As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.

— Joshua 24:15b
FROM THE DESK OF THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Dear People of St. Barbara,

In today’s first reading, the discussion is about a very important issue in the history of the Jewish people. Joshua gathered together all the tribes of Israel and he asked them a very simple question: “What way do we choose for our nation to follow?” And the people answered, “We will serve the Lord for He is our God.” It means that they decided to build a nation based on God’s commandments – a nation based on God’s love, peace and forgiveness. It was beautiful.

But what happened later? Some of them lived according to the commandments, but many of them decided to live on their own principles. The same is with us Catholics. In our parish, I am responsible for preparation for Baptism. People bring the children to be baptized and they are very excited and happy. During the baptism, I ask the parents, “You bring your child to be baptized, so you decided to raise your children in faith by your example. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?” And the answer is always “Yes, we do” with a big smile.

But guess what? Many of those parents I see no more in the church. Some of them are faithful. Is it true that history likes to repeat itself? The Jewish people said, “We will serve the Lord”, and it was an empty promise for many. Today, many Catholics come to church and say “We do want to raise our children as Catholics”. For many it is only an empty promise.

For me, as a priest, this is sad, but I am wondering how God feels. In today’s Gospel, Jesus finished teaching about His body and His blood in the Eucharist and very many people said, “This saying is hard. Who can accept it?” And they left. They were with Jesus when it was easy and nice but, when it required a little effort, they quit.

Still, many of them stayed because they understand – maybe not in full – that Jesus has the words of eternal life. Peter said, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

Fr. Andrzej

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Isn’t it a little early to think about Thanksgiving? Not if you’re part of the St. Barbara Knights of Columbus.

The members of the St. Barbara KC’s are looking for veterans who are in need of a Thanksgiving dinner. The KC’s will supply a complete dinner to any vet in need of one. The dinner will be delivered to your home the Saturday before Thanksgiving (November 17th). All that’s needed is the name of the veteran, the address, the phone number, the branch of service in which they served and the number of people in the family.

Names will be accepted from now until the end of August. To sign up for the dinner, please call Tex McAleer (773-567-6247) or contact the rectory (312-842-7979).

Activities This Week

Mon., Aug. 27 - Preschool Begins
- Ladies’ Guild Mtg.; 7:00 pm
Thurs., Aug. 30 - “Dine-Out” Night

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.

FRIDAY MASSES

Since school has begun, Friday morning Masses will now be held in Church, unless otherwise noted.
Prayer for Healing

God of endless love,  
ever caring, ever strong:  
your only Son was delivered into the hands of the wicked,  
yet healed us with the blood of his cross.

May Christ join to his own suffering,  
the pains of those abused by priests and bishops who have betrayed your love,  
and by servants of your Church  
whose sin has brought us shame, and pain.

Grant all shepherds of his Church  
the courage and compassion to protect the vulnerable,  
the strength to guide the Church in truth,  
and the wisdom to model their lives  
on Christ, the Good Shepherd.

We ask this  
through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever.  
Amen.
Holy Name Society
Fifth Annual Car Show

DeGRAZIA’S CELEBRATE
50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Diane and Francis (“Frenchy”) DeGrazia, who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with a special Mass in the Chapel on Saturday, August 18th. Mass was attended by several family members and friends.

More pictures will be posted in next week’s bulletin.

We have received several thank you’s this past week.
- The Archdiocese sent a letter thanking parishioners of St. Barbara Church for donating $333.00 toward the Catholic Charities Mother’s Day Collection.
- The Mission Office sent a letter thanking us for a contribution of $1,506.90 toward the Summer Mission Co-op.
- The Chicago Bridgeport V.F.W. #5079 and sent a letter thanking us for buying 100 Dove Poppy pins for Advanced Cancer Research.

Thursday
August 16, 2018

Elnora
$500 Coverall
WELCOME BACK! What a joy to see so many new and familiar faces this week. We look forward to another fun-filled year! Parents, thank you for entrusting us with your child's educational and spiritual well-being.

A very special thank you to Mrs. Worth and everyone at the St. Barbara Ladies’ Guild for organizing and sponsoring our "Back to School" picnic! We are off to a great start! Let's keep it up, Bulldogs!
Weekly Collection - August 18th - 19th

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Envelopes (82)</td>
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**YTD** | **Weekly**
---|---
Actual | $24,007.11 | $2,668.61
Goal | $51,200.00 | $6,400.00
% of Goal | 47% | 42%
Votives & Vigil Lights: | $184.80 |
July Give Central: 1st | $2,139.00 |
2nd | $550.00 |

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.
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...
