

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

February 22, 2026



St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
www.stbartspewaukee.com

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

ABOUT US

We're so glad you're with us today. We're a **Christian Church**: we believe Jesus is our Lord & Savior and the Bible is God's Word for us. We're an **Episcopal Church** in the Episcopal Diocese of Wisconsin which is part of the **Anglican Communion** dating back to the first Christians in England in the 2nd century A.D.

Our Mission is *helping everyone become who God created them to be.*

WELCOME

If this is your first time here we'd love to **say Thanks or answer any questions.** You can call/text our pastor, **Father Joel** at **(262) 725-2691** or email: **pastor@stbartspewaukee.com.**

OUR WORSHIP SERVICE

This bulletin will guide you through everything you need to participate in the service. Our worship is a "liturgy" with two parts: **THE WORD OF GOD** and **THE HOLY COMMUNION** which all baptized Christians are welcome to receive, including children.

KIDS

Children are always welcome in the Sanctuary for the entire service (we don't mind babies behaving like babies).

Children's Chapel is available for kids Pre-K through Elementary. They will follow the Teacher to the classroom in the south hallway *before The Litany of Penitence.* They will return at *The Peace.*



WHO'S WHO

Pastor / Rector

the Rev'd Joel Allen Prather
pastor@stbartspewaukee.com

Music Director

Ethan Tarvin
music@stbartspewaukee.com

Parish Administration

Jan Watter
admin@stbartspewaukee.com

Rector's Assistance

Carol Cohen
sos@stbartspewaukee.com

Sr. Warden

Dave Woods
davewoods2370@gmail.com

Jr. Warden

Jamie Thomson
jbthomson11@gmail.com

Treasurer

Mike Delmore
mike_delmore@yahoo.com

Prayer Requests

prayer@stbartspewaukee.com

The Hymnal 1982

The blue hymnal found in the pew racks is the collection of hymns, tunes, and service music authorized for use in the Episcopal Church. The Hymnal is a companion for the Book of Common Prayer, supporting the Lectionary and the Calendar. It includes service music and 720 hymns. The Hymnal is strongly founded on congregational singing.

We are singing the hymns that are in the hymnal from the hymnal. All other music will continue to have the lyrics in the printed worship bulletin.

If you are new to The Hymnal: hymn numbers are found in bold in the hymnal. The first quarter of the book is service music, such as the Song of Praise and the Sanctus that we sing every Sunday. Service music has an “S” in front of the number. Hymns comprise the rest of the hymnal, bold numbers 1 - 720. There are not page numbers. **Look for the hymn by its number, not its name.**

Opening Hymn: Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days Hymnal 142

The Opening Acclamation *(remain standing)*

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

People: His mercy endures for ever.

The Decalogue (the Ten Commandments) *(you may kneel)*

Celebrant: God spoke these words, and said:

Hear the commandments of God to his people: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: You shall not make for yourself any idol.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: Honor your father and your mother.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: You shall not commit murder.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: You shall not commit adultery.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: You shall not steal.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: You shall not be a false witness.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." (*Mark 12:29-31*)

Children's Chapel

At this time kids Pre-K through Elementary are invited to come to the front for a blessing and then follow the Teacher to Children's Chapel.

Litany of Penitence

The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling

Most holy and merciful Father: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

The Reader continues

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
We confess to you, Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

The Priest, stands and, facing the people, says

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect* of the Day *(please stand)*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**A short prayer to unify, or "collect", our intentions for worship. It typically indicates the theme of the day.*

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let

each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons *(Please be seated)*

A reading from the Genesis (2:15-17; 3:1-7)

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sh'ma Yisrael (Hear, O Israel)

Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai echod.
Baruch shem ch'vod, ch'vod malchuto l'olam vaed.

(Hear O'Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is One.
Praised be his name whose glorious kingdom is forever and ever.)

Psalm 32

The Psalms were originally written to be sung. These poems and prayers have been the foundation of worship for Jews and Christians for 3,000 years, and Jesus prayed and sang the psalms regularly.

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, * and whose sin is put away!
Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, * and in whose spirit there is no guile!
While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, * because of my groaning all day long.
For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; * my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, * and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, " I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." * Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; *

when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; * you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; * I will guide you with my eye.

Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; * who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

Great are the tribulations of the wicked; * but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; * shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans (5:12-19)

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned-- sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn: Trisagon

Blue Hymnal S102

*(Please stand as you are able) *This is a song to prepare our hearts to hear the Words of Jesus. Its ancient name is from the Latin "gradus", the place where this song was sung in Church.*

The Gospel (means “Good News”)

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel + of our Lord Jesus Christ + according to Matthew + (4:1-11)

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

+ You may make a small + Cross with your thumb over your mind, lips, and heart.

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’

and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,

and serve only him.’”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

The Sermon

The Rev'd Joel A. Prather

The Nicene Creed *(please stand and pray together)*

The Nicene Creed in this bulletin is slightly different than what you may be used to. This is because the Episcopal Church restored the original language of the Nicene Creed which was shared by all Christians until the 6th Century.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with

the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, *(you may bow down here)* **was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.** *(you may rise)*

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic Church. *(*means universal)*

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection+ of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

+ you may make the Sign of the Cross here to acknowledge the hope that you will be resurrected

Prayers of the People *(please stand, kneel, or sit as you are able)*

The Reader and People pray responsively

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy"

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, let us pray to the Lord.

Here and after every petition the People respond

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

For those in positions of public trust especially Donald our president, Tony our governor, and Paul our County Executive, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, let us pray to the Lord.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; and for those who serve them especially...

- Arlo and Ashtyn's Hope *(children with Canavan's Disease)*
- Fr. Andrew and Amazing Grace AIDS Ministry *(Malawi)*
- Pastor David and Breaking the Chains Church *(in Felmers O. Chaney Correctional Center, Milwaukee)*
- Joe and Family Promise of Waukesha County *(homelessness)*
- Our Karén Refugee Families and their Beautiful Garden
- Dave, Judy, and the Pewaukee Food Pantry
- Fr. Daudi and Olivia in Tanzania
- Bill and our Veterans and Families Group

... let us pray to the Lord.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, let us pray to the Lord.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed Bartholomew and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

We will observe an extended moment of silent reflection before proceeding. Please feel free to relax and sit down if you prefer.

To you, O Lord our God.

Celebrant: Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.
Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and
I will refresh you. (Matthew 11:28)

The Peace *(All stand)*

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Sharing "peace" with one another is an ancient Christian tradition, not only in the words of Jesus, but also in the practices of the Christian community. As you are comfortable, you are welcome to shake hands when we pass the peace. Please respect those that are not comfortable with hand shaking. A simple nod or the peace sign is also a meaningful way to share the peace of Christ.

Announcements

Be sure to sign-up for our eNews using the Welcome! card in your pew rack or at our website. We also encourage you to follow us on our You Tube, Facebook and / or Instagram accounts to stay up-to-date and hit "Share" to let your friends see what's happening.

The Offertory

God tells us in the Bible, no one should feel pressured about giving (2 Corinthians 9:7). Please be at peace about what you choose to do or not to do. The most important offering God wants from us is our life & our hearts. You can place an offering in the basket passed by the ushers or in the wooden box marked Donations near the exit of the Church

Celebrant: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

Psalms 50:14

The Offertory Hymn: Shepherd of Souls

Blue Hymnal 343

The Great Thanksgiving

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and says

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Blue Hymnal S129

The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ* our Lord.

**Christ = Greek word for "The Messiah", it literally means "the anointed one" and points to Jesus as God's long-awaited king and savior who was promised, and prophesied, in the Hebrew Bible / Old Testament.*

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it, and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus

Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest*, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer *(say together)*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.* *(*1 Corinthians 5:7-8)*

The Agnus Dei (Latin for "Lamb of God")

Blue Hymnal S157

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Invitation to Spiritual Communion for livestream worshippers - a personal devotional that anyone can pray to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in circumstances which prevent them from actually receiving communion. The prayer will be displayed on the screen.

About Communion at St. Bartholomew's

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us, including children. If this doesn't describe where you're at, you are invited to come forward for a prayer of blessing which you can indicate by crossing your hands over your heart. Or feel free to stay in your seat to pray or reflect.

Please come to the rail in front of the altar to receive the Bread and Wine. We have Gluten free Communion Bread for those who desire it. We use alcoholic wine. Bread will be served to you as you stand or kneel. Small cups of wine will be presented to you. Take a cup of wine. As you leave, place the empty cup in the bowl near the end of the first pew and return to your seat. Thank you.

If you need Communion brought to you just let one of our Usbers know.

Prayer Ministry is offered confidentially during the Eucharist in the side chapel. Let us pray for all those in need; for yourself, family, or friends. You may also be anointed with oil for healing as the Bible teaches (James 5:14). We do so by making a small sign of the Cross upon one's forehead. All are welcome.

Communion Song 1: Change My Heart, O God

Change my heart, oh God. Make it ever true.
Change my heart, oh God. May I be like You.
You are the potter. I am the clay.
Mold me and make me. This is what I pray.
Change my heart, oh God. Make it ever true.
Change my heart, oh God. May I be like You.
Jesus, oh Jesus, come and fill Your lambs.
Jesus, oh Jesus, come and fill Your lambs. *[Repeat]*

Communion Song 2: Lead Me To The Cross

Savior I come, quiet my soul, remember.
Redemption's hill, where Your blood was spilled, for my ransom.

[Pre-Chorus]

Everything I once held dear, I count it all as loss.

[Chorus]

Lead me to the cross, where Your love poured out.
Bring me to my knees, Lord, I lay me down.
Rid me of myself, I belong to You.
Oh, lead me. Lead me to the cross.

You were as I, tempted and tried, human.
The word became flesh, bore my sin and death.
Now, You're risen.

[Pre-Chorus]

[Chorus]

To Your heart. To Your heart. To Your heart. To Your heart. *(sing 4 times)*

[Chorus - sing 2 times]

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

A Prayer attributed to St. Francis

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Solemn Prayer

(In Lent, in place of a seasonal blessing, a solemn Prayer over the People is used.)

Celebrant: Bow down before the Lord.

Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice for ever in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Closing Hymn: If Thou But Trust in God

Blue Hymnal 635

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit

People: Thanks be to God.

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Please join us for coffee and refreshments in the Parish Hall.

Please scan here to support the mission and ministry of St. Bart's.

We thank you for your generosity.



Celebrating the Lives of Saints

Christians have, since ancient times, honored people whose lives represent heroic commitment to Christ and who have borne witness to their faith even at the cost of their lives. Such witnesses, by the grace of God, live in every age. It should encourage us to realize that the saints, like us, are first and foremost redeemed sinners in whom the risen Christ's words to St. Paul come to fulfillment, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

This week, we celebrate:

SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

In the nine days of waiting between Jesus' Ascension and the Day of Pentecost, the disciples remained together in prayer. During this time, Peter reminded them that the defection and death of Judas had left the fellowship of the Twelve with a vacancy. The Acts of the Apostles records Peter's proposal that "one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection" (Acts 1:21–22). Two men were nominated, Joseph called Barsabbas who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. After prayer, the disciples cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias, who was then enrolled with the eleven.

Scripture does not relate anything further about Matthias, but gives him as an example to Christians of one whose faithful companionship with Jesus qualifies him to be a suitable witness to the resurrection, and whose service is unheralded and unsung.

There are, however, several non-biblical early Christian accounts of his mission and ministry, such as the second century text *The Acts of Andrew and Matthias in Cannibal City*. According to this account, immediately after the selection of Matthias, the apostles cast lots to determine which of them would take responsibility for which part of the world, and the unlucky Matthias was dispatched to a city of cannibals! Although an unabashedly fictionalized account, it is nevertheless an inspiring tale that shows Matthias being dealt the worst possible lot, and yet nevertheless responding to his call with equanimity, competence, and grace, which are the same qualities we see reflected in the canonical account that is given by Scripture.

Almighty God, who in the place of Judas chose your faithful servant Matthias to be numbered among the Twelve: Grant that your Church, being delivered from false apostles, may always be guided and governed by faithful and true pastors; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

BECOMING A MEMBER AT ST. BART'S

You can become a Member any Sunday.

What does it mean to be a Member of the Church?

1. Make it official.
2. Participate in worship, in-person and/or online, more often than you don't.
3. Connect with other Members.
4. Serve.
5. Give.

Membership Starts With Baptism

If you, or your children, are not baptized you can do so any Sunday. Simply talk to Father Joel and he'd be glad to answer any questions and help you prepare for Baptism.

So How Do I Make It Official?

- Talk to our pastor Father Joel.
- During Sunday worship you'll be invited up front to...
 - ◊ Renew your Baptismal Promises with two questions.
 - ◊ The congregation will then promise to "do all in their power to support you in your life in Christ."
 - ◊ We'll say a prayer for you.
 - ◊ We'll present you with a gift of Membership and a beautiful watercolor Membership Certificate by our own Dulcie Shupe.
 - ◊ Thunderous applause for you!
 - ◊ That's it...Congratulations!

So...Want To Make It Official?