

Parish Office: 952-473-6601 Parish Fax: 952-473-0980 Email: stbarts@st-barts.org Website: www.st-barts.org School Office: 952-473-6189 School Fax: 952-745-4598

#### NOVEMBER 29, 2020 ~ 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Dear Member of St. Bartholomew Parish,

Warm greetings to you as we enter the holy season of Advent in preparation for the celebration of Christmas, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, one of the greatest feasts of our Christian faith. With COVID-19, this Christmas will be much different than any other, both with you and your family in your home, and with your faith community at your parish. Every effort is being made to provide for a spiritual celebration of Christmas for you under these difficult conditions.

Mass will be offered at St. Bart's on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning under the same COVID restrictions as over the past months. Because of the social distancing requirement, the maximum capacity for each Mass is 150. In order to serve as many as possible, we have added two Masses. There will be six Masses, the most ever offered for Christmas.





#### **CHRISTMAS LITURGIES SCHEDULE**

- Christmas Eve: 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, and 10:00 p.m.
- Christmas Day: 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

The total capacity for all six Masses is 900. On a typical year over 1,000 attend a single Mass on Christmas Eve and 2,700 for all four Masses. Please adjust your expectations. The goal is to provide for as many as possible, but it simply will be impossible to provide for everyone.

An excellent option for this year would be to watch the videotaped Mass in your home. It is safe, convenient, and prayerful. It will be available on the parish website on Christmas Eve afternoon and any time thereafter. It is highly recommended for those 65 and older or for anyone with an underlying health condition. This conforms with Church law because the obligation to attend Mass in person on Sundays and Holy Days remains dispensed by the Archbishop.

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ATTENDING MASS**

Please review the conditions for attendance at Christmas Masses carefully. Your patience, understanding, cooperation, flexibility, and goodwill are necessary if this is to be a Christmas celebration of peace and joy.

- RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE because of the anticipated demand. No walk-ups will be allowed.
- Reservations can be made on our parish website, *st-barts.org*, using SignUp Genius, or by calling the parish office at 952-473-6601.
- Reservations will open on Monday, December 7, at 9:00 a.m. Reservations will be first come, first serve, and will remain open until the 150 capacity has been filled. Reservations close on Wednesday, December 23, at 12:00 noon.

- Masks are required. No exceptions. This is by the governor's mandate and is recommended by Archbishop Hebda as a sign of charity toward one's neighbor.
- Doors will open twenty minutes before Mass. Only the north and south doors will be available.
- Check-in will be required upon arrival.
- Ushers will seat those in attendance beginning with the front pews and continuing to the back pews to provide for spacing. There will be no preferred seating.
- The coat rack will not be available because of the way that people congregate there. Coats are to be taken into church and can be placed in the empty pews in front or behind.
- The other adjustments to the Mass will continue: No congregating in the Gathering Area upon arrival, no entrance procession, no collection at Offertory time, no holding hands at the Our Father, no Sign of Peace, the reception of Holy Communion in the hand, Communion brought to you at your place in your pew, dismissal by the ushers at the end of Mass row-by-row beginning in the back, donations dropped in baskets while departing, and no congregating in the Gathering Area after Mass.
- Please cooperate with the ushers. Their goal is to serve you and keep you safe. Your patience and understanding will
  make for a merry and holy Christmas.
- Masses will be a bit shorter, about 50 minutes. This will provide enough time to sanitize the church between every Mass.

We will celebrate Christmas this year like never before. We all need to adjust our expectations, pray in church or at home, keep Christ at the center of Christmas, and be kind to one another. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

I wish you peace and joy at Christmas and always. Your pastor,

FR. Michael a. Van Stun

Fr. Michael A. Van Sloun



Please be sure to check our website <u>st-barts.org</u> for any changes that may be necessary due to changing COVID-19 restrictions.



#### THE SEASON OF ADVENT

**The Word "Advent."** The term "Advent" comes from the Latin preposition *ad*, "to" or "toward," and the verb, *venire*, "to come"; as well as the Latin word *adventus* which means "arrival" or "coming." Advent is the season that celebrates the coming of Jesus, begins the new liturgical year, and prepares for the Solemnity of Christmas.

**Advent's Duration**. The Season of Advent is made up of the four Sundays before Christmas, three full weeks, and a fourth week of variable length.

Advent's Main Points of Emphasis. The major focus of Advent is the two comings of Christ, past and future. The Church looks backward with great joy, deep reverence, and profound gratitude, to commemorate and honor the first coming of Christ, the Nativity, the birth of Jesus, Messiah and Lord, the word made flesh, in Bethlehem. At the same time, the Church looks forward to the Second Coming of Christ, the Parousia, at the end of the age, the day when he comes again, with an admonition to be fully prepared, in the state of grace, free of all sin, full of hope, without anxiety, ready to welcome Christ when he comes in glory and majesty, and to be in a spiritual condition to be judged worthy of heaven.

Another Advent Point of Emphasis. While the Church looks to the past and the future, it also pays attention to the present. Christ will come on Christmas, and Christ comes each and every day, in the Gospel and the Eucharist, in the sacraments, in private prayer, in the Church gathered in liturgical worship, in song, in love, in truth, in our neighbors, and in many other ways; and it behooves us to be ready to receive Christ now and whenever he comes.

The Shifting Themes of Advent. In Years A, B, and C, the First Sunday of Advent highlights the Second Coming of Christ and the need for vigilance; the Second and Third Sundays of Advent concentrate on the ministry of Saint John the Baptist and the importance of conversion and repentance; and the Fourth Sunday of Advent is immediate preparation for Christmas with the annunciation to Joseph, the annunciation to Mary, and the Visitation, all passages from either Matthew's or Luke's Infancy Narratives.

**Advent's Color**. The liturgical color for Advent is violet or purple, the color of repentance and sorrow for sin. If we wish to be ready for Jesus when he comes, we must "prepare the way of the Lord" (Lk 3:4), fill in the valleys of

our shortcomings and bad habits, tear down the mountains of our offenses, make straight our crooked ways, and make smooth our roughness, meanness, and lack of charity (see Is 40:3-4 and Lk 3:5). While there are no days of fast and abstinence during this penitential season, it is highly recommended to approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent.

**Important Elements of Advent**. The **symbol** of the Advent season is the **Advent Wreath** comprised of four candles, three which are violet or purple, one which is rose, and represents the increasing light of Christ, the light of the world, born at midnight, during the time of the approaching winter solstice and the shortest and darkest day of the year. The saint of Advent is St. John the Baptist, the intertestamental prophet who bridged the Old and New Testaments, the one who foretold his coming, proclaimed his presence when he came, and challenged the people of his time and people of our day to open their hearts to receive Christ. The **prophet of Advent** is **Isaiah**, the author of the Immanuel Prophecies (Is 7:10-14; 9:1-6, especially vv, 5-6; and 11:1-10), quoted with seven Scripture passages used for the Sundays of Advent, seventeen for the weekdays of Advent, and every day for the Office of Readings.



Isaiah the Prophet
St. Philip Catholic Church
Litchfield, MN
Latin inscription: Ecce Virgo Concipiet,
"Behold, the Virgin shall conceive" (Is 7:14).

#### WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the week of November 29, 2020

**Sunday:** Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16,

18-19 [4]/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

**Monday:** Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/

Mt 4:18-22

**Tuesday:** Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/

Lk 10:21-24

**Wednesday:** Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/

Mt 15:29-37

**Thursday:** Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a

[26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27

**Friday:** Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/

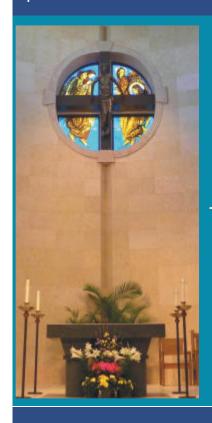
Mt 9:27-31

**Saturday:** Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

[cf. ls 30:18d]/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

**Next Sunday:** Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12,

13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8



# **JOIN US FOR MASS**

#### ATTEND VIRTUAL MASS

Weekend Mass is available Saturdays by 5:00 p.m. <u>st-barts.org/viewmass</u>

#### ATTEND LIMITED PUBLIC MASS

Weekday Mass: Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri.: 8:00 a.m. (Doors open at 7:45)

Saturdays: 5:00 p.m.

Sundays: 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

For all Public Masses: Seating limited to 150.
Masks are required.
Learn more at st-barts.org/attendpublicmass



The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Mass Times In-Person Masses 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Online Mass available December 8

#### STEWARDSHIP



Please join St. Bartholomew Church and School on GivingTuesday – December 1 – as we **ignite generosity in our community**. Giving Tuesday is a simple idea: **a day that encourages people around the globe to do good.** Everyone can participate and every act of generosity counts!

#### Two ways to participate:

- 1. Perform an act of kindness on December 1. Help a neighbor or family member, advocate for an issue, share a skill, or financially support a cause. Let us know how you participated by posting it on our Facebook page or emailing your good deed to Jeannie Judge (jjudge@st-barts.org). We will share these with the community (names omitted) so your good work can inspire others.
- 2. Make a donation on December 1 to help us reach our goal of \$75,000 to cover unanticipated Covid-related expenses necessary to keep our church and school running safely. These expenses were not part of our current fiscal year budget and include the cost of sanitizing equipment and supplies, cleaning services, and technology equipment and services.

#### Making a donation is simple:

- Point your smartphone camera at the QR code and you will be directed to a secure donation form.
- Go to www.st-barts.org/giving and make a secure electronic donation.
- Mail a check payable to St. Bartholomew Church and mark "GivingTuesday" in the memo line.



At a time when we are all experiencing the pandemic, generosity gives everyone the power to make a positive change in the lives of others and is a fundamental value anyone can act on. Thank you for joining us on Giving Tuesday!

#### A Festival of Lessons and Carols and A Christmas Carol Sing-Along for a Pandemic

By Richard Clarke, Director of Music and Liturgy

2020 was going to mark the 23rd edition of *A Festival of Lessons and Carols*. With the challenges of COVID-19 and the reality that the choir had not sung since early March, I reluctantly feared that this treasured service might become another casualty of the pandemic. A conversation with a parishioner in late October convinced me to think differently — and a bit more creatively — about how this service could *still* happen in 2020.

I am delighted to report that there <u>will be</u> A Festival of Lessons and Carols in 2020. This **virtual online service** includes several choral pieces sung by the choir (practicing safe social distancing) and features highlights from previous services and past choir CD recordings. As in previous years, there will be readings from scripture, poetry, sacred reflections, and a few surprises.

But wait, there's more...

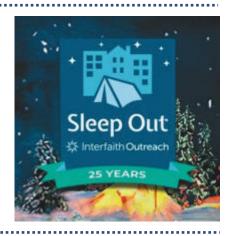
The link will include a bonus "Christmas Carol Sing-Along" led by our cantors, the grand Reuter pipe organ, and members of our instrumental ensemble. You can listen to or sing loudly along with some of your favorite carols— no masks required!

A Festival of Lessons and Carols is expected to be available by Friday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m. Look for more information in the coming days, and in the meantime, please begin to share this news with family and friends.

Have a blessed Advent and a very Merry Christmas!

### **Sleep Out Campaign**

For the 25<sup>th</sup> year, Interfaith Outreach is hosting its annual Sleep Out Campaign to raise awareness and funds for local needs caused by suburban poverty and homelessness. If you didn't get a chance to contribute at this weekend's second collection, you can still contribute. Give online at <u>sleepout.iocp.org</u> (and mention St. Bartholomew in the "Group Sleep Out field) or mail a check made payable to IOCP (and include "Sleep Out, St. Bartholomew" in the memo field) and mail to Interfaith Outreach, 1605 County Road 101, Plymouth, MN 55447. Thank you.





### December Service Opportunity at Sister Parish Holy Rosary

Our sister parish Holy Rosary hosts Loaves & Fishes, a local nonprofit, in feeding approximately 200 meals every Monday through Thursday to members of the community. This year alone, there have been over 21,077 meals served at Holy Rosary. Last year at this time, 13,859 had been served. The need is great and rising, a 52% increase since last year.

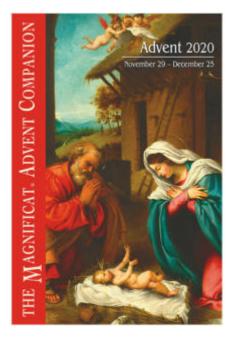
St. Bart's is signed up to serve Wednesday, December 2 and Monday, December 21.

#### Here's how you can help:

Cook from 2:30 – 5 pm (3 slots available) Serve and clean-up from 4:45 – 7 pm (6 slots available)

Go to our website, *st-barts.org* for more information or to sign-up.

#### **COMMUNITY LIFE**



# Magnificat Advent Companion: Prepare your heart to welcome the Prince of Peace

This pocketsized *Companion* follows a practical, page-a-day format and features original meditations on each day's Gospel by one of twenty-four gifted authors.

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- -An Advent Penance Service
- -Specially commissioned poetry
- -Advent Stations
- -The O Antiphons

Advent is that sacred season of anticipation and expectation in which we come to terms with the deepest yearning of our soul—a yearning fulfilled only in Jesus Christ. As we wait in longing for the coming of the Christ Child at Christmas, we turn over to him all the false satisfactions—the compromises—of our life. To live Advent is to live in the awareness of a Presence that changes us. Our Advent preparation is marked by vigilance—custody of the heart, in which we keep our soul fixed on the Lord. For what

we see incarnate in the infant Jesus we desire for ourselves: purity, innocence, childlikeness restored. In the birth of this Child we know the promise of our own spiritual rebirth.

This rich spiritual companion will accompany you like a beloved friend through the four weeks of Advent with poignant scriptural reflections for each day of the season. You will also find a wealth of meditative prayers, essays, and poetry, an examination of conscience, and a unique feature: the Advent Stations. If you long for the nearness of God in your life, this invaluable little booklet promises to bring you ever closer to the One who promised: *I am with you always* (Mt 28:20)

Available after the weekend Masses For Free

#### MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday		Nov. 28			
		5:00	p.m.	Mass	(For the People)
Sunday		/	Nov. 29		
		8:30	a.m.	Mass	(John Garvey)
		10:30	a.m.	Mass	(Barry Balzer)
	Friday		Dec. 4		
		8:00	a.m.	Mass	(Don Kavanagh)
	Saturda	Saturday			
		9:00	a.m.	Mass	(John Jenkins)
		5:00	p.m.	Mass	(For the People)
	Sunday		Dec. 6		
	-	8:30	a.m.	Mass	(Lola Karels)
		10:30	a.m.	Mass	(Joel Neisen)

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

#### **SERVICES**

**Weekend Liturgies:** Sundays 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Saturdays 5:00 p.m.

Weekday Liturgies: Tues., Wed., Thurs. Fri.: 8:00 a.m.

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Fri. 8:30 a.m.— 12 noon.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 4:00-4:30 p.m. and

by appointment.

Sacrament of Marriage: Parish membership required.

Contact the Parish Office.

Sacrament of Baptism: Preparation session required

prior to Baptism. Call the Parish Office.

Illness: Pastoral visits for the sick and

homebound.

Call the Parish Office.

For after-hours and weekend emergencies, call 952-473-6601.

Follow menu instructions to receive pastoral response as soon as possible

#### **PASTORAL COUNCIL** 2019-2020

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Deacon, Rick Witucki321
Parish Administrator, Marion Clark 206
School Principal, Patrick Fox212
Dir. of Pastoral Ministry, Christine Ducharme222
Dir. of Liturgy & Music, Richard Clarke207
Dir. of Children & Adult Faith Formation, Andrew Allen203
Dir. of Youth Ministry & Middle/High School Faith Formation, Bernie Gauthé221
Dir. of Communications, Kathy Salman223
<b>Dir. of Stewardship and Development,</b> Jeannie Judge228
Dir. of Community Engagement & OPCY Safe Environment Coordinator, Sue Scott326
<b>Dir. of Evangelization &amp; Catechesis,</b> Emily Dalsky204
Liturgy/Admin. Assist., Terri Kedzuf202
Admin. Asst., Peg Deitering200
Database & Technology Coordinator, Tyler Persohn201
Maintenance, Peter Therault

To email any parish\*/school staff: first letter of first name followed by last name, then @st-barts.org (e.g. mvansloun@st-barts.org) \*except Deacon Rick Witucki: deaconricky@aol.com

## Reporting Child Abuse— Call 612-348-3552

If someone you know has been abused at a Catholic parish or school, please call Victim Hotline at 651-291-4491.



REGISTRATION

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