

THE FIFTH SUNDAY  
AFTER THE EPIPHANY  
February 8, 2026



ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

[www.StBartsPewaukee.com](http://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@stbarts pewaukee.com](mailto:pastor@stbarts pewaukee.com)**.

## OUR WORSHIP SERVICE

Everything you need today is in this bulletin. 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 at *The Collect of the Day*. They will return at *The Peace*.



## WHO'S WHO

### Pastor / Rector

the Rev'd Joel Allen Prather  
[pastor@stbarts pewaukee.com](mailto:pastor@stbarts pewaukee.com)

### Music Director

Ethan Tarvin  
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### Prayer Requests

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## 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: Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the Living God, Fall fresh on me,  
Spirit of the Living God, Fall fresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, Fill me, Use me.  
Spirit of the Living God, Fall fresh on me.

### The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit .

**People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Glory to God in the Highest

Glory to God in the highest. Sing! Glory to God!  
Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth!  
Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship You, we give you thanks, we praise You for Your glory.  
Glory to God in the highest. Sing! Glory to God!  
Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth!  
For You alone are the Holy One. You alone are the Lord, the most high Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.  
Glory to God in the highest. Sing! Glory to God!  
Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth!

## **The Collect of the Day**

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.*

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## ***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.*

## **The Lessons** *(please be seated)*

### **A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (58:1-9a)**

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 112:1-9

*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.*

Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord \* and have great delight in his commandments! Their descendants will be mighty in the land; \* the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches will be in their house, \* and their righteousness will last for ever. Light shines in the darkness for the upright; \* the righteous are merciful and full of compassion. It is good for them to be generous in lending \* and to manage their affairs with justice. For they will never be shaken; \* the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance. They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; \* their heart is right; they put their trust in the Lord. Their heart is established and will not shrink, \* until they see their desire upon their enemies. They have given freely to the poor, \* and their righteousness stands fast for ever; they will hold up their head with honor.

## A reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (2:1-12)

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## The Gradual Hymn\*: Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

*Please stand as you are able. \*This is a song to prepare us to hear Jesus' words. Its ancient name is from the Latin "gradus", the place it was sung in Church.*

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green.  
The trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the Apple Tree.

### The Gospel (means "Good News")

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel + of our Lord Jesus Christ + according to Matthew + (5:13-20)

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

His beauty doth all things excel by faith I know, but ne'er can tell.  
The glory which I now can see, tis found in Jesus Christ the Appletree.

### The Sermon

*Fr. Joel 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*

## **The Prayers of the People**

*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 Sean our Presiding Bishop, for Matthew our Bishop, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

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

For those in positions of public trust especially Donald our President, Tony our Governor, Paul our County Executive, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

For the first inhabitants of Pewaukee: we honor the Potawatomi people, as well as the Oneida people who brought the Episcopal Church to Wisconsin. Help us to be instruments of your peace and justice, we pray to you, O Lord.

Let us pray for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, prisoners, the unemployed, and those in any need. Remembering especially those on our prayer list...

We also pray for our ministry partners:

- Arlo and Ashtyn's Hope (*Canavan's Disease*)
- Fr. Andrew and Amazing Grace AIDS Ministry (*Malawi*)
- Pastor David and Breaking The Chains Church (*Felmers O. Cheney Correctional Center, Milwaukee*)
- Joe and Family Promise of Waukesha County (*Homelessness*)
- Our Karén Families and their Beautiful Garden
- Dave, Judy, and the Pewaukee Food Pantry
- Bishop Daudi and Olivia in Tanzania
- Bill and our Veterans and Families Groups
- Sharon and our Waukesha County Affordable Housing Coalition

...we pray to you, O Lord.

For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O 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, we pray to you, O 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.

**To you, O Lord our God.**

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

Celebrant: For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **The Confession of Sin**

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

### **The Absolution**



## 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 YouTube, 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.*

## Offertory Hymn: Let Us Break Bread Together

Let us break bread together on our knees;  
Let us break bread together on our knees.

*[Refrain]*

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,  
Oh Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
Let us drink wine together on our knees. *[Refrain]*

Let us praise God together on our knees;  
Let us praise God together on our knees. *[Refrain]*

## 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.**

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

### Celebrant and People: Sanctus 3

Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might,  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory,  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

*The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues:*

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he

had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

*Celebrant and People pray together:*

**We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with Bartholomew and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

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

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*Together*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

# The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

*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 Ushers 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: Surrender

I'm giving you all my heart and all that is within. I lay it all down for the sake of You,  
my King. I'm giving you my dreams. I'm laying down my rights. I'm giving up my  
pride for the promise of new life.

[Chorus]

And I surrender all to You, all to You. And I surrender all to You, all to You.

I'm singing you this song. I'm waiting at the cross. And all the world holds dear, I  
count it all as loss. for the sake of knowing You, the glory of Your name.  
To know the lasting joy, even sharing in Your pain.

[Chorus]

## Communion Song 2: Holy Forever

A thousand generations falling down in worship to sing the song of ages to the Lamb, and all who've gone before us, and all who will believe will sing the song of ages to the Lamb.

Your name is the highest, Your name is the greatest,  
Your name stands above them all. All thrones and dominions, all powers and positions, Your name stands above them all.

And the angels cry, "Holy." All creations cries, "Holy."  
You are lifted high, Holy. Holy forever.

If you've been forgiven and you've been redeemed, sing the song forever to the Lamb. If you walk in freedom and if you bear His name, sing the song forever to the Lamb. We'll sing the song forever and amen.

And the angels cry, "Holy." All creations cries, "Holy."  
You are lifted high, Holy. Holy forever.

Hear Your people sing, "Holy," to the King of Kings, "Holy." You will always be Holy, Holy forever.

Your name is the highest, Your name is the greatest, Your name stands above them all. All thrones and dominions, all powers and positions, Your name stands above them all.

Jesus, Your name is the highest, Your name is the greatest, Your name stands above them all. All thrones and dominions, all powers and positions, Your name stands above them all.

## Prayers After Communion

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

***Celebrant & People:* Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. 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.**

## **The Blessing**

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## **Closing Hymn: This Little Light of Mine**

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

## **The Dismissal**

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

.....  
***Thank you for worshipping with us today.***

**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

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Today, we celebrate:

## **BAKHITA (JOSEPHINE MARGARET BAKHITA), Monastic, 1947**

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Josephine Margaret Bakhita was born in Olgossa in the Darfur region of southern Sudan. At the age of seven, she was kidnapped, and sold into slavery. The girl was so traumatized by the experience that she was unable to remember her name. Bakhita means “fortunate one” - a name given her by the same slave raiders that forcefully removed her from her family and village. Even as a child, she said that she experienced God in her heart without ever having been evangelized. She said, “Seeing the sun, the moon and the stars, I said to myself: Who could be the Master of these beautiful things? And I felt a great desire to see him, to know him and to pay him homage.”

Although technically illegal, the entire Sudan region in the late 19th century was a raiding ground for various groups of armed slave traders. Enslaved for 12 years, she endured untold hardship and suffering. She was resold several times, finally in 1883 to the Italian consul in Khartoum, Sudan. After he gave her to his friend Augusto Michieli, she went with him and his family to Italy where she worked as a nanny for their young daughter, Mimmina. Accompanying the girl to Venice’s Institute of the Catechumens, Josephine found herself drawn to Christianity. She was baptized as Josephine in 1890.

The hardships in her life meant that Josephine did not easily express her joy. But she often expressed the joy she experienced through Christ at the font where she was baptized, kissing it and saying: “Here I became one of the daughters of God!”

Josephine entered religious life in 1896 as a Canossian Daughter of Charity. In 1902, she went to the city of Schio (northeast of Verona), where she served her religious community. She soon became well loved by the children attending the sisters’ school and by the local citizens. By the end of her life, Josephine was renowned across Italy for her loving, spiritual wisdom.

Josephine knew the reality of being a slave, an immigrant, and a spiritual seeker. Even today, countless children, women, and men continue to be victimized, and trafficked into slavery. Josephine serves as an inspiration to those who work to free girls and women from oppression and violence, and to return them to their dignity in the full exercise of their rights. Not only is she a model of resistance, Josephine also reminds us of our obligation to strive against the evil and injustice of human trafficking and uphold the dignity of every human person.

# **BECOMING A MEMBER AT ST. BART'S**

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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?**