Jesus Christ
King of the Universe

November 26, 2017
St. Barnabas the Apostle

Thirty-Fourth Week of Ordinary Time

Monday, November 27
6:30 AM  For All the Faithful Departed of St. Barnabas
9:00 AM  Elizabeth Resnick
          Intentions of Terry and Jim Donnelly
          Mary Kostka
          John Scalise

Tuesday, November 28
6:30 AM  Kenneth Hubert
9:00 AM  Daniel Cronin

Wednesday, November 29
6:30 AM  Kenneth Hubert
9:00 AM  Blanche Hyland
          Nancy Byrne

Thursday, November 30  Saint Andrew
6:30 AM  Amparo Lydia Romero
9:00 AM  Deceased Members of the Grogan and Schmitt Families

Friday, December 1
6:30 AM  Joan Schimoler
9:00 AM  Marianne Rolston
2:00 PM  Wedding:
          Rae Ann Scalise and Michael Siewick

Saturday, December 2
8:00 AM  Mary Kay Rabbito
Fr. Charles 4:30 PM
          Josephine Faiella
          Raymond Vogts
          Anacleto, Aurora, Nelia and Judy Andes
          Bridget Carey
          Winnie Traynor
          Elsie Contessa
          Eileen Flynn

Fr. Kevin 7:00 PM
          Intentions of the Charismatic Prayer Group

Sunday, December 3  First Sunday of Advent
Fr. Charles 7:00 AM  For the People of Our Parish
Fr. Adrian 9:00 AM  Filomena and Giovanni Carillo
Fr. Charles 10:15 AM  Thomas Fenton
Fr. Kevin 10:30 AM  Mae Monahan
Fr. Adrian 12:00 PM  Robert Ryan
Fr. Kevin 5:00 PM  Stephen Clifford
Solidarity at the Service of All People in the Middle East

A statement from Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty; Bishop Oscar Cantú of Las Cruces, New Mexico, chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace; Bishop Joe S. Vásquez of Austin, Texas, chairman of the Committee on Migration; and Bishop Gregory J. Mansour of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn, chairman of the board of Catholic Relief Services

Our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East need our solidarity, and the Middle East needs our Christian brothers and sisters. A concern for our Christian brethren is inclusive and does not exclude a concern for all the peoples of the region who suffer violence and persecution, both minorities and majorities, both Muslims and Christians.

A recent USCCB delegation visit to Iraq confirmed once again that what has happened—and continues to happen—to Christians, Yezidis, Shia Muslims, and other minorities in Syria and Iraq, at the hands of the so-called "Islamic State," is genocide. It is important for Syrians and Iraqis of all faiths to recognize this as genocide, for that recognition is a way to help everyone come to grips with what is happening, and to form future generations that will reject any ideology that leads to genocidal acts and other atrocities. Likewise, a particular focus on minorities is essential to forming communities that respect the rights of all, including members of the majority.

What can our nation do? The United States can:

- Accept our nation's fair share of the most vulnerable families of all religions and ethnicities for resettlement as refugees, including special consideration of the victims of genocide and other atrocities;
- Encourage both the central government in Baghdad and the regional government in Erbil to strengthen the rule of law based on equal citizenship and ensure the protection of all, including vulnerable minorities; U.S. assistance should help local and national efforts to improve policing and the judiciary, while encouraging appropriate self-governance at the local level; similar actions will also be needed in Syria; and
- Provide generous U.S. humanitarian and development assistance to refugees, displaced persons and communities in Iraq and Syria as they rebuild, including funding for trusted faith-based non-governmental agencies like Catholic Relief Services and local Caritas agencies so that aid reaches all groups, including majority and minority communities.

To focus attention on the plight of Christians and other minorities is not to ignore the suffering of others. Rather, by focusing on the most vulnerable members of society, we strengthen the entire fabric of society to protect the rights of all.
What’s Pastor Thinking

When Vince Lombardi, the successful professional football coach in the 1960s, was asked how he produced winning teams, he declared that any group of naturally-endowed football athletes could win more games than they lost if they concentrated on the "little things" of the game, the fundamentals. After a close game won by his Green Bay Packers, Lombardi called a special session for Monday morning because he felt his players were losing sight of the small details that guarantee victory. Appearing before his players, he held a football above his head and announced: "Men, we need to review the basics of the game. This is a football." Max McGee, so the story goes, drawled, "That's a little fast, coach. Go over that again."

In today’s Gospel Jesus has gathered his team, his disciples, around him for one of the last teaching sessions on the meaning of the "Kingdom of God": what it is, who is in it, what is expected of people who are a part of it. He returns to fundamentals, and in the process he helps us to understand how the game of life is to be played.

One of the things he says is that there comes a time when our conduct is subjected to judgment. Nations and people will come before the King, and there is a separating, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. Jesus asks each of them one question, "Well, what did you make out of what was given to you?" At some point in our lives, Jesus says, we have to give an accounting. But note, that the story Jesus is telling is about small things. "I was hungry and you gave me food." For most of us, our opportunity to please God will not be the result of some benevolent act that impacts all of humankind. It will be a small act of caring directed toward an individual. "As you did it unto one of the least of these members of my family, you did it to me," says the King. In small things love is revealed.

So often, because we can't do something great, we do nothing at all; but there are kindnesses which anyone can do. To do them is to walk the Christian way and to win the approval of the King. "Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Acts of caring and compassion demonstrate that a person is a citizen of the Kingdom.
Bread and Wine
Is presented in loving memory of Joan Schimoler
from Clara and Peter Sollecito

Sanctuary Lamp
Is lit as a birthday remembrance of Marianne Rolston
from her friend

Advent Wreath Candles
To memorialize the Advent Wreath candle for a loved one please contact the rectory.
The offering is $50 for each candle.

We Pray for Our Sick

The Week at a Glance
Sunday:
1:30 PM Baptisms, Church
7:30 PM Al-Anon, School

Monday:
9:00 AM K & Grade 7 attending Mass
7:30 PM Charismatics, UC

Tuesday:
9:00 AM Grade 3 attending Mass

Wednesday:
9:00 AM Grade 2 attending Mass
7:00 PM CHOSEN L8, HFC
7:30 PM Al-Anon, Rectory
7:30 PM RCIA, Convent
8:00 PM Choir

Thursday:
9:00 AM Grade 4 attending Mass
7:00 PM Bible Study, Rectory
7:00 PM CHOSEN L8, HFC

Friday:
1:30 PM Lectio Divina, Rectory
7:00 PM Lectio Divina, Rectory
8:00 PM Adoration, Church

Saturday:
11:30 AM Baptisms, Church
12:30 PM Confessions, Church

Catholic Ministries Appeal
Goal: $106,400 Donors: 530
Pledged: $121,742
Received: $116,627

Special Collections
This Weekend
December 3
December 8
New Projects
Maintenance & Repair
Immaculate Conception
Social Ministry Advent Giving
As we journey together this Advent Season, Social Ministry invites you to participate in our weekly Advent Giving Program. By donating just ONE item each Sunday of Advent, it would help fill our pantry shelves and provide for our needy families. Many thanks and blessings during this holy season.

1st Sunday of Advent (Dec 3rd) - Coffee, tea, juice
2nd Sunday of Advent (Dec 10th) - Dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent
3rd Sunday of Advent (Dec 17th) - Paper towels, tissues, napkins
4th Sunday of Advent - Toothpaste, bar soap, shampoo/conditioner

Toys for Texas
The Stephen Siller Foundation, an organization set up in memory of a Stephen Siller a NYC firefighter who died on 9/11, is organizing a trip to Orange County Texas to help families with supplies and bring toys to the displaced children so that they may enjoy some Christmas Magic. The Foundation is working with Fr. Jerry McGrath of the Arch Diocese of Beaumont along with two Baptist churches in the county to coordinate the efforts of the Foundation. To participate please bring an unwrapped toy to the office of David G. McDonough Assemblyman District 14 located at 404 Bedford Ave, Bellmore Monday - Friday 9:00AM - 4:00 PM. Clearly label that these are ‘Toys for Texas.’

St. Vincent de Paul
Today's feast suggests triumph for we are celebrating the Feast of Jesus Christ, Universal King. Jesus Christ is King, but He is a very special sort of King. Today we are reminding ourselves that it was through Him all things were made. We are also reminding ourselves that Jesus Christ made man, and we admire all that we love, and all that attracts us in the individual people whom we meet and love. We are citizens of His Kingdom because He made us through Baptism. Your generosity has helped make Thanksgiving day for the poor and needy a happy one.

RCIA News
On Sunday, December 3rd, during the 10:30 AM Mass, we will celebrate the Rite of Welcome for those adults in our parish who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter. Assembling publicly for the first time, the candidates declare their intention to prepare for the Sacraments. The gathered community accepts them as persons who intend to become full members of the Church. Please welcome and pray for our catechumens Christopher Ambruster and Franchesca Basso and our candidates for full Communion - Dana DiGirolamo, Jenna Pascarello and Samantha Schwartz.

Ems, Lectors & Altar Servers
The sign-up sheet for Extraordinary Ministers and Lectors for the Immaculate Conception, Friday, December 8th, is in the Sacristy. Please sign up after Mass.

Banns of Marriage
Brian Urrutia and Aimee Kelly
Trip to Radio City Music Hall
The date of the outing is December 1st and we will attend the 7:30 PM show. The cost of the ticket will be your choice, according to the location you choose.
3rd Mezzanine: $55.00 per ticket*
2nd Mezzanine & Side Orchestra: $65.00 per ticket*
1st Mezzanine & Orchestra: $90.00 per ticket*
Prime (more front and centered in the orchestra and 1st Mezzanine) $105.00 a ticket*
Premium (these are the best seats in the house in orchestra and 1st Mezzanine) $135.00*
*Each ticket will have an additional $3.50 service fee.
The charge for the bus will be divided by the number of seats that are sold.
** Please Note** Two non-refundable tickets were ordered for the show by someone who decided not to go. These tickets are available for $206 including the bus. If you are interested in purchasing them please call the rectory.

March for Life 2018
Save the Date! March for Life 2018 - January 19, 2018. This year’s theme is “Love Saves Lives.” Join us on our bus trip to Washington, DC as we join hundreds of thousands of Americans in a peace pilgrimage on behalf of the unborn. It’s an experience that you’ll never forget! Details to follow in the coming weeks. For more information please contact Vin Murray at 781-7846.

Birthright
Pregnant? Need Help? Birthright has a 24 - hour hotline for anyone needing assistance and loving support during pregnancy. Call (800) 550-4900. The following locations have direct numbers: Wantagh 785-4070; Islip (631) 277-3888; Hampton Bays (631) 728-8900; Southhold (631) 876-5138; and Rocky Point (631) 821-9727.

Celebration of Mary
Join the Friends of the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception for a Celebration of Mary to be held at the Seminary on Sunday, December 3rd. Journey to the heart of Mary through Theology, Spirituality, and the Arts. Beginning with Mass at 10:00 AM, celebrated by Bishop Andrzej Zglejszewski, Auxiliary Bishop of Rockville Centre, the day will include lunch and several presentations. Advance registration is required. $40 per guest. For reservations and information, contact the Seminary Development Office at (631) 423-0483 ext. 102 or email bmalone@icseminary.edu.

Good Shepherd Hospice
Good Shepherd Hospice is proud to share that a new hospice inpatient unit will open at Mercy Medical Center in Rockville Centre in the Summer of 2018. We are excited to continue our mission to provide compassionate, comprehensive and family-focused care to patients and families and offer this special service in Nassau County. Call 631-465-6350 or visit goodshepherdhospice.chsli.org/ to learn more.

Charismatic Prayer Group
Our meetings are held every Monday evening in the Holy Family Chapel from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM. Coffee and cake are served after every meeting. Please join us. For more information, call Ellen O’Malley at 221-0574.

St. Barnabas Rosary Makers
The St. Barnabas Rosary Makers are dedicated to promoting the mission of our Blessed Mother which is the message of the Rosary. Our goal is to teach and spread this sacred devotion, first by making rosaries, and then sending them to different countries throughout the world. We are looking to invite new members to join our group. The next meeting dates are as follows: November 29th, and December 20th at 7:00 PM in the school cafeteria. Please note, we will not be meeting every Wednesday as previously scheduled.
Prayer Shawl Ministry
The St. Barnabas Prayer Shawl Ministry knits and crochets shawls and lap blankets for parishioners who are in the hospital or nursing home, or suffering in some way, and might draw comfort from receiving the prayer shawl. If you know of anyone who would benefit from a shawl or blanket please contact the rectory at 785-0054 and we will gladly provide you with one.

Holiday Craft and Gift Fair
Notre Dame Parish, New Hyde Park is seeking vendors for a Holiday Craft and Gift Fair on Saturday, December 9th from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Tables are $55. If interested, email ndemain@gmail.com or call Notre Dame Rectory at 352-7203 Monday - Friday from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM and ask for Carole.

Widows, Widowers, Divorced and Single Catholics of L.I.
Meetings are held every 4th Wednesday at 7:30 PM at St. Frances De Chantal School at 1309 Wantagh Ave., Wantagh. The next new member orientation is on Wednesday, November 29th. Bring proof of single status to join. Refreshments are served after the meeting. For information, call Carol at 794-4933.

Widows and Widowers
Our Christmas Party/Meeting will be on Sunday, December 10th at 12:30 PM at the Wantagh Inn. Price is $28. Checks should be sent to Terry Hoffmann, 66 Whalers Cove, Babylon 11702 no later than December 5th. Reservations must be received by the due date. No payments will be accepted at the door! Since this is a party, you are welcome to bring a guest. Please remember, we must know by the due date. Annual fees of $10 are due in December. If you have any questions, please contact either Bernadette Mundy at 221-4516 or Terry Hoffmann at (631) 669-0198. We look forward to seeing you on December 10th!

Elvis and Sinatra Night
Don’t miss the event of the year with a professional Elvis impersonator! Saturday, November 25th from 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM at St. Frances de Chantal Auditorium located at 1309 Wantagh Avenue, Wantagh. Cost is $40 for dinner, drinks and show. Call 785-2333, ext. 325 for tickets.

Christmas Fair
St. William the Abbott located at 2001 Jackson Ave., Seaford is having their 41st annual Christmas Fair on Saturday, December 2nd and Sunday, December 3rd from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM both days. More than 60 Artisans for your shopping pleasure. In addition to all the wonderful items, they will offer hot and cold food, fresh evergreen wreaths, baked good, raffle baskets, grand 50/50 and of course, Santa Claus will visit the boys and girls.

Regular Sacrificial Giving
You can contribute to St. Barnabas with on-line banking and bill paying services. Call the rectory to request the service. Send a check to St. Barnabas with your weekly collection donation indicated. Include your Name, Address & Envelope Number. Each week this amount will be credited to your account. This eliminates using weekly envelopes and guarantees that your donation will be received.

Estate Planning
When preparing your estate plan, please consider a bequest to The Parish of St. Barnabas, Bellmore. You can make a contribution to support ongoing operations of the Church or contribute to a particular project. Your legal counsel can help you refine the bequest language to suit your specific wishes for The Parish of St. Barnabas. Thank you.

To place a notice in our Bulletin email Bulletin11710@aol.com.
Come Join Us For a Joyful Start
To Your Christmas Season

Lessons and Carols

Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017 7:00pm

Presented At
St. Barnabas R.C. Church
2320 Bedford Ave., Bellmore NY 11710

Featuring
The St. Barnabas Choir
William Dione, Music Director

Admission is Free

If you would like to bring a nonperishable food item for our pantry’s Christmas baskets, please leave it in the church lobby with our thanks!
If you wish to arrange a baptism, please contact the rectory at 516-785-0054. Once your request is received you will be invited to meet one of the priests. This meeting offers parents an opportunity to review the baptism ceremony and set the date. The meeting is more conversational than instructional. Forms need to be completed giving information on the parents, child’s date and place of birth, as well as the names and religious affiliation of the sponsors. At least one sponsor must be a practicing Catholic.

Baptisms are held on Saturday at 11:30 AM, and Sunday at 1:30 PM, when the Church is available.

If you wish to hold a private baptism you must bring a visiting priest to perform the baptism service. Private baptisms may be held on Saturday at 1:30 PM and 3:00 PM and on Sunday at 3:00 PM, if these times are available.

First time parents need to attend a Baptism Class. Classes are held in the Holy Family Chapel on Agape Sunday, the second Sunday of the month. Crying babies and noisy children are welcome. We begin with Mass at 10:15, when your baby will be welcomed to St. Barnabas, followed by refreshments and the class.

The dates for class are December 10, January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10, (10:30 Mass for July 8, August 12 and September 9).

May the Lord preserve the members of our Army, National Guard, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Merchant Marine, Coast Guard and Peace Corps from all harm.

**US ARMY:**

- General Paul Hurley
- PFC David Calame, Jr.
- PFC Justin Oney
- Chaplain Spec Kevin A. Bauer
- Lt. Col. Eric Reid
- SPFC Sean Luhman
- SPC Andrew Crowley III
- Lt. Richard Joseph Holahan
- Major Benjamin H. Klimkowski
- Staff Sgt. Eric S. Loughran
- Staff Sgt. Christopher Price
- Sgt. Kieran Riordan
- First Lt
- Marlene Dwyer
- Cpl. Alexandra Caudullo
- Sgt. 1st Class
- Steven Seidenstein
- SPC Christopher Sidor
- PFC Matthew Cassella

**NATIONAL GUARD:**

- Major James McLean
- A1C James Mikowski
- Airman First Class Thomas Ruggiero

**US NAVY:**

- STS Thomas Kerley
- Petty Off. ET3 Edward F. Faulkner
- GM1 Brian Kopp
- Ensign John Connors
- HM3 Philip LeSueur
- MA2 Richard Kaercher
- CPO Nicolas Cuervo
- Richard E. Feldman
- SN Andrew Freire
- Joseph Polizzi
- Christopher Polizzi
- Frank James Geary
- Vincent Cino

**US MARINES:**

- Sgt. William D. Loughran, IV
- Major Luke T. Holian
- Gunnery Sgt. Scott Murray
- Corporal Joseph Finno
- LCPL Brendan Whelan
- PFC Ryan Baranek
- Pvt. Brian Hussey
- Pvt. Richard Graziano
- PFC James Brush
- PFC James Owens
- PFC William Corrigan
- LCPL Matthew Maniet
- PFC Hunter Margolnick
- Joseph Clerici MT3

**US AIR FORCE:**

- Capt. McLean G. Bethea
- Rev. Major Timothy Hirten
- Nicholas P. Wright

**US MERCHANT MARINE:**

- Lt. J.G. Eric Stumpel

**US COAST GUARD:**


**US PEACE CORPS:**

- Patrick Coons
Hon. Frank G. Rossetti, Carmela & Frank Cheeks, The deceased members of the Rotola Family; The deceased members of the Camillery, Abdella, Dimech & Esposito Families; Darlene Morrone, Belitti, Ponzio & DeSimone Families; Julian & Dom Tambone, Tina Breuer, Tommy & Billy Burns, baby Richie Gorpro, Bob L'Abbate, Penny & Ferdinand Trivigno; Carol Burkart & Louis Jaktlitsch; The Sherman, Mantia Webber, Toto & Messori Families, Michael & Lorraine Sherman; Margaret, Peter, Robert, Karen, Mary & John Choray, John P., Elizabeth & John J. Savage, Sally Ann Warren, Sarah and Daniel Moore, Dolores Platt Espinosa; The deceased member of the Cronin & Pekoff Families; Philip & Anne Hegarty, Elizabeth & Bernard Cunningham & Nancy Williams; Edward & Catherine Iannielli & Gregory Vaughan; Angela Laurence & Rose Grelo, Christine Louis F., Louis & Zita Casagrande, Anthony Iannell, Virginia & Frank Principe, Marie & Joseph Wilde, Helen & Anthony Marich; Margaret, James, Elizabeth, John, Frances McGovern, Maria Echeverly, Pedro Luis, Gloria & Yustavo Rico; Dorine & Neil Guiney, Tom & Helen Kiley, Fr. Edward Burn, Fr. Daniel Potterton, Fr. Frank Kelley, Fr. Thomas White; Giacome Fontana; Daniel Hilario, Benvenida Collado, Alfio DiFranco; Deceased Members of the Schiavone, Salvenini, Vlieg, Poluck and Moduagno Families; Mabel, John, Helen & Sr. Catherine O’Shaughnessy, Charles, Emma & Helen Ewald, Cecelia, Agnes & Jerome Brennan; Mary & Michael Zapp, Eleanor & Charlie Iuliuacci, Mary & Joseph Sforza, Camille & Steven Valenti Lee & Paul Travia; Edward Kennedy, James J., Robert W., Thomas J. Day; Deceased member of the J. Gillen & Creamer Families; Antonio, Catherine & Louis Marsico, Domenico & Angela Chirrella and Maria & Fedel Catanzariti; The Votke, Linneman, Trauell, Sadlo Families and Helen Bialalratti; Stephen A. Jr., Cornelius, Arlene, Jeremiah & Ann Clifford, Bill, Mary Billy -Jean Sugihara, Charles Mary, Andrew & Meta Miller, Bill, Edna & George Miller; John, Erminia, Sam & Marie DeSantis, Lena & Henry Ceravino, Nancy & Dan Targiano, Anita & Joe Clappi; Richard & Geraldine Heinz, William & Winitred Heinz; Vito Orlando, Jr., Charles, Angelo & Arthur D'Alessandro, Vito & Frances Urgente;Angelo La Calupstra, Ellen Tyler, Mary Ann Quinn, James Hillock, Margaret & John Hickey, Mary & Henry Gravina; Geraldine Papageorge, Deborah Lowery; Assunta Falcone; Gloriann Iadevaio, Robert Rhodes, Jean Anita; The Gennattasio-Rei Family; Francesca & Dominick Vamgeli; The Kennyn Family; The Schiebel Family; Adeline & Peter Villella, Jr., Mary & Fred Aprigliano, Frances & Alfred Alessandro; Stanley, Gloria, Raymond, Waclaw & Scholastyka Fabisiak, Walter & Olympia Gasket; The Limbog Family; Alfonsina & Raffaele Piemonte, Antonio & Vita Patti, Giovanni Vanella; Dorothy Camilleri, The Deceased Members of the Camilleri & McCoy Families;Vincent Baccia; Richard Crozier, Jr., Denis Colaiacovo; The Cleary Family; John, Patricia, Michael & Kelly Cosgrove; Kathleen, Peter & Pete Foti, Andrew & Kathryn Simkovic, George & Kerri Vandenheuvel; Antonio Marsico; Elizabeth & Domanick Salvetti, Clara Kenney, Taylor Kent, Fred & Angela DiBartolo, Kenneth Brodley; Jeffrey & Susan Davis, Kevin Bartley, Nicholas S. Tochelli,III; The McHale Family, The Harrington Family; Armando Forte, The Forte Family, The D'Andrea Family, Jean Williams, Mimi (Elizabeth) McConnell; Gerard Crowley, William, Olympia & Lousis Guarno; The Cracco Family; The deceased members of the Kineke, Ricci, Quinn & Vogel families; Chester Lemanski, Alfred & Walter Krawiec, Myron Sudol, Jean Wilczynski, Veronica & Matthew Tencza; John McDevitt, Bobby Beach, Irene & Evelyn Parrillo, Mave DeFino, Wayne Grant, Tom Petty; Clemente, Anna & Nancy Mignone; Alvera & Rocco Aquila, Sophie & Peter Sposato, Pauline & John Cikowski, Dotty & John Montefinise, Fred Tosto, Mr. & Mrs. Tortora; Genovevse Sevver, Salvatore DiLucias, Carmine Elvezio, The deceased members of the Ferris family, Pedro-Margot Rivera, Rosalinda Riley, Virginia Budet, Cuba Catinchi, Felipita Vasquez, Richard Arabia; Vincent T., Mary & Vincent J. Angrisani, Maryann & Gina Sirotta; The Cusa, Sisti and Graziano Families; The O'Keefe and Villanueva Families; Anna & John Brady, The deceased members of the Brady and Bahnken Families, Grace, Henry, Gerard Sr.
Christians have lived in the Middle East since Pentecost and are spread across the entire region. Today, Christians in the Middle East form a grand mosaic comprised of Catholic Churches, Eastern Orthodox Churches, Oriental Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and Protestant communities. Rather than living in segregated communities, Christians are indigenous and have been integrated into their societies for centuries. While not a majority in any Middle Eastern country, ancient Christian communities have long contributed vibrantly to their societies in the fields of science, philosophy, education, and medicine.

The seven Catholic Churches in the Middle East are the Latin, Maronite, Melkite, Armenian, Chaldean, Coptic, and Syrian Churches. The size, composition and location of these communities vary considerably. Some, like the Maronite Church in Lebanon, are strongly concentrated in one country, while others, like the Syrian Church, are spread across several countries. The Latin Church has a very large immigrant, as well as indigenous, population.

Over the centuries, the Muslims majority has often lived together with Christians and other religious minorities in peace. In recent years, the Middle East has faced war, globalization, and shifts in culture and identity. Societal and political uncertainty creates fertile ground for fundamentalist interpretations of political, legal and cultural aspects of society. Christians and other minorities have felt increased pressure and are particularly vulnerable.

Iraq’s Christian population exemplifies the effects of war on a religious minority. Historically, Christians have played a substantive role in Iraq. Following the 2003 U.S. invasion, the political and social exclusion of Sunnis resulted in the rise of extremism that often targeted Christians, who became associated with the West in the minds of extremists. The so-called Islamic State arose, killing Christians and Muslims alike, pressing women and girls into sexual servitude, causing thousands to flee or be forcibly converted, and seizing resources to fund their violent rampage. Christians and other religious minorities, notably the Yazidis, fled and the numbers of Christians dwindled. As the tide of ISIS is driven back, Christians who remain support the establishment of the rule of law and inclusive communities. Christian bishops have stressed the need to remain integrated with the broader community in order to rebuild security in the diverse social fabric of Iraq, promoting the vision of a nation that respects the rights of all.

Syrians remain under threat from not only ISIS, but from their own civil war that began in 2011. Almost 7 million Syrians have been displaced within their own country and over 4.8 million are refugees. Syrian Christians represent a disproportionately small percentage of refugees due to a number of complex factors, including their level of education, relationships to relatives overseas, and government associations. Many seek shelter in neighboring Lebanon and Jordan, where Christian communities are more established. Pope Francis has denounced the persecution, torture and killing of Christians in Syria, calling it a "form of genocide" that must end. The refugee situation has overwhelmed neighboring countries as well as Europe, creating new challenges for social cohesion.

In Egypt, the Coptic Orthodox Church constitutes the largest Christian presence in the region, tracing its tradition back to ancient roots. Copts and other religious minorities in Egypt face religious discrimination and persecution as their country suffers from political uncertainty. They are discriminated against in access to education and employment, the ability to own and operate businesses, and to practice their faith freely and openly. It is difficult for them to secure building permits for churches, and church buildings have been destroyed. Christians have been physically harassed, kidnapped, and even killed.

In the Holy Land, the political conflict between Israelis and Palestinians continues to fuel a humanitarian situation for Arab Christians and Muslims in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. The crisis is particularly dire for Christians and Muslims in Gaza. The separation wall, expanding Israeli settlements, and numerous checkpoints restrict movements of Palestinians and damage their economy. Actions from both sides compromise the legitimate aspirations of Israelis for security and recognition, and of Palestinians for a viable and independent state. The economic and political situation caused by the occupation of the Palestinian lands leads Christians to emigrate.
Throughout the Middle East Christians are emigrating. In addition to fleeing discrimination and persecution from extremists, Christians emigrate in search of educational and economic opportunities. Even if they have the appropriate qualifications, Christians often are faced with a scarcity of job opportunities commensurate with their education. Since Christians of the Middle East are relatively well-educated, they make desirable candidates for immigration and can more easily obtain work visas. The Middle East is witnessing a brain drain of Christians.

Often countries and regions like the United States, Western Europe, Latin America and Australia exert a “pull” on potential Christian emigrants due to their economic opportunities and Christian-majority populations. As local populations dwindle, communities also become more fragmented. Rather than remain in increasingly isolating pockets, many desire to reunite with more prosperous relatives and communities outside the region.

Today the Church continues to stand in solidarity at the service of all people in the Middle East, Christian and Muslim, minority and majority. Pope Francis has repeatedly spoken out against the horrific incidents committed against ethnic and religious minorities. He recognizes the special role of the Christian presence in the Middle East in bearing witness to Jesus and in fostering fraternity, unity, and dialogue. He continues to condemn the atrocities and urges the international community to address the needs of minorities “above all by promoting peace through negotiation and diplomacy, … and stopping as soon as possible the violence…”

SOME USCCB RESPONSES

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops expresses solidarity with Christians and all those who suffer from the instability and violence in the region. U.S. bishops confirm that “a concern for our Christian brethren is inclusive and does not exclude a concern for all the peoples of the region who suffer violence and persecution.”

Holy Land: USCCB urges the U.S. government to exercise strong leadership for a two-state solution, a just peace demands recognition, security and an end to violence for the state of Israel, an end to Israeli occupation of East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza, and the establishment of an internationally-recognized and viable Palestinian state. Religious freedom and access to the holy sites for all faiths must be respected.

Syria and Iraq: Led by Pope Francis, USCCB and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) continue to urge the United States to work with other governments towards certain goals in Iraq and Syria: obtaining ceasefires, initiating serious negotiations, providing impartial humanitarian assistance, and encouraging building inclusive societies.

USCCB policy has also "recognize[d] that it may be necessary for the international community to use proportionate and discriminate force to stop … unjust aggressors [in Syria and Iraq] and to protect religious minorities and civilians within the framework of international and humanitarian law.” While the continued use of military force may be necessary, it should not be the only tool used to overcome ISIS. USCCB urges the United States to adopt a more holistic intervention that can address political exclusion and economic desperation that are being manipulated by ISIS in its recruitment efforts. It is also critical to scale up humanitarian and development assistance to host countries and trusted NGOs, including faith-based NGOs like our own CRS.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Urge our nation to support the UN brokered peace process for Syria. Support strong U.S. leadership to promote peace and stability in the Middle East.

Accept our nation’s fair share of the most vulnerable families of all religions and ethnicities for resettlement as refugees, paying attention to the victims of genocide and other atrocities.

Encourage both local and international governments to strengthen the rule of law based on equal citizenship and ensure the protection of all, including vulnerable minorities; U.S. assistance should help local and national efforts to improve policing and the judiciary, while encouraging appropriate self-governance at the local level.

Provide generous U.S. humanitarian and development assistance to refugees, displaced persons and communities, including funding for trusted faith-based non-governmental agencies like Catholic Relief Services and local Caritas agencies so that aid reaches all groups, including majority and minority communities.
Calling all angels, stars, townspeople, and shepherds, why not take some time this holiday season to let the joy of Christmas fill your heart! Come experience the true meaning of the very first Christmas. Children age 3 and up are invited to participate in this memorable Advent presentation. We are fortunate to have children of all ages participate in this performance from middle and high school ages to little ones who are first time angels and shepherds. Why not join us? Everyone is welcome! Let us join together as a faith filled community to celebrate the joy of the very First Christmas. Practices will be held: Friday, December 1st 6-8pm (meet in upper church – dismissal from Holy Family Chapel) and Wednesday, December 6th, 6-8pm upper church only. If you are interested in participating, simply join us on Friday or email Lyn Politi at stbarnabasfamilyliturgy@gmail.com

The Parish of St. Barnabas the Apostle presents....

“The Story of the First Christmas”

Sunday, December 10th, 2017 at 3:00pm
Religious Education

We are still in need of adults to work one on one or in a small group environment. We have a few students that need either a one-on-one learning environment or a small group environment and need someone to work with them.

We are also in need of Adult Volunteers to be Substitutes, Hall Monitors and Attendance/Lobby Aides for our Religious Education program. Please call the Office of Christian Formation at 785-0130 to volunteer or to get more information.

Why do I have to go to Mass?  
(Chapter 15)  
Encountering Jesus in Eucharist

The purpose of this lesson is to lead us to understand the beauty and richness of the Mass and to see it as our “front row seat” in the most important event in human history.

- If someone at school asked you why you go to church on Sunday, what would you say?
- Do you think it is important to go to church every Sunday and on holy days of obligation? Why or why not?
- At times in Church history-and even today in some parts of the world-people have been killed for practicing the Catholic Faith. If practicing your Catholic Faith were illegal, would there be enough evidence to convict you of being Catholic?
- What are some important ways you can prepare to encounter Jesus at Mass?

Next Level 7 December 6 or 7
Level 8 December 13 or 14
The 4 Confirmation Forms are due December 13th or 14th
At the recently concluded 2017 General Assembly of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, American bishops unanimously approved pursuing the cause for canonization of Nicholas William Black Elk, Sr.

In his book Black Elk Speaks, author John Neihardt interviewed Nicholas William Black Elk, Sr., a Lakota holy man who recounted pre-reservation life and events he witnessed, including Custer’s Last Stand and the Wounded Knee massacre. Later, anthropologist Joseph Epes Brown interviewed Black Elk about Lakota religious traditions for his book The Sacred Pipe (1953). Both works are touched with a certain sadness, that of a man whose best days have passed. Together they introduced millions to the richness of Native American traditions.

But Black Elk’s prestige among his own people had little to do with these books. It was based more on his ministry as a Catholic catechist on South Dakota reservations. A convert to Catholicism, for nearly 50 years he helped prepared people for Baptism, led prayer meetings, organized events for Native American Catholics, and worked as a lay missionary to the Lakota (also called Sioux).

A member of the Oglala branch of the Lakota Sioux, Black Elk was born around 1865 on the Little Powder River in what is now Wyoming. As a child, he told Neihardt: We roamed the country freely, and this country belonged to us in the first place. There was plenty of game and we were never hungry. But since the white man came we were fighting all the time.

A second cousin of the great war chief Crazy Horse, as a teen Black Elk was at the Battle of Little Bighorn. But the defining moment in his life occurred earlier at age 9, when he experienced a vision that defined his future. He would be a medicine man. His vocation was to heal, spiritually and physically.

For a while, though, he traveled the world. In 1886, he joined Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show and toured Europe for nearly two years. Returning to the Oglala reservation at Pine Ridge, South Dakota, he became involved in the Ghost Dance movement, an attempt to revive Native American culture. Later at Wounded Knee, he helped carry the wounded to safety. In its aftermath, he said: “A people’s dream died there.”

He continued his healing work, but slowly was moving toward Catholicism. His first wife was Catholic and so were their children. In 1904, then a widower, he had a unique conversion experience. He was visiting a sick child when an arriving blackrobe forcibly expelled him. (*The Catholic priests were called Sina Sapa, or “blackrobes.”) This jarring incident, his daughter recalled, was like St. Paul “falling off a horse.” Sensing that the priest’s healing powers were greater than his, Black Elk took
religious instruction and on December 6th, the Feast of St. Nicholas, he was baptized Nicholas.

In some ways, converting wasn’t that much of a stretch. Lakota spirituality sees the world as a sacred place charged with spiritual forces, not unlike the Catholic sacramental worldview. Both have a communitarian focus, another important factor that eased Black Elk’s conversion. While he didn’t abandon the traditional Lakota worldview, he did resituate it within the context of his Catholic faith.

He also discovered a new calling. He told a friend: “I want to be a catechist the rest of my life.” Before the arrival of Native clergy, catechists held the local Catholic community together. In the absence of a priest, they led prayers, and they read and explained scripture. They visited the sick, sometimes they baptized, and they led burial services. They instructed both adults and children. One Jesuit said they “do more good than many a priest.”

It wasn’t easy work. The priests could be demanding, some of his people rejected him, and he was frequently penniless, having given away his money. But the Jesuits came to depend on him greatly. By the time of Black Elk’s death in 1950, it was estimated that he participated in the conversion of over 400 people, and was godfather to over a hundred. A peer said, “When he got up he really preached. People sat there and just listened to him.” One priest called him a “second St. Paul.”

In the best of times, reservation life could be difficult, poverty and alcoholism being major problems. One historian notes that opposition to the use of alcohol was a trademark of Lakota Catholic life. Members of the St. Joseph’s Society, a Catholic men’s group on the reservations, abstained from drink. At the Sioux Catholic Congresses, a gathering of Catholics from all the reservations, temperance societies were founded and pledges made.

In the summer of 1930, Nick (as he was known) received a visit from John Neihardt, a poet and author who interviewed him for a book he was writing. The resulting work, which took Black Elk’s life up to Wounded Knee in 1890, became the best-read book on Native American life. But as his latest biographer Michael Steltenkamp aptly comments, the last “sixty years of the man’s life are unaccounted for.” Black Elk himself felt that Neihardt painted an incomplete portrait. He was, he wrote in 1934, “different from what the white man wrote about me. I am a Christian.” He noted that he had asked Neihardt to write something about his work as a Catholic, but was ignored. As a story of his life, he considered the book “null and void.”

Some assume that Black Elk’s conversion was an act of accommodation to the white man’s world. It was actually where he found true freedom and fulfillment. From childhood, he saw healing as his vocation. As a catechist, he helped heal a community wounded by poverty and alcoholism. “Those of us who are suffering,” he once said, “should help one another and have pity.” Nicholas Black Elk remained true to his vision long into old age.
Fall is for fun field trips! The Kindergarten had a great time at the Pumpkin Farm! They fed animals, rode a pony, took a hay ride, and even got to pick a pumpkin! The Pre-K visited the Bellmore Library. They read books, sang songs, and played games! Thank you to the Bellmore Library for making learning so much fun!

Thank you Fr. Joe Fitzgerald, the vocations director for the Diocese. He came and spoke to the Middle School students about vocations. Last week was National Vocation Awareness Week.

Check out these students who gave up their recess to fold boxes for Operation Christmas Child! Keep your light shining bright!

The 2nd grade did a fantastic job marching in the Saints Parade! Thank you Mrs. Cooke and Mrs. Clano and the parents for organizing this fun parade!
The Sheep and the Goats

“When the Son of Man comes again, He will sit on His throne. All nations will be gathered to Him.

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for 1 of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did for Me.”

Find and circle the hidden objects in the picture.

Match the pictures of things you can do for others.

- feed the hungry
- care for the sick
- give clothes
- feed the hungry

ACROSS
1. A special chair used by a king or queen
6. The need or desire to drink something, especially water
7. A man who rules a country
8. A place where people are kept as a punishment

DOWN
2. To feel a desire or need for food
3. To put food into the mouth, chew it, and swallow it
4. To take in and swallow liquid through the mouth
5. To go to spend time with someone

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EAT</th>
<th>THIRSTY</th>
<th>HUNGRY</th>
<th>PRISON</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VISIT</td>
<td>KING</td>
<td>THRONE</td>
<td>DRINK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Jesus will bless the righteous.

Use the code to fill in the missing letters.

Apple = A  Elephant = E  Beehive = I  Octopus = O  Umbrella = U

Jesus will separate the people, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

Put a □ around the sheep. 🐐
Put a □ around the goats. 🐐
How many 🐐 9 or 10? How many 🐐 7 or 8?

T H □ K □ N G D □ M

□ S

P R □ P □ R □ D

F □ R Y □ !
Jesus said He would sit on His throne in heavenly glory with all the nations gathered before Him.

Follow the instructions to fill in the blanks.

1. Cross out the letters that rhyme with "may." S A K H E J P K A H K E J K R D
2. Cross out the letters that spell a word that means to move quickly. S R H U E N E P
3. Cross out the "sleepy" letters. G Z O Z A T Z S
4. Cross out the letters that are in the first 5 letters of the alphabet. R A I G B H D T E
5. Cross out the letters that sound like a snake. S L S E F S T S

Now use the remaining letters to fill in these blanks.

And He will separate the people as a 1)_________ separates the 2)_________ from the 3)_________. He will put the 2)_________ on His 4)_________ and the 3)_________ on His 5)_________.

Find where those on the right will go.

Follow the path. Write the letters that you find on the path — in the order given — on the lines.

Then the King will say to those on His right, "I was ________ and you gave Me ________

  to ________, I was ________ and you gave Me
  ________, I was a ________

  and you ________ Me ________, I needed
  ________, Me, I was

  and you ________ ________ Me, I was

  in ________ and you ________ to ________ Me."

Fit the words into the boxes. Then ... take words from the puzzle. Fit them in the numbered blanks.

in   drink   something
eat   visit   clothed
sick  hungry  invited
need  prison  thirsty
came looked stranger
after clothes