



ST MICHAEL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Michael's Weekly News & Updates



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Reflections with Father Jim Swarthout

The OHHs and AHHs of life!

One of my favorite Fourth of July traditions is listening to the "oohs" and "ahhs" as fireworks light up the night sky. For just a few moments, we stop talking about our worries, look up, and become children again—filled with wonder.

I also enjoy watching the American flag wave in the summer wind. The flag itself never changes, yet the wind gives it a different shape with every passing moment. Isn't that a little like our lives? God remains faithful and constant, but our lives, our faith, and even our country are always unfolding, growing, and changing. Every season invites us to trust God in a new way.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells us that God's greatest truths are revealed to those with childlike hearts. Children know how to be amazed. They look up. They trust. They see possibility where others see problems.

Jesus also knows we grow weary. That is why He gently invites us, "Come to me, all you who labor and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." He doesn't promise a life without challenges, but He does promise that we never walk through them alone.

As we celebrate this Fourth of July weekend, let the fireworks lift your eyes to heaven with gratitude. Let the ever-changing movement of the flag remind you that while life, faith, and our nation continue to change, God's love never does. Pray for our country, for our leaders, for those who serve today, and especially for the brave men and women who gave their lives to preserve our freedoms. Remember, too, their families, whose sacrifices continue long after the battle is over. May God comfort them, bless them, and keep us ever grateful for the gift of liberty.

May our hearts respond to God's blessings with the same joyful "oohs" and "ahhs" that echo beneath the summer sky, trusting that the One who has guided us in the past will continue to lead us into the future.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL JULY 5TH

Due to the holiday weekend, there will be no Sunday School on Sunday July 5th. Sunday School will resume on Sunday July 12th.



COMMUNITY CONCERT

On July 1, St. Michaels was honored to welcome the Elgin Symphony Orchestra for the Patriotic Brass and Percussion in the Park concert. Friends and neighbors escaped the summer heat and gathered in our community room for an unforgettable evening of beautiful music. Thank you to everyone who joined us.

Events like this remind us that a church is more than a building of brick and stone. It becomes something truly extraordinary when it is filled with people—sharing joy, creating memories, and strengthening the bonds that unite us. Together, we transform a place into a vibrant community, and a gathering into a lasting expression of friendship and belonging.



PHOTOS FOR THE NEW PARISH DIRECTORY

Father Ralph will be available after service the next two Sundays to take a professional quality photo of your family. If you have a recent professional quality photo, please email that photo as a JPEG to jcisco@stmichaelsbarrington.org.

If you do not have a recent high quality photo and are unable to make it to church to get your picture taken, please reach about to Jamie at the parish office, **847-381-2323**, to make arrangements to have one taken. These photos will all be used in the new directory.

This directory will be a gift to our new rector; it will allow him/her to put faces to names and begin to learn their new congregation. In order to make this a reality, your help is needed.

**Venezuela Earthquake Response
via Episcopal Relief & Development**



In the wake of recent earthquakes in Venezuela, Episcopal Relief & Development is ready to respond. Disaster response is a primary pillar of the ministry of Episcopal Relief & Development. If you wish to support the people of Venezuela, a financial donation to Episcopal Relief & Development is an excellent option. There is a diocese of Episcopalians in Venezuela, part of Province IX.

Donations in any amount will be greatly appreciated. Donations can be made through St. Michael's by check or online. *Please make payment to St. Michael's Church, and on the "memo" line note "ER&D – Venezuela relief."*

You may alternatively give directly to Episcopal Relief & Development through its website. When you visit their website, you will also find some prayer prompts for your consideration.

Episcopal Relief



OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Chalice House Update

Chalice House, an organization supported by St. Michael's Outreach and several other area churches, provides housing to immigrants seeking legal protection in the United States. Since 2020, the house and its volunteers have helped 15 people by giving them a place to live for about a year until they are able to get work permits, learn English, find their way around the community, develop a network of friends and move into their own apartment. Great news: Our latest guests, Timothy and Melany have just gotten their work permits - a major blessing and step forward in this current immigration environment. They will now begin to look for work. Their two children are in summer school and enjoying the pool.

There are two ways you can help at this time.

- We are looking for 3 used bicycles for former residents of the house. All are between 5' and 5'6." If you have a bike sitting idle in your garage, please contact Chalice House.

(847) 359-8440 or chalicehouse@ccuu.org

- Chalice House is also participating in a School Supply Drive for 100 displaced immigrant families in need in the area. You can participate through Amazon Wishlist to make shopping easy. Items can be shipped to ICDI/Rosa Hernandez, whose address will appear in the shipping address section.

Thanks for your support of Chalice House.

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Seth at ncseth35@hotmail.com

Amazon Wish List



EPISCOPAL 101

welcomes suggestions for additional topics.

Thanks to Deacon Tim for leading this insightful view into the Episcopal church. Let him know if you still have questions about the history, faith and worship in the Episcopal church. Long time members of the church were surprised by the things that they didn't know that Deacon Tim was able to explain. He

Email Deacon Tim



Minecraft Vacation Bible School Experience

August 3rd - 6th
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Snack is included

St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 647 Dundee Ave. Barrington, IL

Vacation Bible School is open to
all children pre-school - 5th grade
for the 2026-2027 school year

Click on QR Code to
Register or Volunteer



VBS is free to attend, a \$10 donation per child is appreciated



Contact Kim Curtis
kcurtis@stmichaelsbarrington.org
for more information

NEIGHBOR APPRECIATION OPEN HOUSE WITH ICE CREAM

Ice cream cones as big as your head!
Ask and it shall be given to you, extra scoops included.



On Saturday August 8 from noon to 3:00 PM we're showing hospitality to our neighbors by serving ice cream along with an invitation to come in and visit.

We are seeking approximately 12 volunteers to help with:

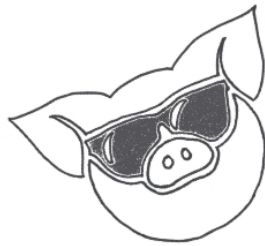
- Creating signs/banners
- Setup and cleanup
- Greeting neighbors
- Serving ice cream
- Directing traffic
- Hospitality and fellowship

Please email Pat Okonek for more details. Patokonek1@gmail.com.

This is an opportunity to open St. Michael's doors to people who may never have considered visiting before. With your help, we can create a joyful afternoon of hospitality that leaves a lasting impression long after the last scoop is served.

SAVE THE DATE - 8/29

END OF SUMMER CELEBRATION & ALL PARISH BBQ



WE'RE GOING WHOLE HOG REVIVING RIBFEST

Saturday August 29, Rain or Shine

St. Michael's Church

4:00-7:00 pm

Fun for all Ages

Bands, Bingo, Bounce House, Bags Tournament, & Reptiles

Join the planning team! Contact:
Steve Kahn at stevekahn@gmail.com
or Bob Hoyler at bobhoyler@yahoo.com



ST. MICHAEL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

AND ALL THE ANGELS GIFT SHOP

Handblown Glass Cross Suncatcher

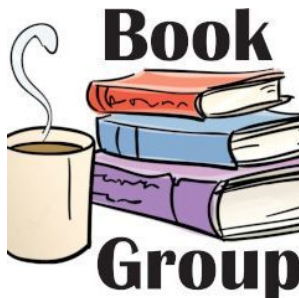
Tri-colored crosses, crafted with a glass loop at the top for hanging, are now back in stock at And All the Angels gift shop. Artfully handblown by Luke Adams Glassblowing Studio, these crosses, glass ball ornaments and stars, are stunning, one-of-a-kind, suncatchers. Made in Massachusetts.

For more information, contact Kathi Frelk kfrelk4@gmail.com or Cindy Osborne cosborne46@gmail.com.



The Store will be closed on Saturday July 4th

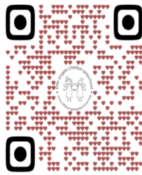
BOOK GROUP



Danny Warner will lead the discussion of **My Friends**, by Fredrik Backman, on July 15th, 7 pm, in the church library.
Susan DeBauche will lead **Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books**, a novel by Kirsten Miller, August 19th. Georgianne Harms will lead **Phosphorescence**, by Julia Baird, September 16th.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Questions? Contact Kathi Frelk kfrelk4@gmail.com

**LITTLE ANGELS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL
IS NOW HIRING**



Christian Preschool Music Teacher, part-time 3 hours per week
Substitute Teachers for the 2026-2027 school year

If interested, please contact:

Janelle Aynessazian, Preschool Director

jaynessazian@stmichaelsbarrington.org

(847) 381-5490

Scan QR Code for more information

Prayer Requests

The Angel family, Jackie, Bob, Gina, Maryann, the Richards family, Katie and Jim, Marilyn, Frank, the Zukowski family, Megan, Heather, Bonnie, Mitzi, Morgan, Paul, Braelyn, Kimberlie, Kathy, Doug, Sally, Mary, John, Teresa, Liam and family, Nancy, Caden, Dave, Brian, Barb and Steve, and Patty, and for all whom you alone know.

Over the next several weeks and months you will begin to notice changes to the Sword and other church publications. The communications committee has been hard at work developing standards to streamline and coordinate the church's communication efforts.

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Birthdays

7/5 Eddie Taylor
7/8 Dick Kraus
7/9 William Osos
7/10 Alma Brooks

Anniversaries

7/8 Roseanna and Jack Shipley
7/8 Barb and Trey Higgins

In Loving Memory

7/5 Clark Beverly, Sr.
7/7 Antionette Schirmer
7/7 Wilson Hartz
7/8 George Morgan
7/9 Edward Dart
7/9 Helene Herriman
7/9 Margaret Gigeric
Kay Richards
Tami Zukowski
Deb Angel

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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 12:00 p.m.

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

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