



# Michael's Messenger

ST. MICHAEL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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*Michael's  
Messenger* is  
distributed to  
parishioners of  
St. Michael's  
Church and to  
interested  
people.

## 2016 Order of the Diocese of New Westminster

~ Submitted by Fr. Louie Engnan

On behalf of our Parish family, I would like to congratulate Alberta Rudolf, this year's recipient of the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster. Details of the Investiture Service and pictures from the Diocesan Communication officers can be found at [www.vancouver.anglican.ca/news/investiture-of-new-members-to-the-odnw](http://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/news/investiture-of-new-members-to-the-odnw)

Alberta has served our parish in so many ways. In 2012, I started to share with her the leadership role in our parish when I was appointed Interim priest incharge. During that time, we collaborated with the rector's warden and members of parish council, in guiding St. Michael's towards membership growth with specific focus on growing our Sunday School for Children and getting new families to our congregation. She was also part of "St. Michael's 101" team. Every year, we would be running a one day information session for our new members. This is to encourage them to actively participate in the life and works of St. Michael's. Alberta has consistently been a resource person in all these sessions.

I pray that this will serve as an inspiration to all parishioners to faithfully offer your stewardship of time, talent and treasure for the greater glory of God's name.

*FYI:* The leadership team of our parish has started to accept nominations for the 2016 O.D.N.W. You can send your nominations to [saintmichaels@telus.net](mailto:saintmichaels@telus.net). For full details of this program, please visit our diocesan website at [www.vancouver.anglican.ca/diocesan-ministries/the-odnw](http://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/diocesan-ministries/the-odnw).



## 2nd Annual Tri-Parish Silent Retreat

The second annual Tri-Parish Retreat was held at St. Michael's on Saturday, November 21, 2015 from 9:30 – 2:00 p.m. Sixteen participants from the parishes of St. Helen's, St. Michael's, and Epiphany enjoyed a time away with occasions for silence, spoken word, guidance and reflection time. The Rev'd Stephen Laskey led the parishioners with guidance and reflections from Scripture passages before and after they had some time on their own in a wide variety of 'silent' time. Some folk sat under a tree outside on the sunny and mild day while others read, wrote, coloured a page of mandalas or sat in silence. The day was well spent in a restful and rejuvenating atmosphere with the inclusion of meditative Taize singing. Guests to St. Michael's had brought their own lunch but surprise pizza and soup were also on hand for those hungry for more. Many thanks to Jeddy James and Christa Groves, both Rectors' Wardens, who helped with organizing, set up and clean up among other duties as needed! Word is that the retreat brought a welcome transition time for reflection and preparation for the Advent Season. With God's good grace, there will be another retreat next year. *Krista Fry –Retreat Facilitator and Intern at St. Michael's*



“Let us go to Church”, and through Jesus who will meet us there, we shall grow in our love for His family and in our knowledge of Him.

If you think church people are not attractive, remember Jesus was not attractive either when He was hanging on the cross. His wounded

Body always bears in it the marks of His passion. Only those who loved him in his hideousness saw Him in His risen glory. You will find

Him in the midst of those who have heeded His call, and have gathered in His name to do what he commanded them to do. Our Christianity

Is extremely deficient if we do not go to Church to find Jesus in His people, and to love them for His sake.

*The above is by Bishop Short (Bishop of Saskatchewan) and reprinted from the Saskatchewan Anglican – June, 1984.*

*~submitted by Andy*

## **Origins of the Christmas Tree**

**submitted by Corri and paraphrased by Natasha**  
**taken from abcteach.com2002**

The Christmas tree is one of the most common symbols of Christmas. It is usually an evergreen tree, which is decorated with ornaments and lights. Christmas trees come in all shapes and sizes and are usually found in many houses of Canadian as well as American families. The Christmas tree tradition is believed to have begun thousands of years ago. In ancient times, people brought evergreen branches into their homes to represent Spring during the dark winters. In ancient Rome, people used evergreens to decorate their homes during a special feast which took place in December.

The use of Christmas trees today was started by a monk by the name of Martin Luther. Legend has it that he was coming home one dark night during the winter when he saw a tree with stars shining through it. Wanting to share this amazing sight with his family, Mr. Luther cut down a small fir tree and brought it inside his home to share. Once inside the tree was decorated with candles.

This decorated fir tree was the first Christmas tree. The use of the Christmas tree spread quickly throughout Germany and the rest of Europe and made its way to America when people first immigrated from Europe and other countries. To this day Christmas trees are still a popular tradition in Europe, and have become popular in America as well as Canada and other countries.



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## **WHAT DOES IT MEAN? ~ from Jessie Ellis**

### **Ubi Caritas (Latin, Gregorian.)**

If you know, you're smarter than me. I had to look it up. And here's what I found.

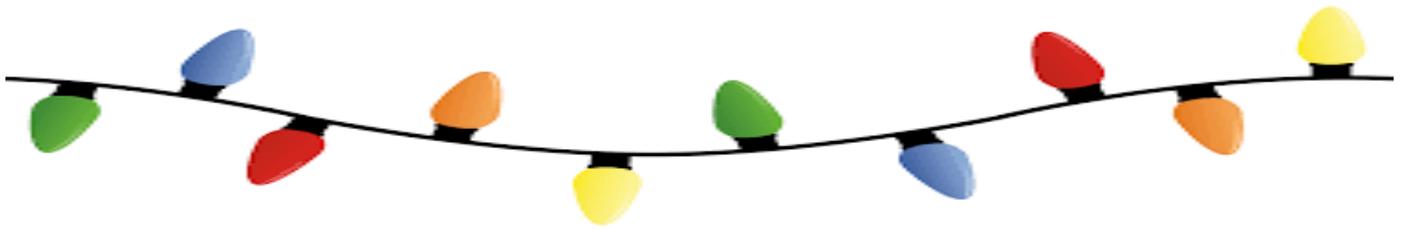
Ubi Caritas literally means "where charity". It's thought to have been composed between the 4th century to 10th century. Some believe it came from the earliest Christian gatherings before the formalization of the Mass. It is a hymn of the early western church.

It has evolved into many uses and traditions. For modern traditions see Maurice Durufle and Paul Mealor, both on YouTube. And did you know it was played at the wedding of William and Kate?

# THE FIRST ANNUAL VOCATIONAL DAY

~submitted by Bernard

The First Annual Vocational Day was a resounding success! It was a gathering of people from different Anglican churches under the Diocese of New Westminster. Father Louie who was one of our panelist/resource person, together with Krista and I attended this meeting at the head office of the Diocese. It was informative for those who wanted to know about the process for seeking ordination for the priesthood and the diaconate. One of the new emphases was that the local Parish has an important role to play in the discernment process, that a person seeking ordination needs the church to recognize that same giftedness in the life of the discerner. This is a healthy development and will surely enrich the life of each Parish. Please continue to pray for those who are in the discernment



## St. Michael's Church Council 2015

Rector's Warden: Jeddy James 778-997-7617

People's Warden: Andrew Kaweski 604-597-6799

Secretary: Sasha Abraham 604-591-2348

Treasurer: Jeddy James 778-997-7617  
Sasha Abraham 604-591-2348

ACW: Kathi Dale 604-596-2946

Communications: Natasha Kaweski  
604-597-6799

Synod Delegate: Tony Picher 604-594-1601

**Priest: Fr. Louie  
Engnan 604-585-6835**

Trustee: Leo Golden 604-591-3269  
Alberta Rudolf 604-876-0014

Member-at-large: Tony Picher 604-594-1601  
Dave Reynolds 604-585-0660

Music: Coleen and Andy Whitmore  
604-590-3997

**THE FIVE MARKS OF MISSION  
THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH IS THE  
MISSION OF CHRIST**

- TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM
- TO TEACH, BAPTIZE AND NURTURE NEW BELIEVERS
- TO RESPOND TO HUMAN NEED BY LOVING SERVICE
- TO SEEK TO TRANSFORM UNJUST STRUCTURES OF SOCIETY, TO CHALLENGE VIOLENCE OF EVERY KIND AND TO PURSUE PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

TO STRIVE TO SAFEGUARD THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION AND SUSTAIN AND RENEW THE LIFE OF THE EARTH

**Bishop Melissa Skelton is  
coming on February 28th for  
her pastoral visit**

## Upcoming Readings

### Dec 6-2nd Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4  
Luke 1:68-79  
Philippians 1:3-11  
Luke 3:1-6

### Dec 13-Service of Lessons & Carols; 3rd Sunday of Advent

Genesis 3:1-15  
Isaiah 40:1-11  
Isaiah 9:2-7  
Luke 1:26-33 & 38  
Matthew 1:18-25  
Luke 2:1-7  
Luke 2:8-14  
Luke 2:17-20  
Matthew 2:1-11  
Hebrews 1:1-14

### Dec 20-Christmas Pageant; 4th Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a  
Psalm 80:1-7  
Hebrews 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-45

### Dec 24-Carol Sing and Christmas Eve Service

Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14

### Dec 25-Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10  
Psalm 98  
Hebrews 1:1-4  
John 1:1-14

### Dec 27-1st Sunday after Christmas

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26  
Psalm 148  
Colossians 3:12-17  
Luke 2:41-51

### Jan 10-Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7  
Psalm 29  
Acts 18:14-17  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

## A Prayer for Everyone

Lord, keep me from being too talkative, especially keep me from expressing an opinion on everything, and stop me from jumping in to straighten out everyone.

Keep me from reciting endless detail; give me insight to get to the point.

Give me grace, Lord, to listen with patience when others describe their aches and pains, and help me to keep my lips sealed; and prevent me from sharing my own, much worse, aches and pains.

Teach me that, occasionally, I might be mistaken.

Make me thoughtful, but not moody; helpful, but not pushy; independent, yet gracefully accepting favours that others wish to give me.

Free me of the notion that because I have live a few years I am wiser than most people.

If I don't like some changes that have taken place, give me the wisdom to keep my mouth shut.

You know, Lord, that when the end comes I would like to have a friend or two left.

### Jan 17-2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5  
Psalm 36:5-10  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
John 2:1-11

### Jan 24-3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-13, 5-6, 8-10  
Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a  
Luke 4:14-21

### Jan 31-4th Sunday after Epiphany & Presentation of the Lord

Malachi 3:1-4  
Psalm 24:7-10  
Hebrews 2:14-18  
Luke 2:22-40

### Nov 22-Reign of Christ Sunday

2 Samuel 23:1-7  
Psalm 93

## We All Need a Tree ~ from Dave Reynolds

I'll have to get busy with my shovel...need to plant two...one each...  
I hired a plumber to help me restore an old farmhouse,  
and after he had  
just finished a rough first day on the job: a flat tire made  
him lose an  
hour of work, his electric drill quit and his ancient one  
ton truck  
refused to start,

While I drove him home, he sat in stony silence. On arriving,  
he invited  
me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door,  
he paused  
briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the  
branches with both hands.

When opening the door he underwent an amazing  
transformation...His face  
was wreathed in smiles and he hugged his two small  
children  
and gave his  
wife a kiss.

Afterward he walked to the car. We passed the tree  
and my  
curiosity  
got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do  
earlier.

'Oh, that's my trouble tree,' he replied 'I know I can't help  
having troubles on the job, but one thing's for sure, those troubles  
don't  
belong in the house with my wife and children...So I just  
hang them  
up on the tree every night when I come home and ask God to  
take care of  
them. Then in the morning I pick them up again.' 'Funny thing  
is,' he  
smiled, 'when I come out in the morning to pick 'em up, there  
aren't  
nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before.'

