



ST MICHAEL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Sword November 30, 2023

St. Michael's Weekly News & Updates



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A Note From Our Rector

Jesse Perkins

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“Hurry up and wait!” We all know that feeling where we have had to rush and hurry to get ready and be somewhere, and then we have to sit and wait. However, it is not a calm and restful waiting; we wait with shallow breathing, rapid pulse, and a nervousness about the next step or the next event. I find this most pronounced when leaving for the airport. It is a mixture of hurrying because of the possibly long security lines, the possible traffic delays, and even the fear of forgetting to pack something. Then you finally arrive, and in our case usually with time to spare because of our extra rushing, you have to just wait... that is until you are hurrying to find your seat, get your carry-on in the overhead compartment, and buckle up. It is not an easy process.

I have appreciated the season of Advent in our liturgical cycle for this very reason: that it brings in one of the unavoidable parts of our lives (our waiting) and reminds us that God is there waiting with us.

[\[CLICK TO READ MORE\]](#)

A Note from our Sunday School Director

Kim Curtis

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Did your child come home excited last week? Holding a ticket? It is part of the Sunday school new behavior modification program. The kids were so diligent when the teachers began explaining that our Advent reward program involved a ticket. Tickets seem to capture their attention. Based on positive or negative actions they will either receive a ticket or have to turn in a ticket. The goal is to improve their listening skills and center themselves. Then we can focus on prayer and the meaning of advent within the lessons. I have a chart and folder for each child. One example is if they earn 5 tickets they can use them to buy something for \$5 in the gift shop!

Please join me in coffee hour this Sunday! In both the 8am and 10am to participate in making an advent wreath. We will have all the supplies!!! See you then!



"From Humbug to Hallelujah"

Advent Reflection Series with Fr. Jim

Wednesdays 7-8pm in Advent (December 6, 13, & 20)

Christians aren't immune from the stress and busyness that mark our culture at Christmastime, so "From Humbug to Hallelujah" really says it all. Fr. Jim suggests that the transformation in the life of Ebenezer Scrooge in Charles Dickens's classic tale "A Christmas Carol" can be the real experience of ourselves, families with gratitude to the power of Immanuel . . . "God with us!"

Advent Reflection Series going from humbug to hallelujah:

1. Break Christmas Chains Forged in Life (Advent Sunday 1)
2. Reawaken the Joy Inherent in Christmas (Advent Sunday 2)
3. Value Relationships Especially at Christmas (Advent Sunday 3)
4. Celebrate a Christmas Miracle of Heart all year round!

Discouragement overwhelms us when we focus on our own circumstances. This series will help you focus your people's attention on the Creator of our circumstances, and point ourselves and others to His good and greater plan for our lives. We will discuss breaking the chains that have been forged at times in our lives to reawakening the pure joy of Christmas, then through understanding the value of our relationship with Christ and with others, to understanding the transforming power of the Christmas miracle, and on to living that miracle all year long as we become AWAKE to change lives from humbug to hallelujah.

Music Ministry



Advent Lessons and Carols

Sunday December 3rd, 4:00pm

The tradition of Lessons and Carols originated in the 1880's at the Truro Cathedral in

Cornwall England. It comprised of a service of short bible readings and carol-singing, creating a sacred outlet for parishioners to celebrate and contemplate the coming of the Christ child in the advent season. Our service will feature 7 lessons read by readers from the community with musical responses led by our Children's Choir, Adult Choir, and Bell Choir.

There is childcare available with Ms. Kim in the community room during the service and you are invited to stay for a few cookies and appetizers at a festive reception after the service.

If you feel so inclined, we are still looking for a few volunteers to bring appetizers/desserts to share at the reception and volunteers to help with setup/clean-up. Please reach out to Dolores Duncan if you are able to help! doloresmduncan@gmail.com

Chicago Bronze Handbell Choir Performance

Saturday December 2, 4:00pm Barrington United Methodist Church

The Chicago Bronze Handbell choir will be performing their Christmas program this holiday season at various churches and libraries in the area. Their choir is one of the premier handbell groups in our area and rings a full 7 octaves of bells! The largest bass bells could probably hold some of our smaller players! Our handbell choir is planning to attend their Saturday performance this week at Barrington United Methodist Church at 4:00pm. There is a freewill offering. Please see their website for details.

<https://chicagobronze.org/>

LIFT



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

LIFT Schedule

FROM THE LIFT LEADER'S DESK

This coming Sunday, Dec. 3, is a busy one for our LIFTers! **PRESENT PALOOZA** happens right after the 10:00 service. This is our big service project where we have adopted a BIG family (9 people) for Katy's Christmas Baskets. Together, we head to Target, shop, go get some lunch, come back and wrap it and box it all up! You should see our LIFTers light up when they find just the right gift for the child they're shopping for. It's a very cool thing. It's a Holy Moment.

At 5:00-7:00 p.m., our **Confirmands** have their 2nd class!

Before that, ALL are invited to the lovely **Lessons & Carols Service at 4:00 p.m.**
Nothing like kicking off Advent with *Service, Meditation & Music, and then some Learnin'.*

In the midst of the business, I hope and pray that you will find some time to sit and contemplate the coming of our Lord - especially into our hearts. I will be focusing on this as this is a hard thing for me but something for which my body and spirit longs. I often bring up the Advent Collect throughout the year and have had the LIFTers memorize it. We'll do that again this Sunday.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light...

Peace and blessings,
Kay Lewis

Upcoming Events



Support St. Michael's in 2024!

[Click here](#) to submit your pledge, and further the life and ministries of the parish.

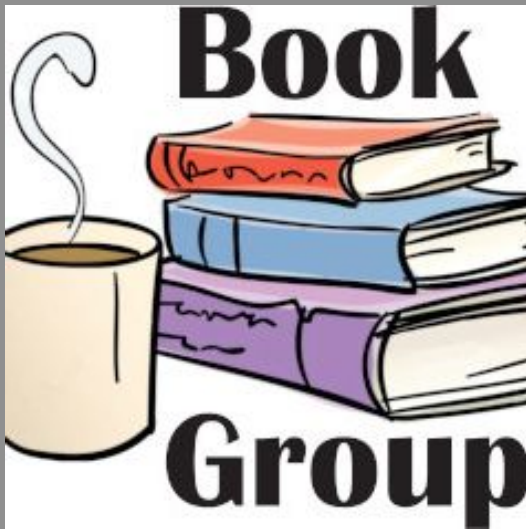


Communion Bread Baking Sunday, December 3 , 11:15 am

Producers and consumers... About 10 years ago at a previous church, I was in a discussion in which we were talking about engaging the congregation more in the service. We had realized that many people in the pews were not really participating in the service, but that they were merely consuming the product. Most likely you've heard that the more you put into something, the more you get out of it!

Being a part of the team that produces the bread is a great way to participate in a new way. Please join us on Sunday December 3, right after the 10:00am service in the kitchen, no experience necessary. Advent Wreath making will be happening at that time too, so you participate in both events.

Any questions? Please contact Mary Ann Seagrist at 847-212-4218 or seagrist5@comcast.net



Book Group

Our Book Group will Celebrate Christmas at our meeting 7 pm, Wednesday, December 20. Instead of a book discussion in the library we will have a party in the Sturtz House! Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share, and a gift-wrapped book from your own library for a White Elephant Gift Exchange. We will also create the schedule for 2024, so please check your calendars ahead of time for availability to lead a discussion or host a meeting.

All adult readers are invited to attend, we'd love to have you join us December 20!

Questions? Contact kfrelk4@gmail.com

Announcements

Lessons and Carols

This Sunday, two of our Lessons and Carols readers will represent Outreach ministry partners. Kim Lessner joins us from Bishop Anderson House. She is the Registrar and leader of the Spiritual Care Visitor Training Program,



from which Carol Berman and Michelle Chan have recently graduated. Kim is looking forward to seeing many old friends from from her days of working at St Michaels.

Gricelda Lopez will represent Church of the Redeemer in Elgin, which we support in 3 ways: through Katy's Christmas baskets, Outreach grants, and once a month meals cooked and delivered by a loyal team of St. Michaels cooks.

Please reach out and welcome these valuable partners in ministry.



Reverse Advent Calendar

*"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*

Reverse Advent Calendar - Collecting for Ravenswood Community Services

Beginning Sunday, December 3rd, we give consideration what it means to be truly hunger and unable to feed your family. Our [Reverse Advent Calendar](#) asks us collect 75 boxes of Macaroni and Cheese for Ravenswood Community Services to distribute at their After-School pantries. You can bring your donations to the church or order them directly from our [Amazon Smile Wish List](#) by Sunday, December 10th. Learn more about [Ravenswood Community Services](#).

Volunteers Needed

And All The Angels needs your help!



With the holidays and our 30th anniversary fast approaching, we are in desperate need of a few more volunteers. We aren't looking for a huge commitment, just a few hours on a Wednesday, Saturday morning or Sunday morning. Even once a month would be a great help. The shop is

easy to run and I would be more than happy to walk you through the process. We are getting more and more new customers from the outside and I would hate to reduce our hours.

Any help you could give would be greatly appreciated. This ministry has helped a lot of organizations over the years and I would hate to see it disappear.

Please feel free to stop in the shop on a Sunday or give me a call at 847-358-1334.

Thank you for your continued support in this ministry.
Marti Callahan



Vestry Volunteers

The Vestry is preparing its slate of candidates for next year. If you would like to volunteer, or know someone who would be a great candidate, please e-mail Bill Ferry (Junior Warden) at wkf630_2002@yahoo.com.

It's a great opportunity to get involved. We have 3 positions to be filled.

Questions, please feel free to call me at (847) 450-3846.

**Home Lay Eucharist Ministry
(HLEM)**



“For where two or three gather together in my name there am I with them.” That’s what Jesus said and it’s a nice way to describe Home Lay Eucharist Ministry. When we visit someone at home who can’t be with the rest of us at church to deliver bread, wine and prayer it’s a simple expression of fellowship. Lynn and I have found it an honor over the years to share communion this way because it is personal one to one.

Sometimes we have been with parishioners that are friends already. Better yet we have made new friends; gotten to know people we otherwise would not have met. After the simple service there is time to share news about church, or what’s going on in their families lives or ours. Some folks have been members for a long time who recall St Michaels history with funny stories from the past.

We have met a life-long Barrington resident who was a WWII naval aviator that narrowly escaped capture after his plane was shot down. As his health declined, he asked us to give communion in hospital where we got to know his family during their visits. We also came to know a lady with family pictures all around and each time we visited she’d have an update on nearly every one of them. One lady, who had never attended St Michaels and shared her hospital room with a parishioner we had just seen asked us to bring her communion the next time.

After all our visits we always feel so happy to have shared simple prayer, communion and fellowship.

There are many different ways to enrich the steps along the circle of our Christian life. HLEM is a very unique opportunity to experience something Jesus did every day, share love, hope and the good news. If you’d like to join HLEM please email.

Forest Mayberry
Forestmayberry@comcast.net

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

Birthdays

12/6 Carol Stephens
12/7 Marti Kahn
12/8 Sumit Mullick
12/9 Willow Duncan

Anniversaries

12/5 Ann and Wes Kimes

In Loving Memory

12/3 Caterina Pignone
12/3 Beth Lipsteur
12/3 Steve John Factor
12/6 Bobbie Kane
12/9 Alice Dally
Angela Silkowski

Prayer Requests

Betsy, Emma Rose, Lynda, Jeff, the Roper family, Kay, Richard, Christine, Charlie and Meg, Sharon, Andy, Marilyn and Pat, Cayden, Sadie, Cindy, Dave, Phyllis, Cameron, Maribeth, Ruth, Brian, Barb and Steve, Patty, and Amy.

Donate to St. Michael's

Vestry Members and Minutes

St. Michael's Staff

Community News

Barrington Police Department Food Drive

Accepting
Donations until
Mid December



BarringtonFOP.org

Benefiting
Local Food
Pantries



Barrington Police

FOOD DRIVE

Drop off donations at Barrington PD
[400 N Northwest Hwy]

Soups and stews
Grain breakfast
Canned or dried
beans

Canned fish,
meat
Peanut butter /
other nut butters

Pasta sauce,
canned tomatoes
Shelf-stable milk
Canned
vegetables



FOOD DRIVE

SPONSORED BY:



150
W MAIN ST



BARRINGTONFOP.ORG



BARRINGTON POLICE

11/17/23
8AM-4PM

"Stuff a Squad"



FOOD ITEMS REQUESTED

CANNED FRUIT AND MEAT; COFFEE;
PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY; BAKING
MIXES; CANNED PASTA MEALS; DRIED
BEANS; PASTA SAUCE

ALL DONATIONS GO TO LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES
SERVING OUR BARRINGTON NEIGHBORS IN NEED





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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