



ST MICHAEL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Michael's Weekly News & Updates



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Reflections with Father Jim Swarthout Have Courage to Follow Where God Leads

Today's Gospel reminds us that faith is never simply about where we begin; it is about where God leads us.

As some may know, I recently celebrated my 40th anniversary as a priest. (June 7th). Looking back, I could never have imagined all the twists and turns that ministry would take. There have been moments of great joy and moments of challenge, unexpected detours, new beginnings, and countless blessings. Yet through it all, I have learned that faith often leads us to places we never expected to go and calls forth gifts we never knew we had.

But this is not only a story about ordained ministry. Through Baptism, each one of us shares in Christ's mission as priest, prophet, and servant leader. We are all called to bring God's love into the world, to speak words of hope and truth, and to serve others with humility and compassion.

The courage of faith is trusting that God continues to work through us, even when the path ahead is unclear. The disciples in today's Gospel did not have all the answers. They simply trusted the One who called them and took the next step.

Perhaps that is why May and June feel so special. We celebrate birthdays, graduations, anniversaries, ordinations, and milestones of every kind. These occasions remind us that life is a

journey, and although each story is unique, we celebrate with one heart. We give thanks for where God has brought us, and we trust God with the road still ahead.

The lesson of the Gospel is simple: say yes to God's invitation. Have the courage to follow where Christ leads. You may discover, as I have over these forty years, that God's plans are often far more wonderful than anything we could have imagined for ourselves.

With great joy!

Fr. Jim



ST. MICHAEL'S
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Minecraft Vacation Bible School Experience

August 3rd - 6th
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Snack is Included

St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 647 Dundee Ave. Barrington, IL

Vacation Bible School is open to
all children pre-school - 5th grade
for the 2026-2027 school year

Click on QR Code to
Register or Volunteer



VBS is free to attend, a \$10 donation per child is appreciated

Contact Kim Curtis
kcurtis@stmichaelsbarrington.org
for more information

AND ALL THE ANGELS GIFT SHOP

Browse our unique selection of Father's Day cards and gifts: scented soaps, religious rocks, a Man of Faith keepsake box (*hurry! only one left in stock!*) visor clips, money clips and more! Visit **And All the Angels** gift shop Wednesdays from 11 am to 2 pm, Saturdays and Sundays 9 am until noon. For more information, contact Kathi Frelk or Cindy Osborne.



LITTLE ANGELS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL IS NOW HIRING:

Christian Preschool Music Teacher, part-time 3 hours per week
Substitute Teachers for the 2026-2027 school year

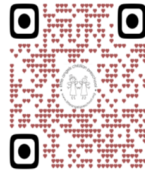
If interested, please contact:

Janelle Aynessazian, Preschool Director

jaynessazian@stmichaelsbarrington.org

(847) 381-5490

Scan QR Code for more information



Thursday
June
26

3:00PM-7:00pm



Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a healthy
meal and drink plenty of
water before donating.

Call 800-7TO-GIVE for
questions and appointments

**St. Hugh of Lincoln Episcopal
Church Community Blood Drive**

36W957 Highland Ave. Elgin, IL
(SE corner of Randall Rd. & Highland Ave.)
Drive will be held in Wiedrich Hall

Appointments appreciated; Walk-ins welcomed!
To schedule an appointment call 800-7TO-GIVE or go to
www.versiti.org/IL, and load the Versiti Donor app, or
scan the QR code below

All presenting donors will receive a "VERSITI BEACH
TOWEL" while supplies last.

PHOTO ID REQUIRED



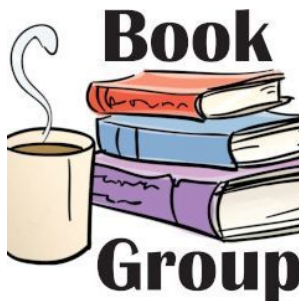
News From the Diocese of Chicago

Give the Gift of Life Thursday, June 25 in Elgin

St. Hugh of Lincoln in Elgin is partnering with Versiti
Blood Center to host a blood drive at the church on
Thursday, June 25, from 3 to 7 pm.

Appointments are appreciated; walk-ins are welcome! To
schedule, go to www.versiti.org/il, load the Versiti Donor
App, or call (800) 7TO-GIVE. All registered donors will
receive a mystery shirt while supplies last.

BOOK GROUP



The Count of Monte Cristo, by Alexander Dumas, is our June book.
Rick Ryba will lead the discussion and host the Wednesday, June 17th
meeting, 7 pm, in the church library.

We have switched dates and books for July and September: Danny
Warner will now lead the discussion of **My Friends**, by Fredrik
Backman, on July 17th; Georgianne Harms will lead
Phosphorescence, by Julia Baird, on September 16th.

We welcome new members. Questions? Contact Kathi Frelk
kfrelk4@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Prayer Requests

Jackie, Bob, Gina, Maryann, the Richards family, the Lindeen/Grant family, Jeff, Katie and Jim, the Field family, 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, Liam and family, Nancy, Caden, Dave, Brian, Barb and Steve, and Patty, and for all whom you alone know.

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.

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Birthdays

6/14 Bernice McCarthy
6/17 Matthew Willis
6/17 Avery Willis
6/17 Natalie Willis
6/19 Georgianne Harms
6/19 George Summerfield
6/19 Jim Swarthout

Anniversaries

6/20 Donna & David Brooks
6/20 Jenny & Charley Wickman

In Loving Memory

6/16 Ann Parker
6/18 John C. Forbes
6/18 Stanley Holmes
6/19 Mary Beth Warren
6/20 Alice Wilder
6/20 Margery Elias
Bryan Cross
Robert Lick
Sarah Field
Kitty Grant
Kathleen "Kay" Richards

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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

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

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