They opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

— Matthew 2:11b
School Mission Statement

We are a Catholic elementary school, a diverse community of students and staff, rooted in faith and nurtured through prayer, sacrament, and liturgy.

We believe in the uniqueness of each student, provide quality education and skills necessary to ensure success, encourage individual leadership, and promote a family spirit.

We prepare our students for the future through global awareness, involvement in the local community, and service to St. Barbara parish.

We aspire to have our students remain faith-filled followers of Jesus Christ.

Finance Committee Corner

As you may have noticed from our weekly bulletin, our Sunday collections have been much lower than our budgeted needs. St. Barbara Leadership is dedicated to the fiduciary stewardship of all donated funds for the betterment of the parish and its community. During this Christmas season, please follow the example of the Three Kings who traveled far, giving generously to the infant Jesus, and give generously to your parish. Your Christmas gift, in addition to your Sunday offering, is greatly needed and appreciated.

“It is in giving that we receive.” Francis of Assisi

St. Barbara Finance Committee

Ministry of Care

If you or anyone you know enters a hospital, please call the rectory. Hospitals are under greater restrictions regarding notifying parishes. Also, if anyone you know is homebound, even temporarily, and would like to receive Holy Communion or a visit from a priest, please call the parish office, (312) 842-7979.

Weekday Masses

Monday through Thursday—CHAPEL
Friday, Saturday and Sunday Masses—CHURCH

My Christmas Offering

Please remember to make your Special Gift to your Parish

If you were out of town for Christmas and did not have the opportunity to remember St. Barbara with your special Christmas Offering, you can still do so by placing your donation in the regular Sunday collection. Extra My Christmas Offering envelopes are available in the back of the Church.

ALTAR & ROSARY SODALITY

The first Altar & Rosary meeting of the new year will take place today, January 8th at 1:00 pm. If you are interested in praying the rosary, sharing a delicious lunch and playing a few games of bingo, please join us in the Senior Mobile. Everyone is invited to attend.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY NEWS

We are once again selling St. Patrick’s Day Lotto tickets. Prizes will be given every day during the month of March. Your ticket number must match the winning evening Illinois Lottery Pick 3 game number. Daily winners will receive $100. Saturdays’ winners will be awarded $250 and the grand prize of $500 will be awarded on St. Patrick’s Day. Tickets are just $10.00 each and can be purchased after Mass from the ushers or from any Holy Name Member.

Save The Dates

Installation of Officers will be held at the 9:30 am Mass on Sunday, February 5th.

The Holy Name Family Dance (Father/Daughter, Mother/Son) will be held on Saturday, February 11th.

OFFERTORY GIFT BEARERS

If a Mass is being said for a special intention and you would like to take up the gifts at the Offertory, please let the ushers know. They are always looking for volunteers to take up the gifts.
My brothers and sisters,

Today we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord, when the Three Wise Men followed the star to where Baby Jesus lay. This is the day we mark our doors, reflecting how the Magi found Christ on “entering the house”. The Magi from the East offered Jesus three symbolic gifts. We know very well what these gifts were: gold, frankincense and myrrh.

We can ask ourselves: What kind of gifts do I prepare for Jesus during Christmas time?

Maybe today we can take some time during this day to offer to Jesus everything that we feel and experience in our hearts.

Let us bring our humble gifts to the altar and pray: “Jesus, take my prayer and please bless me and my family.”

Tomorrow we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Many of us might be wondering why Jesus needed to be baptized. Why did He, who was sinless, stand in line with sinners, waiting to be immersed in the waters of baptism by St. John the Baptist?

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “Our Lord voluntarily submitted himself to the baptism of St. John, intended for sinners, in order to “fulfill all righteousness”. Jesus’ gesture is a manifestation of His self-emptying” (1224).

My brothers and sisters, we recently celebrated Christmas, the feast where we rejoice in the fact that the Lord wanted to be so close to us that He became one of us. Jesus’ baptism is another feast where we celebrate His desire to be close to us. For, even though He was without sin and did not need to be baptized, He chose to be baptized first, as an act of obedience to God the Father and, second, to reveal how He identifies with each of us in our sufferings, in our joys, in our hardships, and in our trials.

My brothers and sisters, on this Sunday, I would like to reassure you that you are not alone.

Through our own baptism we each belong to Christ in a unique and particular way. Through baptism, we have entered into the mystery of faith.

This mystery that tells us that our Lord loves us, that He chose to become one of us, that He suffers, rejoices, and endures trials with us. Jesus is before us, leading the way, encouraging us on, giving us the graces we need to be obedient to the Father’s will, so that one day we too might stand before God and hear Him say: “This is my beloved son/daughter, with whom I am well pleased.”

Fr. Arthur

### Weekly Collection - Dec 24-25

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Envelopes (114)</td>
<td>$2,475.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Loose</td>
<td>$1,003.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's Envelopes (10)</td>
<td>$17.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Reduction (115)</td>
<td>$634.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Collection</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,130.64</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>YTD</th>
<th>Weekly</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actual</td>
<td>$81,466.97</td>
<td>$4,130.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal</td>
<td>$166,400.00</td>
<td>$6,400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Goal</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Votives &amp; Vigil Lights:</td>
<td>$357.95</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. Give Central 1st</td>
<td>$2,020.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. Give Central 2nd</td>
<td>$345.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Even though the official Year of Mercy ended on November 20th and Pope Francis has closed the Holy Door at the Basilica in the Vatican, the Divine Mercy Chaplet will still be said before all 6:00 pm Tuesday evening Masses, after the 11:30 am Sunday Mass, and after all First Friday Masses during the Holy Hour. If you attend 11:30 am Mass and decide not to stay for the chaplet, please exit church quietly. Thank you.

Please consider remembering St. Barbara Parish in your will.
2017 Carnival News

As you pick up your Parish 2017 Calendars, please notice the Carnival dates on the bottom. Hard to believe that in 6 months our Parish Carnival will be here.

Our first carnival meeting of the new year will be held on Friday, February 3rd at 7:15 pm. Anyone interested in helping at the carnival, please attend this meeting.

Wendy Kaput & Denise Holland, Chairpersons

PEACE on EARTH!
Pray for the safety of the men and women of our UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES protecting and serving the world over. May our world one day be at peace.

Epiphany Packets
Today is the Feast of the Epiphany. Special Epiphany Kits to bless the doorways of your homes are available in back of the church. Each kit contains gold, frankincense and myrrh plus a small piece of chalk to mark the doorway. The suggested donation is $2.00 for each kit.

STAR GAZERS

Around a thousand years ago a stonemason in Autun, France, was working on decorations for the city’s new cathedral. One of his carvings shows a charming scene. The three kings, all wearing crowns and sharing one cozy bed, are being awakened by an angel pointing to a star. The angel’s finger is gently touching the hand of one of the kings on top of the patterned coverlet. This king’s eyes have popped open in surprise, while the other two slumber on. The stonemason artistically combined two biblical stories into one. The star reminds us of the one that led the kings to Bethlehem, while the visiting angel refers to the warning they received in a dream not to return to Herod after visiting the Christ Child. For centuries tradition has held that the names of the kings were Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, but nobody really knows for sure. Other traditions call them wise men from the East who studied the stars. They were the first non-Jews to recognize and worship the Son of God and give him kingly gifts. In the Middle Ages, houses were blessed on Epiphany, reflecting how the magi found Christ “on entering the house.” Try reviving this ancient tradition today. It can work for any family or household group. One person incenses the house while another sprinkles holy water, and a third writes in chalk over every outside doorway “20 + C + M + B + 17” (or whatever the year may be), which stands for “The three Holy Kings, Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar, in the year of Our Lord 2017.” The letters C, M, and B also stand for Christus mansionem benedicat, “May Christ bless this home.” Blessing the doorways symbolizes the family’s commitment to welcome everyone as Christ into their home throughout the year.

Mercy Home - Sunday Mass
WGN- TV Channel 9 - Chicago
Sunday Mass: 9:30 AM
St. Barbara School Presents
“Dine-Out” Night
Thursday, January 26, 2017

The next “Dine-Out” Night to benefit St. Barbara Elementary School is on Thursday, January 26th. The featured restaurant this month is Connie’s Pizza, located at 2373 South Archer Avenue or phone (312) Connie’s. More details will be forthcoming in future bulletins.

SAVE THE DATE!

The 11th Ward sponsored its annual Girls Grammar School Volleyball Tournament for Junior Varsity - grades 5 and 6 and Varsity - grades 7 and 8 at Taylor-Lauridsen Park located at 704 W. 42nd Street. St. Barbara showed their Bulldog pride, finishing in 4th place! A special thanks to our coaches, Jackie Hulten and Tom Groark!

Parents in need of service hours: Volunteer kitchen and floor help for Thursday night Bingo is needed. If interested, please contact Jim Bertucci after Sunday 6:00 a.m. Mass, at Bingo on Thursday evenings, or call (312) 835-5411.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

SPEND THE MORNING AT ST. BARBARA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
THE ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE AND BOOK FAIR TAKES PLACE ON
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2017, AFTER THE 9:30 AM MASS
(FROM 10:45 AM TO 12:30 PM)
Visit classrooms, talk to teachers, parents and students. Learn about our academic programs, athletics and clubs. An informational session will be held at 11:15 am followed by guided school tours for families interested in learning more about the school. Refreshments and snacks will be sold in the school kitchen. Please call the school office for more information at (312) 326-6243 or Frank Ochoa, Marketing Director, at (312) 842-0042.

We hope to see you there!
We wish to update our Sick List. Some of the names have been on the list for several years. If you wish to keep a family member or friend on the Prayer List, please let us know. Also, if you wish to add someone’s name please contact the rectory (312-842-7979). Thank you.

Weekly Collection - Dec 31 - Jan 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Envelopes (104)</td>
<td>$3,252.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Loose</td>
<td>$689.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children's Envelopes (5)</td>
<td>$13.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improvement Fund (34)</td>
<td>$627.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Collection</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,581.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YTD Weekly

| Actual                             | $86,047.97 |
| Goal                               | $172,800.00|
| % of Goal                          | 50%        |
| Votives & Vigil Lights:            | $257.75    |
| Nov. Give Central 1st              | $2,020.00  |
| Nov. Give Central 2nd              | $2,345.00  |

Consider electronic giving through GiveCentral.org for donations to St. Barbara. It is a safe and secure way to donate via credit card or electronic check. Sign up by visiting our website and follow the prompts.

Liturgical Ministers

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14TH
5:00 p.m.
Altar Servers: L. Kwiatkowski, J Kwiatkowski, D. Kwiatkowski, J. P. Kwiatkowski
Eucharistic Ministers: TBA
Lectors: L. Saletta, G. Dumelle
Greeter: L. Saletta

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15TH
6:00 a.m.
Altar Server: G. Vanderford
Eucharistic Ministers: S. Guest, J. Balasa
Lector: J. Bertucci
Greeter: B. Webb

9:30 a.m.
Altar Servers: R. Cabrera, P. Young, M. Arteaga, N. Perez
Eucharistic Ministers: TBA
Lectors: M. Worth, M. Garcia
Greeter: C. Whitehouse

11:30 a.m.
Altar Servers: J. Murrihy, K. Ruiz, A. Alonzo, K. Zotamba
Eucharistic Ministers: TBA
Lectors: E. Santos, H. Alonzo
Greeter: M. Rolon
Baptisms: Parents must be registered practicing parishioners and attend a baptismal preparation session before a baptism will be scheduled. Call the rectory office for further information.

Communion Calls: Please contact the Rectory when someone who is homebound or in the hospital wishes a visit to receive Holy Communion or the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. The Anointing of the Sick is for anyone seriously sick and not only for those near death.

Ministry of Care: Eucharistic Ministers are available to visit, pray with, and bring Holy Communion to those who are sick and unable to attend Mass. Notify the Parish Office when this service is needed.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a program for anyone inquiring and seeking information about entering the Catholic faith.

Weddings: Weddings need to be scheduled at least six months in advance. Couples are reminded to secure the Church date before the reception hall.

Moving/New Cell #: Please contact the rectory with address change or telephone change.

Baptisms: Parents must be registered practicing parishioners and attend a baptismal preparation session before a baptism will be scheduled. Call the rectory office for further information.

Communion Calls: Please contact the Rectory when someone who is homebound or in the hospital wishes a visit to receive Holy Communion or the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. The Anointing of the Sick is for anyone seriously sick and not only for those near death.

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Weddings: Weddings need to be scheduled at least six months in advance. Couples are reminded to secure the Church date before the reception hall.

Moving/New Cell #: Please contact the rectory with address change or telephone change.

Please pray for those homebound, hospitalized and in need of continued prayers...