

St. George's Episcopal Church, Milford

December 18, 2025: EBlast



Those Age Old Christmas Traditions

What is your favorite Christmas Memory? What is your favorite Christmas tradition that has been passed down through the generations? What first comes to your mind when you think of Christmas?

Weirdly, when I think of the Christmas of my youth, I think of the beach at night and palm trees. My maternal grandparents lived in Bradenton, Florida when I was growing up and from late elementary school until I was in my 20's, we spent Christmas in Florida with them. Their church was out on one of the barrier islands about two blocks from the Gulf of Mexico and so on Christmas Eve, while my Grandpa was setting up for the candlelight service, me and my sisters would run down to the beach and stand on the sand in the starlight listening to the waves. It was a yearly touchstone for me as I grew through adolescence into adulthood. I know, it is not the most traditional of Christmas memories, but it's what I have got.

And I bet many of you all have memories of your own Christmas traditions that were repeated year after year that grounded your family. Maybe it was gathering at a certain relative's house, or taking a trip, cooking a certain food, or decorating the tree. As we grow and age and move through the seasons of our lives, the traditions may grow and change too, but every year, Christmas returns, waiting to welcome us home again. My Grandparents both died many years ago now, but now I am helping my children make their own memories and traditions at their Grandma's house every Christmas Day. Maybe one day they will tell their kids those stories like I tell mine.

And hopefully, for many of us, the tradition that really grounds us, that anchors us in the real reason for the season, is gathering as a community and worshiping together on Christmas. Where we get to experience the birth of our Lord once again, the stories as old as Christmas and join ourselves to generations of Christians here and around the world to rejoice at the birth of our Savior. Wherever you find yourself this Christmas, may you be blessed with peace and hope and joy, as you welcome the coming of our Lord.

See you Sunday, and hopefully Christmas Eve,
Rev. Michelle

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Sunday Dec 21

8:30 am - Holy Eucharist Rite I Celebrant: Rev. Michelle
In the Church

10:15 am - Holy Eucharist Rite II Celebrant: Rev. Michelle
In the church & livestreamed

11:45am - Benthic Brass Christmas Concert & Luncheon

Wednesday Dec 24 - Christmas Eve

4:00pm & 8:00pm - Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Eucharist

Sunday Dec 28

9:30am - One Service of Lessons and Carols

Wednesday Dec 31

5:00pm - New Year's Eve Party: 'British & Leftovers!'

Saturday Jan 10

3pm - LOK 2026 Planning Meeting

Sunday Jan 25

9:30am - One Worship Service

10:45am - Annual Meeting and Brunch

Christmas Offering

Please consider including a special offering for St George's in your year-end giving. Help us finish the year strong so we can continue our life changing ministry together. Special Christmas Offering Envelopes are available in the pews and narthex or you can give online through the website or your Realm account. Last day for year-end giving is Sunday Dec 28th.

Holiday Outreach Opportunities:

Giving Tree

Great Job St George's! All the tags were taken and returned. This family will surely have a very Merry Christmas due to your generosity. Thank you to Dot for helping to organize and to all who participated in this powerful ministry.

The Mitten Tree

The mitten tree has returned to the Fellowship Hall. We are seeking new mittens, gloves, hats and other warm winter wear for the students of Neithercut Elementary School in Flint. Child sizes are preferred but adult items are also useful for older students, siblings and parents. This is a great time of year for good sales at Costco and Target/Walmart, Amazon also sells great bulk packs. We are also seeking new or gently used children's books. Items will be collected until **early January**. See Dave Dickey and Mike Darcy for more info.

AdventWord Devotional

Forward Movement convenes another year of AdventWord, an inspirational online Advent calendar featuring a daily prompt word selected from the Sunday lectionary readings. Email subscribers and social media followers receive a daily meditation and visual image inspired by the day's word, and are invited to share their own personal reflections, art, poetry, or other creative expression. Learn more at adventword.org or sign up here <https://adventword.org/sign-up-adventword/>

Benthic Brass Returns Sunday Dec 21 at 11:45am

Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for a **festive Tuba and Low Brass concert and sing along of Christmas favorites and other selections. Lunch will be served after the concert.** Donations welcome.

Poinsettias for Christmas

If you sponsored a Poinsettia for Christmas, they can be taken home after the 8:00 pm service on Christmas Eve.

St. George's New Years Eve Party: 'British & Leftovers!'

Are you tired of sitting at home on New Year's Eve waiting for midnight and the start of a new year? Why don't you come and celebrate with your friends at St. George's 5:00pm-8:00ish on Wed Dec 31. We will gather for a potluck dinner, white elephant gift exchange, games, music and fun. We will ring in the New Year with our friends in London at 7:00pm with champagne and festive drinks. Sign-up in the Fellowship hall.

Tell Out My Soul - Stewardship 2026

The Stewardship drive has officially ended but it is not too late to return your pledge. Please prayerfully consider your contributions to St George's for the coming year. Please see Ed with any questions or concerns. Extra cards are available in the Narthex.

Ongoing Outreach Activities

Below is a list of things we are currently collecting for our ongoing outreach ministries. Check back often to see what we are up to

New Childrens Mittens, Hats & Gloves - Neithercut Elementary - Mitten Tree - **Through early January**

Dress and other nice clothing - Grace Centers of Hope Resale Shop - Middle of Hallway - through Feb

Small Toiletries - FedUp - Hallway Closest to Office - Ongoing

Non-perishable food - Community Sharing - Green bin in Narthex - Ongoing

Used Grocery Bags - Crochet for a Cause - Bins outside by The Dragon or in back classroom - Ongoing

Ongoing Ministries in Action:

-Braver Angels

Monthly meetings have now been moved to the last Wednesday of the month working on depolarization. All are welcome. Dinner will be at 6:30 pm, skills practice at 7:00, and planning at 7:30, finishing at 8:00 pm. **NOTE: Due to the holiday season the last meeting for the year was on Wednesday, December 3rd. See you in the new year!**

-Coffee Fellowship

Sign-up sheets are available to host coffee fellowships in December. We are looking for hosts for **Dec 28 (cookies only)**. This valuable ministry allows us to have a lovely time of food and fellowship together after church and **it won't happen without hosts**. It is quite a simple endeavor requiring only 2-3 items like, pastries, fruit/veggies and/or crackers & cheese and a commitment to help set up and clean-up. Unused food is taken home or given away after. You can do it on your own or with a partner. Please see the sign up sheets in Fellowship Hall or Deb Sawyer for more information.

-Crochet for a Cause

Making mats for those in need out of plastic grocery bags. 1st 3rd & 5th Wednesdays from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. We have a great time! **Next Meetings are Jan 7 & 21 (no meeting on Dec 31).**

- Cookie Ministry - Supporting the AA groups that meet at our church

Who can help on the **third Friday of each month**? About 50 cookies are needed in total. Please reach out to Dot if you would like to cover **Dec 19** (third Friday.) or once in a while to give the Darcys and the Vangels a break on the other Fridays. You can drop off your cookies the Sunday before or during office hours during the week.

-ECW (Episcopal Church Women)

ECW will continue to meet monthly on the 2nd Tuesday. The **next Meeting is Tuesday January 13 at 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall.**

St. George's ECW is a small group of women committed to supporting the many activities of this church. All women members of the church are members of ECW and are encouraged to attend the meetings. Do come along and join us.

- Healing Prayer

Provides laying on of hands and anointing for healing after worship at 8:30 & during communion at 10:15 service. The next Healing Prayers will be on **Dec 21 & Jan 4**. Healing Prayer can be offered at all other services by request.

- LOK - Ladies of the Knight

Saturday, January 10 at 3pm - 2026 Planning Meeting at Joyce Spletzer's home. Where would you like to visit next year? Bring your calendars and best ideas and come along and join in the conversation as the LOK Events are planned for 2026.



- Mens' Group

The Men's Group normally meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. All Men are invited to attend. The **next meeting is on Wednesday January 21 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.** Please see Mike F. Sr's upcoming email for more information.

Keeping Your Faith Strong

-Those in Our Prayers

Please pray for our members, community members and friends in search of health, healing, wholeness and solace: Anne G., Annie F., Art, Barry, Brett & Megan, Brian, Carol R., Caroline, Cheryl, Dean R., Denise, Fred K., Helen, Jeanne F., Jen C., Jim S., Joan B., John E., Joshua, Judy, Judi V., Kathy, Katie M., Karen C., Karen S., Kim, Laurie, Leon, Lisa D., Lisa S., Liz, Mark, Mary Lou, Maya, Michelle M., Nancy, Nancy B, Rick & Debbie, Rick, the Sera Family, Sharon A., Sue H., Tara,

Loving God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: accept our prayers, and to those who seek healing, grant the power of your grace, that the weak may be strengthened, sickness turned to health, the dying made whole, and sorrow turned into joy; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.* (Book of Occasional Services pg217)

- Online Daily Office Schedule

Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. Morning Prayer

Fridays, 4 p.m. Evening Prayer

Sundays, 7 p.m. Compline

Do you join our Sunday worship online? A reliable and quick way to find our YouTube services (live or recorded) is from our website's "Watch" page, accessed from the top of the home page by clicking the

word "Watch." [Here's a direct link.](#) Want to participate in our Daily Office online? Those are on Facebook. [Here's the link.](#)

The last 2025 Daily Office Morning Prayer will be delivered on Wednesday 24 December.

The **Daily Office Team** will then take a **Winter Rest and Refreshment** break from **Thursday, 25 December 2025 through Friday, 9 January 2026** incl. during which time there will be no Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer or Compline.

The **Daily Office** will restart on **Sunday, 11 January 2026 with Compline at 7pm** when we look forward to worshipping together once again.

-Sermon Blog

Ever hear something in worship and think, I wish I could look at that again or send it to a friend? Well now you can. Now St George's has a Sermon Blog. Weekly sermons and reflections will be posted here from now on. Rev. Michelle's sermons will appear on Sunday morning, Morning Prayer reflections will usually be up within a couple of days. Feel free to share! [St George's Sermon Blog](#)

-When to contact the Priest:

Please be in touch. I can only pray, help or connect you with resources if I know what is happening. Examples of when to contact the Priest: Birth, Death, Illness, Hospitalization, Difficulty in the Family, You would like to receive sacraments or a Pastoral visit, You have an idea or ministry you would like to discuss. I am usually in the office Wed and either Tues or Thurs 9:30-3. If you see my car in the lot, feel free to pop in. If I don't answer the phone make sure to leave a message or send a text and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

How to contact Rev. Michelle: **Phone/Text:** (734) 646-4064 or **Email:** priest@stgmilford.com

-Forward Day by Day Devotions

The November-January Booklets are available now to pick up in the Narthex. Let us know if you need one mailed/delivered to your house. The cost is \$2.00 for each booklet. Please reimburse us as you are able in the donation box nearby. I recommend a read! 🐝

SAINT GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
801 EAST COMMERCE STREET MILFORD, MI 48381

Community Events

