

The Sword



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

December 12, 2013

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From the Rector

Dear people of St. Michael's,

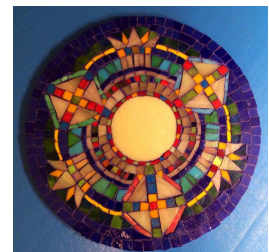
By now, some of you know my 'story of myrrh.' It began in September. An opportunity was announced for local Christian artists: *Please submit ideas for pieces of art based on the images in the Twelve Days of Christmas (the well-known Christmas carol)*. My proposal for 'twelve drummers drumming' was accepted! I began looking around for an old bass drum head on which to paint.

Then I was personally visited by the main organizer of the Barrington Christmas Art Walk. She explained that the whole emphasis had changed. Out with the twelve days of Christmas! They now wanted to focus on the actual Bible stories telling of Christ's birth and directly related events.

The change of emphasis made sense, I agreed. But then I was told that the last three artworks were to represent the Wise Men's gifts to the Christ child. Gold and frankincense were already taken. Would I please create something based on myrrh?

Ever since, I've been musing on myrrh - and grappling with how to render it creatively. I went through dozens of ideas. I panicked. I doubted myself and started over, several times. Why couldn't I have been assigned a shinier, more familiar and more comforting part of the story?

In the end, though, I traveled from bewilderment to appreciation. The journey with myrrh became devotional. In Christ's time, you see, myrrh was often used to anoint the dead. Because of this the magi's gift of myrrh is often thought, in Christian devotion, to prefigure Christ's death. So, the mosaic I created as part of my artwork includes three crowns, for the Three Kings, and also three crosses, anticipating Calvary. (For more about myrrh and the magi's other gifts, [click here](#).)



I admit that this letter may actually be only a thinly veiled ploy to get you to go on the 12-stop Artwalk that begins today in the Village of Barrington. But in addition, my muse on myrrh leads me to hope and pray that, as we await Christ's birth, you, also, may find a new feature or layer in the story, one that leads you to deeper devotion, faithfulness and joy.

**Ministry
Quicklinks**

- Our Website
- Little Angels
- Preschool Website
- Diocese of Chicago Website



While I Was Waiting
by Janet Kline

A stirring
In my heart
In the deep blackness
of the night
Star light...star bright
First star I see
I see
Do you see
What I see?
A cacophony of light
Smashing, shattering
A sacred symphony
of bright
O, Holy Aurora
Borealis!
It is God!
It is The One,
The long awaited Light
to lead us

Also from the Rector:

2014 Annual Meeting Nominations

According to the new parish bylaws approved at the 2013 Annual Meeting, the Vestry is now obliged to provide the congregation with the names of nominees for elected leadership positions 45 days in advance of an Annual Meeting. We've done really well! We're pleased to share that, at its December 9 meeting, the Vestry approved the nomination of **Shan Atkins** for election to the position of Senior Warden; **Dave Buckley** for election to the position of Junior Warden; and **Ray Kean, Randy Lewis, Leslie Yerger** and **Jay Younger** for election to three-year Vestry terms. At the same meeting, the Vestry appointed **John Davis** to continue his leadership as Treasurer for 2014 and **Craig Anderson** as Clerk. **Sean Tucker** has agreed to be appointed as Youth Representative. Alas, we have not yet identified three parishioners to serve as delegates to the annual diocesan convention but hope to do so soon. Stay tuned - and please mark your calendars for Sunday, January 26, at Noon, for the 2014 Annual Meeting. THANK YOU to those who have agreed to share in leading and serving.

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY: Sunday Morning Adult Formation

Sunday, December 15

A Conversation about Children's Ministries at St. Michael's

Parents (or really anyone!): bring a question... What questions do you have about our Children's Ministries? Fr. Patrick and Fr. Kevin will offer a brief presentation laying out the current structure and values underlying our approach to Children's formation. We will then open the floor to your questions.



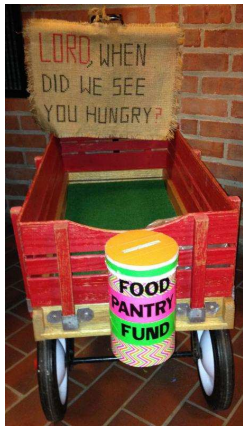
Next Week: December 22 - Take a breath of fresh air: a time of meditation in the midst of the chaos.

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 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

from this
Stone cold,
still darkness.

Little Red Wagon



In the month of December the food in the Little Red Wagon will go to the Barrington Township Food Pantry. Special needs are crackers, granola bars, tea bags, boxed rice (white & brown), canned fruit and pasta sauce.

Monetary donations to the Food Pantry Fund are always welcome.

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).

Ornaments introduced on Sunday, December 15:

MUSHROOM-Let your love grow

BUTTERFLY-Christians fly free & spread Jesus' beauty

PIGGY BANK-Share our time, talent, and treasures with others

CANDY CANE-Jesus is our Good Shepherd

GINGERBREAD BOY-Birthday sweets for a King

BIRD-God knows all of his flock



Created by the Chan family

From the Youth Minister

To those who sponsored **LYDIA Home** children for Christmas, THANK YOU!!! All the gifts have been delivered to LYDIA in order to distribute to the children on Christmas. LYDIA Home is incredibly grateful for St. Michael's continued support.

RESTAURANT.COM
BEST DEAL. EVERY MEAL.

The youth are starting a new fundraiser this week, **RESTAURANT.COM GIFTCARDS**. The cards cost \$20 and have a \$50 value on Restaurant.com, plus youth ministries keeps 50%. Everyone wins! Keep in mind, giftcards make great stocking stuffers! If interested, please find us after the 9:00 & 10:45 a.m. service.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

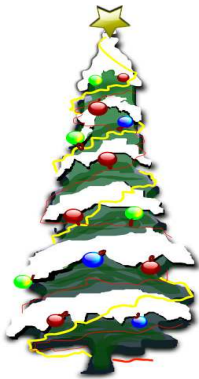
Friday 12/20, 5:00-8:00 p.m.-Members of the Bridge, LIFT, & SMUSH Feed My Starving Children Outing. Please let me know if you plan to attend.

Friday, January 24th-Sunday 26th-Episcopal Diocese of Chicago New Beginnings, a retreat for middle school students at St. Michael's! We are hosting, and I will be attending the retreat. Check it out at

<http://www.episcopalchicago.org/at-work-in-the-church/youth-ministry/new-beginnings/>.

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

A Prayer for Blessing the Christmas Tree



Holy God, we celebrate the birth of your Son with great joy. He rescued us from the darkness of sin by making the tree of the cross the means of our salvation. May the splendor of this tree remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ, that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**And All
The Angels
Holiday Bazaar
Going on now!**
Visit our gift shop on



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. If you'd like a flyer for your own reminder or to send to a friend, please [click here](#).

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

Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve

2:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

4:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

(Worship appropriate for families with children at 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. with the pageant culmination at 2:00 p.m.)

9:00 p.m. Solemn Choral Holy Eucharist

11:00 p.m. Solemn Choral Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with sermon and carols

If you are unable to be present for Christmas worship due to illness and wish to receive Communion at home from one of our HLEMs (Home Lay Eucharistic Ministers), please contact the HLEM coordinator, David Brooks, at dabrooks@parkfun.com, or a member of the parish clergy.

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



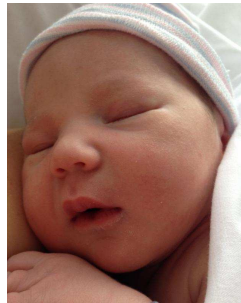
the lower level. You'll find a gift for just about everyone on your list!

ensure that your name(s) appear in the Christmas Eve bulletin, please return your envelope to the parish office by December 18.



In the Parish family

+Those for whom prayers have been requested: Carmen, Ashley & family, Sydney, John, Judie, Jean, Casey, Jack, Becky, Simon, Donna, Paul, Peyton, Sara & family, David, Cynthia, Michelle & children, Carrie, Paul & family, 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.



Clive Thomas Uebelhor was born December 10 to parents Ann & Shea Uebelhor. Happy siblings are Sunny & Crew. Clive weighed in at 8 lbs. 3 oz. Blessings to all!

Remembering This Week

Birthdays

- 12.15
Forest Mayberry
Brian Summerfield
Ella Holterman
- 12.16
Matt Beverly
- 12.17
Gene Dawson
Jackie Kraus
Joe Kunzon
Debbie Kunzon
- 12.18
Jeff Cross
Terri Longo
- 12.19
Caden Chan
Kailey Knoop
Kendall Knoop

Our Youth in Action

Did you know St. Michael's Youth will be packing food at Feed My Starving Children in Schaumburg on Friday, December 20? These "Manna Packs" are meals put together by teams of volunteers, and sent all over the world to hungry children. [Click here](#) to read more about the program.



Our Outreach coordinators would like to invite younger members to help out by contributing spare change in the Atriums. Actually, St. Michael's parishioners of every age are welcomed to join in with gifts of paper money, or even checks payable to Feed My Starving Children. This is a great way for all of us to support our youth and a good cause as well. These donations will be brought in by the youth group when they go to the packing site next Friday.

If you'd like to donate, please contact Dave Evans at (224)628-3654, or place contributions in Kara Baker's mailbox at church.

Here We Come A-Caroling

Josie Trautwein
12.20
Judy Tammi
12.21
Paul Carrubba
Dolores Kampert
Scott Erickson
Tina Marcinkiewicz

Anniversaries

12.19
Helen & Ken Curtis

Rest in Peace

12.17
Peter Forbes
Jean Treveiler
12.18
Barbara Mabbs
12.19
Bette Sue Thomasson
Scott Treveiler, Jr.
John Dowling
12.20
Anthony Slone
JoAnn Godfrey



St. Michael's will have a coral sing in downtown Barrington on Saturday, **December 21 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.** We will meet and gather in front of Cook Street Coffee, 100 E. Station Street. Our music director, David Baker, will bring music books and lead us in easy-to-sing songs of the season. All welcome! Wear warm clothing and don't forget your Santa hat and jingle bells! Contact David at dbaker@stmichaelsbarrington.org

if you have any questions. (This caroling event is part of Barrington's *Christmas Art Walk: A Gift to Remember*. The art show runs from Dec. 12-24 and our rector/artist, Patrick Raymond, will have his artwork featured at Susan McConnell's photo studio and gallery at 110 E. Main Street.)

New Year's Day Question??

Last year, a parishioner indicated that she would really value celebrating the Eucharist on Holy Name Day (January 1st). We would be happy to do so if there were at least 5 people interested in being there. If you would like to see a service on Holy Name Day, please send an e-mail by Christmas Eve to Fr. Kevin: kcaruso@stmichaelsbarrington.org.



Commune with me...

"We who are many are one, because we share one bread, one cup." Your presence is needed in the **Home Lay Eucharistic Ministry**. The ministry of the HLEM is "to take the Consecrated Elements in a timely manner following a Celebration of Holy Eucharist to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present at the Celebration." It is a wonderful and fulfilling way to meet members of our congregation who so appreciate sharing the community of St. Michael's and participating in Holy Eucharist. Former members of HLEM are warmly welcomed to return over this Christmas



Christmas Morning Breakfast

Overnight Raisin French Toast Casserole



1 loaf Raisin Bread,
cubed

1 package (8 ounces)
cream cheese, cubed

8 eggs, lightly beaten

1-1/2 cups 1/2&1/2
cream

1/2 cup sugar

1/2 cup maple syrup

2 TBS vanilla extract

1 TBS ground
cinnamon

1/8 TSP ground
nutmeg

+Place half of the
bread cubes in a
greased 13-in. x 9-in.
baking dish. Top with
cream cheese and
remaining bread.

+In a large bowl,
whisk the remaining
ingredients. Pour over
top. Cover and
refrigerate overnight.

+Remove from the

season to support this ministry! Please contact Donna Brooks 224.623.1527/
email domnaboo63@yahoo.com OR Dave Brooks 847.456.1203/email
dabrooks@parkfun.com if you are interested in serving with this ministry.
New training sessions beginning in January!

Holiday Publication and Office Schedule

SCHEDULE

Due to the timing of Christmas and New Year's Day, our publication
schedule will be modified in the upcoming weeks:

+**Monday, Dec. 23** Holiday Edition with Christmas Worship Time

+**Thursday, Jan. 2** Abbreviated News

+**Thursday, Jan. 9** Regular schedule resumes with General News

If you would like to share news about your ministry, please send
information to news@stmichaelsbarrington.org by noon on the
Tuesday of the week of publication.

In observance of Christmas Day and New Year's Day the parish
office will be closed on Wednesday, December 25 and Wednesday,
January 1.

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.

'Tis the Season

refrigerator 30 minutes before baking. Cover and bake at 350° for 30 minutes. Uncover; bake 15-20 minutes longer or until a knife inserted near the center comes out clean.

Yield: 12 servings.

Calories: Hey, it's Christmas, be merry!



Maria Kuechmann ~ Ann Ross ~ Judy Tammi ~ Michelle Chan

50 plus **A.W.S.M. (All Women of St. Michael's)** members gathered at Michele Phillip's beautiful home last Wednesday evening (December 4th) to observe Advent, see old friends and enjoy good food. Donna Brooks presented an Advent program that was inspiring and informative. Marti Kahn also handed out a detailed booklet on advent observance ideas. Advent is so much more than the 24 day window calendar and the lighting of four candles. But it is that, too! The A.W.S.M. group collected donations for St. Cyprian's food pantry in the way of things for baby - diapers, wipes, formula and cash. Kudos to All Women of St. Michael's as the donation box overflowed with baby things and over \$300 in cash and checks were collected. Donations still can be made to the drop box in front of the Community Room or checks can be dropped off to the office made out to St. Michael's with the word "diapers" in the memo section until December 18th. Many thanks go to Ruth Silver for graciously transporting all of the baby items to St. Cyprian's and to all of the AWSM board who organized this wonderful evening.

Acts of Kindness



The Community Room fills up with Christmas gifts for St. Cyprian children (coordinated by Ruth Silver)



and a diaper/baby needs drive
coordinated by AWSM -women of
St. Michael's. Blessings abound!



Sir Thomas More

11th Annual Episcopal Men's Pre-Lenten Retreat

February 7 - February 8, 2014

The Rev. Jay Risk, executive director of the Bishop Anderson House, will lead the 2014 men's retreat. The focus will be Men for All Seasons, inspired by the stirring movie "A Man for All Seasons" on Sir Thomas More who dared to defy the king and suffered the consequences. [Click here](#) for flyer and registration form.

Christmas Message from Bishop Schori

Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, in her Christmas Message 2013 prays: *"May you discover that humble authority born again on the edges of the world's notice. May that royal inheritance and authority of the stable be born in you, enliven your heart, and rest on your shoulders."* [Click here](#) to read the Presiding Bishop's entire message.



We Await His Coming....



Crèche display in St. Michael's Narthex

Upcoming Events

- +December 18, Praying in the Wilderness, 7:00 p.m.
- +December 19, Little Angels Preschool Christmas Program, 6:00 p.m.
- +December 20, Youth visit 'Feed My Starving Children'
- +December 21, Caroling Downtown Barrington, 1:00 p.m.
- +December 22, Holy Apostles Contemplative Service, 7:00 p.m.
- +December 24, Christmas Eve Services, 2, 4, 9, 11 p.m.
- +December 25, Christmas Day Service, 10:00 a.m.

IN THE NEW YEAR

- +January 6, Epiphany Eucharist, 5:00 p.m.
- +January 26, Parish Annual Meeting, 12:00 p.m.

Revised Common Lectionary Year A, Third Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10; Canticle 15; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

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](mailto:news@stmichaelsbarrington.org).

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