



St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

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THE RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

One of the most interesting things over the past few years in my role as a priest have been the interactions I have with people. I've had interesting interactions with people at gas stations in small towns in Louisiana on my way to Diocesan events, at the grocery stores after work, in the hospitals while visiting someone there, and the list could go on. These are all great opportunities to share Jesus with them, pray for their concerns, or just get to

know them. I have also been able to meet several political leaders, professional athletes, and even a famous country musician throughout my ministry because they either attended a church service or some event that I partook in (you never know who you'll meet!). One particular experience that I recently enjoyed though was a phone conversation that I had with Danny O'Flaherty- an Irish folk musician who will be coming to Lake Charles to perform a Christmas concert here at St. Michael's.

I love all kinds of music, but one kind I particularly enjoy is British and Celtic folk music. I shared this with Danny at the beginning of what turned out to be a very long and friendly phone conversation. It turned out that he happened to not just know of, but personally knew, several of the folk artists who I said I liked, like Tommy Makem and Andy M. Stewart. He had toured with and had friendships with these people for decades. The folk music community is pretty tight knit. Danny even shared with me how Stewart reached out to him on the phone during Hurricane Katrina when Danny was living in New Orleans at the time.

For me, there is something authentic about folk music. It is able to communicate emotions, passion, and struggle in a simple but profound way. Also, a lot of folk music words and tunes have been passed down to us over several generations (we don't often know the original writers!), and you can feel this tradition right in the music. This is similar to what worship is like for Christians, and I would say *especially* for liturgical Christians. When we gather and pray in liturgical worship, we are joining in the words of our mothers and fathers in the faith; with those who came before us who, like us, felt the power and presence of God in their houses of worship.

I look forward to this month of December and this season of anticipation as we look forward to the promise of our Savior, and I look forward to being with you all during this special time.

Blessings upon you and your families,

And Merry Christmas!

Fr. Drew

The Herald

December 2023

WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY

Holy Eucharist

8:00 am & 10:30 am

FOR THE KIDS

Sunday Nursery

(newborn to kindergarten)

7:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Godly Play

K - 5th grade

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m.

Chapel of the Risen Christ

CHRISTMAS EVE

**10:30 a.m. Morn-
ing Prayer**

5 p.m. Prelude

5:30 Service

CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00 a.m.

BISHOP

The Rt. Rev. Jacob Owensby

Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana

RECTOR

The Rev. Andrew Christiansen

David Ritchie, Sr. Warden

Jeff Schweitzer, Jr. Warden

Avery Cook, Jr., Treasurer

Paul Burgess, Canterbury House Chaplain

Christy Scroggins, Admin Assistant

Susan Arrington, Choir Director

Camryn Clements, Assistant Choir Director

Stasha Bell, Outreach Ministry Coordinator

David Ritchie, Videographer

Betsy Stoupy, Children's Ministry

Kathy Tell, The Herald & Website

Faye Cook & Wanda Alexander, Altar Guild

VESTRY

2023

King Alexander

Alicia Williams

Betsy Stoupy

Matt George

2024

Heather Guidry

Stasha Bell

Charlie Adkins

Randy Venable

2025

Harriet Green

Jeff Schweitzer

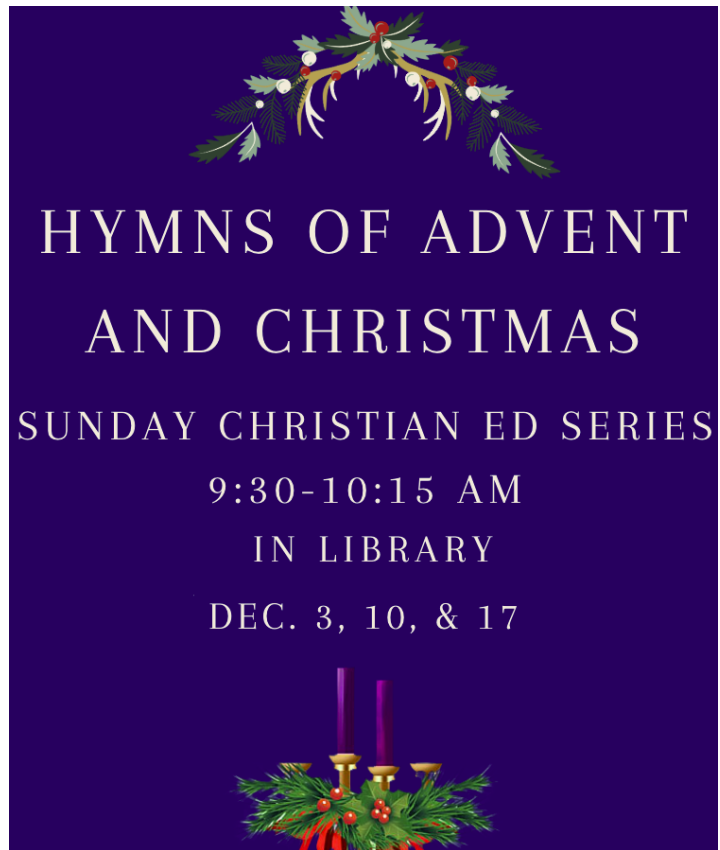
Kathy Tell

Kay Vanchiere



Lessons and Carols Service
Sunday, December 10 at 6 p.m.
St. Michael and All Angels Church
Free and open to the public!

Join us for a special music filled service of Advent lessons and congregational carol singing! Come hear retelling of the Christian's story of faith, from the fall of Adam to the coming and birth of Jesus, accompanied by your favorite Christmas carols. The music will be led by many talented St. Michael's parishioners.



THE HERALD is a monthly publication of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church.
Submit articles to [kathytell7\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:kathytell7(at)gmail.com)
All materials are subject to editing.
Submission Deadline: Monthly on the 22nd



*Nollaig Shona Dhuit
Merry Christmas*

Danny O'Flaherty's Celtic Christmas

*St Michael and All
Angels Episcopal
Church*

*Dec 16, 2023 2 pm
\$20.00 under 12 free*

Danny O'Flaherty's Celtic Christmas blends ancient traditions with the joyous spirit of Christmas. Join him as he weaves a musical tapestry that captures the true essence of the Celtic Christmas spirit - a celebration of heritage, folklore and the joyous magic that unites us all in the spirit of the season.

RESERVATIONS Send checks - *made out to St. Michael's* - to the office or Cathie Cox. Put *CELTIC CHRISTMAS* on the memo line.

December Birthdays

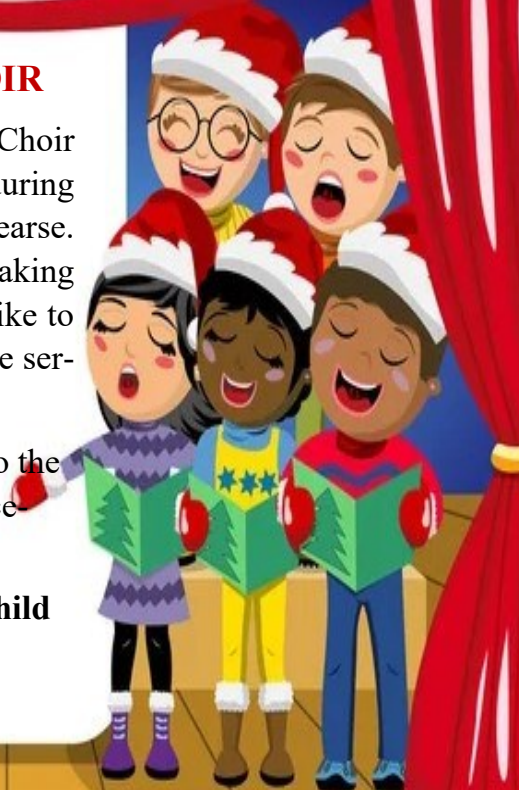
- 5 Avery Cook
- 6 David Donald
- 7 Peggy LeJeune
- 10 Annie Fisher
- 13 Doug Gehrig
Emily Groves
- 14 Carolyn Piel
- 18 Alex Parsons
- 20 Denise Strouse
Neil Clark
Sarah Sober
- 23 Kristin Groves
- 24 Susan Roan
- 27 Tommie Schweitzer
- 29 Susan Smith
- 30 Joanne Neal
Nancy Cook
Paul George

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

St. Michael's Children's Choir is meeting on Sundays during the 10:30 service to rehearse. Mrs. Camryn will be taking any children that would like to sing for the Christmas Eve service during the sermon.

The children will return to the sanctuary during announcements.

**We would love if your child could be a part of it!
All are welcome!**



May God embrace
you and give you all
his blessings!

**Happy
Birthday!**



BACKPACKS FOR THE HOMELESS

During the upcoming winter months, backpacks will assist the homeless with items such as socks, pants, shirts, a stocking cap, sweatshirt or jacket, or small blanket. They will also include some food and toiletry items. This will NOT be advertised and will be given out only as needed. Fr. Drew will bless them as they are filled. Please consider donating new or gently used items!



Blessing Bags will be gifted to Grand Cove and Resthaven residents.

If you would like to donate towards this project we would like to include gripper socks and Gold Bond Foot Cream. Click [HERE](#) to purchase from Amazon and have them shipped to the church or you may pick up from your local store.



CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Tuesday, December 12, 11:30 a.m.
The Pioneer Club, 127 W. Broad St., 9th Floor

If you plan to attend, reservations must be secured by Dec. 5

Join your fellow Episcopal women and guests as we celebrate the Advent Season. The Pioneer Club Chefs will provide a three-course meal with the option to purchase wine at your own expense. A Christmas-themed sing-along will be led by Roxanne Myers of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, and a spiritual thought will be offered by Father Drew Christianson of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church.

In the spirit of giving, collections will be accepted for those interested and able to offer a monetary donation to Waters Edge church to support their outreach ministry to the homeless and downtrodden.

Carpooling is encouraged as parking may be limited. If you need transportation or info contact Marianne White at 337-302-3227 or Marianne Leigh Kiser at 337-302-0371.



Join us
Christmas Eve

Musical Prelude
5:00 p.m.

Holy Eucharist
5:30 p.m.

The Nativity
of Our Lord
Jesus Christ
Christmas
Day
9:00 a.m.





**CHRISTMAS
BINGO NIGHT
@ ST. MICHAEL'S
DEC. 20, 5:30 PM**

Fun for the whole family. Come on out!
(We will also have a special visitor!)



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

OCC at St Michael & All Angels made a final shoebox contribution of 920 Christmas shoeboxes to Operation Christmas Child SWLA Central drop off point in Lake Charles! It is gratifying to see the love of and for God, and the desire to spread the Good News and Great Joy in Jesus to children around the world.

We would like to thank ALL the kind and generous parishioners who have supported this OCC ministry with their time, their gifts, and their donations! We received many donations to fill joyful and generous shoeboxes to share through the Gospel Opportunity provided by Samaritan's Purse. We would like to thank each and every one who donated items, attended our processing and packing parties, came to work and help at the OCC SWLA Central drop off location, prayed for the ministry, fed us, came to the Chili Fundraiser, wrote Christmas Cards, letters and notes and supported our recent Bake Sale. We are grateful for your support in helping us meet our amazing goal!

"With appreciation to the OCC project team at St Michael & All Angels for all their time, talent and treasures they shared - Clara and George Heard who continue to fervently support this ministry. Beautiful beanies of all sizes lovingly made by Nancy Cook. Joyful Jump Ropes that any young child would simply love to receive, handmade by Kandy Moreno. Generous amounts of Special Stuffed Toy donations made possible by Sara and Jeff Bass! What an honor it was to serve alongside this awesome team." Karen Richards

It would not be consistent if we didn't conclude by saying there is still time to pack an OCC shoebox online! For anyone who didn't yet pack a shoebox or who wants to pack another 1...or 2, click [HERE](#). All of these shoeboxes will go to "Hard to Reach" places. Our goal here is 25 OCC shoeboxes and this can be completed up and until December 13. Several from our SWLA Area Team are volunteering in Coppell, TX SP Processing Center.

View OCC photos on the website at stmichaelslc.com/photo-gallery.html

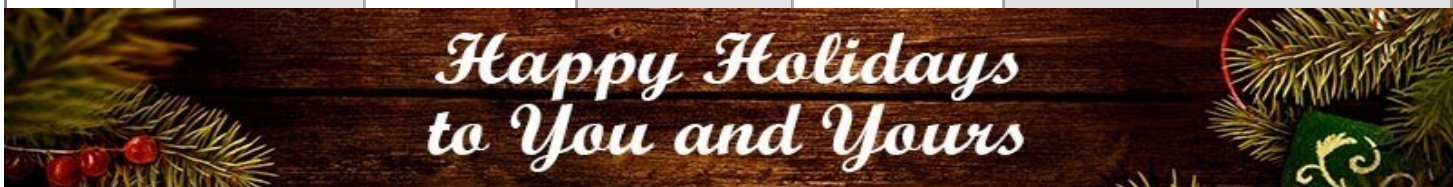
LECTIONARY READINGS

Find the Liturgical Calendar online at www.lectionarypage.net

	December 3 Advent 1	December 10 Advent 2	December 17 Advent 3	December 24 Christmas Eve	December 25 Christmas Day 9 A.M. ON- LY	December 31 1st Sunday after Christmas
Year B	Isaiah 64:1-9 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37 Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18	Isaiah 40:1-11 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28 Psalm 126	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38 Canticle 3 or Canticle 15 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26		Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7 John 1:1-18 Psalm 147 or 147:13-21

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

8:00 Lector LEM	Stephanie Mann Harris Rowzie	Sara Bass Monet Brashear	Stephanie Mann Theresa George	10:30 Morn- ing Prayer by Drew+ Chas. Harper <i>Volunteer Needed</i>	9 a.m. Sara Bass Harris Rowzie	Stephanie Mann Harris Rowzie
10:30 Lector LEM LEM	Missy Shaddock Jeff Schweitzer Colleen Fontenot	Matthew Lovejoy Colleen Fontenot <i>Volunteer Needed</i>	Clara Heard Kandy Moreno Jeff Schweitzer	5 pm Prelude 5:30 Service Martha Briley Colleen Fontenot		Charles Richardson <i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Altar Guild	Patti Smith Kim Palermo Tommie Schweitzer	Kay Vanchiere Kandy Moreno Sara Bass	Stephanie Mann Megan Rowzie Leda Lofaso	Monet Brashear Faye Cook Kathy Tell Pattie Smith		Kathy Venable Wanda Alexander Sara Bass
Wednes- day Altar Guild	December 6 Cindy Crowe	December 13 Harriet Green	December 20 Colleen Fontenot	December 27 Cindy Crowe		
Altar Flower Donors	Cindy Crowe	Anonymous	Sobors	Poinsettias	Poinsettias	Poinsettias
Breakfast Teams	Pancakers	Bacon Makers	Scramblers	NO BREAKFAST	NO BREAKFAST	Roosters



December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 11 a.m. Verandah	2
3 SERVICES 8 & 10:30 a.m.	4	5	6 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. <u>Christian Ed</u> 10:30 a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST 6:30 p.m. <u>Choir Practice</u>	7	8	9
10 SERVICES 8 & 10:30 a.m. 6 p.m. Lessons & Carols	11	12 Noon ECW Luncheon at Pioneer Club 5:30 p.m. Vestry <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Office Closed</div>	13 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. <u>Christian Ed</u> 10:30 a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST 6:30 p.m. <u>Choir Practice</u>	14	15 11 a.m. Graywood Verandah	16
17 SERVICES 8 & 10:30 a.m. 5 p.m. Altar Guild Dinner and Deco	18	19	20 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. <u>Christian Ed</u> 10:30 a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST 5:30 Bingo 6:30 p.m. <u>Choir Practice</u>	21	22 The Herald Deadline	23
24 10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer 5 p.m. Prelude 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve	25 CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE 9:00 a.m.	26	27	28	29	30
<p><i>Closed for</i></p> <p><i>Christmas</i></p>						
31 SERVICES 8 & 10:30 a.m.						

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LAKE CHARLES LA 70605



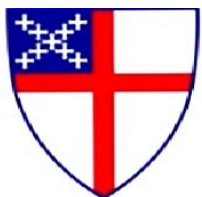
THE
Poinsettia **FUND**

Each year, the St. Michael's altar is decorated with live Christmas poinsettias in celebration of the Holy Birth of Jesus Christ. If you would like to contribute to the Flower fund, please fill out the form below. Place your completed form and marked donation as "Poinsettia", in the offering plate on Sunday or drop it off at the church office. Deadline to make the Christmas Eve Service bulletin is **12/10/2023**
Donations of any amount are appreciated.

DONOR NAME _____

DONOR EMAIL _____

_____ In Thanksgiving of: _____ In Memorial of: _____ In Honor of:



OUR MISSION IS TO: WORSHIP, GROW, & GO

- To **worship** God in the Anglican tradition.
- To **grow** Christian disciples in community.
- To **go** into the world in peace to love and serve.