

The Sword



Your weekly connection with St. Michael's Episcopal Church

November 14, 2013

In This Issue **From the Rector**

(click shortcut below) Holidays and Holy Days: Whichever they are, here they come

+From the Rector

+Purse for Nerissa

+Food for the Journey

+From Our Youth Minister

+In the Parish Family

+Food Drive

+Grief Sharing Workshops

+Book Club 11/20

+Christmas Giving

+Diocesan Convention

+Community

Thanksgiving Dinner

+And All The

Angels Holiday Sale

+AWSM Event

+Advent Pagaent

+Lessons & Carols

+Faith Reflection Groups

Ministry

Quicklinks

- Our Website

Dear People of St. Michael's,

For several years in a row, our family annually received in the mail a pamphlet titled *Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway?* On the cover was always the same embarrassingly bad illustration: God's enormous hands lowering an infant down from heaven into the midst of a chaotic urban street scene. A letter accompanied the pamphlet, explaining that the pamphlet's aim was to challenge and derail our Christmas consumerism. It asks the reader to recapture the meaning of holidays as "holy days."

I'm no doubt remembering that pamphlet now in the context of the Food for the Journey program scheduled for this Sunday, to be led by parishioner Marti Kahn and titled *Beyond the Advent Wreath: Practices, Traditions, and Resources to help Advent come alive.*

One might think that this kind of message of holiday repentance and reform (or a more thoughtful variation on it such as Marti might give us) might be confined to a few religious voices in the wilderness. But then I recall a past December issue of *Psychology Today* with a cover story that was titled "*Holiday Hell: How to Survive Your Family, Nonstop Feasting, and Gift Disasters.*" Although the article did not make reference to God, it did shed light on the emotional perils that result when we pin our highest expectations on anything or anyone other than God.

In case you think I'm warming up here to play Scrooge, I should mention that I know plenty of people who seem to genuinely derive meaning from and relish every aspect, both secular and sacred, of the holiday season. If you're one of those souls: Carry on! Ring the bells! Sing the songs!

But for every one of these souls I know at least one other who has a gnawing feeling that somethings not quite right about the holidays. If you're in this second category, please remember that you're not alone. I encourage you to try something new for yourself this year. Maybe it's an overhaul.

If you don't know where to start, come hear Marti on Sunday! Or talk to any of your parish clergy anytime. We'll be here all throughout the holy days. Or maybe it's just a small intentional routine or practice that won't even be

noticed by those around you. Maybe it will be nothing more than trying to see what's going on around you with different eyes.

- Patrick +



Anniversaries This Week

Birthdays

11.17

John Kuechmann

Jack Dern

Ella Mathison

Michael (M.J.)
Ward

11.20

Patrick Keclik
Paulette Forrest

11.21

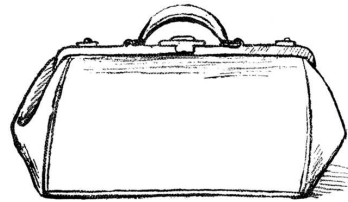
Abby Pajakowski

11.22

Michelle Chan

11.23

Patsy Taylor
Colleen Buckley
Virginia Qualiardi
Stephanie Chrisos



We Are Grateful

'Purse' for Nerissa Brueckbauer. Key clergy and staff who leave their ministries at St. Michael's are often thanked by the congregation with a cash gift collected from grateful members. Parishioners are welcomed to send a check (*made out in Nerissa's name*) indicating (anything like) "Mrs B Purse" in the memo line anytime before Nerissa's November 24, farewell reception; or look for the right place to drop a cash or check on any of the next three Sunday mornings.

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

The conversation begins after the 9:00 a.m. service (roughly at 10:05 a.m.) and we are committed to ending at 10:40 a.m. so those who want to can make the 10:45 worship service.

Food for the Journey, November 17 (10:05 a.m.)

Beyond the Advent Wreath: Practices, Traditions, and Resources to help Advent come alive.

It is all too easy to get swept away in the "cultural" x-mas season that begins after Thanksgiving and ends the same day the church's Christmas begins! Join Marti Kahn as she leads a discussion about how to experience Advent as a time of preparation for Christmas rather than just a CRAZY, BUSY shopping/social season. Bring your own practices to share!

Food for the Journey, November 24 - *Something Different!*

There will be no Food for the Journey offering on November 24. Instead please join us after the 9:00 a.m. service (approximately 10:10 a.m.) at a reception in the Community Room as we say farewell and give thanks to Nerissa Brueckbauer for her ten year ministry as Director of Children's Ministries.

From Our Youth Minister

SMUSH is making fleece tie blankets for Barrington Giving Day. If you would be willing to donate fleece toward the project, please bring them to my office any time. Each blanket requires 2 pieces of fleece that are 2 yards long. THANKS!



Anniversaries

11.10
Ann & Jim
LaBarge

11.14
Michelle & David
Trautwein

THIS WEEK:

Friday 11/15 & Saturday 11/16: Confirmation Retreat, depart St. Michael's at 4:30 p.m. on Friday afternoon.

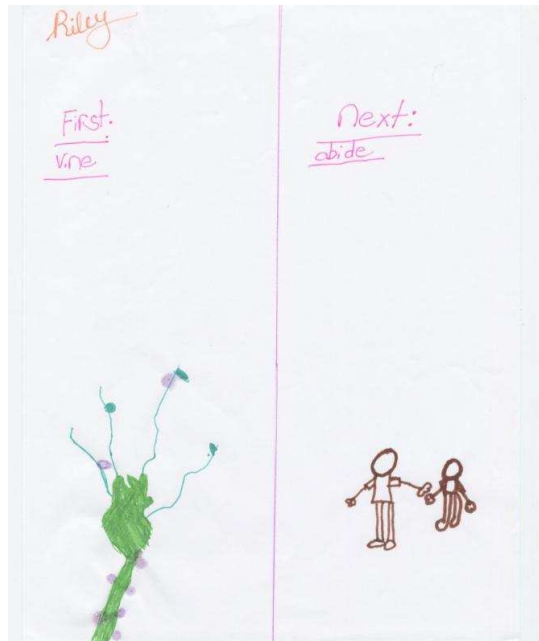
UPCOMING:

Friday 12/6 Deadline - Those who signed up to sponsor LYDIA Home children, please bring Christmas presents to Kara's office.

Saturday 12/7, 1:00-6:00 p.m.-LYDIA Home volunteering. We are doing a new project for them this year, and there are only 6 spots. Let me know if you would like attend.

Friday 12/20, 5:00-8:00 p.m.-Feed My Starving Children in Schaumburg.

In the Parish family



The artwork shown at left is by fourth grader Riley Raynor. It was included in the *2013 Journal of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*, a national journal published annually by the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Her work illustrated an article written by Nerissa Brueckbauer, entitled "Excerpts from a Homily on the Occasion of Solemn Communion."

Rest in Peace

11.17
Diane Krueger

11.18
Harold Johnson

11.19
Judy Fisher

+Those for whom prayers have been requested: Vette, the Koelling/Ingram families, Joe, Joan, Mary, Kathy, Kasey, the Tarulis family, Paulette, Bill, Doris, Brandon, Cathy, John, Amy, Rollo, St. Cyprian Food Pantry, safety & peace in South Sudan; military troops in danger including those from our parish,

especially, Zane, Ryan, Michael, Bruce, and Taylor.

11.20

Rowland Fisher

11.22

Bob Walerius
Hugh McClure
Andrew Greene

11.23

Eric Plane

FOOD DRIVE!

Help a Needy Family have a Thanksgiving Meal!

**Little Angels Christian Preschool and
St. Michael's Church School**

are sponsoring a Food Drive to benefit
St. Cyprian's Ecumenical Food Bank
in downtown Chicago.



We will be collecting donations
Monday, November 4 - Tuesday, November 26.

Suggested donations are:

Canned Ham Canned Yams

Canned Vegetables

Box Potatoes Stuffing Mix Cornbread Mix

Canned Cranberry Sauce Canned Chicken/Tuna

Cake Mixes/Icing Brownie Mix Any Box Dessert

Gift card to Jewel Osco Cash Donations are welcome

***Please place donations in the box located in the
Preschool Entryway.***



Grief Sharing Workshops

Have you ever had a friend in pain struggling with their loss? That loss could be the death of a spouse, a child in trouble, an unexpected career change, retirement, a family member with mental illness, multiple moves, an empty nest, a divorce? The list is exhaustive. However many forms in which grief arrives, there are similar tools to help that friend. We've all had the experience of wishing we knew what to do or just the right thing to say. God sees our hearts and knows we're trying our best.

"Grief Sharing is Vital Kingdom Work," says Harold Ivan Smith, and I have come to believe this in very personal ways.

Come to three sessions (all different material) and gather some tools for this important work.

Little Red Wagon

In November we
will be gathering
food for St.
Cyprian Food
Pantry. It is the

largest pantry to which we donate food. It serves over 1,600 people each month. The needs are great! With the approach of Thanksgiving, items such as yams, cranberry sauce, canned pumpkin and stuffing mix would be great additions to the usual breakfast, lunch and dinner foods.

The pantry further requests, TUNA, TUNA, TUNA, soups & cereals!

Monetary donations to the Food Pantry Fund are always welcome.

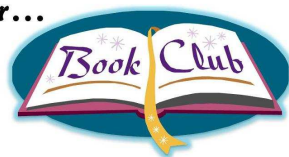
We will be using the book, *When you don't know what to say/How to Help your Grieving Friends* by Harold Ivan Smith. Please call the office and ask to reserve your copy (about \$10) and to give us an idea of attendance. The book will be available at the sessions but you do not have to buy this book to participate.

To reiterate: this is a workshop to give you the tools to help a friend.

Monday nights, Nov. 4, 11 & 18
St. Michael's Church - Check for location
7:00-8:30 p.m.

Church office - 847-381-2323
Peace,
Kay Lewis
Lay Parish Chaplain

*Book Club is
for...*



...you!

Book Club Meets November 20, 7:30 p.m. in Library

The book this month, *Life, on the Line: A Chef's Story of Chasing Greatness, Facing Death, and Redefining the Way We Eat* [Grant Achatz, Nick

Kokonas], is very timely, given the untimely death yesterday of Chef Charlie Trotter.

Our discussion will be led by our own foodie, Christine Olson.

Questions? Contact Kathi Frelk, kfrelk@yahoo.com

Share the Spirit

St. Cyprian Christmas Gifts for Children

Once again we have the opportunity to purchase gifts for 51 children (2 gifts each). On Sunday, November 17, Ruth Silver will have their wish lists - one present for fun and the other for need. She will be at all 3 services outside the Community Room.

Redeemer Church: It's Christmas Basket time!

This week we will have the information for our families from Redeemer Church. Please look for us in the hallway outside of the community room, and consider sponsoring a family on your own, or perhaps with another family or a small

group. The need is great, and the families are so grateful that you choose to help them during the Christmas season.

If you don't have time to shop, and would just like to make a donation, we will be happy to put your donation to good use in supporting a family. Also, if you are unable to be at church during the next couple of weeks, but still want to participate, please feel free to contact Nina Stephenson or Katy Pepper and we will sign you up.



Ready for Convention



Judy Heinrich, Jackie Smith, Patrick Raymond, Kevin Caruso,
Sean Harrington and Patrick Duncan.

Behold, St. Michael's clergy and elected lay representatives to the 157th Convention for the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, to be held in Lombard November 22-23. They met on Tuesday, November 13, to preview the convention agenda and to examine both the resolutions and the candidates for various elected offices. Perhaps of most interest will be the election of four clergy and four lay deputies to the 2015 General Convention, to be held in Philadelphia. (Our own Kevin Caruso is on the slate of clergy candidates and was prompted to run both by our rector and by fellow priest and former St. Michael's member Amity Carrubba.) Also, this is the first year that our convention will welcome and include representatives from the nine remaining congregations of the former Diocese of Quincy, in far western Illinois. All clergy of the diocese are expected to attend convention, so attendees may also include the Revs. Laurie Michaels, Jim Bullion, and/or Betsy Ward.



Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Michael's!

St. Michael's is preparing to host our **8th annual free community dinner on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 28**. In the past, our guests have included members of the community, 50

recruits from Great Lakes Naval Base, youth from Maryville Academy, and many from our parish. **Volunteers are still needed to cook (unstuffed) turkeys (we supply the bird), pies and clean-up.** Monetary donations are gratefully accepted and appreciated! Items needed to borrow just for the day:

laptop computers, cell phones, (the recruits love this special time to connect with their families), guitars, and a karaoke machine. A sign up poster is located on the cork strip outside the Parish Office.

If you would like to learn more, contact Nancy Holmes in the Parish Office at 847-381-2323 x11 or nholmes@stmichaelsbarrington.org.



**And All The Angels
Christian Book and Gift Shop
Annual Holiday Gift Sale**
Lower level of St. Michael's Episcopal Church
Friday, November 29th ~ 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 30th ~ 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 1st ~ 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

If you cannot make it this week we will have everything thru Christmas!
Our holiday hours will be Wednesday 11-5, Saturday 9-1, Sunday 8:30-12

We have gift offerings to include something for everyone on your list.
Stop by to see what's new this year.
We also have a great selection of holiday decorations, ornaments
and Advent wreaths/calendars.

*All proceeds from this sale
and from our gift shop
benefit women's and
children's' charities.*

*Shop early for the
best selection!*

**647 Dundee Ave.
(Dundee and Hillside)
Barrington
847-382-6435**

**A.W.S.M. Advent Gathering December 4th
7:00-9:00 p.m.**

Join All Women of St. Michael's for an evening of fun and fellowship at Michele Phillip's home - 50 Oakdene Road, Barrington Hills, IL. Enjoy catching up with your friends, singing Christmas carols and learning about Advent traditions and activities. OPTIONAL donations of diapers, wipes, baby food and formula will be collected for St. Cyprian food pantry both at the gathering and at a drop off box by the Community Room. Checks with "diapers" written in the memo section can be donated the night of the event or to the church

office. For additional information such as what refreshments to bring, please read the sign near the Community room, the Evite sent to all women's emails or contact Michele Phillips at flips712@comcast.net or 847-304-4107.



CASTING CALL!



Calling all kiddos who would like to be involved with our **Advent Pageant**...this year the pageant is called The Advent Tree. Our pageant will be shared in short excerpts serving as the Children's Moment at the 9:00 a.m. service each Sunday of Advent. I will need 6 volunteers, to be selected each

Sunday morning, to "dress" our Advent Tree with the symbols of Advent. Finally, we will present the final Nativity Scene at our 2:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. If you would like to participate in our pageantettes, be sure to be present on all four Sundays of Advent! For more information Kara Baker at kbaker@stmichaelsbarrington.org.



The Service (or 'Festival') of Lessons and Carols was conceived and first celebrated in 1918 at King's College, Cambridge, England, and it is now a regular part of Advent worship in many churches. In this service, we listen to Scripture lessons which recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is followed by a carol or other song that reflects on the lesson's message and a brief prayer. Part of the original vision for this service that St. Michael's so well honors is the invitation of community leaders to read the appointed Bible lessons. The evening concludes with a festive reception in our Community Room. **We welcome all to join us on December 8th at 5:00 p.m.**

Faith Reflection Group Reunion



Reviewing and looking forward

Wednesday evening, November 13, Fr. Kevin led a reflection with 30 parishioners who were among the 100 who took part in our Faith Reflection Groups in the first half of 2013. The gathering was both an opportunity for thanksgiving and to consider the timing and shape of future small group ministries at St Michael's. (Fr. Patrick took the photo and also took part!)

Upcoming Events

- +November 18, Grief Sharing Workshop, 7:00 p.m.
- +November 20, Book Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- +November 22-23, Convention of the Diocese of Chicago
- +November 24, Farewell Reception for Nerissa Brueckbauer, 10:10 a.m.
- +November 25, Monday Morning Meditations & Mandalas, 6:00 a.m.
- +November 28, Holy Eucharist, 10:45 a.m.
- +November 28, Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner, 12:00 p.m.
- +November 29-December 1, And All The Angels Holiday Bazaar
- +December 4, Women's AWSM Advent Gathering, 7:00 p.m.
- +December 8, Lessons and Carols, 5:00 p.m.

Revised Common Lectionary Year C, Pentecost 25

Isaiah 65:17-15; Canticle 9; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

Contact Info

St. Michael's Vestry

Kathy Sawyer Randolph - Sr. Warden, Shan Atkins - Jr. Warden

Pete Douglas, Lora Gier, David Bishop, Sof Ts'o

Dolores Kampert, Ray Kean, Pat Kane, Mike Savage

Cristy Cressey, John Totten, Teri Doran, Lance Marcinek

John Davis - Treasurer, Craig Anderson - Clerk

Marissa Longo, Youth Representative Madelyn Lanham, Youth Representative

Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Patrick Raymond, Rector; The Rev. Kevin Caruso, Associate Rector; The Rev. Laurie Michaels, Deacon; Caren Hunter, Director of Little Angels Christian Preschool; David Baker, Director of Music Ministries; Thom Wibbels, Organist; Kara Joy Baker, Youth Pastor & Director of Children's Choir; Nerissa Brueckbauer, Children's Education Director & Communications Coordinator; Kim Lessner, Parish Operations; Nancy Holmes, Parish Administrator & Rector's Assistant; Rich Hornickel, Sexton.

The Sword, St. Michael's Episcopal Church 647 Dundee Ave. Barrington, IL 60010

Phone: 847.381.2323 Fax: 847.381.3517

website:

www.stmichaelsbarrington.org

The Sword is published each Thursday. Any questions or comments regarding this publication should be sent to news@stmichaelsbarrington.org.

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