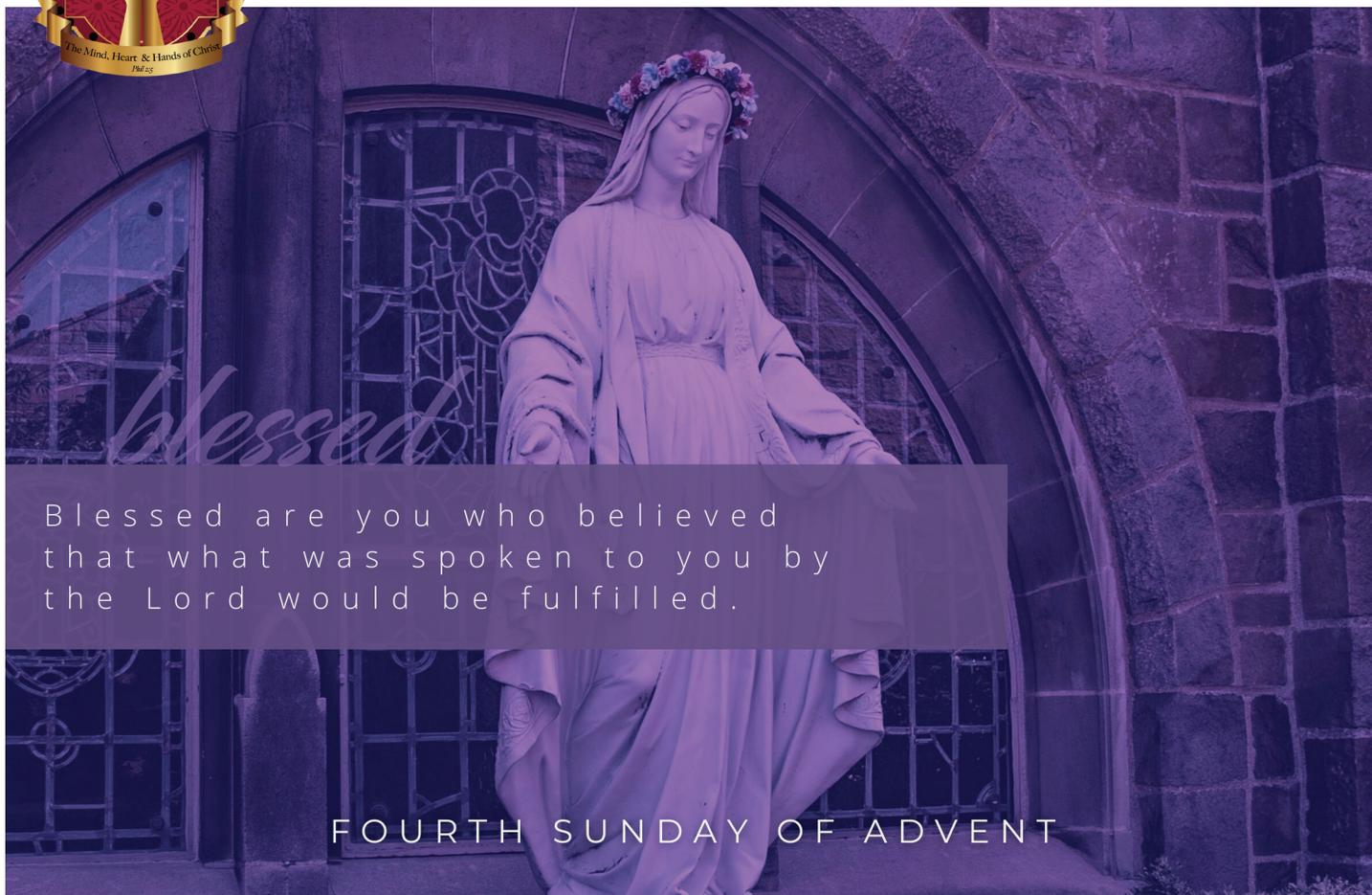




ST. BARTHOLOMEW the APOSTLE

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER 19, 2021



Blessed are you who believed
that what was spoken to you by
the Lord would be fulfilled.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2032 Westfield Avenue,
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076
(908) 322-5192
www.stbartholomewchurch.org
www.stbartschurch.flocknote.com

PASTOR

Rev. John J. Paladino, K.H.S.
908.322.5192 ext. 114
frpaladino@stbartholomewchurch.org

IN RESIDENCE

Rev. Msgr. Donald E. Guenther

WEEKEND ASSISTANTS

Fr. Frank Rose | Fr. Roberto Ortiz

DEACONS

Deacon Matthew Gonzalez
Deacon Robert Gurske
Deacon Donald Hessemer

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE - FRIDAY, DEC 24

Children's Mass

2:00PM

Christmas Eve Mass

4:00PM,

6:00PM

10:00PM

(Carols at 9:30PM prior to 10:00PM Mass)

CHRISTMAS DAY - SATURDAY, DEC 25

8:00AM

10:00AM

12:00PM

All Masses will be livestreamed.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

9:00AM - Msgr. Guenther

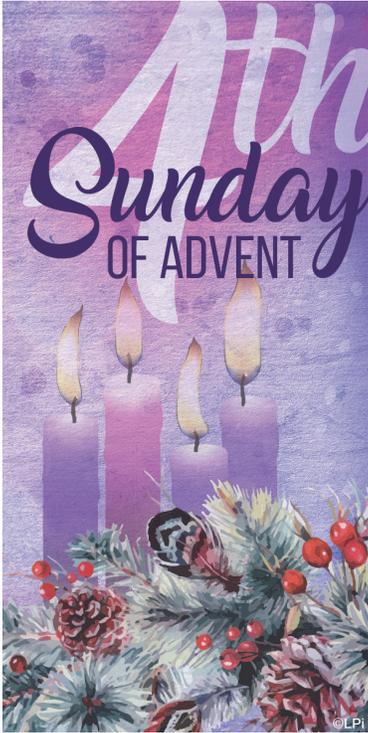
10:30AM - Fr. Paladino

Noon - Fr. Rose



FROM THE DESK OF *Fr. John Paladino*

Through everything, Jesus is in our midst.



When we find out that we passed a big test or are offered an exciting job, we naturally want to share that news with others. Mary and Elizabeth demonstrate that natural inclination to share joy in today's Gospel. When the two expectant women see and hear each other, they express joy and gratitude – even the infant, John, leaps in Elizabeth's womb.

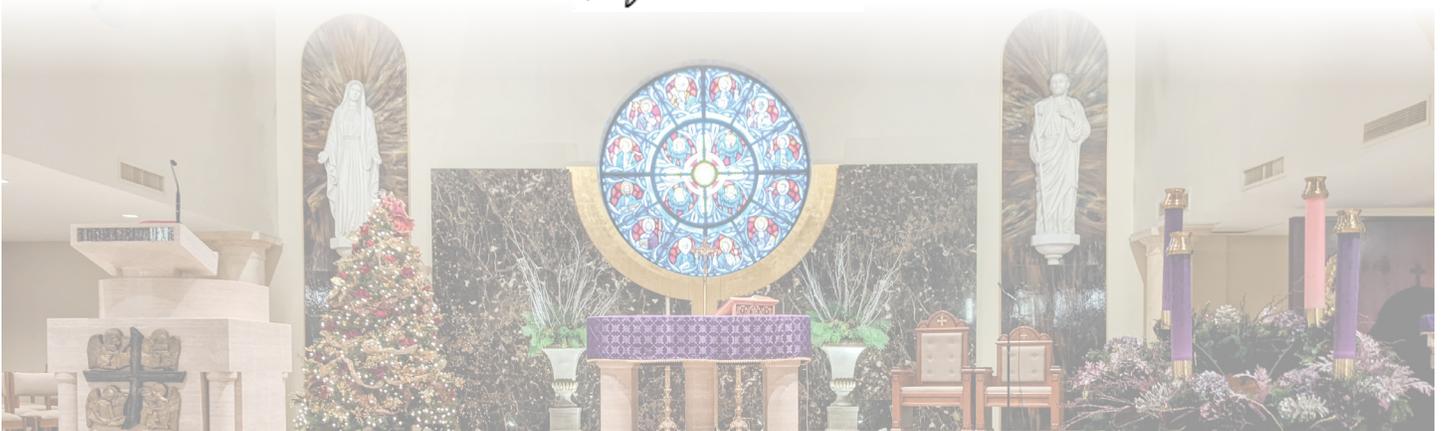
While expecting a child is a wondrous experience, it is one that can be marked by anxiety and difficulty as well. Surely these women shared their difficulties as well as their joy. In this way, Mary and Elizabeth teach us something about Christian community. They draw closer together to share in joy, pain, and difficulty. All the while, Jesus was in their midst.

Yet from an outsider's perspective, they probably looked like any other women. Who would have expected the Messiah to be born as a vulnerable infant? The first reading includes the prophecy of the birth of the Messiah. Micah proclaims that the ruler of Israel will come from Bethlehem-Ephrathah, and even adds that Bethlehem is too small to be among the clans of Judah. The Messiah will be born in a place of little worldly significance, just as the Messiah will be born of a lowly virgin. Lowly in the world's eyes, but surely not lowly to God. In this way, God will establish the new covenant.

God sanctifies these lowly and seemingly insignificant people and places. Through them, the Messiah is brought into the world for the salvation of all people. What a joyous truth that we are invited to share. The call of Jesus can be difficult at times, but he is here in our midst and has given us the Holy Spirit to help us. The season of Advent reminds us of the joyful anticipation of celebrating our Messiah's birth, and of his second coming.

And so, like Mary and Elizabeth, we gather as a Christian family to share in this joyful anticipation. We can share our joys and triumphs, as well as our pains and difficulties. When we gather around this altar, we ask Jesus to be present amidst our shared experience of life. Some of us gather around this table with things to celebrate. Others of us carry grief in our hearts, especially as the holidays approach and serve as a reminder of those who will not be with us this year. As a Christian community, we are called to embrace one another to provide support, and most especially to share in the joy that through everything, Jesus is in our midst.

Fr. John J. Paladino





ST. BARTHOLOMEW ACADEMY

The Catholic Academy that makes a difference in your child's life.

ACADEMY IN ACTION

A DECEMBER TO REMEMBER

Congratulations!



The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10122 announced the post winners of the 2021-2022 Patriot's Pen Essay "How Can I be a Good American?" First Place-Grace Taylor, Second Place-Diane Jane Ng-

uma, and Third Place- Colleen Kennedy. The winners will go on to compete at the County level and be presented with a prize from Post 10122.



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

The annual Breakfast with Santa was given a twist this year and turned into an outdoor Winter Wonderland. Santa, Mrs. Claus, the Grinch, and the Scotch Plains Fire Department entertained families and got everyone into the Christmas Spirit. Thank you to the Home School Association for organizing such a fun, memorable morning.



Thank you

to everyone who participated in our Advent Giving Tree this year! "For God loves a cheerful giver." May you be blessed for your generosity toward those in need this Christmas season!



Hallow

Thanks to a generous donor, St. Bartholomew Church has partnered with the Hallow Catholic app this Advent to provide every parishioner FREE access to all Hallow content!

Hallow is the #1 Catholic app and includes over 2,000 audio-guided sessions designed to help you grow closer to God. Their content includes Daily Gospel Readings, Daily Rosary, Daily Saint; Meditations on themes like Humility, Calm, and Gratitude; curated music ranging from Gregorian Chant to Instrumental to Contemporary; Mental Health content from Catholic experts; and much more!

Visit hallow.com/holidaypackage or follow this



QR code on your smartphone or tablet to join. Simply search for St. Bartholomew and follow the prompts to download the app and create an account, if you don't already have one. When you open the app, tap on the three dots in the upper right corner of the home page to join a group and stay connected to our community! We'll share challenges, prayer intentions, and more through our group. Our parish group code is **WG18LJ**.

*We hope you enjoy the Hallow app!
Our parish subscription will be active from now through Easter.*

Suggestions for this week:

	PRAYER Peace Within Minute Meditation		PRAYER Joyful Mysteries Mondays and Saturdays
	PRAYER Evening Family: Praying together		PRAYER Prepare Him Room The Vigil Project: Contemporary

(Type these titles in the search box to find them in the Hallow app!)

YOUTH GROUP



This time of year, many of us celebrate with family and friends. Parties at work, at school, and in homes while we celebrate the birth of Christ in many ways and venues. For some, however, there is less mobility and venue change. On Sunday, our Youth Group members baked fresh cookies and delivered them to some parishioners in that position. Especially this time of year, the Youth Group and St. Bartholomew want each of our parishioners to know that they are a valuable member of our parish family. The Youth Group leaders are planning and looking forward to our YG Family celebration of Christ's birth next Sunday, December 19. If you are a local high school student, we hope that you join us. Keep an eye of our Instagram, @st.barts_youthgroup, and the REMIND app for the latest information.

**FOR INFO, CONTACT JENNIFER RYAN
at yg@stbartholomewchurch.org**

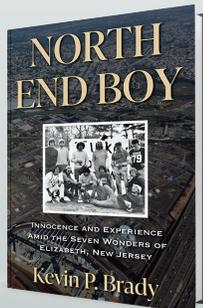
NORTH END BOY



A parishioner of St. Bartholomew's, Kevin Brady, has written a book called *North End Boy*, a memoir set in Elizabeth, N.J. Proceeds from book sales will be donated to St. Benedict's in Newark, which is featured in the book.

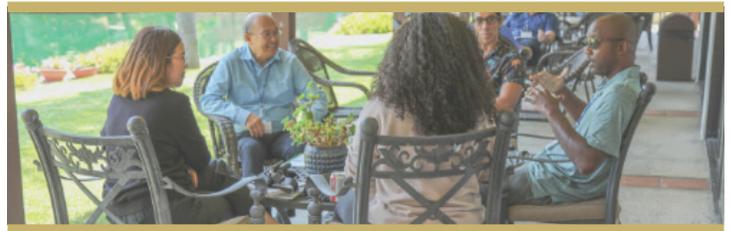
North End Boy tells the story of seven friends coming of age in 1978 against a backdrop of urban crime, abandoned factories and political corruption. Over a thirty-six hour period, the young friends struggle to find their place in a changing city and a changing nation. One gets into the family business. One moves out. One finds redemption in the Catholic Church. Another doesn't.

An intensely local book, North End Boy is also a larger meditation on post-war America, as seen through the eyes of a first generation American with immigrant sensibilities and working-class roots. It is also a story of Catholic conversion and redemption that takes place on the gritty streets of Elizabeth and Newark.



You can purchase North End Boy on Amazon or visit the book website at www.northendboy.com or scan the QR code with your smartphone or mobile device.

Coming Soon to St. Bart's...



St. Bartholomew is starting a new Small Group Ministry in January and we want you there! Don't miss out on this great opportunity to meet as a faith community with people exploring their faith just like you!

Small groups are a great way to meet others in a safe environment to explore and challenge your faith. The groups are no larger than 10 people each, which provides the ability for everyone to share, relationships to form and faith to deepen.

We will meet once a week **beginning January 24** in a variety of ways, including in homes, at the Church and online. Each group will follow the same study guide and conclude the study with a large group meeting on the final week.



Contact Elaine Coupe at kecoupe@verizon.net with any questions and for more information on joining a group, or scan the QR code to sign up.

**Kick Off: Thursday, January 13TH from 7-9PM
at Darby Road Pub in Scotch Plains**

Join us for our Kick-off event to enjoy a drink/appetizer, meet your leader, and pick up a book!

ST. BART'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

We are the people of God who make up the Church of St. Bartholomew the Apostle in Scotch Plains, NJ. Our parish community is comprised of persons from varied ethnic backgrounds and from different walks of life. We come together to know, love, and serve God and each other in the best way we can.

The Parish Pastoral Council considers matters relating to pastoral activity and formulates practical conclusions concerning these matters. The council is a think tank that looks to the future of the parish and recommends plans for tomorrow. It also acts as a liaison with the parish community to help support and promote the Pastoral Mission.

We are currently looking to add dedicated parishioners to the Council. If you are interested in finding out more or just have questions about the Parish Pastoral Council, please contact: Sandra Carroll, President of Parish Pastoral Council, at eastsidesandy@msn.com or Fr. John Paladino, K.H.S., Pastor, at frpaladino@stbartholomewchurch.org.

Mass Intentions



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

7:30AM **Filomena & Daniel Iasello**
req. by Grandchildren
Margaret & Mimi Sylvester
and by Charlotte LaCosta

9:00AM **Marilou Walsh**
req. by Ramona Diaz
Marilou Walsh
req. by Loving Family

10:30AM **Kenneth Hochman**
req. by His Loving Family
Philip Del Negro
req. by Nick & Angela Del Negro

Noon **Ken Vincent (1st Anniversary)**
req. by Maureen & James Vincent
Donna & Al Fantini
req. by Loving Family

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

6:30AM **Albert & Margaret Fiore**
req. by the Fiore Family

8:30AM **David Del Negro**
req. by Mathilda Blahosky

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

6:30AM **Kathleen Nuzzaro**
req. by Goddaughter

8:30AM **Kelly Quinn Eskridge**
req. by Family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

6:30AM **Albert Fiore**
req. by Brothers and Sisters

8:30AM **Alphonse Fantini**
req. by Barbara Riepe

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

6:30AM **Benzie Docquel**
req. by Beth Isaguirre

8:30AM **Victor Vecchione**
req. by Vickie Steinbeck

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

2:00PM (Children's Mass)

4:00PM **Robert Farina**
req. by Loving Wife, Mary and by Theresa G
Theresa Ginesi
req. by Loving Family

6:00PM **Anne Marie Minelli**
req. by Eileen Carter
Catherine Kellet & Great Grandson, James
req. by Loving Family and by Anne Marie Minelli

10:00PM **Patricia & Craig Thomas**
req. by Loving Family
Ercole & Angela Del Negro
req. by Nick & Angela Del Negro
Grace Kenneth Thomas
req. by Loving Family
Patricia Glaydura
req. by Glaydura & Di Bella Families

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

8:00AM **Dolores Marie Ruby**
req. by Charles
Judy DiFiore
req. by Husband David & Family
Sr. Grace Zizza
req. by Elsa Lamastra

10:00AM **Herschel Gearhart & Andrew & Mary Kiss**
req. by Anna Mae
Nancy Marra
req. by Nieces, MaryAnn & Barbare

12:00PM **Michael Ruzek**
req. by Loving Family
Rick Janssen
req. by Bernicet Family

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Edilberto Agaton Jr.
Jacob Benedicto
Rina Conti
Kathleen "Kay" Duff
Palmiro Ferraro
Nadine Martinson
Andrea Muñoz
Kenneth Quigley
Patricia Uber
Dolores Waltsak
Franca Zingariello

Elizabeth Barker
Francesca Cafolla
Nancy DeCristofaro
Tami Eddy
Emma Lara
Peter Morgan
James Pettit
Richard Quigley
Maureen Vincent
Melinda Williams
Joe Zingariello

Lord, hear our prayer.

Please Note:

For privacy reasons and HIPAA regulations, names may only be added by **members of the immediate family** after they have received permission of the one who is sick.

In the event of serious illness or hospitalization, the rectory should be notified. Visits to the sick and shut-ins are made by the priests, deacons and ministers of the Eucharist. It is not necessary for someone to be "gravely ill" to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.



CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENTS

Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated throughout the month on Saturdays and Sundays. First-time parents are required to complete Baptismal Preparation. Please register in advance by calling (908) 322-5192.

Reconciliation

Confession is offered every Saturday at 4PM or call the rectory to schedule an appointment.

Marriage

Archdiocesan policy requires that arrangements be made with a parish priest or deacon as soon as the engagement is announced.



RCIA: RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS AND BECOMING CATHOLIC

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults introduces adults to the Catholic faith and tradition, as well as prepares adults for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. If you would like to learn more about becoming Catholic or receiving the sacraments at our parish, please contact Pat Krema: pkrema@stbartholomewchurch.org. We are happy to accompany you on your journey of faith and help answer any questions you may have!



PARISH OFFICE DIRECTORY

908.322.5192

Email: contact@stbartholomewchurch.org
Web: www.stbartholomewchurch.org

ACADEMY OFFICE: 908.322.4265
admissions@stbacademy.org

RELIGIOUS ED OFFICE: 908.322.2359
religioused@stbartholomewchurch.org

Office Hours:

Monday-Tuesday 8:30AM-6:00PM
Wednesday-Friday: 8:30AM-3:00PM
Saturday-Sunday: 9:00AM-2:00PM

ST. BARTHOLOMEW STAFF

STEVEN SERAFIN

Pastoral Associate

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Director of Liturgy & Music

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Coordinator of Liturgy & Adult Faith Formation

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Director of Communications

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Community Outreach Coordinator

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JENNIFER RYAN

Director of Youth Ministry

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SANDRA CARROLL

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KATHY KOBLISKA

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DENNIS WEISS

Facilities Manager

dweiss@stbartholomewchurch.org

PAULETTE CORONATO | JOSEPH DILLON
Parish Trustees

Supporting Our Parish

EASY ONLINE GIVING WITH FAITH DIRECT

Streamline your offertory and simplify your support for St. Bartholomew the Apostle as we continue serve our parishioners and those in need throughout the community. Now is a great time to make the switch to eGiving – you can sign up from your computer, smartphone or tablet, and set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/NJ844, or text 'Enroll' to 908-324-5627. Thank you for your continued support of our parish!

STEWARDSHIP of TREASURE | DEC 12, 2021

*Collection numbers not available
at time of publication.*

SUPPORT ST. BART'S WHEN YOU SHOP ON AMAZON!

St. Bartholomew's has partnered with Amazon Smile. Please remember that while you shop consider using smile.amazon.com. The Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to our church. *It's no additional cost to you!* Choose St. Bartholomew Church via this link: <https://smile.amazon.com> and start shopping! Thank you for your support.

Available Services

MASS AVAILABLE ON TV & ONLINE!

For the home bound Parishioner, tune in on **Sundays** at 10AM to watch Mass. Comcast channel 34 or Verizon channel 22. Watch the Mass livestream on our website and Facebook page on Saturdays at 5PM and Sundays at 9AM.

COUNSELING SERVICES AVAILABLE

If you are an individual, a couple or a family that is experiencing difficulties, there are counseling services available to you. All calls are confidential. Fees can be adjusted to one's financial situation. Please note, that no one will be turned away for an inability to pay. Counselors available to you:

Barbara Stumm-Gray, Ed.S. | 908.232.0893

Joseph Ochs, LPC | 732.221.6673

Dina Brue, LCSW | 646.643.5345

Laura Otchy, MS, Ed.S. LPC | 973.580.5930

Stay Connected!

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

for daily inspiration and all the latest parish news and updates!



St. Bart Church



@stbartholomew_church

JOIN OUR FLOCKNOTE

to receive our weekly newsletter & stay plugged in to all your favorite parish groups and ministries!



Scan the QR code or visit stbartschurch.flocknote.com to join!