



ST MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Sword January 19, 2023

St. Michael's Weekly News & Updates



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A Note From Our Rector

Jesse Perkins

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Holding Grief's Hand

Over the Christmas break while in Arkansas visiting family, I had the chance to spend some time with my grandfather on my mom's side. About two weeks before Christmas, he had received a terminal diagnosis of pancreatic cancer, and he and my grandmother had just moved from their home (where they have lived their entire lives) into an assisted living place. His mind is clear, he is choosing to forgo treatment, and he and I both knew that this was probably the last time we would see each other again this side of eternity. Soon my grandfather will join my "great cloud of witnesses," as my spiritual director says; with each person lost, the cloud grows and gets more and more personal.

As I drove him to a routine eye doctor appointment, and took him to eat Mexican food for the first time in his life, I had such a surreal feeling of standing between two realities: one was the grandfather I had always known, who kept me while my parents worked, sung and led the church choir, and who taught me to drive a car (and tractor). The other reality was that he was very sick, his time was coming to close, and we were saying our goodbyes in our own way. If I did not look too closely, my mind would still see him as he has always been and looked to me; if I looked closer, I could see the age and the tiredness in his body. I thanked him for all he had given me, and told him I loved him. After praying and sitting with this experience, I think a good way of summing it up is to say that I held the hand of grief that week while visiting him. I will see that grief again soon.

If there is ever something that is common across the human experience, it is grief. Jesus grieved his friend Lazarus openly, and there is an entire book of the Bible written by someone grieving called Lamentations. Grief comes at us not only from the death of someone we love or perhaps the loss of a beloved pet, but the loss of anything to which we were invested and cared about. For most of my life I have been looking at grief as something that is negative, to be avoided if possible, endured perhaps, and certainly not embraced. Just recently, however, not only with this particular moment in my life but with others, I am beginning to see grief as a companion along the way. It is evidence of love, and passion, and investment; we only grieve people and things that are important to us and who in part make us who we are. Today I wondered in my prayers: what is it like to hold grief's hand? To offer comfort to my grief companion? It certainly does not take away its sting, or even the pain that comes with loss, but maybe grief and I can walk together.

Perhaps your experience of grief is different than mine today, and that is ok- there is no wrong way to grieve, except to try and prevent it. For your grief and mine, grief we already know, have and grief that is to come, we pray:

O God, whose days are without end, and whose mercies cannot be numbered: Make us, we pray, deeply aware of the shortness and uncertainty of human life; and let your Holy Spirit lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days; that, when we shall have served you in our generation, we may be gathered to our ancestors, having the testimony of a good conscience, in the communion of the Catholic Church, in the confidence of a certain faith, in the comfort of a religious and holy hope, in favor with you, our God, and in perfect charity with the world. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 504)

Jesse+

A Note From Our Sunday School Director

Kim Curtis

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A few years ago, we had an amazing turnout for Shrove Tuesday waffle making event. This past week in staff meeting we decided to do this again this year. If you are new to St. Michael's, I would like to invite you to attend this delicious super fun event. The concept is this. We will have tables set up in the community room each having a waffle iron and different types of toppings. When we say toppings, we are talking about an outrageous number of toppings. Not just your average waffle with maple syrup. What is your favorite topping? I know a few of mine are like the local Barrington restaurant "Southern Belle" who offers some creative ideas. We want to make this a parish wide event to remember as we prepare for Lent on Ash Wednesday. In the next few weeks, we will be having a sign-up genius for who will be attending and for everyone to sign up to bring a topping to pile on the waffles. We also will be recruiting some folks to prepare the actual waffle ☐ batter and to handle the waffle iron table. So, mark your calendar for dinner at church on Tuesday, February 21st at 6:30pm.

Another date to mark on the calendar is Thursday, February 9th. I know a few parents who already are planning a fun few hours together. This night is going to be a "parent's night out" from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. We will keep the kids busy with cooking, movies, popcorn, and craft activities in the community room. So, hop on your phone to your "open table app" and make reservations now for a fun ☐ Pre-Valentine's dinner for two. We also will be having a sign-up genius next week to let us know who will be attending. This way we can account for our childcare needs.

LIFT



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

From the LIFT Leader's Desk

Last winter, our winter event was frozen out! The temperatures were dangerously cold for our planned outdoor sledding. This year, it was too warm and rainy for our planned tubing trip to Wilmot, Wisconsin! Crazy weather, indeed! However, thank goodness for a Plan B to The Main Event in Hoffman Estates for our LIFT group of 10 kids (including friends). Thanks to my fabulous Board/chaperones, Michelle Chan, Fred & Caroline Hille and Samia Hefferan, the burden of "herding cats" was shared. Enjoy the Pictures!

Reminder: the next Sr. LIFT night is Feb. 5, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Also, don't forget to click on the LIFT Schedule button/link for the updated calendar for the year.

Peace, Kay Lewis



Upcoming Events



Financial Review Meeting

A Financial Review Meeting will be held on January 29, 11:30 am, in the conference room. John Davis, our treasurer, will be leading a review of 2022 and a 2023 budget presentation.



Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 5, 11:30 AM

Jesse and Katy Perkins will be hosting an Open House Reception at the Rectory following the meeting. Please join us for beverages and desserts.



Prayer Shawl

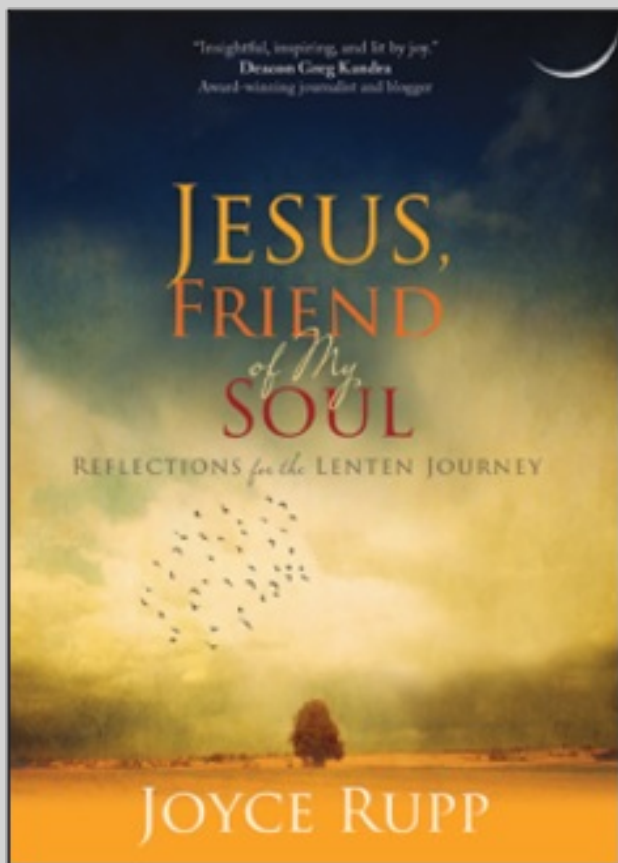
Prayer Shawl will gather in the library Thursday, January 26 from 10-11:30 am. All are welcome and no experience is needed. You can just come, socialize and enjoy some coffee cake.

Parent's Night Out



February 9th 6:30-8:30

Sign up form coming soon.



TUESDAY EVENING WOMEN'S LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

**Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 pm
2/21/23 - 4/11/23**

All women are invited to join the Spirited Sisters any time on Tuesday evenings, between February 21 - April 11, via Zoom. We will meet from 7:00-8:30pm to connect with one another through prayers and conversations that centers on seeing Jesus in a new light through the beautiful lens of Joyce Rupp's reflections in *Jesus, Friend of My Soul*. This daily devotional is full of simple yet profound ways to understand the qualities of Jesus, so that we may become more like Him in our daily lives. For more information, contact Sally Smith at 847-274-4622 or Sue Barnum at 847-401-3050.

Spirited Sisters

Announcements



INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICIES

Is the weather outside frightful? Are roads unsafe? Here is what you can expect from St. Michael's:

- Worship: Sunday worship and major feast days (Like Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Holy Week) will continue regardless of weather. However, if the roads are unsafe, please join us via the livestream: <https://www.stmichaelsbarrington.org/live>
 - **The only time St. Michael's will cancel regular services is if the power/heat fails. In that rare occurrence, we will email and post on the website/facebook pages.**
- The Church office will close following the Barrington220 school district schedule. If the kids are learning virtually, we will be working virtually.
- Little Angels Preschool will follow the Barrington220 school district schedule.

<https://www.stmichaelsbarrington.org/component/content/article/17-announcements/main-church/1244-inclement-weather-policy-st-michael-s?Itemid=571>



2023 Vestry Slate

Sam Adams-Lanham, 3 year term

Wes Kimes, 3 year term

Lynn Mayberry, 3 year term

Ellen Lindeen, 2 year term

Lindsay Taylor, Senior warden, 1 year term

Bill Ferry, Junior warden, 1 year term

Read about our candidates here:

<https://www.stmichaelsbarrington.org/church-announcements/1255-2023-vestry-slate?preview=1>



Reverse Advent Food Drive 102 Kitchen Tables Will Have Food!

That's how many families will be able to open up a fresh box of cereal for breakfast this week, thanks to your generous donations during the Reverse Advent drive. That cereal, as well as multiple boxes of other groceries, has already been distributed and is busy easing hunger for families served by Ravenswood Community Services (RCS). We also delivered knitted hats and prayer shawls and other goodies for RCS to share. They are very grateful for your generosity.

This, in addition to the full carload of warm items for CUMALI homeless clients and the Christmas baskets for ReVive and Redeemer Church were tangible signs of your love and God's love. The Outreach

Team is grateful to all of you who donated so very generously to the Reverse Advent Calendar. We are looking for a few individuals to help with the Reverse Advent Calendar this fall--it's a very worthwhile project, which doesn't take much time to execute. Please contact [Ann Ryba](#) if you would like to be a part of planning next year's Calendar.

Dear St. Michael's,

The women of Renk Diocese send their thanks and acknowledgement of receipt of \$1,500.00 grant from St. Michael's Outreach Committee. This support allows for ongoing training of women, often sole providers for their families, in literacy and micro-finance.

Because of support from St. Michael's, this program has been consistently successful, preparing and empowering members with leadership and business skills that equip them to provide education, medical care and hope for a peaceful future for their children. Training transforms lives, inspired by the parable of the five talents and our Baptismal Covenant.

**Blessings, with thanksgiving,
Jackie Kraus, on behalf of
Renk Ministry Partnership**

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Birthdays

1/23 Judy Tolle
1/25 Margaret Longworth
1/25 Brendan Willis
1/27 Ruth Silver

Anniversaries

In Loving Memory

1/22 Robert McLaughlin
1/22 James Carney
1/23 Norma Sayles
1/24 Jeanne Capulli
1/24 Dorothy Holvay
1/25 Nancy Race
1/25 Lolita Ewart
1/26 Catherine Silver
1/27 Sarah Jane Allen
1/27 John H. Claiborne IV
1/27 Robert Bowles
1/28 Edwin Tukey
1/28 Richard Pepper, Sr.

Prayer Requests

Cathy, Brittany, the Schmidt family, the Deiss family, the Schultz/Dowell family, Louis, Jim, Cliff, Deborah, Marilyn and Pat, Ann, Bryan, Dave, Phyllis, Cameron, Maribeth, Pat, Ruth, Brian, Ted, Barb and Steve, Patty, and Amy.

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[Vestry Members and Minutes](#)

[St. Michael's Staff](#)

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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