



ST MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Sword July 13, 2023

St. Michael's Weekly News & Updates



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From the Desk of Deacon Tim:

A summer day's musing.

Ever wondered what Episcopalians believe about Mary, the mother of Jesus? Or wondered, Why does St. Michael's keep a statue of Mary near the tabernacle and side altar? Or, How do people who identify as women see God's image reflected in themselves, particularly as we hear Jesus taught us to pray "Our Father . . ."? Where might the Virgin Mary and other women of scripture have a place in our faithful imagination?

The catechism of the Book of Common Prayer states that when we confirm that Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, we mean that by God's own act, his divine Son received human nature from his mother, the Virgin Mary. (BCP p. 849). The Book of Common Prayer further honors Mary in providing her Song of Praise, her response to her cousin's blessing prayer ("Hail Mary, full of grace . . ."), as the default canticle for Evening Prayer:

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my savior;
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed;
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name . . . (BCP p. 119)

Mary's song continues to prophesy that God re-orders the world's expectations ("he has scattered the proud in their conceit . . . cast down the mighty . . . lifted up the lowly . . . filled the hungry with good things . . . sent the rich away empty"). And most of all, God is fulfilling the promise of merciful salvation made to Abraham and all his children for ever.

Mary is not only the God-bearer, she is like John the Baptist, a proclaimer of Gospel good news at work in the world through the person of Jesus. She is a forerunner of the apostles and all disciples of Jesus Christ. We align with and follow Mary's example when we commit to respect the dignity of every human being in our Baptismal Covenant.

Among the treasured books on my bookshelves is *Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter*, by Lindsay Hardin Freeman, an Episcopal priest. I especially like that Rev. Freeman includes women of scripture whose names are not recorded there. Lifting up the lowly, indeed!

Deacon Tim

A Note from our Sunday School Director

Kim Curtis

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This Saturday is rib fest!! There is still time to sign up! Or just show up!! We have plenty of appetizers, sides, salads and desserts, and will be serving hot dogs and mac and cheese for the kids! This year we will have a bouncy house for the kids outside in the parking lot!! It would be fun if the kids brought a friend along to jump!!

VBS is just around the corner. The theme is SPLASH ... into God's word. I have been meeting with the team developing the decorations, leader roles, crafts, snacks, and music. This year we have a science leader and a water leader. It's been so fun selecting the music for the program with Sara. One of the all time favorites for the program , He's Got the whole World in his hands, will be sung and performed for the parents on our last day. All of the Biblical stories are that of water! I am super excited to share the importance of water with the kids as it relates to God and Jesus. One fantastic analogy will be when you get thirsty you drink water. But soon you will be thirsty again. That's the way it is with our body! Jesus says that if we believe in him, we will never be thirsty again. Then explain, Jesus is not talking about our bodies he is talking about our souls. Our soul is inside our body. Summarize by saying our soul needs Jesus just like our body needs water. When we believe in Jesus, our soul won't be thirsty anymore. Anyone who would like to take a SPLASH in the water with us is welcome to help with VBS!



Don't forget to reserve your spot for VBS! As the time approaches, we do fill up fast!

VBS Sign up

Upcoming Events

Rib Fest

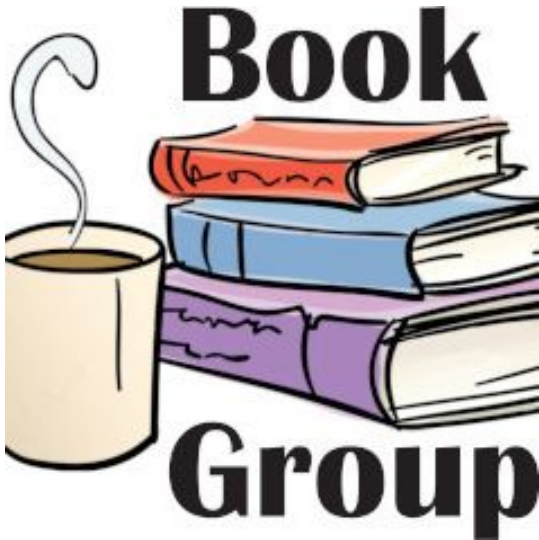
St. Michael's Presents:



Saturday, July 15

The sign-up form is now posted in the hallway by the community room.

\$15 Single
\$20 Couple
\$25 Family



Book Group

Book Group will meet on July 19 at 7 pm in the Library.

The book is The Hidden Life of Trees by Peter Wohlleben.

Announcements



With thanksgiving to God, Archbishop Joseph Garang is pleased to announce the date for Ordination and Consecration of Bishop Simon Chuang Ayok Deng,

third Bishop of Renk Diocese, and Bishop in the Church of God, at St. Matthew Cathedral, Renk Town, July 16, 2023.

St. Michael's and Renk Diocese have been in a Covenant of Relationship since January 1998, and the Diocese of Chicago and Renk Diocese have had a Companion Diocese Relationship, passed by resolution at Diocesan Convention, since 2001. The CDR has been renewed by resolution every 5 years by delegates to Convention.

St. Michael's partnership with Renk Diocese includes the building of Renk Theological College, rebuilding it when destroyed by the government of Sudan, and ongoing scholarship support of seminarians. Over the years, parishioners have visited Renk, and Archbishop Joseph has visited St. Michael's and the Diocese of Chicago.

Watch this space for further information about Bishop Simon Chuang Ayok Deng.

Renk Ministry Partnership (RMP)
Jackie Kraus, Chair



Revive Volunteers

Revive is looking for volunteers to help register participants for the Christmas basket program.

Read more below:

[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

[View Our Announcement Page For More News!](#)

Birthdays

7/18 Eric Weiss
7/19 Dave Buckley
7/22 Margaret Lockett
7/22 Julie Zgoda

Anniversaries

7/18 Andrea and Mike Willis

In Loving Memory

7/16 Bryon May
7/16 Elaine Walerius
7/17 John C. Forbes
7/18 Donald Wolters
7/18 Timothy Okonek
7/18 Timothy Hooker
7/20 Genevieve Capstaff
7/22 Colin Noble
7/22 Alexander Paris

Prayer Requests

David, Andy, Jeff, Marilyn and Pat, Cayden, Juliana, Barb, Sadie, Cindy, Art, Ann, Dave, Phyllis, Cameron, Maribeth, Ruth, Brian, Ted, Barb and Steve, Patty, and Amy.

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St. Michael's Episcopal Church
St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 647 Dundee Avenue, Barrington, IL 60010
The Parish Office is open 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
website: www.stmichaelsbarrington.org

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The Sword

The Sword is published each Thursday. The deadline to submit items to be included is Wednesday at 5:00 PM. Any questions or comments regarding this publication should be sent to pblass@stmichaelsbarrington.org

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