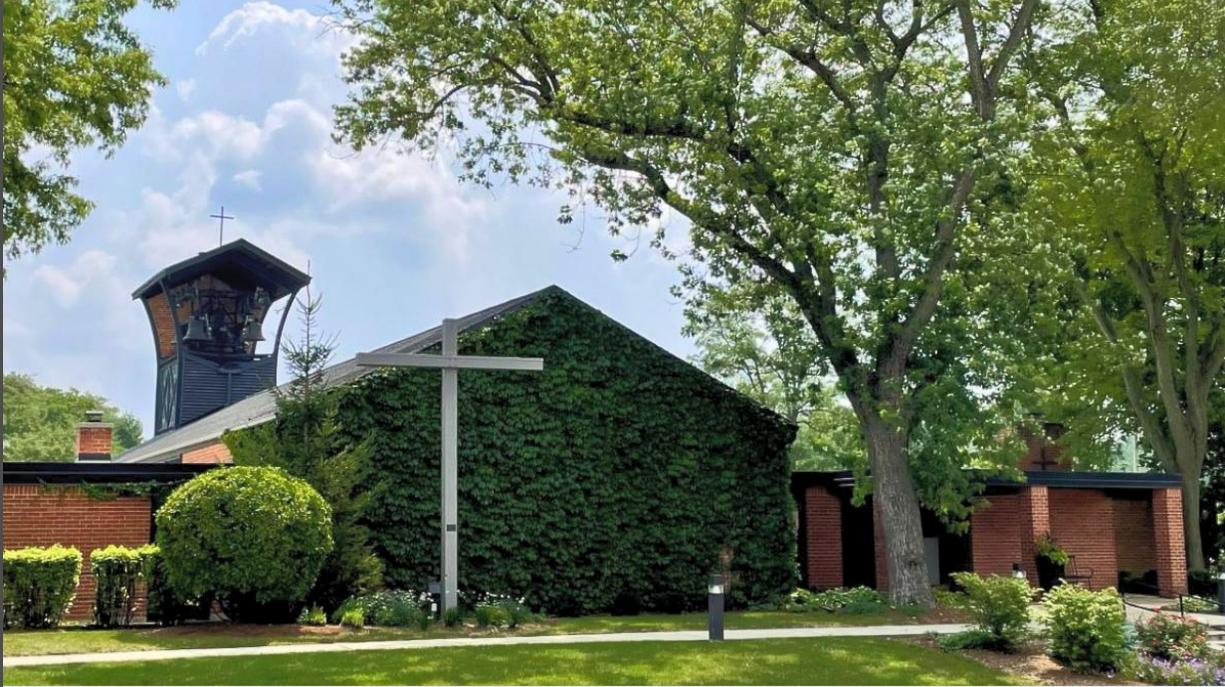




ST MICHAEL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Sword January 11, 2024

St. Michael's Weekly News & Updates



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A Note From Our Rector

Jesse Perkins

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2024! Happy New Year, St. Michael's! If you are like me, I am creating new folders and new spreadsheets for the new year- it seems hard to believe another one has gone by. 2024 has brought some incredible energy here at the church, and I am excited about where the church is headed.

My family and I are back from Arkansas where we had a chance to see many of our family and extended family, and celebrate Christmas and New Year's. I even had a chance to represent St. Michael's and the Diocese of Chicago at the Bishop's Consecration there- a wonderful opportunity that overlapped with my scheduled time there. The retiring bishop, +Larry Benfield, is the one who ordained me a priest 14+ years ago, and it was a delight to reconnect with old friends and colleagues as they welcomed their new bishop to the diocese.

With Christmas and New Years behind us, and the weather turning cold and "yucky," I wanted to offer this observation: January tends to be a hard month for our parishioners. I do not know why exactly, but my experience here is that the darkest and coldest months following the holidays is hard on us humans. I will be praying for you, and I ask your prayers for me, as we look for and celebrate the light of Christ when our own daylight is short.

In conclusion, I offer a thought from Fr. Jim today, something he shared with me upon my return. Instead of resolutions, perhaps gentle goals are good for us:

"Slow Down. Schedule some rest. Be grateful for the smallest of things. Lose yourself in the moment more often. Belly laugh daily. Say yes to simple adventures. Say yes to God. Put down the phone. Let go of perfection. Go for small sustainable growth. Spend more days praying. Hold onto things lightly and people tightly. Put more earth under your feet and sunshine on your face. Spend less time consuming and more time creating. Embrace the beauty of living each day and each season. If the trees and the bears need a season for rest, so do you. Give thanks to God. Breathe prayerfully." -Adapted from Fr. Jim Swarthout.

God bless,
Jesse+

A Note from our Sunday School Director

Kim Curtis

kcurtis@stmichaelsbarrington.org



What a fabulous fantastic Sunday!!! Congratulations to our entire Sunday school who put on a spectacular performance for the Epiphany Pageant! We had 30 children participating. I was so pleased with how well the children followed their lines and spoke so clearly. The narrators were an additional bonus and pulled the entire show together. Thank you to all the parents who came for rehearsal and participated in the pageant.

Specifically, Marisa Boynton deserves a big round of applause! Her musical talent and leadership skills with the children was the basis for such an extraordinary performance. She even filled in as King Herod! Jackson and Winston Summerfield did an outstanding job playing their instruments with the choir.

Another special thanks to Sara, Jerry and the adult choir! We appreciate the extra time and rehearsals on Saturday and Sunday morning. All the hard work was worth the reward of seeing the kids smile and be proud!

I am grateful to Clark Beverly who suggested and volunteered a Costco run for the hotdog lunch. Another thanks to Judy Galliher who was a huge help in the kitchen. Working the lunch line gave me the opportunity to hear so many positive comments about the Sunday school. Many mentioned they did not know we had so many kids in the program. I certainly appreciated all your kind words.

Looking forward - our Lenten planning has begun. February 14th is Ash Wednesday this year. Please join us in the chapel at the 6:30pm service for a special evening children's lesson.

LIFT



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

Upcoming Events

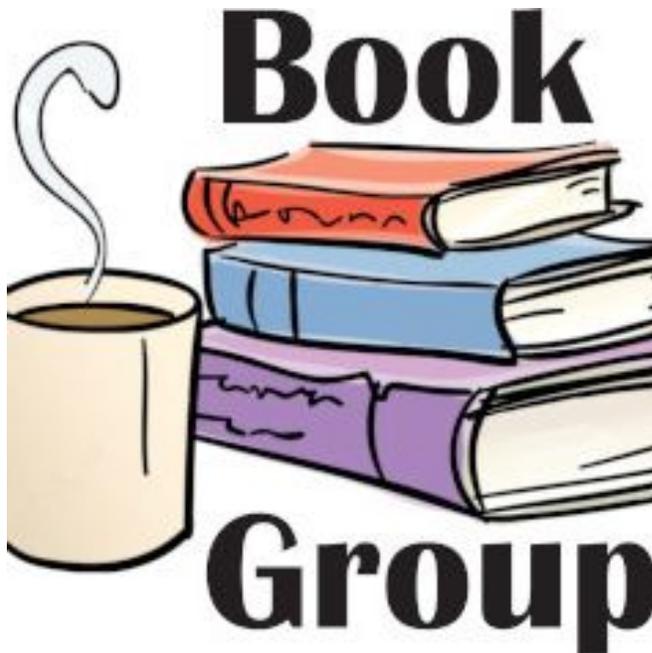


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St. Michael's
in 2024

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Support St. Michael's in 2024!

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Book Group Wednesday, January 17th

"The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store" by James McBride is our January title. We will meet at 7 pm, in the church library, on Wednesday, January 17. Judy Tammi will be our discussion leader. All adult readers at St. Michael's are welcome to join us!

For questions, or more information contact Kathi Frelk, kfrelk4@gmail.com.

February 4th, 11:30 am



Vestry Slate 2024

Senior Warden (1 year term): Bill Ferry (2023 jr warden)

Junior Warden (1 year term): Liz Gabis

Three-year Vestry terms (three open seats):

- Paul Carrubba
- Amy Hoff
- Jeff Tolle

Bios and Pictures can be found here:

<https://www.stmichaelsbarrington.org/church-blog/1379-2024-vestry-slate?preview=1>

Announcements

The Gifts of the Magi

Last Saturday I gratefully loaded up my car with 456 boxes of Kraft Macaroni and Cheese, thinking, "well, we didn't make 500, but I can go to the store to purchase more boxes to reach the goal." On Sunday morning, when returning to the collection area, what to my wondering eyes should appear, but exactly enough boxes to reach our goal! I then knew a wise man had visited, leaving his gift, so that we could all honor the Christ with our humble mac n cheese offering.

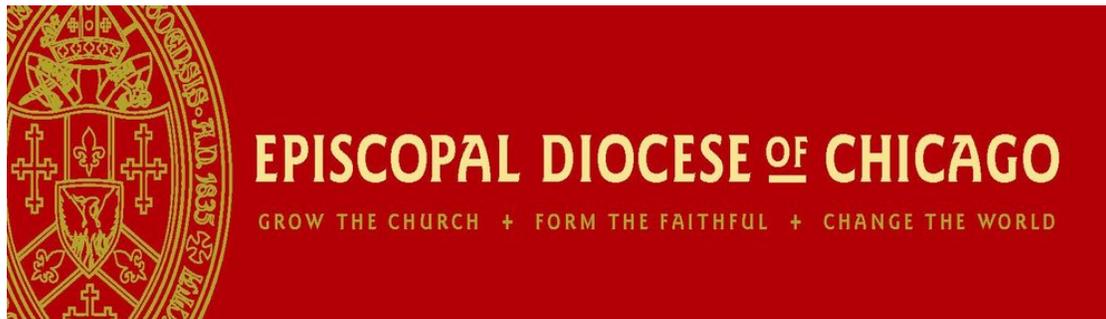
And that tells the story of the St. Michaels' Wise Men and Women--each giving in excess to ensure that Christ's love is spread, liberally donating to the Reverse Advent project so that hundreds of folks in need could be cared for.

Thank you all so very much for your bountiful generosity--to date we have delivered 83 pair of gloves and 70 blankets to homeless folk on Lower Wacker Dr and 500 mac n cheese dinners to Ravenswood Community Services. Katy's Christmas baskets filled the Community Room, and this week we will deliver several boxes of socks and underwear to St. Leonard's Ministries.

Shout it out, like Deacon Tim--Thanks be to God!



Diocesan Convention 2024 Delegates



Are you curious about our Chicago Diocese or our new Bishop? Want to represent St. Michael's as a delegate to the next Diocesan Convention in the fall of 2024? Send Fr. Jesse an email; we will elect three delegates at the annual meeting. Each parish sends clergy and lay delegates to convention each year to conduct the business of the diocese. This next year, the convention will be virtual, although our delegation could meet in person here at St. Michael's to "attend" together if desired. We will vote on elections to committees, hear and vote on resolutions, and listen to the budget presentation. Please consider being a volunteer to represent us this year.

Church Directory

If you would like your name and picture to be in the church directory, please fill out the form below. (if you have not already)

Please submit changes or new information only.

<https://form.jotform.com/230795099125160>



Church Directory Updates

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Birthdays

1/18 Denny Roper
1/18 Tina Roper
1/18 John Totten

Anniversaries

In Loving Memory

1/14 Stephen Wright
1/14 Lucille Capulli MacLennan
1/14 Helene Dickson
1/14 Lysa Meyers
1/16 Denis Chaudruc
1/18 Judy Fisher
1/20 Lena Pesce

Prayer Requests

Christine, Tom, Eleanor, Emma Rose, Lynda, Jeff, Sharon, Andy, Marilyn and Pat, Caden, Sadie, Dave, Phyllis, Cameron, Maribeth, Ruth, Brian, Barb and Steve, Patty, and Amy

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[Vestry Members and Minutes](#)

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Community News



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

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

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