

The Sword



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

December 19, 2013

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Upcoming at St. Michael's

- **Christmas Caroling** in downtown Barrington on Saturday, December 21 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in front of Cook Street Coffee.
- **Advent 4, December 22** - Sunday worship and ministries at the normal times.
- **Christmas 1, December 29** - Sunday worship and ministries at the normal times **EXCEPT NO** children's church school for catechesis level. Jr./Sr. High will meet.



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.)

Childcare at the 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. services)

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.

Ministry Quicklinks

- Our Website
- Little Angels
Preschool Website



Your financial gifts keep St. Michael's vital. To the extent that you are able, **please honor your 2013 pledge** commitments before year's end. For tax purposes, gifts credited for 2013 must be postmarked or received in the church office by December 31. Those interested in making any special year-end gifts may speak with the Rector or Treasurer, John Davis.

If you've not yet returned your **2014 pledge card** please do so at your earliest convenience. Having pledges in hand helps with planning and budgeting for the year ahead. If you need a replacement pledge card, please contact the parish office at 847-381-2323. You may return it to the church office, bring it to worship with you any Sunday and place it in the offering plate, or you may go to www.stmichaelsbarrington.org and pledge online. Thank you.

"Come Thou
long-expected
Jesus, born to
set thy people
free; From our
sins and fears
release us;
let us find
our rest
in thee."

Stuttgart
The Hymnal 1982

*He did not wait till the world was ready,
till men and nations were at peace
He came when the Heavens were unsteady
and prisoners cried out for release.*
- Madeleine L'Engle



Something will go wrong

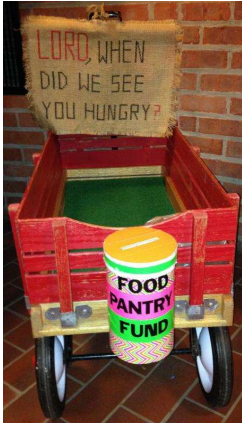
Dear People of St. Michael's,

One of my main aims at any wedding rehearsal is to make the wedding day itself less stressful and more meaningful for all involved. Given that aim, you may be surprised to hear that I often end wedding rehearsals by predicting, "*Something will go wrong!*"

Why, you may wonder, would I cast that pall over a bride and groom (and their mothers!) on the wedding eve? Well, because, months of planning have inflated expectations to galactic dimensions. And then the florist arrives with yellow lilies instead of the contractually-agreed-to pink roses. Or the awkward aunt who was intentionally not invited shows up anyway, bringing the new 'friend' with the snake tattoo around the neck.

So at the rehearsal I say, "*Remember - if something **does** go wrong tomorrow, it'll probably become the story that you'll share with your children in years to come, laughing all the way. But you're going to have to decide tomorrow, at the wedding itself, if you're going to let it ruin your day. As an alternative, you can simply let it be, and say, 'There it is! And you can smile as you begin to wonder how this story will be told in twenty years.'*"

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.

Reindeer Cookies



Fun with the kids!
[Click here](#) for recipe.

Wedding advice, I know, may seem better suited to a church newsletter in June. But for many of us, preparing for Christmas can be a lot like getting ready for a wedding. And our huge expectations can really beat us up. Right?

So let's take a moment to hope that all of our best wishes for the holidays are flawlessly realized. But let us also remember that, contrary to our prevailing cultural notions, Christmas as Christians understand it is not a perfect celebration of the good life. Christmas is a fundamental reminder that something has gone wrong - with the whole world.

God has shown up, precisely because things have gone wrong. God has shown up, in Christ at Christmas, to lovingly and directly confront the wrong, to challenge our expectations and to meet our truest needs and wants.

Whether your Christmas is flawless or totally messed up, I pray that all of us may be on the lookout for the God of both joy and redemption, born among us, when things were going wrong, as Christ our savior.

- Patrick +

Food For The Journey: Sunday Morning Adult Formation

Sunday, December 22 - *Take a Breath of Fresh Air: A Time of Meditation in the Midst of the Chaos.*



Meditation teaches us to be present in this moment, and to be aware that our breath reflects the state of our mind. Together, we will practice some basic breathing techniques, use breath along with a mantra, and then rest in a mantra for a few minutes. Whether you are new to meditation, or have been practicing it for years, enjoy some quiet time with yourself during this busy holiday season.

Please join **Janette Warner** for a short, guided meditation this Sunday in the **Conference Room**, located at the east end of the office hallway. Since the nature of meditation is peacefulness, she asks that you arrive quietly, immediately following the service. Please allow coffee and

conversation to wait until after the meditation.

Sunday, December 29 - *Want to be happy? Be grateful.*

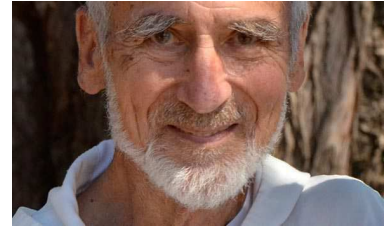
That is the title of a 15 minute TED talk given by

Brother David Steindl-Rast, a Benedictine monk. As we journey through the season

of Christmas, and prepare to enter a new calendar year, what better to talk about?

During our time together we will watch the talk and then Fr. Kevin will facilitate a

conversation about how gratitude impacts our lives.



Advent Pageant

The fourth installation of our Advent Pageant will be performed on Sunday, December 22. Each Sunday of Advent, we have been learning about 6 different symbols of the season. The pageantettes are presented 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. Our pageant will culminate by delivering the Nativity Scene at the 2:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve, December 24. - KB

BALL-God is like a circle, beginning and never ending

STAR-Led the Wise Men to the manger in Bethlehem

CROSS-Jesus died for our sins

EASTER EGG-Jesus was born, died, & rose to give new life

BLUE STOCKING-Jesus is our present from God

RED STOCKING-Jesus was human



Created by the Weibel family

Remembering This Week

Birthdays

12.22

Kay Richards

Elizabeth Ewart

Bill Arms

12.23

Jada Kampert

12.24

Renee Blue

12.27

Chuck Boetsch

Jimmy Couch

Katie Lindeen

Len Azzaro

12.28

Bill Heinrich

Ellen Weiss

Anniversaries

12.22

Ellen & Rick

Lindeen

12.27

Betsy & Len

From the Youth Minister

THIS WEEK:

Friday 12/20, 5:00-8:00 p.m.-LIFT & SMUSH Feed My Starving Children Outing. I only have 1 spot left. Please let me know ASAP if you'd like to join!

Saturday 12/21, 1:00-2:00 p.m.-Caroling at Cook St. Coffee (100 E Station St, Barrington) . All members of St. Michael's are invited to join us to spread a little good cheer. Could be a fun event for the whole family!

UPCOMING:

Friday Jan. 24th-Sunday 26th-Episcopal Diocese of Chicago New Beginnings, a retreat for middle school students @ St. Michael's! We are

Azzaro

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/>.

Rest in Peace

12.24

Eleanor Conlon

12.25

Nancy Wolters

12.28

Katherine McIntosh



In the Parish family


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

It's a girl! **Addison Marie Schnell** was born on December 16 weighing in at 7 lbs. 3 oz. Addison is the daughter of Meghan and Chris Schnell and granddaughter of Kathi and Dean Frelk. Blessings to all.

Rob Rushing Completes Eagle Scout Project

Dear Neighbors of Poplar Hills,
 Hi, my name is Rob Rushing. I am a member of Boy Scout Troop 21 and am working on my Eagle Scout project. I am collecting non-perishable food items in partnership with St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Barrington to donate to St. Cyprian food bank in Chicago. Please consider donating this season by leaving this bag containing your non-perishables on your front porch **Saturday, December 14, 2013 between 8:00 am and 12 noon**. A Scout will come by to pick it up.
 Thank you very much for your help. *Thanks, Rob*
 Your Neighbor,
 Rob Rushing

Food bags generously donated by our local Jewel Osco.



Prayers Go On



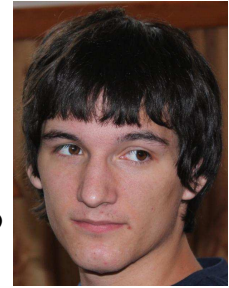
The votive candles in the prie dieu were still aglow the day after the **Praying in the**



Collected food fills our storage area.

Wilderness service on Wednesday, December 18. Many gathered in this safe resting place and were filled with glimpses of light and hope.

St. Michael's high school student, **Rob Rushing**, completed his Eagle Scout Project this month. Rob contacted all the homes in his subdivision asking them to join in a food drive for St. Cyprian food bank. His neighbors fulfilled his request with an outpouring of generosity by placing bags of non-perishable items on their doorsteps for Rob to collect. Many thanks to Rob's neighbors and to Rob for orchestrating this much needed project. Ruth Silver will transport the yield to St. Cyprian this week - just in time for Christmas!



Rob Rushing

Here We Come A-Caroling



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.)

The Wisemen have been spotted in the distance



We need to hear from YOU!

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.



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.

I Believe in the Power of Prayer

A Report from Jackie Kraus



And, pray we must, for peace, reconciliation, courage and wisdom at this most difficult time in the new country, **South Sudan**. On Sunday and into Monday morning, and yesterday, fighting broke out in Juba, capital of South Sudan. Some are calling it a coup to overthrow the President, Salva Kiir, some are calling it a tribal issue, and some are considering it the start of another civil war, but this time within the boundaries of the world's newest country. We have regular contact with Bishop Joseph in Renk, which is very far from Juba. At the moment, there is good security in Renk, and U.S. missionaries in Renk, Noah Hillerbrand and Ed Eastman, are safe. However, the Bishop has access to Mission Aviation Fellowship, which can fly them out of South Sudan if evacuation is necessary. As it stands now, the work of Renk continues smoothly, and preparation is being made to celebrate Michele's and Grace's 7th birthdays, December 19.

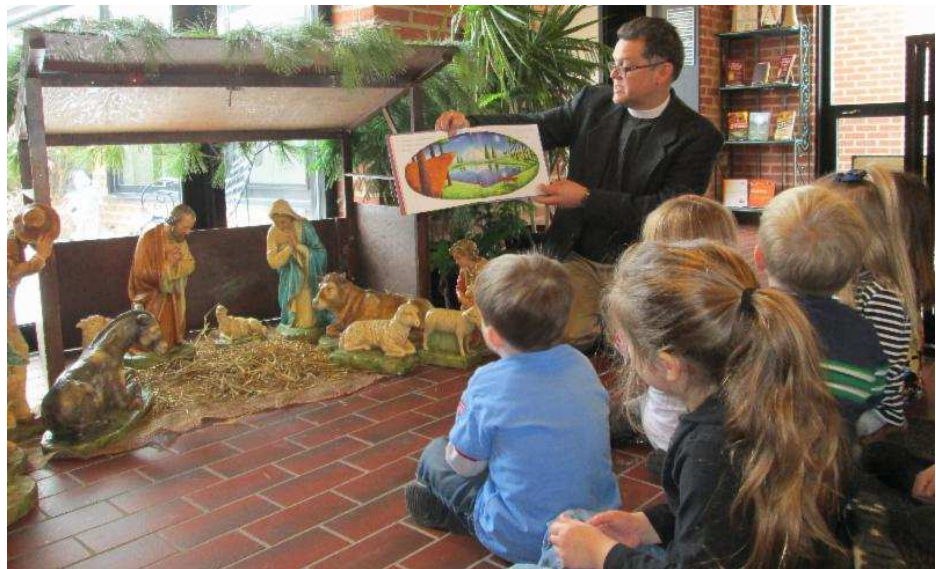
The church leaders of South Sudan have issued a public statement calling

for prayers for peace, reconciliation and healing, reminding the country, "Let us remember that God is with us". The full message can be found by googling *sudan-john-ashworth*. Take time to go to the links listed here, [<http://www.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/news/world-africa-25425453> and allafrica.com] and let us make time in our preparations for the coming of Our Lord and Savior to pray with and for the innocent victims of this uprising.

We are remaining in contact with the South Sudan Embassy in Washington, DC. The Ambassador, Dr. Akec, and Aban Pagan Othow, Counselor, met with the U.S. Special Envoy to South Sudan in DC. At the moment, Counselor Aban Pagan reports that there is no immediate danger in Renk.

Let us remember our brothers and sisters in Renk, and the promise made as part of St. Michael's Covenant of Relationship with Renk, to pray for one another. Bishop Joseph believes firmly that it is our prayers that are keeping them safe, that "God is protecting this area". *Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.*

We received word yesterday afternoon that Bishop Joseph's brother was shot while in Bor town. Please pray for him and all who are in harm's way.



Little Angels Preschooler's enjoyed **Father Patrick** reading "Song Of The Stars, A Christmas Story" to the them during Chapel time this week.

The Life-Saving Difference St. Michael's Makes

Did you know St. Michael's youth and leaders make regular trips to volunteer at **Feed My Starving Children (FMSC)**? FMSC is a non-

profit Christian organization committed to feeding God's children hungry in body and spirit. The approach is simple: children and adults hand-pack meals specifically formulated



for malnourished children, and then ship these meals to nearly 70 countries around the world. FMSC is a Christian 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. A single meal costs only 22 cents to produce, and 92 percent of total donations go directly toward the food program. St. Michael's also supports the organization monetarily: our recent life-saving donation was enough for 10,986 meals! The director at Feed My Starving Children is grateful for the generous way St. Michael's helps to care for the children of the world. [Click here](#) to read a note from FMSC and [click here](#) to donate.

Community Meal December 19

Free meal hosted this month by the First Church of Christian Science. The meal will be served from 5-7 p.m. at Greencastle Manor, 445 E. Main Street, Barrington. [Click here](#) for flyer and directions.



Our Hope and Expectation...



Crèche under St. Michael's Chapel Advent Tree

Upcoming Events

+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 8, St. Michael's Veteran's Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- +January 26, Parish Annual Meeting, 12:00 p.m.

Revised Common Lectionary Year A, Fourth Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16; Canticle 15; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Contact Info

St. Michael's Vestry

Kathy Sawyer Randolph - Sr. Warden, Shan Atkins - Jr. Warden
 Pete Douglas, Lora Gier, David Bishop, SoI 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; Jeni Younger, Coordinator of Children's Ministries; Kara Joy Baker, Youth Pastor & Director of Children's Choir; Kim Lessner, Parish Operations; Nancy Holmes, Parish Administrator & Rector's Assistant; Jonathan Galliher, Webdesign; Rich Hornickel, Sexton.

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 Phone: 847.381.2323 Fax: 847.381.3517

website:

[www.stmichaelsbarrington.org](http://www.stmichaelsbarrington.org)

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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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