

Frequently Asked Questions on the Transition

May 2024

This FAQ has been prepared to inform parishioners of important changes that will result from the merger of St. Bartholomew Parish with St. Joseph Parish on July 1st, 2024.

1. ***What will the daily Mass times be at St. Joseph after the merger?***

On Monday through Friday, the 6:50 AM Mass will continue. In addition, there will be a 9 AM daily Mass at St. Joseph's beginning on Monday, July 1st. On Saturdays, the current schedule of one Mass at 8:30 AM will remain.

2. ***When will the last regularly scheduled Mass be held at St. Bartholomew's Church?***

The last parish Mass will be the 11:30 AM on Sunday, June 30.

3. ***What will happen with the St. Bartholomew's bulletin?***

The St. Bartholomew bulletin will no longer be published after June 30. The St. Joseph bulletin contains the same types of information as the St. Bart's bulletin and is available online.

4. ***Will a St. Bart's weekly email continue to be sent out?***

The "parish update" email which is distributed on Saturdays will no longer be sent. Those currently on the list will be automatically added to the St. Joseph email system. Each weekend the St. Joseph bulletin is distributed electronically to those on the distribution list. You may "unsubscribe" if you don't want to receive the weekly email. If you want to get on the list, please contact the parish office.

5. ***How do we contact the St. Joseph Parish Office?***

The parish office is open from 8 AM to 4 PM, Monday through Friday. On Fridays in the summer months, the office closes at noon. The office is accessed through the door on May Street opposite the church. Follow the green sign to "Parish Office." The phone number is **781-444-0245** and contains a menu of options for sacramental emergencies, Faith Formation office, the staff, and clergy. Starting on July 1st, calls placed to the St. Bartholomew number of **781-444-3434** will be automatically forwarded to the St. Joseph's office. After July, the old number will be discontinued.

6. ***How will Mass intentions be requested after the merger?***

Mass intentions can be requested by contacting the St. Joseph's administrative assistant, Mario Clavell, either in person or over the phone (781-444-0245 Option 2). You are welcome to start requesting Mass intentions now for the daily or weekend Masses beginning in July.

7. ***What will happen with the St. Bart's website?***

The St. Bartholomew Parish website www.stbartholomew-needham.org will be discontinued. Visitors to the St. Bartholomew website will be automatically redirected to the St. Joseph website on July 1st. Both websites contain many of the same functions, for example Mass times and the ability to request sacraments. Items unique to St. Bart's that fall under the "Parish Life" tab will be added to the St. Joe's site with appropriate updates to venues and times. The St. Joe's site is found at www.stjosephparishneedham.com.

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8. ***When and how will registration for Faith Formation for the 2024-2025 year occur?***

Registration for Faith Formation classes for grades K thru 6 will begin in May and can be done online through the St. Joe's website. The upper grade (7+) programs which were run separately this past year are being combined under one coordinator starting in September. K-6 classes will be held at St. Joseph's. The location for upper grade classes may include both St. Joseph and St. Sebastian classrooms. More details about the upper grade program will be provided at a later time.

9. ***What changes are planned for how to make donations to support the parish?***

For those who wish to support St. Joseph Parish financially, please note the following changes.

- a. If you currently receive St. Bartholomew envelopes in the mail each month, they will be replaced with St. Joseph Parish envelopes starting in July. You don't have to do anything. Please note you may be assigned a new envelope number.
- b. For those who give online, you will need to move from the WeShare platform to OSV (Our Sunday Visitor) which St. Joseph uses. The parish will not share your financial information with OSV. You will need to sign up for online giving on OSV on your own. Information on how to do that will be provided in early June.

10. ***Will Community Sundays still be held?***

Yes we hope to continue the St. Bart's tradition of holding a once-a-month social gathering of the parish community at St. Joe's starting in the fall of 2024. Details around timing and location will be worked out, taking into account the existing "coffee and donuts" gathering after the 9:30 AM family Mass at St. Joe's.

11. ***Will the current ministries and activities at St. Bartholomew Parish be continuing?***

Those involved in liturgical ministries such as lectors, extraordinary ministers, and ushers have already been contacted and invited to continue their roles within St. Joseph's. Other activities, for example the book club and men's prayer group, are welcome and encouraged to continue, provided that coordinators and volunteers are still willing to organize them.