



ST MICHAEL'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Sword December 7, 2023

## St. Michael's Weekly News & Updates



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### A Note From Our Rector

Jesse Perkins

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



Hello St. Michael's!

This Advent brings some new beginnings and new possibilities for the parish, and I would like to tell you about one I am excited about. You all know Fr. Jim Swarthout, who has supplied for me at various points over the past few years while I was out of town; Fr. Jim has just retired from his full-time secular employment and an opportunity has presented itself. After talks with the Vestry, we are bringing Fr. Jim on staff in a part time capacity as Assisting Rector starting in the new year (although you will see him around this month as well).

Fr. Jim's staff position does not impact our current or future annual budgets. To fund this part-time staff position, I asked the vestry to allocate funds from our cash surplus, which was created by saving money from previous years that we did not spend. Particularly, when we received the PPP loans and used them for staff expenses that year, we had pledge and plate funds remaining which we put into our surplus cash reserve (think church savings account). The remaining balance of this surplus fund is being held in reserve to offset any future lean years' needs. I am pleased that we were able to seize this opportunity and look forward in ways we can grow and expand our ministries, while also maintain a good buffer for future unexpected needs. A church has to do both maintenance and mission!

You remember that CAT survey from last year? There was so much good information there about the needs of our parish. Among those needs was an increase in pastoral care and presence to people in need. Fr. Jim is very qualified to join St. Michael's and its pastoral care team to do just that.

In addition to working in mental health and addiction counseling for more than thirty-five years, and receiving a masters degree in social work, Fr. Jim is also a certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor, and a Nationally Certified Intervention Professional. He will be helping me with the pastoral care needs of the parish we currently have, and also be available by appointment to meet with anyone who might benefit from his counsel and prayers. He will be assisting me with other various priestly tasks, and we are currently thinking about a possible mid-week Eucharist and discussion group (still in the early planning phases!) and additional preschool chapel times.

You will be seeing Fr. Jim around St. Michael's a lot more on Sundays now preaching occasionally and presiding at the Eucharist. I hope you join me in welcoming him, and feel free to contact him if you need him! [frjim5254@sbcglobal.net](mailto:frjim5254@sbcglobal.net)

God bless,  
Jesse+

#### **A Note from our Deacon**

Tim Murray

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



## Artificial Intelligence and God - Part 2

The first of our Adult Sunday Forum sessions last week was received enthusiastically! Bernice McCarthy is willing to present a Part 2 session on Artificial Intelligence and God this coming Sunday, December 10, beginning at 9:10 am in the Conference Room (near the Community Room. Please consider devoting a half hour to participate between the two Sunday services.

To preview coming attractions, please join Randy Lewis on December 17, when he presents his insights about The Gospel of Jesus.

### **A Note from our Sunday School Director**

Kim Curtis

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



Why celebrate advent with your kids? As a parent, it can be a fun faith filled way to keep the family focused on Jesus. A time when we look forward to Jesus' arrival and to celebrate the gift of advent with HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE. We discuss each week's meaning with the Sunday school.

There are so many great ideas for celebrating Advent. For example, random acts of kindness or the Advent wreath. Both foster discussions in prayer and focus on the meaning of the season. Reading books this time of year is always a family affair! Kids will have questions about Jesus and books can provide the answers you need. The Sunday school rooms have so many books about Christmas. I would like to invite you to stay after church and read a book or two with your child. End the

Sunday with a Merry Moment and read them a book or two?

Coming up on Sunday, December 17th is St. Nicholas day. This is a family focused day to remember this popular saint who was known for his kindness and generosity. It will be a church celebration to connect us to St. Nick's story as a follower of Jesus. The kids will participate in a fun day of surprises, a children friendly message during the 10am service and a visit from St. Nicholas in coffee hour.



#### "From Humbug to Hallelujah"

Advent Reflection Series with Fr. Jim

Wednesdays 7-8pm in Advent (December 6, 13, & 20)

Christians aren't immune from the stress and busyness that mark our culture at Christmastime, so "From Humbug to Hallelujah" really says it all. Fr. Jim suggests that the transformation in the life of Ebenezer Scrooge in Charles Dickens's classic tale "A Christmas Carol" can be the real experience of ourselves, families with gratitude to the power of Immanuel . . . "God with us!"

Advent Reflection Series going from humbug to hallelujah:

1. Break Christmas Chains Forged in Life (Advent Sunday 1)
2. Reawaken the Joy Inherent in Christmas (Advent Sunday 2)
3. Value Relationships Especially at Christmas (Advent Sunday 3)
4. Celebrate a Christmas Miracle of Heart all year round!

Discouragement overwhelms us when we focus on our own circumstances. This series will help you focus your people's attention on the Creator of our circumstances, and point ourselves and others to His good and greater plan for our lives. We will discuss breaking the chains that have been forged at times in our lives to reawakening the pure joy of Christmas, then through understanding the value of our relationship with Christ and with others, to understanding the transforming power of the Christmas miracle, and on to living that miracle all year long as we become AWAKE to change lives from humbug to hallelujah.

**LIFT**





**NEW UPDATED LIFT/CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR  
CHECK IT OUT**

**LIFT Schedule**

## **Upcoming Events**

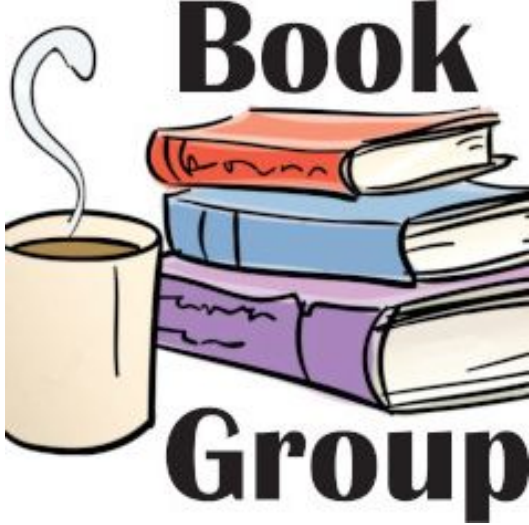


## **Support St. Michael's in 2024!**

[Click here](#) to submit your pledge, and further  
the life and ministries of the parish.

### **Book Group**

Our Book Group will Celebrate Christmas at our meeting 7 pm, Wednesday, December 20. Instead of a book discussion in the library we will have a party in the Sturtz House! Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share, and a gift-wrapped book from your own library for a White Elephant Gift Exchange. We will also create the schedule for 2024, so please check your calendars ahead of time for availability to lead a discussion or host a meeting.



All adult readers are invited to attend, we'd love to have you join us December 20!

Questions? Contact [kfrelk4@gmail.com](mailto:kfrelk4@gmail.com)



### **Christmas Eve Services Sunday, December 24**

**4pm** Festive congregational carol singing with instruments and strings.

**10pm** Candlelight high mass with brass quintet and adult choir

## **Announcements**

### **Reverse Advent Calendar**



*For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in;"  
Matthew 25:35*

## Reverse Advent Calendar - Collecting for St. Leonard's Ministries

Beginning Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, our [Reverse Advent Calendar](#) collects items for St. Leonard's Ministries. As we reflect on forgiveness, we recognize that formerly incarcerated people are looking for a chance to start over. St. Leonard's is requesting basic clothing items like socks and underwear. Our [Amazon Smile Wish List](#) has identified a few examples and you can even have your donation shipped directly to St. Michael's! Please bring your donations for St. Leonard's by Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Learn more about [St. Leonard's Ministries](#).



**Volunteers Needed**

**And All The Angels needs your help!**



With the holidays and our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary fast approaching, we are in desperate need of a few more volunteers. We aren't looking for a huge commitment, just a few hours on a Wednesday, Saturday morning or Sunday morning. Even once a month would be a great help. The shop is easy to run and I would be more than happy to

walk you through the process. We are getting more and more new customers from the outside and I would hate to reduce our hours.

Any help you could give would be greatly appreciated. This ministry has helped a lot of organizations over the years and I would hate to see it disappear.

Please feel free to stop in the shop on a Sunday or give me a call at 847-358-1334.

Thank you for your continued support in this ministry.  
Marti Callahan



## Altar Flower Donations

This holiday season you can help our altar to be adorned with God's beautiful gift of flowers. The altar guild works tirelessly to create floral arrangements for the altar but we need your help!

Did you know that the flowers on the altar are funded solely with donations by parishioners? A donation can be made in memory or thanksgiving of a loved one or just in thanksgiving! Please consider donating towards our Christmas flowers with any amount you can.

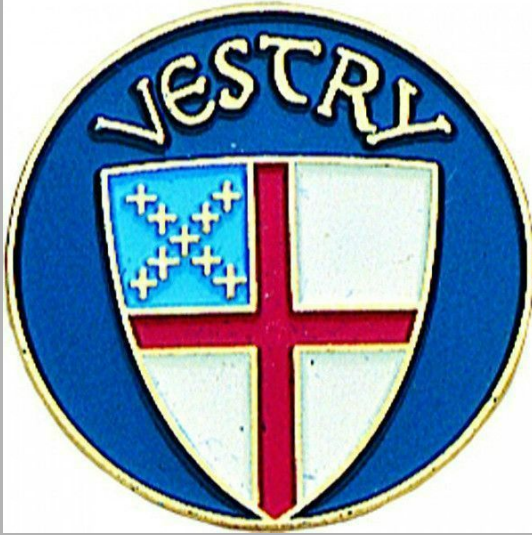
The funds will be used to purchase flowers and poinsettias to create a special Christmas display. There are envelopes in the narthex on the podium and some in the pews.

You can also donate online by using the link below and make a note of who they are in memory or thanksgiving for.

In order to have the names printed in the bulletin, please donate by December 19th. The altar guild thanks you in advance for your support!

[Donate Flowers](#)





The Vestry is preparing its slate of candidates for next year. If you would like to volunteer, or know someone who would be a great candidate, please e-mail Bill Ferry (Junior Warden) at [wkf630\\_2002@yahoo.com](mailto:wkf630_2002@yahoo.com).

It's a great opportunity to get involved. We have 3 positions to be filled.

Questions, please feel free to call me at (847) 450-3846.

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

### Birthdays

12/11 Vickie Johnson  
12/13 Randy Lewis  
12/15 Forest Mayberry  
12/15 Ella Holterman  
12/16 Kelly Lensink

### Anniversaries

### In Loving Memory

12/11 Tommie Nessel  
12/14 Jacqueline Marie Martin  
Angela Silkowski  
Marilyn King

### Prayer Requests

The King Family, Betsy, Emma Rose, Lynda, Jeff, the Roper family, Kay, Richard, Christine, Charlie and Meg, Sharon, Andy, Marilyn and Pat, Cayden, Sadie, Cindy, Dave, Phyllis, Cameron, Maribeth, Ruth, Brian, Barb and Steve, Patty, and Amy.

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

[Vestry Members and Minutes](#)

[St. Michael's Staff](#)

## Community News

### Barrington Christmas Art Walk

<http://www.christmasartwalk.com/>



### **Press Release – Christmas Art Walk 2023 – Barrington, Illinois**

The Jonahre Foundation presents A GIFT TO REMEMBER Christmas Art Walk 2023 in Barrington, IL.

Families are invited to a free event to EXPLORE, DISCOVER and WALK through 12 stores following a map through downtown Barrington, IL on a Christmas Art Walk open December 12 – 23, 2023.

12 artists have been commissioned to create a truly international reflection of the Christmas story. Each piece of art tells the story through the actions of the CHARACTERS at the point of the Christmas story and will inspire viewers to remember the TRUE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS. The walk culminates with the giving of the wise men's gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh and the meaning each brings to celebrate the gift of Jesus.

The "GIFT TO REMEMBER" Christmas Art Walk opens with a meet and greet of some of the artist in the stores on Tuesday, December 12th and on Saturday, December 16th. An open-air living nativity play with animals will be performed outside at Egg Harbor Café every 30 minutes on Saturday, December 16th, starting 10am until 2pm. People from the community are encouraged to attend their local churches for Christmas services.

For more details check out the events page on the website: [www.christmasartwalk.com](http://www.christmasartwalk.com) or look on our Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/ChristmasArtWalk>

## **Barrington Police Department Food Drive**

Accepting  
Donations until  
Mid December



BarringtonFOP.org



Barrington Police

Benefiting  
Local Food  
Pantries

# FOOD DRIVE

Drop off donations at Barrington PD

[400 N Northwest Hwy]

Soups and stews  
Grain breakfast  
Canned or dried  
beans

Canned fish,  
meat  
Peanut butter /  
other nut butters

Pasta sauce,  
canned tomatoes  
Shelf-stable milk  
Canned  
vegetables



**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](http://www.stmichaelsbarrington.org)

**The Sword**

The Sword is published each Thursday. The deadline to submit items to be included is Tuesday at 5:00 PM. Any questions or comments regarding this publication should be sent to [admin@stmichaelsbarrington.org](mailto:admin@stmichaelsbarrington.org)

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

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