



Reflections

A bimonthly publication from St. Bartholomew Catholic Faith Community

Don't Miss All the Fun...



MARDI GRAS

IMAGES OF SPRING 2011



March 5 & 6

...and surprises in store this year!

See inside for details!

Inside this issue :

Images of Spring 2011Mardi Gras!.....2	New Faith Sharing Small Groups.....4	New Prayer Shawl Ministry.....6
Development of an Unborn Child.....3	A Steward Reflects.....5	School News.....7
Lenten Events for All!.....4	Faith Formation Registration in April...6	Member Update & Upcoming Events... 8



Images of Spring is Wearing a Mask



Th a t hopeful time of year is here when we can start thinking about Spring! And as St. Bart's parishioners, we know that means Images of Spring is here too. This time our fantastic dinner auction has a new twist. We will be celebrating Mardi Gras style and hope you will parade along. The event is right around the corner: **Saturday, March 5, 6:00 p.m. at the Wayzata Country Club.**

This year's Mardi Gras theme guarantees many surprises! Since most parishioners can't hop on a plane to celebrate Mardi Gras in traditional New Orleans' style, we are having our own version right here in Wayzata. Complete with authentic New Orleans cuisine by Executive Chef Colin Pearmund, unique drinks and decorations, beads, and masks - it will almost seem like we are on Bourbon Street!

For those parishioners who have never been to Images, please consider it this year. It truly is a special night. I remember my husband and I were a little anxious the first time we attended. We were familiar with many people but didn't know what to expect and we didn't want to feel out of place. Our worries were unnecessary. Upon arrival there is so much to look at in the silent auction, you busy yourself with browsing and before you know it someone looks familiar, or you start a conversation based on a game board, or other area of interest. No matter if you are on a tight budget or have some spending money, it is fun to walk around and take everything in. We had a great time and got to spend quality time with parishioners who have since become close friends.

This year we welcome two extremely talented people to lead us through each stage of the evening. Our very own Dan Delmore will be the Master of Ceremonies. Jim Vogl, another familiar St. Bart's personality, will be our Auctioneer. We are in capable and talented hands. If you attended Fr. Michael's ten year anniversary celebration last year, you know full well what kind of fun we are in for; for those who missed it — get ready for some hearty laughs!

Adding to the party's entertainment, prepare to dance with fellow parishioners to the mix of rock-n-roll, swing, and blues variety of RedEyeBlue. They are a local cover band that plays hits from the 50's - 70's. Plus they have some original tunes of their own. RedEyeBlue can be heard frequently at parishioner Jim Dailey's pub in Mound.

by Teresa Litfin-Wertz



Switching gears to the auction portion of Images; one section of the Silent Auction you should know about is our Glorious Gatherings.

What are Glorious Gatherings?

At first glance you may think that signing up for a Glorious Gathering would entail spending an evening with Fr. Michael as he beckons the holy prophets for a celestial evening of insights.

While that would not only be a Glorious Gathering but a spiritual experience of a lifetime, it might be a reach even for Fr. Michael! Images of Spring Glorious Gatherings consist of one-time parties or

gatherings hosted by St. Bart's parishioners as a way to mix, mingle and support the parish. They offer different price points and age range, all with a great time in store.

What is particularly unique about these events is you sign up as an individual, couple or family and others do the same. You can invite friends to sign up or look forward to meeting or getting better acquainted with the parishioners you will see at the event. What a fun and easy way to get to know some other folks.

Below (see the box) is a partial list of the Glorious Gatherings for this year.

There are tons and tons of other auction items ranging from gift certificates, golf outings, dinners, jewelry, sports memorabilia and the list goes on and on. There is something for everyone at the Mardi Gras Images of Spring and it all benefits St. Bart's.

Let's All Support Images of Spring!

Sounds like a great night, doesn't it? Please join in on the fun and celebrate with us. If you are unable to attend, please support and contribute in other ways.

(continued on the next page)

Just a Sample of Glorious Gatherings . . .

- Breakfast at Tiffany's - ladies brunch served poolside with a chance to win a piece of Tiffany's jewelry
- Wine Tasting with food pairing at the Interlaken Country Club
- Taste of St. Bart's - evening of fellowship and delicious food and drinks prepared and served by talented culinary artists from St. Bart's
- Summer evening of rooftop lawn bowling at Brit's in downtown Minneapolis
- Ladies Night Out with blow out hairstyling at Jon Charles and drinks and appetizers out in Wayzata
- Trivia Night - head to the home of a St. Bart's parishioner for a battle of the sexes trivia match-up with prizes going to the winners
- Summertime Boating, Tubing, and Cookout Party on Lake Minnetonka
- Horseback riding, cookout and s'mores at the Bilski Farm in Plymouth
- A Texas Hold 'Em Tournament with real dealers, including Deacon Rick, held at St. Bart's in Fellowship Hall
- Poolside Tiki Party with frozen summer drinks, music and appetizers
- Holy Rosary Mexican Fiesta held at the home of David and Jodene Marquis to benefit our sister parish Holy Rosary

Images of Spring is Wearing a Mask (continued)

Purchasing or selling your raffle tickets is extremely worthwhile in helping meet our goal for the operations budget. If all the raffle tickets were purchased, they would bring in about \$70,000 alone. Whoa! That's a lot of money!

Another way to get involved is to volunteer the night of the event. Many volunteers are needed for duties that last a limited time or last throughout the night. It is one way to be a part of the auction while lending a helping hand. Please contact Sarah Ptacek at 763/639-1930 or email: belle9509@yahoo.com to find out what is available and how you can add to the success of the event.

A Sneak Peek at One of the Exciting Auction Items...

Lastly, we are thankful to the many parishioners who donate something to the auction. One such item is an evening with Fr. Michael Joncas. Twelve lucky people will gather at Dick and Bonnie Johnson's home for hors d'oeuvres, dessert and, most importantly, to hear the magical sounds of Fr. Joncas' compositions. Not only will Fr. Joncas play and sing his music, he will share their creation stories. This is hosted by the Johnson's and Joe and Dellie Di Giovanna. What a wonderful, new addition to Images 2011!

We look forward to partying together in support of our great community. Here's the first toast to a successful, safe and well attended Mardi Gras Images of Spring!

Remember to...

- RSVP to the Mardi Gras dinner auction by February 23.
- Return raffle tickets to the parish office by February 27.
- Visit our website, www.st-barts.org, Events & News, and click on Images of Spring for the latest details!

Development of an Unborn Child

by Michelle Sanchez

Over the next several weeks the St. Bart's weekly bulletin will include a new feature. Each week we will read what occurs in the life of an unborn child as it grows from a few cells to a newborn.

We were all there once; at one point in our lives we were each a zygote, an embryo, and a fetus. In the place where a person's life begins, the womb should be the safest haven in which we will ever reside, yet more than 53 million American children have lost their lives there (Guttmacher Institute, numbers from 1973-2005). Twenty-two percent of all pregnancies in America (excluding miscarriages) end in abortion (Joes RK and Kooistra, K., Abortion Incidence and Access to Services in the United States, 2008), and roughly fifty percent of unplanned pregnancies end in abortion (Guttmacher Institute). My mind wonders who those children were, who they were meant to be, and what plans God had for them before they were killed. My mind recalls the stories of Herod slaughtering the innocent boys in Bethlehem, looking for Jesus, and I am horrified that our culture silently allows our own slaughter of the innocents in our time.

Unplanned pregnancies can be extremely scary; one can feel lonely, helpless, and pressured to "get rid" of the problem.



"The fundamental
human right,
the presupposition of
every other right, is
the right to life itself."

~ Pope Benedict XVI

Thankfully, St. Bart's can refer women in this situation to several resources where they can find counseling, real answers to what abortion entails, both for the baby and the mother, and assistance in seeing the pregnancy through. Our faith, and even human instinct, teaches that every life, whether it is still in the womb, in its prime, or nearing the end of its time on earth, deserves the right to live. It is God's decision to steer our lives and at some point bring them to an end and welcome us home to Him. It is no one else's.

As Mother Teresa once put it: "It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish."

Some view the unborn child as a mass of cells, yet week by week we will see that the child has its own DNA, its own blood type, its own heartbeat, its own fingerprints, its own soul. Everything that makes us individuals, and children of God, is already contained in us on that first day of conception. God has his hand in our conception, and it is our responsibility, as daunting as it most certainly is, to see that the most vulnerable and innocent among us is not torn apart and discarded because it is small, or because it doesn't have a voice, or because it isn't strong enough to live apart from its mother (what infant is, even after it is born?), but these children should be nurtured as God intended them to be when he created them in our care.

"The fundamental human right, the presupposition of every other right, is the right to life itself. Abortion, consequently, cannot be a human right -- it is the very opposite. It is a deep wound in society." ~ Pope Benedict XVI

The St. Bart's Respect Life Committee meets monthly. For more information, visit our website, www.st-barts.org, Respect Life (under Social Concerns).

Lenten Events for All

One-time Lenten Events

- **Ash Wednesday**
Mass and Imposition of Ashes
March 9
8:45 a.m., noon, 6:00 p.m.
- **Lenten Reflection Evening**
Monday, March 14
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
See page 5 for details.
- **Lenten Service Opportunity**
Wednesday, March 23
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
See page 5 for details.
- **Lenten Penitential Service**
Thursday, March 24
7:00 p.m.

Cantus Concert That Eternal Day

Sunday, March 20
3:00 p.m.

Cantus explores sacred music as a global and American tradition. To order tickets, go to cantusonline.org or call 612/435-0055. You will also find a link from our website, www.st-barts.org or brochures at the Information Desk.

Ongoing Events during Lent

- **Soup Suppers**
6:00 p.m., Friday evenings prior to Stations of the Cross (beginning March 11). Soup Suppers will be hosted by the World Youth Day participants and their parents. Donations will be accepted to help offset the cost of their pilgrimage to Spain this August. Confirmation students are also welcome to help serve.
- **Stations of the Cross**
7:00 p.m., Friday evenings during Lent (beginning March 11)
- **Faith Sharing Small Groups**
(See article below for details.)

Try Out the New E-vite Feature on Our Website

Go to www.st-barts.org and click on E-vite under the Community top navigation for an easy way to invite someone to an upcoming St. Bart's event or Mass or to learn more about our church or school.



Holy Week Schedule

- April 17
Palm Sunday
8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Masses
- April 21
Holy Thursday
7 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper
- April 22
Good Friday
3 p.m. Living Stations of the Cross
7 p.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
- April 23
Holy Saturday
8 p.m. Easter Vigil
- April 24
Easter Sunday
8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Masses

Share Your Faith during Lent

by Christine Ducharme

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9 and St. Bart's is offering an opportunity to participate in faith sharing small groups this year. Faith sharing small groups can assist in our spiritual growth by providing an opportunity to deepen our faith beyond the walls of the parish and help us become attentive to the Holy Spirit at work in our lives and through the lives of others. A facilitator's guide and booklets entitled *Daily Reflections for Lent* will be provided for all groups.

There are three ways to participate in faith sharing small groups this year:

- 1) You may independently start your own group. We recommend a group size of six to eight people. Start date and meeting times will be determined independently by each group.
- 2) You may sign up for groups on the forms provided at the Information Desk after the Masses on 2/13, 2/20 and 2/27. St. Bart's will assign people to a small group. When signing up you can choose the time (day or night) and location (home or church) that would be most convenient for you. You will also find the form on our website, www.st-barts.org, under Events & News or 2011 Lenten Events.

- 3) St. Bart's will host a faith sharing small group at the church. This group will have their first meeting at the Lenten Reflection evening on Monday, March 14 at 7:00 p.m. This group will continue to meet on five consecutive Wednesdays from 10 - 11 a.m. on 3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 4/13, and 4/20.

Plan to attend the information session in Fellowship Hall after all the Masses on February 26 and 27.



Lenten Reflection Evening

Monday, March 14

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Pray • Fast • Share

Lent is the time of year when we are eager to “spring clean” our lives; throw out the trash, reconcile our burdens, and head down the sacred path that leads us towards new life in God’s love. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving (charity) are ancient Lenten practices that can help us navigate this path.

St. Bartholomew is hosting an evening with Dr. Bernie Evans, who will guide us on a Lenten journey to explore these ancient practices. As a speaker, educator and writer he will provide insight and guidance towards a deeper relationship with God and our neighbors.

Dr. Bernard Evans is a faculty member at Saint John’s University where he occupies the Virgil Michel Chair teaching courses on

Christian social ethics, environmental ethics and ministry in rural communities. Dr. Evans serves on an advisory board for the Minnesota Catholic Conference and on the Board of Directors of the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition.

His publications include the books *Lazarus at the Table* (2006) as well as *Vote Catholic? Beyond the Political Din* (2008).

There is no charge for this event. Instead, we invite you to donate a pair of new socks (men, women or children) for the Simpson Housing Shelter. Your registration is appreciated. Visit our website, www.st-barts.org, Events & News, or call the parish office at (952) 473-6601. All adults and teens are welcome!

Lenten Service Opportunity

Wednesday, March 23

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Care • Serve • Pray



Reach out and make life better for others...feed the poor, offer kindness to the elderly, help the disabled. This is almsgiving, a Lenten practice which challenges us to give of our talents, treasures and energy.

Join St. Bartholomew for an evening of almsgiving at the Lenten volunteer service night. It’s an opportunity to put your faith into action. Choose from a variety of important volunteer opportunities such as packing lunches for Simpson Housing Shelter, making treats for a senior housing complex, helping with the Lenten Rosary

Project and assisting Helping Paws (an organization that provides service dogs for the physically disabled).

There is no charge for this event. Instead, please bring a few dollars to collectively sponsor Tanna, a service dog in training.

All ages are welcome – adults and children (ages 7 and older, too). It’s a great way for families to serve together. Your registration is appreciated. To register or for more information, visit our website, www.st-barts.org, Events & News, or call the parish office at (952) 473-6601.



What Will You Make of Your Lenten Journey?

We will soon begin our Lenten journey, but what really does this mean for each of us? Is it a time to dread the sacrifices that we believe we should or are obligated to make, the same sacrifices that we begin each year on Ash Wednesday? Or, do we consider Lent as a time to grow spiritually in our relationship with God, to more fully understand the sacrifices our Lord made for each of us when He suffered and died on the Cross?

Lent, by one definition means the spring season. If we reflect momentarily on the spring season, we will find that it is a time for new growth. The trees will begin to bloom, the flowers will emerge from dormancy, the grass will green and begin to grow. Can Lent truly be a time for new growth in our lives, a spring season for each of us?

The transformation that we see in nature is similar to what can occur in our own lives, but each of us is responsible for allowing this change to take place. This time of reflection, this time to imitate the great sacrifices of our Lord, will be what we choose to make of it.

Make this Lenten season a special time to prepare to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Reflect on the time Jesus spent in the desert in preparation for his ministry being tempted and tested by the demons. Reflect on the temptations of the demons in our material world today, and respond to those temptations in the same way as Jesus. Make this Lenten season the beginning of a new spring, the beginning of a new time in your life filled with God and with His graces and blessings.

Prayer will undoubtedly be an important part of your Lenten journey and will strengthen you on this journey. Perhaps you will find that conversing with God will help you make wise decisions in your daily life, and that the challenges will be navigated more smoothly. May God bless you on this Lenten journey and fill each of you with His love and guidance.

2011-2012 Faith Formation Registration Will Begin in Spring

by Kari Elsen

Benjamin Franklin once said, “Once you’ve finished changing, you’ve finished.” St. Bart’s Youth Ministry and Faith Formation is anything but “finished;” it’s definitely making changes for the better. This spring, all families who are interested in signing up their children (K-Confirmation) for faith formation for the 2011-2012 school year will have the opportunity to get a jump start and keep some dollars in their wallet.

Moving the registration process to spring will allow for much needed and positive

change. With the help of Faith Formation Director Jim DeShane and the Faith Formation Commission, we are allowing for a better structure for future classes. Having families sign up earlier will allow parents to make faith formation a priority in the lives of their children, to have something scheduled rather than letting the world of busy sports schedules and after school meetings schedule them. It also allows St. Bart’s to recruit the necessary number of catechists in relation to how many children we have enrolled. In the past these two things were done simultane-

ously causing some classes to be overcrowded. St. Bartholomew’s goal is to educate your children the best we can with the best formation and program.

Look for more information regarding sign up times and dates as spring approaches. Watch for news in the bulletin, on our website, and in your mailbox and inbox. Please note that there will be a deadline for initial registration, and after that initial deadline, fees will increase. Don’t miss your opportunity to save!

New Prayer Shawl Ministry

by Christine Ducharme

Do you like to knit or crochet or do you want to learn? Do you find joy in praying and helping others? If you do, our new Prayer Shawl ministry team would love to have you join us. For your practice of prayer and almsgiving during Lent consider making a prayer shawl for a parishioner!

A prayer shawl is intended to be a reminder of God’s ever-present love. We would love to bless parishioners who are facing serious illnesses and personal losses of many kinds with the gift of a handmade prayer shawl to reassure them that our prayers are with them and they are not alone. There is no right or wrong way to create these gifts of love and they are simple to make; they do not have to look alike or even be the same color or size. When a shawl is completed, it is blessed and then delivered to a person who needs to feel a special touch from God.

To further this ministry at St. Bart’s we are forming prayer shawl gatherings once a month where volunteers can come together for a time of knitting or crocheting, prayer and shawl creation. People who crochet or knit often report that the rhythmic motion of the hooks and needles helps to quiet their

minds and quite naturally draws them to prayer and meditation. You are invited to bring your talents (and a friend!) to an hour-long informational meeting on March 13 in the Family Room (A101) following the 10:30 Mass. The Family Room is located on the main level off of the Cry Room.

Please bring the following supplies with you to the meeting:

- 3 skeins of the same color of Lion’s Brand homespun (or other soft yarn) - any color
- Knitting needles (size 11, 13, 15 is best) or a size Q crochet hook

(Limited supplies will be available at the meeting.)

If you aren’t able to make a shawl yourself, you can also help by praying for those making and receiving the shawls, and you can make a donation to provide yarn for the ministry’s supply cabinet. For more information or if you’d like to contribute, please contact the pastoral minister, Christine Ducharme, 952/473-6601x222 or cducharme@st-barts.org or Anna Hudson, 952/945-0075 or amhddh@msn.com.



In the near future, prayer shawl patterns and other information will be posted on the Pastoral Care webpage at www.st-barts.org so you can participate in this ministry even if you are not able to attend the meetings.

Bring your talents (and a friend!) to an hour-long informational meeting on Sunday, March 13 in the Family Room (A101), following the 10:30 Mass.



SCHOOL NEWS

Catholic Schools Week

by Lynn Volkenant

Join me in thanking teachers, school staff,
SEAC and PTO members, many volunteers and
everyone else involved in running
St. Bartholomew School.
Through their dedication,
they make our school an excellent example
of how Catholic schools are
A+ for America.

Catholic Schools Week is one of my favorite times of the year. It is a time each year when we honor the role of Catholic education in our parish, our community, and our nation. This year's theme was "Catholic Schools: A+ for America," which celebrates the fact that Catholic schools are a benefit for our nation. Because of their traditionally high academic standards and high graduation rates, all supported by strong moral values, Catholic schools and their graduates make a significant contribution to American society.

Catholic schools provide a high level of service to local communities because of the many opportunities for service learning experiences available to students. Giving back to the community and helping others are values instilled in every Catholic school student. Catholic schools also offer A+ service to our country by serving students from all economic backgrounds and giving them a strong academic and moral foundation. This solid foundation enables students to succeed in life, serving the government, industry, business, nonprofit and educational fields.

Here at St. Bartholomew School we are always excited to have opportunities to show off what our students are learning and what they have accomplished. It was wonderful to have so many visitors throughout the week, beginning with the Pancake Breakfast and Open House on January 30. At each of the weekend Masses, students from the school took on the responsibilities



St. Bart's students work together to make sandwiches to feed the homeless.

of lector, cantor, prayer leaders, ushers, and gift bearers.

During the following week, students and teachers were engaged in many experiences. We combined young and older students as activity buddies, and each class made their own "Top Ten Reasons St. Bart's is the Best" flags. Younger students were treated to a visit from an author; older students met two alums who are now students at Benilde -St. Margaret. On Monday afternoon, the entire school gathered in the gym for the Historical Perspectives Helen Keller play. During the week, we celebrated a school Mass, created a giant flag mural, and dressed in red, white, and blue for a day. All classes participated in a service-learning project, making sandwiches for the homeless with 363 Ministries on Thursday.



Visiting author, Suzie Basil, reads her book to a very attentive audience during the Catholic Schools Week celebration.

Friday was a day for fun, with the sixth graders vs. teachers in a volleyball game and then a giant screen movie and popcorn to end the day.

I am proud of our students for their commitment to St. Bartholomew School, and our faith community. I know you will join me in thanking teachers, school staff, SEAC and PTO members, many volunteers and everyone else involved in running St. Bartholomew School. Through their dedication, they make our school an excellent example of how Catholic schools are A+ for America.

Upcoming Events

March

- Saturday & Sunday, March 5 & 6
Images of Spring Mardi Gras Weekend
(see page 2 for details)
- Wednesday, March 9
8:45 a.m., 12:00 noon, 6 p.m.
Ash Wednesday Masses
- Thursday, March 10, 10 a.m.
The Heart of the Matter
- For a listing of events & activities during
Lent, please see pages 4 & 5.

April

- Thursday, April 14, 10 a.m.
The Heart of the Matter.
 - April 17 - 24
For Holy Week listing,
please see page 4.

Member Update

Baptisms

Leo Feldhaus
Drew Elsenpeter
Ethan Ptacek

Marriages

Deaths

Louis J. Moriarty
Robin Cleveland Johnson
Barbara Jane Engrav
Rodney Alan Georgens

New Members

James & Joyce Jagodzinski
Brian & Susan Hussey
Andrew & Paula Warford
Mary & William Titler
William L. Robideau
T. Michael Kelly
Fred & Judy Fey
Guy & Geri Falzone
Lori & Ron Hume
Susan Holt

Save the Date

- Sunday, June 5
All-Parish Mass & Picnic
Dollars for Scholars Golf Tournament
Look for more details in the next issue
of *Reflections*.

Check Out Our Website

For the latest information
about St. Bart's events
and much more,
visit our website at
www.st-barts.org.

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