



## St. Michael's Episcopal Church

647 Dundee Avenue  
Barrington, IL 60010

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

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*How beauteous are their feet  
who stand on Zion's hill,  
who bring salvation on their tongues  
and words of peace reveal!*

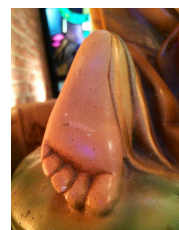
+ From a hymn text by Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

### Christmas Connections

Dear People of St. Michael's,

Yesterday evening I called a parishioner to ask about a family member who'd recently been hospitalized. The report was very good. Before ending the call, the parishioner wanted me to know that he'd just made a discovery: "*Our Joseph crèche figure at home has bare feet too!*"

The remark may cause you to smile if you shared in worship yesterday, Advent IV. At the time of the homily I carried the large plaster crèche figure of Joseph into the aisle. I spun him around to show his bare right foot sticking out from his finery and turned upward as he kneels.



### Quick Links

Our Website



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Whether or not I was successful, I tried to connect Joseph's bare feet to themes of vulnerability and 'holy ground' that are part of other biblical stories having to do with bare feet and that

## A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

God grant you the light of  
Christmas,  
which is faith;  
the warmth of Christmas,  
which is purity;  
the righteousness of  
Christmas,  
which is justice;  
the belief in Christmas,  
which is truth;  
the all of Christmas,  
which is Christ.



are exhibited by Joseph in yesterday's assigned reading from Matthew 1 (though the text makes no mention of feet).

Don't worry - I'm not going to suggest that your Joseph crèche figure is a sham if he's shod. This short pastoral letter is mainly about the enjoyable moment of recognition and connection on the phone with a parishioner. It's about hoping that your observance of Christmas may include enjoyable moments of recognition and connection with others, and that some of those moments, at least, will relate to the faith in Christ that we share.

All of us who are part of the parish clergy and staff, and others who have taken part in thoughtfully preparing for the next few days, look forward to connecting with you in our Christmas worship if you are able to be here with us.

*Patrick +*

## Also from the Rector

+ **This coming Sunday, December 29**, will be the last day of the ministry of our organist **Thom Wibbels**. Choir members had a chance to wish him well at a pre-Christmas gathering, and we hope that many of you will take a moment to thank him after any of Sunday's liturgies today for the gift of music he's shared with us over the past 17 months. We have not yet identified a new organist and will be relying on the piano during the first few Sundays of January. Stay tuned (pun intended) for updates on the organist search. Questions or suggestions may be referred to Music Director David Baker, [dbaker@stmichaelsbarrington.org](mailto:dbaker@stmichaelsbarrington.org).

+ **Sunday, January 5**, at the **9 am Eucharist**, we will recognize young persons who have made a commitment to the upcoming **Solemn Communion** course and also - at all three liturgies - adult members who have agreed to take part in a parish development program in our diocese known as

## PREPARATIONS



Altar guild members Kristen Krueger and Jane Dawson begin to assemble the crèche figures for incorporation to the floral arrangements on the retable (in back of the altar) in preparation for our Christmas worship.

## THRIVE.

+ **Baptisms** are scheduled for **Sunday, January 12, The Feast of the Baptism of Jesus**. Please contact any member of the clergy if relevant to you or your family.

+ **Our Parish Annual Meeting** is scheduled for **Sunday, January 26, at Noon**. New bylaws passed at the 2013 Annual Meeting require us to publish (30 days in advance) a list of members eligible to vote - those at least 16-years-old who are considered members of the parish in good standing. *You may find that list by [clicking here](#) or review a paper copy of the same list in the church office*. Please mark your calendars for January 26 and follow the e-Sword and Sunday bulletins for more information.



## Celebrate the Christ Child Christmas Worship Schedule

### 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 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.)

9:00 p.m. Solemn Choral Holy Eucharist

11:00 p.m. Solemn Choral Holy Eucharist  
(incense at 11:00 p.m. only)

### 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*

## FA LA LA LA LA LA



Christmas Caroling in downtown Barrington on December 21.

HLEMs (Home Lay Eucharistic Ministers), please contact the HLEM coordinator, David Brooks, at [dabrooks@parkfun.com](mailto:dabrooks@parkfun.com), or a member of the parish clergy.



## AND BEYOND

**Sunday, December 29, Christmas 1**

7:45, 9:00 and 10:45 a.m.

Sunday worship and ministries at the normal time.

EXCEPT NO children's church school  
for Catechesis Level. Jr./Sr. High will meet.

**Sunday, January 5, The Feast of the Epiphany**

(transferred from 1.6.14)

7:45, 9:00 and 10:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**Monday, January 6, The Feast of Epiphany**

5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist



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