



THE SWORD

St. Michael's Episcopal Church
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Your weekly connection with St. Michael's Episcopal Church

November 27, 2013

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The Thanksgiving altar flower arrangement was beautifully designed this year by **Katy & Dave Pepper**. (see photo at top of newsletter).

HOLIDAY SWORD

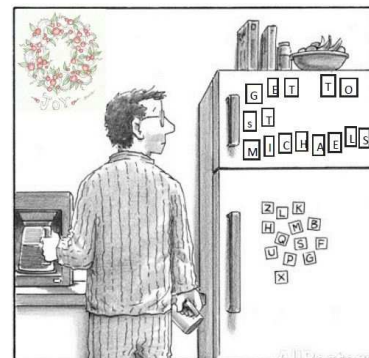
Abbreviated Edition for Thanksgiving Week

From the Rector

Dear People of St. Michael's,

No coherent letter on this eve of Thanksgiving. Instead a few timely notes, as follows:

- First, notes of thanks! To Nancy Holmes for coordinating the Community Thanksgiving Meal AND agreeing to get this Sword to you today. To all who showed up, cheered (and sobbed a bit), prayed, blessed, cooked, served, spoke and otherwise took part in the November 24 leave taking for Nerissa Brueckbauer. AND to 'Mrs. B.' herself, for showing so many of us *how* to leave graciously and intentionally and faithfully.
- Second, notes of holiday greeting AND PLANNING! To get all or most of what's going on in one page that you can review anytime or print and stick to your fridge (or forehead), [click here!](#)
- Third, a request that you pray with me about





A Prayer for Thanksgiving

Loving God,
We turn our hearts to you on this day for giving thanks, mindful of your many gifts. For each one, we are grateful. For each one, we are blessed. For each one we are opened to the abundance of your love. May this Thanksgiving Day offer a reminder to be generous with others, as you are with us. We praise you. We rejoice in you. We give you thanks. Amen.

Did you know?

The name pumpkin originated from the Greek word for "large melon" which is "pepon." "Pepon" was changed by

directions and leadership for all of our children's ministries at St. Michael's. We're all becoming aware that no one soul will ever be able to do all that Nerissa did or BE who she is. I hope parents, in particular, will consider ways to pitch in so that the remainder of our ministries throughout this school year will be meaningful and ... well, orderly! Fr. Kevin and I and others will be sharing more thoughts and questions and information soon. We welcome your inquiries, thoughts and questions.

- Fourth, if you are stressed out about Thanksgiving and want a little laugh, you may want to check out the spoof family-strategy-for-family-Thanksgiving feature that was recently included in *The Onion* and that you can find by [clicking here](http://www.theonion.com/articles/siblings-gather-around-powerpoint-to-hash-out-ofl,34628/).

<http://www.theonion.com/articles/siblings-gather-around-powerpoint-to-hash-out-ofl,34628/>

And, finally, may the thanks to God that we intend on this this Thanksgiving genuinely be known in you and among those whom you love and spill over to be a blessing to others.

Patrick +

The Advent Tree

by Jan Brown

Discovering the symbols of the Advent season and featuring the children and youth of St. Michael's.

The pageant will be presented at the 9:00 a.m. service each Sunday of Advent with the final nativity scene at the 2:00 pm. service on Christmas Eve.



Created by Kailey & Kendall Knoop

The 6 ornaments and symbols of Advent that we will learn about this Sunday are...

- 1.) OWL-Wisdom & Eyes Wide Open
- 2.) BELL-Pay Attention
- 3.) FISH-First Christians & Fishers of Men

the French into "pompon." The English termed it "pumpion" or "pompion."

- 4.) CANDLE-You are the Light of the World
- 5.) APPLE-God Loves Us Even When We Disobey
- 6.) SNOWMAN-Unique, Baptism, & Christian Community

Looking for some resources to help you keep a Holy Advent?

8 Fun Facts about Thanksgiving

1. The first Thanksgiving celebration in 1621 lasted for three days. It included not only food, but also games. The Pilgrims gave thanks for the bountiful harvest with the Wampanoag Indians.
2. Pulling the "wishbone" is an ageless Thanksgiving tradition. Two people pull the turkey's breastbone apart and only the person who has the larger piece of bone is allowed to make a wish.
3. A full-grown turkey has over 3,000 feathers.
4. Firkee (or turky) is the Native American name for this tasty bird. Firkee sounds a bit like turkey.
5. When a Tom turkey [male turkey] gobbles, it can be heard from as far away as a mile. In fact, only the Tom turkeys gobble. Female turkeys

On-line / youtube:

*[The Advent Conspiracy.org](http://TheAdventConspiracy.org), and the Advent Conspiracy app on youtube.com

*Advent2013, episcopaldigitalnetwork.com

*Advent in 2 minutes, youtube.com

For the kids:

*30 days of Joseph and Mary by Jo Glen. Nativity Story retold with daily readings and prayers, interactive with stickers. The gift shop has something similar with magnets.

*The Legend of the Candy Cane by Lori Walburg

*Bright Christmas - An Angel Remembers by Andre W. Clements

*The Littlest Angel by Charles Tazewell

*Mary's First Christmas by Walter Wangerin, Jr.

*The First Christmas by Tomie de Paola

*A Dozen Silk Diapers by Melissa Kajpust

*The Twenty-four Days Before Christmas by Madeleine L'Engel

The song I shared is When Jesus Was A Kid by Peter Alsop, on a cassette (!) entitled A Child's Holiday.

Creative Communications for the Parish is the source for four of the leaflets: A World Awaits by CS Lewis, The Jesse Tree by Debra Grant, It's About Time by Peter Mead, and No Crib for a Bed, by Stephanie Hovland. There are many more available from this website, many can be digitally downloaded. The gift shop also has at least four Advent pamphlets.

Adult reads included:

*Advent and Christmas with Thomas Merton, published by Liguori Publications

*Watch for the Light - Reading for Advent and Christmas, published by Orbis Books

*Dog in the Manger by The Rev. Tim Schenck. You can

make a clucking or clicking sound.

6. Benjamin Franklin, proposed that the turkey should become the official bird of the United States, but the Bald Eagle became the official USA bird.

7. According to the National Turkey Federation, 87% of Americans eat turkey on Thanksgiving. During any given year, the average American eats 17 pounds of turkey, or the weight of a decent sized bird.

8. On the first Thanksgiving the Pilgrims ate deer and not turkey.



access through the Forward Movement's website, or purchase a digital copy through Amazon

Quotes from Dog in the Manger:

"Finding faith amid frenzy is the true spiritual challenge of the season. One path would be to enter a monastery for the month of December, though good luck telling your spouse, kids, family and friends about this plan. They may have you committed some place with padded walls rather than stone ones. The other option is to find God in the very midst of your Christmas chaos."

"During Advent we hear so many voices, often including our own, screaming "I can't wait!" Well, actually, we can and we must. Holy waiting is a discipline worth practicing. It can be practiced through increased diligence to prayer and meditation and during periods of silence. Does this seem impossible during this "most wonderful time of the year"? It is not. It means listening more resolutely to the still small voice within- and ignoring the loud, large voice from beyond that's yelling, "I can't wait!"

Black Friday (and Saturday & Sunday) at St. Michael's!



A.W.S.M Advent Gathering December 4 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Join All Women of St. Michael's for an evening of fun and fellowship at Michele Phillip's home. Enjoy catching up with your friends, singing Christmas carols and learning about Advent traditions and activities. OPTIONAL donations of

Another Thanksgiving Tradition!

The National Football League has a traditional series of games played during the Thanksgiving holiday in the United States. It has been a regular occurrence since the league's inception in 1920. Currently, three NFL games are played every Thanksgiving. Our **Chicago Bears** are not playing on Thanksgiving this year *but* you can watch.....

Packers/Lions 11:30a
Raiders/Cowboys 3:30p
Steelers/Ravens 7:30p



diapers, wipes, baby food and formula will be collected for St. Cyprian food pantry both at the gathering and at a drop off box by the Community Room. Checks with "diapers" written in the memo section can be donated the night of the event or to the church office. For additional information such as what refreshments to bring please contact Michele Phillips at flips712@comcast.net or 847-304-4107.

Lessons and Carols Sunday, December 8, 5:00 p.m.



If you can help with the reception please contact Dolores Duncan at 847-428-5019. Food plates for the reception table are always appreciated.

Loving Memory Tree

A "Loving Memory Tree" has been placed in the narthex (front foyer). It's a simple tree with no decorations other than small white lights. You are invited to write the



name of a loved one who has passed away on one of the white ribbons provided, and tie it onto the tree. The tree starts out barren, but over the course of the Christmas season it will become filled with the memories of loved ones who are no longer with us. By putting their names on the tree,

we remind ourselves that our dear departed are present with us in the body of Christ and in our Christmas worship. You are welcome to place as many ribbons on the tree as you would like. Messages of hope, written on the ribbons, are also encouraged. The tree will stay up in the Narthex until after our celebration of Epiphany on January 6th.



**Praying in the
Wilderness
December 18 at
7:00 p.m.**

This is the second year we are sharing this liturgy at St. Michael's. Through it we aim to provide a positive atmosphere of sanctuary for those whose holidays are not all merry. We'll include a simple, optional

anointing & laying on of hands with prayers that may be offered for individual healing and/or for others in need and/or for the departed.

Christmas Flower Donations:

Please consider giving a donation for the flowers that will adorn the altar at Christmas. Your donation can be made in memory or thanksgiving of someone. Flower offering envelopes are in the narthex. To help ensure that your name(s) appear in the Christmas bulletin, please return your envelope to the parish office by December 18.

Thank you!



**~ Celebrate the Christ Child ~
Christmas Services**

December 24, Christmas Eve

2:00 p.m. Eucharist

4:00 p.m. Eucharist

9:00 p.m. Eucharist

11:00 p.m. Eucharist

December 25, Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Eucharist

Contact Info

St. Michael's Vestry

Kathy Sawyer Randolph - Sr. Warden

Shan Atkins - Jr. Warden
Pete Douglas, Lora Gier, David Bishop, Sof Ts'o
Dolores Kampert, Ray Kean, Pat Kane, Mike Savage
Christy Cressey, John Totten, Teri Doran, Lance Marcinek
John Davis - Treasurer, Craig Anderson - Clerk
Marissa Longo, Youth Representative
Madelyn Lanham, Youth Representative

Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Patrick Raymond, Rector; The Rev. Kevin Caruso,
Associate Rector; The Rev. Laurie Michaels, Deacon; Caren
Hunter, Director of Little Angels Christian Preschool; David
Baker, Director of Music Ministries; Thom Wibbels,
Organist; Kara Joy Baker, Youth Pastor & Director of
Children's Choir; Kim Lessner, Parish Operations; Nancy
Holmes, Parish Administrator & Rector's Assistant;
Rich Hornickel, Sexton.

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The Sword is published each Thursday. The deadline to
submit items to be included is Tuesday at Noon. Any
questions or comments regarding this publication should be
sent to news@stmichaelsbarrington.org.

Thanksgiving Blessings to All!

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