



ST MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Sword May 11, 2023

St. Michael's Weekly News & Updates



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A Note From Our Rector

Jesse Perkins

jperkins@stmichaelsbarrington.org



This past week, I was rejoicing in the fantastic Youth Sunday we shared together. The children's choir and handbells were fantastic, the youth were faithful in their liturgical duties, and Julianne Shultz preached a fantastic sermon (you can watch it here: <https://bit.ly/3pkyS41>). The Gospel was from John 14:1-14, and Jesus assures us that, "If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it." We all laughed out loud when Julianne told us about her childhood desire to pray for a new pony! For me, it was a fervent prayer for a KITT Car from Knight Rider.

It got me thinking more about prayer this week. I still do pray to specific things at times, especially for wisdom, strength, healing, and resilience. However, I am careful to ask "thy will be done" before "recommending" to God that I know what is the right thing in a particular situation. Our perspective is so limited that I prefer to pray by holding up to God my concerns, worries, and the people for whom I care, and asking God to just do the best thing, even if I don't know what that is. I am fondest of the silent, contemplative prayers with "sighs too deep for words" in which I work to give God the things that worry me and weigh me down, trusting that God is working in ways that go deeper than my understanding. That whatever may come, both the things we desperately desire and the things which we did not, God is there working in us God's plan for us.

Today, I ask for your prayers, and I will pray for you too. It is one of the biggest reasons that I believe a church community is so important. We come together with an intention of praying for each other and praying together. We give to God all of our collective concerns and our deepest needs, and where there are two or three gathered, God is there. Being a Christian is not a solo practice, as Bishop Lee would say; you can believe like a Christian, you can act like a Christian, but you can only be a Christian in the midst of an intentional community of other believers, drawing on their support, prayers, and communal worship. As we get closer to Pentecost, we remember that it was the disciples gathered together in that upper room who received the Holy Spirit; they were not alone.

I will leave you with this: if you find yourself unable to pray, or unable to pray about something specific, then let the church carry you in our collective prayer. You might also ask God for the ability to pray! God rejoices at any attempt of ours to draw closer.

With you in prayer,

Jesse+

A Note From Our Rector

Jesse Perkins

jperkins@stmichaelsbarrington.org

Hello all, last week in the service I almost forgot to send out our HLEM to take communion to a parishioner who could not attend that day. Kerry Kean was taking communion to Art Kinney, and was representing us through our Home Lay Eucharistic Ministry (HLEM). One of the many things that had to stop during COVID was one-on-one visits in homes, and now we can resume this integral part of our parish life. By taking communion to someone, you can include them in our worship, prayer, and sacramental life when otherwise they could not be here. If you would like to be a part of this ministry (and the training is

something I can do with you), let me know please!
Jesse
jperkins@stmichaelsbarrington.org



A Note from our Sunday School Director

Kim Curtis
kcurtis@stmichaelsbarrington.org



Calling all Moms! The Sunday school made a small surprise for all of you to enjoy during coffee hour. Must note- not food related. We also have another sweet smelling not food related surprise on Sunday. This week Father Jesse and I began brainstorming on what we would like the summer Sunday school to look like. Traditionally we have moved to a one room Sunday school. For the most part we will be continuing this style for Sunday school. We may have some exceptions depending upon the age levels for attendance. If there is a gap in ages we will then split up into individual classrooms.

Next Sunday during coffee hour we will have some kid food related surprises to celebrate all the kids finishing this program year of Sunday school. They will receive graduation certificates for the level they have just completed.

Vacation bible school is another tradition at St. Michael's. VBS, is always a highlight for the summer. It is the last week in July to provide parents of the preschool with another week of camp. We have already gotten emails from parents whose children attend last year wanting to sign up. A highlight for me is when the theme of VBS falls into place easily. I've

decided to go with a SPLASH into scriptures theme. This will be so fun. Loaded with summer beach decor, water, sunshine and Bible stories about water. I'm sure you all can imagine a few!! More details to come as I plan the days and lessons.

If you would like to participate in VBS this year I would love ♥ your help. I need lead volunteers in the area of decorating, snack, crafts, recreation games, stage building, and story telling. The number of kids I allow to attend really is based on the number of volunteers. In the past I've had 24 kids attend. If I have more help then I can increase that number.

Could I ask a small favor, I would like to collect empty toilet paper and paper towel holders. If you remember, can you drop off any you save in the office. It's for a SPALSH craft we will be doing.

LIFT



Jr. & Sr. LIFT meets EVERY Sunday morning - 9:00 a.m. Sturtz House

[LIFT Schedule](#)

From the LIFT Leader's Desk

What do you get when you put a LIFT leader in a heavy plastic ball, on a humid 85 degree day and ask her to run around with teenagers? One overheated 64 year-old! But what fun it was!!

Our wonderful morning at church of celebrating our youth and our graduating seniors culminated in our Jr./Sr. LIFT End-of-year party with a Bumper Ball Party. Nothing like legally being allowed to run into someone and knock them over without them getting hurt or any consequences for your aggressiveness. I even talked a couple of gullible parents into trying it out - John Garcia and Greg Mears! Suckahs!!

I'm so proud of our young people who participated for the service. I'm especially proud of Julianne Schultz for her terrific heartfelt sermon. Such wisdom coming from an 18 year old!

We only have two more Sunday mornings left for our LIFT program year - May 14 & 21. Hope to see as many LIFTers as possible before we break for the summer.

Stay tuned for possible service project TBD.

Peace, Miss Kay







Upcoming Events



Outreach Food Drive

Next weekend, May 20/21, there will be another Food Drive to once again help food

pantries, and we need your help! Canned goods and other non-perishable food and household items will be collected at the Choir Room entrance on Saturday May 20 (10am-12pm) and Sunday May 21 (before services and 11am -1pm). Please note the graphic message in this week's Sword, and please consider donating food, resources, and/or time helping out with the collection.

[Food Drive List](#)

Statistics on hunger and food insecurity continue to rise in and around Chicago, and pantries and feeding programs continue to be challenged daily in meeting the huge ongoing need. Beginning March 1, roughly 2 million people in Illinois were affected by the reduction of emergency federal aid (a/k/a SNAP benefits), while prices for many essential food items have gone up significantly.

St. Michael's has been collecting food and financial donations for many years to support local ministries. Our church community has stepped into addressing these needs in the past few years, and we have collected and distributed several thousand pounds of canned goods, non-perishable foods, and household supplies. We've delivered many carloads of donations and also sent financial gifts to support local feeding ministries, and hope to stay strong in responding to the situations our brothers and sisters find themselves in facing hunger and food insecurity.

Thanks so much for again being part of God's work in caring for the ongoing struggles of so many of our neighbors who have not experienced relief, and for whom the future is even more uncertain than ever.



Pentecost Sunday

Sunday, May 28

Join us for Pentecost Sunday, wear red and enjoy the ladybug release, great music, food, and ice cream truck after the 10:00 AM service.

We will be serving hot dogs; the ice cream will be self-pay. We will be ready to serve starting at 11:15 AM. We hope to see you there!

St. Michael's 75th Anniversary Lindsay Taylor, Senior Warden

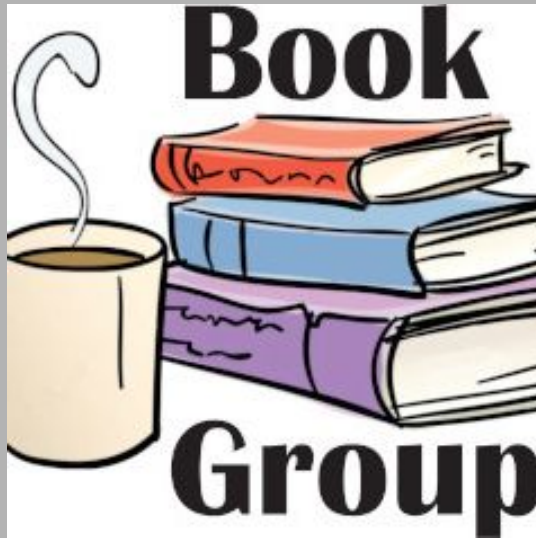
I am excited to write to you all this week about 75th Anniversary festivities at St. Michael's Episcopal Church this fall! (Yaaaaay! Party! Woo!) There will be a series of events, including:

- A kickoff Sunday potluck on September 10 (fire up your Crock Pots!)
- A formal event on Saturday, September 30
- A St. Michael's Sunday after-church reception on October 1
- An annual meeting luncheon on February 4

NOTE: When this schedule was posted last week it included an error regarding the October date, the date above is correct.

These events will be sure to offer many opportunities to use your special skills and gifts to be a part of the planning and execution of these exciting celebrations. While I am sure everyone at St. Michael's will be involved, I am sharing an initial opportunity to sign up to express interest in volunteering.

If you are interested in volunteering your time and skills to making the 75th anniversary of St. Michael's the best it can be, please share your information at the following sign-up link: [St. Michael's 75 Anniversary Events Volunteers Sign-Up](#)



Book Group

The book selection for May 17 is "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus. It is a novel and the discussion will be led by Judy Tammi. Sharon Bullion will host, at 7 pm, in the church library.

Hope to see you there!

Announcements

Last Sunday I had a great question from a parishioner regarding the Paschal Candle on our altar during Easter. After briefly answering the question, and later emailing with more followup details, I wondered if everyone might enjoy a monthly article about the symbols of our faith that we use in our worship space. With that in mind, I am going to try and write about one item each month, and I hope you enjoy and learn as we go. To honor the inspiration of this column, let's talk about our Paschal Candle....

CLICK HERE TO READ MORE

<https://www.stmichaelsbarrington.org/church-blog/1294-symbols-of-our-faith-1-paschal-candle?preview=1>



St Michaels Volunteers Rock Rebuilding Chicago

For those who couldn't open the link last week, here are photos of our incredible team hard at work! Do you want to be a part of this super project in 2024? Contact outreach@stmichaelsbarrington.org and we will keep you in the loop!





Funeral Service for Terry Cummings

The service will be held at St Gregory's Episcopal Church, 815 Wilmot Road, Deerfield on Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 2 pm.

Peace & Justice News

The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago is always part of the Coalition of Welcoming Churches entry in the Pride Parade in Chicago. This year it is Sunday, June 25. The Peace and

Justice Committee has paid the entry fee. If you would like to participate, or would like to help with the planning of our part in the parade, please let me know. Ellen Lindeen: peacellen123@gmail.com

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Ellen Birkett Lindeen
Professor Emeritus
Writer * Storyteller * Peacemaker * Activist
Fellowship of Reconciliation National Council

Maybe the desire to make something beautiful is the piece of God that is inside each of us.
~ Mary Oliver

I acknowledge that the lands that we now call Illinois are the ancestral homelands of many Tribal Nations including: the people of the Council of the Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and Odawa, the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Sauk and Fox, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, and Chickasaw Nations.



Time to update your info!

In the spirit of spring cleaning, we're updating our member database so that can have more accurate records and better serve our parishioners. Click the link below to go to the member update form where you can fill out your information, along with that of any of your other household family members. We only require the name and date of birth, but any additional information you can provide would be appreciated!

[Member Update Form](#)

Upcoming Photo Directory

We are also working on a new photo directory for our members! We aim to have a draft ready and printed by mid-May so that we have time for corrections and updates for our final version which we plan to release mid-Summer. Photos are not required, but since it will be a photo directory, we do encourage you to provide one. The directory uses one photo for the member entry, so families should submit a group photo if more than one person wants to be included. Photos can be uploaded in the member update form linked above.

Congratulations to Juliet Duncan!

Dear St. Michaels!

As you may or may not know, I have been working towards becoming a nurse since 2017 (prerequisites). I was accepted into the nursing program at ECC in February 2020 to be in the Fall 2020 cohort. I was elated! My lifelong dream could become a reality! After MANY bumps in the road, including the death of 7 people, including my dad, and being delayed by a year to graduate, I FINALLY made it! I will be graduating on May 20th and will be hosting a graduation party on Sunday June 4th from noon until 6pm. You can come and go as you please. The location is at Lord's Park in Elgin: East Shelter: 325 Hiawatha Drive, Elgin, IL 60120. We will be grilling burgers and hot dogs. There will be sides, chips,

pop/juice, desserts, cake etc. If you feel so inclined, you may bring a dish to share (but do not feel obligated). I hope you will be able to come celebrate this momentous occasion with us! If you have any questions or would like to RSVP, my email is: Juliet2384@gmail.com or I can be reached at 847-951-9198.



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

Birthdays

5/14 Ann Ryba
5/15 Rob Osmond
5/17 Carol Hebert
5/18 Bonnie Factor
5/19 Joseph Warrender
5/20 Frank Compton
5/20 Nina Stephenson

Anniversaries

5/16 Heidi and Marty Guthrie
5/17 Valorie and Frederick Eaton
5/17 Terri and Lou Longo
5/17 Lori and Christopher Nolan
5/17 Linda and Bruce Kecik

In Loving Memory

5/18 Alice Kell
5/18 Robert Blass
5/19 John Hall
5/19 Jean Schoepke
5/20 Laura Smith
5/20 George Schuster
Theodore Nicholas Vanderent

Prayer Requests

Juliana, the Vanderent family, Roberta, Sadie, Barb, Cliff, Sharon, Allison, Maelyn, and Conner, Cindy, Art, Ann, Dave, Phyllis, Cameron, Maribeth, Pat, Ruth, Brian, Ted, Barb and Steve, Patty, and Amy.

[Donate to St. Michael's](#)

[Vestry Members and Minutes](#)

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

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The Sword

The Sword is published each Thursday. The deadline to submit items to be included is Wednesday at 5:00 PM. Any questions or comments regarding this publication should be sent to pbllass@stmichaelsbarrington.org

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

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