Join the community of St. Bartholomew as we gather by the fire to share stories about how we can fight poverty in our western suburbs. November 6-7 is the kick-off to Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners (IOCP) 2015 Sleep Out. Many churches have begun hosting their own event to raise awareness of homelessness and poverty in their backyards as well as joining forces with IOCP’s Sleep Out.

There will be much activity and ways to get involved in the Fire of Discipleship.

- **Pray During Eucharistic Adoration.** November 6 is a First Friday of Eucharistic Adoration which means you can spend an hour praying for those who are homeless as well as other poverty focused needs. Morning Mass is at 8:00 a.m., followed by Eucharistic Adoration from 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. in the chapel. Sign up on the link provided on the St. Bartholomew website, or call the parish office.

- **Tend the Fire.** Grab your ministry group, family members or friends and sign up for an hour to tend the fire. We will roast marshmallows and hotdogs and share hot chocolate or hot cider with one another as we gather together to review the strides that have been made with poverty in the western suburbs, how St. Bart’s parishioners have contributed, learn the latest statistics and how we can make a difference in the year ahead.

To sign up to tend the fire, gather your friends, family or ministry group (ex. Youth Ministry Core Team, Choir, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Rosary Society, etc.). Decide on a time that your group will come to tend the fire. Sign up at Masses the last weekend in October, or sign up online at [www.st-barts.org](http://www.st-barts.org), Events & News.

- **Listen to the National Lutheran Choir** perform at 7:30 p.m. in the church. You can purchase tickets at the door.

Bring family and friends to enjoy some or all of the above. It is a great way to connect with fellow parishioners and their families. Let’s let the Fire of Discipleship light a fire in our hearts to help those in our own cities.

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Finding Peace, Joy and Friendship...Along the Way

by Kara Landon

The St. Bart’s trip to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, filled me with excitement from the beginning. Not only was I on my first pilgrimage, but I had the opportunity to bond with some really faith and joy-filled people. Finally, the answer to years of praying for a strong, faith-filled Catholic community arrived! The drive was pleasantly passed talking with others about Jesus and scripture.

My hotel key card had a picture of two backpackers on a sign with an arrow pointing in the opposite direction of the way the packers were headed and underneath was the tagline, “The party is this way...” For many the party is the way the arrow points, toward a city and all its enticements. However, for those who seek God, sometimes going away from the crowd, toward nature and solitude is the way toward “the party.” Just as Jesus often sought solitude in nature alone and with his disciples, so also, his followers must seek him away from all of our modern distractions.

God blessed us with a glorious autumn day and it placed the Rosary Walk and Stations of the Cross in a new light. The church had some more modern, inspirational saints. Fr. Pro, for example, was a native Mexican priest during the early 20th century when the government shipped all non-native priests home and killed those left. However, Fr. Pro continued to perform his priestly duties, wearing a business suit to avoid suspicion. The government did eventually catch him, but just before his execution he shouted, “Viva Cristo Rey!”

Saturday dawned with a joy and anticipation I have not felt since I discovered I was pregnant. The Pointer Sisters refrain, “I’m So Excited,” played over and over in my head and I could barely contain myself throughout breakfast! Others in the hotel were on pilgrimage as well and I enjoyed overhearing various conversations and some evangelizing.

The pilgrimage ended too soon. I would have loved one more day. Many of my fellow travelers seemed filled with a peaceful joy and contentment upon our journey’s end. I cannot wait to go again!
Generosity and Success Delivered in a Backpack

by Sarah Showalter

It’s that bittersweet time of year when the days start to shorten, there’s a briskness in the air and the first color change in the leaves assures parents and kids alike that yes, indeed, it is time to be back in school.

This summer St. Bartholomew Catholic Faith Community again partnered with Banyan Community staff and families to help equip the children in that Minneapolis community for the new school year. This year St. Bart’s collected backpacks, school supplies, and uniforms for 78 public school and 52 Catholic school children – the biggest group the partnership has seen yet!

Remove Barriers to Success

School’s Cool is an annual tradition that many look forward to both at St. Bart’s and at the Banyan Community. The most excited are certainly the children who line up early at distribution night, eager to pick up their backpacks and brand new school supplies and try on crisp new uniforms.

The parents arrive excited and eager for the new school year as well, but they are also grateful and relieved. Grateful that their children will have the necessary supplies. Relieved that one barrier is removed from their child’s path to future success. These parents are invested in providing their children the best opportunity for academic success and appreciate what the Banyan provides.

One Piece, Amazing Results!

The backpacks are just one piece, and by committing to work with the Banyan, parents know their students’ odds for success go up. As a community development organization, the Banyan Community requires that the whole family participate in all the programming they do throughout the year. It is not a charity that fills an immediate need and hopes for the best. It is an organization that empowers families to support and encourage their young students on towards academic and lifetime success. The results are amazing with a 100% high school graduation rate!

The generosity of the St. Bartholomew parishioners and the efforts of many volunteers provide the Banyan Community the much needed resources to equip their students. It is an effort of many hands and the results are satisfying for the volunteers and exciting for Banyan parents and kids. Thank you for the continued support of this ministry that truly makes a difference for these families! If you would like more information, please visit our website, www.st-barts.org, School’s Cool (under the social concerns dropdown), or contact Denise Didier at didier.mn@comcast.net, (763) 559-5887.

Thank you for the continued support of this ministry that truly makes a difference...
St. Bartholomew Reflections • October 2015

Upcoming Music Events at St. Bart’s

National Lutheran Choir
"Blessed Are They"
A Concert for All Saints
Friday, Nov. 6, 7:30 p.m.

This annual program has become a source of healing, comfort and hope for those who have experienced loss of a loved one. Cost: $25 Adult; $23 Senior (62 and over); $10 Students; 17 & under - FREE; Groups of 10 or more receive additional discounts. For more information or to purchase tickets, go to: www.nlca.com, 800/ 838-3006.

Vocal Essence
Welcome Christmas
Friday, December 11
8:00 p.m.

Swing in the holiday season with VocalEssence and Nils Lindberg’s A Christmas Cantata for chorus and big band. Blending jazz-infused style with traditional melodies, Lindberg’s cantata is an “iridescent medley that invigorates, inspires and swings in equal measure.” Tickets: $10 - $30. For more information or to purchase tickets, go to: www.vocalescence.org, 612/371-5656.

Christmas with Cantus
Sunday, December 13
3:00 p.m.

The story of Christmas is a familiar one, but each of us also has stories of our own for this special time of year. Joy, unexpected love, family traditions, and lessons taught and learned…the season seems to move and inspire us more than any other time of the year. Tickets: $10, students; $30 adults. For more information or to purchase tickets, go to: 612/435-0055, www.cantussings.org.

IT’S BACK!

Feast of St. Nicholas
Save the Date for Saturday, Dec. 5
after the 5:00 p.m. Mass

The Social Committee is busy getting the plans in place for this always fun evening of wonderful socializing and great food. So mark your calendar now, and look for more details and registration in upcoming issues of the bulletin, E-News and on the website.
A Perfect Day for a Great Cause

by Cindy Schriever

It was a perfect weather day for the 42 golfers that enjoyed an afternoon of fun, laughter and sharing of a common vision for providing a Catholic education for families facing financial challenges at St. Bartholomew School for the school year 2015/2016.

As in past years, the real winners of the September 12 tournament at Pioneer Creek Golf are the students at St. Bart’s School. The 2015 outing will net more than $18,000 for the scholarship fund. The monies raised will go a long way in assisting school families that are facing financial challenges realize their desire of a Catholic-based education for their children. However, the demand for tuition assistance remains strong. To date, we have had scholarship requests of $46,000 for the 2015/2016 school year.

St. Bartholomew invests in the lives of our students and we thank the players, sponsors and contributors for partnering with us. Your support and participation are greatly appreciated.

St. Bartholomew staffers Peg Deitering, Andrew Allen, Connor Flanagan and Kari Younes were the hands down favorite for best dressed foursome as they helped raise money for a worthy cause.

1st Place Men: Gary Murray, David Hentges, Bob Frazzini, Paul Kralovec
2nd Place Men: John Renckens, Mike Gardner, Joe Egan, Patrick Egan
1st Place Women/Mixed: Diane & Doug Waldoch, Brian & Julie Coan

If you would like to contribute on behalf of tuition assistance, please send your donation to St. Bartholomew/ Tuition Assistance Golf Tournament, attn: Cindy Schriever.

A special thank you so our sponsors whose support of this tournament and our students means so much.

Event Sponsor: Babs Koch

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the 18th Annual...

A Festival of Lessons & Carols

Friday, Dec. 18
7:00 p.m.

Experience the wonder, experience the joy of this enduring St. Bart’s tradition. Please invite your family and friends to this year’s beautiful service of readings and music from the Incarnation season, featuring our Parish Choir and Instrumental Ensemble. Fr. Michael Joncas will be the guest homilist. There is no charge for this wonderful event.

Memorials and Legacy Gifts Are Tributes...

... to those whose love and memories we treasure, the people who touched our lives. Gifts received “in memory of” from June - September 2015:

Dr. Bob Barnett
Sue Murray
John Ferry
God Cares Deeply What We Give...

Do you think God knows what we give? Do you think he cares?

Each day we have 24 hours of time... do you think God cares whether or not we share part of that time in an act of love and service for someone else? The talents you have been given; does God care whether or not we use them to bring light and hope into a world of brokenness? We all have money... does God care whether we are tight fisted or generous givers?

God knows about us and our giving. He cares deeply. Why? Because God created us in his image and part of that image is being a giver. Secondly, God wants us to have abundant life. Jesus says, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." He is speaking about now, not the hereafter. Abundant means having hope and joy and the only way it happens is when we give of ourselves in the service of others. Generous givers understand what abundant living is all about.

We have such great expectations of God. We want him to be near in every time of need. But just maybe he has great expectations of us, as well.

Because of YOU, the St. Bartholomew Catholic Faith Community makes a difference in our community and beyond.

If you haven’t already decided on your parish stewardship commitment, please prayerfully consider your giving and return your Intention Card by Commitment Weekend (Nov. 1) to the parish office, through the mail, in the collection basket, or online at www.st-barts.org.

Serving During the Papal Visit

by Kathy Salman

Brother Lewis Grobe, son of former parish administrator and parishioner, John Grobe and his wife Joan, served communion during the Mass that Pope Francis celebrated on September 23 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. Brother Lew Grobe was ordained as a transitional deacon on May 2 and will be ordained as a Benedictine priest on Dec. 12.

Pope Francis had asked that those in formation for religious life be part of the papal visit. Although Brother Lew found the chance to see Pope Francis a once-in-a-lifetime experience, he says a highlight was “witnessing the power that can come from Catholics from every walk of life gathering together around their faith to support the Pope and love of our Church.”

Lew adds that for him the true impact was more than just being part of something historic and big, but it was seeing the grace of the moment in more tangible and humble ways. For example, he was moved by the story of the woman who held the ciborium while he served Communion. She was about 75 years old and had only one arm. People had told her that she shouldn’t go—that she would only be in the way. But she tearfully told Brother Lew that although people doubted her ability, she believed that she had been called to be there that day and was bolstered by her faith that all would go well. And it did. “I find this a great example of embracing discipleship,” he says. “That when you are called to do something in the Church, you will have the strength and faith to do it.”
The Gathering 2015 (11th Annual) was a great success. While the weather may have been damp, spirits were anything but. Kids of all ages had a great time as the parking lot of the church and school was transformed into a combination block party and carnival. People came out in droves to enjoy dancing to our DJ, nibbling on fresh, hot mini-donuts, sipping hot chocolate, enjoying a burger or brat, bidding on auction items or having a blast playing games under the big tents! The St. Bart’s PTO sponsors this annual party. Co-Chairs Maggie Sinning and Michelle Sanchez had all of the details covered and, with the help of dozens of fantastic volunteers, the event proved to be fun for the whole family! Thanks to the sponsors and so many supporters for creating a great time. Please mark your calendars in anticipation of The Gathering 2016—September 16, 2016.

St. Bart’s Rake-a-Thon is off and running. Our students can’t wait to scatter across our school neighborhood in teams to rake and bag leaves on October 30. They will leave behind clean yards and good cheer on the smiling faces of our friends who appreciate this annual SERVICE PROJECT while raising dollars in support of our school. We love serving others. We love raking leaves. We love spreading good cheer around our community. As a treat after raking, we get to play bingo back at school. Our bingo caller extraordinaire—none other than our very own pastor, Fr. Mike, will be calling our BINGO numbers over the school PA system. Thanks for your support, Fr. Mike.

If you would like to contribute to our Rake-a-Thon, visit the school website, www.st-bartsschool.org and click the Rake-a-Thon link.

Remember to join us at our Children’s Masses every Wednesday that school is in session at 8:45 a.m. We LOVE visitors and hope you become a “regular.” Fr. Mike and the students always offer an exceptional liturgy.