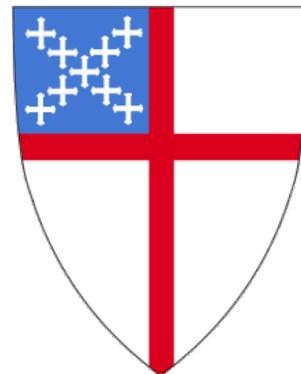




St. Bartholo-News

Fr. Michael Briggs, Rector
Becky Ibison, Office Administrator

Facebook: [Stbartholomewfortsmith](#)
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Office number: (479) 783-2101



December 15, 2016

The Community School for the Art is holding a Dress Rehearsal for the Parents, tonight at 6:30 p.m. and we are invited to attend. I hope you will come out and support these young people if you can make it.

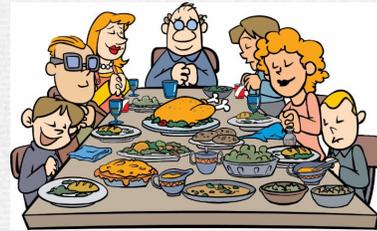
Greening of the Church! The greening of the Church will be this coming Sunday, December 18 at 1:30 p.m. Please stay after the 10:30 a.m. service for lunch. We will have soup, salad and dessert. You don't have to bring anything, just stay for lunch.

Christmas Day Pajama Eucharist at 8:00 a.m. (only service on December 25) Don't worry about dressing up for

Church, just come in your jammies to worship.

Breakfast and Coffee Hour

If you are able to help with **Breakfast**, which is between the 8: a.m. service and our Education/Formation time, please sign up on the lists on the Bulletin Board outside of the Parish Hall. If you have any questions concerning Breakfast or what it entails, please speak to Bella.



If you can help with **Coffee Hour**, which is after the 10:30 service and has moved back to the Parish Hall, please speak to Trudy. You may reach her by email at tehindley@prodigy.net or by phone at (479) 650-4954.

Fr. Michael's cell phone number is 901-461-8380. Please call him anytime between 8 am to 8 pm, or the office 479-783-2101. If it is an emergency, do not hesitate to call anytime.

Announcements

Bible Study will resume in February.

Please provide our office with a list of your favorite hymns that are in our Hymnal. We want to help our new organist (and those of us who will pick hymns) and help us as a congregation more comfortable singing on Sundays.

Education Hour is this Sunday, December 18 at 9:15 a.m. **However, this is the last class until we resume on Sunday, February 5, 2017.**

Handbell Choir: Our next practice will be on Sunday, December 18, after the 10:30 a.m. service, and at 4:45 p.m. on December 24th, just before the performance at the Christmas Eve 5:30 p.m. service. We will be playing a medley of Christmas carols.

The services for Christmas Eve will be as follows: 5:30 p.m. for the family service with the Bell Choir; 9:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. for Christmas Carols and a reception; 11:00 p.m. is the Midnight Mass with live organ and special guest musician.

If you know of someone who would be willing to work in the St. Bart's Nursery on Christmas Eve from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. to 12:30 p.m., please let Fr. Michael or Becky (office) know.

Please stop by on your way into Church and write a Christmas wish (not for you personally but for the bigger community of the world) on the snowflakes provided on the table to the left of the Chapel and then put them on the Christmas tree.

SACK LUNCH PROGRAM NEEDS YOUR HELP the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Please see Fr. Michael or Sue if you can help.

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who bought a gift card to be given to the Crisis Intervention Center. Because of your generosity, we were able to done 39 gift cards for a total of \$975.00. WOW!!!!

Remember to keep the Prayers of the People updated. These are the people presently on our prayer list: Lenore; Don; Kent; Roger; Ted; John; Johnny; Mark; Karen; Eli; Judy; James; Janet; Rodney; O.B.; Betty; Bella; Tricia; Shirl; Joe; Layne; Alex; Charles; Gene; Jeanette.

Please keep Fr. Michael updated with any changes by emailing or calling Becky at the church office.

If you would like to visit with Fr. Michael, are having surgery or any other needs, please call or email Fr. Michael. His cell number is 901-461-8380.

The Week of December 17, 2016 thru December 25, 2016

Saturday, December 17

5:30 P.M. Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December 18

8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist - Silvia, Curtis

9:00 A.M. Breakfast

9:15 A.M. Education Hour

10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist - Scott and Fred

Tuesday, December 20

5:30 P.M. Inner Christianity Group

6:00 P.M. No Bible Study until 2017

Friday, December 23

10:00 A.M. Next Step Meal Preparation

8:00 P.M. AA/Al Anon

Saturday, December 24

5:30 P.M. Family Service - Sue and Lucy

9:30-10:30 P.M. Reception and Christmas Carols

11:00 P.M. Midnight Mall - Curtis and Bella

Sunday, December 25

8:00 A.M. Said Mass (jammie Eucharist)

Reading for this week

The Collect:

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Reading:

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse

the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.2 In the
presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, * stir up your
strength and come to help us.3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.4 O
Lord God of hosts, * how long will you be angered despite the
prayers of your people?5 You have fed them with the bread of
tears; * you have given them bowls of tears to drink.6 You have
made us the derision of our neighbors, * and our enemies
laugh us to scorn.7 Restore us, O God of hosts; * show the
light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.16 Let your
hand be upon the man of your right hand, * the son of man you
have made so strong for yourself.17 And so will we never turn
away from you; * give us life, that we may call upon your
Name.18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; * show the light of
your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Second Reading:

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set
apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand
through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel
concerning his Son, who was descended from David according
to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power
according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead,
Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace
and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all
the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who
are called to belong to Jesus Christ,
To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When
his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they
lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy
Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling

to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Readings Next Week

- **Isaiah 7:10-16**
- **Romans 1:1-7**
- **Matthew 1:18-25**
- **Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18**

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