



Reflections

A bimonthly publication from St. Bartholomew Catholic Faith Community

***“Behold...I bring you
good tidings of great joy.” ~ Luke 2:10***



Christmas with Cantus Concert*
Tuesday, December 20, 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Masses
Saturday, December 24
4:00 p.m.
10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Mass
Sunday, December 25
10:30 a.m.

Feast of Mary, Mother of God
Holy Day of Obligation
Saturday, December 31
5:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 1
8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Feast of the Epiphany
Saturday, January 7
5:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 8
8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

*Cantus Ticket prices: \$25, \$10 for children/students. To purchase tickets, call (612) 435-0055 or go to www.cantusonline.org.

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A Festival of Lessons & Carols
A 12th Night Celebration
Friday, January 6
7:00 p.m.

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Changes to Christmas Mass Times

by Fr. Michael Reding

Thanks to all of you who responded to our survey regarding Mass times for Christmas. We received nearly 400 responses, and they have helped us to continue to fine-tune our schedule for 2011 as we seek to meet the needs of our people.

You may recall that a couple of years ago the Archbishop informed us that church law prohibits us from celebrating Mass for Christmas earlier than 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. This has created a bit of a challenge, since it makes it impossible for us to celebrate more than one Mass before supper on December 24, the most popular time for people to attend Mass. Our attendance numbers for 2010 bear this out. Last Christmas we had 1,500 people at our 4:00 p.m. Mass, 280 people at 7:30 p.m., 360 people at 9:30 p.m., and 515 people at 10:30 a.m. on Christmas morning. As you can see, the attendance at 4:00 p.m. was greater than that of the other three Masses combined.

It was our hope that the survey might identify a Mass schedule that would work better for more people so that we might spread this attendance more evenly. You'll recall that we asked folks to tell us what is their preferred time for Mass, what is their second-preferred time, and at what times

are they unable to come for Mass. As expected, the survey indicated that the most popular time is the earliest time — 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. The other two peaks in popularity are at 10:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and 10:30 a.m. on Christmas morning.

Our parishioner, Mike Conklin, who is a market research professional, was able to take this data and refine it even further. Assuming (for logistical reasons) that no two Masses could be scheduled less than two hours apart, Mike evaluated 195 combinations of a three-Mass schedule and 352 combinations of a four-Mass schedule. He learned that a Mass schedule of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and 10:30 a.m. on Christmas morning would meet the needs of 95% of our people. The addition of a fourth Mass would meet the needs of the remaining 5%, however, it introduces another challenge: providing good music at the liturgies.

We have discovered in recent years that it is simply impossible for us to have a sufficient number of musicians to cover four Masses at Christmas. The members of our choir have family celebrations of their own that make it unfeasible for most individuals to be present for more than one or two liturgies each. When spread between

four Masses, the choir members were simply spread too thin. So you will recall that we asked in the survey: if we were to offer a “quiet Mass” for Christmas, would you be more likely or less likely to come to that Mass? A clear majority said that they would be less likely to come. Of those who would come to such a Mass, there was no correlation to a particular time preference, so it seems that offering a fourth Mass as a “quiet Mass” at one particular time would not help to meet a clear need or preference.

So, taking into consideration all of these factors (people's preferred times and their desire to have quality music at all liturgies), we have concluded that our Mass schedule for Christmas 2011 will be:

Christmas Eve: 4:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day: 10:30 a.m.

Once again, please remember that the 4:00 p.m. Mass is the only one that is likely to be over-crowded. In past years, it has been possible to arrive on-time (not early, but simply on-time) for any of the other Masses and still get a good seat in the church. If your schedule permits you to come at any time other than 4:00 p.m., I highly encourage it.

Make the Christmas Season Last

A Festival of Lessons & Carols
Friday, January 6, 7:00 p.m.

by Richard Clarke



**'Twas the day after Christmas and out in the suburbs,
many Christmas trees were being quickly tossed to the curbs.**

But wait! For Christians, December 25 is just the FIRST day of our celebration of the Christmas season. The observance of the Christmas feast does not need to come to a screeching halt on December 26. The church's liturgical calendar gives a number of days to celebrate the Good News of the birth of Jesus Christ - of Immanuel God with Us. We continue to sing the carols in our liturgies on the succeeding weekends.

With that in mind, you are invited to our annual Festival of Lessons and Carols at

St. Bartholomew on the 12th Day of Christmas, Friday, January 6, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. This year's festival service will feature readings from Scripture and the Church's living tradition, music of the Christmas and Epiphany season offered by our parish choir and instrumental ensemble, and familiar carols for all to sing.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols will be one hour in length. Please bring your family and friends to this annual St. Bartholomew Christmas Tradition — this year on the 12th Day of Christmas.



**E-vite Friends and Family
to Join Us!**

We've made it easy to invite friends, family, and neighbors to our Christmas Masses, A Festival of Lessons & Carols and other events at St. Bart's. Simply go to our website, www.st-barts.org, and click on E-vites, under Community. Fill out the easy-to-use form and an e-vite email will be sent to whomever you designate. (You can send the evite email to more than one person as well.) The subject line will show that the email comes from you and you have space to add a personal message. It's a quick, easy way to invite family, friends, and others to happenings at St. Bart's or let them know more about our community.

In Memory of Charlie Becker

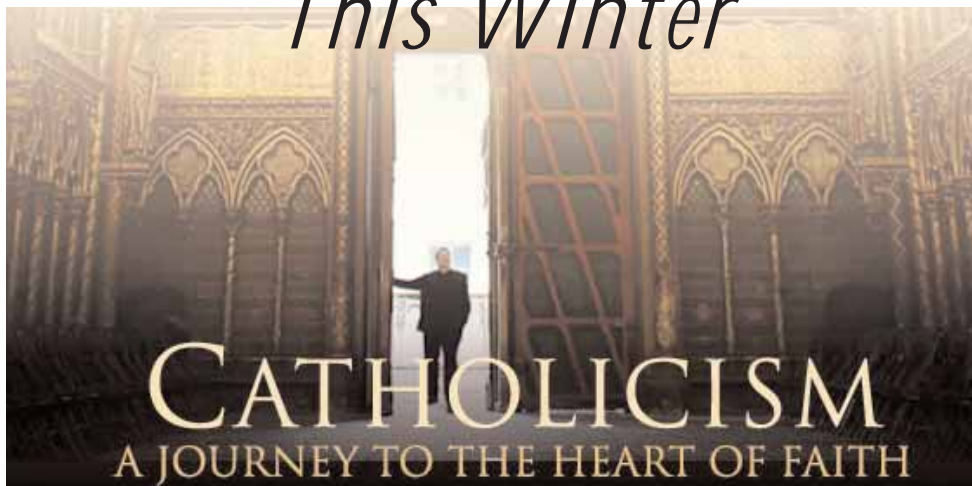
2/26/1948 - 11/23/2011

by Christine Ducharme

On November 29 we celebrated a Mass of Christian Burial for Charlie Becker, beloved Parish Operations Director at St. Bart's for 23 years. During his tenure he oversaw many changes and additions to the parish, and he always managed to stay one step ahead of the game. As we look around today we can see that many of the changes have become enduring gifts to our faith community. Charlie understood what it meant to be a servant of the Lord. Whether he was serving his country, his family or his church, Charlie served the Lord through his dedicated service to God's people. We will miss him.



Explore Catholicism This Winter



Join Father Michael in exploring our Catholic faith through the acclaimed 10-part series *Catholicism: Journey Around the World and Deep into the Faith*. This acclaimed series recently ran on several PBS stations; however, it was not shown on TPT in the Twin Cities area.

Explore, through a global journey filmed in 50 locations throughout 15 countries, the living faith and culture of the Catholic Church. From the lands of the Bible, to the great shrines of Europe, to the shores and heartland of America, to the mysteries of Asia, to the rich landscapes of Latin America, to the beating heart of Africa

and beyond. Creator and host Fr. Robert Barron illuminates what Catholics believe and why, while immersing you in the art, architecture, literature, music and all the riches of the Catholic tradition.

Mark your calendar now for this 10-part adult faith formation series, which will be held on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. beginning January 26. Each session will include a 60-minute DVD presentation followed by a 30-minute discussion facilitated by Father Michael. Look for more details and registration information on our website and in the bulletin soon.

St. Barts MINISTRY FAIR

Were you one of the 1.8 million Minnesotans who visited the "Great Minnesota Get Together" last summer? Or do you suffer from a fear of foods on a stick? Regardless, join St. Bart's ode to everything state fair at the St. Bart's Ministry Fair on February 11 and 12 following each Mass.

Instead of visiting the booths in the Coliseum for products like the ShamWow®, you can visit the booths of over 75 ministries from both inside and outside the parish. Representatives will be there to tell you more about their ministries and organizations, including how you can get involved! But unlike the pitchmen trying to close a sale on a set of Ginsu® knives, there will be no awkward pressure for you to buy.

Fair highlights include great refreshments — piping hot mini doughnuts and ice-cold lemonade — to go along with this opportunity to get involved in your community by volunteering. Combine all this with kid-friendly activities and you've definitely got a little something the whole family can enjoy. See you at the St. Bart's Ministry Fair!

It's Easy to Do
the Right Thing

Blood Drive at St. Bart's
Sunday, February 12
8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
in conjunction with the
St. Bart's Ministry Fair

Sign up weekend is
January 14 & 15 after any Mass.
Online sign up will also be
available at www.st-barts.org.
Look for more information in the
bulletin and on our website soon.



Save-the-Date! Save-the-Date!

IMAGES OF SPRING

APRIL 21, 2012



Mark your calendars now for Images of Spring, St. Bart's largest fundraiser of the year! We will celebrate this year's Images of Spring on April 21, 2012 at the recently remodeled Marriott Southwest in Minnetonka.

We are looking forward to a fantastic evening including great entertainment, a delicious dinner and a must-see selection of silent and live auction items. Glorious Gatherings will be back, with both old favorites and new activities.

Early in 2012, raffle tickets will be mailed to all parishioners, launching our fundraising activities. All proceeds from Images of Spring benefit all of us in our parish's operating budget.

If you have questions about Images of Spring or would like to join the 2012 planning committee, please contact Angela Poorman at poormanangela@hotmail.com or 952/475-9621 or Lee Glover at gloverlee29@gmail.com or 612/386-7292.

We look forward to everyone's participation in Images of Spring 2012!



A Woman and a Fork

There was a young woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. So as she was getting her things in order, she contacted her pastor and had him come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes.

She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in.

Everything was in order and the pastor was preparing to leave when the young woman suddenly remembered something very important to her.

"There's one more thing," she said excitedly.

"What's that?" came the pastor's reply.

"This is very important," the young woman continued, "I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand."

The pastor stood looking at the young woman, not knowing quite what to say.

"That surprises you, doesn't it?" the young woman asked.

"Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request," said the pastor.

The young woman explained. "My grandmother once told me this story, and from that time on I have always tried to pass along its message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement. In all my years of attending socials and dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, 'Keep your fork.' It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming...like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance!"

So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand, and I want them to wonder, 'What's with the fork?' Then I want you to tell them, "Keep your fork...the best is yet to come."

The pastor's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the young woman goodbye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death. But he also knew that the young woman had a better grasp of Heaven than he did.

She had a better grasp of what Heaven would be like than many people twice her age, with twice as much experience and knowledge. She KNEW that something better was coming.

At the funeral people were walking by the young woman's casket and they saw the cloak she was wearing and the fork placed in her right hand. Over and over, the pastor heard the question, "What's with the fork?" And over and over he smiled.

During his message, the pastor told the people of the conversation he had with the young woman shortly before she died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to her. He told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either.

He was right. So the next time you reach down for your fork, let it remind you, ever so gently, that the best is yet to come.

A Social Success

An over capacity crowd of more than 200 parishioners filled Fellowship Hall and the Gathering Space on December 3 for a social event to celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas. All enjoyed a wonderful evening, complete with delicious food provided by Jane and Don Bohnett, socializing, and piano music from our own Director of Liturgy and Music, Richard Clarke. A highlight of the evening was St. Nicholas who kept busy assessing whether patrons deserved lumps of coal or chocolate coins.

Besides those mentioned above, there are many others to thank for the success of the evening including the teenagers of St. Bart's who served the dinner and Tom Paquette for handcrafting two new beverage serving stations that can also be used at future events. Thanks also to the bartenders Tom Eakins, Leo Cavin, Dave Marquis, Paul Burton and others who worked tirelessly behind the scenes including Meg Eakins and Joan Grobe. And, finally, thanks to the members of the Social Committee, whose hard work and dedication really made this possible: Shelly Dau, Jane Bohnett, Mary Beth Viers, Ann Gallagher, Rebecca Holzem, Jodene Marquis, Wendy Burton and John Grobe.

The evening proved a wonderful time to gather with fellow parishioners for good food and fellowship. And there is more to come. The social committee is busy planning the next social gathering; below is a sneak peek...



(left)
St. Nick
ponders
whether
parishioner
Ray Rasmussen
has been
naughty
or nice.



The Feast of St. Nicholas Social Event was a wonderful way to kick of the holiday season.

...Sneak Peek of the Next St. Bart's Social Event

St. Bart's Social Committee announced the formation of a new program at the recent Adult Social. It is "St. Bart's Table." This program is aimed at building community through the parish one dinner party at a time. Here's how the program works. If you're interested in participating, you will register with your usual statistics, including how many people you can seat at your dinner table. Dates will be chosen by the Social Committee, (we are starting with two per year) and announced to the parish. A few weeks before the event, you will be reminded that the date is coming up, and are you available for it. If you say "yes," you will either be a "host" or "guest"

for the event. Hosts and guests will be matched up by the committee at random, and "assignments" will be sent out. Hosts will know how many to expect, and guests will be given the address to go to. No one will know who is coming, or to whose house they are going. The host provides the main course, and the guests will be assigned a side dish or dessert. Each new event date will see a different random mix of people. This program is open to all adults (21 or older) in the parish — singles or couples, and it's a great way to meet and get to know your fellow parishioners. Watch for more information coming in the New Year!

The Heart of the Matter

(55+) Seminar Series

Jan. - June 2012 Schedule
Clip and Save

The Heart of the Matter, an ongoing seminar for Seniors (55+), meets the second Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. The seminars provide engaging speakers who bring a wide range of experience with a fresh perspective about topics that are central to our lives.

January 12

Topic: Medical Ethics
Speaker: William C. McDonough, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Theology and Coordinator of the Master of Arts in Theology Program at St. Catherine University, St. Paul

February 9

Topic: Passover Seder
Speaker: Rabbi Avi S. Olitzky, member of the clergy at Beth El Synagogue, St. Louis Park

March 8

Topic: Celtic Saints
Speaker: Edward C. Sellner, Professor of Theology, St. Catherine University, St. Paul

April 12

Topic: John Paul II, Trip to Poland
Speaker: Paul Wojda, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Theology, University of St. Thomas

May 10

Topic: French Catholic Author: John Bernanos
Speaker: Tod Worner, M.D., St. Bart's parishioner and a practicing internal medicine physician, is an adjunct clinical instructor in Medicine through the University of Minnesota Medical School

June 14

Topic: Second Vatican Council
Speaker: Massimo Faggioli, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in the Theology Department, University of St. Thomas

Movie Date Nights

by Christine Ducharme

“Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage” Video Series

“A FUN DATE!”

Join us in the lower level of the church on three Saturdays following Mass: January 14, February 4, February 25 from 6-9pm for three evenings of humor, pizza, popcorn and beverages while we watch the wildly entertaining videos: “Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage.”

The powerful and practical videos are designed to bring hope and positive change to your marriage, rekindle the romance and improve communication a way that is fun and entertaining. Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage is designed with an element of humor that appeals to couples, but is especially well-received by men. By making the events fun and non-threatening both husband and wife will have a fantastic time.

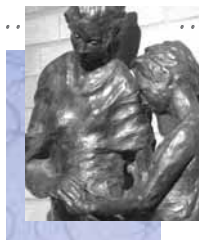
While this event is fun, it is anything but light and ineffective. The great content and



unique approach to marriages and troubled marriages has yielded one of the highest success rates in the country. Couples will laugh, learn and make real positive changes to their marriage.

The cost is \$25 per couple for all three evenings or \$10 if purchased individually. Nursery will be provided as well as a movie for youth (ages 6-12) in the youth room. Childcare costs are \$5 per child. To RSVP for the evenings and for childcare, please call 952/473-6601, email tkedzuf@st-barts.org or go to our website, www.st-barts.org, Events & News. The first couples to RSVP will be entered into a drawing to receive one of the following: premium upholstered seating, a complimentary bottle of wine, roses or chocolates.

... *...excel in this grace of giving*



2012 Stewardship of Treasure

Q: Why is it important to renew our commitment to stewardship of time, talent and treasure on an annual basis in the parish?

A: It is important for a number of reasons. First, the message of stewardship like other messages in Scripture and teachings of the Church needs to be presented on a regular basis. Without those regular reminders and encouragements regarding Bible messages and Church teachings, we have a tendency to revert back to old ways.

Second, just like in our spiritual life, we can always grow in our stewardship life. Renewing our commitment to stewardship gives us the opportunity to take the next step in increasing our giving of time, talent and treasure.

Third, there are those current members of the parish who did not participate in the previous year's stewardship renewal.

Renewal gives them another opportunity to become involved in stewardship.

Fourth, families new to the parish will have the chance to commit to stewardship, many for the first time.

If you have not yet turned in your 2012 Stewardship of Treasure pledge card, now is the time to do so. This information will be part of determining the budget for 2012.

Your pledging is important for the church to be able to create a budget that is based on commitment not guessing.

Online pledge forms are available at www.st-barts.org under Stewardship or contact Cindy Schriever at 952/473-6601 or cschriever@st-barts.org.

A Christmas Gift for Your Parish

In order to provide for our programs and ministries every year, we rely on the generous gifts that come to us through the Christmas collection. We also rely heavily on the weekly Sunday Giving contributions that are made 52 weeks out of the year. This year, with Christmas falling on a Sunday, we could lose one of those 52 collections. This could have a serious impact on our budget through winter when heating bills are high and unexpected costs arise for snow and ice removal. **For this reason, we ask you to please use both your weekly envelope and your Christmas envelope on December 25.** Thank you in advance for remembering St. Bartholomew in your charitable giving during this Christmas Season!

To accommodate the increase in year-end paperwork, please have all stock transfers and designations completed by December 31, 2011.



SCHOOL NEWS

St. Bartholomew School: Sustainability Success

by Lynn Volkenant

In May of last year, I published the executive summary for our School sustainability review. It was delivered to the Archdiocese in late May, and finally in mid-October I received a letter from the school's office regarding our review. As you can see by the letter below, our review was a success and our three-year plan commended for its vision. I am pleased to share the good news about St. Bart's School with all of you in our parish community.

Dear Lynn,

Over the summer, the Office of Catholic Schools reviewed your Sustainability Review and Three-year Plan. The report shows the Task Force worked very diligently acknowledging the strengths and identifying the challenges for growth for St. Bartholomew Catholic School.

As highlighted in your review, St. Bartholomew is very blessed to have many strengths in each of the key areas. The new religion curriculum, along with the planned implementation of both the IFG for teachers and ACRE for students will only serve to further enhance the strong Catholic identity present at St. Bart's. In the area of Academic Excellence, your plan demonstrates well how you are keeping curriculum rigorous, relevant and assessable to all students through programs that address enrichment, remediation and special needs. The breath of technology present at St. Bart's from Smart Boards to laptops and beyond demonstrates the commitment to 21st Century learning. Your strategies in this key area are well thought through.

Working with Catholic Finance Corporation (CFC) in the area of financial management has been an asset. Your plan has good strategies in place to continue transparency and active management of the operating expenses. Bringing TADs in not only for financial aid assessment, but also for tuition management should prove to be highly effective. CFC forecasts that continuing the good practices outlined in this section will help both parish and school remain fiscally stable.

The task force recognized the critical need for marketing and development. The plan



included many good strategies for outreach, including your new website. The parent volunteers that have stepped forward with an interest in this area will be vital for its success. Demographics in your geographic area are indeed a challenge, one the task force recognized. It appears some of your strategies here are already paying dividends in your enrollment numbers! As a parish school, increasing stewardship at the parish level is an issue that should be looked into, perhaps with help from the Archdiocesan Development Office.

I want to thank you and the St. Bartholomew Task Force for the time and work put into this review and plan.

I will be anxious to hear how the plan progresses. Have a wonderful and blessed school year.

Sincerely,
Martha F. Frauenheim, M. Ed.
Superintendent of Schools
Archdiocese of Saint Paul & Minneapolis

I want to express my thanks again to the task force for their diligence and to all of you who support the school in so many wonderful ways. With your help, St. Bartholomew School will be here for many generations to come.

Save the Date!
Preschool - 6th Grade Open House & Catholic Schools Week Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, January 29
following the
8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Masses

For more information about
St. Bartholomew School,
visit our website,
www.st-barts.org/school



Upcoming Events

January

- Friday, Jan., 6, 7:00 p.m.
A Festival of Lessons & Carols
- Thursday, Jan. 12, 10 a.m.
Heart of the Matter
- Sunday, Jan. 29, after
8:30 & 10:30 a.m. Masses
School Open House & Pancake Breakfast

February

- Thursday, Feb. 9, 10 a.m.
Heart of the Matter
- Sat., Sun. Feb. 11 & 12
Ministry Fair Weekend
- Thursday, Feb., 17, 8:00 p.m.
The Rose Ensemble Concert
 - Wed., Feb. 22
Ash Wednesday Masses
8:45 a.m., 12:00 noon, 6:00 p.m.
- Mon., Feb. 27, 7:00 p.m.
Lenten Reflection Evening

Member Update

Baptisms

Emma Schroeder
Juliet Rosemary Kedinger
Patrick James Gallagher
Blake William Foster

New Members

Maggie & Ed Smith
Jackie & Art Tyszka
Matthew & Kristina Galle
Marcia & Joe Gilbertson
Kathryn Koland
Marilyn Johnson
Ryan Grubba
Darcy Haglin
Jackson & Olivia Burgess

Deaths

LaVerne Baier
Charlie Becker

You'll find the latest information about St. Bart's events and much more on our website, www.st-barts.org, under Events & News.

Donate from Your Smart Phone!

St. Bartholomew Church now offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give anytime from your smart phone. Scan this image using your phone's Quick Response (QR) code reader!



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