



## The Rector's Corner

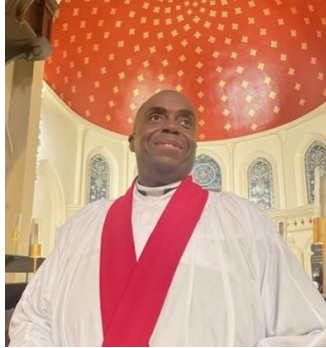
Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Michael's,

In the life of The Church, the Third Sunday in Advent is known as Rejoice Sunday or Gaudete Sunday (Gaudete is Latin and means... you guessed it, Rejoice). We will learn more about this Sunday on Sunday, so why not come on out – 8:30 or 10:30 AM. We will save a pew for you!

Tuesday night of this week, I found myself in Columbia at Trinity Cathedral. There was a priestly ordination taking place. Our Bishop wants clergy to attend ordinations, installations (like ours back on Nov 20), and clergy funerals. Tommy Watson was ordained a Transitional Deacon back on June 1 at Trinity. That Saturday had me in Columbia and then in Augusta to solemnize a marriage (outside in Augusta, mind you!). Last night, Tommy had his priestly ordination. While he is now serving a parish in Connecticut, Bishop Daniel wanted to ordain him “back home” in Upper South Carolina.

Aside from “keeping The Bishop happy...” it was good for me to attend. First, it was good to gather with other priests and deacons. There was the usual “shop talk” and there was the all-important collegiality. It was good to laugh and hang with these folk. I can assure you the clergy did not follow directions. I am glad I was not herding the cats this time around.

The second reason it was good to attend, was to support Tommy (though I barely know him). But to be there and assist by clergy laying on of hands (with the Bishop) is quite powerful. Listening to the words of the vows helps reinforce the callings of priests. Hearing and experiencing all of this helped to reinforce the calling that I have answered. Some days are lots of fun. Many days are challenging and even frustrating. But I am thankful to God who has steered me in this direction. God is good, even when the days are challenging.



The new priest



Self time

Have a great week, everyone. Come to church. Invite someone and come with them. Come and Rejoice – for the Christ Child will come.

Faithfully,  
Fr. Dan

**MASTER SCHEDULE:** Tia is putting the Master Schedule together for the first of 2025. If you are a server and know of dates that you cannot serve from January through April, please email that info to [office@stmec.org](mailto:office@stmec.org) ASAP.

**CHURCH CALENDARS:** 2025 Episcopal Calendars are available for purchase - only \$3 each. We have a limited number of them, so be sure to get yours today. They are on the greeters table in the Narthex with an envelope to put your money in.

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS FOR 2025:** The sign-up sheet the first part of next year is on the parish hall bulletin board. Please consider serving in this wonderful ministry. Hosting is easy and makes a big contribution to welcoming guests and enhancing our parish fellowship. If you have any questions about serving, call the office at 864.859.6296.

**DOK\_ WARMTH & COMFORT FOR THE ELDERLY:** The DOK is also helping with a project for the elderly in our county. If you have any new travel size toiletries to contribute, please place them in the marked basket on the table in the Narthex.

**Project end date is SUNDAY 01/12/24.**

**JANUARY ECM SOCIAL:** Will be Thursday, Jan 4 at 6:30 PM Social, 7 PM Meal. We will have our traditional January New Year's Feast of Fried Pork Chops, Collard Greens, Black Eyed Peas, Rice and Gravy and a dessert. This is a great time to invite someone new or who hasn't been in a while. PLEASE SIGN UP so that we know how much food to prepare. The cost will be split among those attending.



# THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 15, 2024



*The Candle of Joy*  
 "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all."  
**PHILIPPIANS 4:4-5**



**DECEMBER**

- 9 John Dickey
- 13 Joan Cornine  
Ashley Keating
- 18 Teri Swann
- 19 Leisa Achterhoff  
Robert Pinkston
- 22 Libby Carman
- 23 Anna Dunn
- 26 Denise Lake
- 30 Julie Cleveland

*May God Bless You  
On Your Birthday!!*

## WINTER CALENDAR

- 12/15 9:30 DOK Meeting
- 12/18 11:00 Midweek Healing Service
- 12/18 4:30 Choir Practice
- 12/19 6:00 Vestry Meeting
- 12/24 7:00 Christmas Eve Service (6:30 singing)
- 12/25 *Merry Christmas!*
- 12/25 10:00 Christmas Day Service
- 12/28 6:00 December Mingle 'N' Eat
- 01/01 *Happy New Year!*
- 01/08 4:30 Choir Practice
- 01/09 6:30 January ECM Social
- 01/12 9:30 Annual Parish Meeting (between services)
- 01/18 9:00 Vestry Retreat

**SERVING SUNDAY 12/15/24**

Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Daniel A. Wagner  
 Organist and Choirmaster: Nancy Owens  
 Altar Guild: Teri Swann  
 Eucharistic Ministers:  
     8:30 Robert Pinkston  
     10:30 Mark Pesnell  
 Lectors: 8:30 Robert Pinkston  
           10:30 April Morris  
 Acolytes: 8:30 Jay Achterhoff  
            10:30 Summer Robbins  
 Greeters: 8:30 Rick Parnell  
            10:30 Ron & JoAnn Hicks  
 Vestry Open-up Church: Robbie Lake  
 Vestry Lock-up Church: Cheryl Borowski



### St. Michael's Christmas Schedule

**Christmas Eve Service**  
 6:30 PM Churchwide Singing  
 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Eucharist

**Christmas Day Service**  
 10:00 AM Christmas Day Eucharist

We hope you and your family can join us for our Christmas services.

**MASTER SCHEDULE**

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