Not by bread alone does one live, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of the Lord. — Deuteronomy 8:3b

All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him. — Psalm 72:11
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.

Epiphany Packets

Today we celebrate 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 kits sell for $3.00 each.

Please remember to pick up your 2018 St. Barbara Parish/Bingo calendar on the table in back of church.

ALTAR & ROSARY SODALITY

Today is the first Altar & Rosary meeting of the new year. If you are interested in praying the rosary, sharing a delicious lunch and playing a few games of bingo, please join us. The meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. in the Senior Mobile. Everyone is invited to attend.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

DAVID T. MAESHIBA

Please keep the Maeshiba and Rzasa Families in your prayers.

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.

The next Holy Name meeting will be on Friday, January 12th, at 7:00 pm.

TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

The 2018 Mass Book is open. Anyone wishing to remember a loved one (living or deceased) on the date of death, birthday, wedding anniversary, for health blessings, or any other occasion can stop by the parish office Mon.-Wed. or Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to request a Mass. If you send in Mass intentions, please include your name and phone number just in case we have a question. The offering per Mass intention is $10. Mass cards are available upon request.

The following dates are closed to all Mass requests. All Masses on these dates will be for the Parish Family.

New Year’s Day  Father’s Day
Easter Sunday  Thanksgiving
Mother’s Day  Christmas Eve
Memorial Day  Christmas Day

Report as of December 15, 2017

Campaign Goal: $275,000
Total Pledged $271,667
Percent of Goal: 98.7%
Total Collected to Date $ 66,386
60% Returned to St. Barbara $ 39,831
FROM THE DESK OF THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Dear People of St. Barbara,

Today we celebrate the feast of The Epiphany. The Epiphany is the day when the Three Magi (also known as Kings Balthasar, Caspar and Melchior) travelled from the East to pay homage to the Baby Jesus, who was born in a stable. The kings travelled many days and followed the star which guided them to Jesus.

The kings were in a quest to find knowledge about God. They left their home and country in the East in pursuit of that quest. They were guided by an angel who told them to follow the star. However, this was no ordinary star. This star was bigger and brighter than anything in the sky and it stayed above the stable for many weeks, allowing those who wished to visit the newborn baby to find the place where he lay.

When the kings found the baby Jesus, they worshipped him and brought him gifts worthy of a king. The kings were learned and highly intelligent men – probably astrologers – who studied the stars. Caspar has brown hair and a brown beard. He wears a green cloak and a gold crown with green jewels in it. He is said to have been the King of Sheba and he represents the gift of frankincense. Balthasar has black skin and a black beard. He wears a purple cloak. He is said to have been the King of Tarse and Egypt and he represents the gift of myrrh. Melchior has long white hair and a white beard. He wears a gold cloak. He was said to have been the King of Arabia and he represents the gift of gold. It is said that these were strange gifts to give a baby. However, gold stands for kings and they believed that Jesus was the King of Kings. Frankincense was used in churches and the belief that people would worship Jesus. Myrrh is a perfume used to anoint dead bodies and make them smell nice. This was to signify that Jesus would suffer and die.

This is why, according to the legend, the home blessing kit contains gold, frankincense and myrrh plus a piece of chalk for inscribing the initials above the doorway.

“Father God, the star that led the Magi to the stable announced to the world that its Saviour was born. Today we live in a world that is still covered by darkness, and still needing to make that journey to the stable door. May our lives reflect your light day by day, as we seek to serve where you have placed us. That we might be the means through which others can encounter Jesus Christ. Amen”

Fr. Andrzej

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 + 18” (or whatever the year may be), which stands for “The three Holy Kings, Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar, in the year of Our Lord 2018.” 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.
ST. BARBARA SENIORS
Are You 55+? Do you enjoy socializing with your neighbors? Interested in playing Bingo? If so, come to the next St. Barbara Senior Citizens Meeting to be held on Tuesday, January 16th, at 11:30 am. Try it — you might like it!

HOLY COMMUNION
If you find it difficult to walk to the front of the Church to receive Holy Communion, please notify one of the ushers before Mass that you would like a priest to bring Communion to you.

2018 Carnival News
As you pick up your Parish 2018 Calendars, please notice the Carnival dates on the bottom. Hard to believe that in 5 months our Parish Carnival will be here. Watch the bulletin for our first meeting to be held in the near future.

We wish everyone a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Wendy Kaput & Denise Holland, Chairpersons

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET
The Divine Mercy Chaplet is said before all 6:00 pm Tuesday evening Masses, after the 6:00 pm First Friday Mass during the Holy Hour and after the 11:30 am Sunday Mass. If you attend the 11:30 am Mass and decide not to stay for the chaplet, please exit church quietly. Thank you.

The Holy Name Men’s Choir will present their Annual Concert on Tuesday, February 13th, following the 6:00 pm Mass. The Concert will be followed by hospitality in the lower hall.

The Holy Name will sponsor a Father/Daughter, Mother/Son dance on Saturday, February 17th.

The St. Barbara Knights of Columbus will sponsor a Chili Cook-off on Sunday, February 25th. More details to follow.

The Ladies’ Guild will hold their Spring Vendor Fair on Saturday, March 3rd.

The Ladies’ Guild Easter Bunny Breakfast will be held on Sunday, March 18th, following the 9:30 am Mass.

The Holy Name Annual Spring Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday, April 7th, following the 5:00 pm Mass. Music will again be provided by The StingRays.

My Christmas Gift
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 Gift, you can still do so by placing your donation in the regular Sunday collection. Extra My Christmas Gift envelopes are available in the back of the Church.

6 Day Vigil Light Candles
$3 for one, $5 for two
Small Candles: 50¢

USHERS NEEDED!
As you can see, we are in need of ushers. If you would like to help at Mass, please see Fr. Arthur or Fr. Andrzej.

Please consider remembering St. Barbara Parish in your will.
School Happenings
(School Website: www.stbarbaraschool.org)

CATHOLIC SCHOOL WITHIN REACH
Through the “Invest in Kids Act”, Illinois children from low-income households who want to attend St. Barbara School will have access to new scholarships. The scholarships offered through this program could cover up to 100 percent of tuition and eligible fees for the next school year. Applications open January 22, 2018. Contact the school for more information at (312) 326-6243.

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS POSTER CONTEST
The Knights of Columbus Archbishop Quigley Council #2428 named Xavien Keating (Kindergarten) and Quorra Keating (Grade 5) as Council Division Winners in the annual Keep Christ in Christmas original Poster Art Contest. Both received an award certificate, a cash prize, and a thank you note from Grand Knight Raymond Wawrzyniak.

It is only fitting for us to show our appreciation for all of those who came before us, and who left their footprint on this school community - OUR ALUMNI!

With that in mind, we have added class pictures of St. Barbara's elementary school and high school on our alumni page. https://www.stbarbaraschool.org/domain/31
Mass Intentions for the Week

**Saturday, January 6 - Vigil of the Epiphany of the Lord**
5:00 p.m. + John J. Goetz (Adrian and Karen Goetz & Family)
+ Sharon Stachnik (Mom, Midge)
  Divine Mercy for All (J. Lukwinski)

**Sunday, January 7 - The Epiphany of the Lord**
6:00 a.m. + John Kutyba (Bill and Barbara Webb)
9:30 a.m. + Mary Domagala (Mike Domagala)
+ 40th Ann.: Elisa Lopez (Family)
11:30 a.m. + Stanley Piorecki (Ted Piorecki)
  + Ted Lech (Ed & B. Glabicki)
  + Paul and Sophie Jachim (Dan and Anita Isacson & Family)

**Monday, January 8 - The Baptism of the Lord**
8:30 a.m. Blessings for Hubert Sawaściuk & Family

**Tuesday, January 9 - Weekday**
6:00 p.m. + Jean Dimitri (Ed & B. Glabicki)
+ 40th Ann.: Elisa Lopez (Family)

**Wednesday, January 10 - Weekday**
8:30 a.m. + The Mezydlo Family: John, Genevieve, Genevieve (Jean), Aloysius and Eleanore

**Thursday, January 11 - Weekday**
8:30 a.m. + Edward and Rose Ciz

**Friday, January 12 - Weekday**
8:30 a.m. + Rita M. Lukas

**Saturday, January 13 - Weekday; St. Hilary**
8:30 a.m. Mothers’ Day Remembrance

**Saturday, January 13 - Vigil of the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**
5:00 p.m. + Ignatius J. Goetz, Sr. (Adrian and Karen Goetz and Family)
+ Vincent and Catherine Stronczek (Rose Stronczek)
  Divine Mercy for All (C. Ksiecielent Family)

**Sunday, January 14 - The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**
6:00 a.m. + Donald Rolek (Rita Suriano)
  + Ted Novak (Family)
  + Stanley and Catherine Pyznarski (Rose Stronczek)
9:30 a.m. + John Kutyba (Victoria Skala)
11:30 a.m. + Catherine Piorecki (Ted Piorecki)
  + Bernice Glabicki (Ed & B. Glabicki)

**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 before Mass. They are always looking for volunteers to take up the gifts.

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**Weekly Collection - December 30th - 31st**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Envelopes (79)</td>
<td>$ 1,530.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Loose</td>
<td>$ 690.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's Envelopes (2)</td>
<td>$ 15.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organ &amp; Piano Maintenance (51)</td>
<td>$ 731.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Collection</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 2,967.57</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**YTD** | **Weekly**
---|---
Actual | $ 83,559.37 |
Goal | $172,800.00 |
% of Goal | 48% |

Votives & Vigil Lights: | $ 167.00 |

November Give Central: 1st | $ 1,748.00 |
2nd | $ 495.00 |

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**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 13TH**
5:00 p.m.
Altar Servers:  I. Echevarria, G. Godinez,
  A. Gorz, X. Lopez
Eucharistic Ministers:  A. Skokal, B. Rekar
Lectors:  H. Diaz DeLeon

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 14TH**
6:00 a.m.
Altar Server:  G. Vanderford
Eucharistic Ministers:  S. Guest, J. Balasa
Lector:  J. Bertucci

9:30 a.m.
Altar Servers:  V. Mack, J. Castaneda, L. Castaneda,
  E. Castaneda, N. Perez
Eucharistic Ministers:  F. Cabrera, J. Lukwinski
Lectors:  Sr. K. McNulty, R. Villareal

11:30 a.m.
Altar Servers:  A. Rodriguez, M. Rodriguez, N. Bunda
  A. Alonzo, G. Parcon
Eucharistic Ministers:  D. Ramos, A. Alonzo
Lectors:  B. Pienta, L. Szczepanski

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Electronic giving through **GiveCentral.org** is the safe and secure way to make your weekly donations to St. Barbara. Donate via credit card or electronic check (ACH). Sign up by visiting St. Barbara’s home WEB page and follow the prompts.

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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...
