



ST MICHAEL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Sword December 14, 2023

St. Michael's Weekly News & Updates



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A Note From Our Rector

Jesse Perkins

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Symbols of our Faith Part 4- Advent Wreath

One unmistakable sign that it is Advent (and Christmas is on its way) is the lighting of the Advent Wreath. There is something awesome about the simplicity of this calendar that marks the progression of the four Sundays in this season, as we all wait with great anticipation the birth of the Son of God.

Click here to read more: <https://www.stmichaelsbarrington.org/church-blog/1376-symbols-of-our-faith-4-advent-wreath?preview=1>



A Note from our Deacon

Tim Murray

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Reminder for Adult Sunday Forum

This coming Sunday, December 17, at 9:10 am, Randy Lewis will present his insights on the book, *The Gospel of Jesus*. Whether you generally attend the 8am service or the 10am service, you are invited to spend about a half hour between the services for Randy's presentation and then group discussion. Coffee and tea available!

This will be our last Adult Sunday Forum presentation for the Advent season. Please be on the watch for further presentations in Epiphany season after New Year's.

A Note from our Sunday School Director

Kim Curtis

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This Sunday is going to be a special event for all children. We will be celebrating St. Nicholas day once again as part of our annual advent tradition. The kids will be sitting with their families instead of Sunday school. Families with little ones are welcome to sit in the front reserved pews. I will be having a special children's message during the service for the kids to enjoy.

When you arrive please have your child leave their shoes in the hallway. Time for those silly socks to come out of the drawer! During the service a surprise will be left in their shoes. This is all apart of the St. Nicholas traditions. They will later have a visit from St. Nicholas during coffee hour.

Marisa is working on the casting for the Epiphany Pageant, and we will email you the script next week. Here are some important dates to note. Christmas Eve, during the 4pm service will be the costume pick up day. The costumes will be labeled with your child's name in the community room. Rehearsal for the pageant will be 10am to 11:30am on Saturday, January 6th. The pageant is Sunday, January 7th with early rehearsal at 9:15am.

Looking forward to a fun and festive day for the kids on Sunday. See you then! Ms. Kim.



"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](#)

FROM THE LIFT LEADER'S DESK

Just when I think that I can't do another thing, all I have to do is look around to the parents that bring their kids to LIFT, or the board members that serve with me. I am in awe of their dedication, service and energy! Let's be clear, youth programs only work because of the parents.

Our LIFT program has had a busy month. We have wrapped presents for our very large Revive family (a family of 10); we had a confirmation class right after the Lessons and Carols service; and this past Sunday we had our white elephant gift exchange with our Sr.

LIFT kids. Such fun!

In the new year, I hope to catch you up with all of our pictures of this very active group. Continue to have a blessed and holy Advent and a Merry Christmas (when it gets here, of course. I'm not very good at waiting, Fr. Jesse!)

This Sunday, December 17, is our last (LIFT) Sunday morning for this year. We will resume January 7.

Praying for peace on earth,
Kay Lewis

Upcoming Events

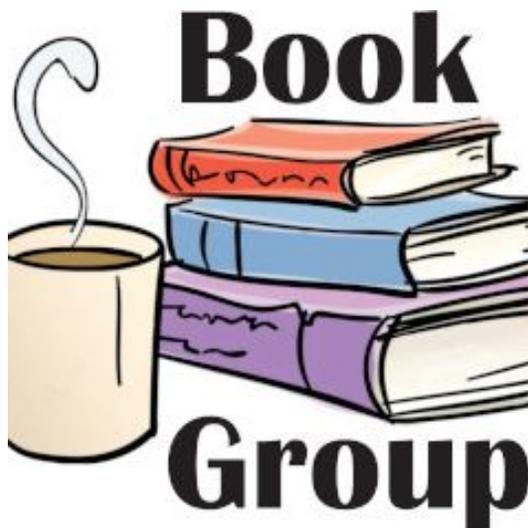


Support
St. Michael's
in 2024

Click to Pledge

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



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



"We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing."
2 Thessalonians 1:3

Dec. 14 – Gratitude for Gifts

As we move into the final week of Advent, we give thanks for the generous giving and grateful hearts of St. Michael's parishioners over the past 75 years. The Outreach Committee is especially grateful for all the gifts donated to Cumali, Ravenswood Community Services, and St. Leonard's Ministries. The generosity of our St. Michael's family continues to exceed our expectations.

This Christmas, we are grateful for all the blessings God has given to St. Michael's, especially the bountiful donations our St. Michael's family has shared with those who are hungry, unsheltered, or rebuilding their lives after incarceration.

Merry Christmas!

Humanitarian crisis in the Middle East

Many of you are very aware of the humanitarian crisis in the Middle East. While the needs are very great, there are beacons of hope in the midst of the disaster. The Al-Ahli Arab Hospital is a medical mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. It has continued to function throughout the current crisis. If you want to help them, you can send a tax-deductible gift through the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. Here is their website. <https://afedj.org>

Located on the Mount of Olives is Augusta Victoria hospital. It is the only source of radiological therapy in the entire West Bank. They have been working with Al-Ahli hospital to help them provide similar treatments. Augusta Victoria is one of many Lutheran ministries in the Holy Land. If you want to help them, here is their website. <https://lutheranworld.org> These are Just two places to send our help. Please pray and learn all you can.

In the Episcopal Cathedral in East Jerusalem, there is a poster that reads, "Pray not for Arab or Jew for Palestinian or Israeli. Pray rather for ourselves that we might not divide them in our prayers but keep them both together in our hearts"

Fr. Ralph+



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 17th. The altar guild thanks you in advance for your support!

[Donate Flowers](#)

Volunteers Needed

And All The Angels needs your help!



With the holidays and our 30th 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

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

Birthdays

12/17 Gene Dawson
 12/17 Jackie Kraus
 12/18 Jeff Cross
 12/18 Terri Longo
 12/19 Caden Chan
 12/19 Kathy Galliher
 12/19 Michele & Grace Atem
 12/20 Judy Tammi
 12/20 Lorna Garcia
 12/21 Paul Carrubba
 12/21 Joel Deichmann
 12/22 Kay Richards

Anniversaries

12/22 Ellen and Ric Lindeen

In Loving Memory

12/17 Peter Forbes
 12/17 Jean Treveiler
 12/18 Barbara Mabbs
 12/19 Bette Sue Thomasson
 12/19 Scott Treveiler, Jr.
 12/19 John Dowling
 12/20 Anthony Slone
 12/20 JoAnn Godfrey
 12/24 Eleanor Conlon
 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, Caden, Sadie, Cindy, Dave, Phyllis, Cameron, Maribeth, Ruth, Brian, Barb and Steve, Patty, and Amy

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[Vestry Members and Minutes](#)

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 or look on our Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/ChristmasArtWalk>

Barrington Police Department Food Drive

Accepting
Donations until
Mid December

Benefiting
Local Food
Pantries



BarringtonFOP.org



Barrington Police

FOOD DRIVE

Drop off donations at Barrington PD

[400 N Northwest Hwy]

Soups and stews	Canned fish, meat	Pasta sauce, canned tomatoes
Grain breakfast	Peanut butter / other nut butters	Shelf-stable milk
Canned or dried beans		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

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

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