

THE ADVENT

*The Monthly Newsletter of,
The Church of the Advent, Southern Pines*

August 2024

(Early Edition)

.....♦
(NEW) So Blessed to be Home in NC and Back with Our Church Family:

God blessed with a wonderful family vacation. Thank you for your prayers. However, we are VERY HAPPY to be home in NC, and back with our God-given church family. We drove 13 ½ hours home to NC. When we crossed the State line into NC, Christine and I shared a fist bump! We did so again when we entered Moore County. We love our Church Family so much and we genuinely missed you while away. It was a blessing to visit with family and friends up north, but we look forward to seeing you all this coming Sunday. BIG NEWS: Sarah and Robby are now Engaged to be Married – what a blessed/wonderful event it was! Everything unfolded beautifully.

(NEW/IMPORTANT/PASTORAL CARE): As I return to my ministry, if you need to speak with me, or are in need of anything, PLEASE CALL/TEXT me at 910-585-4305, or email me at Fr.Michael.Advent@gmail.com. As your Priest, I am here for you, and desiring to help whenever I can.

(NEW) Our Wednesday Schedule to Resume on August 7 (please see a second announcement regarding our Wednesday Schedule below for more details):

- 6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (30 - 35 minutes)
- 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. Bible Study

(IMPORTANT UPDATE) Confirmation/Reception: The Right Reverend David Bena, Assisting Bishop of our Diocese, will be with us on Sunday, September 22. He will preside and preach at both the 9:00 a.m. Solemn High Mass and at the 11:00 a.m. Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. **He will also be Confirming (in the *Biblical Faith and Catholic Order of Christ's holy Catholic Church*) and Receiving those already Confirmed in the Biblical Christian Faith (into the**

Anglican Fellowship of Christ's holy Catholic Church) at the 9:00 a.m. Solemn High Mass. Orthodox Anglicanism offers the Catholic Faith and Order of the ancient Christian Church under the primacy of God's holy and Living Word (1 Thessalonians 2:13). That is, we offer the ancient Catholic Faith and Order born out of the Holy Scriptures and the New Testament era (50 - 96 AD) and the Apostolic Age (30 - 110 AD), and received by the whole Church East and West. Persons who would like to receive, "*Through the Laying on of Hands of the Bishop,*" a stirring up of the gift of the Holy Spirit within them, are strongly encouraged to seek either Confirmation or Reception. "*The Anglican Church requires a public and personal profession of the Faith from every [mature] believer in Jesus Christ...Confirmation is clearly grounded in Scripture: the Apostles prayed for, and laid their hands on those who had already been Baptized (2 Timothy 1:6-7; Acts 8:14-17; 19:6). In Confirmation, through the Bishop's laying on of hands and prayer for daily increase in the Holy Spirit, God strengthens the believer for Christian life in the service of Christ and his kingdom. Grace is God's gift, and we pray that he will pour out his Holy Spirit on those who have already been made his children by adoption and grace in Baptism*" (BCP, page 174). Confirmation/Reception is an outpouring of the Gift of the Holy Spirit (*i.e., a marked moment*), uniting the Christian to the Apostolic Church, through the Bishop and the Laying on of Hands. Questions? Once I know who is interested in being Confirmed or Received, I will schedule a four-week teaching in preparation. Please call or email me ASAP at: 910-585-4305 or at Fr.Michael.Advent@gmail.com

(REMINDER) Our Weekly Schedule:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Sunday, 9:00 a.m. | The Celebration of the Holy Eucharist (Solemn High Mass; <i>beginning Sunday, August 25</i>) |
| Sunday, 11:00 a.m. | The Celebration of the Holy Eucharist |
| Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. | The Celebration of the Holy Eucharist (<i>resumes Wednesday, August 7</i>) |
| Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. | Bible Study (<i>resumes Wednesday, August 7</i>) |

(NEW/PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING OPPORTUNITY FOR CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP) Wednesday Bible Study:

Beginning Wednesday, August 7 we will be discussing several Christian topics and looking at each topic firstly from the Holy Scriptures as God's Living Word, and secondly (and subject to the Holy Scriptures) from the writings of the early Church Fathers. Topics will include: The Holy Trinity, the Incarnation, the authority of Holy Scripture as God's Living Word, Holy Baptism, Holy Eucharist, the Other Sacraments, Angels/Demons, Why God allows suffering and death,

Mary the Mother of God Incarnate, Sexual Morality (including hot topics today), The Last Things, Hades/Hell, the Sanctity of all Human Life, The Apostolic Ministry/Succession, Death and Eternal Life, What Makes a Christian, Icons, and much more. Please prayerfully consider joining us for this important Bible Study, and study of the writings of the ancient Church Fathers. PLEASE SET THIS TIME ASIDE AND PLAN TO JOIN US!

(NEW) The Second Anniversary of our Church Family to be Celebrated on Sunday, September 15: A few months (less than a year) before coming to *The Pines Region of NC*, this beautiful State was not even a blip on my radar. When I first accepted the call to plant a new church in Moore County, we had no people, no money, and no place to worship. Almost two years later, we have over 70+ members who call The Church of the Advent, Sothern Pines, home (*and we love each and every one of you!!!*), and also a building of our own. GOD BE PRAISED! We are all taking part in a miracle. In order to celebrate this miracle of God, the Events Committee is planning a very special celebration for our 2nd Anniversary on Sunday, September 15. Please save the date! Let us, as a church family, join together in giving thanks to God for His wondrous provision! His is truly Jehovah Jira (The God who provides for His people).

(IMPORTANT UPDATE/FAMILY STILL VERY MUCH IN NEED) Groceries for Those in Need: *“If anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk, but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:17-18).* I am asking that our church family to continue providing families, and others in need (e.g., families who contact me or with whom I am ministering) with the following items in August (please see below). You may bring any of these items to the church between now and Sunday, August 25. Thank you!

- Cans of vegetables (green beans, carrots, or corn)
- Cans of fruit
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Soup (chicken noodle or ramen noodle soups only)
- Mac-n-Cheese
- Spaghetti and red sauce
- Rice
- Mayonnaise (with canned tuna or chicken)
- Beef stew or chili with beans
- Instant potatoes

(REMINDER) Kneeling Cushions for Our Church: We are ordering two types of kneeling cushions (one of each) to determine what may be best for us at The Church of the Advent. We will also likely be respacing the pews to help with room in kneeling. As we will soon be going to two Services on a Sunday, we will only need to order 50 cushions. The price varies a bit, but we are asking those who feel led to give money toward the kneeling cushions to give a donation of \$40 or \$50 to help us to offset the costs; of course, any donation helps. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

(REMINDER) When you are not well: When you are hospitalized, or ill, needing to be at home for any extended period of time, please let me know, or have someone in your family/a friend contact me asap. One of the greatest honors I have as your priest is to visit you and to pray with/for you, share the Good News of Jesus, anoint you with God's oil of healing, pronounce absolution, and most of all, to share the Blessed Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood with you. Each of you are in my heart and in my daily prayers. Please let me know how I may serve you more fully.

(REPEAT) Spring Supper Clubs: The Spring Supper Clubs continue. New Supper Club sign-ups are coming soon! Hope everyone is enjoying fellowship together!

(REMINDER) Women's Coffee and Fellowship: The women of our church family are invited to share in fellowship over coffee at 9 am every other Friday at Red's Corner (weather permitting). If you are interested in knowing more or receiving an invitation, please let Fr. Michael know, and he will inform Susan Lamm, or reach out to Susan Lamm directly.

(IMPORTANT REMINDER) Friar Tuck's Fellowship and Theology on Tap @ The Southern Pines Growler (160 W. New York Avenue, Southern Pines): Fr. Michael is inviting the men of the church family to join him for fellowship and a beer, soda, etc. This is a time for men to enjoy some Christian fellowship and to discuss matters of faith. Our third get together will be **6:30 p.m., Thursday, August 1**. Please invite someone to join us.

(REMINDER/TWO SERVICES) "*O ye'll tak' the high road, and I'll tak' the low road, And I'll be in [Heaven] afore ye*": Anglican Worship is, in every generation, an expression of ancient Christian Worship, east and west. However, we offer different approaches/emphasis to the received Worship of the ancient Church. Some take the, "*High Road*." That is they employ the vestments of the

ancient Christian, or latter western, medieval Church, incense (the offering of which is prophesied and commanded in the Bible and seen whenever heavenly worship is revealed in Holy Scripture), bells (marking special moments, thus, drawing our attention to our worship as participation in heavenly worship), traditional language (e.g.,: “*Thee,*” and “*Thou*”) which is both the vernacular and yet simultaneously somewhat special in addressing God in Worship, and lastly, ancient chant (which comes from ancient Judaism), and is encouraged by St. Augustine of Hippo who says, “*He who sings, prays twice.*” Others take the “Low Road”: That is, they employ a simpler form of the traditional worship received from the ancient Church. Thus, vestments are simpler (typically those of 17th Century Anglicanism), and chanting, bells, incense, etc., are not typically employed. However, this “Lower Service,” is still offered with great solemnity and genuine reverence, as we enter into the Presence of God, the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, and God's Story of Salvation. On Sunday, August 25, we will begin offering these two approaches to the one Worship of the ancient Church, which emerges from the Holy Scriptures.

(IMPORTANT REMIDER) NEEDS IN OUR CHURCH: I will soon be sending out a list of needs in our church family; e.g., **1)** we are in need of a Child Care Attendant (someone from outside our church family; this is a paid position...recommendations?), **2)** Re-spacing our pews, allowing more space for people to kneel for parts of Worship if they wish, **3)** Donations toward kneeling pads to aid persons who wish to kneel. Thank you!

Together we are making a difference for the Kingdom of God!

Honoured to serve the Lord, and all of you, His beloved,

Fr. Michael++