

FR. MIKE'S BOOK CLUB, SPRING 2014

Jan. 15/16 **THE STREET LAWYER** John Grisham

Michael Brock is billing the hours, making the money, rushing relentlessly to the top of Drake & Sweeney, a giant D.C. law firm. One step away from partnership, Michael has it all. Then, in an instant, it all comes undone: A homeless man takes nine lawyers hostage in the firm's plush offices.

WONDER R.J. Palacio (optional, extra credit)

Born with several genetic abnormalities, 10-year-old August Pullman, called Auggie, dreams of being "ordinary." Inside, he knows he's like every other kid, but even after 27 surgeries, the central character of "Wonder" bears facial disfigurements so pronounced that people who see him for the first time do "that look-away thing" — if they manage to hide their shock and horror.

Feb. 19/20 **TORTILLA CURTAIN** T.C. Boyle

This is a novel about middle-class values, illegal immigration, xenophobia, poverty, and environmental destruction. Of the twelve novels Boyle has written so far, *The Tortilla Curtain* has turned out to be his most successful.

Mar. 19/20 **FLIGHT BEHAVIOR** Barbara Kingsolver

Flight Behavior is a brilliant and suspenseful novel set in present day Appalachia; a breathtaking parable of catastrophe and denial that explores how the complexities we inevitably encounter in life lead us to believe in our particular chosen truths.

Apr. 23/24 **KIND OF KIN** Rilla Askew

In *Kind of Kin* by award-winning author Rilla Askew, when a church-going, community-loved, family man is caught hiding a barn-full of illegal immigrant workers, he is arrested and sent to prison. This shocking development sends ripples through the town—dividing neighbors, causing rifts amongst his family, and spurring controversy across the state.

May 14/15 **THE BURGESS BOYS** Elizabeth Strout

Haunted by the freak accident that killed their father when they were children, Jim and Bob Burgess escaped from their Maine hometown of Shirley Falls for New York City as soon as they possibly could. Jim, a sleek, successful corporate lawyer, has belittled his bighearted brother their whole lives, and Bob, a Legal Aid attorney who idolizes Jim, has always taken it in stride. But their long-standing dynamic is upended when their sister, Susan—the Burgess sibling who stayed behind—urgently calls them home.