

Reverse Advent Calendar 2023
CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF GENEROUS, GIVING AND GRATEFUL HEARTS
 We've set a goal of 75 of each item in joyful thanksgiving for each year!

St. Michaels Episcopal Church

This is the opposite of the usual Advent calendar where children get trinkets to count down the days until Christmas. With this calendar we give back by praying, providing, and placing an item in the blue bag each day. Bring your blue bags to the boxes and wagons by the Community Room.

<p>"Katy's Christmas Baskets" Revive and Redeemer Christmas Baskets -- Due Nov 26</p>	<p><i>Honoring Katy Pepper, long-time coordinator of the Christmas Basket program. We remember her kindness and generosity through our commitment to supporting less fortunate families during Advent.</i></p>	<p>ReVive Center for Housing and Healing seeks to end homelessness and restore hope so that all might flourish.</p>	<p>Church of the Redeemer, Elgin provides food and meals for low-income members of their congregation.</p>	<p>Pope Francis said, "First you pray for the hungry, then you go out and feed them. That is how prayer works."</p>	<p><i>"Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things." Philippians 4:8</i></p>	<p>Pray for those facing addiction and homelessness that they might find shelter at ReVive Center. Pray for the low-income families that Episcopal Church of the Redeemer serves.</p>
<p>November 26 Collect for CUMALI this week GOAL: 75 pair large men's gloves; fleece blankets</p>	<p>CUMALI works to empower the homeless where they live on Lower Wacker Drive by engaging with them without judgment or prerequisite.</p>	<p>BE GRATEFUL FOR HEAT: Give 1 pair of gloves in gratitude for each member of your family—men's large, heavy duty only—see our Amazon Wish List link in the Sword!</p>	<p>Every Monday volunteers provide hot meals, socks, underwear, blankets, coats and other clothing. Consider joining the Monday night distribution team--contact the Outreach team.</p>	<p>Creator Spirit, in gratitude we offer thanks for all which has been provided for us, as well as for opportunities and challenges placed before us.</p>	<p><i>"And he would answer and say to them, "The man who has two tunics is to share with him who has none; and he who has food is to do likewise." Luke 3:11</i></p>	<p>Pray for the homeless residents of Lower Wacker Drive that CUMALI serves.</p>
<p>December 3 CUMALI ITEMS DUE Collect for Ravenswood Community Services (RCS) ADVENT 1--Light 1 candle of your wreath and pray for gratitude in all things.</p>	<p>Dec 4 Ravenswood Community Services provides food to their neighbors in the Ravenswood neighborhoods near All Saints Episcopal Church. GOAL: 75 boxes of Kraft Macaroni and Cheese</p>	<p>Dec 5 CONTEMPLATE BEING TRULY HUNGRY: Outreach grants support RCS After-School pantries where families with hungry children pick up grocery items. They need over 300 boxes of mac n' cheese each month.</p>	<p>Dec 6 Consider volunteering for RCS in the new year—they need helpers each Tuesday to help with dinner and food distribution. RCS hosts an average of 250 pantry visits hosted by 40 volunteers each week.</p>	<p>Dec 7 Almighty God, you are the giver of every good and perfect gift. We know how easily we take and how often we reluctantly give. Give us the gift of grateful hearts, that we may want to share freely with others all You have given us.</p>	<p>Dec 8 <i>"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19</i></p>	<p>Dec 9 Pray for parents who struggle to feed their children and the ministry of Ravenswood Community Services.</p>
<p>December 10 RCS ITEMS DUE Collect for St. Leonard's Ministries (SLM) this week. ADVENT 2--Light 2 candles; pray for understanding.</p>	<p>Dec 11 St. Leonard's Ministries empowers formerly incarcerated men and women to lead whole and productive lives. GOAL: 75 pair of socks and men's and women's underwear</p>	<p>Dec 12 OPEN YOUR HEART TO FOREGIVENESS: SLM clients' recidivism rate is slashed to an incredible 16% for men and 5% for women. Since they are starting anew, they need basic clothing.</p>	<p>Dec 13 Participants have access to safe housing, basic needs, life skills training, behavioral and physical health care, and workforce development training all on one campus.</p>	<p>Dec 14 Lord of life, help us to envision our future together from a viewpoint of abundance rather than scarcity; from love rather than despair or hate.</p>	<p>Dec 15 <i>"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Hebrews 13:16</i></p>	<p>Dec 16 Pray for all in prison, and all who have served time, that they may have hope and dignity.</p>
<p>December 17 ST LEONARD'S MINISTRIES ITEMS DUE ADVENT 3--Light 3 candles; pray for patience.</p>	<p>Dec 18 <i>"Always give without remembering and always receive without forgetting." Brian Casey</i></p>	<p>Dec 19 <i>"It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving." Mother Teresa</i></p>	<p>Dec 20 Loving God, as we ready these items for giving, we ask your blessing on those who will receive it. Help us to be bearers of your compassion and mercy. Amen</p>	<p>Dec 21 Thank you, God, for the feet that you gave me, for shoes and socks that you provide me, and showing me the way to walk. Thank you, God, for hands so I may eat and use to help others.</p>	<p>Dec 22 <i>"Worry weighs a person down; an encouraging word cheers a person up." Proverbs 12:25</i></p>	<p>Dec 23 Pray for all who struggle with the travails of life and the ministries that seek to support them.</p>
<p>December 24 ADVENT 4 --Light 4 candles of your wreath and pray for peace.</p>	<p>Dec 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!</p>	<p>This Christmas, we are grateful for the bountiful donations you all have shared.</p>	<p>Thank you for helping those who are hungry, unsheltered or starting their lives over.</p>	<p>Want to do more to help others? Contact Ann Ryba of the Outreach Team to join our efforts.</p>	<p>outreach@stmichaelsbarrington.org</p>	<p>The Reverse Advent Calendar is brought to you by the St. Michael's Outreach Team!</p>