



ST MICHAEL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Michael's Weekly News & Updates
Lessons and Carols December 7th 10:00 a.m.
Festive Coffee Hour Follows
Christmas Eve Services at 3 and 10 p.m.



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A Note from Rev. Jim Swarthout



— “A Little Light Is Enough”

Advent begins not with noise, but with a whisper — an invitation to slow down and notice the small places where God is already drawing near.

A few weeks ago, I visited an older couple in our community. Their living room was dim except for one lamp and a single Advent candle glowing on the table, as it was the just the first Sunday of advent. They’d had a tough year — illness, loss, uncertainty. As we talked, the wife looked at that tiny flame and said:

“We’re just trying to hold on to a little light until the bigger light finds us.”

That’s Advent, isn’t it?

Not pretending everything is perfect, but trusting that even the smallest flicker of hope is enough for today — and that God will do the rest.

In this season, God doesn’t ask us to be fully ready.

God simply asks us to make a little room, to light one candle, to let a bit of hope in.

Because the miracle of Advent is this:

We don’t go searching for God’s light — God’s light comes searching for us.

Even in uncertainty.

Even in the dim corners of our lives.

Even when all we can manage is a tiny flame.

May that small light be enough to guide us toward the greater Light that is coming — quietly, gently, faithfully — to find us.

Enjoy Advents Adventure its joyful journey!

Gratefully
Fr. Jim

A Note from Rev. Jim Ralph Osborne



Dio convention Sword

On November 18th and 22nd, the diocese of Chicago met in convention. One portion via zoom and the second in person in Rockford Illinois. Together we elected representatives for various diocesan committees, including deputies to General Convention, (Tim Murray will represent our diocese at the next General Convention!), and the Standing Committee. We received reports from various ministries of the diocese. There was also a report from our Diocesan Consultants and Wes Kimes. (The chair of the diocesan Standing Committee.) We were presented an honest look at where our bishop and diocesan staff are functioning well, and where there are needs for improvement. There is a journey ahead of us. If you would like to serve our diocese by serving on a committee or ministry, please see Fr. Ralph or Wes Kimes.

Fr. Ralph

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Did you know our parish has a beautiful library open to all families? Whether you're looking for children's Bible stories, faith-based parenting resources, or inspiring spiritual reading for adults, the library is a peaceful place to explore.

You are warmly invited to stop by before or after Sunday School—take a quiet moment, browse, borrow, and enjoy. We will also have the library open for all to use on Sundays!

We will be streaming the 10am service on the tv for everyone to enjoy. Parents with small children or anyone who would prefer an alternative setting are welcome in the library.

Ms. Kim

LIFT



LIFT SCHEDULE UPDATES

Saturday, Dec. 13 - LIFT delivers Katy's Christmas Baskets to Redeemer in Elgin (afternoon) Parishioners welcome to help!

Sun. Dec. 21 - Jr./Sr. LIFT Christmas Party - White Elephant Gift Exchange (new date)

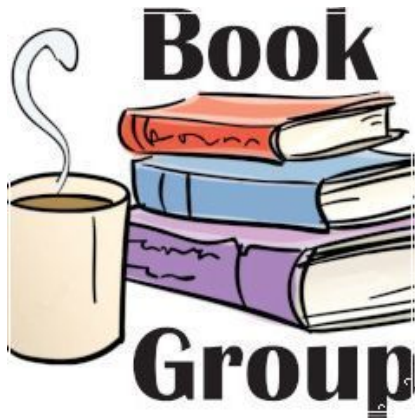
[Visit our Website](#)

AND ALL THE ANGELS GIFT SHOP



Thank you to everyone who made our Christmas Sale opening weekend a success! We will still be setup in the Undercroft until Christmas on our regular hours, and by appointment. Call Kathi Frelk or Cindy Osborne to schedule. Here are new nativities and other olive wood products from The Holy Land. Remember, all profits support women's and children's charities.

BOOK GROUP



St. Michael's Book Group will celebrate its 25th anniversary at its December 17th Christmas party. We will meet in the Sturtz House at 7 pm. Please bring a wrapped book from your collection to exchange. Please also bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Prior to the meeting send book title suggestions for next year to: kfrelk4@gmail.com We welcome new members!

OUTREACH

A Good and Joyful Thing: Outreach 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS



Lessons & Carols Reception Help Wanted

A festive reception will follow the Advent Lessons & Carols 10 am service on Sunday, December 7. Dolores Duncan, reception coordinator, is seeking volunteers to help with clean up, as well as donations of finger foods, cheese and fruit plates, and cookies or other sweets. Please contact Dolores at 847-428-5019, or at doloresmduncan@gmail.com.



2025 CROP Hunger Walk Celebration
Thursday, December 11
7 p.m. ET

Come spend an hour with us as we celebrate you and the impact of your CROP Hunger Walk. Together, we'll learn more about the life-changing work of CWS around the world, as well as the realities of food insecurity here in the United States. This is a time to reflect on the difference you've made, share in community, and enjoy a little fun along the way.

We can't wait to celebrate with you. If you haven't already, please register now! Register: https://cwsglobal-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_V36YoILOSRqk8wdS-_B8GA

In peace, Jon Skogen - CWS National Community Engagement Manager

P.S. Take the next step in fighting hunger! Trek through the Grand Canyon with fellow CWS supporters and justice-seekers. **Learn more and register at www.crophungerwalk.org/trek**



ADVENT 2025 UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday, Dec 7th 10 am - Lessons & Carols.
A beloved advent service of readings & music, with reception to follow. Please see Dolores Duncan to volunteer with the reception.
- Sunday, Dec 21st 10 am - St. Nicholas Celebration.
A festive gathering with food and brass
- Wednesday, Dec 24th Christmas Eve Services:
3pm - Children's Choir & Bell Choir
10pm - High Mass with Adult Choir and Strings
- Thursday, Dec 25th 10 am - Christmas Day Eucharist

We look forward to seeing you at these upcoming advent gatherings. Bring your family, invite a friend, and join us as we worship, learn and grow in faith together at St. Michael's.

*Visit our website at stmichaelsbarrington.org for more information, or to sign up for our e-newsletter "The Sword."

The St. Michael's Brew



Coffee & Tea with the Welcoming Ministry

Please join us in between our worship services for a fun and interactive session hosted by Mary Ann Seagrist, Chair of the Welcoming Ministry. Mary Ann will be sharing some tips on inviting, welcoming and integrating new people into our congregation.



When: Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 9am

Where: St. Michael's Episcopal Church
647 Dundee Ave, Barrington IL
(Community Room)

The St. Michael's Brew is a series of coffee & tea talks focused on wellness centered programs that deepen community and Christian formation. To request future wellness topics, please see Liz Gabis, Sr. Warden of St. Michael's Church.

www.stmichaelsbarrington.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Do you have an extra place at your table for a member of our congregation who would otherwise be alone at this holiday season? If so, please call:

Trish Thomas
847-436-8388

or

Carol Berman
847-815-7445



Katy's Christmas Baskets

All families have been adopted!

Thank you to our sponsors for putting presents under the tree and food on the table!

Baskets are due by **December 7th** and can be dropped off in the **St. Michael's Community Room**.

To ensure everyone receives the correct gift, please write individual family member names on each gift. All gifts should then be placed in a larger box and the family number written on all 4 sides of that box. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Llora Wonder or Gwen Weibel: Llora Wonder, llkwonder18@gmail.com or Gwen Weibel, gwen.crombie@gmail.com

This ministry honors Katy Pepper, who coordinated our Christmas basket

program for many years. We remember her kindness and generosity through our parish's commitment to supporting less fortunate families during the Advent and Christmas season.

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Birthdays

12/7 Marti Kahn
12/8 Sumit Mullick
12/9 Willow Duncan
12/9 James Roche
12/12 Vickie Johnson
12/12 John Kazmier
12/13 Randy Lewis

Anniversaries

In Loving Memory

12/9 Alice Dally
12/11 Tommie Nessel
12/12 Roxelyn Pepper
Glenice Higgins

Prayer Requests

Carol, Helena, Brooke, Kara and Oliver, Sara, Steve, the Higgins family, Kristen, Bob, Jesophine, Kathy, Braelyn, Denise, Doug, Sally, Mary, Ben, John, Teresa, Sarah, Dolores and family, Mark, Kitty, Olivia and family, Liam and family, Nancy, Caden, Dave, Brian, Barb and Steve, and Patty.

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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 Wednesday at 5:00 PM. Any questions or comments regarding this publication should be sent to sword@stmichaelsbarrington.org

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

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