



ST MICHAEL'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Sword August 17, 2023

St. Michael's Weekly News & Updates



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**Calling All Ministry Leaders!**  
**Lindsay Taylor, Senior Warden**



Hello, St. Michael's! As I write this, summer activities are underway for all of us as we enjoy the warm weather. It is great to see you all every Sunday, and I know activities at St. Michael's are fully engaged with our many ministries.

Are you a ministry leader at St. Michael's? If so, we need your help. We are working to ensure we have an updated listing of ministries at St. Michael's. Whether you lead a worship-related ministry, bible study group, youth ministry, outreach ministry or club, we would appreciate it if you would provide your information at the link below. Please do not assume we have your information already - it will be helpful to have confirmation.

If you would please respond by Friday, August 18, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks in advance, and I hope you continue to enjoy your summer.

[Ministry Survey](#)

***From the Desk of Deacon Tim:***



I am thinking this week about spiritual growth and ripening. We have been hearing Jesus in the Gospels the past few weeks teach about spiritual enlightenment – or faith -- using seeds as a metaphor. Then last Sunday's Gospel featured Peter testing his "little faith," walking like Jesus on water outside the boat -- at least for a little while. Peter's journey will feature still other tests of his little faith growing toward mature faith. Peter will become the

rock, a foundation for followers of the Jesus movement to reference on our own spiritual journeys. Up next is a Gospel lesson in which Jesus focuses attention upon interior spiritual life being worth more attention than outward adherence to pious practices. Then Jesus encounters a Canaanite woman seeking help for a sick child. Jesus initially deflects her plea, but she points out that “even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the master’s table.” This seems to re-orient Jesus, who responds that her faith is great, that her request is worthy, and the child is healed.

The image with this article is of a three-dimensional art object of string, rope, fabric, glass, wood, bone, and beads. I encountered this piece during a visit to the Art Institute of Chicago some time ago. The artist, Igshaan Adams, writes about being inspired by roses and spiritual insights prompted by them. Thorns are the first thing that grows on a rose bush, representing the pain and difficulty of our journeys. The thorns protect the plant, which blossoms and then proceeds to lose petals one by one. Enlightenment, the artist recounts, is a process of moving through difficulties one by one, as we have deeper and still deeper realizations -- like one rose petal after another dropping from the flower. We can embrace the continuity of the journey only when we perceive the accumulated instances. Ultimately, the petals fall away to reveal the thing that was there in the beginning, the seed itself.

May you be blessed with awareness of the seeds of your own faith revealed in your spiritual journey.

Deacon Tim



**A Note from our Sunday School Director**

Kim Curtis

[kcurtis@stmichaelsbarrington.org](mailto:kcurtis@stmichaelsbarrington.org)



## Back-to-School Blessings

We are sending the children, youth, and teachers back to school with our prayers and blessings.

Join us on August 20th at the 10am service, we will have a special time of prayer.

All students and teachers are encouraged to bring their backpacks or briefcases to the service to be blessed.

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**LIFT**



**From the LIFT Leader's Desk**

## **Considering Confirmation? What exactly is it? Why do it?**

I can quote you the BCP, p. 412 "... those baptized at an early age are expected, when they are ready and have been duly prepared, to make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism..." But those are some heavy Anglican words and what does it really mean?

Unfortunately, I agree with one writer that says something has gone wrong. We, the church and its members, seem to have forgotten the message that a confirmation is a "commissioning" – a sending-forth to claim your identity as created in God's image and loved extravagantly by him. Many folks seem to believe that confirmation is somehow a "final act," and we never see the young people and sometimes the family, again. This is truly heartbreaking.

At St. Michael's we have chosen the high school years as the best time to ask our young people to make this commitment. The target year is their sophomore year in high school, but all high school students are welcome. At the end of our year of guidance and instruction, we don't force any young person to be confirmed. It is their personal decision. We've had a few students who took the class and decided that confirmation wasn't right for them, and that's absolutely okay! I'm glad they explored the faith and knew what it was they were saying no to.

Part of the curriculum includes:

- Learning about our Anglican/Episcopal history
- Experiencing a connection between their faith and their everyday life
- Understanding that our spiritual journey is a life-long event

This is designed to be a safe place for them to bring both their questions and their doubts.

*We sincerely hope* that your teenager will consider this important step in helping you, the parent, to have completion for the promise you made for your child at their baptism. Please prayerfully consider this important milestone for your teenager and discuss it with them. Again, it is not an end, but a continuation. There is Joy in the Journey!

Sincerely,

Kay Lewis, LIFT Leader  
Fr. Jesse Perkins, Rector  
Confirmation Leaders (+other guest speakers)

## **Upcoming Events**

**Blessing of the Backpacks &**



## Technology

August 20, 10:00 AM

Please join us at the blessing of the backpacks and technology on August 20th at the 10am service.

## 75th Anniversary Happenings



*Save The Dates to Celebrate...*

*75 Years of St. Michael's Episcopal Church*

St. Michael's is turning 75 and there are plans to celebrate. Mark your calendars for the dates and times below and keep a close eye on the Sword for more information in the coming weeks.

*Sunday, September 10th – St. Michael's Kick-Off Sunday*

Homecoming – 75 Years of Breaking Bread Together

Vintage meal and Ice Cream Social after the 10:00 AM service, complete with face painting, bouncy house and bubbles for kids of all ages. See link below to learn more, including how you can help.

[Read more here:](#)

*Saturday, September 30th – Anniversary Dinner*

An evening of remembering, laughing and fellowship.

More information coming soon!

*Sunday, October 1st– St. Michael's Sunday with Bishop Clark*

Reception following 10:00 AM service.

Questions? Please contact Penny Kazmier at 847-337-4498.

We have a special meal planned for the St. Michael's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Kick-Off on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> and we need your help making



## Cooks Wanted

vintage recipes we have selected from St. Michael's cookbooks. [Choose from one of these recipes](#) and [sign up here](#) to help.

Here is one example...



### Recipe:

#### Ground Beef-Noodle Bake

##### INGREDIENTS:

1 pound ground beef  
 2 tablespoons oil  
 1-1/2 cups sliced onions  
 1 crushed clove garlic  
 1 (1 lb 13 oz can diced tomatoes)  
 6 ounce can tomato paste  
 6 ounce can water  
 1 tsp Worcestershire sauce  
 1/2 teaspoon paprika  
 1 tablespoon salt  
 2 bay leaves  
 1/2 teaspoon Tabasco  
 1/8 teaspoon thyme  
 1/8 teaspoon marjoram  
 1/2 cup chopped green pepper  
 8 oz uncooked egg noodles  
 Parmesan cheese

##### DIRECTIONS:

Based on a strata recipe submitted by Mary Alice Linde and found on page 86 of the 1991 edition of the St. Michael's Parish cookbook, *Let Us Break Bread Together*

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.

In a large skillet, brown ground beef in hot oil, crumble with fork and drain. Add everything but noodles and cheese to the skillet. Bring to a boil and remove from heat.

Place half mixture in greased 9"x13" pan. Add uncooked noodles and top with remaining meat mixture. Cover tightly with aluminum foil and bake 45 minutes or until bubbly.

Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese before serving.



### Call For Photos

The 75th Anniversary Committee would like to offer a commemorative photo slide show to honor and celebrate our 75 years as a parish at one of our celebrations. If you have any photos of you and your loved ones while at St. Michael's or at a St. Michael's event, and are willing to share them electronically, please send them to this email address:

[peacellen123@gmail.com](mailto:peacellen123@gmail.com)

[For more information...](#)

## Announcements

### Memorial service for Kaky Bowles

It is with a heavy heart that we share



with you news of the death of Catherine (Kaky) Bowles. Our prayers go out to the family during this time.

A memorial service to celebrate her life will be held at 10:30 AM on Saturday, August 26th at St Michael's.

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### Volunteers Wanted!

The Elgin Soup Kitchen ministry of St. Michael's Church invites parishioners to join this volunteer effort. On the second Thursday of each month, St. Michael's volunteers assemble, prepare, and deliver food for the Elgin Cooperative Ministry Soup Kettle, operating in the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Elgin. Each month about a week prior to the event, members of the St. Michael's ministry receive email with the menu for the upcoming dinner and the number of guests to be fed (usually 60 – 80 people). Some volunteers shop. Some prepare food. Some assemble the preparations and deliver them from the St. Michael's kitchen on the appointed day. We have between 10 to 20 volunteers usually, and the number is trending toward 10 in recent months. Please contact Catherine Deevy, [cwkoelling@att.net](mailto:cwkoelling@att.net) with your questions about details for how your interests may align with the needs of this ministry.

### Revive Volunteers

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

Read more below:

[Volunteer Opportunities](#)



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