



The Red Door

DECEMBER 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Welcome Advent

Edward Hays, in his book *Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim*, offers “An Advent Psalm:”

*Awaken, my heart,
God’s reign is near;
the Peaceable Kingdom
is in my hands.*

*If the wolf can be the guest of the lamb,
and the bear and cow be friends,
then no injury or hate can be a guest
within the kingdom of my heart.*

*Eden’s peace and harmony will only return
when first, in my heart,
there hides no harm or ruin
for the Peaceable Kingdom is in my hands.*

*Isaiah’s dream became Jesus’ vision:
“Come, follow me,” Emmanuel’s echo rings.
“Reform your life, recover Eden’s peace,”
For only then will salvation appear.*

*For Advent’s dream is the healing of earth,
when the eagle and bear become friends,
the child and the serpent playmates.*

*Arise, awaken, my heart,
the Peaceable Kingdom
is in your hands.*

The Season of Advent is upon us. Advent means “coming.” We await the coming of Emmanuel (“God with us”) at Christmas when we will celebrate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. God came to us as love-in-the-flesh, born of Mary and visited by lowly shepherds.

We also await the second coming of Christ, “when he shall come again in his glorious majesty” (Collect for the 1st Sunday of Advent) at the end of time. And we watch for God’s “in-between” comings, when we witness and help to build the Peaceable Kingdom with our hands and hearts.

As the world around us rushes towards Christmas, take some time to step back and pause this Advent season. Give thanks for the ways you have experienced God coming near. Look for ways to share God’s love with those around you, especially those who might be struggling at this time of

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year. Reach out to someone you may have lost track of. Work to heal relationships that might need mending. Spend some extra time in prayer.

Check out all the offerings on our “Spiritual Pathways” in this edition of The Red Door and make plans to attend some of the great things we have going on here at St. Michael’s. Be sure to mark your calendars for our upcoming retreat opportunities (men’s, women’s and parish) and our Interfaith Scholar events with Brian McLaren!

Peace,
Bill+

Welcome to Our Christmas Worship Services



Wednesday – December 24th
Christmas Eve Service
5:00 p.m. & *8:00 p.m.



Thursday – December 25th
Christmas Day Service
***10:00 a.m.**

**livestreamed*

Welcome Back!!

As you start settling back in Florida, don’t forget to let Susan in the Church Office know of your return. Call, e-mail or just stop in and say “Hi.” We are always happy to see you.



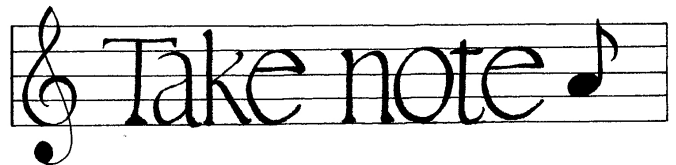
Coleen’s Pen

I have realized I will not get a Christmas Card out to you this year, so I’m asking you to please consider this my card, my wishes for US this year. ~

Whether we gather with a house full of loved ones or find solace in a quiet moment of reflection, my prayer is that we truly feel the blessed presence of the Christ Child this year. May we not rush past the manger. May Christ’s peace fill our homes and may the joy of His birth inspire a renewed spirit of charity and kindness in our hearts. May we let the hope of this season soften us—so that compassion becomes our first instinct. May Christ be born anew in our hearts, our homes, and our island community. May we find rest, joy, and just enough light for the next step. May this season remind us all that God’s love is forever choosing to live among us—right here, right now, in this beautiful, fragile, beloved place.

Know that you and your families are held in my prayers. With blessings and deep gratitude for each of you,

Coleen +



Do you enjoy singing hymns? Are you able to sing a melody more-or-less in tune? Come at 12:00 p.m. any Friday to the Music Room (formerly The Cottage) or contact Choir Director **Erik Entwistle** at music@saintmichaels-sanibel.org for more details. Choir singing is so much more than just a fun activity - it can be a joy-bringing, spiritual experience that contributes an essential and uplifting dimension to the liturgy. Come make a joyful noise!



Friday, December 5th
5:00–8:30 p.m.

Mark your calendars now for a beautiful island evening at St. Michael's! On **Friday, December 5, from 5:00–8:30 p.m.**, we'll gather for our **Luminary Stroll**, a festive community night featuring a **new lighting display in front of the church** along with **food, music, and activities**. This is a wonderful chance to slow down in the Advent season, enjoy the glow of the luminaries, and share joyful fellowship with neighbors and friends of all ages. Our lighting display this year is given by **Patty Sprinkle** in loving memory of "Feather" Jim Sprinkle.

We hope our entire parish will help make this evening shine—both through welcoming hands and sweet treats.

Volunteer Help Needed

To offer a warm St. Michael's welcome, we're looking for volunteers to serve in short, easy shifts during the event. Help is needed for:

- **Set-up and clean-up**
- **Greeting and hospitality**
- **Serving refreshments**
- **Activity help / general support**

If you can lend a hand for even **60 minutes**, it makes a big difference. here is the sign-up link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0548AAAE23A2FCC07-60502949-luminary#/> or contact **Sue Van Oss**.

Calling All Home-Baked Cookie Makers! We would love to share plates of **home-baked cookies** as part of the evening's hospitality. If you enjoy baking, please consider making a batch (or two!) to donate. Holiday favorites are perfect—anything festive and bite-sized for easy serving.

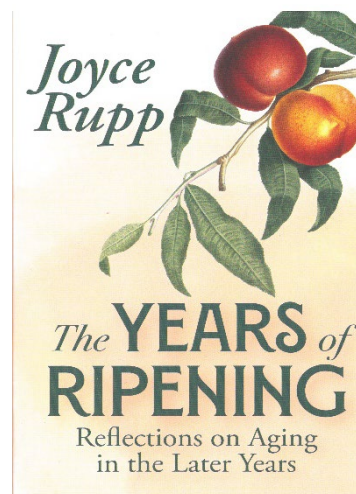
Cookie drop-off:

Please bring your cookies **to the church kitchen anytime and put them in the freezer marked "Luminary" or bring on Friday, December 5 by 4:00 p.m.**

Let's light up the night together and offer our community a joyful, welcoming Advent celebration. Thank you for helping make the Luminary Stroll a bright and memorable evening for all!

Spirituality in Later Life – Next Gathering Monday, December 15 | 3:00 p.m.

Our Spirituality in Later Life group continues its gentle, grace-filled journey into the gifts of sacred aging on **Monday, December 15 at 3:00 p.m. at The Cove in the Estuary at Shell Point**. These monthly gatherings are not focused on the practical "to-do list" of later years—important as those things are. Instead, our time together centers on **spiritual growth and personal transformation as we age**: noticing the ways God is still shaping us, honoring the wisdom we carry, and claiming more fully the personhood God continues to reveal in later life. It's a space for honest conversation, shared reflection, and encouragement on the road we walk together. Conversations are structured so that everyone can engage fully, whether or not you've had time to read. We are using Joyce Rupp's beautiful reflections, *The*



Years of Ripening, as a companion for our journey. It is a wonderful book and worth a read for anyone in later stages of life. For those who attended last month, you do not need to rsvp again this month.

~ Fr. Bill



Christmas Caroling

Celebrate the spirit of Christmas with the residents of King's Crown Assisted Living Facility at Shell Point. We will be singing on the first floor, parking in available outside the building. Put on your favorite holiday sweater and join in the fun! Songbooks provided!

AT 02:00 PM

4

DECEMBER

**3699 King Crown Way,
Shell Point in Fort Myers**



SANIBEL DUO RECITAL

RENATA ARADO, VIOLIN

ERIK ENTWISTLE, PIANO

SATURDAY DECEMBER 6 3 PM

ST. MICHAEL'S SANCTUARY

2304 PERIWINKLE, SANIBEL

FREE ADMISSION RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

An uplifting program of works by Berlin, Brahms, Dvorak,
Eccles, Entwistle and Silvestrov

Watch on [LIVESTREAM](#)

A Festival of Lessons and Carols



Friday December 12 3 pm
Saint Michael's Church
2304 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel

Reception to follow - Free Admission

The Christmas story told in the words
of Scripture and a selection of favorite
carols and hymns, old and new.

Led by the Saint Michael's Choir
with audience participation
Come sing with us!

Watch on [LIVESTREAM](#)



Sunday
December
14
5:00-
6:30pm



St. Michael's Parish Hall
2304 Periwinkle, Sanibel

Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus
with music, crafts and a fun, come as
you are, messy, no rehearsal Christmas
pageant! Free Dinner too!



Madden-Workman Education Fund

I am extremely happy to report to the Parish, that thanks to your generous response to match the \$50,000. gift given to the Madden-Workman Education Fund, the Fund now totals \$94,675.00. These wonderful gifts now allow our committee to continue helping our students reach their education goals.

Scholarship Criteria and Applications for scholarships are available in the church office. They must be completed and returned to the church by April 30, 2026. The committee meets in May. Then students and their schools are notified shortly after the committee's decisions.

For additional information, please call me or the church office.

~ Gratefully, **Betsy McCullough**

Nominating Committee Formed

Jerry Davenport has been appointed Chair of the Nominating Committee for the 2026 Vestry. The other members of the Nominating Committee are **Bruce Pattison, Chuck Sterret, Nancy Marshall** and **Betsy McCullough**. According to the By-Laws, the Nominating Committee is responsible for presenting a slate of nominees to the Vestry at the December meeting.

The Nominating Committee will then present the 2025 Vestry-approved slate to the congregation for a vote at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 22, 2026. Candidates may also be proposed to the Nominating Committee by petition signed by 15 electors of the parish unrelated to the candidate. The deadline for the petitions is December 10.

Vestry members with terms expiring this year are **Mike Baldwin, Jerry Davenport** and **Susie Wilson**.

St. Michael & All Angels 2025-26 Stewardship Campaign

Co-Chairs **Sue Sterrett & Susie Wilson**

Hi everyone! By now you should have received a letter from Fr. Bill with details of the Stewardship campaign for this year. Let us know if you would like to receive a copy.

In January we will begin the Stewardship neighborhood gatherings. We hope you can attend one. Let us know if you would like to attend by contacting the person listed for the night you would like to attend.



January 13 SHELL POINT

Ann & John Stephens 10211 Rosemont Ct.,
Fort Myers -- Phone: 913-244-6492

January 15 FORT MYERS

Jenny Hauber 15210 Portside Drive, Apt 101 --
Phone: 724-664-7012

January 20 SHELL POINT

Carolyn & Ralph Clark 14811 Caleb Drive,
Fort Myers -- Phone: 239-344-9173

January 22 FORT MYERS

Susie Wilson 11460 Osprey Landing Way --
Phone 914-261-8025

January 27 SANIBEL

Lena & Steve Brown 3819 W Gulf Drive --
Phone: 239-233-5180

January 29 SANIBEL

Wendy McGaha 1299 Par View Drive --
Phone: 239-494-0687

The gatherings will be from 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM. Learn about the latest happenings at St. Michael & All Angels. Find out how you can get involved and meet new people. It is a great way to meet each other, from all the different services in a smaller, more intimate setting.

We hope you will join us. Please contact the host above. We look forward to seeing you!

"Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good."

(Psalm 136:1)

From Your Parish Nurse, Wendy

Cold and Flu season is upon us again. So, what can we do to try and stay well and prevent the invasion of germs/bacteria into our body? According to the CDC "since October 1, 2025 through November 22, 2025, there have been between 1.1 million to 6.7 million Flu Illnesses in the United States." These illnesses end up in Flu related Dr visits, hospitalizations and can result in flu related deaths between 450-9400. Flu season runs typically between October to May according to the Florida Influenza Reports.

Chances are, the grocery cart you pushed, the escalator railing you held to get to the second floor of the mall, and the door handle you used to exit the movie theater have all been recently touched by someone suffering from or carrying the [cold](#) or [flu](#) germs. These bugs are contagious even before we show symptoms, so waiting until you feel sick to start exercising caution is too late.

Our hands are carriers of thousands of different types of germs/bacteria; in fact, the average hand harbors over 150 species. These are not just the cold and flu germs/bacteria that linger on our hands. Many of the species of bacteria found on our hands are harmless or may be even beneficial to the generally healthy person. E-Coli and Salmonella are not in this category. These are ones that we usually associate with the "GI Bug." They live in and cause problems in the gastrointestinal tract and during elimination sometimes ends up on the hands.

I once asked a nurse that worked in an Urgent Care who was seeing many sick folks during season...."how do you stay well with all these sick folks?" She said she keeps her hands away from her face. That makes sense! "Unfortunately, [only five percent](#) of us

properly **wash hands** after using the restroom." When we sneeze or blow our nose, we don't usually wash our hands immediately. Some of these germs/ bacteria live well outside the body, on hard surfaces on linen or even in air droplets. Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus bacteria, otherwise known as MRSA, can live outside the body for days or even weeks under the right conditions.

So, what can we do to preserve our health in the midst of all these germs/bacteria? Like the nurse told me....Keep your hands away from your face. Frequent hand washing with soap and water. Lather for 20 - 30 seconds before rinsing with clean water and then dry with air or a clean towel. When water is not available, then Hand Sanitizers may be appropriate. These should be 60-95% alcohol (mainly ethyl alcohol) to be effective against killing germs/ bacteria. As with soap, hand sanitizers should be rubbed onto all surfaces of the hand for 20-30 seconds and then allow drying.



Wipe shopping cart handles with sanitizing wipes and when you get home from the grocery store, wash all your fruits and vegetables. Lastly, If you are sick, stay home so others stay well.

Also know if there is anything that I can do to help you find needed assistance, please email me at: nurse@saintmichaels-sanibel.org.

Communications Corner

As the holidays approach, many of us are shopping online, giving to charities, and expecting packages at the door. Sadly, scammers know this too—and they often target older adults because they assume seniors are kind, trusting, and may be less familiar with newer technology. This season, a few minutes of caution can protect you and the people you love.

Common holiday scams to watch for:

1. “Package problem” texts and emails.

You get a message that looks like it’s from UPS, USPS, FedEx, or Amazon saying a delivery is delayed, needs a small fee, or requires you to “confirm” your address. The link leads to a fake site that steals your personal or banking information. These shipping-notification scams surge during December.

2. Look-alike online stores and fake ads.

Scammers create websites that resemble real retailers or run convincing social-media ads for “too-good-to-be-true” deals. With today’s tools, these sites can look very professional. People pay, but the gift never arrives—or their card details get stolen. Remember if the price is really low, it really is too good to be true!

3. Gift card fraud.

Gift cards are a favorite holiday present—and a favorite tool for criminals. Some cards on store racks have been tampered with so scammers can drain the balance right after you buy them. Others involve someone pressuring you to pay for a “problem” using gift cards. Remember: **no legitimate business, agency, or church will ever demand payment by gift card, including the clergy and staff of St. Michael’s!**

4. Charity imposters.

The holidays bring out generosity, and scammers exploit it by posing as real charities (sometimes sounding like disaster-relief, veterans’ groups, or even local churches). They may push for immediate donations and avoid giving clear details.

Always do research before you contribute and go to the real website of an organization, not one that someone calls, texts or emails you.

5. “Grandparent/relative in trouble” scams — now with AI.

A call or voicemail says a grandchild or loved one is stranded, arrested, or in the hospital and needs money right away. Increasingly, scammers use AI voice cloning to sound like someone you know. The story is urgent, emotional, and meant to keep you from checking first.

Simple ways to stay safe:

- **Pause before you click or pay.** Urgency is a scammer’s best tool. Take a breath.
- **Go directly to the source.** If a delivery notice worries you, open your browser and type the company’s real web address yourself. Don’t use the link in the text or email.
- **Verify with a trusted person.** If you get a call asking for money or personal info, hang up and call a family member or friend you trust—or call the person supposedly in trouble using a known number.
- **Be wary of unusual payment methods.** Requests for gift cards, wire transfers, crypto, or “paying through a special link” should be treated as a bright red flag. I am always happy to help as well!
- **Check charities carefully.** Give through official websites or well-known platforms. If you’re unsure, ask the church office—we’re happy to help you confirm a legitimate ministry.
- **Talk about scams openly.** The best protection for seniors is a loving circle of awareness. Share this list with parents, neighbors, and friends.

If you think you’ve been targeted

You are not alone, and you don’t need to feel embarrassed. Scammers are professionals at manipulation. If something seems off, talk to someone you trust right away. You can also

contact the **AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline (877-908-3360)** for free, friendly guidance, or report suspicious activity to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.reportfraud.ftc.gov).

Let's look out for one another this season. A little healthy caution helps ensure that our Christmas generosity goes where it belongs—toward joy, love, and the care of our neighbors.

~ Submitted by **Sue Van Oss**
Director of Communications & Christian Formation



**Tuesday, December 9th
at 8:30 a.m.**

No Meeting on December 23rd

Our Men's Fellowship group will meet only once in December, on the 9th at 8:30 a.m. in the Library and on Zoom.

While not necessarily festive, we will continue the discussion on "personal biases" - our own and others' - that theologian and author Richard Rohr suggests are serious barriers to communications and understanding. Rohr identifies 16 such biases. We may not address them all, but we will see where our discussion takes us. How do we overcome these barriers to effective communication?

I hope you will be able to join us. We all would benefit from hearing each others' ideas.

All men of St. Michael's are welcome to attend. For more information contact **Bill Larson** or Susan G. in the Church Office.

Men's Fellowship ~ ZOOM

Meeting ID #820 0070 2322

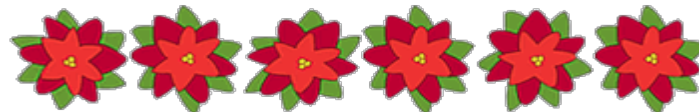
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82000702322>

Christmas Poinsettias:

Gifts in: *thanksgiving for...*,
in memory of...

...loved ones and friends. Please write your check to St. Michael's with "Poinsettia" in memo line, attach to the form below, and place it in the offering plate or bring or mail it to the Parish Office:

2304 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel, FL 33957
by Sunday, December 21st



In memory of:

Given by:

In memory of:

Given by:

In thanksgiving for:

Given by:



ECW- Episcopal Church Women Presents-
Heavenly Light, Heavenly Song:
The Christmas Story in the Arts

Presented by Anne-Marie Bouché
 with Erik Entwistle, piano.
 words and music for sing-along will be provided

Monday December 8
12:30pm provided lunch 1pm program
St. Michael's Parish Hall

.....

Take a journey through some less well-known corners of the Christmas story, as told in song and in art. We are all familiar with the basic outlines of Christ's birth as told in the Gospels, but artistic representations and the words of Christmas carols and hymns often include details that are not so obvious to us, but that earlier generations would have easily recognized as important references to prophecy, theology, and the structure of salvation history. Join Anne-Marie in deepening our knowledge of and appreciation of the Christmas story as the wisdom of past ages understood it.

Yoga: Spirit in Motion



Take a break from the stress and hustle of daily life and join us for a rejuvenating yoga class. JoEllen adapts for all abilities and skill levels; beginners welcome!

Thursdays @ 9am

Saturdays @ 9am

St. Michael's Parish Hall-2304 Periwinkle

Certified Yoga Instructor

JoEllen Simons

Bring a mat, (if you don't have one, we will have extras) water bottle, and comfortable clothing.

No class fee, but there is a donation basket available for the instructor.

A part of Spiritual Pathways

@ St. Michael's



For more info:

pathways@saintmichaels-sanibel.org



Interfaith Book Study Begins in January: *The Last Voyage*

This winter, St. Michael & All Angels will host an interfaith book study exploring the intersection of religious faith and contemporary culture through *The Last Voyage*, the newest novel by **Brian D. McLaren**. This imaginative, futuristic science-fiction story speaks directly to our moment, raising moral and spiritual questions similar to those people of faith are wrestling with today. McLaren—our 2026 Interfaith Shared Scholar—recommended the book for this study, saying, “It will give folks a lot to talk about.” He will also be the featured speaker at the **Shared Scholar Program on Sunday, February 15, 2026** and be our special guest for a presentation at St. Michael's on **Monday, February 16, 2026**. Please mark your calendars for these two events.

The study group will meet for **four consecutive Wednesdays, January 21 through February 11, from 10:00–11:30 a.m.** at St. Michael's. Participants from all faith traditions are warmly invited. Because discussion is central to this experience, **class size will be limited**, and **advance registration is required**. Books are available for order from MacIntosh Books or Amazon.

We're delighted that the group will be facilitated by **Walter Schuman**, who taught Religious Studies at Ashland University for 32 years, and his wife **Betsy**. Together, they have been part of St. Michael's book-study community for more than two decades, and they bring wisdom, hospitality, and lively conversation to every gathering.

To register, ask questions, or request more information, please contact **Walter & Betsy Schuman**. This [study is offered as part of Spiritual](#)

Pathways at St. Michael's, and we hope you'll join us for this thoughtful journey of faith, ethics, and hope for the future—together.

Interfaith Shared Scholar Program ~ February 15th

SAVE THE DATE

We are thrilled to announce that world renown author and speaker **Brian D. McLaren** will be the speaker at the Interfaith Shared Scholar Program Sunday, February 15, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at United Congregational Church of Christ. He will be speaking on “How to be a Person of Faith in Today's World.” In addition, he will be offering a presentation at St. Michael's on Monday, February 16, 2026, time TBD but it will be mid-morning or early afternoon.



A short bio from his website: "Brian D. McLaren is an author, speaker, activist, and public theologian. A former college English teacher and pastor, he is a passionate advocate for “a new kind of Christianity” – just, generous, and working with people of all faiths for the common good. He is a faculty member with the Center for Action and Contemplation, and a podcaster with the CAC's podcast Learning How to See. He is a co-host of Southern Lights and supports a new progressive ecumenical campus ministry network called ZOE.... He is a popular conference speaker and a frequent guest lecturer for denominational and ecumenical leadership gatherings – across the US and Canada, Latin America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. His public speaking covers a broad range of topics including postmodern thought and culture, Biblical studies, church leadership and spiritual formation, pastoral survival and burnout, inter-religious dialogue, the integration of

contemplative spirituality and activism, and global crises." You can read more about him, read his blog posts and his many books at his website, <https://brianmclaren.net/>

Brian is on sabbatical for 2026 but made an exception to come to Sanibel due to the fact he now lives in nearby Naples and we are very grateful to have this opportunity to host him. Be sure to hold these two days to experience this unique opportunity to hear from such a world renown figure.

Ministry of Lector Reading & Prayers of the People

Want to Participate in Worship Services?

Do you Love to Read?

We've Got a Spot for You!

Have you ever listened to someone read Scripture during worship and thought, "*I could do that*" — or maybe "*I'd love to try*"? Here's your chance!

We're looking for new folks to join our team of **Lectors and Prayer of the People Readers** — at one of our weekend services.

You don't need any special experience — just a willingness to share your voice and your faith. We'll walk you through everything you need to know, and you can sign up for whichever service time fits your schedule best.

It's a simple way to get more involved and be part of something meaningful. When you read Scripture or prayers aloud, you help everyone in the congregation connect more deeply with God's word.

If you are interested, please contact **Susie Wilson**

Gather at the Table

We will begin January 11th and will meet five consecutive Sundays from noon to 2:00 p.m. in the Library. Join with others who share a meal and explore where God is present in their lives including discussion on "Mere Christianity." by C.S. Lewis.

Please see **Doreen Bolhuis** to receive a book. To sign up please contact Doreen at pathways@saintmichaels-sanibel.org. More detailed information will be sent via email in early January.

January 11th, 18th & 25th, February 1st & 8th

Altar Guild Ministry



We are looking for more volunteers to help prepare the altar for the Eucharist that is celebrated at each service. No previous experience is necessary!! This is an open invitation for men and women. Please contact Fr. Bill or Susan Gonzalez in the Church Office if you are interested or would like more information.

Flower Guild Ministry

The St. Michael's Flower Guild is once again asking for new members. If you have never participated in this ministry before, don't worry. We are happy to partner with you until you feel comfortable. Please give me a call.

Lee Williams



SACRED STROLL

WEDNESDAY DEC. 17 7:00AM

STARTING LIGHTHOUSE BEACH PARKING LOT

MEET OUTSIDE THE RESTROOM BUILDING

**Enjoy a casual walk and conversation on the beach,
with a brief thought to reflect on as the walk begins.**

**Walk as far as you want, 1 hour max. Wear
comfortable shoes and clothing. Bring water bottle,
bug spray and sunscreen if desired.**

?s or ideas for future strolls? contact Sue at
communications@saintmichaels-sanibel.org

Part of Spiritual Pathways @ St. Michael's



Beyond the Broken Heart: Grief Support Group Starting Dec. 5 10am in the Meditation room @ St. Michael's

Saint Michael's will be offering a Grief Support Group beginning Friday, December 5th through Friday, February 27th. The group will meet weekly on Fridays at 10 AM, with the exception of December 26th.

This program provides a safe & supportive place for those who have lost a loved one to walk through the journey of grief alongside others who share similar experiences. Using *Understanding Your Grief*, created by Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D., C.T. there is no charge for the materials, optional donation basket to help cover costs will be available.

The group will be led by Wayne Luman, who has 20 years of experience in ministry, along with his wife, Cathy. Together, they have facilitated grief and support groups and have personally experienced grief and loss in their own lives. Please contact Wayne or Cathy at Lumancathy6@gmail.com if you are interested in registering, have questions, or would like additional information.

All are welcome. - invite a friend to come with you.

Part of Spiritual Pathways @ St. Michael's



Outreach Thanksgiving

The St. Michael's Outreach Ministry is so very grateful to you for your thoughts, prayers, financial support and hands on engagement this past year. In thinking back on how we have been involved with our world, it has been another year of many blessings in so many ways.

We are fortunate to have wonderful financial support to share with communities near and far and have endeavored to share those resources responsibly. Most of our resources, both volunteer and financial, go to non-profits off island in Lee and neighboring counties. Those primarily include Misión Peniel, Pine Manor, Gladiolus Food Pantry, All Souls Episcopal Church, Community Cooperative and Lee Interfaith for Empowerment (L.I.F.E.). Most recently you have helped very successfully with our Holliday Giving Tree for Misión Peniel and Thanksgiving food collection for Gladiolus Food Pantry, and they are so very grateful. Much gratitude also comes from L.I.F.E. for your continued support, that is helping build their resources for working on social justice issues throughout our county.

Our on-island partnerships are very active also, primarily with CHR, FISH, and the Sanibel School, most recently with The Festival of Trees, Jog-n-Jam, and Thanksgiving celebrations. We have also been engaged with Love Sanibel Back and are part of Spiritual Pathways.

Our engagement goes far beyond our local community with support to communities in need across our world. This year we supported communities struggling from humanitarian and natural disasters in Haiti, South Sudan and Jamaica, as well as supporting students in the Dominican Republic. We were also very much engaged with natural disasters in the United States, as a St. Michael's team traveled to Burnsville, North Carolina to help folks rebuild during their struggles with the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene.

As the year closes we are very much in the planning stages to continue much good work

across our world in the coming year. A mission trip to the Dominican Republic is scheduled for February 5-12 to help construct a church in cooperation with the Dominican Development Group, our Diocese and the Diocese of the Upper Great Lakes. If by chance you are interested in coming along, **Jerry Davenport** can hook you up. People often say....wouldn't just sending money be a better investment, but from much previous experience we have heard time and again, we are so blessed to have you "walk beside us" and come all this way to show us how much you care. A previous St. Michaels Pilgrimage team communed with the folks we will be working alongside with in this wonderful endeavor.

We are so thankful to you and so very blessed to have you walk beside us as we continue working with individuals and communities near and far. Many blessings to all in this beautiful season.

~ Outreach Ministry Team

Please Help Us Update Birthdays and Anniversaries?

With so many new faces among us, we want to make sure we have your birthday (and anniversary if appropriate).

We try to pray for each person individually on these special days and will put your name in the worship service bulletin at the appropriate time. It will also appear in the Red Door Newsletter! If you feel so inclined, please fill out the form below and send into the church office, with your name and birth date – with year (*not published but is needed*) – and thank you.

Name: _____

Birthday: _____ / _____ / _____

Name: _____

Birthday: _____ / _____ / _____

Anniversary: _____ / _____ / _____

Save the Date for 2026 Retreats

Retreat Opportunities for the Season Ahead

One of the best gifts we can give ourselves is time set apart—time to listen more deeply for God, rest our hearts, and reconnect with one another. As we move into the new year, St. Michael's is offering several retreat opportunities designed to renew the spirit and strengthen our walk of faith. Whether you are seeking quiet reflection, meaningful fellowship, or a fresh word for your journey, we hope you'll consider joining one (or more!) of these upcoming gatherings.

Retreat with Bishop Brian Prior — January 23-25

We are honored to welcome back Bishop Brian Prior for a special three-day retreat on Friday, – Sunday, January 23-25. You can attend portions of it or experience it fully by attending all the sessions. There will be a dinner and session on Friday night, a session on Saturday which will include lunch, and a final session on Sunday after the 10:30am service which will include a light lunch. Bishop Prior brings a wise, pastoral presence and a gift for helping communities listen for God's invitation in this moment. This retreat will offer space for prayer, teaching, conversation, and spiritual renewal as we begin the year together. If you've been longing for a reset for your soul, this weekend is a wonderful place to start. We will also have a Thursday afternoon gathering at Shell Point

Men's Retreat — February 25–26

Men of St. Michael's are invited to a Men's Retreat on February 24-25 at DaySpring Conference Center led by **The Rev. Bill Livingston** on the meaning of the Lord's Prayer. This is a chance to step away from the pace of daily life and spend time with God and with one another in a setting shaped by fellowship, reflection, and encouragement. Whether you've attended retreats before or are thinking about trying one for the first time, you are warmly welcome.

Women's Retreat — March 21

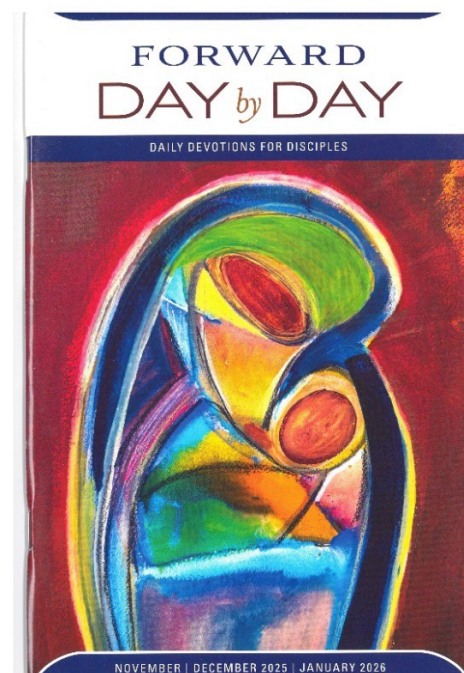
Our Women's Retreat on Saturday, March 21 led by **Rev. Coleen Tully** and **Sue Van Oss** offers a meaningful day of spiritual enrichment and community. It's a beautiful opportunity to gather with other women for prayer, sharing, and grow and leave refreshed and grounded in hope.

How to participate

Registration details and additional information for each retreat will be shared soon through the bulletin, email, and the church website. If you'd like to express interest now or have questions, please reach out to the contacts listed on our spiritual pathways webpage—we'd love to help you find the retreat that best fits your season of life.

As we continue to walk our Spiritual Pathways together, may these retreats be places where God meets you with peace, clarity, and renewed joy. We hope to see you there.

The New Quarter is Available



They can be picked up in the office, gallery or back of the church. If you'd like one mailed please contact the office.

Large print version is available.

May He Rest in Peace

William “Bill” Colehower

November 28, 2025

Memorial Service for Bill ~ February 7, 2026



Memorial Service for Lee Almas

January 31, 2026 @ 11:00 a.m.

Prayer List

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Parishioners:

Don Adams	John Mason
Susie Scutakes	Joan Desilet
Pat Jones	Sally Johnston
Lois Poppele	Mary McManus
Gillian Bath	Shirlla Cuscaden
Susan Lord	Sherry Kanzius
Kristen Beltz	Nancy Maupin
Martha Ponader	Margery Almas

Family of Parishioners:

Kathy Treutelaar	Bud Van Oss
Christina Johnson	Dylan Bartlow
Vreni Greenlee	Lauren Huff Dest
Casey Krusinski	Brian Couser
Rowe Jones	Susan Hodder
Celeste Fraser	Even Parker
Tim Chapman	Toni & Todd Palmer

Friends of Parishioners:

Piff Piffarerio	Fran Daley
Kara K.	Marilyn Sandler
Judy Risch	Brian Troast
Matt Kusteitz	Diana Horton
Bobbi Brown	Eleanor Heim Guarnari
Sandra Elliot	Erik Sauro
Lily & David Diaz	Luz & Jose

December

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Birthdays

2 nd	Janet Davis	16 th	Rookie Bradley
4 th	Barbara Heady		Jonathan Dean
	Marilyn Lewis		Nancy Peterson
7 th	Betsy Barbour	20 th	Roger Heider
9 th	Nancy Johnson	21 st	Sandie Pendleton
10 th	James Davis	23 rd	Alice Wood
	Mallory Haffenreffer	24 th	Terry Baldwin
11 th	Susan Burkart		Lynn Mallory
13 th	Gretchen Van Walterop	25 th	Paulette Robison
14 th	Debbie Larson	27 th	Doug Lind
			Patty Sprankle

December Anniversaries

1 st	Angela & Brian Ellacott
11 th	Marjorie & Will Smith
13 th	Nicole & Ryan Block
20 th	Betsy & Jack Winters
21 st	Marykay & Chuck Haas
23 rd	Mollie & Parke Avery
	Debbie & Bill Larson
27 th	Ellen & John Bordieri
28 th	Sue & Mike Fuller
30 th	Linda & Jim Salisbury

Bible Study with the Rector

Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

via ZOOM

Join the Rector - The Rev. Bill Van Oss – as he leads a lectionary-based Bible study using the scripture readings for the coming Sunday. Join meeting at:

ZOOM Meeting ID#: 829 7038 4775

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82970384775>

Coming Up				
Service of Holy Eucharist & Social Hour	Every Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Sanctuary	
Service of Holy Eucharist & Coffee Hour	Every Sunday	8 & 10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary	
Church Staff Meeting	Every Tuesday	1:30 p.m.	Thomas Madden Room	
F.I.S.H. – Mental Health Services Day	Every Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Library	
Wednesday After School Program	Every Wednesday	2:15 p.m.	Parish Hall	
Yoga Class	Every Thur. & Sat.	9:00 a.m.	Parish Hall	
Santiva Islanders – Bridge	Every Thursday	1:00 p.m.	Library	
Bible Study w/ the Rector	Every Thursday	10:00 a.m.	ZOOM	
Evening Prayer (Compline)	Every Thursday	6:00 p.m.	ZOOM	
Choir Rehearsal	Every Friday	12:00 p.m.	Choir Loft	
AA Meeting	Every Friday	7:30 p.m.	Parish Hall	
Volunteer Day at EveryDay Café	Mon. December 1	9:00 a.m.	CCM Soup Kitchen	
Altar Guild Meeting	Wed. December 3	10:30 a.m.	Church	
FISH Gingerbread House Decorating	Wed. December 3	2:30 p.m.	Parish Hall	
ECW Grants Committee	Thurs. December 4	11:00 a.m.	T. Madden Room	
Digital Ministry	Thurs. December 4	12:00 p.m.	ZOOM	
Christmas Caroling	Thurs. December 4	2:00 p.m.	Kings Crown @ SP	
Grief Support Group	Fri. December 5 / 12	10:00 a.m.	Meditation Room	
Facilities Committee	Fri. December 5	10:30 a.m.	Library	
Sanibel Luminary Stroll	Fri. December 5	5:00 p.m.	Periwinkle Way	
Sanibel Duo Concert	Sat. December 6	3:00 p.m.	St. Michael's	
Nominating Committee	Mon. December 8	10:00 a.m.	Library	
ECW Board Meeting	Mon. December 8	11:00 a.m.	T. Madden Room	
ECW Lunch & Program	Mon. December 8	12:30 p.m.	Parish Hall	
Men's Fellowship (hybrid)	Tues. December 9	8:30 a.m.	Library / ZOOM	
Pastoral Care Ministry	Wed. December 10	10:00 a.m.	ZOOM	
Outreach Ministry (hybrid)	Thurs. December 11	1:00 p.m.	T. Madden Rm / ZOOM	
Lessons & Carols w/Reception	Fri. December 12	3:00 p.m.	St. Michael's	
Messy Church	Sun. December 14	5:00 p.m.	Parish Hall	
Christian Formation Ministry	Mon. December 15	11:00 a.m.	ZOOM	
S.G.: Later Life Reflection Group	Mon. December 15	3:00 p.m.	Cove in Estuary @ SP	
Sacred Stroll	Wed. December 17	7:00 a.m.	Lighthouse Beach	
Spiritual Pathway Meeting	Wed. December 17	10:00 a.m.	Meditation Room	
Vestry Meeting	Thurs. December 18	4:00 p.m.	Rector's Home	
Grief Support Group	Fri. December 19	10:00 a.m.	Meditation Room	
Christmas Eve Service	Wed. December 24	5:00 p.m.	St. Michael's	
Christmas Eve Service	Wed. December 24	8:00 p.m.	St. Michael's	
Christmas Day Service	Thurs. December 25	10:00 a.m.	St. Michael's	
Church Office Closed – Christmas	Thurs-Fri. December 25-26			
Church Office Closed – New Years Eve & Day	Wed.-Thurs December 31, 2025- January 1, 2025			



Advent & Christmas @ St. Michael's



Mark Your Calendars Now!

- Sat/Sun Nov. 15/16- Holiday Sharing Tree begins
- Sat/Sun Nov. 29/30 First Weekend of Advent
Advent In a Bag Distribution
- Wed. Dec. 3 Gingerbread Workshop for kids with FISH and
Afterschool program 2pm
- Thurs. Dec 4, 11, 18 Advent Bible Study 10am Zoom
- Thurs. Dec. 4 Caroling at King's Crown@Shell Point 2pm
- Fri. Dec 5, 12, 19 Grief Support Group 10am
- Fri. Dec. 5 Luminary Event 5-9pm
- Sat. Dec. 6 Concert with Erik Entwistle & Renata Arado 3pm
- Mon. Dec. 8 ECW Christmas Program 12:30pm
- Fri. Dec. 12 Lessons & Carols/Reception 3pm
- Sun. Dec. 14 Christmas Messy Church 5pm
- **Wed. Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Services 5pm and 8pm**
- **Thurs. Dec. 25 Christmas Day Service 10am**

Worship & Fellowship

- **Saturday at 5:00 p.m.** – Holy Eucharist, followed by Social Hour.
- **Sunday at 8:00 a.m.** – Holy Eucharist, followed by Coffee Hour
- ***Sunday at 10:30 a.m.** – Holy Eucharist, followed by Coffee Hour

Livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/smaasanibel
(*With Sunday Shuttle pickup at ShellPoint)

Sunday	5:00 p.m.	Messy Church – December 14 th
Wednesday	11:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study on ZOOM
	6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer (Compline) on ZOOM

----- Noah's Ark Thrift Shop -----

Tuesdays, Fridays and 1st Saturday of the Month

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

239-799-7146

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