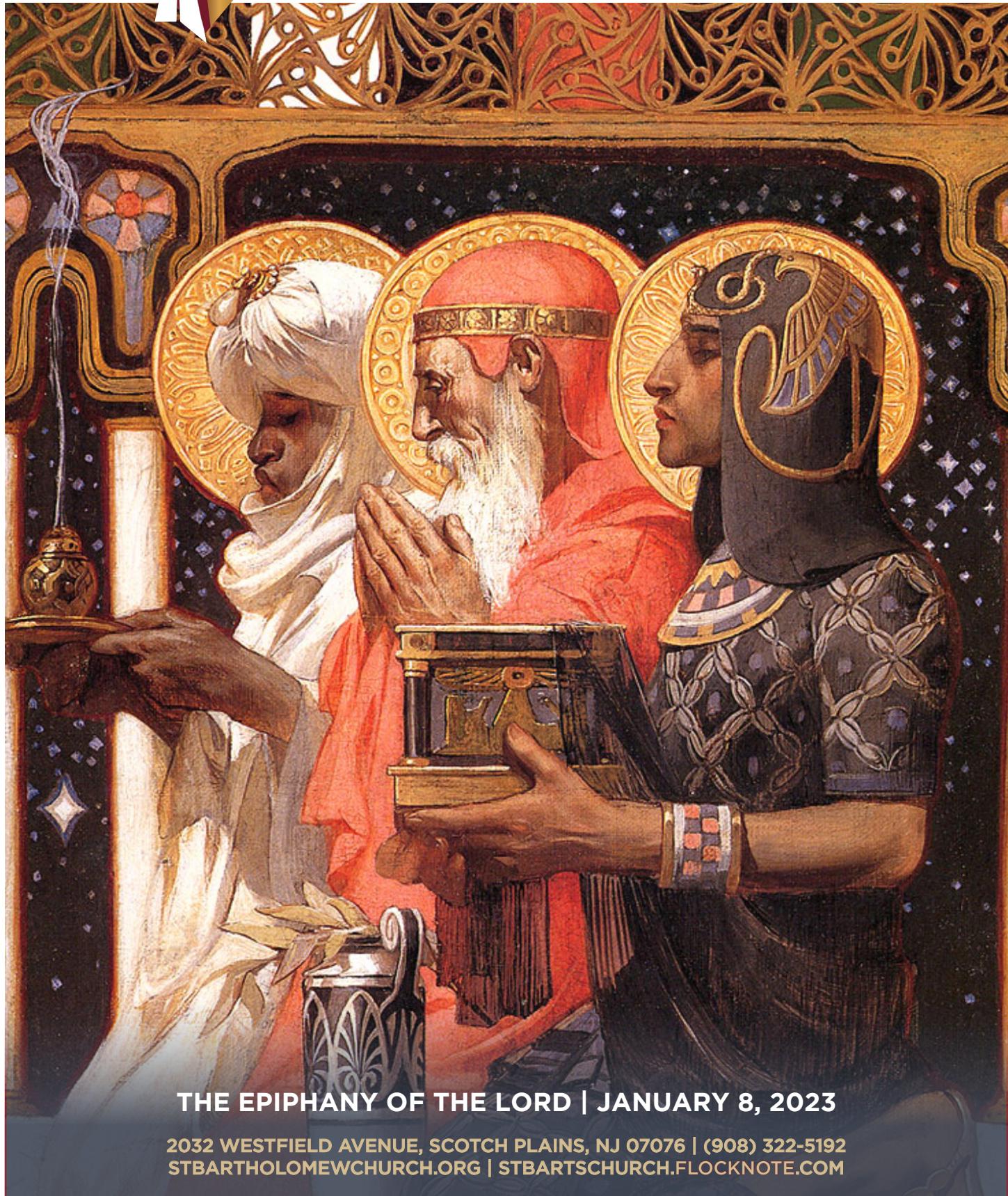




ST. BARTHOLOMEW the APOSTLE  
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

*community & charity in christ*



**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD | JANUARY 8, 2023**

2032 WESTFIELD AVENUE, SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ 07076 | (908) 322-5192  
[STBARTHOLOMEWCHURCH.ORG](http://STBARTHOLOMEWCHURCH.ORG) | [STBARTSCHURCH.FLOCKNOTE.COM](http://STBARTSCHURCH.FLOCKNOTE.COM)

## OUR PARISH IS SERVED BY:

### Pastor

**Rev. John J. Paladino, K.H.S.**  
(908) 322-5192 ext. 114  
[frpaladino@stbartholomewchurch.org](mailto:frpaladino@stbartholomewchurch.org)

### Parochial Vicar

**Fr. Matthew Gonzalez**  
(908) 322-5192 ext. 107  
[frgonzalez@stbartholomewchurch.org](mailto:frgonzalez@stbartholomewchurch.org)

### In Residence

**Very Rev. Frank Rose, V.F.**

### Weekend Assistant

**Rev. Roberto Ortiz**

### Deacons

**Dcn. Robert Gurske**  
**Dcn. Donald Hessemer**  
**Transitional Dcn. Chris Hughes**

## MASS SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

**4PM Confessions - Fr. Gonzalez**  
**5:00PM Vigil Mass - Fr. Rose**

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

**7:30AM - Fr. Ortiz**  
**9:00AM - Fr. Rose**  
**10:30AM - Fr. Paladino**  
**Noon - Fr. Gonzalez**

## CONTACT US

### OFFICE HOURS:

**Monday-Thursday: 8:30AM-3:00PM**  
**Friday: 9:00AM-1:00PM**  
**Saturday-Sunday: 9:00AM-2:00PM**

### PHONE & EMAIL:

**(908) 322-5192**  
[contact@stbartholomewchurch.org](mailto:contact@stbartholomewchurch.org)

### RELIGIOUS EDU. OFFICE:

**(908) 322-2359**

## PARISH MISSION

We, the Roman Catholic Community of St. Bartholomew the Apostle, are brought together by Jesus, as we recognize His presence among us in Word, Sacrament and each other. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit and the intercession of the Blessed Mother, we accept Jesus' invitation to be His disciples by using our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of all.



FROM THE DESK OF

*Fr. John Paladino*

Even at his birth, Jesus shows that he is a completely different kind of king.

The familiar biblical Christmas stories that we hear during this holy season contain many unexpected events and characters. They hardly seem fit for a king. It all begins with a young virgin who cannot possibly be with child, yet she indeed conceives and bears the Son of God within her. This child is then born after a difficult journey by his parents to Bethlehem. The birth is subsequently announced – by angels – to the most ordinary of people, doing some of the most labor-intensive and dirty work around: shepherds. Finally, the only “important” people who recognize the newborn as a king are non-Jewish foreigners.

How is it that there are no priests or scribes present to greet the promised king? Surely, they must have been prepared for his arrival. Why isn't he born in a castle surrounded by servants and other royalty? How can anyone believe that this is the birth of a king? If this child is truly the King of the Jews, his beginnings demonstrate that he is not going to be like any other king.

He is called the King of the Jews, but his importance seems to be much larger than simply the nation of Israel. This king is overlooked by the Jewish leaders but proclaimed by the simple shepherds and the Magi. The king is born to a simple virgin but called the Son of God. The king is born in a cave/barn, but the visitors bring lavish gifts. The king is praised by angels but hunted by Herod. This Jesus is going to turn the whole world upside down and it begins even as he is a newborn.

As we examine the characters in this chapter of Jesus' life, it seems that all the wrong people are involved. None of these people would be considered important or worthy to the outside observer. It seems that this king has invited the poor and the outcast to his birthday. How can King Herod be so afraid of a weak baby born into poverty and obscurity?

Do we understand now the message for us? When we come into the presence of the Lord, we can also feel unworthy. It is good for us to remember that even from the beginning Jesus has welcomed the outcast and the overlooked. If we doubt that Jesus loves or invites us, it is encouraging to recall the humble shepherds and the “unclean” Magi who were the first to be summoned. This king is not judging by appearance or status. In Jesus we celebrate a king who is longing to save those who need his mercy. The gifts that he asks us to offer are our love and devotion to him. This king is such a joyful surprise!

# Staff Update



## **Best Wishes, Cindy!**

Please Join us in thanking Cindy Pitonzo for her years of service to our parish community. Over the last five years Cindy has financially and strategically grown the parish as our Business Manager. Cindy has been a vital member of our parish team and has helped develop the community we have today. We are truly grateful for the time and energy Cindy has dedicated to St. Bartholomew and we wish her all the best as she transitions to her new role.



## **Welcome, Linda!**

We are excited to announce that Linda Knowles-Mayers will be joining our team as St. Bartholomew's new Business Manager. Linda comes to us with years of experience in both business and pastoral administration. She is excited to further get to know the parish community! Please join us in welcoming Linda to St. Bartholomew.

## CATECHISM IN A YEAR

**Have you ever had questions about the faith?  
Are you searching for meaning or purpose?**

We encourage everyone to sign up for the Catechism in a Year Podcast with Fr. Mike Schmitz. The Catechism is a book that contains a summary of our Catholic faith written in a way that can help us understand what we believe and why, based in the Scripture and Tradition of the Church. You can access the Catechism podcast through Spotify, Apple Podcasts, YouTube and more. If you have ever wanted to understand what it means to be Catholic and allow those truths to shape your life—this podcast is for you! With this podcast, you will:

- Read the entire Catechism in 365 days
- Understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter
- See how Church teaching is rooted in Sacred Scripture
- Absorb over 2,000 years of Sacred Tradition
- Encounter God's plan of sheer goodness
- Transform your relationship with the Church that Christ founded.

We will also be holding Zoom check-ins for everyone making the journey through the podcast. We will meet  virtually on Wednesdays beginning January 8th at 1:30-2:15PM or 7:00-7:45PM. We hope this intentional community will help us to unpack our faith and stay connected throughout the year. If you are interested in participating, scan the QR code here.

## HELP SUPPORT ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S TRIP TO THE STEUBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE



This coming July, St. Bartholomew's Youth Group will be returning to the Steubenville Youth Conference. It is a weekend-long event that features some of the best Catholic speakers from across the country, and it is designed to help high school students learn more about their faith and learn how to disciple their peers. This is truly a life-changing experience! The cost per participant is \$300. We ask that you prayerfully consider helping partially sponsor one of the youth that will be attending. If you would like to make a donation, please scan the QR code.

# Thank You

A Message from the McAuley Health Care Center, who received a shipment of packages from our Giving Tree collection:

Dear St. Bartholomew Parishioners,

I wish you could have seen their faces when residents at McAuley Hall received your donated gifts!

Smiles from ear to ear! Here were some of the comments I overheard:

"I must have been really good this year"

One Sister noticed, "They even decorated the packages!"

A very surprised woman said, "And it's my favorite color. I can't wait to show my daughter!"

Another lady actually hugged the box!

Even family members who were visiting made comments about the gifts. Isn't that how you want Christmas to be enjoyed? It's all because of you! Pat yourselves on the back St Bartholomew benefactors! You are the best!

Gratefully, The staff and residents at McAuley Hall Health Care Center

## 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



### Knights and Dames CELEBRATION

To kick off our 75th anniversary year, we are honoring our Knights and Dames for 2023. Knights and Dames is a celebration honoring those who have given their time, talent and treasure to our parish community. This year, we honor:

Jack Cirrito  
Darlene Coronato  
Kelly & Christine Dencker  
The Fenandoe Family  
John Paul & Brooke Hamel  
Deacon Donald Hessemmer  
Shirley Iovino  
Michael & Sharon LaForge

Martha Marino  
Andrew MacDonald  
Michael & Othilia Michalisin  
The Nitro Family  
Rev. David Santos  
Daniela Sellinger  
Kelly Watson

The celebration will begin with a Prayer Service led by Bishop Elias R. Lorenzo, O.S.B

**Sunday, March 5th at 2:00PM  
at St. Bartholomew Church**

Followed by a Cocktail Reception at Maplewood Country Club at 4PM.

Scan the QR code here with your mobile device for more information and to register online.



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

### Pray & Play (3-5yo)

Pray and Play is a wonderful ministry for 3-5 year-olds of our parish. Children are dropped off for the 10:30AM Mass to play, sing religious songs, engage in fun activities, and hear the Gospel at their level of understanding.



### Children's Liturgy of the Word (6-9yo)

CLOW assists all 6 to 9-year-olds during the 10:30AM Mass to encounter Jesus through the Word of God. No sign-up is required - children will be invited forward to participate during the Liturgy of the Word at the 10:30AM Mass.

### Sunday Schedule

- January 8
- January 22
- January 29
- February 5
- February 12
- February 26
- March 5
- March 12
- March 19
- March 26
- April 2

# PRAYER INTENTIONS & SACRAMENTS

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

7:30AM	<b>Marion Juelis</b> req. by Larry & Linda Juelis
9:00AM	<b>Richard Bonner</b> req. by Bill & Maryann Degnan
	<b>Ramona Mercedes Diaz</b> req. by Robert & Karen Giordanella
	<b>Richard Murray</b> req. by Robin, Nancy and Jen
10:30AM	<b>Richard Thomas Murray</b> req. by Egenton Family
	<b>Leonard Zanowicz</b> req. by Loving Daughter Michelle & Family
Noon	<b>Josephine Macchia</b> req. by Lorraine Coons & Joanna Coons-Kosloff
	<b>Leonard Zanowicz</b> req. by Loving Wife & Children
4:00PM	<b>William Garrett</b> req. by Karen & Tom Tiedemann
	<b>Michael Boland</b> req. by Karen & Tom Tiedemann

## MONDAY, JANUARY 9

6:30AM	<b>Mary Licata</b> req. by Sandra & Joe Carroll
8:30AM	<b>Leonard Zanowicz</b> req. by Claire & Gregory Lane

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

6:30AM	<b>Mitchell Gerrity</b> req. by Christine Scillieri
8:30AM	<b>Jennifer Gonzalez</b> req. by Mathilda Blahosky

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

6:30AM	<b>Joseph Kinney</b> req. by Heidi Capati
8:30AM	<b>Jane Hummel</b> req. by Elsa Lamastra

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

6:30AM	<b>People of the Parish</b>
8:30AM	<b>Anne &amp; John Bires</b> req. by Joanne and Elaine Bires

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

6:30AM	<b>Dr. Fernando Hoyos</b> req. by the Martinez Family
8:30AM	<b>Lillian Sharkey</b> req. by Marianne Luongo
	<b>George W. Julian</b> req. by JoAnn & Jack Kovalcik
8:30AM	<b>Richard Bonner</b> req. by Gene & Yo Schiller
	<b>Winifred "Winnie" Schoendorf</b> req. by Guido & Barbra Passucci

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

7:30AM	<b>Rocco DiNizo, Jr.</b> req. by Danielle & Gina
	<b>Marta Marrero</b> req. by Gregg A. Swidersky
9:00AM	<b>Cindy Goldsmith Agosta</b> req. by Kobliska Family
	<b>Nick Barrattucci</b> req. by the Scott Family
10:30AM	<b>Carmen Ponzio</b> req. by Peter & Maria DiNizo
	<b>Barbara Kelly</b> req. by Mary Smith & Family
Noon	<b>Richard Joliffe</b> req. by Loretta & John Sreeton
	<b>Phyllis Cassetti</b> req. by Patricia Goldberg

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Victoria Armstrong, Santino Agosta, Elizabeth Barker, Jacob Benedicto, Francesca Cafolla, Maritoni Caceres Padilla, Kaitlyn Marie Cole, Rina Conti, Terri DeVany, Kathleen "Kay" Duff, Tami Eddy, Palmiro Ferraro, Emma Lara, Nadine Martinson, Arthur W. Morgan, Peter Morgan, Jennifer Munoz, James Pettit, Richard Quigley, Maureen Vincent, Dolores Waltsak, Melinda Williams, Franca Zingariello, Joe Zingariello, Lenore

*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.

## Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated throughout the month on Saturdays and Sundays. First-time parents are required to complete Baptismal Preparation, which provides a great opportunity to meet other young parents and to dive deeper into the beauty of this First Sacrament. Reach out to us at (908) 322-5192 ext. 100 to register.

## Reconciliation (Confession)

Reconciliation is an opportunity to receive the outpouring of God's love and mercy - He waits for us with open arms! Confession is offered at St. Bart's every Saturday at 4PM or you can call the rectory to schedule an appointment (908-322-5192).

## Marriage

The marriage preparation program at St. Bartholomew Church is designed to foster a fruitful and loving marriage rooted in the Catholic tradition. We consider it an honor to walk with you as you prepare not only for your wedding day but most especially for your life-long marriage. Please reach out to us as soon as engagement is announced and we will help make the arrangements to begin your preparation process.

Visit [stbartholomewchurch.org/marriage](http://stbartholomewchurch.org/marriage) or call us at (908) 322-5192 x100. We look forward to walking with you!

## Homebound Communion Visits

If you or someone you know is homebound or unable to attend Mass in person and would like to have a Eucharistic minister bring Communion at home, please reach out to Paul Milan at (908) 322-5192 ext.260 or [pmilan@stbartholomewchurch.org](mailto:pmilan@stbartholomewchurch.org). We will make arrangements for Communion visits on a weekly basis.



## OFFICE DIRECTORY

**908.322.5192**

Email: [contact@stbartholomewchurch.org](mailto:contact@stbartholomewchurch.org)  
Web: [stbartholomewchurch.org](http://stbartholomewchurch.org)

### ACADEMY OFFICE:

**PRINCIPAL KIM HARRIGAN**

908.322.4265 | [admissions@stbacademy.org](mailto:admissions@stbacademy.org)

**RELIGIOUS ED OFFICE: 908.322.2359**  
[religioused@stbartholomewchurch.org](mailto:religioused@stbartholomewchurch.org)

### Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 8:30AM-3:00PM

Friday: 9:00AM-1:00PM

Saturday-Sunday: 9:00AM-2:00PM

## PARISH STAFF

### STEVEN SERAFIN, D.Min

*Pastoral Associate*

[sserafin@stbartholomewchurch.org](mailto:sserafin@stbartholomewchurch.org) | ext. 112

### PAUL MILAN

*Director of Liturgy & Music*

[pmilan@stbartholomewchurch.org](mailto:pmilan@stbartholomewchurch.org) | ext. 260

### BRIANA QUIGLEY

*Director of Communications*

[bquigley@stbartholomewchurch.org](mailto:bquigley@stbartholomewchurch.org) | ext. 130

### CATHERINE ZIOBRO

*Community Outreach Coordinator*

[cziobro@stbartholomewchurch.org](mailto:cziobro@stbartholomewchurch.org) | ext. 108

### CARLA KELLY

*Director of Confirmation*

[ckelly@stbartholomewchurch.org](mailto:ckelly@stbartholomewchurch.org)

### ALEX CERNICK

*Director of Youth Ministry &*

*Academy Campus Minister*

[acernick@stbartholomewchurch.org](mailto:acernick@stbartholomewchurch.org) | ext. 155

### SANDRA CARROLL

*Safe Environment Director*

[pgc@stbartholomewchurch.org](mailto:pgc@stbartholomewchurch.org) | ext. 135

### LINDA KNOWLES-MAYERS

*Business Manager*

[lkmayers@stbartholomewchurch.org](mailto:lkmayers@stbartholomewchurch.org) | ext. 129

### KATHY KOBLSKA

*Office Manager*

[kkobliska@stbartholomewchurch.org](mailto:kkobliska@stbartholomewchurch.org) | ext. 100

### DENNIS WEISS

*Facilities Manager*

[dweiss@stbartholomewchurch.org](mailto:dweiss@stbartholomewchurch.org)

### KELLY WATSON

President, Finance Council

### KEITH GUARNUCCIO

President, Pastoral Council

**PAULETTE CORONATO | JOSEPH DILLON**

*Parish Trustees*

## Supporting Our Parish

### STEWARDSHIP of TREASURE

As of DECEMBER 29, 2022

Christmas 2022  
Christmas 2021

\$ 112,049.00  
\$ 121,389.00

**-\$ 9,340.00**

**Thank you for your support!**

## ONLINE GIVING

Our online giving platform, Pushpay, enables you to give with just a touch of a button from your smartphone or through an easy online giving portal. Please visit our website [stbartholomewchurch.org](http://stbartholomewchurch.org) for more information. If you would like to try e-giving, **text STBARTGIVE to (833) 921-6421** or scan the QR code here with your mobile device. Thank you for your support of our faith community!

## 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.

## LEGAL CLINIC SERVICES

Do you live in Union County and need help with:

Housing insecurity?  
Rental assistance?  
Legal representation?  
Credit counseling, and more?

Please contact Joe Correa immediately at:  
[jcorrea@thewaterfrontproject.org](mailto:jcorrea@thewaterfrontproject.org)

### [www.thewaterfrontproject.org](http://www.thewaterfrontproject.org)

A nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting economically disadvantaged people - the working poor, seniors, veterans, and those living with disabilities - to address their civil legal issues and concerns.

## 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**