

*St. Michael's Episcopal Church
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI*

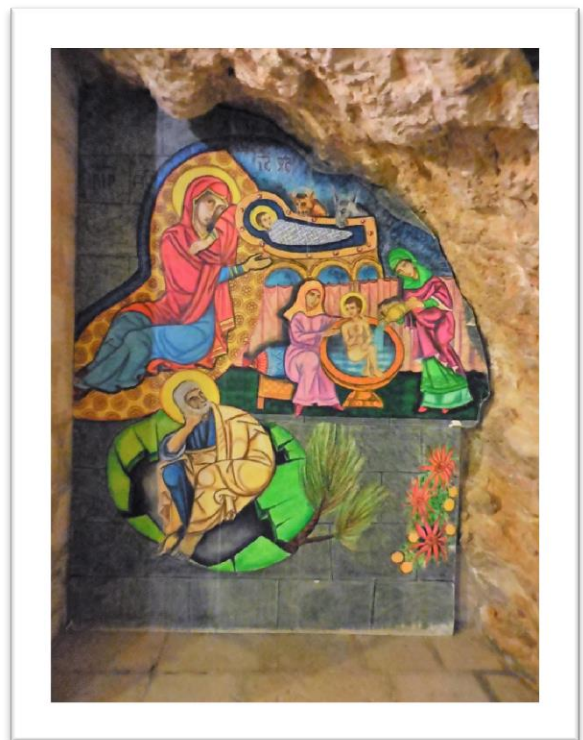
*Weekly Newsletter
December 24th, 2017*



Blessings for this Season of Love The Reverend Maryjane Peck

This was a photo I took in the cave where Jesus was born. It is a reminder that Jesus was born into this human family. Jesus although Divine, shared in our humanity. This picture reminds us that his birth was just a beginning. It was the way he lived his life that gave purpose and meaning to his birth. With the birth of this child, the hopes and dreams of an entire nation for salvation rested. However, expectations of what that should look like brought disappointment to many. They wanted a physical release from bondage. What was given was a spiritual freedom that lifts us up beyond the earthly into the promise of sharing in eternal life with God. The birth of Jesus was just a beginning of the story of God's love for us.

We each start off life as an innocent baby. How we choose to live that life is a choice we make daily. Each of us is born with a life purpose. At Baptism, we are to share in the ministry of Christ. This season is about beginning anew. We each have this opportunity to reflect back on what we have done and what more we could be doing. Jesus' message was love: love of God and love of neighbor. It is easy to share in that love during this season. The commercialization of Christmas is about the giving and receiving of gifts. The most important gift that we have been given is God's grace, which is mirrored in the arrival of the birth of God's son. This Son lived a life of care, kindness and love. He stood up to those in power when they were using the laws to oppress people.



His life manifested change. He brought a new light into the world. Because of Jesus' birth, we now are given the opportunity to share in that light. To reflect God's light into the world.

During this season of darkness, with short days and long nights, let Christ's light reflect through you. We start this season, sharing love through the exchange of gifts and fellowship. May we continue to carry this feeling of love and compassion for all throughout this coming year. Jesus' light was born into this world. May we continue to keep that light bright so all can find God's love within us.

I wish you blessings of love this Christmas.

Step Into the New Year!

Sunday, December 31st, 4 - 6:00 pm

We are offering a unique way to greet the New Year. Come and enjoy a brief New Year's event designed to create hopeful tomorrows.

4:00 Gather, enjoy light refreshments and fellowship

4:30 Participate in prayers of thanksgiving and hopefulness

4:45 Participate in individual activities of your choice to reflect on 2017 and your hopes for 2018.

- Walk the indoor or outdoor candlelit labyrinth
- Draw and/or color a mandala (diagrams that reflect wholeness)
- Use a finger labyrinth
- Write your thoughts in a journal
- Sit silently and pray or meditate

5:45 Gather to receive a blessing for the New Year. Open to all! Please invite your friends and neighbors to come with you.

Outreach

St. Michael's gift of \$1,500 to Episcopal Relief and Development has provided two goats, one pig, clean water, care for two moms and newborns, vitamins and preventative medicine, ten disaster relief kits and *more*, which will transform lives with lasting impact.

Craft Day

Saturday January 13th, 9 am - 1pm

Come and share what you are working on, all crafts are welcome (quilting, crochet, knitting, sewing, etc.) Some people work on charity projects (Prayer Shawls, Octopus' for Premies, quilts, hats, etc.) and others bring their own projects. If you have any questions, contact Barbara Barringer: 586-778-2311

St. Michaels Book Group

Sat. February 3rd 10-11:30 am

The Lounge

Our next book is Open Heart by Elie Wiesel. "A profoundly and unexpectedly intimate, deeply affecting summing up of life so far, from one of the most cherished moral voices of our time." *Everyone* is welcome! You are very welcome to attend, even if this is your first book group discussion! Contact Elaine Backhurst with questions: 313-884-6718.

Thrift Shop

The Little Thrift Shop is back to their regular schedule, opening the 4th Sunday of each month.

Message from Stewardship

If you have not received a pledge card, please stop in the office and request one. You can also see or call me and I will make sure you receive one.

From the Treasurer

All monies received post marked 12/31/2017 will be reported on your annual statement. If you want to report your donation please make sure your contributions are in the office by 12/31/2017 or post marked by 12/31/2017.

Church Office

Do you have a change of address, phone number or email? If you have any changes, please call or email Holly in the office so we can print out new, updated 2018 directories and keep in touch!

If you have something to contribute to the Weekly Newsletter, please email your info. by MONDAY to: stmichaelsgpw@gmail.com

Upcoming Events - Save the Date!

Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Services
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Service
Dec. 27	Prayer Works
Dec. 31	New Years Eve Service
Dec. 31	Step into the New Year
Jan. 2	Service at Shorepointe Village
Jan. 3	Prayerworks
Jan. 3	Stewardship Meeting
Jan. 4	Coffee talk at Farbella
Jan. 8	Coffee Hour
Jan. 9	ECW Meeting
Jan. 9	Finance Meeting
Jan. 9	Property Meeting
Jan. 10	Prayer Works
Jan. 10	Outreach Meeting
Jan. 11	Coffee talk at Farbella
Jan. 13	Craft Day
Jan. 16	Vestry Meeting
Jan. 17	Prayer Works
Jan. 18	Coffee talk at Farbella
Jan. 22	St. Teresa Guild Meeting
Jan. 23	St. Elizabeth Guild Meeting

Assisting at our Services Interim Rector The Rev. Maryjane Peck

8:00 AM Service code: + is sub

8:00 AM	3-Dec	10-Dec	17-Dec			
Acolyte	J. Zink	J. Zink	J. Zink			
Altar Guild	E. Backhurst K. McLeod D. Pegg M. Maiuri	E. Backhurst K. McLeod D. Pegg M. Maiuri	E. Backhurst K. McLeod D. Pegg M. Maiuri			
LEM	J. Zink	D. Lockhart	L. Schmitt-Matzen			
Lector	C. MacDonald		G. McQueen			
Ushers	D. Schmitt-Matzen L. Schmitt-Matzen L. Schmitt-Matzen	P. Gibson D. Backhurst	W. Rogers A. Grayr J. Pattee			
Vestry Rep						

10:30 Service code: + is sub

10:30 AM	3-Dec	10-Dec	17-Dec	24-Dec 9:30am	24-Dec 4:00/9:00pm	25-Dec 9:30am	31-Dec 9:30am
Acolytes	T. Pappas						
Altar Guild	J. Graham K. Johnson				E. Backhurst K. McLeod M. Maiuri	D. Pegg	K. McLeod D. Pegg M. Maiuri
LEM	D. Lockhart M. Miller	J. Zink S. Fisher-Lewis	K. Groschner B. Davenport		D. Lockhart L. Schmitt-Matzen/ D. Ludlow K. Groschner	B. Davenport	S. Fisher-Lewis J. Zink
Counters	D. Scrace J. Patee	K. O'Connor K. Groschner	G. McQueen D. Lockhart	J. Graham B. Pappas			
Greeters	B. Sheehy J. Sheehy	D & K Zmyslowski	B & J Thompson	J. Graham K. Johnson	/G & B Davenport		E. Garzel
Lector	B. Davenport	B. Payton	S. Fisher-Lewis	C. MacDonald	S. Fisher-Lewis/ K. Groschner	D. Pegg	F. Twiddy
Prayers	C. Steinkampf	E. Garzel	M. Krawczyk	M. Krawczyk	G. McQueen/ F. Twiddy	D. Pegg	E. Garzel
Ushers	P. Dyble C. Skaff J. Saunders N. Saunders	N. Hahn K. Hahn E. Garzel B. Greening	D. Scrace P. Groschner G. Peller J. Graham K. Johnson	D. Zmyslowski G. Graham J. Sheehy B. Sheehy F. Stringer	B. Payton J. Payton J. Saunders N. Saunders /P. Dyble P. Groschner		
		K. McCarthy					
Vestry Rep	D. Lockhart	B. Barringer	K. Groschner	D. Scrace			

Prayer List

Mike Bamford
Barbara Bangs
Sterling Berry
Ed Binder
Mary Cohen

Deacon John Fitzgerald
Star Gilezan
Peter Gilezan
Jan Graham
Sally Graham
Vic Harper

Ruth & Beverly Hatcher
Jack Huckins
Don Kalso
Jack Manko
Robert Meyers
Dianne Pegg

Scott Simon
Dottie Steiger
Frederick Stringer
James Sutton
Deacon Jack Trembath
John Trupiano
Bill Veit



Holiday Services:

Sunday, December 24th,

Christmas Eve

9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

4p.m. Lessons and Carols, with Music

9p.m. with Music

Monday, December 25th

Christmas Day

9:30 a.m. with Music

Sunday, December 31st

New Years Eve

9:30 a.m. with Music



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