



LEFT Archbishop Skelton asks the younger members of the parish if they know what the wreath made of cedar boughs with candles signifies? RIGHT The Rev. Eric Stroo proclaims the Gospel. PHOTOS Randy Murray

Advent IV at St. Mike's

On December 23, Advent IV, Archbishop Skelton made her final scheduled parish visitation for 2018 and it was to St. Michael's, Broadway/Vancouver, AKA St. Michael's Multicultural, AKA St. MIKE'S. Archbishop Skelton celebrated the Eucharist and was also the preacher.

Under the ordained leadership of vicar, the Rev. Wilmer Toyoken; deacon, the Rev. Eric Stroo and a committed and involved group of parish officers and leaders, "St. Mike's" is one of the fastest growing parishes in the diocese of New Westminster and certainly boasts—if not the largest number of children and youth—one of the largest cohorts of young people.

On Advent IV the focus was very much on Mary the Mother of God with the Gospel reading for the liturgy,

Luke 1: 39–55, the section of Scripture which contains the *Magnificat*, the *Song of Mary*. Archbishop Skelton took the Gospel for her text and made reference to her Christmas message on the front page of the December 2018 issue of *Topic*.

At the conclusion of the Offertory, some of the men of the parish in traditional dress joined the procession of the gifts to the altar accompanying and enlivening the procession with Filipino gongs (gangsa). During Holy Communion, youth of the parish formed in a group at the front of the nave on the south side and sang a medley

of Christmas songs. Following the Dismissal there was an active period of posing for photographs with various groups joining the clergy of the parish and Archbishop Skelton on the chancel steps.

Worship and posing for photos was followed by a joyful potluck luncheon participated in by the majority of the congregation. Following the meal there were a number of intergenerational performances featuring singing and dancing and the members of St. Mike's Anglican Church Women's (ACW) chapter decorating one of their members like a Christmas tree. ✚

The video of Archbishop Skelton's sermon can be viewed online at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/media/2018-12-23-we-are-all-meant-to-be-mothers-of-god> and to the Christmas message <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/news/archbishop-skeltons-2018-topic-christmas-message>.



Archbishop Skelton poses with the clergy, choir, servers and Archbishop's Chaplain following worship. PHOTO Randy Murray



Men of the parish preparing for the procession of the gifts. PHOTO Randy Murray



Youth of the parish lead the singing of a medley of Christmas songs. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Procession of the Gifts with Gangsa (ceremonial gongs). PHOTO Randy Murray



The choir leads the Offertory Hymn. PHOTO Randy Murray



A song is offered by the youngest members of the parish. PHOTO Eric Stroo



Rev. Stroo dismisses the congregation. PHOTO Randy Murray



A member of the ACW gets decorated. PHOTO Eric Stroo