

The Sword



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

January 2, 2014

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Upcoming at St. Michael's

- **January 6, Feast of the Epiphany Eucharist, 5:00 p.m.**
- **January 8, St. Michael's Veteran's Meeting at 7:00 p.m.**

THRIVING in 2014

As we enter a New Year, our thoughts naturally turn towards the possibilities for the year ahead. We make all sorts of resolutions meant to help us become our best selves, resolutions meant to help us *thrive*. However, for all sorts of reasons, it is difficult to make those resolutions stick! Often it is easy to see where you want to go, but hard to see how to get there. One way to get from point A to point B is to look to others who have made a similar journey/change. And, moreover, one way people encourage themselves to stick to their resolutions is to share them publicly so others can help hold them accountable.

In a way, congregations are no different from individuals. Congregations often look at how they are doing and wonder how they might become healthier down the road. And even when we know what we want, it can



be hard to figure out how to get there. In 2014, St. Michael's will be participating with 15 other congregations in a Diocesan initiative called **THRIVE**. THRIVE is a two-year program designed to help congregations become more vital communities of faith. You will be hearing more about this in the

coming weeks and months. But in short, this program brings together teams of lay and clergy leaders to help them develop skills and practices designed to help congregations become more vital communities of faith.

The CONGREGATIONAL ASSESSMENT TOOL (CAT)

Ministry Quicklinks

- [Our Website](#)
- [Little Angels](#)
- [Preschool Website](#)
- [Diocese of Chicago Website](#)



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Christmas
Banner displayed
in Narthex.
Created by

One of the requirements for participating in THRIVE is that each congregation must take the Church Assessment Tool (CAT). The results from the CAT provides the Thrive team, and other leaders of the congregation, with important information to help discern the future direction of the parish. To make the CAT survey as relevant as possible, **WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!** The more people who take the assessment the more accurate a picture it will provide. The survey will go live on January 11th and be open until January 29th. A link will be included in each e-Sword during this time frame. If you need access to a computer or a paper copy please contact the [Rev. Kevin Caruso](#) or [Nancy Holmes](#) (847)-381-2323.



It looks to be an exciting year ahead! And I hope you will join in helping St. Michael's continue to be a vital and *thriving* community of faith. Many blessings in the New Year.

Fr. Kevin +

Food for the Journey for THIS SUNDAY

Hope and Hopelessness: some provocations

Why is that hope seems to grow strong in the midst of 'hopeless' situations?

Using examples from the Bible and contemporary life, the Rev. Eva Baydoun will offer some thoughts on what it means to be a people who have a deep and abiding sense of Hope.

Eva Baydoun is an ordained Pastor in the Church of Sweden (which is a Lutheran Church in full Communion with the Church of England). Eva holds the Degree of Master in Theology from Uppsala University.



Food for the Journey NEXT SUNDAY: January 12

The Sacrament of Baptism

As we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord, we will reflect on the sacrament of Baptism.

A conversation led by Tim Murray.

Robin Darrow 2003.

Meet the Magi

Bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, the Magi visited the infant Jesus shortly after his birth. Join us at the **9:00 and 10:45 a.m. services on Sunday, January 5** when the Magi make an appearance ~ *in full regalia!*



Melchior (Gold): Jim Tammi
a Persian scholar



Caspar (Frankincense): Tim Murray
an Indian scholar



Balthazar (Myrrh) Steve Barnum
an Arabian scholar



New Year Gate



I said to the man who
stood at the
gate of the year:
'Give me a light that I
may tread safely into
the unknown.'
And he replied:
'Go into the darkness
and put your hand into
the hand of God.
That shall be to you
better than light
and safer than
a known way!'

-M.L. Harkins

From Our Youth Minister

Kara Joy Baker kbaker@stmichaelsbarrington.org

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Friday, Jan. 24-Sunday 26-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/>.

Thursday, January 9 at 4:00 p.m.-Washington D.C. Mission Trip Planning Meeting. Please let me know if you are interested in participating.

Saturday, May 3- Group Workcamps Big Day of Serving in Dubuque, IA. This is just as it sounds, it's one day full of community service. Ages

12 and above are welcome to attend. This could be an awesome family event. I am happy to organize the trip if 5+ people (youth, parents, friends, etc.) are interested. Check it out at <http://groupmissiontrips.com/the-big-day-of-serving/locations/dubuque-ia/>. PLEASE let me know if you are interested.

In the Parish Family

Those who have asked for our prayers: Judie, Jean, Casey, Jack, Becky, Simon, Donna, Paul, Peyton, David, Cynthia, Michelle & family, Frank, Michael, Art, Joe, the Sykes family, the Napoleon family, the Papamarcos family, Len, Deng Atem, Yar Garang Dut, Carrie, Sara & family, Mary, Jim, Paul & family, Amy, Rollo, Barrington Township Food Pantry, safety & peace in South Sudan.

It is with heavy heart and prayers that we share with you the news of three recent deaths.

Barbara Papamarcos, longtime member and Barrington resident, died on December 28. You may [click here](#) for information on visitation and funeral service time.

Phyllis Napoleon, mother of Frank, died on December 31 in Arizona. No other information regarding services is available at this time.

Arlene Townsend, mother of Cynthia Sykes. You may [click here](#) for information on visitation and service times.

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayer on behalf of your servants Barbara, Arlene and Phyllis, and grant them an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your servants; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Calling All Veterans

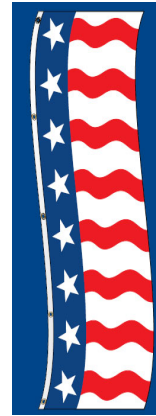
Have you served in the armed forces, been deployed, even seen combat? This ministry is designed to support those who are veterans. Primarily, this group is focused on support and camaraderie for those who have served in the military. They gather 3 to 4 times a year and there are no requirements for religion, active duty, status, or age. The next meeting is Wednesday, January 8 at 7:00 p.m. Learn more about how to share resources and support one another by contacting Jim Tammi at james8560@att.net.

Little Red Wagon



In January, Church of the Redeemer, Elgin, will be our focus on supplying food for its Families in Crisis program. The needs are many, but food is essential. Please keep the Little Red Wagon full of breakfast, lunch and dinner food - canned or packaged. Clothing would also be acceptable. Many, many thanks for

keeping the wagon so full in November and December. It was a bountiful gift given and deeply appreciated. May we continue this great effort!



All holiday merchandise at **And All the Angels Gift Shop** starting December 28 will be discounted at 40% off. All Christmas books and nativity sets will be 20% off. Remember = 100% of the gift shop proceeds are returned to the community to help women and children in need. Happy Shopping!

And speaking of the gift shop....

And All the Angels DESPERATELY Needs Volunteers!

The snowbirds have flown the coup, so the angel store needs more helpers to cover the store. No experience needed; on-the-job-training; loads of fun and short hours available! If you can volunteer just one day a month on a Saturday or Wednesday, WE WILL TAKE YOU!

Come down to the shop and talk with us or contact Chris Robinson at 847-382-6435.

Remembering This Week

Birthdays

12.29

Lori Pepper

Leanne Tresnowski

12.30

John Papamarcos

12.31

Trish Henry

1.1

Dean Frelk

1.2

Jane Dawson

1.3

A Ministry of Love and Beauty

Many thanks to altar guild members **Jane Dawson** and **Kristen Krueger** for the beautiful Christmas flower arrangement this season. They meticulously created the nativity scene on the re-table using the figurines from our crèche and then surrounding them with greens, poinsettias, branches and berries. Take a moment to get up close and view the display...*it will draw you in.*

Betsy Wintringer
1.4
Katie Kline
1.5
Art Kinney
Gail Baar
Christina Roennau
1.6
Deanna Arms
Donna Brooks
Julie Allord
Jack Magro
Morgan Magro
Nick Magro
Sullivan Magro
Pete Belden
1.7
Betty Strouse
Ann Dickson
Lindsey Murphy
Jeff Buxton
1.8
Dolores Curran
Bill Saunders
1.9
Jan Semerad
Mike Savage
1.10
William Nagy
Jessen Koelling
1.11
Susan Johnston
Avery Erickson
Kary Caruso

Anniversaries

12.31
Katie & Joe Pardun
1.2
Ann & Rick Ryba
1.3
Vickie & Al Johnson



And, by the way. Do you know what the Altar Guild does?

Members of the Altar Guild are appointed by the rector and work under his supervision to prepare for services of the church. They are responsible for care of the altars and font, altar linens, hangings, and clergy vestments. They hand arrange the altar flowers every week and for all special services. Appropriate preparations are made before all regularly scheduled services and occasional services such as weddings and funerals or special services. Following services, communion vessels are rinsed then washed, linens laundered, vestments and other items stored as appropriate.

Flowers for Sunday services, Easter, Christmas, and special occasions are made possible by gifts from members of the parish and others. Anyone interested in donating towards flowers is invited to add their name to the flower binder, located in the narthex. Currently, flowers cost \$60.00 per Sunday. After the service the flowers from the altar may be taken to shut-ins, the ill, and hospitalized.

Anyone interested in serving on the Altar Guild or in learning more about this work should contact Fr. Patrick Raymond at praymond@stmichaelsbarrington.org.

Rest in Peace

12.30

Iris Hartman

Carol Brink

1.1

Claire Koener

Edith Luke

1.2

Menter Terrill

1.4

Edith Tudela

Michael Manning



Vestry Nominations

The Vestry has approved a slate of candidates for Vestry to be voted upon at the **Annual Meeting on January 26, 2014**. Nominations are now open for any additional nominations which may be made by potential candidates, by submitting a written request to the Vestry to appear on the ballot. This request must state that the candidate meets the qualifications as set forth in the By-Laws, and must be accompanied by the signatures of no fewer than 3 Parishioners, qualified to vote, who support the candidate's nomination. On January 6, 2014, twenty (20) days prior to the Annual Meeting, all nominations that are to be placed on the ballot shall be closed. Email [Nancy Holmes](mailto:Nancy.Holmes@stmichaelsbarrington.org) in the parish office if you would like an electronic copy of the By-laws.

Offering Envelopes for 2014

Your 2014 offering envelopes are available for pick up in the Community Room foyer. We reduced the number of envelopes ordered this year so if your number was higher than 60, a new number has been assigned. If you have any questions, please contact Kim Lessner, Operations Manager in the parish office at 847-381-2323, ext. 16 or via email at klessner@stmichaelsbarrington.org. Thank you!

Behind the Scenes

Each Sunday during Advent at the 9:00 a.m. service, 6 different symbols (ornaments) of the season were introduced. The theme of the pageant encouraged us to see God in new ways and in all things. The pageant culminated by delivering the Nativity Scene at the 2:00 pm service on Christmas Eve.



Fr. Patrick and Fr. Kevin 'outfit'
Tim Murray for his role
as St. Nicholas.

**SAVE THE
DATE**



St. Michael's
Annual Meeting
January 26
12:00 p.m.

A Big Thank You from Lydia House



Look!
Off
in
the
distance...



Holiday Publication

SCHEDULE

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

- +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.

Creating Community

Using Henri Nouwen's Insights

On Saturday, January 18, 4:00 p.m., St. Paul United Church of Christ, Barrington, IL, will host an afternoon lecture about life and work of Henri J. M. Nouwen, one of the most prophetic theologians of the 20th century. All are invited to attend this free event.

Henri J. M. Nouwen is credited with more than fifty books on the spiritual life. Along the way, he helped create community wherever he served: Notre Dame, Yale, and Harvard, attending the Selma march led by Rev. Martin Luther King, living among the poor in Latin America, a prophetic tour discussing U.S. involvement in Central America, prolonged stays in a Trappist monastery, even on sabbaticals. Finally, Nouwen spent the last ten years of his life as part of L'Arche, an ecumenical international community centered around adults with disabilities.

Our speaker, **Chris Glaser**, was a student of Nouwen's at Yale Divinity School in the late 1970s. They became friends, and Glaser considered Nouwen his spiritual mentor. Upon Nouwen's death in 1996, Glaser began leading workshops and retreats on his life and writings, culminating with his book, *Henri's Mantle: 100 Meditations on Nouwen's Legacy*.



Chris Glaser

Glaser is the author of a dozen books on the spiritual life, most recently, *The Final Deadline: What Death Has Taught Me about Life*. He has contributed to more than twenty other books, including several on Nouwen. He blogs weekly *Progressive Christian Reflections*

at <http://chrisglaser.blogspot.com>. For more information, go to <http://chrisglaser.com>.



Snow blankets our Little Angels Preschool playground on New Years Day

Upcoming Events

- +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, The Feast of the Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7,10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

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; 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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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](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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