



ST. BARTHOLOMEW the APOSTLE
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

community & charity in christ

BE
merciful
O LORD, FOR WE HAVE SINNED.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT | FEBRUARY 26, 2023

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

OUR PARISH IS SERVED BY:

Pastor

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

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Matthew Gonzalez
(908) 322-5192 ext. 107
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, MARCH 4

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

7:30AM - Fr. Gonzalez
9:00AM - Fr. Paladino
10:30AM - Bishop Lorenzo
NOON - Fr. Rose

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

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

We are called to grow closer to God.

In these early days of Lent, we consider what practices we might take on during these 40 days. Perhaps we have already started them, or perhaps we are still discerning what we can do. Whatever path we choose, we all have the same aim: to grow closer to God. Our Lenten practices are meant to help us not only grow in understanding of Him but also to grow in understanding of how we can live out His love in the world.

We have these 40 days to consider our relationship with God, specifically where we are disobedient and fail to trust him – like the woman and man in our first reading. We know God should be at the center of everything we do; we are at our best when this is the case. And we have this time to focus on how we can keep Him there, and resist all temptations otherwise, as Jesus did in the Gospel.

Our Lenten practices focus on three ways in which we can grow closer to God. First, we have prayer. There are so many different ways in which to pray. We can consider which prayer has helped us grow closer to God. Or perhaps there is a type of prayer we would like to try. These 40 days are our opportunity to explore and to pray in ways that help us to recenter God in our lives.

Second, we have the practice of fasting. There is power in our communal practices when we fast together on Fridays, but perhaps there are individual practices of fasting that will help us to remove any distractions or obstacles in our relationship with God. Fasting is a way to be more mindful of our reliance on God in our daily lives.

Finally, we have the practice of almsgiving. Offering up what we have reminds us that all we have is a gift from God. God calls us to share our gifts with others, especially those in most need. Perhaps there is a group that needs our sacrifices on this day; we could focus our almsgiving efforts there.

As we continue our Lenten pilgrimage, let us remember that our Lenten practices require nourishment at the Eucharistic table. God is always with us and calls us to grow closer to Him as we journey these next 40 days.

PASTORAL VISIT FROM BISHOP ELIAS LORENZO, OSB

Next weekend, Sunday March 5th, we welcome Bishop Elias Lorenzo, OSB, who will celebrate for us the 10:30AM Mass. He will hold a Town Hall Meeting following Mass in the Gym - all parishioners are welcome to attend.

LENT SPOTLIGHT



Monday Nights in Lent at 7:30-8:30PM

Join us for an hour of peace and prayer before the Eucharist, with silent time to pray and be with the Lord as well as live worship music to guide our time of prayer. Holy Hours will be held on February 27, March 13, March 20, and March 27. (Confession will be offered on the March 27th Holy Hour.)

What is a Holy Hour?

In the Catholic world, "holy hour" usually refers to an hour devoted to Adoration of the Eucharist. Adoration is a form of prayer that began many centuries ago. Adoration means "to pay honor or homage to someone or something." In this case, we are honoring and worshipping Jesus, who we believe is truly and fully present in the Eucharist.

What happens during a Holy Hour?

A host is placed on the altar in a gold vessel called a "monstrance," so that those present can see and adore Jesus in the Eucharist. Often, the priest will begin with a hymn and a short prayer, followed by time of silence or music (or a little of both). At our holy hours, we allow time for both reflective silence and prayerful music. You can choose to spend the time in prayer, reading the Bible or a spiritual book if you have one, journaling, praying the Rosary, or engage in that time of prayer however you feel drawn to. Adoration usually ends with a blessing called Benediction, where the priest blesses the congregation with the Eucharist (you'll notice that he moves the monstrance in the pattern of the sign of the cross), followed by a few closing prayers and a hymn.

During Adoration...

- We have the opportunity to come face-to-face with God!
- We are spending time with a friend.
- We get to deepen and strengthen our personal relationship with God.
- We can spend time setting aside the worries and stresses of the week and simply be in the peaceful presence of God.

If you've never been to Adoration before, we encourage you to give it a try - Lent is a great season to discover new ways to grow in our prayer lives. Many people who have tried this form of prayer say that it is a peaceful and restorative experience like nothing else!

The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time you will spend on earth. Each moment that you spend with Jesus will deepen your union with Him and make your soul everlastingly more glorious and beautiful in Heaven, and will help bring about everlasting peace on earth!

Saint Teresa of Calcutta

PARISH MISSION



**7:30-8:30PM Each Night
at St. Bartholomew Church**

MONDAY, MARCH 6

CLAIMING OUR BLESSEDNESS

As a beloved child of God, you are invited to recognize and claim His love for you!

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

CLAIMING OUR BROKENNESS

Life is challenging and we are all broken. Come claim your brokenness and be healed!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

CLAIMING OUR MISSION

God has created you for a reason. You are no accident! Come and claim the mission God has for you!

EVENTS & UPDATES

First Friday Prime Timers Gathering March 3rd at 11:00AM - 1:30PM

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with us! Wear green if you are able! St. Joseph won't mind because he'll be remembered too! All Seniors and Grandparents are welcome! Mass at 11AM, followed by food, fellowship, and a new guest speaker at each gathering. **Please be sure to RSVP by Monday, February 27th** by calling the Rectory at (908) 322-5192 ext. 100.

Women's Prayer Group Saturday, March 4th at 7:30-8:30AM in the SBA Faculty Dining Room

All women of St. Bart's are welcome to join for faith, fellowship & coffee! The SBA faculty dining room is on the lower level of the school - enter on the Rectory side). No previous experience necessary. Contact Joanne Guarnuccio with any questions at jguarnuccio123@yahoo.com or (908) 447-4066

Men's Prayer Group Saturday, March 4th at 7:30-8:30AM in the Cafeteria

We have begun Men's Prayer Group for the Lent and Easter Season every Saturday through Pentecost (May 27th), with the exception of March 11th due to Men's Cornerstone Retreat). Come join us for coffee/donuts, fellowship and discussion. Contact Joe Florendo with any questions: joeflo65@comcast.net

Young Adult Pub Social

Young adults 21-35 are welcome to join us for an easygoing Pub Night at Darby Road in Scotch Plains on Thursday, March 2nd at 7:30PM. This will be a great opportunity to reconnect and hopefully meet some new friends as well!

Please let us know if you will be able to attend, so we can have an accurate headcount ahead of time (appetizers will be on us!). Email bquigley@stbartholomewchurch.org if you'd like to come!

Knights and Dames Celebration Sunday, March 4th

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 in a significant way. The celebration will begin with a Prayer Service at 2PM followed by a reception for 4PM at Maplewood Country Club.



Community Outreach offers us a few ideas for how we can help others through our Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving!

PRAYER

While we were able to support Inspire Family Life Center financially through the baby bottle Campaign, they are asking for our support through prayer - either on-site at the center, or in the chapel at the rectory. If you would like to spend time in prayer at the center, please call (732)-595-2392 or visit their website at inspirefamilylifecenter.com

FASTING

Consider fasting from the following items and donating them to our collection for Mercy House the weekends of March 25-26 and April 1-2: cereal, oatmeal, canned tuna, canned salmon, shelf stable milk, pasta, pasta sauce and granola bars.

ALMSGIVING

Consider donating to Mission Clean Water this lent. We will have the founder, James Leitner, who grew up Scotch Plains, speak at Mass the weekend of March 25-26. To find out more information about this organization, visit their website: missioncleanwater.org

Consider also giving to the Annual Appeal which supports ministries and programs that serve the Church and those in need throughout the archdiocese. Information below:

Annual Appeal ^{the 2023} *Progress Meter*

42%

Your support of the Annual Appeal allows the mission of the Church to continue in our community. Visit rcan.org/sharing or scan the QR code to give. Thank you for helping us reach our goal!



PRAYER INTENTIONS & SACRAMENTS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

- 7:30AM **Maria Elmudesi**
req. by Mary Smith
Mo Rigante
req. by the Erbafina Family
- 9:00AM **Fausto Passucci**
req. by Roberto & Laura Sorge
John E. Buckley
req. by Alex Passucci & Family
- 10:30AM **Fausto Passucci**
req. by Peter & Maria DiNizo
Mary Czarnomski
req. by Mori & Monk McDevitt
- Noon **Anna & Antonio DiFrancesco**
req. by Loving Family
Antonella Iannelli
req. by Nicola and Camille DiNardo
- 4:00PM **Robert Taylor**
req. by Arthur Brushetti
Confirmation Candidates
req. by a Friend

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

- 6:30AM **Giovanni "John" Bambaci**
req. by the Verducci Family
- 8:30AM **Dorothy Larcque**
req. by Shaun Dolley Benoit

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- 6:30AM **For those who have no surviving relatives**
req. by a Friend
- 8:30AM **Robert Brennan**
req. by Mari & Monk McDevitt

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

- 6:30AM **For the People of Ukraine**
- 8:30AM **Robert Brennan**
req. by Eileen Ashby

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

- 6:30AM **All who have no one to pray for them**
req. by a Friend
- 8:30AM **Gerrin Hagen**
req. by Eileen Ashby

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

- 6:30AM **For the People of Turkey**
- 8:30AM **John Kaminski**
req. by Nancy Marsella

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

- 8:30AM **Maria Bober**
req. by JoAnn & Jack Kovalcik
- 5:00PM **Mike Rebuth**
req. by Ginger Rachko
Madeline Del Prete
req. by Loving Family
Robert "Bobby" Farina
req. by his Loving Wife, Mary

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

- 7:30AM **Carol DeStephan**
req. by Lu Fedeli
Mauro Rigante
req. by Claudia, Jo, Sara and Shannon
- 9:00AM **Helen Cino**
req. by Jean & Tom McCarthy
Fausto Passucci
req. by Romano & Maria DelRoio & Family
- 10:30AM **Mike Rebuth**
req. by Loving Family
Fausto Passucci
req. by Emil & Ersilia DiFrancesco & Family
- Noon **Josephine Macchia**
req. by Lorraine Coons &
Joanne Coons-Kosloff
James & Fannie Iozzi
req. by son James & Family

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, Palmiro Ferraro, Emma Lara, Eileen Lynch, Nadine Martinson, Arthur W. Morgan, Peter Morgan, Jennifer Munoz, James Pettit, Richard Quigley, Maureen Vincent, Dolores Waltsak, Melinda Williams, Franca Zingariello, 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.

Welcomed Home by God

We offer prayers and condolences to the families of:

John L. Staci

Christine Laganga

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them.

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)

Confession is offered every Saturday at 4PM or you can call the rectory to schedule an appointment (908-322-5192).

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 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 email pmilan@stbartholomewchurch.org. We will make arrangements for Communion visits on a weekly basis.

Lent Activities and Events

Stations of the Cross will be held on Wednesdays after the 8:30AM Mass and Fridays at 7:30PM

All Lent opportunities are listed at

STBARTHOLOMEWCHURCH.ORG/LENT

or take a flyer from the Narthex.



OFFICE DIRECTORY

908.322.5192

Email: contact@stbartholomewchurch.org

Web: stbartholomewchurch.org

ACADEMY OFFICE:

PRINCIPAL KIM HARRIGAN

908.322.4265 | admissions@stbacademy.org

RELIGIOUS ED OFFICE: 908.322.2359

religioused@stbartholomewchurch.org

Office Hours:

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

Friday: 9:00AM-1:00PM

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

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President, Finance Council

KEITH GUARNUCCIO

President, Pastoral Council

PAULETTE CORONATO | JOSEPH DILLON

Parish Trustees

Supporting Our Parish

STEWARDSHIP of TREASURE FEBRUARY 19, 2023

Envelope Collection	\$ 8,628.58
Pushpay Online Collection	\$ 10,526.00
Total	\$ 19,154.58

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 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

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