

THE MESSENGER

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS ANGLICAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

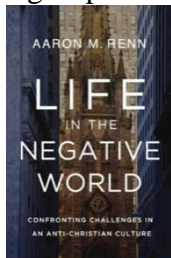
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DECEMBER 2024

Ordering Time... Man is a “liturgical being.” In Genesis 8:22 God told Noah after the flood “While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, shall not cease.” That order is fulfilled in Christ. We see this in particular in St. John’s Gospel. John orders his gospel by four Passover seasons, the final one being the Last Supper. The Church picks up on this with the liturgical kalendar (sic). The central day of the kalendar is Easter. The Epiphany and Trinity seasons are longer or shorter based on the date of Easter. So how do we order our time? Is it Christian or secular? Do we own an *Ordo Kalendar*? Do we observe Advent and Lent with some form of fasting or abstinence? Do we celebrate Christmas for the full 12 days of the season or does “Christmas season” start with Black Friday and end December 26? Do we celebrate feasts like Epiphany (January 6), Ascension (this year on May 29) and Transfiguration (August 6)? How about the Prayer Book Saints Days? When mass is offered for those feasts do we attend? Since September we’ve been studying The Book of Revelation on Wednesdays. If we’re learning one thing in this study it’s that this book has less to do about “end times” and more to do about “all times.” John’s apocalyptic writing unveils the truth that the ebb and flow of creation is all moving towards re-creation. As Jesus says towards the end of the book “Behold I am *making* all things new.” (Revelation 21:5). The fact of the matter is no one will be “left behind” at Jesus’ Second Coming, but many will be left out (St. Matthew 25:1-13)! Yes, that will be determined by our faith in Christ, but genuine faith always produces a life of faithfulness (St. James 2:18-20) and how we order our time is important to it. When the Day comes all the things many count so important in the world; sports seasons, vacation time, political cycles, college years and careers won’t matter. None of them will qualify us for heaven and we won’t have them beyond the veil in eternity. On that Day two things will matter: Did the faith I say I have cause me to take up my cross daily and follow Jesus? And, Did I fulfill my responsibility to the Great Commission? A good way to know the answer to these questions is by assessing how we are ordering our time today. A blessed New (liturgical) Year to you all! -Fr. Beutell

Christmas Services... Christmas Eve mass at 6:00 p.m. and Christmas Day mass at 10:30 a.m.

Theology on Tap... We had to cancel the October Theology on Tap, but are going to try it one more time. On Sunday, February 2 we will meet at IHOP on East-West Pkwy from 5:00-7:00 p.m. to discuss the book [Life in The Negative World](#) by Aaron M. Renn. This book discusses the way the culture has changed in its acceptance of Christianity and how churches and Christians can navigate it and remain faithful to the Great Commission. A sign-up sheet will be posted. Please buy the book and make plans to join the discussion on February 2!



Ordo Kalendars... We have six G3 Ordo Kalendars for sale. They can be purchased for \$13.00 apiece. You can also order them through the Anglican Parishes Association at: <https://anglican-parishes-association.myshopify.com/>

The Society of Mary Ward... Will meet on Saturday, December 14 at 10:30 a.m. Meetings consist of mass, the praying of the rosary and a “bring your own” lunch (coffee and tea provided). In December the mass will be for the Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. If you would like more information please see Sue Krall.

The Sunday Masses in Advent...will have some seasonal liturgical alterations: **1.** Each Sunday we will rehearse the Decalogue (BCP pgs. 68, 69) instead using of the Kyrie eleison. The responses are sung using #701 in the Hymnal. **2.** The Gloria in excelsis is not used. **3.** We will not sing the Benedictus (“Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord...”) at the end of the Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy BCP pg. 79 and Hymnal #704). **4.** The Dismissal is “Let us bless the Lord” instead of “Depart in Peace.” The response is still “Thanks be to God.” These alterations reflect of the penitential tone of the season. On Christmas Eve the regular order will return.

Advent Sermon Series...Traditionally within the Church, the Sunday’s of Advent were utilized to teach about the Four Last Things; Death, Judgment, Hell and Heaven in the Sunday sermons. This year in Advent Fr. Beutell will address one of those four topics each Sunday in the sermon in the mass.

The 2025 Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2025 after mass...at the meeting reports will be given by the priest in charge and treasurer, and the congregation will vote on the new vestry members and the 2025 budget. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this important meeting!

Vestry News and Notes...As noted in the November edition of The Messenger, in October there was a noticeable drop in contributions. This drop continued in November and if it were to continue into 2025 it will constitute a 40% drop in income. If you have fallen behind in your giving, please get caught up. If financial circumstances have caused you to make a change in the amount you have given in the past, please notify Todd Allerton so we can adjust the 2025 budget accordingly. The Vestry will not meet in December. They will meet next on Sunday, January 12 for the 2025 Budget Meeting.

Archbishop Haverland...will make his annual Episcopal Visit on March 15 and 16 (Lent 2). If you desire to be confirmed or received into the parish during the mass on the 16th, please see Fr. Beutell by December 31.

**A Blessed Advent
and
Merry Christmas
To You All from
Fr. Beutell and the Vestry**