



# The Shamrock

*Newsletter of St. Patrick's Anglican  
Church Port St. John, Florida*



**December 2024**  
Volume 7 Issue 11

## Father Michael's Musings

**December 2024**



“Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men!” That was the declaration of the angels to the shepherds at the birth of Jesus. In fact, the decades before the birth of Jesus were unprecedented for the reality of peace. The Romans and Jews were at an uneasy truce. The wise men travelled from the East without difficulty. Joseph and Mary were able to emigrate to Egypt without navigating a war zone. Instead of invading armies, the Greeks, Persians, Egyptians, and Arab nations sent emissaries and trade.

How far it seems we have fallen. The whole world seems to be at war. The Middle East is on fire. Russia and Ukraine have all of Europe at the edge of a World War. China rattles sabers over Taiwan and instigates skirmishes with our military. North Korea fires missiles over South Korea and Japan. It seems that despite our short respite from war at the birth of Jesus, that we are powerless to stop the constant destruction and atrocities that are the inevitable by-products of these conflicts.

But, that is not really true. Every one of these wars is fueled by the aggregation of very human grass roots hatred, greed, ambition, and fear. The powers who instigate and sustain the wars are agents of evil. They fan the fires of our personal and local rage and fears to put leaders in place who will trade on our biases to separate us from our neighbors, and who will manipulate us with rising prices of the staples we need to justify aggression against traditional enemies. We are manipulated into righteous indignation by the terrible lies of our media, regardless of which side they represent. But the truth is that these powerful leaders, omnipresent influencers, and merchants of death only have power because they reflect and aggregate our personal unhappiness and fear. They are the top of the pyramid of hateful war, but they are only held in place by our tolerance and inaction.

Fifty years ago, it was the mothers, who had lost children to the troubles in Ireland, who finally said they had had enough and decided to work together for peace. I suspect it will be the mothers of Israeli and Palestinian casualties that will ultimately do the same. The merchants of death will reach the point where selling oil to Ukraine and food to Russia makes more sense than destroying cities to keep prices high through continuing the conflict. It will again be mothers and children as agents of change to save generations going forward.

We can contribute as well. Tolerance, patience and understanding in our families and neighborhoods would reduce the groundswell of anger and fear that lifts up these agents of evil. Simple charity and kindness are the water hoses aimed at the forest fire. When enough hoses finally are concentrated on quenching the fire, it will be extinguished. Reducing hatred and fear and anger in our own lives takes power away from those who cherish war.

We also can pray, earnestly and relentlessly, for peace. Prayer is our greatest weapon, more powerful than media influence, bombs or starvation. We may not be able to topple the great forces of evil and hatred by ourselves, but they are subject to the judgment of God. If we turn to Him for relief, He will answer our prayers and return peace to His people.

I hope everyone that reads this will join us at St. Patrick's this Advent and Christmas as we pray for the restoration of peace. Please join us at our services and become part of our community. If you don't find St. Patrick's to be your inspiration, still, go to the church you prefer, and we can all join together as God's people, petitioning Him for peace for our time and the times of our children.

**God Bless you during this Christmas Season.**

**Father Michael +**

## PARISH.LIFE.

Parish Life is open to all members of St. Patrick's Anglican Church. Parish Life plans and executes all parish events.

### Veterans, Veteran Spouses, and First Responder Breakfast

*On the last Saturday of the month we hold our Veterans, Veteran Spouses, and First Responder Breakfast.*

Next scheduled breakfast is **Saturday December 28th at 9:00 AM** (last Saturday of the month). Flyers are available to distribute in Dorman Hall. A sign up sheet for Breakfast items is in the Hall as well. Please see **Fr. Chet or Andrea Mustafa** for items needed.



### Ladies Fellowship & Craft Group

**Meets the 3rd Monday of the Month.** Next meeting is **Monday December 16th at 6:00 PM.** Bring a craft or project or come to learn a craft. Light snacks provided. We are looking to plan a special craft project for Christmas—keep checking for more information. Please see **Mandy Valko** if you have questions, 317-601-3216.



### Church Work Day

*On the 3rd Saturday of every month we have a Parish Work Day.* The facilities inside and out are maintained by the hardworking people of St. Patrick's with the exception of Lawn Cutting. On **Saturday December 21st from 9am-12pm** we will continue with some indoor projects and general maintenance. — Come for an hour or the entire time. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. Contact **Linda Simmen 321-480-0927 or Patrick Valko or Greg Spak** if you have questions.



### Ladies Lunch Out & (Gentleman too)

Our next lunch out will be December 15th at Vine and Olive—come celebrate Christmas and the Cookie Walk. Website: <https://www.vineandolive.net/>

Please let Carolyn Kerouac know if you plan to attend; 203-500-9098



### Volunteers Needed

Do you have a gift and or some time on your hands that you can share with St. Patrick's? We are seriously in need of some help in the following areas outside of the monthly workday.

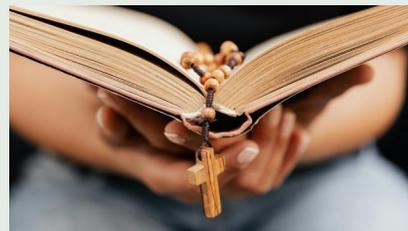
- General cleaning of the church, library, bathrooms and parish hall. Wednesday's 8am (see Linda or Andrea).
- Greeters and Coffee Hour hosts.

Please See: **Fr. Michael Kerouac**



### Sunday Adult Teaching

During the first four weeks in December (Advent) we will be doing a study on the Advent: Collects, Scriptures and Psalms. The class will be from 9:00 AM to 9:40 AM. Please plan to join this amazing teaching as we study how the Book of Common Prayer prepares our hearts and minds for the birth of our savior. Great fellowship and coffee provided. The teaching is being recorded and uploaded to our website.



Our Parish offers prayers daily for people on the Prayer List. To add a name to the Prayer List please contact one of the clergy of the church or call 321-802-1311 or add on our website: [www.stpatrickspsj.org](http://www.stpatrickspsj.org)

**DECEMBER 2024**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sean Williams Kyra Williams	Mike & Missy Simmen			<b>Luke 2:11:</b> "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ"		
<b>1</b> <b>Advent 1</b> 8:00 AM Eucharist (Live) Sunday Adult Teaching (Live & Streamed) Student Sunday School	<b>2</b> Morning Prayer 8:00 AM (Streamed)	<b>3</b> Morning Prayer 8:00 AM (Streamed)	<b>4</b> Morning Prayer 8:00 AM (Streamed) Eucharist 6:00 PM Live & Streamed	<b>5</b> Morning Prayer 8:00 AM (Streamed)	<b>6</b> Morning Prayer 8:00 AM (Streamed)	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>Advent 2</b> 8:00 AM Eucharist (Live) Sunday Adult Teaching (Live & Streamed) Student Sunday School <b>Vestry Meeting</b>	<b>9</b> Morning Prayer 8:00 AM (Streamed)	<b>10</b> Morning Prayer 8:00 AM (Streamed)	<b>11</b> Morning Prayer 8:00 AM (Streamed) Eucharist 6:00 PM Live & Streamed	<b>12</b> Morning Prayer 8:00 AM (Streamed)	<b>13</b> Morning Prayer 8:00 AM (Streamed)	<b>14</b> <b>Cookie Walk &amp; Vendor Fair</b> 7:00 AM Table Setup 8:00 AM Vendor Set-up and meeting 9:00 AM-12:00 PM Sales 12:00 PM-1:00 PM Clean up
<b>15</b> <b>Advent 3</b> 8:00 AM Eucharist (Live) Sunday Adult Teaching (Live & Streamed) Student Sunday School <b>Ladies Lunch Out</b>	<b>16</b> Morning Prayer 8:00 AM (Streamed) <b>Ladies Fellowship &amp; Craft Group 6:00 PM</b> 	<b>17</b> Morning Prayer 8:00 AM (Streamed)	<b>18</b> Morning Prayer 8:00 AM (Streamed) Eucharist 6:00 PM Live & Streamed	<b>19</b> Morning Prayer 8:00 AM (Streamed)	<b>20</b> Morning Prayer 8:00 AM (Streamed)	<b>21</b> St. Thomas Church Workday 9:00am-12:00 pm Lunch Provided 
<b>22</b> <b>Advent 4</b> 8:00 AM Eucharist (Live) Sunday Adult Teaching (Live & Streamed) Student Sunday School	<b>23</b> Morning Prayer 8:00 AM (Streamed)	<b>24</b> 6:00 PM Family Service 11:00 PM Lessons & Carol 11:30 PM Midnight Mass	<b>25</b> Christmas Day 10:00 AM Eucharist (Live & Streamed)	<b>26</b> St. Stephen Morning Prayer 8:00 AM (Streamed)	<b>27</b> Morning Prayer 8:00 AM (Streamed)	<b>28</b> The Holy Innocents Veteran's & First Responder Breakfast 9:00 AM 
<b>29</b> <b>Christmas 1/Healing Svc.</b> 8:00 AM Eucharist (Live) 10:00 AM Eucharist (Live & Streamed) <b>Potluck</b> <b>No Sunday School</b>	<b>30</b> Morning Prayer 8:00 AM (Streamed)	<b>31</b> Morning Prayer 8:00 AM (Streamed)	<b>January 1st, 2025</b> <b>Happy New Year</b> <b>Circumcision of Christ</b>	<b>January 2nd, 2025</b> Morning Prayer 8:00 AM (Streamed)	<b>January 3rd, 2025</b> Morning Prayer 8:00 AM (Streamed)	<b>January 4th, 2025</b>

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

**St. Patrick's Anglican Church**  
**4797 Curtis Boulevard**  
**Port St. John, FL 32927**

**Phone:** 321-802-1311  
**E-mail:** [stpatrickspsj@gmail.com](mailto:stpatrickspsj@gmail.com)  
**Web:** <https://www.Stpatrickspsj.org>



**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/StPatspsj>

**St. Patrick's Anglican Church is a caring loving community. Please join us for one of the Sunday or Weekday Services.**

The Diocese of the Eastern United States is a vibrant and growing family of parishes serving our Christian family from Pennsylvania to Florida. As members of the worldwide Traditional Anglican Church, The Anglican Church in America, we are part of Christ's One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. Our teaching and practice are based soundly on the Holy Bible and the traditional Book of Common Prayer.

**Archbishop Juan Garcia**

**Bishop William Bower, SSC**

**Rev. Fr. Michael Kerouac, Rector**

**Rev. Fr. Tim Gouge, Vicar**

**Rev. Fr. Chester O'Brien, Curate**

**Service Times**

**Sunday Communion Service**

8:00 AM Service – Live

10:00 AM Service –Live & Streamed

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Healing Service and Fellowship –Next Dec. 29th*

**Wednesday Communion Service**

6:00 PM Service—Live & Streamed

**Morning Prayer Services**

Mon.-Tues.-Wed.-Thurs.– Fri.

**Vestry:** Senior Warden: Andrea Mustafa;; Junior Warden : Linda Simmen, Treasurer: Lea Malarae; Secretary: Donna McFall, Vestry at Large: Lionel Felix, Georgia Weston, & Mike Brady

Join us at St. Patrick's Anglican Church  
**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday**  
**CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK**  
& **Vendor Fair**

Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

St. Patrick's Anglican Church  
4797 Curtis Blvd., Port St. John



**See our Large selection of Homemade Holiday Cookies!!**  
*\*Come buy a box and fill it with your favorite cookies (2 sizes available)*

**Christmas Service Schedule**

*Christmas Eve Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>*

6:00 PM Family Service

11:00 PM – Lessons and Carols

11:30 PM Midnight Mass

*Christmas Day Service Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>*

10:00 PM Eucharist

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