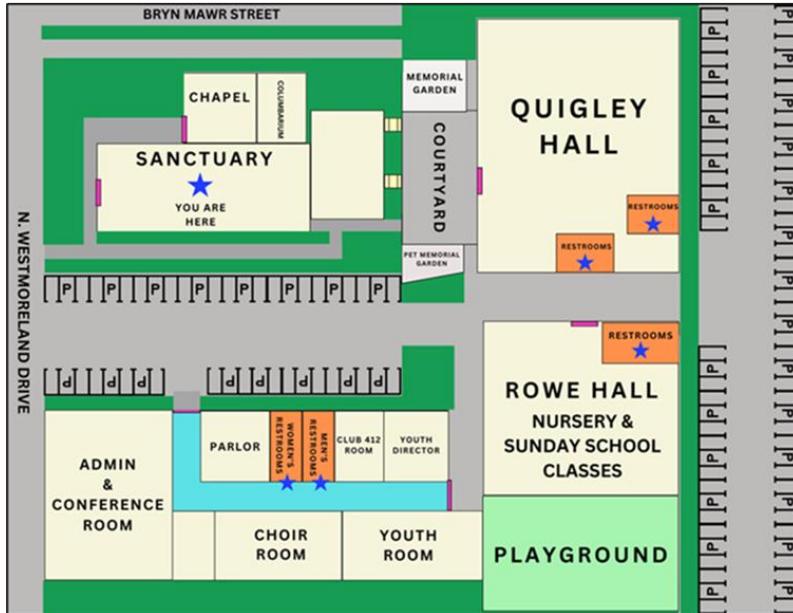


HOPE  
PEACE

St. Michael's Church  
Second Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, December 7 at 10:15 am

# WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, we welcome and accept you, and we trust God to take you where God wants you in God's timing. We want to be a safe place for you to experience God's grace, love, and presence with us. Welcome home.



**PRELUDE**

*On "Lord Christ, reveal Thy holy face"*

*J. S. Bach*

## **Advent Wreath Prayer: Week 2 - Peace**

*Let us pray.*

Prince of Peace, calm our anxious spirits. Heal the wounds of our world and the conflicts within our own souls. Make us instruments of your peace, bearers of your mercy, and builders of your kingdom. **Amen.**

*HYMN NOTE: A well-known Advent hymn based on a Latin hymn, Jordanis oras praevia, written by Charles Coffin, a French Roman Catholic scholar and hymnwriter, in 1736 for the Paris Breviary. The English translation was done by John Chandler in 1837, mistakenly believing the original to be medieval. The tune is named "Winchester New," first published in Hamburg in 1690 in Musikalisch Handbuch der geistlichen Melodien. It was adapted and harmonized by William Henry Monk in 1847, becoming the standard version used in many hymnals, and sung throughout the Anglican world. Its core message is one of repentance, preparation, and anticipation of Christ's advent.*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Hymn 76

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make  
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our  
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and  
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -  
 3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we  
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy  
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.  
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.  
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.  
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.  
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

*All standing, the Celebrant says*

### **Acclamation**

*Celebrant*      Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People*          **His mercy endures forever Amen.**

*The Celebrant says*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Detailed description: This system contains the first two lines of music. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are written below each staff. The first line of music ends with a fermata over the final note of the phrase 'mer - cy.'.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord,-

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Detailed description: This system contains the third and fourth lines of music. The notation continues from the previous system. The lyrics for the third line include 'Lord,-' at the end, indicating a continuation or a specific musical treatment. The bottom staff has a fermata over the final note of the phrase 'mer - cy.'.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord,-

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Detailed description: This system contains the fifth and sixth lines of music. The notation continues. The lyrics for the fifth line include 'Lord,-' at the end. The bottom staff has a fermata over the final note of the phrase 'mer - cy.'.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Detailed description: This system contains the seventh and eighth lines of music. The notation continues. The lyrics for the seventh line include 'mer - cy.' at the end. The bottom staff has a fermata over the final note of the phrase 'mer - cy.'.

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant*        The Lord be with you.

*People*            **And also with you.**

*Celebrant*        Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## FIRST READING

ISAIAH 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the  
ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire  
of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.  
*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19**

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
**and your righteousness to the King's Son;**
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously \*  
**and the poor with justice;**
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
**and the little hills bring righteousness.**
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
**he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
**from one generation to another.**
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
**like showers that water the earth.**
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
**there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.**
- 18 Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, \*  
**who alone does wondrous deeds!**
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! \*  
**and may all the earth be filled with his glory.**  
**Amen. Amen.**

## SECOND READING

## ROMANS 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

(please stand)

GOSPEL HYMN

Come, O Lord, and set us free

Come, O Lord, and set us free

John Bell

Come, O Lord, and set us free;

Come, O Lord,

Come, O Lord,

Give your peo - ple peace.

Come, O Lord, and set us free;

Come, O Lord,

Come, Lord Je - sus, come.

## HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

*Deacon*            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew  
*People*            **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

*Deacon*            The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*            **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## SERMON

## NICENE CREED

*All Stand*

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**Intercessor:** In this holy season of longing and expectation, let us offer our prayers to the God who comes to us in hope, peace, joy, and love.

Strengthen your Church, O God, that we may be signs of *Advent hope* in a world longing for light. Empower St. Michael's to proclaim your faithfulness in word and deed.

We pray to you, O Lord:

*Christ, be born in us anew.*

Bring peace to the nations, and peace to all places torn by violence, hatred, or fear. Give wisdom to those in authority and make us instruments of your reconciliation.

We pray to you, O Lord:

*Christ, be born in us anew.*

Stir up your joy in all who gather here. Lift the hearts of the weary, comfort the grieving, and let your joy be strength for all who struggle in body, mind, or spirit.

We pray to you, O Lord:

*Christ, be born in us anew.*

Draw near to the poor, the hungry, the unhoused, the refugee, and the forgotten. Teach us to embody your *Advent love* in compassion, generosity, and service.

We pray to you, O Lord:

*Christ, be born in us anew.*

Surround with your healing presence all who are ill, anxious, alone, or afraid, and all who have asked for our prayers. {LIST}

We pray to you, O Lord:

*Christ, be born in us anew.*

Gather into your eternal light all who have died. {PAUSE} Comfort those who mourn with the promise that nothing can separate us from your love.

We pray to you, O Lord:

*Christ, be born in us anew.*

**Celebrant:** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel: Come into our lives with hope, come into our world with peace, come into our hearts with joy, come into your Church with love; that we may prepare a place for you, now and forever. **Amen.**

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*The Deacon then says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence.*

*Minister and People*

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will,

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name. **Amen.**

*The Priest stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

*Amen.*

## PEACE

*Celebrant*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*

**And also with you.**

*(you may sit)*

**BIRTHDAY / ANNIVERSARY BLESSING**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

The Celebrant says

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:2

## **THE OFFERTORY**

**Prepare the Way of the Lord**

**J. Bell**

*TEXT: The text describes God's people, their despair, at the time of John the Baptists' arrival on the scene – what he did and said; the refrain: "Prepare the Way of the Lord!"*

## **ACTIVE LISTENING**

Please note, as the choir sings, this is a time to:

- BE STILL (OR – tap a foot, move to the beat, even CLAP – if it's a lively one!)
- Listen to your breathing as you listen and focus to the sounds washing over you
- Be prepared for God, the Holy Spirit to show up - speak to your heart, your mind, your spirit thru the music

# THE DOXOLOGY

(you may stand)

## *Praise to God*

(Verse 3 Only)

1 From all that dwell be - low the skies let  
2 E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord, and  
\*3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise

the Cre - a - tor's praise a - rise! Let the Re - deem - er's  
truth e - ter - nal is thy word: thy praise shall sound from  
him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye

Name be sung through ev - ery land, by ev - ery tongue!  
shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more.  
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

*(you may stand)*

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING (Prayer B)**

*The people remain standing.*

*Celebrant*        The Lord be with you.

*People*            **And also with you.**

*Celebrant*        Lift up your hearts.

*People*            **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant*        Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*            **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant proceeds*

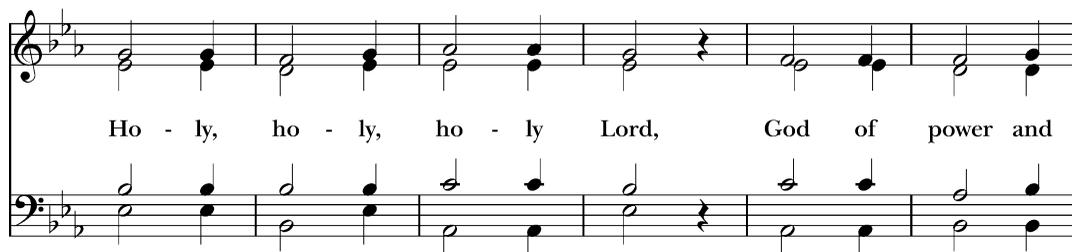
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

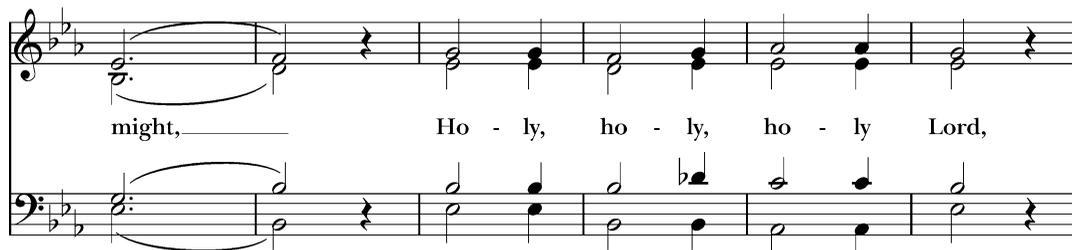
Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

# SANCTUS

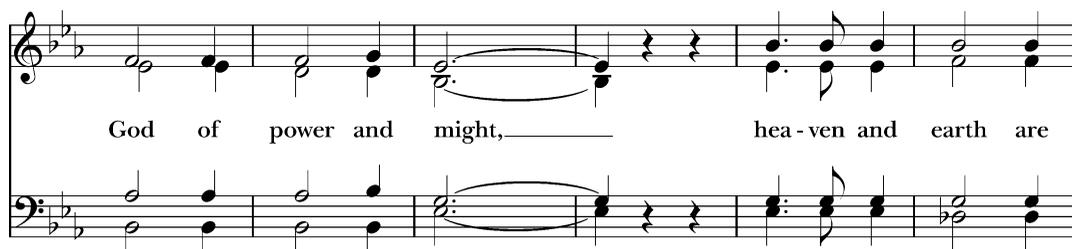
Celebrant and People



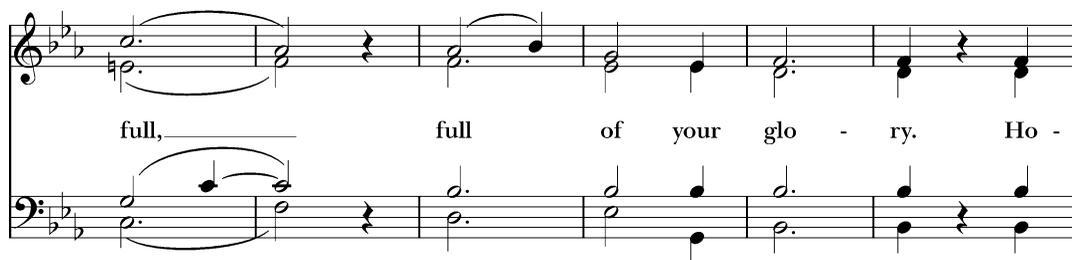
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and



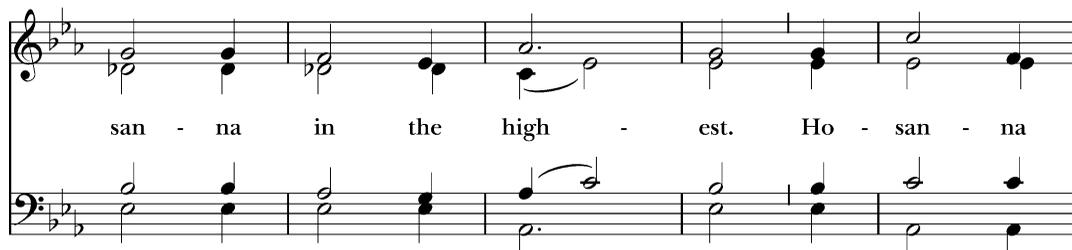
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,



God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are



full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

*The Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The Celebrant then continues*

And now, as our Savior  
Christ has taught us,  
we are bold to say,

*Celebrant and People*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

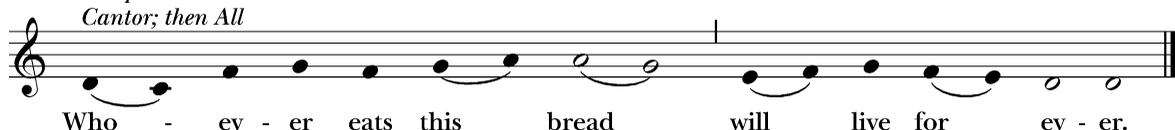
**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

# BREAKING OF THE BREAD

S-170

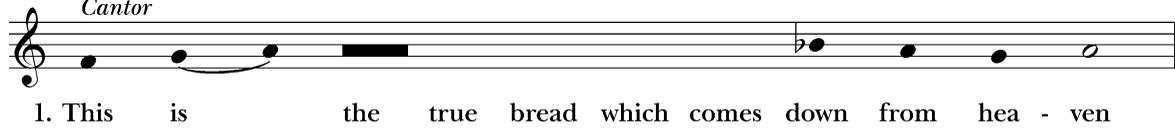
*A period of silence is kept.*

*Antiphon*  
*Cantor; then All*



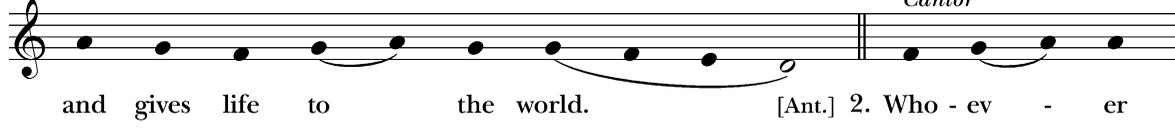
Who - ev - er eats this bread will live for ev - er.

*Cantor*

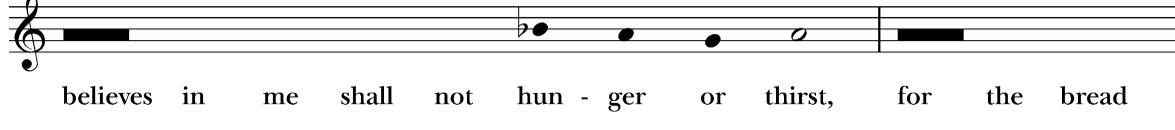


1. This is the true bread which comes down from hea - ven

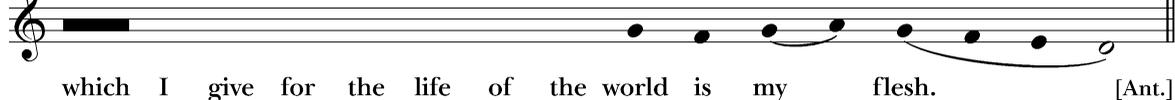
*Cantor*



and gives life to the world. [Ant.] 2. Who - ev - er



believes in me shall not hun - ger or thirst, for the bread



which I give for the life of the world is my flesh. [Ant.]

Music: Mode 1 melody; adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991). Copyright © 1983 Mason Martens.

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## COMMUNION ANTHEM

**I to the hills lift up my eyes**

**J. Berger**

TEXT: *The text is a paraphrase of Psalm 121 – hymn #668 (blue hymnal in pews) does the same, and is close to what we sing.*

COMMUNION HYMN      There's a voice in the wilderness crying      Hymn 75



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a  
 2 O \_\_\_\_\_ Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee  
 3 but the word of our God \_\_\_\_\_ en - du - reth, the \_\_\_\_\_



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
 up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
 arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst \_\_\_\_\_ of



high - way, a high - way for our God! The \_\_\_\_\_  
 peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the  
 na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
 flowers of the field they \_\_\_\_\_ per - ish, like  
 feed his \_\_\_\_\_ flock like a shep - herd, the



lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
 grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of  
 lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll



pla - ces where the Lord our \_\_\_\_\_ God \_\_\_\_\_ may go!  
 na - tions shall \_\_\_\_\_ pass like a dream \_\_\_\_\_ a - way;  
 lead them, and \_\_\_\_\_ bring them \_\_\_\_\_ safe to his fold.

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## LEV SENDING PRAYER

*If Lay Eucharistic Visitors are to be sent out, the following words are said:*

*The Celebrant*    *In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's body and blood.*

*People*            *We, who are many, are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.*

## BLESSING

*The priest blesses the people.*

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

## Prepare the way, O Zion

Hymn 65



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!  
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.  
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
 His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.  
 All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999). Copyright © 1982, Charles P. Price. Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

## DISMISSAL

*Deacon* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

## Prelude &amp; Fugue in E minor

J. S. Bach

## Sponsor Altar greens in the season of Advent or Altar flowers all year long (except during Lent)!

You can choose any date in memory, or a celebration of a special person, occasion, or thanksgiving.

### Ways to sponsor:

Email [ashleigh@stmichaelschurch.com](mailto:ashleigh@stmichaelschurch.com) or Katrena at [designomight1@gmail.com](mailto:designomight1@gmail.com)

- Fill out a pew card and drop it in the offering plate, and someone will call you.
- Pay online @ <https://stmichaelschurch.com> on the menu, click give, then on the drop-down menu select flower guild. The current average cost of Sunday flowers is \$70 to \$100. However, any amount is fine.

*"In joy and sadness, flowers are our constant friends." - Unknown.*



Save the Date

Ikebana Workshop  
Saturday, Feb 21  
1-3 pm in Quigley Hall

All are Welcome!  
RSVP to Katrena - [designomight1@gmail.com](mailto:designomight1@gmail.com)

© Shozo Sato, Sunamono Ikebana

Dear St. Michael's family,

Advent has come again—quietly, beautifully—like a small light rising in the dark. These weeks invite us to wait with **hope**, walk in **peace**, open ourselves to **joy**, and root our lives in **love**. And as I look around our church right now, I see those four gifts taking flesh in you.



**Hope** shows up every time we welcome someone new—someone searching for a spiritual home or wondering if God still has room for them. Many are finding that home here at St. Michael's. Hope is not an idea; it's an embrace, a community that says, "You belong."

**Peace** is visible in the steady, quiet ways you care for one another—meals delivered, prayers offered, conversations shared. In a world that often feels unsettled, your presence creates a holy calm where people can breathe again.

**Joy** is overflowing in our Gospel Family Service. Children singing, parents exhaling, visitors feeling safe enough to smile and return. That service—and our entire parish—is becoming a place where people rediscover the joy of worship, not through pressure or performance, but through grace.

And **love**... love is everywhere. It's in your generosity, your hospitality, and your willingness to reach beyond our walls into the community. God is using this church family to bless Orlando in ways seen and unseen.

I want to say from the bottom of my heart: **thank you**. Thank you for your faithfulness, your openness, and the many ways you say "yes" to God's work among us.

My prayer for you this season is simple: **May hope steady your heart, peace quiet your fears, joy surprise you, and love lead you home.**

With deep gratitude and love,

*Fr. Paul*

## Who are you?

In The Blues Brothers, they say, “*We’re on a mission from God.*” We are too. You are part of something bigger than yourself, making God visible through your generosity and service.

Through your faithful giving at St. Michael’s:

**YOU** share Christ’s love in homes, hospitals, schools, and our community.

**YOU** support healing, hope, and spiritual growth.

**YOU** help the hungry, guide children, and make worship possible.

**YOU** are the ministers of St. Michael’s.

We want to build on this strong foundation in 2026, and what we can do depends on you.

Please:

**PRAY** about your part in God’s mission,

**GIVE** generously, and

**SERVE** with your gifts.

God will do more than we can imagine when we trust Him and work together.

### Who are you?

A vital part of God’s work here.

**Please return your pledge card soon so we can prepare faithfully for 2026, and we do invite you to** take some time to pray about what YOUR part may be in fulfilling God’s mission, here at St. Michael’s, in 2026. You never know what you might discover.



## HELPING OTHERS TO BELONG.

Hospitality is more than a friendly smile — it's who we are as followers of Christ. Just as Christ has welcomed us, we are called to welcome others — to make space for people to feel seen, known, and loved.

**At St. Michael's, we're forming a new Hospitality Team,** and we'd love for you to be part of it! Whether you enjoy greeting people on Sunday mornings, helping newcomers feel at home, or working with a team of others in various fellowship functions, this ministry is a simple yet powerful way to give back to Christ and His Church.

Every handshake, every smile, every act of kindness creates a doorway for someone to experience God's love.

I am asking you to help make St. Michael's a place where everyone feels they belong, please contact me at [rluoni@stmichaelschurch.com](mailto:rluoni@stmichaelschurch.com).

Together, let's embody the radical welcome of Christ.

*Fr. Ruell*

# Feed My Lambs



**BAG-TREE IN NARTHEX  
THIS SUNDAY!**



## Take Them a Meal...Chrissie Schutz

### Deliver Meals To:

2153 S. Countryside Circle, Orlando, FL 32804  
407-538-0371

### Notes from Patty Tew:

Our very own Chrissie Schutz would very much appreciate some help with food for the next four weeks. She fell and broke her dominant arm so she cannot cook or drive for the near future. Husband Alan experienced a health event that also prohibits driving at this time. There are no dietary restrictions, but please no dark leafy green vegetables. Romaine lettuce is preferred. You will be providing food for 2, and feel free to make for 4-6 to allow leftovers.

If you would like to provide a meal for them, please use the Take Them A Meal sign-up sheet at [www.takethemameal.com/DTUE7489](http://www.takethemameal.com/DTUE7489). If your time is short, feel free to order from a local restaurant and deliver to them or have Uber, GrubHub or DoorDash deliver directly. They enjoy all types of food. The best time to deliver food is between 5:00-6:00pm. Please text Chrissie at (407) 538-0371 to let her know you are coming. Thank you for loving on Chrissie and her family as she recovers.

[Scan Here To  
Take A Meal](#)



# Christmas Flowers!

The evergreens and flowers that enhance our Christmas celebration are purchased with gifts from members of the parish, both as thank offerings and as memorials.

To have your Memorials and Thanksgivings placed in the Christmas Eve Bulletin, please submit memorials and thanksgivings by **Friday, December 19th.**

Use the QR code to access the online Christmas Flowers form or **pick up a form at the church office**, near the front door of Fordham Hall.

- **Checks:** To St. Michael's Church, marked "Christmas Flowers".
- **Online Donations:** Always welcome
- **Every Gift Matters:** Donate any amount; your generosity is cherished.



# Blue Christmas



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18TH  
AT 6:30 PM

HERE AT ST. MICHAEL'S, WE KNOW CHRISTMAS CAN BE A TIME OF GREAT JOY FOR MANY AND A TIME OF SORROW, LOSS, OR LONELINESS FOR OTHERS. WHEREVER YOU FIND YOURSELF THIS SEASON, OUR PRAYER IS THAT YOU ARE MET DEEPLY BY THE LOVE AND HOPE OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST.

IMMANUEL, GOD WITH US.  
MAY THIS BE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS.

## CHRISTMAS

AT ST. MICHAEL'S

Celebrate the Season with Us!

[stmichaelschurch.com](http://stmichaelschurch.com)

*BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE*

Thursday, Dec. 18 @ 6:30 PM

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES & SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 24

3:30 pm	Family Service
5 pm	Christmas Pageant
5:30 pm	Christmas Eve Service
10 pm	Carols
10:30 pm	Christmas Eve Service

*CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE*

Thursday, Dec. 25 @ 10AM

## Year-End Giving Information: A Note from SMC Financial Controller

Dear St. Michael's family,

First, **thank you!**

Your generous, faithful giving is one of the ways God is at work through St. Michael's. Because of you, lives are being touched, needs are being met, and the love of Christ is being shared in real and tangible ways. We are deeply grateful to God for you.

To better support your generosity, we have **upgraded our online giving system** to a simpler, more secure, and more flexible platform. You can access it:

Through our website: [www.stmichaelschurch.com](http://www.stmichaelschurch.com)

Through our new mobile app: **Connect** (available on the App Store and Google Play)

### What's New?

- **Stronger security**  
Your information is protected with updated security measures.
- **Easy access & tracking**  
You can set up and manage your giving and view your donation history anytime in one place
- Your **year-end giving statements will no longer be mailed or emailed**. Instead, you can log in and download them online. If accessing your statement electronically is difficult, please contact us—we are happy to help.
- **Mobile-friendly**  
You can give and manage your account from anywhere using the **Connect** app.
- **More flexibility**  
Set up automatic donations, adjust your giving, or make one-time gifts at any time.

### A Few Important Reminders:

If you currently have a **recurring donation**, please check the expiration date on your card to ensure your ongoing giving continues without interruption.

For **2025 tax purposes**, any year-end giving by check must be **postmarked on or before December 31, 2025**.

If you have any questions or need assistance with the new system or your giving statements, please contact the church office at **407-843-8448** or [finance@stmichaelschurch.com](mailto:finance@stmichaelschurch.com). We are here to serve you.

Thank you again—for your trust, your faithfulness, and your partnership in the mission God has given us at St. Michael's. We thank God for you.

Blessings,

**Joan Myers**, *Finance Controller*

St. Michael's Church



**EYC Meets every Sunday  
from 5pm-7pm**

Dinner is Provided for the youth.  
Friends are welcome.

Date	Special Events	Reminders
12/05	Advent Festival	• Quigley Hall 6pm-8:30pm
12/13	Making Gingerbread houses	• 11:30am-3:30pm • Orlando Union Rescue • Lunch provided • Community Service Hours Available
12/14	Christmas Party	• Hosted by The Chrisman's • Thursdays 5:00-8:00
01/11	EYC Semi-annual Parent Meeting	• After Church 12pm • Hors d'oeuvres • Food for youth provided

# YOUTH GINGERBREAD HOUSE

## Decorating Event

Join us to help underprivileged kids at the Orlando Union Rescue create gingerbread houses from 11:30 AM to 3 PM!  
Enjoy lunch on us and earn community service hours.

**13 DECEMBER 2025**

Scan here to RSVP



**EYC CHRISTMAS PARTY**

HEAVY APPETIZERS, DRINKS AND DESSERT SNACKS PROVIDED

**14TH DEC 5-8PM** | **CHRISMAN'S HOME 1017 EASTERN WAY ORLANDO, FL 32804**

**WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT SWAP!**  
BRING A WRAPPED GIFT TO JOIN THE FUN—  
NEW? KEEP IT UNDER \$10.  
REGIFTED OR HANDMADE? ANY VALUE!  
GO FOR FUNNY, WEIRD, OR AWESOME—  
THE MORE CREATIVE, THE BETTER. LET THE TRADING CHAOS BEGIN!

Scan here to RSVP

# ST. MICHAEL'S YOUTH NEWS

## EYC SPRING PARENT MEETING

JANUARY 11, 2026 | 12:00 PM

CONFERENCE ROOM

Save the date! Join us for a light lunch and pizza for the youth gathering in the youth room. This event happens only twice a year, so we encourage your participation.



St Michael's Children's Ministry  
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2025



Scan here to sign up  
for a role in the  
Christmas Pageant



Rehearsals start 12/7  
Pageant is 12/24 @ 5pm

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Morning Prayer In  
The Season of Advent

MONDAY, DEC. 1<sup>ST</sup> - WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24<sup>TH</sup>

LOCATED IN THE CHAPEL

MONDAY - THURSDAY AT 7 AM

FRIDAYS AT 8 AM

LAY - LED





Daddy Daughter  
MASQUERADE DANCE

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6th

6:30pm - 8:00pm

Quigley Hall

St. Michael's Church    2499 N Westmoreland Dr.

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RSVP & Order your Corsages  
& Boutonnieres



Sign up Here to Donate an Item  
or Volunteer at Event

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**Photo Booth • Crafts • Snacks • Live DJ**

Corsages \$20 & Boutonnieres \$8 available for purchase

# STANDING WITH JOAN AND THE PEOPLE OF JAMAICA



Dear St. Michael's Family,

Many of you know and love **Joan**, our Director of Finance and lead vocalist at our Gospel Family Service, whose joyful spirit and faithful service have blessed our church family for years. **Joan is from Jamaica, and her heart is breaking right now.**

The island has suffered devastating storms and flooding, and members of her immediate family have experienced tremendous loss—homes damaged, roofs torn away, belongings destroyed, and for some, everything lost.

As we hold Joan and her loved ones in prayer, many have asked: "What can I do? How can we help?"

I invite our St. Michael's family to respond with the compassion and generosity that define this community. Together, we can help carry the burden of our sister's grief and help bring relief to her family and others in need.

If you would like to **make a financial gift** to support Joan's family and relief efforts in her community, you may do so by:

- **Writing a check** to St. Michael's Church with "Jamaica Relief – Joan" in the memo line.
- **Scanning the QR Code/Click the link below to give online:** please choose the drop - down menu item named "Jamaica Relief – Joan".

Every prayer, every gift, and every gesture of love makes a difference. Joan has given so much of herself to this community; now we have the privilege of surrounding her with ours.

Thank you for your love, care, and concern.  
With love and gratitude,

*Fr. Paul*



## ST. MICHAEL'S PRAYER LIST

### **Those who have commended themselves to our prayers:**

Bill L., Brad B., Cary C., Gary Y., Gloria, Jan E., Linda T., Patrick H., Perrin, Mary P., Roger J., Sharon, Steve C., Susan M., Therese, Tim, Toby A., Victor, Wilson F.

### **Long-Term Prayer List:**

Angela, Alex, Alexa C., Alyssa R., Andrew, Angie, Ashley T., Benny W., Betsy C., Beth, Brigid, Brittney R., Bryan Family, Cannon, Carla, Carolyn, Caryl, Cary C., Charlie B., Chris M., Chris P., Claire B., Colton, Conklin/ Hiller Family, Connor R., Curt. R., Cynthia L., Darrell, David B., Deirdre E., Ella, Elijah, Emma, Emily, Eugenia, Felicia, Gary B., Gary M., George T., Gylla, Henry R., Isabella, Jacob B., Jan, Jason, Jeffrey, Jett B., Joyce B., Joanne O., Joseph T., Jimmie, Joe, Joe H., Joey K., John M., Justin, Karen, Karen C., Karen H., Karen M., Kathy G., Kristel, Kris R., Kyle, Lavelle B., Linda, Linda A., Lisa L., Lisa, Lola, Lucille, Macauly D., Marci A., Margie S., Marion S., Mary, Mary C., Mary Lu, Matt P., Megan and son, Melissa, Martin, Nathan W., Oliver, Paul, Paul T., Paula, Pauline, Phil, Polly, Rebecca, Russ R., Ryan, Sally C., Sam, Sarah, Shaun B., Sonia, Stephanie G., Steve, Susana C., Susan A., Susie D., The Allen Family, Tim, Tracy, Tripp, Vaughn, Virginia C., Wayne, Will, William

### **Rest In Peace:**

Judy Radek

Dorothy Keene McPherson

### **Those serving in the armed forces and in harm's way:**

Aaron D., Bradley H., Carolyn H., Chad S., Christopher E., Gloria, Hank H., Hope H., Jonah H., Kenneth K., Ben V., Nick R., Will M., Stuart R.

### **Birthdays:**

7: Tony Da Silva, 8: Ashley Bennett, 10: Anika Ulrich, 11: Dan Garrett, Marisa Bosko, Berkeley Barksdale, Steven Cox, 12 Steve Piantieri, Roger Chapin, Art Yergey, 13: Holly Hatcher, Kathy Berlinsky, Deanna Fitzgerald, Gylla Macgregor, Corinne Kelly, Edwyn Sloan,

### **Anniversaries:**

7: Rick and Anne Hovarter, 9: Robert and Ann Hurbanis

### **A Gentle Reminder About the Prayer List**

*If you or your loved one has experienced healing and no longer needs to be on the prayer list, we ask that you let us know. It is a joy to give thanks to God for the blessings of restored health and life, and your update helps us make room to lift others in prayer who are in need of support from the St. Michael's community.*

*To place someone on the prayer list, please get in touch with Ashleigh in the parish office at [ashleigh@stmichaelschurch.com](mailto:ashleigh@stmichaelschurch.com).*

## **BIRTHDAY PRAYER**

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) *N.* as *they* begin(s) another year. Grant that *they* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *their* trust in your goodness all the days of *their* life (lives), through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **ANNIVERSARY PRAYER**

O God, we ask that you pour your grace and mercies on this (these) couple/s. Guide them with your wisdom, protect them with your love, fill their home with your presence, and may they grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ all the days of their life. *Amen.*

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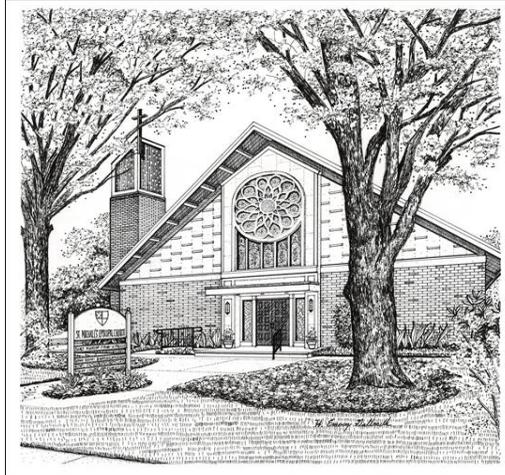
## **CLERGY AND MINISTERIAL STAFF**

The Rev. Rick Luoni, Rector  
The Rev. Greg Favazza, Assisting Priest  
Andrew J. Walker, Director of Music  
Ella Eagen, Assistant Director of Music  
Mike Robertson, Director of Outreach  
Tiffany Stieger, Director of Children's Ministry  
Melanie Olivier, Director of Preschool  
Mark T. Cole, Director of Youth Ministries

## **VESTRY**

Senior Warden: Freddy Clayton  
Junior Warden: Christian Leger  
Louis Gafford  
Eric James  
Jordan Cook Evans  
Courtney Hazouri  
Brian Rush  
Ashley Bennett  
Eleanor Ackermann  
Basia Andraka-Christou  
Matt Vanture

Thank You for Worshiping with Us Today



**YouTube**.com/SaintMichaelsOrlando

Listen to the Saint Michael's Orlando Podcast:



<https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/saintmichaelsorlando>

A colorful graphic with a mosaic background of blue, yellow, and orange squares. On the left, a blue speech bubble contains the word "Welcome!" in a white, cursive font, with a small church icon to its right. Below this, a white speech bubble with a dashed orange border contains the text "WE ARE SO GLAD YOU ARE HERE" in black, bold, uppercase letters. At the bottom left, a white rounded rectangle contains the text "Scan the QR code to let us know you are here and to receive our newsletter." On the right side, a large QR code is enclosed in a white border with a yellow drop shadow.