



ST MICHAEL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Sword August 24, 2023

St. Michael's Weekly News & Updates



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A Note From Our Rector

Jesse Perkins

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Hello St. Michael's, it is good to be back with you!! Seven weeks goes by quickly. While it is true that I am still getting caught up and connecting with all of you again this week, it was a good feeling to return to the office, begin emailing/texting/calling, and looking forward to worship with you on Sunday. The first half of my sabbatical is complete, and I believe I accomplished all I set out to do this summer. When I divided the sabbatical into halves, this first half focused spiritual renewal, rest, and family. I had the opportunity to take a week long silent retreat nearby at Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House, where I met daily with my spiritual director and spent the time in prayer and study. It was an incredible reminder (which I need regularly) to pause the "monkey mind" and listen for the quiet voice of God in our lives. And while a retreat makes that easier, it is something that we need each and every day. I also had a couple of days in New Mexico at a clergy retreat, where the facilitators were all ordained clergy and also mental health professionals; that combination provided a great chance to work on resilience in the ministry with people who know about the particular challenges that are faced.

When I was not on retreat, I was most likely with my family. We traveled a little, had a chance to see both sides of the family, and there were many days that Gaius, Atticus, and I were finding things to do together. The boys were able to go to Arkansas for a couple of weeks, and that gave Katy and me some time to focus on each other. This time has been a gift. One of my goals was to learn how to smoke meat: this summer, I purchased a Pellet Smoker Grill and I have cooked 4 racks of ribs, 3 pork shoulders, 2 slabs of salmon, and a brisket! (and gained a little weight too) Next summer for the second half-sabbatical, I will focus on my continuing education and begin my Doctorate of Ministry.

I am very grateful for everyone who helped keep things running smoothly while I was away: Deacon Tim who served as Head of Ministries, the Wardens and staff, and everyone who made this possible. Time is a gift, and I am grateful for this gift.

The staff and I are full speed ahead this week, as I catch up and as we move into our 75th anniversary celebrations. No doubt you already know about Kickoff Potluck, and then about the weekend of Oct 1- you don't want to miss it. The teams have been very busy planning and I am so thankful for all of their hard work. This year, in addition to celebrating, I want to continue our vision process started last year with the CAT survey, and also turn your attention to a fundraising effort that I hope will create a fund to strengthen St. Michael's and build its resilience for the next 75 years to come. (more to come) We have much for which to be grateful.

I ask for your prayers, as I hold you in mine. May God bless this church as we seek to be God's people here, worshipping and serving.

See you in church,
Jesse+

Parish Needs: we are in need of someone over 25 years old to help in the nursery. We

are able to pay hourly, and the position is open to anyone. See Kim for info.

A Note from our Sunday School Director

Kim Curtis

kcurtis@stmichaelsbarrington.org



It felt so great to have Father Jesse back in the office this week! Staff meeting was much longer than normal as you can imagine. Then on Monday had a fantastic weekly individual check in meeting to catch up on the summer. Thank you for all your support! I did miss the routine of our regular meetings. Welcome back!

This Sunday, Father Jesse and I will be gathering in the library at 11:30am with the Sunday school Volunteers. Anyone is welcome to join. If you are interested in helping in any way, please let me know. We always need behind the scenes help too. If you have time during the week to help with small things or after church. Some tasks could be steaming costumes, sorting supplies, shopping for snacks or food for events, organizing. Just let me know you would like to help in or out of the classroom setting.

Even though we have our classroom teachers, it helps to have additional aides to keep an eye on the children. This year we have more younger aged children in our LEVEL 1 and LEVEL 2. The BRIDGE classroom which is 3rd to 5th grade is the smaller group this year. So even if it's last minute on Sunday stop in to jo

in the discussion.

There is no Sunday school or nursery September 3rd in celebration of Labor Day Holiday. Enjoy your time with your family and friends!

See you all for kick off Sunday, September 10th. We will have music time at 9:50am. In the undercroft then proceed into our classrooms. For kick off we will have a bounce house for the kids to play in during the luncheon.

LIFT



From the LIFT Leader's Desk

Last week, you may have wondered why I was waxing poetic about confirmation... it's because the meeting announcement part was accidentally missing...

However, it has given me a minute to re-read my own article. I want to come clean (again) and reiterate to you fellow parents that I am not judging your choices at all. Randy and I baptized our children as infants and promised God and the witnesses at our church that we would raise them in the faith. Are there guarantees about outcomes? Did that mean that 2+2 would equal 4? Nope. Full transparency here: my adult children do not attend church; they are a part of the "spiritual but not religious" generation. Had I known this 30-something years ago, would I have done anything differently? Nope.

At the very least, we worshipped together as a family; they knew the faith and values of their parents: we gave them a foundation upon which to stand, even if they decided later in life that they would express their spirituality in their own ways.

Bottom line: No judgment here...only encouragement...in the very difficult and blessed role of being a parent. I get it, I feel you, I love you.
Blessings.

Greetings everyone, especially parents of LIFT kids (grades 6-12). On **Thursday night, Aug. 24, 7:00 p.m. in the Sturtz House** we will have our Parent LIFT-OFF Meeting. Please make every effort to be there since we will make some important decisions about our meeting times and age configurations for the upcoming year.

There will also be a brief time to pass out handouts and ask questions about a possible high school confirmation class this year. (Please read the following article.)

Please note: Baptism is not a requirement to attend confirmation *class*.

Please RSVP to me, Kay Lewis, so that the LIFT Board may plan for the evening with light refreshments.

Hope to see you there!

Peace, Kay Lewis

847-909-8374

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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)

Music Ministry

Come Join the Choirs!



Our music programming is starting up and we want YOU to be a part of it!
No experience necessary, come join the fun as we praise God through Music and Fellowship!

Adult Choir: Meets Thursdays 6-7:30pm in the choir room and 9:15am for the 10am Services, starting September 7th!

Intergenerational Handbell Choir: Meets Saturdays 9-10:10am in the sanctuary starting September 9th!

***** New Bridge/Lift Youth Choir:** Grades 3-12 Meets Saturdays 10:20-10:50am in the choir room starting September 16th

Sunday School Music: Every Sunday 9:50-10:00am in the undercroft!

Opportunities for instrumentalists with our Brass band, Blue grass band, Strings, and solo

opportunities.

Important Music Dates:

September 10- Kick Off Sunday

October 1- Bishop Visit/St. Michaels Day!

November 5th- Requiem Service featuring movements from Fauré Requiem with singers from Atonement and Salem Methodist Choirs!

December 3- Lessons and Carols featuring our handbell choir, youth choirs, and adult choir

December 24- 4pm Handbells, Strings, and Youth Choir,
10pm Adult choir with Brass quintet

January 7- Epiphany Pageant

March 14- Choral Evensong

March 24-31 Holy Week and Easter Celebrations

Contact: Sara Torbeck to join the music! storbeck@stmichaelsbarrington.org

Upcoming Events



Prayer Shawl

Prayer Shawl will meet Tuesday, August 29, in the Library from 6-7:30pm.

Everyone is welcome! No experience necessary.

75th Anniversary Happenings

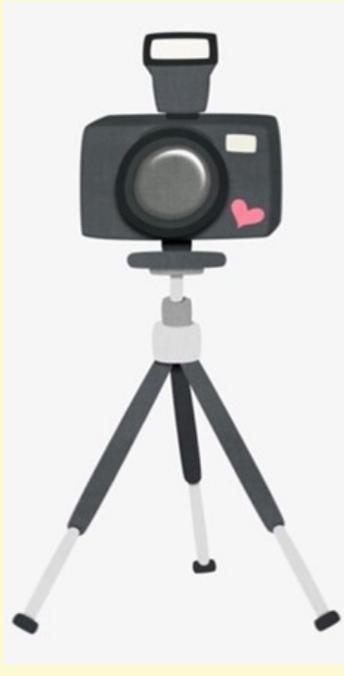


*Save The Dates to Celebrate...
75 Years of St. Michael's Episcopal
Church*

St. Michael's is turning 75 and there are plans to celebrate.

Click the banner below for the exciting details.

***Click here for 75th Anniversary
Events***

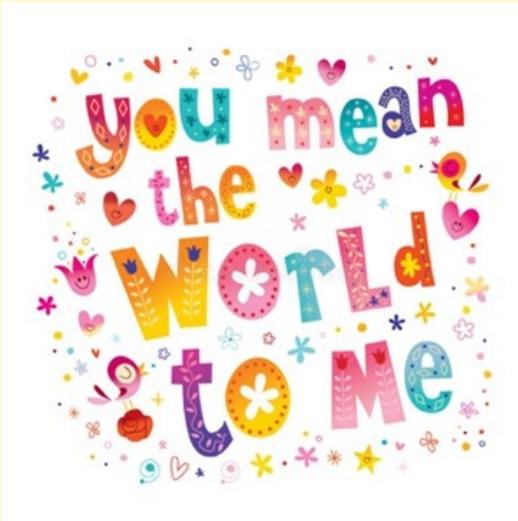


Call For Photos

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

[For more information...](#)



What does St. Michael's mean to me?

As part of the 75th Anniversary celebration we ask you to let us know "What Does St. Michael's mean to you?"

[Please click here to share your thoughts.](#)

Announcements

Hello St. Michael's,
You may remember that during my Easter Sunday sermon, I mentioned watching the TV Series The Chosen. I still recommend it to you after three seasons. In fact, there is an opportunity right here in Barrington to attend a retreat to watch and reflect on this show. Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat is hosting The Chosen: A Spiritual Reflection Retreat and I commend it you. Click here to learn more and register:

<https://jesuitretreat.org/retreats/october-6-9-2023>

“Summary: During this retreat you will have the opportunity to reflect on the life of Jesus and his first followers in a whole new way. Together with other



retreatants and members of our Ministry team at Bellarmine, you will watch **The Chosen**, the first-ever multi-season show about Jesus starring Catholic actor Jonathan Roumie as Jesus. To learn more about **The Chosen**, check out their website (<https://new.thechosen.tv/>) or watch the "Season 1" trailer here

(<https://www.lingoapp.com/107055/s/Rmq0xz/?v=24>).

CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



August 30, 2023 - fundraiser for the CROP hunger walk. Stop by McAllister's Deli in Lake Zurich any time during 10:30am-9:00pm and McAllister's will donate 20% of your purchase. See link below for more information.

October 15, 2023 at 1pm - 41st Annual Barrington Area CROP hunger walk

Please join the St. Michael's 2023 CROP Hunger Walk team to raise awareness and funds to fight hunger. We will walk through the Village of Barrington on October 15, 2023 at 1pm, starting at the Community Church of Barrington, 407 S. Grove Avenue. You may choose either a 1-mile or 5-mile route. Money raised by CROP Hunger Walks nationwide provides food, medical care, disaster relief and self-help development for needy people around the world.

McAllister's Fundraiser
Flyer

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

[Donate to St. Michael's](#)

[Vestry Members and Minutes](#)

[St. Michael's Staff](#)

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

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 pbllass@stmichaelsbarrington.org

St. Michael's Episcopal Church | 647 Dundee Avenue, Barrington, IL 60010

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