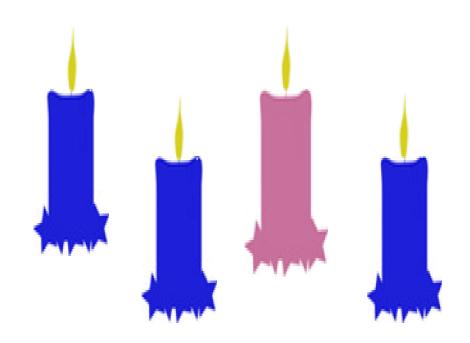
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Service of Holy Eucharist

Saturday, December 20, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. Sunday, December 21, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



Welcome to St. Michael's!

We are a community dedicated to following the Way of Love as shown to us by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. Wherever you are in life, there's a place for you at St. Michael's. We believe every person is created in the image of our loving God; that God's radically inclusive love excludes no one.

I'm New

If this is your first time visiting with us and you need any assistance with the service, please don't hesitate to ask someone for help. To find out more about the many ministries and programs at Saint Michael's, please check out our website, www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org, like our Facebook page and YouTube channel. If you'd like to stay in touch, please fill out a visitor card in the pew and place it in the offering plate after the announcements, or contact Fr. Bill at rector@saintmichaels-sanibel.org.

About Our Worship Today

Worship in the Episcopal Church is participatory and embodied. We stand and kneel, make the sign of the cross at times, sing and breathe together, and walk forward for communion each week. You are welcome to participate at your own comfort level. You will likely see people engaging differently at different times. One of the gifts of the Episcopal tradition is that there are a variety of 'right' ways to participate. The service booklet will give you the words you need and instructions. The words in bold print are said by everyone. Hymns can be found either in the booklet or in the blue or red hymnals in your pew.

Communion is for All

All may come forward to receive communion (or the Eucharist). None are required to receive. We serve both bread and wine. You may choose to receive at your own comfort level, both bread and wine or just bread. You may take a sip of wine from the cup that is offered to you or dip the host into the chalice. You may also come forward with your arms crossed over your chest for a blessing, or you may choose not to come forward at all. Children may receive at any age. Gluten free hosts are available.

Restrooms

Exit at the red doors in the back of the church and walk along the exterior deck through the double glass doors. Down that hallway are accessible restrooms on either side.

Worshiping with Kids

Joyful noise is most welcome here. Many families find that sitting close to the front helps children to see and engage better with the service. We have changing stations in both restrooms. Messy Church is held once a month. We also offer a Wednesday after school program called "Love First." Check our website for the date.

The Liturgical Season

Advent is a four-week season dedicated to reflective preparation for the arrival, "advent", of Jesus at Christmas as well as Christ's expected return in the Second Coming. Advent means "the coming." During this important season, each week focuses on a different theme - hope, peace, joy, and love. Christians from all denominations and backgrounds celebrate Advent in different ways but all focus on the anticipation of waiting for the arrival of Jesus at Christmas.

Prelude (8 & 10:30)

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

arr. Lani Smith

Mike Baldwin, organ ~ Erik Entwistle, piano

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Processional Hymn 56 (vs 7-8) O come, O come, Emmanuel

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lighting of the Fourth Candle on the Advent Wreath ~ Love

Leader: Blessed are you, O Lord our God:

you have loved us from before the foundation of the world, and in your Son

you have shown us love made flesh.

People: Blessed be God for ever.

Leader: As we light the fourth candle of Advent, we give thanks for the love that

draws near to us in Christ – a love that welcomes the stranger, heals the

broken and makes all things new.

(Four candles are lit)

Leader: Let us pray.

O God of love, in Mary's yes you chose a dwelling among us, and in Jesus you embraced the world with mercy. Pour your love into our hearts, that we may prepare room for Christ in our lives and share his love with all we meet. Gather us into your saving purpose until the day we behold your glory face

to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Trisagion (3 times)

(Blue Hymnal S-102)

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

A Reading from The Book of the Prophet Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

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

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; * shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, * stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, *
 how long will you be angered
 despite the prayers of your people?

- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; * you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, * and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, * the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; * give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

(5:00) Instrumental

(8 & 10:30) Sequence Hymn 66

Come, thou long expected Jesus

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 1:18-25 Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Bill Van Oss

(A brief period of silence follows the sermon)

Nicene Creed

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.

The Prayers of the People

Loving God, shape our hearts through our prayer to know you and to love you more perfectly as we say: Lord in your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Help those who follow you to see in each other the fullness of Christ, that we might work together in joy to further your vision for our world. Lord in your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Protect and bless your church in all its diversity and grant wisdom and strength to those who guide and shape its life. Lord in your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Shower your blessings on the leaders of the nations, that they might seek solutions to the world's problems through peaceful cooperation. Lord in your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Lead us to where your loving presence is most needed and help us to be your agents of love to our neighbors. Lord in your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Give us grateful hearts for the gift of the created world around us and help us to work together to preserve and protect it. Lord in your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Bring wholeness to what is broken, relief to what causes pain, and healing to our illnesses. Lift us all who suffer that might find peace through you. We pray especially for Jon Burroughs, Don Rolley, John Green and John Mason; for Joan Desilet, Shirlla Cuscaden, Lois Poppele and Pat Jones; for Sally Johnston, Kristen Beltz, Susan Lord and Sherry Kanzius; for Mary McManus, Nancy Maupin, Martha Ponader and Margery Almas. We pray also – silently or aloud – for friends and family members who we carry in our hearts [PAUSE]. Lord in your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Watch over and bless those who are celebrating a birthday this week, especially Roger Heider, Sandie Pendleton, Alice Wood, Lynn Mallory, Terry Baldwin, Patty Sprankle and Doug Lind; and anniversaries this week: Betsy & Jack Winters, Marykay & Chuck Haas, Mollie & Parke Avery, Debbie & Bill Larson, Ellen & John Bordieri. Lord in your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Assure us of your loving care for those who have died and bolster our faith that we will be reunited with them. Lord in your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

The Confession (You may kneel, stand or sit)

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.

Absolution

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

(Please share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

Celebrant Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offering and come into his courts. (Psalm 96:8)

(5:00) Instrumental

(8:00) **People Look East**

Anne-Marie Bouché

(10:30) **Praise God** (Dedication Anthem)
Choir

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all creatures here below; Praise him above ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

The Great Thanksgiving ~ *Eucharistic Prayer B (BCP 367)*

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 God thanks and praise.

Celebrant

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*

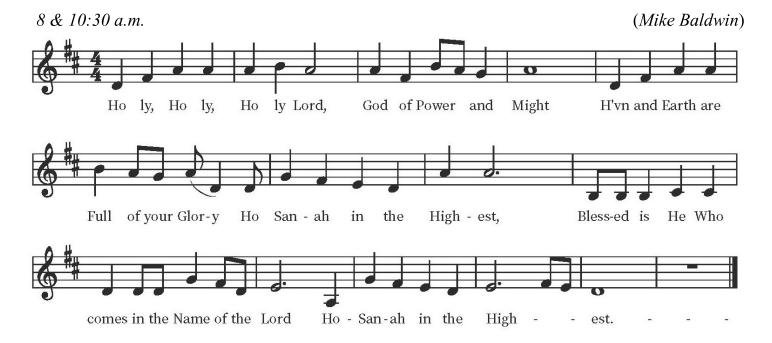
5:00 p.m. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.



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 all 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;

Celebrant

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*.

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

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.

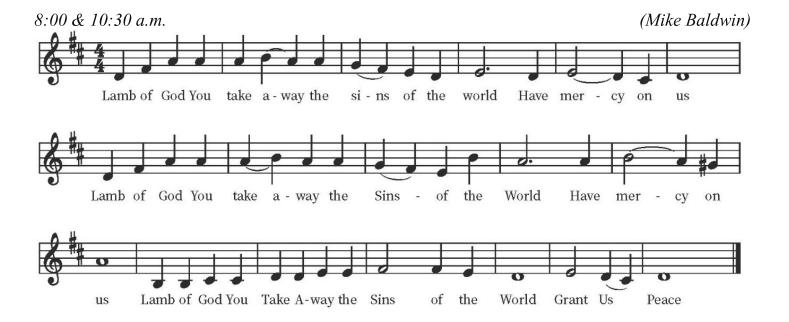
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

Agnus Dei



Celebrant

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

(All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.)

5:00 Communion Music

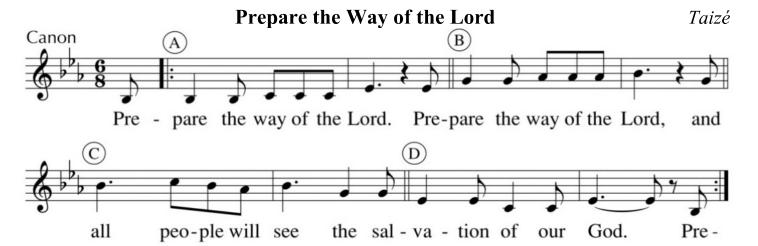
Instrumental

8:00 Communion Music

Creator of the Stars

Anne-Marie Bouché

10:30 a.m. Communion Music



The Lord's my Shepherd



(Rien ne peut nous séparer de l'amour de Dieu qui nous est révélé dans le Christ Jésus. / Nichts kann uns von der Liebe Gottes scheiden, die uns in Christus Jesus offenbart ist. / Nada podrá separarnos del amor de Dios manifestado en Cristo Jesús. / Nic nas nie może odłączyć od miłości Bożej, która została nam objawiona w Chrystusie Jezusie. Rm 8, 38-39)

Prayer of Saint Francis

Make me a channel of Your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring Your love
Where there is injury, Your pardon Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in You.

Make me a channel of Your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
And where there's darkness only light,
And where there's sadness ever joy.

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek So much to be consoled as to console, To be understood as to understand, To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of Your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving of ourselves that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

The Post Communion Prayer [Please stand]

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.

Blessing

Recessional Hymn 73

The King shall come

Dismissal

Alleluia, Alleluia! Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude (10:30)

Soon and very soon

Crouch



Christmas Day — Thursday, December 25th
10:00 a.m.

Notes and Reminders

Helpful reminder for all 2025 contributions: They must be received or postmarked by Monday, December 29th to be included in your end-of-year tax statement.

Saturday Social and Sunday Coffee Hour Hosting Opportunities: We are seeking volunteers to serve as hosts for our Saturday Social/Sunday Coffee Hour gatherings. Your participation is essential to the success of these fellowship events.

How You Can Help:

- Sign Up to Host: Please consider signing up to be a host at any of our services. Your involvement helps foster a welcoming environment for everyone. Sign-up sheets are by the kitchen door.
- Food and Beverages: You are not required to bring anything, as we maintain a supply of pastries in the freezer for Sunday mornings, and cheese, dip, crackers, and chips in the refrigerator for Saturday nights. However, if you would like to bring additional treats, you are welcome to do so.
- Host Responsibilities: Hosting primarily involves setting out the beverages and food before the gathering and putting everything away afterwards. Used dishes can be washed in the dishwasher or simply left in the racks for later cleaning.

Your willingness to host is greatly appreciated and provides a wonderful opportunity to connect and build fellowship with others in our church community. Please consider signing up if you are able to assist.

Noah's Ark Thrift Shop - Holiday Hours (10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.): Open: Tuesday, December 23. Closed: Wednesday, December 24. 2025-Friday, January 2, 2026. Open Saturday, January 3. Regular hours then resume: Tuesdays & Fridays & 1st Saturdays of the month.

Shell Point Bus Service – for 10:30 a.m. Service: We have two buses for the 10:30 service (started November 2). The Church bus is joined by a Shell Point bus to provide rides for many more St. Michael & All Angels worshippers. Please call Susan Gonzalez (239-472-2173) as soon as possible, if you are a Shell Point resident and would like to be added as a regular bus rider. The bus will be available for Christmas Day Service. Please call Susan if you are interested in a ride.

Nametags: If you haven't received a new nametag (with magnetic clasp), please put your name on the note pad on the back table. IMPORTANT HEALTH NOTE: If you have a pacemaker or implantable cardioverter-defibrillator please contact Susan G. and get an alternative nametag.

Coming Up this Month								
Service of Holy Eucharist	Every We	ednesday (resum	es 1/7)	11:30	a.m.	Angel Chapel		
"Love First" After-School Program	Every Wednesday (resumes 1/7)			2:15 p.m.		Parish Hall		
Yoga Class	Every Thursday & Saturday		9:00 a.m.		Parish Hall			
Bible Study w/ the Rector	Every Thursday (resumes 1/8)			10:00 a.m.		ZOOM		
Evening Prayer (Compline)	Every Thursday (resumes 1/8)			6:00 p.m.		ZOOM		
Choir Rehearsal		Every Friday		12:00	p.m.	Music Room		
Christmas Eve Service	Wed.	December 24	5:00	8:00	St. Mi	chael's		
Christmas Day Service	Thurs.	December 25	10:00	a.m.	St. Mi	chael's		
Church Office Closed - Christmas – Thursday, December 25 & Friday, December 26								
Church Office Closed – New Year's Eve & Day – Wed. December 31 & Thurs., January 1, 2026								
Volunteer Day at Everyday Café	Mon.	January 5	9:00	a.m.	CC S	oup Kitchen, FMY		
Volunteer Day at Misión Peniel	Fri.	January 9	10:00) a.m.	Immo	kalee		
Island Woods HOA Annual Mtg	Sat.	January 10	9:00	a.m.	Parish	n Hall		
"Gather Round the Table"	Sun.	January 11	12:00) p.m.	Churc	h Library		
ECW Business Meeting	Mon.	January 12	11:00) a.m.	T. Ma	dden Room		
ECW Lunch & Program	Mon.	January 12	12:30) p.m.	Parish	n Hall		
Men's Fellowship (hybrid)	Tues.	January 13	8:30	a.m.	Librar	y / ZOOM		

Serving this Weekend

	Sat. 5:00 p.m.	Sun. 8:00 a.m.	Sun. 10:30 a.m.			
Eucharistic Ministers	Tom Addison		Maggie Davis James Davis			
Lector	Mike Baldwin	Lee Williams	Susan Burkart			
Prayers of the People	Laura Korn		Roberta Heller			
Altar Guild	Mickey Huff	Linda Riggs	Betsy McCullough Daphne Mason			
Greeters / Ushers	Pat Norton & Hank Feldman	Debbie & Bill Larson	Harriet & Bruce Pattison			
Flower Guild	Adele Mattern, Arlene Petty, Kay Gibb, Harriet Pattison, Carolyn Clark					
Shuttle Bus	-	-	Tom Cleaver			
Livestream Tech	-	-	Sue Van Oss			
Social / Coffee Hour						





DEC. 20

9AM SPIRIT IN MOTION: YOGA

Certified Yoga Instructor JoEllen Simons leads gentle yoga classes in the parish hall for all abilities. Classes are free, donation basket for instructor is available. No class on December 25, December 27 or January 1.

DEC. 24-25

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES 5 & 8 PM, CHRISTMAS DAY 10AM

DEC. 26

NO GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

The group will resume on January 2. This group is now closed for the remainder of the sessions, but a new series of sessions will start after this one is completed in February. To be put on the list for the next series of sessions contact Wayne & Cathy Luman at Lumancathy6@gmail.com

JAN. 11

NOON GATHER AT THE TABLE

A second series of conversations and lunch around C. S. Lewis' Mere Christianity starts for 5 weeks in the church library. Contact Doreen to register

JAN. 11

5PM MESSY CHURCH

Monthly gathering for families with activities, crafts, celebration time with songs and Bible story and provided dinner. January's theme is Peacemakers

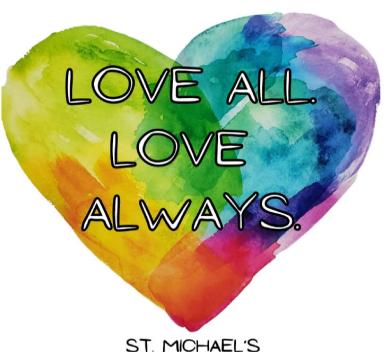
JAN. 21 10AM BRIAN MCLAREN INTERFAITH BOOK STUDY

A four week book study held 10am-11:30am in the church library led by Walter & Betsy Schuman using the book Life After Doom. Register with Betsy, space is limited.

JAN. 23-25

PARISH RETREAT WITH BISHOP BRIAN PRIOR

Sessions on Friday night with dinner, Saturday with lunch and Sunday after the 10:30am coffee hour with Bishop Brian and Staci Prior



ST. MICHAEL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SAINTMICHAELS-SANIBELORG

The Rev. Bill Van Oss, Rector

The Rev. Coleen Tully, Assisting Priest
Erik Entwistle, Music Director/Organist; Mike Baldwin, Organist
Susan Gonzalez, Parish Office Manager; Pat Norton, Finance Director
Wendy Warner, R.N., Parish Nurse; Shelley Lunsford, Youth Leader
Sue Van Oss, Director of Communications, Community Engagement & Christian Formation

The Vestry and Parish Officers:

The Rev. Bill Van Oss, *Rector*; Bill Larson '26, *Senior Churchwarden*; Jerry Davenport '25, *Junior Churchwarden*; Betsy McCullough, *Secretary/Clerk;* Mike Baldwin '25, Paul Chaveas '27, Tom Cleaver '26, Laura Korn '26, Nick Linsmayer '27, Ann Stephens '27, Susie Wilson '25 Mickey Huff, *Treasurer*; Eldon Bohrofen, *Chancellor*

Clergy Associates

The Rev. Gail Avery, The Rev. Dr. Stan Dull, The Rev. Dr. Douglass Lind The Rev. Dcn. Martha Ponader (*Emerita*)

Noah's Ark Thrift Shop (St. Michael's ECW)

239-799-7146

Tuesdays, Fridays & 1st Saturday of the Month ~ 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.