



ST MICHAEL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Sword February 22, 2024

St. Michael's Weekly News & Updates



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A Note From Our Rector

Jesse Perkins

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Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.
Dust, remember you are splendor.

As we make our way through the first week of Lent, I have been meditating on the choir's offertory anthem on Ash Wednesday: "Dust Remember You Are Splendor." The words and music were deeply moving, and perhaps summed up my sermon better than I preached it.

Often at the forefront of our Ash Wednesday messaging is the reminder that we are mortal, and that one day our body will lie in death and return to the earth from which it was made. It is a sobering wake up call that we much to do as followers of Jesus Christ, and so little time to do it. "remember...to dust you shall return." We focus on our sin and our failings, and repent and start anew.

But as the choir anthem so beautifully articulated, there is another message that we can hear during this Lent: "Dust (that's us), remember that you are splendor." We are dust animated with the divine breath, and In addition to being grateful for that life and its blessings, God has created us with a purpose and a potential. We do not have much time on this earth to live into it fully. This message has created feelings of gratitude for my many many blessings in this life, so many unearned. It has created feelings of humility that the grace God gives is beyond anything I deserve or have earned. It has created feelings of regret, when I see the shortcomings in my life where I have not lived up to anything that looked like "splendor." And it has given me a new sense of longing to be more of the child of God I was created to be.

While it is sometimes easy to focus on the guilt during Lent, I also ask you to focus on the splendor of who you are created to be. And when you find the areas of life where you do not quite live up to that, ask for forgiveness and renew your efforts. God loves you more deeply than you can imagine, and what God wants most is for us to return it.

Dust, Remember You Are Splendor.
Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Jesse+

PS- Watch and Listen to the choir anthem here (46:26):
<https://vimeo.com/912034409?share=copy#t=2786>

A Note from our Sunday School Director

Kim Curtis
kcurtis@stmichaelsbarrington.org



The Lenten devotional Wandering Hearts that Father Jesse introduced to us also has a children's curriculum for Lent-Easter. It is an engaging 8 week lessons that follows Simon Peter's Journey with Jesus. It includes a scripture retelling, reflection, prayer, and extension activities. For Sunday school it follows the same flow of our current program. It encourages the children to act out the kinesthetic prompts to discuss the scripture. This week the main idea is: Jesus is with us when we're scared. It reminds the children to be brave by remembering Jesus is always near them.

I love how this program can be shared with the whole family. Focus on the Art, reflections, and the poetry for the season of Lent. I will have copies of our lessons on the back lenten resource table in the Nave. Please take one home and perhaps retell the story with your child or grandchild during the week.

A Moment or Two by Fr. Jim Swarthout



Sunday's Scripture:

"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." Mark 8: 31-38

THE WORD:

Throughout his Gospel, Mark portrays a Jesus who is constantly misunderstood by family and friends. Jesus tells his disciples that his ministry will end in suffering and death in Jerusalem. Peter takes Jesus aside and admonishes him for speaking such a gruesome message. Jesus reacts with surprising sharpness to Peter's rebuke. The hard reality for Peter and his companions (including us) to accept is that cross is central to Jesus' Messiahship – and must be a part of every follower's acceptance of Jesus' call to discipleship. To be part of the new life of Christ's resurrection in the life to come requires dying to our own needs and wants in the present.

Reflection Points:

Sometimes a cross may be a particular burden, but our crosses can also be a strength or ability we possess that we can use to bring Easter hope into the life of another. Discipleship is the challenge of transforming our crosses into vehicles of resurrection.

While we naturally seek to avoid what is painful and stressful, it is in failure that we learn; it is suffering that we find healing; it is in the crosses we take up that we re-create our lives in the joy and hope of the resurrection.

Lent Adult Study with Deacon Tim

Contemplating Sanctified Art for Lent



Dear people of St. Michael's, please join me and other interested parishioners spending about a half hour between Sunday services, beginning at 9:10 am, to contemplate a piece of Sanctified Art. The art piece for each week is projected on a large screen with rich color and detail. We hear the scripture inspiration and the artist's reflection. Discussion arising from our contemplations could lead to interesting, unanticipated pathways. We gather in the conference room near the Community Room.

Deacon Tim+

Adult Forum with The Rev. Ralph Osborne



You are invited to join an adult forum after the 10:00 services during Lent. We will meet in the library from 11:30 -12. Fr. Ralph will be leading a study of chapters 13-17 in the Gospel of John. It is called the Farewell Discourse. Each week we will explore the last words Jesus had for his disciples. The second Sunday video can be viewed below.

[Adult Forum Video](#)

LIFT



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

[LIFT Schedule](#)

FROM THE LIFT LEADER'S DESK

See you on **Feb. 25th** for morning LIFT 9:00 and **Sr. LIFT Night 6:00-7:30 p.m.!!**

Upcoming Events

Stations of the Cross

This Lent we are offering our regular Stations of the Cross weekly on Wednesdays, starting at **6pm**. This service will be held from February 21 until March 20 each week on Wednesday. Please plan to attend this contemplative walk with Jesus through the final moments of his life until his death on the cross.



Bread Baking

Bread Baking Sunday February 25th!
11:15 am

Please join us after the 10:00 am service in the kitchen to bake the next batch of communion bread. Whether you've baked with us before or have absolutely no experience, we'd love to have you check out this fun ministry! No need to bring anything except yourself, hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please reach out to Mary Ann Seagrist at seagrist5@comcast.net or 847-212-4218.

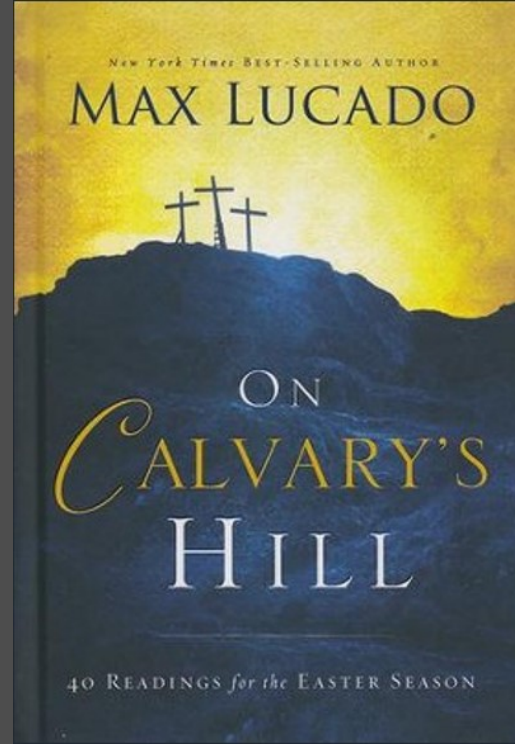


Women's Lenten Bible Study

Tuesday Evening Women's Lenten Bible Study
7:00-8:30pm via Zoom
2/20-3/26

Join us each week during Lent, beginning February 20, as we walk with Jesus - feeling His passion, sensing His authority, and hearing His promise that death has no power. Weekly discussions will be based on our reflections of the daily readings. Each reading includes Scripture verses,

thoughtful prayers, and favorite passages designed to help us draw near to our Savior as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection. Contact Sally Smith at 847-274-4622 or Sue Barnum at 847-401-3050.



Announcements

Meals on Wheels Volunteer Coordinator



We are looking for a Volunteer Coordinator for Meals on Wheels. Too many seniors find it challenging to access healthy food or cook nutritious meals. That's where Meals on Wheels comes in. This remarkable network delivers a staggering 251 million meals each year to 2.2 million seniors and counting. The coordinator works with St. Michael's volunteer drivers to schedule deliveries two days a month. If interested, please contact Jesse at jperkins@stmichaelsbarrington.org.

LENT MADNESS

WHO WILL WIN THE GOLDEN HALO?

Use the link below to register for your digital pdf – any questions please contact Kay Richards at kmr1941@sbcglobal.net

<https://www.lentmadness.org/category/lent-madness-2024/>

Uncaged Art Exhibit begins February 14 at St. Michael's



Beginning on Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024, St. Michael's Church, Barrington is hosting the Uncaged Art Exhibit at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Community Room, 647 Dundee Ave., Barrington, IL 60010, and it is open to the community. The exhibit is comprised of beautiful and inspiring artwork by the children held in the Tornillo, TX Detention Center that opened on June 14, 2018. Over the eight months of its operation, 6,200 children were held in tents in Tornillo, a small border town.

Tornillo came to symbolize the mass detention of migrant children. A group of teachers visited the youngsters, inviting them to express their pride in their countries of origin through art, and the children produced 200 pieces of art.

When the Tornillo detention center closed, officials began throwing out the artwork. A local Catholic priest recovered 29 pieces, and later stated, "What came through in the art was

the strong spirit of these young men and women...who, even under those conditions, were still inspired to do something beautiful."

The exhibit is sponsored by the Sanctuary Task Force, Anti-racism Commission, Hispanic Affairs Committee, and Peace & Justice Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago. It has appeared in the Southwest, California and is now touring the Midwest at churches, non-profits, schools and libraries. The goal is to share the experience of immigrant detention, particularly of children, through art. It is free and open to the public from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM on Wednesdays (except different hours on Ash Wednesday), Saturdays and Sundays from Feb. 14 to Feb. 25 at St. Michael's in Barrington.

A Reception will be held on Sunday Feb. 18 at 11:30 with refreshments, a 12-minute video, and a speaker who is a representative of the Sanctuary Task Force, and an immigrant who has been through the process and granted asylum.

See below for the hours.

Wednesday, Feb. 14, 1:00 – 2:00 PM and 7:30 – 8:30 PM (following the noon and 6:30 Ash Wednesday services)

Saturday, Feb. 17, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Sunday, Feb. 18, RECEPTION following the 10 AM service, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Wednesday, Feb. 21, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Saturday, Feb. 24, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Sunday, Feb. 25, 11:00 – 1:00.

This art exhibit is part of the Episcopal Church's efforts to replace immigrant detention and electronic monitoring with the use of community-based supportive services.

Recent news articles:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/uncaged-art-from-previously-detained-migrant-children-on-display-in-chicago/>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/el-paso-uncaged-art-spotlights-detained-kids-memories-home-n1044516>

"Uncaged Art from the Tornillo Detention Camp" curated by Dr. David Romo and Dr. Yolanda Chávez Leyva, directors of Museo Urbano, University of Texas at El Paso. Photographs ©Frontera Studio Graphic design by Amy Briones, Centennial Museum, University of Texas at El Paso.

Chinese Mahjong

Chinese Mahjong is a game that forms community and teaches you some new skills. Please consider coming to watch or join in on Monday's @ the Sturtz House from 2:00pm-4:00pm. We would love to teach you. If you have any questions feel free to contact Michelle Chan @ chelle1072@gmail.com (847)858-2467.

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Birthdays

2/25 Dennis Harms

Anniversaries

3/2 Jan and Semmy Semerad

In Loving Memory

2/25 David Larson

2/26 Damien Gabis
2/26 Max Raynor
2/28 Christine Olson
2/28 Julia Yerger
3/1 Malakai Duncan

2/25 Katy Pepper
2/25 Bill Allen
2/27 Jean Clendinning
2/27 Mary Schwind
2/28 Stacy Curtis

Prayer Requests

Pat, Lynda, Emma Rose, the Kean family, Zach and Jenny, Penelope and Sophia, Karen, Spencer, Meg and Charlie, Sarah and Evelyn, Nancy, Jeff, Richard, Amy and Matthew, Christine, Jeff, Sharon, Andy, Marilyn and Pat, Caden, Sadie, Dave, Phyllis, Cameron, Maribeth, Ruth, Brian, Barb and Steve, Patty, and Amy.

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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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