“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

— John 14:6
May, The Month of Mary

Because May is the month of Mary, all weekday Masses will be held in church at 6:00 p.m. After Mass, we will pray the Litany to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The only exceptions will be the Friday morning school children’s Mass at 8:30 a.m. and the Saturday morning Mass at 8:30 a.m.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

EVELYN PYZNARSKI
Mother of Ruth Solverson and Grandmother of Cheri Groark

Please keep the Pyznarski, Solverson and Groark families in your prayers.

Activities This Week

Sun., May 14 - St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Drive; 8:30 am-2:00 pm
Tues., May 16 - St. Barbara Seniors Mtg.; 11:30 am
- KC Quad Mtg.; 7:00 pm
- KC Council Mtg.; 7:30 pm
Thurs., May 18—BSJ Mtg.; 6:30 pm
Sat., May 20 - KC Sandwich Making Project; 9:00 am

Please consider remembering St. Barbara Parish in your will.

Celebrating over a Century of Faith and Education

St. Barbara Parish is a Roman Catholic community celebrating a century of faith in the Bridgeport area. Our faith community welcomes all people, helping them grow spiritually through liturgy, prayer, and education, and socially through activities for all ages. Our school takes great pride in fostering these values in our children. We give witness to our faith by sharing with each other our God-given gifts and talents. We nourish and sustain our faith as a family by celebrating the sacraments and the presence of the risen Lord among us in the Eucharist.

Our next Early Bird $50 Raffle will be on May 15th, so please make sure you turn in your Grand Raffle and Split the Pot tickets to be eligible. If you can sell more, please send a note, and I will get more out to you.

Mega Passes are available for $50.00; remember after June 13th, they increase to $60.00.

We are looking for Volunteers; please sign up on the sheets in back of church if you are available.

Carnival Wish lists are available in the back of church this week.

We are still looking for monetary and gift donations. Maybe your work place would consider donating, or you would like to donate in memory of a loved one. Any size donation would be greatly appreciated, and help defray the cost of this big event.

Lastly, if you can put a lawn sign in your yard/window advertising the carnival. they will also be available in church after masses next week. Please take one and help advertise.

Please send any Carnival Correspondence to:

Attn: Wendy Kaput
C/o Brandon Holland 5th Grade
FROM THE DESK OF THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Dear People of St. Barbara,

Since we are celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Fatima this weekend, I found the following article in The National Catholic Register written by Joseph Pronechen. I found it to be very interesting reading and thought you might enjoy reading it also. The article follows in its entirety.

We know most familiar facts about Fatima, but for the 100th Anniversary, there are fascinating facts and details often overlooked or never realized.

We should know that our Blessed Mother appeared there six times, once a month from May through October. We should know about the Miracle of the Sun during that October 13 apparition that was witnessed by at least 70,000 people. We should know that Mary identified herself as Our Lady of the Rosary and at each apparition told the children to pray the Rosary daily for peace — a message that was meant for every single person.

But there is so much connected with the Fatima apparitions and story that is fascinating, often surprising, yet little-known or forgotten. Like these facts:

**Fact #1.** During Mary’s second appearance on June 13, 1917, she gave one part of a directive to Lucia alone: “I want you to come on the 13th of next month, to pray the Rosary every day, and to learn to read. Later, I will tell you what I want.”

The request was unusual since girls in her situation didn’t learn to read. Why the directive to this 10-year-old? In his book Fatima for Today, Father Andrew Apostoli, host of EWTN’s “Sunday Night Prime”, explains that it was Lucia’s mission to spread this Fatima message to the whole world. “It was most important, then, for Lucia to learn to read and write.” In later years she even used the word processor.

Among Sister Lucia’s writings are the books Calls from the Message of Fatima, Fatima in Lucia’s Own Words I, Fatima in Lucia’s Own Words II.

**Fact #2.** It was not necessary for her cousins, 8-year-old Francisco Marto, and 7-year-old Jacinta Marto, to learn to read since during the second apparition on June 13, Lucia asked the Blessed Mother if she would take them to heaven.

“Yes, I shall take Jacinta and Francisco soon, but you will remain a little longer, since Jesus wishes you to make me known and loved on earth,” Mary told 10-year-old Lucia. “He wishes also for you to establish devotion in the world to my Immaculate Heart.”

Francisco died in 1919 at age 11 at home, peacefully despite suffering terribly from the influenza epidemic of 1918.

His big wish of receiving Jesus in the Holy Eucharist was granted just before he died the following day. It was his First Holy Communion! (Although he did receive from the chalice which the angel offered him in apparitions before Our Lady appeared.)

**Fact #3.** On the other hand, Lucia got special permission to receive her First Holy Communion at age 6, a year earlier than normal, since she knew her catechism and explained the mystery of the Eucharist so well.

In her “Second Memoir”, she gives the details and explains that the day before, right after her first confession, kneeling in front of the statue of Our Lady of the Rosary in their church and asking Our Lady to keep her “poor heart for God alone,” Lucia said “it seemed to me that she smiled and, with a loving look and kindly gesture, assured me that she would.” Besides the smile, notice that the statue depicted Our Lady of the Rosary, as years later Mary would identify herself to the children during the last apparition.

**Fact #4.** Jacinta also caught the same devastating Spanish flu that Francisco did. Even as a 9-year-old, she willingly accepted to suffer greatly. Why?

Lucia recounts in her “First Memoir” that as Jacinta was suffering, the Blessed Virgin appeared to her. Jacinta would explain that “she asked me if I still wanted to convert more sinners. I said I did. She told me I would be going to a hospital where I would suffer a great deal; and that I am to suffer for the conversion of sinners, in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and for the love of Jesus.”

Jacinta did, first in the hospital in Ourem. Then the Blessed Mother visited her again to tell her of the sufferings awaiting her also in the hospital in Lisbon where she would soon go and there die. That did happen in all the details our Blessed Mother revealed to her.

Jacinta received other visits from Our Lady who counseled her and showed her things to come (more on this another time). She died a few weeks short of her 10th birthday on Feb. 20, 1920.

**Fact #5.** Jacinta is incorrupt. She was entombed in a private chapel in Ourem. Her body had been sprinkled with quicklime because at the time the law stated that the body of anyone who died of the Spanish flu epidemic had to be treated that way.

Yet when her tomb was opened on Sept. 13, 1935, the people were astonished to see her features were incorrupt. Preserved that way.

**Fact #6.** During Our Lady’s third apparition on July 13, she gave the children a vision of hell. Then came more warnings as Our Lady told them. “The war is going to end; but if people do not cease offending God, a worse one will break out during the pontificate of Pius XI.”

We know the war going to end was World War I which was raging for several years and ended on Nov. 11, 1918. Looking back, we know the “worse one” our Blessed Mother referred to conditionally — that “if” depended upon the people’s response to her request and instruction — would be World War II.

But look again at what else she prophesied.

She said it would begin when Pius XI was pope. This was in 1917 when Benedict XV was the Holy Father. There was no Pius XI until five years later — Feb. 6, 1922.

(Continued on next page)
Pius XI was pope until he died Feb. 10, 1939. He fearlessly spoke out against Fascism, the Nazi Reich in the encyclical Mit brennender Sorge (With Deep Anxiety) seeing the horrendous threats of religious extermination, and Communism in the encyclical Divini Redemptoris (On Atheist Communism) I.

**Fact #7.** Our Lady gave more specific details in that same apparition, saying, “When you see a night that is lit by a strange and unknown light, you will know it is the sign God gives you that He is about to punish the world with war and with hunger, and by the persecution of the Church and the Holy Father.” (This occurred on January 25-26, 1938.)

Less than two months later, World War II began because, as international Fatima expert Father Apostoli makes clear in Fatima for Today, “Sister Lucia insisted that World War II actually began with the German annexation of Austria in 1938.” That annexation took place on that March 12.

**Fact #8.** Our Blessed Mother promised to return a seventh time when she spoke during her first apparition on May 13. “I want you to return here on the thirteenth of each month for the next six months, and at the very same hour. Later I shall tell you who I am, and what it is that I most desire. And I shall return here yet a seventh time,” she said.

There was no consensus when that seventh time might be. “Some thought it might be with another miracle. Then came A Pathway under the Gaze of Mary (2013), a biography of Sister Lucia written by the nuns of the Carmel of Coimbra who lived with her for many years. In it they quote her from her personal notes called My Pathway and stored in their archives.

It was June 15, 1921, and Lucia was about to leave Fatima for good to where the bishop wanted to send her. Knowing she would likely never again see the place or her family, she felt unable to go through with leaving. Lucia describes how she went to the holm oak where the Blessed Mother appeared in 1917, knelt and prayed in terrible anguish.

As she detailed in My Pathway, “[O]nce again you have come down to Earth; and then I felt your helping hand and maternal touch on my shoulder, I looked up and I saw you, it was you, Blessed Mother, holding my hand and showing me the path, and your lips unveiled the sweet timbre of your voice and light and peace was restored to my soul. ‘Here I am for the seventh time. Go, follow the path which the Bishop wants you to take, this is the will of God.’”

**Fact #9.** Francisco and Jacinta became two of the youngest Blesseeds ever when on May 13, 2000, Pope John Paul II traveled to Fatima to beatify them.

The Pope of Fatima said the little shepherds became saints so quickly through their submission and dependence on Mary. “Devoting themselves with total generosity to such a good Teacher,” John Paul II said, “Jacinta and Francisco soon reached the heights of perfection.”

**Fact #10.** Everything is about Divine providence, including location. The spot where the Pope of Fatima, St. John Paul II, said World Youth Day Mass in Denver in 1993 has something special in common with Fatima: It's at precisely the same latitude (39.630369 degrees north) as the shrine in Fatima.

You can verify this for yourself in Google Maps: The plaque marking the WYD altar location in Denver is located at 39.630369, -104.859966 and the Fatima shrine is located at 39.630369, -8.674347.

Fr. Andrzej

**Mother’s Day Mass Remembrance**

*Mother - Grandmother - Godmother - Aunt - Sister*

Today is Mother’s Day. Remembrance envelopes are still available in back of church. Please return them with the names of all mothers to be remembered. Your intentions will be remembered in special Masses offered up throughout the year. You are asked to include a donation that is suitable to your intentions. Envelopes can also be brought to the rectory office.

**Holy Name News**

Our next meeting will take place this Friday, the 12th of May.

**Save the Date**

The 4th annual Car Show will be held on Saturday, August 19th. Free viewing is open to the public from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. The parking lot and registration opens at 8:00 am. The show car entrance fee is $20.00. If you need any additional information, please call Phil Whitehouse, (312) 316-3888.
First Communion

Congratulations to the 3rd grade class and Sarah Weiner for receiving their First Holy Communion. May the light of Christ shine upon them and remain with them forever.

During the homily, Fr. Arthur told the parable about the lost sheep and he asked students to help him find the “lost sheep” in our church. With two communicants as volunteers, they walked around the church and found the “lost sheep”.

A special thank you to Mrs. Jurisic for preparing our students and for organizing such a beautiful ceremony!

2017 Student Art Fair

Thank you to everyone who attended last week’s Student Art Fair. It was exciting to see so many family and friends enjoy our students’ drawings and sculptures. Many thanks to our Art teacher, Ms. Roberta Mezinskas! She does a great job inspiring our young artists while giving them the tools necessary to create such masterpieces!

We also welcomed back our former student, Robert Pickert, Jr., who has authored a cookbook entitled The Adolescent Chef. Bobby will graduate from Mt. Carmel High School this year with High Honors with Distinction.
Sunday, May 21 - Sixth Sunday of Easter (cont’d.)
9:30 a.m. + Aleksander Lazowski (Lazowski Family)
11:30 a.m. + Joseph Zima & Family (Irene Zima)
+ Evelyn Pyznarski (Neighbor)
+ Birth. Rem.: Sophie Jachim (Dan & Anita Isacson & Family)

Liturgical Ministers

**SATURDAY, MAY 20TH**
5:00 p.m.
Altar Server: L. Kwiatkowski, J. Kwiatkowski, D. Kwiatkowski, J. P. Kwiatkowski
Eucharistic Ministers: R. Carden, B. Rekar
Lectors: G. Dumelle, E. Santos
Greeters: J. Santos, S. Santos

**SUNDAY, MAY 21TH**
6:00 a.m.
Altar Server: G. Vanderford
Eucharistic Ministers: S. Guest, J. Balasa
Lector: J. Bertucci
Greeters: B. Webb
9:30 a.m.
Altar Servers: C. Kelly, P. Young, R. Cabrera, M. Arteaga
Eucharistic Ministers: P. Rodriguez, J. Rodriguez
Lectors: Sr. K. McNulty, M. Worth
Greeeter: M. Rolon

**Sunday, May 21 - Sixth Sunday of Easter**
6:00 a.m. All Parishioners, Living and Deceased
Health Blessings: Koen Guest (Guest Family)
+ Donald Rolek (Dolores Becatti)
### 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.

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

### MASS SCHEDULE

#### SUNDAY LITURGIES
- Saturday………………………………….. 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday……..6:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

#### WEEKDAY LITURGIES
- 8:30 a.m.: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday; 6:00 p.m.: Tuesday

#### HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION
- 6:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted

#### CONFESSION
- Saturday 3:45-4:30 p.m.

#### FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS
- Mass at 8:30 a.m., followed by a short period of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Evening Mass at 6:00 p.m., followed by Exposition and Adoration, concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 7:30 p.m.

#### THE ROSARY
- Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. before the 6:00 p.m. Mass, and on Sunday at 5:30 a.m. before the 6:00 a.m. Sunday Mass.

#### OFFICE HOURS
- Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; 1:30-4:00 p.m.

The office is closed on Saturday and Sunday.
CHURCH NAME & NUMBER

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