

Update from Fr. Bryan
April 14, 2024

This update was provided by Fr. Bryan in a recent St. Bartholomew bulletin.

As our combined Parish Pastoral Councils continue to oversee and make recommendations regarding the merger process of St. Bartholomew Parish into St. Joseph Parish, I would like to address some questions that occasionally come up, which I hope will be helpful to you.

1. **Mass of Thanksgiving.** There is a hard-working group of parishioners planning for the closing Mass of Thanksgiving, followed by a parish reception, on **Sunday, June 23** at 11:30 am. The details of the day are still a work in progress, but I am sure this will be a meaningful opportunity to thank the Lord for 72 years of Saint Bartholomew Parish. I will be privileged to be the principal celebrant, joined by many other priests from past and present. Masses will be offered at the parish until Sunday, June 30, after which there will be no further parish Masses. The parishes merge at 12:01 am on July 1, 2024.
2. **Funeral Masses.** I have indicated that, with the permission of Saint Sebastian's, your priests are open to offer funerals at St. Bartholomew Church, if requested. Again, this availability is contingent upon Saint Sebastian's schedule.
3. **Sale of Property.** There is no further information regarding the timing of the sale of the church and property to Saint Sebastian School, as this process is being handled by the Archdiocese. I will certainly share more information with you as it becomes available.
4. **Parking.** We continue to review improving parking and are planning on repaving the lot behind St. Joseph Church this summer. We are told that the town is still hoping to open the Emery Grover building next to the church by this September, which will add 60 parking spaces for weekend Masses.
5. **Audio quality.** Enhancing the audio quality at St. Joseph Church is also currently being investigated with a professional sound company.
6. **Daily Mass schedule.** We are hoping to continue the 9 am daily Mass, as well as the 6:50 am daily Mass, but this possibility depends on our success in locating a priest in residence for some pastoral assistance. Please keep praying!

In closing, I am grateful for your patience and prayerfulness during this process. I know these weeks are not easy for many. We are in this together and, trusting in the Lord's help, we will emerge as a stronger faith community. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me directly for accurate information: 781-896-2544 / bparrish@saintjoes.com

God bless and a Blessed Easter Season.
Fr. Bryan Parrish,
Pastor