

We have so much to celebrate during this beloved season of both our church and secular year. Finally, after a long and difficult recuperation Father Doug is back with us in time for our Advent and Christmas services. The following is a brief excerpt from Doug's Sunday's sermon that touches on the role you each played in his recovery.

"We speak today of -- HOPE AND EXPECTATION AND OPTIMISM.

These three -

- 1) HOPE and**
- 2) EXPECTATION and**
- 3) OPTIMISM.**

You gave me these three during the last four months, and I am so appreciative, for your prayers bolstered me over and over again. You reminded me who I was - a member of ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, A HOLY COMMUNITY SANTIFIED BY THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.....

.... Yes, while we speak also today of - 1) HOPE and 2) EXPECTATION and 3) OPTIMISM - I

think we all know that depression is a common malady associated with the joyful holidays because this season is not so rose-y for everyone. Depression, a serious condition, often walks alongside post-surgery, especially heart surgery. Thankfully, I suffered almost none on that – only half a day about two months ago – and I attribute that to the Saints found here today and your uplifting prayers...."



The Communicator December 10, 2024

It was Birthday Sunday and what a spread our Hospitality Ministry (Debbie Jeffress and Isabel Graves) laid out. Debbie's Red Velvet cake was a huge success as was everything else. What a gift this ministry has been to SMAAA. Thank you.



Another big thank you to our faithful acolytes, Jorge (George) Bredee and Erika Carey de Mayen - here pictured lighting the 2nd candle of the Advent Wreath.



I can't remember when Erika's smiling face wasn't the first face I saw when I arrived at Saint Mike's each Sunday AM (and I arrive really early!). Jorge is our Greeter and always does such a beautiful job welcoming the strangers in our midst.

The Communicator December 10, 2024



Last week the large cross in front of the church was painted gold. Did you notice? If not, be sure to check it out. It was a labor of love by Junior Warden John Stelly. I don't think he'd been that high since the 60's. :-)
Thank you to the Vestry for this nice improvement to our campus. These improvements are being noticed in the community. Roxanna told me on Sunday that the Cuernavaca NGO, Comunidad, is going to rent our garden and Magnolia Hall for a big event. Thank you Roxana for making this happen. Rent

that we can get in this way helps defray our monthly costs. Please "talk it up." We're hoping to soon have the funds to modernize the bathrooms. These are all huge improvements for which we thank the foresight of Judy Frothingham and the Vestry.



Saturday, December 14, 7PM is a major parish fundraiser. "The Sopranos," our second house concert, is billed to be a fun, fun evening at the spectacular home of SMAAA member Onagh Ash.

We're disappointed at the low number of ticket sales and sure hope that will be reversed this week. Tickets are available on our website at: <https://buy.stripe.com/eVabJm0KccqzdNKdQV>

We enthusiastically congratulate Maestra Andrea Carr and the Deo Gracias Chorus (especially SMAAA choir member Susan Kirago) for their spectacular concert this past weekend. We sure look forward to having Susie back in the choir loft this next Sunday.

THE SOPRANOS
An evening of song and merriment

Kamilla Higgins Victor M. Morales Alondra Vargas

Recital of Mexican Romantic Songs,
Opera Arias, American Songs and Lied.

December 14 7:00 pm

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!
<https://buy.stripe.com/eVabJm0KccqzdNKdQV>

\$250 pesos

Parking very limited
Privada Rufino Tamayo 92, Cuernavaca, México.

The Communicator December 10, 2024

Father Bayron of San Pablo has asked us to consider again our semi-annual commitment to the children and families of his mission church who are committed to teaching “Deferred gratification” as they learn about economics. Father Bayron has been leading this valuable program for several years with great results. I am attaching his thank you note and Christmas card as a separate pdf file. Sure wish we had as many children at SMAAA. Wistful sigh.



Library News! Bob Dailey read “How the Grinch Stole Christmas at the library Story Hour. Don’t you wish you’d been there?”

It is the right time for End of Year Giving as it fits your budget. Of greatest importance is making your annual pledge. The pledge forms can be filled out online at: <https://saintmichaelcuernavaca.org/index.php/donation-form/>

We also have printed pledge forms on the back table of the church.

For Bank transfers in **Mexico (BBVA)** please use the following information:

Mexico
BBVA Bancomer
Account number: 0119910468
CLABE: 012540001199104681

Please help us to be responsible in submitting our 2025 budget.

The Communicator December 10, 2024

your new year's agenda. Yoga with Ann is always a wonderful way to spend 90 minutes.

I thank this week's photographers: Amanda Hooten, Onagh Ash, Judy Frothingham, John Stelly, Kay Godrey.

Last year the Reverend Gillian Ball shared this beautiful poem. It is no less appropriate this year as so many in the world are unable to partake in the joy of Christmas due to war, hunger, climate, religious suppression. Thank you Gillian.

Bethlehem 2023

The grotto is silent.
The chamber is empty.
Shops are shuttered.
Hotels are vacant.
The streets lie silent.
The people mourn.
Life is sealed.

No bustle.
No happy anticipation.
No decorations.
No cheerful carols.
No pilgrims
processing.
Life is muted.

Murmured prayers
for peace
filter through
the silent air.
Christmas is
vacant, hushed,
bereft of joy.
Life is wounded.

In Bethlehem
Life is empty
and forlorn
on Christmas Eve
2024.

Gillian Neville-Ball Dec. 24, 2023