



ST MICHAEL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Michael's Weekly News & Updates



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THE IMPORTANCE OF A ROUND TABLE

The Reverend Jim Swarthout

Come to Mom's 95th birthday was the invitation banner. Ninety-five years of stories and memories, joys and sorrows, holidays and birthdays, wisdom and laughter — and enough family advice to keep us all in line for another hundred years.

And like every family gathering, there was planning: How many people are coming? who is coming, what are we serving and where will it be. But one issue quickly rose to the top. Mom wanted round tables. And after 95 years there really wasn't much discussion.

This wasn't really about tables. It wasn't about furniture. Mom wasn't suddenly fascinated with geometry. It was about people. Because around a round table everyone sees everyone. Nobody sits hidden at the far end. Nobody gets isolated. Nobody gets forgotten. Stories move around the room. Laughter moves around the room. How fitting that Mom's birthday happened so close to Pentecost. Because **today is the birthday of the Church**. Birthdays matter. Birthdays remind us where we came from. Birthdays remind us who we are. Birthdays remind us that we belong to something larger than ourselves.

For me Pentecost's greatest lesson is that **unity is not the same thing as uniformity**. The Spirit doesn't erase our differences. The Spirit holds our differences together. Think about Pentecost. God did not make everyone suddenly speak one language. People remained different. Different personalities. Different gifts. Different stories. Different experiences. The miracle wasn't sameness. The miracle was understanding. The miracle was connection. The miracle was love. People who should not have understood one another suddenly did. It's almost as if Jesus walked into that room and said: *"Move over." "Pull up some chairs. "Make room." "Let's make this one great round table."* Because Pentecost is God's round table. Different people. Different gifts. Different struggles. Different ages. Different backgrounds. Yet one Spirit. One family. One Church. No seat at the head except Christ. No one forgotten. No one excluded. Everyone invited.

Perhaps the Holy Spirit still whispers the same words to us today: *"Move your chair over." "Call someone." "Forgive someone." "Welcome someone." "Make room."* Maybe Mom has been preaching a homily all along. Maybe after ninety-five years she figured out something important: Life works better around a round table. Families work better around a round table. The Church works better around a round table. And perhaps heaven itself looks less like rows of seats and more like one giant round table—where everyone is seen, everyone is welcomed everyone belongs, and Christ stands among us saying: *"Peace be with you."*

And I can almost hear Mom smiling and saying: *"See? I told you we needed round tables."*



SUNDAY BREW

Please join us after the 10am service on June 7th to learn about some existing and new ways that you can participate/support our liturgies. We welcome folks of all ages to discover opportunities that you might be interested in but didn't know were available to you. The beauty of our

Sunday service is that we are one family sharing a community meal of faith. We want all to feel welcome to serve as they are able.

AND ALL THE ANGELS GIFT SHOP

Brighten your kitchen or gift a tea towel to a host or hostess, teacher or newlywed, homeowner or new apartment dweller. Or tie a tea towel around home-baked bread or a bottle of wine for extra-special eco-friendly gift wrap. And All the Angels has a variety of decorative, practical tea towels in stock. Visit our "boutique in the basement" for all-occasion cards and gifts.



SUMMER OCCASIONAL CHOIR



Calling all singers and musicians! No weekly rehearsal commitment, just show up at 9:15am on Sunday and learn the hymns and a simple anthem! This is a great way to test the waters and come enjoy singing with the choir in a low pressure setting. The summer choir does not wear robes or process, and you can show up at will week to week.

Sara is also looking for willing musicians who would like to sing or play solos for prelude or offertory throughout the summer.

Please reach out to Sara at Storbeck@stmichaelsbarrington.org if you are interested in playing or singing with the choir!

Thank you for sharing your talents in worship at St. Michaels!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Save The Date

Vacation Bible School will be held August 3-6, 2026.

This year's theme is Minecraft!

Check back here for more information.



SUNDAY SCHOOL



Hi Sunday school friends,

Please feel free to have your child bring an item from home for the weekly children's sermon box. We will take turns making sure each child has a turn this summer.



From the LIFT Leader's Desk

This week we highlight our third and final graduating senior from our LIFT group, Vinnie Parisi. He is graduating from Lake Zurich High School and will be attending Illinois State University for Finance. He's been a member at St. Michael's for two years. At Christmas, Easter and other special occasions, you probably saw and "heard" him play the Euphonium with the St. Michael's Brass Quartet! He appreciates the community here and said we were beyond welcoming and he never felt like he didn't belong. "I will remember all the fun memories I had, especially at LIFT, with my friends." Wishing all our graduating seniors God's blessings!



Watch for upcoming information about next year's Confirmation Class. We will be opening this up to our sister parishes who have "Youth" but no "Youth Program." Please spread the word among our fellow Episcopal Churches: St. Mark's, Barrington Hills; Holy Apostles, Wauconda; St. Philip's, Palatine; St. Simon's in Arlington Heights; and St. James, West Dundee. St. Michael's can be a light, here in the suburbs, for Christ. Pray for God to increase the harvest!

Peace, Kay Lewis

P.S. Just a reminder, due to scheduling difficulties and attendance, this year's Mission Trip to Gary, IN, will be cancelled. See you back in the Fall!

NEIGHBOR APPRECIATION FELLOWSHIP EVENT – ICE CREAM SOCIAL OPEN HOUSE

Ice cream cones as big as your head! Ask and it shall be given to you, extra scoops included.



On Saturday August 8 we're showing hospitality to our neighbors by serving ice cream along with an invitation to come in and visit.

Around 100 homes near St. Michaels will receive invitations and coupons for free ice cream. We'll be open for those who wish to visit. Our aim is to make this a fun, memorable event.

From 12PM to 2PM we'll have a serving station in front of the community room entrance for drive-through, walk-up, or park options for our neighbors.

From 2PM to 3PM we'll move to the front of the church for "no tickets required" spontaneous serving to those who pass by on Dundee. St. Michaels parishioners are welcome to stop by at this time. Please bring friends!

12 volunteers are needed for the day of the event including set up, directing traffic, serving, greeting, and more. Please email Pat Okonek for more details. Patokonek1@gmail.com.

This is an opportunity to open St. Michael's doors to people who may never have considered visiting before. With your help, we can create a joyful afternoon of hospitality that leaves a lasting impression long after the last scoop is served.

More details to come - watch the Sword!

SING AND RING IN SCOTLAND

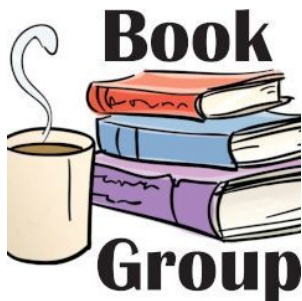
**Choral Evensong tour to
Aberdeen-Edinburgh, Scotland
June 20-28, 2027**



Please fill out this **brief survey** this week to indicate your current interest level in participating in the Scotland tour? It is important to get these preliminary numbers so that we know how to plan. Please fill out the survey even if you think it is unlikely you will participate in the tour.

<https://forms.gle/iG8wD1tWxPKxRqXp9>

BOOK GROUP



The June book, **The Count of Monte Cristo**, by Alexander Dumas, is longer than our usual selections so if you haven't already read it, you may want to watch the TV adaptation streaming on PBS.org. Rick Ryba will lead the discussion and host the June 17th meeting, 7 pm in the church library.

New members are always welcome. For more information contact Kathi Frelk, kfrelk4@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Over the next several weeks and months you will begin to notice changes to the Sword and other church publications. The communications committee has been hard at work developing standards to streamline and coordinate the church's communication efforts.

Services will be held Monday June 1st at 11am at St. Michael's. A light lunch to follow in the community room.

Can you please help us get the word out that St. Michael's is AWESOME? Please review our church - the more 5 stars we get will help us appear in more searches for people who are looking for a church home and researching churches online. See the link below:

Church Reviews - St. Michael's Barrington

Skip the first part "AI", look for the box with the St. Michael's photo of the front of the church, and click on "google reviews". Please review us on Facebook and Yelp too (those links are on the same page). Thank you!

View Our Announcement Page For More News!

Want to Submit to the Sword? Click here to find out more!

Birthdays

5/31 Jenn Mears
5/31 Rob Wisnowski
5/31 Cindy Osborne
6/1 Jill Anderson
6/1 Kevin Taylor
6/3 Craig Anderson
6/4 Carrie Kellogg-Garbarek
6/6 Nolan Freely

Anniversaries

5/31 Betsy and Harry Wintringer
6/3 Lisa and Bill Allen

In Loving Memory

6/1 Tyler Allen
6/2 Helen McKee
6/3 Ethel Shepherd
6/3 Andy Buckley
6/4 Janet Proctor Lareau
6/4 Joseph Badenoch
6/5 Harold Roberts
6/6 Penny Erker
Bryan Cross
Robert Lick

Prayer Requests

Sarah Field, the Cross family, the Lick family, Marilyn, Frank, Tami and family, Megan, Heather, Bonnie, Mitzi, Morgan, Paul, Braelyn, Kimberlie, Kathy, Doug, Sally, Mary, John, Teresa, Kitty, Liam and family, Nancy, Caden, Dave, Brian, Barb and Steve, and Patty

Donate to St. Michael's

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

The Sword

The Sword is published each Thursday. The deadline to submit items to be included is Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.
Any questions or comments regarding this publication should be sent to sword@stmichaelsbarrington.org

