Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
— Luke 1:42
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.

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

A Joyful Welcome to All This Christmas

Welcome to our parishioners who have given so much of their time, talent, and treasure to make St. Barbara such a great parish.

Welcome to those of you who may be visiting us from other Parishes. We pray that your time with us is one of the highlights of your holiday season.

Welcome to those who have moved but have returned to celebrate this most holy season in the parish that had been your spiritual home for many years. It is good to have you back.

Welcome to those of you who may be new to the neighborhood and looking for a parish. Visit our church and introduce yourselves to our priests. We will try to make you feel at home.

Welcome to anyone who has been away from the Church and has Come Home to St. Barbara. If you would like to talk to Fr. Andrzej or myself, please sign the Welcome Book.

Finally, welcome to all the faithful present. Fr. Andrzej and I will keep you in our prayers today and always, and we look forward to celebrating Mass with you in the weeks to come.

Fr. Arthur Marat and Fr. Andrzej Beltowski

Opłatki
The Christmas Wafer

Opłatek (singular-pronounced opwatek) 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. Opłatek (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 Opłatek with the other members of the family who are gathered around the table. Each family member breaks off a piece of the Opłatek 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,

The executives of big corporations are always looking for very intelligent people who can add something new to their companies. The best criteria is that they are young, have new, excellent ideas and know what the business is about. When we think about the history of the church — about the history of God’s people in general — we see that God had different criteria and has chosen people who do not seem brilliant. Big executives would say, “What God has chosen is too small, too young, too immature, not experienced.”

For example in the first reading the prophet Micah, quoting God, says “You, Bethlehem, are too small to be among the clans of Judah. But it is from you there will be a ruler who will be the King of Israel.” In Bethlehem, Jesus the King of the Universe, was born.

And let us look at history again. Moses was a man who had difficulties with speech, but God sent him to talk to Faron and to lead people to the Promised Land. King David was the youngest of Jesse’s sons — he was practically a boy — and God chose him to be King of Israel. Most of the prophets were simple shepherds and gardeners, but God had chosen them to proclaim His word.

And, finally Mary, the Mother of God, was a simple Jewish girl. As I said, God had chosen her as the mother of His son. And another woman from today’s Gospel, Elizabeth — a simple lady from the town of Judah — yet God has chosen her to be a mother of the greatest prophet in history — John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Our Lord.

In the second reading from the letter to the Hebrews, it is written that “God really doesn’t want sacrifices and offerings, but He wants to come and do His will. God enjoys His children who are simple and who have a love of God and neighbor. Does it mean that God doesn’t enjoy our prayers, offerings, sacrifices? NO! Probably it is a great pleasure for Him when he sees us praying, building beautiful churches, leading beautiful liturgies, and singing in the church; but I think God is very sad when these sacrifices and offerings do not follow our simple, humble hearts.

In one day, we will celebrate the birthday of Jesus. Jesus is the King and He can establish a very rich church on the earth, but He decided to choose simple people and build the church on the foundation of love, humility, and peace. He built a church based on glorifying God and focusing on eternal life.

I wish you a Merry Christmas, a peaceful Christmas, a Christmas full of love and a Christmas where all of us will understand that, for God, it is not important what we have, but who we are. And we are children of God.

Fr. Andrzej

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Merry Christmas!

May the joy, peace and love of the Christ Child be in your hearts and lives.

Every Christmas Jesus comes to us as a defenseless and helpless newborn baby. In coming to us as someone who is so helpless, our loving Savior attracts us to Himself in the gentlest possible way. Rather than intimidating us with His power, He beckons our hearts with His humility and utter smallness.

I hope that you have prepared yourselves to welcome the Lord. May you find your hearts ready and open to receive all of the graces that He wishes to bestow upon you and your families during this Christmas season. May Our Lady hold you and St. Joseph protect you as you approach the Lord in the manger. There, in the warmth and security of the stable, may your hearts receive Christ with the same tenderness and love that He receives you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. W. Arthur Marat
Feast of Mary, Mother of God  
A Holy Day of Obligation  
Holy Day Mass Schedule: 

New Year’s Eve  
Monday, Dec. 31: 5:00 pm  

New Year’s Day  
Tuesday, Jan. 1: 9:00 am  

Week of December 15th - 16th  

Due to the early publication of the bulletin, the collection for the week of December 15th - 16th will be published in next week’s bulletin.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Mercy Home - Special Christmas Mass  
WGN- TV Channel 9 - Chicago  
Tuesday, December 25th, 8:00 - 9:00 am  

November 19, 2018 Report  
Donor Count 83  
2018 Goal $10,622.61  
Amount Pledged $22,142.00  
Amount Paid $16,802.00  
Balance Due $5,340.00  

Because our goal has been reached, any additional funds will be returned to our parish for our use. Thank you for your support of St. Barbara Parish.

$500 Coverall  
4-Way Split - $125 each  
Zena and Diana (pictured)  
Phyllis and Sabrina (not pictured)
ST. BARBARA STUDENTS’ CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On Friday evening, December 14th, the St. Barbara Students presented their annual Christmas Concert. We would like to thank everyone who attended the concert and we were happy to see the church filled with parents and family members. The students performed wonderfully and we are very proud of them! We also wish to thank everyone who supported the Ladies’ Guild by attending the post concert dinner. A great time was had by all.
LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Saturday, December 22 - Vigil of the Fourth Sunday of Advent
5:00 p.m. + Theresa Powers (Son, Dan)
+ Edward Krawczykowski (Angelo Pappadopoli)
+ 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 Stronczek (Wife, Rose)
+ Michael Semmler (Rose Semmler)
+ Stella Krygowski (Your Daughter)
Health Blessings: Koen Guest (Guest Family)
9:30 a.m. + Mary Diaz DeLeon (Family)
+ Nick Paolino (Wife, Mary)
Health Blessings: Maria Sraga (Family)
11:30 a.m. + Herman Jandrisitz (Ed & B. Glabicki)
+ Baby Kaz (Virginia Pienta)
+ Sr. Michaeline Oleszkiewicz (Ed & B. Glabicki)
  + Stella Krygowski (Your Daughter)
Health Blessings: Bette Pienta (Virginia Pienta)
Divine Mercy for All (A Parishioner)

Monday, December 24 - Late Advent Weekday
8:30 a.m. All Parishioners, Living and Deceased
+ Birth. Rem.: Adamina Paterkiewicz (Dolores Becatti)

Monday, December 24 - The Nativity of the Lord
4:00 p.m. All Parishioners, Living and Deceased
11:30 p.m. Christmas Caroling
12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass - All Parishioners, Living and Deceased

Tuesday, December 25 - The Nativity of the Lord
6:00 a.m. All Parishioners, Living and Deceased
9:30 a.m. All Parishioners, Living and Deceased
11:30 a.m. All Parishioners, Living and Deceased

Wednesday, December 26 - St. Stephen, First Martyr
8:30 a.m. + Henry Pimentel (Emmanuel and Angelica King)

Thursday, December 27 - St. John, Apostle
8:30 a.m. + Bruno Nardi (Dec Dee)

Friday, December 28 - The Holy Innocents
8:30 a.m. + 1Yr. Ann.: David Maeshiba (Marilyn Rzasa)

Saturday, December 29 - Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity
8:30 a.m. Mother’s Day Remembrance
Birth. Blessings: Aniceto Saludo III (Tita Inday, Jun and Verce)

Saturday, December 29 - Vigil of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
5:00 p.m. + John & Helen Goetz (Adrian & Karen Goetz and Family)
  + Walter & Bernice Zawacki (Rose Stronczek)
Divine Mercy for All (C. Kisielente Family)

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29TH
5:00 a.m.
Altar Servers: D. Kwiatkowski, J. Kwiatkowski, L. Kwiatkowski
Lectors: J. Lukwinski, V. Godinez

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30TH
6:00 a.m.
Altar Server: G. Vanderford
Eucharistic Ministers: S. Guest, J. Balasa
Lector: J. Bertucci

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - MONDAY
4:00 p.m. All who come will serve

Midnight
Altar Servers: A. Torres, A. Gorz, R. Cabrera, L. Kwiatkowski
Lectors: E. Pollock, L. Szczepanski

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - TUESDAY
6:00 a.m.
Altar Server: George Vanderford
Eucharistic Ministers: J. Balasa
Lector: J. Bertucci

9:30 a.m.
Altar Servers: K. Ruiz, K. Guzman, C. Kelly, E. Davis, M. Dunagan, M. Gonzalez
Lectors: K. Ricci, J. Lukwinski

11:30 a.m.
Altar Servers: A. Moon, A. Gomez, N. Perez, A. Alonzo, A. Rodriguez
Lectors: B. Pienta, G. Dumelle

Sunday, December 30 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
6:00 a.m. + Dorothy Hinz (T. Rolek)
Health Blessings: Koen Guest (Guest Family)
9:30 a.m. Special Intention: Andy Sraga (Ed Sraga)
11:30 a.m. + 44th Ann.: Ann Rzasa (Diane and Marilyn Rzasa)
  + Dorothy Wheeler (Ed & B. Glabicki)
  + Bruno Sr. and Helen Synal (Rose Stronczek)
Divine Mercy for All Caregivers (Parishioner)
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...
