

St. John's Announcements

October 1, 2023

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Arm2Arm Dinner



Today we celebrate Michaelmas, or The Feast of St. Michael and All Angels. Angels play a role in both the Old and New Testaments. There are many different kinds of angels, but the most well-known are the four Archangels Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, and Uriel. Tradition teaches that angels are spiritual beings created by God. They do not have physical bodies in the way we do. Other than worshipping God, Angels serve two other main purposes. First is by protecting the people of God. This could be done through healing or offering spiritual protection from evil and harm. Angels main function in scripture is as messengers. Our English word "angel" comes from the Greek word ἄγγελος meaning messenger. This is an ancient feast that has been one of the most celebrated over the centuries. In the Northern Hemisphere, it has been celebrated as a harvest festival. "Michaelmas Daisies" (aster flowers) were collected and brought into the church. Special cakes were often made. Michaelmas has also marked the season changing. In Britain and some commonwealth countries, the fall academic semester is called the Michaelmas term. In countries that follow British common law, courts often begin their sessions (including our Supreme Court). There is also a medieval tradition that we continue in the 21st century. The youngest clergy person in the parish dresses up like a dragon and the children of the church chase him away with the help of St. Michael who in the Book of Revelation defeats the power of darkness signified by the dragon. The children receive sweet treats for their efforts at protecting the parish. St. Michael, I am afraid, has no need for candy.

Blessings, Marc

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday Eucharist
10/4 @ 10:30am

Robert Ballsieper's
Funeral
10/7 @ 10:30am
Holmes-Watkins
Funeral Home

Chili Challenge and
Cookout
10/14 @ 4:30pm

Happy Birthday!

Pat Cleveland
Betty Ellwood
Dwight Feenstra

Happy Anniversary!

Judith & Frederick Taylor
Joe & Diane Pospisil

Save the Date – Holiday Bazaar will be Saturday, November 18th from 9am – 2pm. More details to follow!