

# SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# THE MESSENGER

Mailed December 1, 2011

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## Christmas Services



### December 24 Christmas Eve

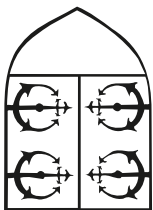
- 4:00 pm Children's Service with Nativity Play and Eucharist
- 6:00 pm Eucharist with carols
- 8:00 pm Eucaristía en español
- 10:30 pm Carols with choir and congregation
- 11:00 pm Christmas Candlelight Festival Eucharist

### December 25 Christmas Day (Sunday)

- 11:00 am Eucharist with carols
- 1:00 pm Eucaristía en español

### January 1 New Year's Day (Sunday)

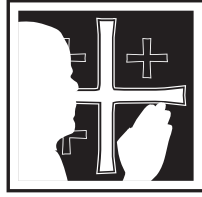
- 11:00 am Eucharist (Seasonal readings with carols)
- 1:00 pm Eucaristía en Español



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Gloria Orellana, Office Administrator	Ext. 317	Linda Royal, Financial Administrator	Ext. 320

## YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR . . .

- + healing for Larry Jessup, Cornelia Lovejoy, Lucretia Gardner, Jim Anderson, Gerri Wise, Agnes Mackie, and Gayle Morris
- + the repose of the soul of Penny Weber, who died on November 2, and for her brother- and sister-in-law Christine and Robert Weber-Kearney in their sorrow
- + the repose of the soul of Margaret (Peggy) Barnett, who died on November 8, and for her daughter Maggie in her sorrow
- + the repose of the soul of Dee Osburn, who died on November 15, and for her son and daughter-in-law Oz and Natalie in their sorrow
- + thanksgiving for Perla Garcia Muñoz, Marisol Estrellita Ureña, and Valeria Corona Andrade, each of whom celebrated their Quinceañera here during the month of November.
- + all those in our community who are seeking employment or who are underemployed

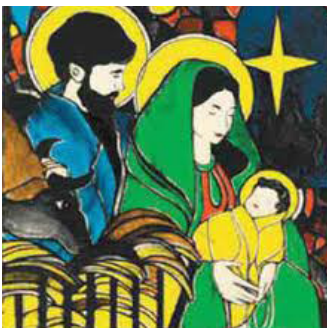


## DECEMBER FEASTS IN THE MISA COMMUNITY

Everyone is warmly invited to join our 1:00 community for two special occasions this month. On Sunday, December 11, St. Michael's will celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe with a special midnight liturgy to sing *Las Mañanitas* to the Mother of God, who appeared on the hill of Tepeyac outside Mexico City in the 16th century as a young indigenous woman speaking Nahuatl. Please join us for mariachis starting at 8:00 pm, a procession at 10:30 pm, and the Eucharist beginning at 11:00 pm. Last year, there were about 200 people there — in the middle of the night! It's a not-to-be-missed event and a warm, splendid expression of faith and community for the whole parish.



On Friday, December 23, at 6:30 pm, we will celebrate our yearly Posadas, in which children playing Joseph and Mary go from door to door looking for a place for Jesus to be born. When the last door finally opens for them, a party follows with music and piñatas! All are welcome to join us for these special festivities or at 1:00 pm every Sunday.



— Gabe Lamazares

## ASSISTANT RECTOR'S CORNER

As we begin a new year in the church, I find myself day-dreaming and worrying and ruminating on the events of the year in our public life. This year has brought great change and upheaval in our political consciousness. The Arab Spring toppled dictatorships throughout the Middle East and North Africa. This summer, we watched a showdown unfold over raising the debt ceiling with no fruit but further acrimony on both sides. The Occupy Wall Street Movement spread to many other cities including our own Portland as a visible expression of dissatisfaction, bewilderment, and anger at economic injustice growing unchecked.

More than anything in reflecting on these events, I confess to a feeling of helplessness. The political process seems so poisoned by mistrust, so unduly influenced by shadowy political action committees and lobbyists, so locked in its own byzantine skirmishes that I've almost forgotten that true politics is really about us. It's not a dirty word! Politics is about our common life, listening to one another, working out agreements from our vast common heritage that honor our many views and values, and nourishing the bonds that keep us together as a society.

Through all this, I have come to take great comfort in the recent work of Parker Palmer called *Healing the Heart of Democracy*. In it, he helps all of us who sometimes despair of this behemoth called 'democracy' that has disappointed us so many times. I can't recommend it highly enough. A discussion group will be gathering on Mondays; contact Letty Phillips if you're interested in joining. I will make every effort to be there because I want to come down from the battlements where I isolate myself from those who disagree with me. Coming out from behind the walls, it is my Advent hope that there is still the desire and the will to meet face-to-face, to listen carefully, and to act from our deepest convictions for our common good.

## LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Please join us on December 21 at 7:00 pm when St. Michael's will host a special prayer service for the longest night of the year. Following the example of other churches, our Longest Night service will be a safe place for all those who are sad or discouraged at the holidays to bring their burdens and lay them down, or just bear them for a while longer among friends as we seek the presence of the One who comes "with healing in his wings," even in our darkest days.



— Gabe Lamazares



## OUTREACH & JUSTICE MINISTRIES

A lot of good work is going on this year! I hope lots of you stayed for the Meal + Ministry on November 20 to hear about just a few of them. Information was available from Ann Smith for the Alternative Gift Catalog, from Georgia Leibowitz about the Community Meal, Letty Phillips and Pat Klum for the Second Saturday Lunches, and Orin Bolstad about the Foster Care Ministry.

The Alternative Gift Catalog is now available, containing many good and deserving agencies. We can gift with pride when we choose to help these wonderful programs trying to make a difference in the world.

Be sure to attend the forum on December 18 when the Foster Care Ministry has the floor. Orin Bolstad will showcase the efforts so far this year and the ongoing plans St. Michael's has with these children.

Two recent rallies downtown concerned issues St. Michael's has



addressed in the past. The first, held on November 17, was called by Bread for the World. Speakers asked for prayers and for phone calls to our representatives demanding no decrease in the amount of U.S. aid given to people in need, both here and abroad.

A march and rally for Single Payer Health Care was held downtown on November 19. Among the speakers were Dr. Paul Gorman, one of the Mad as Hell Doctors; Representative Michael Dembrow of District 45, the author among others of HB 3510, a plan for Single Payer for Oregon; and David Young, a St. Michael's parishioner and a member of Jobs With Justice and Nurses for Single Payer Health Care.

Representatives of the Vermont Workers Center will visit Portland Community College Cascade on December 17 from 1:00-4:00 pm. The title of their talk is *How We Won Health Care for All*, and all are welcome to attend. For more information, go to [www.jwjpx.org](http://www.jwjpx.org).

The forum on November 20 involved Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Leslie Tuomi of St. Michael's and Al Sigala, V.P. of Community Relations and Diversity Programs at Big Brothers Big Sisters, were on hand to explain the program and discuss how it can impact at-risk children positively. To learn more, their website is [www.bbbs.org](http://www.bbbs.org).

All are welcome to attend our meetings, held on the first Thursday of each month in the Parish Hall at 7:00 pm.

— Lynn Baker and Susan Barnett, Co-conveners

## WELCOME TO THE 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL L'ARCHE PORTLAND TREE SALE!



From Friday, November 25, through Monday, December 19, 2011, the L'Arche tree lots will be open for the sale of locally grown and freshly cut Christmas trees. There is a wide variety of Noble and Douglas firs with sizes to fit every home, from tabletop to ceiling toppers. The trees are great, and your purchase supports the

L'Arche Portland homes. L'Arche is a nonprofit organization that provides lifelong family homes for people with developmental disabilities. Caregivers live in community and share life with those with disabilities, helping them to create nurturing, rich and meaningful lives. Several St Michael's parishioners are active with L'Arche Portland and encourage you to buy your tree and support this very worthy organization.

You can purchase a beautiful Christmas tree at one of two locations: the Hollywood Neighborhood lot near the parish, at NE 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Hancock in the Grocery Outlet parking lot; and the Montavilla location, in the Safeway parking lot at SE 82<sup>nd</sup> and Burnside. For families with little ones, Santa will be visiting the Hollywood lot on December 3 and 17 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. For more info see [www.larche-portland.org](http://www.larche-portland.org).

— David Perry

## HOLIDAY PARTY FOR FOSTER KIDS AND THEIR PARENTS

On December 20, from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm, St. Michael's is hosting its Third Annual Holiday Party for foster kids and their parents.

Between now and then, we request your donations of teddy bears and inexpensive, unwrapped Christmas presents for foster kids. Last year, we collected over 200 teddy bears.



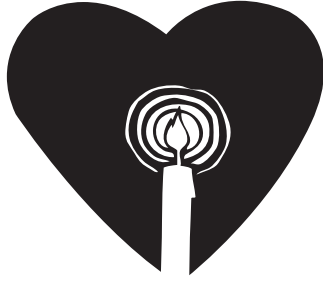
Several volunteers have stepped forward to act as hosts/hostesses and to help with cleanup, but more volunteers are welcome. We also could use healthy party snacks such as veggies, cheese, and crackers.

This is always a fun and boisterous party with a live band, Santa Claus and craft stations. It is also a rewarding way to serve the foster kids and their parents right here in our local community. At the adult forum on December 18, several foster parents will share their experiences with us. All of this is part of our Outreach and Justice Ministry to children in need. Please join us as you are able.

— Orin Bolstad, Vestry member

## ALTERNATIVE GIFT CATALOG

Advent is here, and with it another opportunity to give a “Gift from the Heart.” The annual St. Michael’s Alternative Gift Catalog will be available between services throughout Advent. Instead of shopping in a crowded department store, shop right here at St. Michael’s for some garden seeds for a family in Central America, a bucket of paint for an affordable house under construction in Portland, or a week of lunches for a student in Zambia — all in a loved one’s name. There are many gifts to choose from, benefitting both local and international organizations. Merry Christmas!



— Ann Smith for Outreach & Justice Ministries

## TEN DAYS OF CHRISTMAS



Do you enjoy wrapping gifts and putting together gift baskets? If so, please join volunteers from the Pastoral Care Committee on Saturday, December 10, from 1:00-3:00 pm in the Nativity Hall. We will work together to create gift baskets for individuals and families who would benefit from some additional joy this holiday season. If you are able, please bring your own scissors, tape, and gift-wrap. In addition, we could use some more inexpensive gifts (\$1-\$2 range) as well. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Jonelle Phelps at 503/408-1758 or [jonelle@spiritone.com](mailto:jonelle@spiritone.com).

## EL PORVENIR EXPANDS IN THE PORTLAND AREA

As a member of the St. Michael’s El Porvenir team, I spoke with 15 enthusiastic members of the



**El Porvenir**  
*Dedicated to sustainable development in Nicaragua*

Fremont United Methodist Church in Portland earlier this month regarding their planned brigade to Nicaragua in February. This group will be working in the Camoapa area, near where our group worked this summer, and constructing a *lavandero*. It was great to talk with the group and share some of the more subtle keys to success in Nicaragua, such as bringing educational supplies and baseball gear and providing gifts to the community rather than individuals. The potential for joint projects with Fremont United and other groups such as *Water for People* is exciting.

— Ron Geason

## LET’S HONOR OUR SERVICE MEMBERS

If you have a relative in the Armed Forces, please let me know so we may honor them in our display. Send a small photograph and information about where your loved one is stationed, with what unit, for how long, and anything else you’d like us to know. It would be helpful to have your name and relationship as well.

Our display presently resides on the east wall of the Nativity Hall. There may be some changes required in the display at present, so let me know about those as well.

Please drop off any information at the church office, or contact Lynn Baker at [lm.rl.baker@comcast.net](mailto:lm.rl.baker@comcast.net) or 503/284-1011.

## NEW ORGANIST SELECTED

Thirty years have passed since St. Michael’s had to undertake a search for a new organist. We have been very blessed to have such a remarkable musician in Bob Spiers, who has shared with us his many gifts and talents — musical and otherwise — for almost three decades. Preparing for his January 29th retirement, we gathered a dedicated group of folks to select a new organist. Numerous well-qualified individuals applied for the position, and we had ample opportunities to interview and listen to a number of them. We prayed about our decision and ultimately selected Ms. Hannah Brewer from Ojai, California.

Hannah graduated from Oberlin College and Conservatory of Music with degrees in Art History and Organ Performance. She furthered her education and earned a Master’s Degree in Organ Performance from Pittsburg State University and a Master’s Degree in Art History from The Courtauld Institute of Art in London. She also served as organist for St. George-in-the-East Church in London. We will welcome her to St. Michael’s in early February, 2012.

— Chris Craun

## BOB IS RETIRING!

Can it be? Yes, and we’re having a Bob Spiers Appreciation Dinner to commemorate this truly momentous occasion! It will follow the Evensong on January 29 (also Bob’s birthday!). The Evensong music was selected by Bob, who will enjoy it from the congregation that evening.

As you know, space is limited at St. Michael’s for such a party, so your reservations need to be made by January 22. And while there will be no ticket purchase price, there will be a suggested donation to cover the cost of the food.

Let’s come together to wish Bob well and to honor many years of service to this parish.

## FESTIVE RECEPTIONS VOLUNTEERING

### SMALL COMMITMENT = BIG MINISTRY

**What's a Festive Reception?** On special occasions like All Saints Day, Christmas Eve, and St. Michael's Day, we host Festive Receptions after the services. We also have receptions after special events such as Lessons & Carols and Evensong.

**It's a ministry? Really?** What does standing around the Parish Hall with a cup of coffee and a snack have to do with ministry? Let me shine a light on a few things to help clear up any confusion about the importance of our periodic Festive Receptions:

During the preparation of receptions, we **create opportunities for friendships** that may begin in our kitchen and last a lifetime.

We **feed people both physically and spiritually** who would otherwise go home to an empty house. This is especially important around the Christmas holidays.

We **empower folks who want to be a part of the ministry** at St. Michael's — but don't feel they can manage the work of something like a committee — to feel that they've made a meaningful contribution to church life.



**How do we do this?** For each reception, there is a Reception Chair and Co-Chair who plan how the reception will go and make sure there are enough volunteers. Several people volunteer to bring sweet or savory treats. Those who like to bake will bake; those who like to buy will buy; those who don't like to do either might set up or clean up. Set-up people plate the food, set the table and make the coffee. During the reception, they keep the buffet table tidy. Clean-up people do just that. The kitchen jobs sometimes overlap.

**Are you afraid you won't know how?** There will always be someone to show you the ropes. The kitchen is a busy, happy place, and your efforts will always be appreciated.

**Will I miss the church service?** No. We work as a team so that everyone can make it to the service.

To make this all work, **we need volunteers!** Please consider becoming part of this important ministry! It's vital that we

never lose sight of the importance of our hospitality ministry at St Michael's. Our festive receptions provide an opportunity to celebrate and to nurture relationships. Thanks again!

Kathleen Rose is the Reception Coordinator, and she'd love to hear from you at 503/477-6426 or [giantcedartree@gmail.com](mailto:giantcedartree@gmail.com), or you may simply contact the church office.

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## THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

I appreciate all the volunteers who helped with the recent receptions! By our usual standards, it was a small crew on All Saints Day; but thanks to their quick work and great attitude, we pulled it off! The exceptional set-up and clean-up crew included Paul LaCroix, Terrie Ingram, Janet Cowal and Kelly Zander. Special thanks to the folks who brought treats that day.

The only way to describe the reception after Evensong and Organ Concert was — plentiful! Thank you for all the generous gifts of good things to eat! The reception crew included Terrie Ingram, Leslie and Audrey Sackett, Barbara Porterfield, Bev Hoeffler, Amparo Abila and Mary Lou Hennrich.

In addition, we would like to express our appreciation to Ann Wetherell, who again this year created 'A Great Cloud of Witnesses' for All Saints Day. She was ably assisted by Lynda Garner, Mitch and Karen Oglesby, Letty Phillips, Susie Silva-Strommer, and Amy Valentine. Thank you all!

— Kathleen Rose, Reception Coordinator and the St. Michael's staff and congregation

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## SABORES DE LA MISA: ¡UN GRAN ÉXITO!

On November 12, the Parish Hall was transformed by Lynda Garner and Amy Valentine into an elegant dining room such as you'd find at an international gathering in Latin America. A sold-out crowd enjoyed a multi-course meal with dishes representing the various countries of our Misa members. Attendees enjoyed three types of *aperitivos* (appetizers), fresh jicama salad, *mole negro* with chicken, *arroz cubana*, *gandules* (pigeon peas), and *Tres Leches* cake for dessert. Beautiful keepsake menus were created and included explanations of the dishes on the back side. Over 25 of our Misa members (including many of the Misa middle- and high-school youth) decorated, cooked, served, washed dishes and danced salsa! All of the proceeds of over \$2,500 were contributed to the St. Michael's operating budget. *Muchas gracias* to everyone for their support!



— Susie Silva-Strommer, Senior Warden

## JOYFUL NEWS DECEMBER 2011



### Sharon's Christmas Prayer, by John Shea

She was five,  
sure of the facts,  
and recited them  
with slow solemnity,  
convinced every word  
was revelation.  
She said

*They were so poor  
they had only peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to eat  
and they went a long way from home without getting lost.  
The lady rode a donkey, the man walked, and the baby  
was inside the lady.  
They had to stay in a stable with an ox and an ass (hee-hee)  
but the Three Rich Men found them  
because a star lited the roof,  
Shepherds came and you could pet the sheep but not feed them.  
Then the baby was borned.  
And do you know who he was?*

Her quarter eyes inflated to silver dollars.

*The baby was God.*

And she jumped in the air,  
whirled round, dove into the sofa,  
and buried her head under the cushion,  
which is the only proper response  
to the Good News of the Incarnation.

***Wishing all the children and the people who love and care  
for them a blessed and joyful Christmas!***

— Leslie Sackett  
Associate for Ministry with Children and Families

### Children & Family Ministries December 2011

**December 3:** Saturday Advent Retreat for Families, 9:30 am to 12:00 pm

**December 4:** Godly Play & Sunday School, 10:10 am (Nativity Play rehearsals begin)

**December 11:** Joyful Noise Choir sings at the 11:00 liturgy  
Godly Play & Sunday School, 10:10 am (Nativity Play rehearsal)

**December 18:** Nativity Play rehearsal (all ages), 10:10 am

**December 23:** Nativity Play rehearsal on Friday from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm

**December 24:** Christmas Eve Family Service, 4:00 pm  
All Nativity Players arrive at 3:15 pm

**December 25:** Christmas Day Service at 11:00 am (No Godly Play or Sunday School today)



### Looking ahead to 2012...

**January 1:** New Year's Day Service at 11:00 am, Special Seasonal Readings!  
(No Godly Play or Sunday School today)

**January 6:** Epiphany (Feast of Lights)  
Friday night all-parish dinner followed by a short bilingual service and visit from the Magi

**January 8:** Feast of Jesus' Baptism  
Godly Play & Sunday School classes resume, 10:10 am

Joyful Noise Choir sings at 11:00 am (rehearsal at 10:00 am)

**January 11:** Joyful Noise Art Class Winter Term begins today (Wednesdays 3:30 – 5:00 pm)

**January 15:** Godly Play & Sunday School at 10:10 am

**January 21:** Music Makers Class at 4:30 pm, Saturday Family Worship & Potluck at 5:00 pm

**January 22:** Godly Play & Sunday School, 10:10 am

Annual Parish Meeting, 3:00 pm

**January 29:** Godly Play & Sunday School, 10:10 am

Evensong and Celebration of Bob Spiers' Ministry at St. Michael's, 5:00 pm

ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS  
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**CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS**

- DEC. 3            **9:30 am - 12:00 noon** Family  
Advent Retreat
- DEC. 4            **10:10 am** Forum: Environmental  
Stewardship
- 5:30 pm** Pizza Club
- DEC. 11          **10:10 am** Forum: Church News with  
Chris Craun
- 8:00 pm** Our Lady of Guadalupe  
liturgy and celebration
- DEC. 12          **7:00 pm** Taizé prayer service
- DEC. 17          **7:00 pm** Lessons & Carols
- DEC. 18          **10:10 am** Forum: Foster Parents
- DEC. 20          **9:00 am** Holiday Party for foster  
children
- DEC. 21          **7:00 pm** Longest Night service
- DEC. 23          **7:00 pm** Las Posadas

DEC. 24            **Services at 4:00, 6:00 & 11:00 pm;  
8:00 pm in Spanish**

DEC. 25            **11:00 am** Christmas Day liturgy  
**1:00 pm in Spanish**

SEE THE WEBSITE FOR A FULL OFFERING OF UPCOMING  
SERVICES, EVENTS, AND CLASSES:  
[WWW.STMAA.ORG](http://WWW.STMAA.ORG).

**YOU ARE INVITED TO**

**CANDLELIGHT FESTIVAL**

**LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**Saturday, December 17, 2011, at 7:00 pm**

One of the most beautiful services of the year, this is a perfect way to enter into the Advent and Christmas season. Led by St. Michael's Singers, carols and hymns are sung in response to biblical lessons that foretell the coming of the Messiah.  
*A festive reception will follow.*