

The Sword



Your weekly e-connection with St. Michael's Episcopal Church

December 5, 2013

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From the Rector

Dear People of St. Michael's,

Again this week, my message is in pieces rather than one coherent whole. But the pieces are rich and good ...

+ Leaders & Readers for Advent Lessons & Carols, this Sunday at 5 pm. I'm grateful already for the preparation of all of our musicians, and now also for the leaders in our community who have agreed to read the eight passages from Scripture. We'll welcome those involved in civic leadership (**Gene Dawson, Jack Schaefer and Mayor Karen Darch**); social and community service and leadership (**Teresa Robertson**, a counselor with Barrington Youth and Family Services, and **Gerry Nadig**, President of the Barrington Area Community Foundation); the founder of a new local networking website (**Chrissie Menna** of living60010.com); the president of our preschool's parent advisory board, **Keeley Hart**; and BHS teacher and head football coach **Joe Sanchez**. Please join us Sunday evening and bring a friend or neighbor.

+ Two Holiday Arts Opportunities. I'm rarely at the offices of our diocese in downtown Chicago and rarely recommend anyone visit there ... but the present art and artifact exhibit at St. James Commons is an international collection focusing on St. Nicholas and is truly stunning, meaningful and memorable. Recommended for persons of all ages! For more information, [click here](#). [<http://www.stnicholascenter.org/pages/traveling-exhibit/>]

More locally, Barrington area artists have collaborated to share a creative project called **Christmas Art Walk: A Gift to Remember**. Through an odd series of circumstances I was asked to create an artwork for the show based on the theme of 'myrrh' (the third gift of the magi to the Christ child). To learn more, [click here](#). [<http://www.christmasartwalk.com/>]

'Here's the glass mosaic I created as part of 'Myrrh'. To see how it was used,

Ministry Quicklinks

- Our Website

Remembering This Week

Birthdays

12.8

Trevor Osmond
Sumit Mullick

12.10

Jerry Conners,
Patrick Raymond
David Larson

12.11

Vickie Johnson

12.13

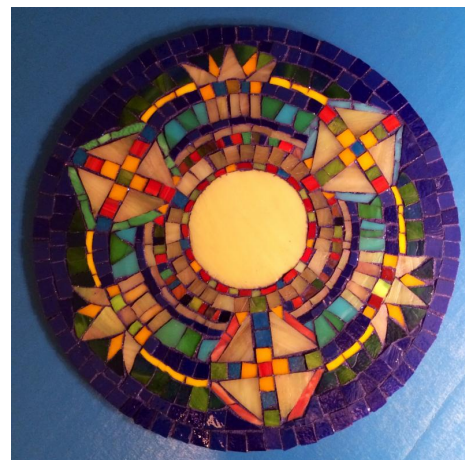
Randy Lewis
Jerry Seyffert
Colleen Maire

12.14

Charlie Baartz
Hayley Eissler

Anniversaries

you'll have to visit Susan McConnell's photo studio and gallery at 110 East Main St., Barrington, between December 12-24.



+Guess who was elected as Deputy to



the 2015 Episcopal Church General Convention?

Yes, Fr. Kevin Caruso! (Pray for him.) He was elected at our November 22-23 diocesan convention, as one of four clergy deputies who will represent our diocese from among a field of over a dozen candidates.

+ **Plans for new leadership of our children's ministries** are explained in a 2-page letter being mailed today to all households and can also be [viewed here](#).

+ **And finally, one for the heart right now. An Advent muse ...**

"Life is a constant Advent season: we are continually waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfill. Hope, struggle, fear, expectation and fulfillment are all part of our Advent experience. The world is not as just, not as loving, not as whole as we know it can and should be. But the coming of Christ and his presence among us-as one of us-give us reason to live in hope: that light will shatter the darkness, that we can be liberated from our fears and prejudices, that we are never alone or abandoned. May this Advent season be a time for bringing hope, transformation and fulfillment into the Advent of our lives." - from a 1993 feature in the **Lutheran magazine Connections**

Meet our Interim Coordinator of Children's Ministries

As the Interim Coordinator of Children's Ministries, I'm really looking forward to the opportunity of serving the families and young children of St. Michael's. In this role, I'll be supporting the children, staff and the Catechists in the Atrium and will be

Rest in Peace

12.9

Alice Dally

12.14

Jacqueline Martin

assisting with Solemn Communion in the early Spring.

Our family has been members of St. Michael's for 13 years and is blessed to be part of such a caring community. I first became interested in Children's Formation at St. Michael's when our two daughters started Sunday School. Since then, I have been trained in, assisted and taught Level I Catechesis for 7 years.



Jeni Younger

Having served on several ministries, including Vestry, I am most spiritually fulfilled as a Catechist. It is such a joy to walk alongside children as they come to know The Good Shepherd. Prior to my employment as a stay-at-home mom, I was an Account Manager in the field of advertising and marketing for 12 years.

During this time of transition, it is my goal to ensure that Children's Ministries stays on track and continues to run smoothly. I welcome any questions and/or comments you may have. I'll also be available on Sundays before or after the 9:00 service, if you'd like to speak in person. Or, I can be reached at (847)-381-2323 x 15 or children@stmichaelsbarrington.org.

Jeni Younger, Interim Children's Ministries Coordinator

Little Red Wagon



In the month of December the food in the Little Red Wagon will go to the Barrington Township Food Pantry. Special

Advent Pageant

Each Sunday of Advent, we will be learning about 6 different symbols of the season. We will be presenting our pageantettes during the 9:00 a.m. service Children's Moment following the Gospel each week. The theme of this pageant encourages us to see God in new ways and in all things. Please take a moment to enjoy the ornaments and Advent Calendar more closely as they were made by members of our congregation. Our pageant will culminate by delivering the Nativity Scene at the 2:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve, December 24. If you would like to be a friendly beast, shepherd, angel, wiseman, or Mary at the manger, all you need to do is join us for rehearsal in the chapel on Sunday December 22 at 9:45 a.m. (during Church School).

The symbols of Advent that we will learn about on Sunday, December 8...

- 1.) HOLLY-Christmas Wreaths & Crown of Thorns
- 2.) DIAMOND-Precious Gift & Joy
- 3.) DRUM-Always Give Our Best
- 4.) CLOVER-Lucky to be Blessed
- 5.) HEART-Love & Life Eternal



needs are crackers, granola bars, tea bags, boxed rice (white & brown), canned fruit and pasta sauce.

A big thank you to those who responded to the call for food for St. Cyprian's Food Pantry. Two car loads have already been delivered with probably two more to go before Christmas.

Monetary donations to the Food Pantry Fund are always welcome.



Advent Banner displayed in Narthex.
Designed by

6.) FLOWER-Jesus is the Rose

Created by the Mathison family

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY: Sunday Morning Adult Formation Sunday, December 8



Mystery, Intrigue, History, Humor... A conversation with the **St. Michael's Book Club**. On Sunday December 8th we will be joined by members of the Book Club. Books give us access to ideas and worlds we might never experience otherwise. Some member of the book club have agreed to join us to share a few thoughts about some of their favorite books. If you are looking for a gift for that reader in your life... If you are always looking for a good book to read... If you are looking for an excuse to do some more reading... If you didn't know we have an active book club... join in the conversation.

MINISTRY MOMENT: Sunday, December 8 Diocesan Delegates - Sean Harrington, presenting at 9:00 a.m.

The job of a Convention Delegate is to provide a link between the congregation and the Diocese by representing the congregation both at regional and diocesan levels, and by reporting back to the congregation on events, actions and decisions that occur. Diocesan Delegates also have seat, voice and vote in our Diocesan Convention.



Quips from the Convention:

What I valued the most about this year's Diocesan convention was...

...a renewed sense of commitment - Jackie Smith

...a greater understanding that we are part of a greater whole. - Sean Harrington

...proclaiming the Gospel & serving @ the altar @ the Sat Eucharist. - Laurie Michaels

...renewed contact with old friends and acquaintances. - Jim Bullion

...welcoming our brothers and sisters from the Deanery of Peoria (formerly the Diocese of Quincy). - Kevin Caruso

...the caring way in which all people were incorporated in the process, and the beautiful music and liturgies. It is also always great to visit with old and new friends. (And of course, the fact that Father Kevin was elected to go to the National Convention :-) - Judy Heinrich

From the Youth Minister:

Kara Joy Baker kbaker@stmichaelsbarrington.org

THIS WEEK:

Katie Blair, 2003.

Friday 12/6 Deadline-Those who signed up to sponsor LYDIA Home children, please bring Christmas presents to Kara's office (don't forget to include the donor form!).

Saturday, 12/7 1:00-6:00-LYDIA Home Outing. I still have three spots, please let me know if you are interested.

Sunday, 12/8 @ 9:00-LIFT Worship & Formation

Sunday, 12/8 @ 10:45-SMUSH Worship & Formation

Sunday, 12/8 @ 5:30-7:00-Confirmation Dinner & Class in the Sturtz House

2014 Stewardship Campaign

Report on Stewardship and Pledge Card Responses

As of today, St. Michael's has received 105 pledge cards for 2014 from a total of 325 that were sent to parish households in early November. In 2013, we had a total of 207 pledging units. Please take a moment to complete and return your pledge card. Or you can access our online pledge card by simply [clicking here](#). For more information, contact Stewardship chairman Mike Savage at savagems@comcast.net.

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. Please contact Dolores Duncan if you can help with the reception following the service. Food plates for the reception table gratefully accepted!**



Lessons and Carols
A candlelit service of readings, carols, and anthems

December 8
5:00 p.m.

St. Michael's Episcopal Church
 647 Dundee Ave ~ Barrington
 847-381-2323

Festive Reception Following



Praying in the Wilderness **December 18, 7:00 p.m.**

This is the second year we are sharing this liturgy at St. Michael's. Through it we aim to provide a positive atmosphere of sanctuary for those whose holidays are not all merry. We'll include a simple, optional anointing & laying on of hands with prayers that may be offered for individual healing and/or for others in need and/or for the departed.

Christmas Flower Donations

We need your help to adorn the altar with a wondrous floral display for Christmas. Please consider giving a donation. Your donation will help cover the cost of the flowers we need to create the beautiful display. Your donation can be made in memory or thanksgiving of someone and their name(s) will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. You can find envelopes on the counter by the front door for your donations. To help ensure that your name(s) appear in the Christmas Eve bulletin, please return your envelope to the parish office by December 18.



A note from Katy Pepper on Christmas Baskets

Many thanks to all who have completed your baskets for the Cathedral Shelter families. Just a reminder that the Redeemer boxes are due by December 17 or anytime before that date. Boxes may be placed in the Community Room. Due to a mis-numbering error on my part, I would like to request that when you deliver your boxes, please put a copy of the original sheet you received with the family members ages and requests with your boxes. This will help me cross check and see which family was numbered incorrectly. Thank you!



Do your shopping at And All The Angels

Black Friday-Sunday Sale at And All of the Angels was a Hit!



Thank you, Parishioners, for making the angel store one of your stops for gifts this past weekend! We had great success, and welcomed many NEW customers from the community to our little shop. While selling out of a line or two of merchandise, we still have beautiful new everyday items for the home and children. Fresh jewelry pieces include the "sideways cross" bracelets and necklaces and trendy items for different ages. Come to look at the beautiful Books of the Bible, which are pieces of art, and make wonderful family gifts! Plus we have everything you need for Advent! We will be set up, in the undercroft through Christmas, so please visit.

In the Parish family

+Those for whom prayers have been requested: Joe, Joan, Mary, Kathy, the Tarulis family, Paulette, Bill, Doris, Brandon, Cathy, Carmen, Ashley & family, Sydney, John, Judie, Jean, Casey, Jack, Carrie, Paul & family, Amy, Rollo, Barrington Township Food Pantry, safety & peace in South Sudan; military troops in danger including those from our parish, especially, Zane, Ryan, Michael, Bruce, and Taylor.

Thanksgiving Dinner a blessing to over 200

Thank you to our volunteers: cooks, carvers, bakers, servers, greeters, table setters, techies, drivers, and more! Thank you to Tony Stallone (PeaPod), Barrington Transportation Bus Company (Lorraine, Chrisanne, Mike), computer station techie (Max Deevey), kitchen king (Jeff Weitek), Premium Blend (BHS singers). Thank you to our cash donors, laptop donors, cell phone donors. Thank you to our guests...it was a joy to share the day with you. THANK YOU ALL!



Vicki Ridges chatting with guests from Great Lakes Naval Base

2013 Advent Celebration: December 1



Special thanks to all who took part!

Farewell Blessings



Parishioner Sophia Ts'o shared this photo of the blessing during the 9 am liturgy on **Nerissa Brueckbauer's** final Sunday, November 24. Thanks to all who took part in such a meaningful worship service and loving reception afterward.

Holy Apostles offering pre-Christmas service

'RETURNING AND REST':

A Contemplative Service in Preparation for Service.
Take a deep spiritual breath before the cultural rush of the Christmas holiday. This Eucharist service offers a series of reflections based on a famous Icon of the Nativity, interspersed with Christmas hymns and carols. 7:00 p.m. Sunday 22 December, at Church of the Holy Apostles (26238 N HWY 59, Wauconda,

60084). ALL are most warmly welcome.



Is The Ministry of Pastoral Care Calling *YOU*?

Today there are over 350 volunteers throughout the northern third of Illinois who have been trained by Bishop Anderson House. They provide spiritual care in nursing homes, hospitals, fire departments, hospice programs, congregational visitations,

and a host of other settings where people are in need of God's encouraging love. They have all been raised up by their clergy to extend the Church's pastoral care to others, and they have all sharpened their innate strengths through a twelve week training program.

If you would like to know more about the ministry and program contact The Rev. James L. Risk at 312-563-4825. [Click here](#) to download an application to the program.

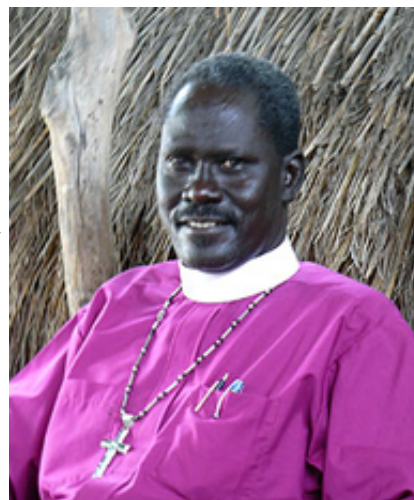
Bishop Joseph Greets Diocesan Convention

Bishop Joseph Garag Atem of the Diocese of Renk greeted the 2013 diocesan convention by video. [Click here](#) to view the video.

Be-Renk

The people of Renk in South Sudan are hungry for good food. Bishop Joseph of Renk is asking us to help him build a fence around a 25-acre plot to create a sustainable vegetable farm, and he is asking for funds for seeds, gardening supplies, implements and funds to pay farm workers. Once the fence is erected and the supplies gathered, this farm will become self-sustaining, feeding the people of Renk and providing food to sell in markets.

[Learn more](#) (pdf).



~ Celebrate the Christ Child at St. Michael's ~ Christmas Services

December 24, Christmas Eve
2:00 p.m. Eucharist

4:00 p.m. Eucharist

9:00 p.m. Eucharist

11:00 p.m. Eucharist

December 25, Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Eucharist

**Upcoming Events**

+December 8, Lessons and Carols, 5:00 p.m.

+December 18, Praying in the Wilderness, 7:00 p.m.

+December 22, Holy Apostles Contemplative Service, 7:00 p.m.

Revised Common Lectionary Year A, Second Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7,18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

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; Kim Lessner, Parish Operations; Nancy Holmes, Parish Administrator & Rector's Assistant; Rich Hornickel, Sexton.

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The Sword is published each Thursday. The deadline to submit items to be included is Tuesday at Noon. Any questions or comments regarding this publication should be sent to

news@stmichaelsbarrington.org

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