 7 | All are invited for fellowship on our first Taco Sunday of 2024. Come to the parish hall during the 10am hour to celebrate the new year (and maybe bend a resolution or two) with friends and a breakfast taco bar that has delicious homemade fixings and more. Hope to see you there!



Spring Book Study Survey Fr. Josh plans to lead a book study this spring and would love your feedback. Complete [this survey](#) to let him know which book seems most interesting and when you would prefer to meet. Please let Fr. Josh know if you have any questions (jkulak@st-michaels.org).

New Wednesday Evening, Off-Campus Bible Study Beginning in January 2024 Trish & Michael Thompson will be offering a coed Bible study on the Gospel According to Matthew beginning on January 10. Stay tuned for more details to come. Contact Trish at home.thompson@gmail.com if you're interested.

MLK Day March | Monday, January 15 @9am Please join Fr. Josh on Monday, January 15, at 9:00 am to participate in Austin's annual MLK Community March. The march begins at the MLK statue on the UT campus before proceeding to the Capitol steps. After a short rally, the march continues on to Huston-Tillotson for a community festival. For additional information please visit <https://mlkcelebration.com/> or email Fr. Josh (jkulak@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.

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; or Fr. Josh Kulak at jkulak@st-michaels.org

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

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. Stay tuned for our January schedule.

December 24

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

Questions? Email Bonnie Walton, Youth Coordinator, at youth@st-michaels.org.



Friendly competition at EYC Gingerbread House Smackdown on December 17—Michael, Parker, and Kaya in the decorating groove!

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 with any questions.

Zoom Info: 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 | 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 is currently discussing *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.

The group take a break on December 24 & 31, and resume on January 7.

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

Here's the new Zoom link: 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. **Passcode:** prayer.

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. *The group take a break on December 26 & January 2, and will resume on January 9.* Please email Phyllis Bles with questions: 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 or Sue Allen at tom@northcoastbrewing.com for more information.

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study | Wednesdays at 1:00 pm The group meets by Zoom (using the same

link) 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. Zoom Link: 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 January 10, location to be determined.* Contact Andy Hines at ahines@hinespool.com for more information.

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 jcsrrech@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.



On Sunday, December 10, during the 11am service, the Daughters of the King welcomed three new members into their order.

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) or Stephen Ministers Julie de Wette (julie@losmadrone.com) or Jeff Robinson (jarobinson100@gmail.com).

THIS WEEK'S PRAYERS

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

In thanksgiving that Jennifer, daughter-in-law of Barbara Rusling, has completed her cancer treatment.
For all those traveling during the holiday season.

For all those who are alone and lonely during this holiday season.

For our outreach partners, especially the Trinity Center and El Buen Samaritano, as they continue to provide services to those in Austin in need of assistance during the holidays.

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

For all those affected by gun violence, especially the victims of the shooting at Prague University

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. Francis', Houston; St. John the Divine, Houston; St. Martin's, Houston

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Episcopal Church in the Philippines

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

STAFF DIRECTORY

Rector

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

Curate

The Rev. Dr. Josh Kulak
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Assistant for Pastoral Care

The Rev. Elizabeth Turner
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Assisting Priest

The Rev. Hope Benko
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Senior Warden

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Junior Warden

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Media Tech & Sexton

Jeremy Aschenbach
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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. 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) 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