The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear.

— Zephaniah 3:15b
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

2018 Christmas Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 23rd: Regular Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve: Monday, December 24th
4:00 p.m. Anticipated Christmas Mass
11:30 p.m. Christmas Carols by the Choir
Midnight Mass with the St. Barbara Choir

Christmas Day: Tuesday, December 25th
6:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m.
11:30 a.m. With the Holy Name Men’s Choir

Happy Birthday Fr. Andrzej!!!
Fr. Andrzej celebrates his birthday on Saturday, December 22nd. We are blessed to have Fr. Andrzej at St. Barbara. Please remember to wish him a Happy Birthday when you see him in church.

Sto lat, sto lat, Niech żyje, żyje nam. Sto lat, sto lat, Niech żyje, żyje nam. Jeszcze raz, jeszcze raz, niech żyje, żyje nam, Niech żyje nam!

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. Opłatki (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.
FROM THE DESK OF THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Dear People of St. Barbara,

Today, Sunday, we will light the pink candle. Many people ask me why we have a pink candle. This candle reminds us that we have to rejoice always in the Lord. This Sunday we call Gaudete Sunday, which translates rejoice. And, in today’s readings, we hear many words of rejoicing. St. Paul, in the second reading, encouraged the Philippians to rejoice always. And it is very interesting because, when St. Paul wrote this letter, he was locked in a prison. Can you imagine a man locked in a prison being able to find joy? His joy has its source in the Lord. His joy has its source in the good life of the Philippians. Even though St. Paul was in prison, he sees that his effort of proclaiming good news to the Philippians wasn’t in vain.

Many of us are very often sad and depressed. We should learn how to enjoy the little things: a short meeting with friends, the sun shining even though days are short, watching a squirrel running on the tree -- because our life is built from small things. One friend of mine, a priest from Chicago, used to say, “Andy, not every day is Christmas”. So enjoy little things. Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again. Rejoice!

In today’s Gospel, we see people coming to John the Baptist, asking what they should do to lead a better life -- become better persons. John gives a very simple answer. He said, “Share with others. Stop cheating. Don’t take advantage of your position.” It is a very simple answer, but it is sometimes very painful for those who listen to it. Today, people don’t want to hear that they are doing something wrong. They don’t want to hear that they are selfish. The teaching of the Gospel is very simple. The Gospel tells us to give a direct answer – yes or no. We are living in the time of political correctness, so we don’t like to call things by their true names. People don’t like to think of themselves as selfish. Rather, they are taking care of themselves and their family. When they are cheating, they call this “being smart”.

Advent is the time to change a little of our lives – to learn how to be more compassionate, more merciful, more forgiving, more gentle, kinder, and it is also the time to learn how to really love our neighbors.

Fr. Andrzej

ADAM MILEWSKI CHOSEN TO HAVE DINNER WITH CARDINAL CUPICH

On Sunday, December 2nd, Adam Milewski, his parents and Fr. Arthur were honored to be invited to dinner with Cardinal Cupich at his residence. Adam is considering entering St. Joseph College Seminary.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Due to the students being on Christmas break, all weekday and Saturday morning Masses, with the exception of Christmas and New Year’s, will be celebrated in the chapel.

DIVINE MERCY CHAPEL

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.

WGN- TV Channel 9 - Chicago
Sunday Mass: 9:30 AM
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.

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.

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.

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.

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 is one more rehearsal remaining scheduled for this mass, on Wednesday, the 19th. The rehearsal 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.

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.

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.

Activities This Week
Tuesday, Dec. 18 - School Christmas Assembly; 10:00 am - School Christmas Dismissal; 11:30 am - St. Barbara Seniors Mtg.; 11:30 am - Arch. Quigley KC’s Quad/ Council Mtg.; 7:00 pm
Saturday, Dec. 22 - Happy Birthday Fr. Andrzej

HOLY NAME SOCIETY NEWS
At our Holy Name meeting on Friday, December 7th, the following “100 Club” winners were announced: 1st prize: Cis Krok; 2nd prize: George, Sr.; 3rd prize: Wendy K.; 4th prize: Arlene Whitehouse; and 5th prize: Ruth Czarnecki.

Our next meeting will be held on Friday, January 11th.

The men of the Holy Name Society would like to wish everyone a Very Merry and Blessed Christmas.
ST. BARBARA FOLKLORIC DANCE GROUP

The St. Barbara Folkloric Dance Group has been hard at work, learning the basics of different genres of dance customs. They hope to present their dance skills in the second half of the school year! Look for their dance recital to come in the new year.
LITURGICAL MINISTERS

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)
9:30 a.m. + Ann.: Therese Benard (Dee Dee)
  + Jim Loughney (Dolores Becatti)
  + Julian Szczygiel (Schmidt Family)
11:30 a.m. + David Maeshiba (Joe Mueller)
  + Dorothy Lech (Ed & B. Glabicki)
  + Jim Loughney (Ed & B. Glabicki)
Health Blessings: Ed Glabicki (St. Barbara Thursday Night Bingo)

Monday, December 17 - Late Advent Weekday
8:30 p.m. Blessings: Family of Gallardo Celio (Family)

Tuesday, December 18 - Late Advent Weekday
6:00 p.m. + Frances Beyer (Ed & B. Glabicki)
Blessings: Family of Gallardo Celio (Family)

Wednesday, December 19 - Late Advent Weekday
8:30 a.m. + Ima Whitehouse (Mr. & Mrs. Thornley)
  + Birth. Rem.: Matt Pyznarski (Family)
Blessings: Family of Gallardo Celio (Family)

Thursday, December 20 - Late Advent Weekday
8:30 a.m. + The Mezydlo Family: John, Genevieve, Genevieve (Jean), Aloysius, and Eleanore

Friday, December 21 - Late Advent Weekday; St. Peter Canisius
8:30 a.m. + Sr. Michaeleine Oleszkiewicz (Dolores Becatti)

Saturday, December 22 - Late Advent Weekday
8:30 a.m. All Souls’ Day Remembrance

Saturday, December 22 - Vigil of the Fourth Sunday of Advent
5:00 p.m. + Theresa Powers (Son, Dan)
  + Edward Krawczykowski (Angelo Papadopoli)
  + Evelyn, Jim and Iggy Goetz (Family)
Divine Mercy for All (C. Kisielente Family)

Sunday, December 23 - The Fourth Sunday of Advent
6:00 a.m. + All Deceased Members of the Rolek, Schiffer & Truschke Families (T. Rolek)
  + Fred Stripecz (Wife, Rose)
  + Michael Semmler (Rose Semmler)
Health Blessings: Koen Guest (Guest Family)

Weekly Collection - December 8th—9th

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<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Envelopes (98)</td>
<td>$ 1,698.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Loose</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children's Envelopes (9)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utility Bill Fund (49)</td>
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<td><strong>Total Collection</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 2,647.89</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>YTD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actual</td>
<td>$ 68,652.73</td>
<td>$ 2,647.89</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Votives &amp; Vigil Lights:</td>
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<tr>
<td>November Give Central: 1st</td>
<td>$ 1,500.00</td>
<td>$ 280.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Pastor:** Fr. Wojciech Artur Marat
'amarat@archchicago.org

**Associate Pastor:** Fr. Andrzej Beltowski
'abeltowski@StBarbaraChicago.org

**School Principal:** Mrs. Nicole Nolazo
'nolazo@StBarbaraChicago.org

**Business Manager:** Mrs. Carol Spalla
'csspalla@StBarbaraChicago.org

**Director of Music:** Ms. Eva Mrgan
'emrgan@StBarbaraChicago.org

**Tuition Admin.:** Ms. Dolores Becatti
'dbecatti@StBarbaraChicago.org

**Parish Secretaries:**
- Ms. Dolores Becatti
- Ms. Judy Lukwinski
  'jlukwinski@StBarbaraChicago.org
- Mrs. Carol Spalla

**Religious Ed.:** Mrs. Roberta Carden

**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.

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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., 7:00 a.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-Wednesday, Friday: 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; 1:30-4:00 p.m. The office is closed on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.