Second Sunday of Advent

Dec. 09, 2018

God has commanded
that every lofty mountain
be made low.

— Baruch 5:7

ST. BARBARA PARISH
2859 South Throop Street
Chicago, Illinois 60608

God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low.

— Baruch 5:7
Advent Reconciliation Service
Monday, December 10th, at 7:00 p.m.

During Advent, we hear from John the Baptist who calls us to Prepare the Way of the Lord. To spiritually prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of our Savior, we will have an Advent Reconciliation Service. The service will begin with prayer and reading of scripture, followed by an Examination of Conscience and time for reflection. There will be an opportunity for individual Confessions.

ST. BARBARA’S ANNUAL TOY DRIVE

The Holy Name Society’s annual toy drive ends today, Sunday, December 9th. The 9th District Police Department and the Ronald McDonald House will be here tomorrow to collect your donated toys for some needy boys and girls who might not get a present for Christmas.
Thank you for helping a child have a Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS FLOWER COLLECTION

Through your donations, we are able to beautifully decorate the Church every Christmas. We would like to make our Church look especially welcoming. Donations will be accepted throughout the month of December. There are extra envelopes in the back of the church.

USHERS NEEDED!

We are in desperate need of ushers. If you are in church and see that there are only one or two ushers, please volunteer to help out.

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.

Activities This Week

Sunday, Dec. 9 - Kindergarten & Grade 1 Family Mass; 9:30 am
Monday, Dec. 10 - Advent Reconciliation Service; 7:00 pm
Wednesday, Dec. 12 - Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe; 6:00 pm Mass
Friday, Dec. 14 - School Students’ Christmas Concert; 6:30 pm followed by the Ladies’ Guild Teachers’ Appreciation Dinner
Saturday, Dec. 15 - Simbang Gabi Mass followed by hospitality in the Lower Hall; 5:00 pm

Advent Wreath 2018

The Parish is inviting families, couples, and individuals to participate in the weekly lighting of our church Advent Wreath by signing up for one or more of the weekend Masses. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of church this weekend. Please consider enhancing our liturgies through your involvement in this meaningful tradition.

Opłatki The Christmas Wafer

Oplatek (singular-pronounced op-watek) is also known as the Christmas Wafer. While it is a traditional Polish custom, many families have included the ritual as part of their Christmas Eve or Christmas Day family meal. Oplatki (plural-pronounced opwatkey) is made from unleavened bread similar to a host, and pressed into rectangles with an outline of a Nativity Scene imprinted on the surface. At the Christmas Meal, the head of the house begins sharing a piece of Oplatek with the other members of the family who are gathered around the table. Each family member breaks off a piece of the Oplatek to share. As the pieces are broken and shared, greetings of a holy Christmas and a healthy New Year are exchanged. The ritual is a reminder of who comes to us at Christmas, and why. It is also a symbol of forgiveness. Wafers are available in back of church for a donation of $2.00.

BULLETIN ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Due to the Christmas holidays, any bulletin articles for the December 16th bulletin are due no later than Tuesday, December 11th. Any Christmas information or bulletin articles for the December 23rd bulletin are due no later than Thursday, December 13th.
FROM THE DESK OF THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Dear People of St. Barbara,

Today, we celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent. In the church we say that Advent is a time of joyful awaiting for the coming of Jesus Christ. But someone may say that it is really not the right time for a joyful awaiting. The days are short. You leave the house for work and it is night; you come back from work and it is still night. Many people experience winter depression and every one of us has different problems – different difficulties in life. The problems are more difficult to carry when you have no sunny days.

I think our lives are like a wood fire burning outside. Sometimes they are burning bright but, sooner or later, the fire is going to die. You can leave it and let it die, or you can bend and begin to blow on it and that fans the sparks to become a fire again. Every one of us who believes in Jesus should become a small flame which brings light to other people, especially those who are sitting in darkness.

I remember when I was a little boy, Advent was a time when we had daily Mass dedicated to Mary. This Mass was at 6:00 a.m. People were walking to the church with candle lamps and you saw flickering lights here and there. When people came closer to the church, there were not only separate lights but it looked like the whole town was lit. So you started walking almost in the dark but, finally, when you reached the church, it was light and joyful and you felt safe.

The same is when you start to walk toward Jesus. At the beginning it seems like you are lonely but, when you connect your light of faith, hope and love with the faith, hope and love of other people, you will feel saved and joyful. This is the idea of Advent. It is the idea to focus on faith, being together and supporting each other when somebody is weaker – helping them to carry on and tell people that life sometimes seems to be dark but, if you look for Jesus who is the light of the world, you will find Him and you will spread the light around you.

Fr. Andrzej

AGING RELIGIOUS NEED YOUR HELP

Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years for little to no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift to today’s second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. Please be generous.

ST. BARBARA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ADOPT A SEMINARIAN

The St. Barbara Knights of Columbus have adopted a seminarian to sponsor for the 2019 year. He is 23 year-old Leonel Sepulveda. Leonel’s family lives in Harvey, Illinois, but he was born in Mexico. He is in his second year of theology at Mundelein and comes very highly recommended by the Very Rev. Peter Snieg, the Rector-President of St. Joseph Seminary. Leonel will try to come to St. Barbara to visit during his Christmas break. Please keep him in your prayers.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

ALICE ZILLIGEN

Please keep the Zilligen family in your prayers.

The illumination of the St. Barbara Stained Glass Window is a special way of remembering someone prayerfully. For a donation of $100.00, this remembrance can be for someone celebrating a birthday, a couple celebrating their anniversary, for someone sick in need of prayers, for the repose of someone who has died in the Lord, etc. To give a remembrance, call the church office for available dates.

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.

Mercy Home - Sunday Mass
WGN- TV Channel 9 - Chicago
Sunday Mass: 9:30 AM
The Filipino Community of St. Barbara Parish invites you to the celebration of:

**Simbang Gabi**

*a Filipino Advent Night Mass*

December 15, 2018 at 5:00PM

There will be a reception following the Mass in the lower hall. If attending the reception, you are welcome to bring a dish. Come and experience this unique Filipino tradition.

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**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

This Friday, December 14th, starting at 6:30pm, the St. Barbara School children will put on their annual Christmas Concert in church. What a great way to put you in the Christmas mood, by listening to our very own children sing. Following the concert, head down to the lower hall for our Christmas Dinner hosted by the Ladies Guild. **Remember: advance tickets only. No Christmas Dinner tickets will be sold at the door.**

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**CHRISTMAS CHOIR FORMING**

Christmas will be upon us soon! St. Barbara Choir is looking for singers who just love singing Christmas hymns and wish to join us for the 11:30 pm caroling and Christmas Midnight Mass.

There are two rehearsals remaining scheduled for this mass, both on Wednesdays: the 12th and 19th. All rehearsals will be from 7:00 p.m. till 8:45 p.m. If you are interested in being part of this **Glorious Night**, please see me, Eva Mrgan, Music Director, or any of our choir members after mass. You can also call the rectory and leave a message. (312) 842-7979.

*Glory to God in the Highest!*

*Peace to His People on Earth.*

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**Report as of November 15, 2018**

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<tr>
<th>Campaign Goal:</th>
<th>$275,000</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Pledged</td>
<td>$286,697*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percent of Goal:</td>
<td>104.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Collected to Date</td>
<td>$104,847</td>
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<tr>
<td>60% Returned to St. Barbara</td>
<td>$62,908</td>
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*The total amount pledged has been reduced by $5,000 due to the cancellation of a pledge.*

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**2019 ST. BARBARA CALENDAR**

Be sure to pick up your 2019 St. Barbara Calendar in back of church sponsored by the St. Barbara Thursday Night Bingo.

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**Arturo and Charmika**

$9,502 Split; $4,751 each

**$500 Coverall**

Kristi

Fireball Winners

Arturo and Charmika

$9,502 Split; $4,751 each
SANTA SHOP

Students had an opportunity to shop for Christmas gifts for family and friends at our annual Santa Shop! Eighth grade also organized games for younger students.

SIXTH GRADERS BUILD VOLCANOES

Our sixth graders have been studying how volcanoes are formed and the different layers of a volcano. They each created detailed volcanoes during science class.
**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15TH**
5:00 p.m.  + Therese Benard (Dee Dee)
+ Jim Loughney (Dolores Becatti)
11:30 a.m. + Dorothy Lech (Ed & B. Glabicki)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16TH**
9:30 a.m.  + L. Thomas, A. Torres, A. Moon, L. Calderon, A. Calderon
Eucharistic Ministers:  H. Alonzo, A. Alonzo
Lectors:  Edward Raya, P. Saletta

**Weekly Collection - December 1st—2nd**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Envelopes</td>
<td>$1,385.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Loose</td>
<td>$684.83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children's Envelopes</td>
<td>$31.00</td>
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<td>Maintenance Fund</td>
<td>$487.80</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Collection</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,589.13</strong></td>
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**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15TH**
5:00 p.m.  + Anna Domagala (Mike Domagala)
+ Ann. & Birth. Rem.:  Laverne Schipiour
+ Frank & Freida Goetz (Adrian & Karen Goetz & Family)
Divine Mercy for All (C. Kisielente Family)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16TH**
6:00 a.m.  + Donald Rolek (Steve Oleszkiewicz)
Blessings:  Family of Gallardo Celio (Family)
Health Blessings:  Koen Guest (Guest Family)
Health Blessings:  Barbara Webb (Virginia Pienta)
Health Blessings:  Sr. Mary Therese Freymann (St. Barbara Thursday Night Bingo)

**Monday, December 10 - Advent Weekday**
8:30 p.m.  Blessings:  Family of Gallardo Celio (Family)

**Tuesday, December 11 - Advent Weekday**
6:00 p.m.  + Joseph Nawracaj (Mr. & Mrs. Stan Nawracaj and Family)
+ Andrew and Catherine Lech (Ed & B. Glabicki)

**Wednesday, December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe**
8:30 a.m.  Blessings:  Family of Gallardo Celio (Family)
6:00 p.m.  + Ted and Stanley Pioirecki

**Thursday, December 13 - St. Lucy**
8:30 a.m.  Blessings:  Family of Gallardo Celio (Family)

**Friday, December 14 - St. John of the Cross**
8:30 a.m.  Blessings:  Family of Gallardo Celio (Family)

**Saturday, December 15 - Advent Weekday**
6:30 a.m.  Mother’s Day Remembrance

**Saturday, December 15 - Vigil of the Third Sunday of Advent**
5:00 p.m.  + Ted Novak (Family)
+ Katarzyna (Busia) Goetz (Adrian & Karen Goetz & Family)
Blessings:  Family of Gallardo Celio (Family)
Health Blessings:  Denise Holland (St. Barbara Thursday Night Bingo)
Divine Mercy for All (C. Kisielente Family)

**Sunday, December 16 - The Third Sunday of Advent**
6:00 a.m.  + Rose Oleszkiewicz (Bill and Barbara Webb)
+ Fr. Anthony Adducci (Christine Krupa)
Blessings:  Family of Gallardo Celio (Family)
Health Blessings:  Koen Guest (Guest Family)
Health Blessings:  Julianna Selk (St. Barbara Thursday Night Bingo)
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…
