



Reflections

A bimonthly publication from St. Bartholomew Catholic Faith Community

Honoring Charlie Becker as He Retires

On Sunday, March 7, the St. Bartholomew Catholic Faith Community gathered to celebrate the wonderful dedication and accomplishments of Charlie Becker who recently retired after serving as our parish administrative director for 23 years. The evening began with a beautiful and touching Mass at which Charlie was bestowed a gift from the parish. The hundreds of parishioners attending then had the opportunity to greet Charlie and his family at a reception and to sign a thank you poster, which was framed and given to him.

Charlie expressed heartfelt thanks to all who helped celebrate his retirement. "I was very humbled by the experience," he said. "I am so pleased and proud to have been a part of this community for so long."

Charlie continues in his fight against a brain tumor, first diagnosed late last summer. He and his family are grateful for the many prayers and healing thoughts you continue to bless upon them.



Past and current parish staff gather with Charlie Becker during his retirement celebration.



Hundreds of parishioners, such as Mike and Mary Conklin, took the opportunity to thank Charlie for his 23 years of service to St. Bart's.



Parishioners signed the matted photo poster, which was then given to Charlie.

*Join in Celebrating Fr. Michael's
10 Year Anniversary at St. Bart's
Tuesday, April 13, 6:00 p.m.*

On April 13, 2000, Fr. Michael presided at his first liturgy as pastor of St. Bartholomew. This year will mark Fr. Michael's tenth year as pastor of St. Bartholomew. In celebration of Fr. Michael's anniversary as pastor, we invite you to a Mass of Thanksgiving on Tuesday, April 13 at 6:00 p.m. A reception in Fr. Michael's honor will follow the liturgy in the Fellowship Hall.



We have all been blessed by Fr. Michael's inspired leadership and ministry, so we hope you can join us in celebrating ten fruitful years of ministry.

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Pastoral Care

Uncovering the Hidden Ministry

by Tom

What would it take for you to reach beyond your own family and commit an hour a week to care for a fellow parishioner?

My moment came after my dad was diagnosed with terminal cancer back East. I shared with St. Bart's Pastoral Care Director Christine Ducharme that it pained me because I couldn't be there for him as much as my brother and sister who lived nearby. A week later she asked if I would like to visit another elderly man who had grown up back East, was legally blind and had lost his wife. He lived alone in a townhouse, just on the other side of the small pond behind our house. But until Christine introduced us, I never knew he existed.

I began to visit the man once a week. Sometimes I would just sit and listen to his stories. Other weeks I took him grocery shopping and did light cleaning or he would visit our home for a meal. With daughters who never lived near their own grandparents, it was good to have an older person in our lives. It also helped me through my own father's passing and made my connection with St. Bart's more meaningful.

Some time after the elderly man died, Christine invited my wife and me to consider helping Rose and Lynes Getten get to Sunday Mass. Unfortunately, Rose entered the hospital and died before we could start. And my only brother died back East around the same time at age 58. But Lynes and I carried on.

As Rose was nearing the end of her days, I felt privileged to drive Lynes to the hospital to be with Rose when Fr. Michael anointed her. I also was honored when I was asked to push his wheelchair in the procession at her funeral. In the months that followed, I would pick him up at the assisted living home and take him to church. Lynes suffered a stroke and became less steady last year, and it became difficult to transport him to Mass. So I now visit him there, occasionally playing my guitar or fiddle to share my great love of traditional Irish music with him and the other residents.

In truth, I had avoided volunteering for years because I feared I might get sucked into a giant black hole of service at the expense of my own family. Even worse, I imagined having little real impact, applying good intentions in ineffective ways. Fortunately, Christine cares as much about her volunteers as she does the people they



Parishioner Terri Kedzuf and her dog, Rio, presented at a Heart of the Matter (55+) Seminar. Terri and her family train service dogs through the Helping Paws organization.

visit. She also understands how to apply talents where they are truly needed. There is ongoing dialog and respect for volunteers' busy lives and the time we can commit. So rather than the dreaded "black hole," my volunteer time actually has become a place of mutual "soul support" and genuine comfort.

Pastoral Care Expands

While Christine can't fill Fr. Michael's robes, she's the one who wears the parish's

emergency pager and is on pastoral call 24/7 for grief counseling, funeral planning, visiting and all-around soul support. Last fall, she asked me and several others to serve on a committee that would help her develop a three-year strategic plan for the Pastoral Care Ministry. The goal was to increase awareness and participation, expand non-crisis care, and engage younger parishioners. To implement the plan, she's going to need a lot more help.

I hope you will consider becoming part of St. Bart's expanded Pastoral Care Ministry. For instance, bringing Eucharist to a shut-in, assisting at funerals, helping families struggling with job transition, joining the prayer chain, preparing engaged couples for marriage, or sharing knowledge with seniors at the Heart of the Matter (55+ Seminars).

Got an hour a week to improve a parishioner's life — actually two lives counting your own? If your moment has arrived to volunteer in pastoral care or request assistance, call the parish office at 952/473-6601 or email Christine at cducharme@st-barts.org this week.

Celebrating One of Our "Angel" Volunteers

Did you know....we have an "angel" volunteer right here in our midst? For years he's been a dedicated helper at our Wednesday prayer service held at Golden Living Center, Hillcrest of Wayzata. I would like to honor Rich Deziel for his faithfulness, charm, compassion and dedication to the residents of that facility and to his fellow volunteers working with him there. Rich greets everyone, attends to their simple needs, makes everyone feel welcome and holds my music and sings with me when I'm there with my guitar.



Rich Deziel, a dedicated volunteer at Golden Living Center, Hillcrest with other dedicated volunteers, Dorothy Ernst, Lois Muyres and Marlene Kohn.

I first encountered Rich when he consistently visited his brother who was a resident there. When his brother died Rich kept coming and ministering for years. What makes Rich even more special is that, even though he turned 90, he is still that good and faithful servant!

So Rich, our hat is off to you! Thank you for your example of being an angel to others! You are loved and appreciated!

Sincerely, Marti Carter and all your St. Bart's Community

Fulfilling Our Promise

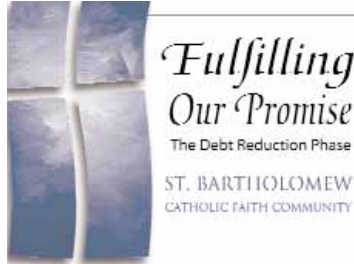
The Debt Reduction Phase Campaign

by Kate and Jim Vogl

With the generous support of our parish community, we were able to renovate our church and school three years ago. Today we have a worship space that inspires awe and reverence, and we have a school that inspires and provides exceptional learning.

When our faith community undertook the construction project, we knew we would need at least one more capital campaign in order to pay down that debt. It is now time for us to begin that process through *Fulfilling Our Promise: The Debt Reduction Phase Campaign*.

The campaign will officially begin with a special "Kick-Off Celebration" scheduled for Sunday, April 11 at noon and will culminate on Saturday & Sunday, May 15 and 16— Commitment Weekend — where members will be asked to make their campaign gift commitments. Our goal for this campaign is to raise a minimum of \$3,000,000 over a period of three years, which will help us meet this special need. Our challenge goal will be to raise the full \$6,200,000 required to pay down the debt in full.



Through the success of our initial campaign, which raised \$6 million, we were able to complete our building project. In renovating the church and school, we were able to consolidate the offices for the church staff, establish appropriate security for the school, offer much needed additional parking, and provide

essential improvements in the entire heating and cooling system. If you're new to the church, the beautifully renovated space may be the only St. Bart's you've ever known. Families who've been here longer will remember how far we've come. We've done it all without affecting our ability to serve our mission. Another successful campaign ensures that all will continue.

In the coming weeks, you will be hearing more about the opportunity to play a part in making that happen — through prayer, in volunteering and by giving. St. Bart's has given our family so much in connecting us with so many others who are committed to family, to faith and to the community. We are glad to be able to offer back to the church in return, and hope you will prayerfully consider how much you can do the same.



The Journey Begins

We all know individuals that we consider to be stewards. Have you every noticed how rich their lives seem? Imagine being one of the many in a community devoted to a stewardship way of life.

Today, St. Bartholomew Catholic Faith Community is strong in faith, love and our commitment to living a Christian life. With all of us resolving to live our lives to the fullest potential that God has intended, we amplify potential as a parish as stewards.

As a parish family we must unite and walk together on this journey. We must take ownership of these fundamental ideals and make them a part of our daily routine. We must practice these precepts and instill them in our children. We must encourage and give strength to our neighbors who walk with us on this pilgrimage. Above all, we should always remember that our God is merciful, giving and always with us. He will guide us on this journey of stewardship. Our mission is to offer our own gifts, as well as look to those around us, to share and work together to make St. Bartholomew a richer faith community.

As we look to the future at St. Bartholomew, all our dreams can be realized. It takes commitment and passion to fulfill these dreams, and an openness to hear God's will, working within each and every one of us. We have to recommit ourselves in all we do to live the life of stewardship. Becoming a steward is not something that can occur in a moment. Instead, it is a process that calls us to reconsider our way of life, and to make changes where needed. It is a discernment process for the heart, mind, and soul.

For some, the process will be brief; for others, it may take some time. But ultimately, becoming a steward means making a conscious decision to accept a new spirituality that will lead us on a journey to be closer to God. It is a promise that we make to acknowledge God's gifts and receive them gratefully, to cultivate those blessings responsibly, to share them lovingly with justice with others, and to return them with increase to the Lord. It's a journey of building and nourishing our relationship with our God and Savior.

Let's walk down this road together, knowing the glory of our Lord is leading us all. There is no area in life, which is not part of Stewardship.



The Journey of Our Newest Faith Walkers

by Deacon Rick Witucki

“The RCIA program and all of those within the church have shown me that it is greater to journey through faith with a community than to journey alone.”

Edward Held, RCIA Candidate

Every year, a new group of parishioners comes forward looking to fully join the Church through the RCIA process. From autumn through spring, they descend into the lower level of the church on Sunday mornings to drink coffee, share stories and learn about this amazing faith tradition called Roman Catholicism.

These faith walkers inspire the folks they travel with during the year; their sponsors, the RCIA team, and the greater community. They have stood up and decided to make a change in how they relate to God and a change in how they live their lives. We are thankful for their witness.



The RCIA candidates, their sponsors and team share a cup of soup after a morning retreat.

This year's candidates are all men. They are supported by their wives and fiancées, some of whom have been able to make this journey with them. They are smart, sharp and attentive and hardly miss a session. They are sincere in their faith, and they look happier every week. I can't wait to see what they look like at the Saturday Easter Vigil.

On behalf of the RCIA team and their sponsors, I tell you that they have proven themselves ready and prepared to become fully Catholic. Our community is enhanced by their commitment. Please welcome them with open arms. God bless them all!

My RCIA journey has been a very positive experience. I was baptized Lutheran; however, I never attended church until I was in college. I started going to church when I met my fiancé and haven't looked back. Until RCIA I never fully understood the sermons, the teachings or Catholic beliefs. RCIA has changed my life by connecting me to God as well as the community at St. Bart's.



I was nervous at my first RCIA meeting. I didn't know what to expect or what would be expected from me. I came into the RCIA program later than the other candidates and was hoping I wouldn't feel like an outsider when I arrived. My apprehension was quickly relieved as the entire RCIA community welcomed me with open arms.

Each week at RCIA my connection with God and the community grew closer. Through the lessons, mediations, and guidance from sponsors I have developed a relationship with God that would not have been possible without the community at St. Bart's.

Alec Chaffee

Growing up in a primarily Catholic family, I would attend Mass and read my Bible, but I had little knowledge of what was going on in the Catholic church. It was not until I met my lovely fiancée, Brianna, that I started to attend church on a regular basis. I could see how important being Catholic was to her, her parents and my parents and so I decided to learn more.



After attending RCIA for a few months most of my questions had been answered. The more I understood what was going on, the more I came to appreciate the sacraments of the Church and the ceremonies that take place. The people at St. Bartholomew were all welcoming, patient and kind. This community has been a huge part in developing my faith and knowledge as a Catholic.

The RCIA program and all of those within the church have shown me that it is greater to journey through faith with a community than to journey alone. I am thankful for this church and the members for all that is given to people such as myself and others.

Edward Held

I was born and baptized a Lutheran in 1949. From the time I was a young boy I have loved the church. A life-long practice of reading the Scriptures and the history of the Christian Church began then and has never ceased.



My dear wife, Michelle, and many Catholic friends have had lasting impact on me throughout my life. Over the years these people and some revelatory experience created a yearning to be in full communion with the Church and pointed to my own disappointments in the faith walk I had been born into and adhered to all of my life. During those years I was involved in confirmation teaching and hospice. But my calling toward Catholicism continued to grow along with my belief and practice of Catholic worship. Our visitation to many different Catholic churches was our pattern for several years until we inquired last summer about starting the RCIA program here at St. Bart's.

All spiritual things have happened at the appointed time in my life and that has included my call to continued conversion through the RCIA program. Our experience with RCIA has been much more than we had ever hoped for. It has revealed a caring Christian community and a complete Church that clearly elucidates its desire to be present in all aspects of our lives. The RCIA team has been very welcoming and loving toward us and we feel very much a part of St. Bart's already. Special thanks to my sponsor, Ricardo Ortizcazarin, and my Spiritual Advisor, Delores Olson. Michelle and I look forward to meeting you.

Bruce Hanson

I finally get it. Perhaps this is the best and most simple way to explain why I am converting to Catholicism. My wife is Catholic. I have been Protestant. I have always believed in God, had a rich spiritual life, and have tried, imperfectly, to follow Christ's example. But after years of fighting and excusing why I should not become a Catholic, I came to discover the reasons I should become a Catholic.



Among many things, the Catholic Church has shown me an incredible reverence for God, a staggering intellectual tradition, a confidence to lead and at times stand alone for the truth, a humility to reform and admit mistakes, a provision of order in a world of chaos, a reliance on prayer to deepen our faith and direct our life, a gripping seriousness and a gut-busting levity, an ethic to always look out for the least, an expectation that, in service to Christ, we should be accountable and be our best, a diversity of opinions within the Faith, but an unwavering fidelity to the centrality of Christ, and a community of believers that you can count on time and time again.

The list goes on and on, but perhaps most simply, it just makes sense. I have heard the call, and I finally get it. And I thank God and everyone, especially my wife, Cari, my dear friend Mike Cummings, my sponsor John Schleif, and the RCIA Community, who has helped me along the way.

Tod Worner

I feel truly blessed to be welcomed into the Catholic faith. Until recently, my superficial spiritual beliefs left me unbalanced and without direction, though this wasn't something I realized. I rarely attended Sunday Masses and didn't have a meaningful relationship with God.



Fortunately, some strong influences and life events paved the way and led me to the RCIA program. My introduction to Catholicism and encouragement came from my wife and soul mate Debbie Benson. She is a lifelong practicing Catholic and is the driving influence for raising our four children as Catholics, which includes their enrollment at St. Bart's School.

Through our involvement at St. Bart's, I had developed many strong friendships with parishioners. Everyone I've met seemed to have a genuine goodness, cheerful spirit and caring hand. I concluded this common thread must have been rooted in their Catholic faiths, something I was missing.

Besides my personal influences, I had a God moment in 2008 when our curious three-year-old unknowingly jumped into a swimming pool. With dad distracted, fortunately, our six-year-old heard the splash and yelled out "Danny in pool." I still remember seeing Danny's face on the pool bottom looking up as I dove in and grabbed him. God was watching over our family, and I now count my blessings every day.

I am truly grateful for the RCIA program. Through RCIA I no longer feel like an "outsider" attending Mass. I now have a solid foundation for developing a strong faith and a better understanding and a practice of the Catholic faith. I owe a great deal of gratitude to the entire RCIA team and St. Bart's Church for giving me this wonderful opportunity to lead a lifelong Catholic faith journey. Thank you and God bless.

Brian Benson

These five men will be fully initiated into the Catholic Church at the Holy Saturday Easter Vigil. They will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and then become one with the faith community as they gather around the Lord's Table to receive the Eucharist.

A reception in Fellowship Hall will follow Mass, which will give all parishioners an opportunity to personally welcome them.

Plan Now for Summer Youth Programs!

by Gabbie LeJeune

All activities are open to friends who are not members of St. Bart's. They simply fill out the same paperwork as St. Bart's members to attend the events. Adult leaders and chaperones are needed for all the programs. Please contact Gabbie LeJeune in the Parish Office at 952-473-6601, youthministry@st-barts.org if you have any questions.

Middle School

Summer Stretch

Join us for Summer Stretch. It's a special program just for middle school age youth entering grades 6 - 8. We get together for six Wednesdays, June 30 - August 4.

We'll spend the morning doing community service, have lunch together and spend the afternoon with fun activities like the beach, the waterpark and Valley Fair. It's a great way to meet people, have fun and do something important.

Who: Youth entering grades 6 - 8

When: Wednesdays, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., from June 30 - August 4 (ending at 6:00 p.m.)

Where: The day begins and ends at St. Bart's

Cost: \$120. Includes afternoon transportation, activities and T-shirt. Bring your own lunch.

Chaperones: Parents are required to chaperone at least one morning and afternoon session.

Teen Peer Leaders: Youth entering 10 - 12th grades are invited to participate in the program as peer assistants. Cost is \$50 to cover activity fees.

Deadline: April 15. Complete the permission and parent forms and return them with payment to the Parish Office.

Middle and High School

Boundary Waters Canoe/Camping Trip

Canoe, hike, swim, grow spiritually, challenge yourself physically, make new friends! Join youth from St. Bart's and from Latino Catholic youth groups as we journey through this beautiful wilderness.

Who: 13-18 year olds

When: July 31 - August 6

Cost: \$200

Deadline: April 15. Space is limited; to reserve your spot, please return the permission slip along with your \$50 deposit to the Parish Office by April 15.

High School

Christpower Mission

Trip 2010

Minneapolis, MN

June 20-26

Be part of a work crew helping with projects such as yard work, painting, indoor/outdoor cleanup, or helping children at a school. Learn about Catholic Social Teachings. Make new friends with youth from the four other participating churches. Be part of dynamic evening programs which will include music, skits, prayer, and teen testimonies.

Who: Youth entering 9 - 12th grades

When: June 20 - 26

Where: North Minneapolis, Annunciation Parish.

Cost: \$180

Deadline: April 15. Return the permission slip along with an \$80 deposit to the Parish Office by April 15.

Go to Our Website

You will find information, links and permission forms for these summer programs on our website, www.st-barts.org, under the Education Formation tunnel or on the Middle School and High School pages.



St. Bartholomew Catholic Faith Community
IMAGES of SPRING



Blue Jeans AND Bling,
Blue Jeans OR Bling.
Whatever YOUR thing,
It's not that we don't care,
We just want you there!
April 17 & 18

Golden Valley Country Club, April 17
Church Auction, April 17 & 18
Raffle Drawing, April 18

What's New You Ask?

Lower ticket price,
Now isn't that nice?

More time in the beginning for appetizer and drink,
Equals more time for the Silent Auction so you can think!

Dress up or Dress down—whatever your pleasure,
We're all here to share our time, talent and treasure!

Return your RSVP for the April 17 Blue Jeans & Bling Evening Auction by April 9.



World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain August 10-23, 2011

"Rooted and Built Up in Jesus Christ, Firm in the Faith" (Col 2:7)

Join Catholic youth and young adults from around the world and Pope Benedict XVI on a pilgrimage to Madrid, Spain. During the week leading up to the final Mass at World Youth Day, youth will learn the teachings of the faith and celebrate in other festivities that allow them to share their faith and inspire them to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ while understanding other cultures and spreading peace throughout the world.

Who: Youth currently in 9th grade through young adult

When: August 10-23, 2011

Cost: About \$3,200 before fundraising

Deadline: April 15, 2010. Reserve a spot with a \$400 deposit.



SCHOOL NEWS

Nailing It Down

St. Bart's Students Are Reminded of Christ's Love and Mercy

by Lynn Volkenant

As Lent began, each student in the school received a small card with a nail at the top. The words on the card remind us that we could use the nail to join two pieces of wood, hang a picture, or make a hook. However, the nail on the card has a different purpose, to remind us of Christ's death on the cross and His great love for us. Students have been asked, when they come across the nail in their pocket or backpack, that they let it remind them of Christ's love and mercy. Teachers daily pass out larger nails whenever they observe a kindness or selfless act. These large nails are then dropped, with a loud clang, into a classroom bucket. When Lent is through, the nails will go to Habitat for Humanity to help build a home. I like to imagine that each of those kindnesses is extended to the home and the family who lives there, surrounding them with the love of Christ. Classes are doing a variety of service learning experiences, including trips to Feed My Starving Children, food drive for IOCP, clothes for the students of Father O'Dong, letters to service-people, as well as helping their parents, siblings and teachers and classmates.

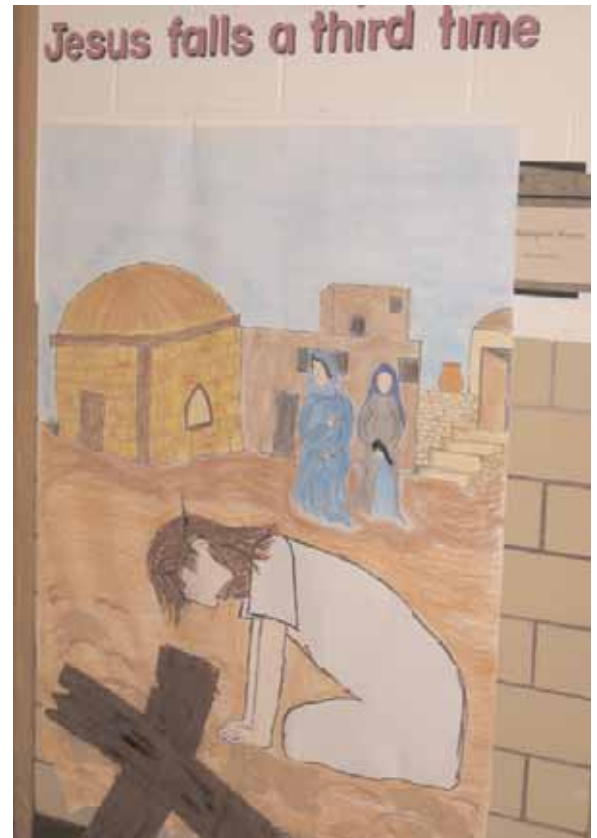
Outside every classroom is a representation of one of the Stations of the Cross. Once each week during Lent the entire school gathers in

the hallway to pray, sing, and hear again the story of Christ's journey to the cross. In a very personal way, students participate in that journey as they go through the hall. It is particularly moving to see, that even the smallest children understand the solemnity of our procession.

My sincere thank you to all who made the first Annual funD Night on March 13 such a success. The fund is off to a great start thanks to our gracious hosts, the Eckerlines, and all the other folks who created an evening filled with food, laughter, and conversation about all the wonderful things that make St. Bartholomew School such a special place.

We Want to Connect with Alumni

We need your help in building our alumnus database. If you are alumni, or know alumni who would like to be a part of the growing relationship with the school, please contact us. We want to invite you back to share your own St. Bart's School memories!



JOIN US ON SUNDAY, JUNE 6. . . EDUCATING OUR FUTURE LEADERS

by Amy Wojciechowski



You are the difference in a
Catholic Education!

Fourteen years ago, this family-friendly, 18-hole social scramble tournament was founded in memory of Don Adams, Sr. for the purpose of providing scholarships to those who want their children to have a Catholic-based education, but are facing financial challenges.

With your support, we will continue to educate children who otherwise couldn't afford the academic excellence, and moral and spiritual development offered at St. Bartholomew Catholic School.

Scholarships requests for the 2009-2010 school year were \$93,000. Because of the generosity and participation of our faith community, proceeds from the 2009 Don

Adam's golf tournament, private donations and the endowment fund — all scholarship requests have been fulfilled.

Funds raised at this year's golf tournament on June 6 will be used for scholarships for the upcoming school year of 2010-2011. Your support as a player and/or a financial sponsor will help cover scholarships that are needed today and for years to come at St. Bart's.

Thank you.

Committee members: Don Adams, Dean Sparkman, Amy Wojciechowski, David Marquis, Kelly Kapeller and Mary Tucker

Upcoming Events

April

- Thurs., April 8, 10:00 a.m.
The Heart of the Matter
- Sun., April 11, 12 noon
Fulfilling Our Promise: Debt Reduction Phase Kick-Off
- Tues., April 13, 6:00 p.m.
10th Anniversary Mass & Reception for Fr. Michael
- Sat. & Sun., April 17- 18
Images of Spring Weekend
- Sat. & Sun., April 24 - 25
Peace, Love & Earth Fest

May

- Thurs., May 13, 10:00 a.m.
The Heart of the Matter
- Sun., May 15 & 16
Fulfilling Our Promise: Debt Reduction Phase Commitment Weekend



Holy Week Schedule

April 1	Holy Thursday 7 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper
April 2	Good Friday 3 p.m. Living Stations of the Cross 7 p.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
April 3	Holy Saturday 8 p.m. Easter Vigil
April 4	Easter Sunday 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Masses

June

- Sunday, June 6, 10 a.m. Mass
All-Parish Mass & Picnic
- Sunday, June 6
Dollars for Scholars Golf Tournament

Member Update

Baptisms

Ellery Amelia Winter
Gavin Fisher Stewart
Vivian Celeste Worner
Megan Grace Olmscheid
Nicolas Cruz Olmscheid

Deaths

Troy Holm
John Wynn Roberts
Joan Hamlet Swenson

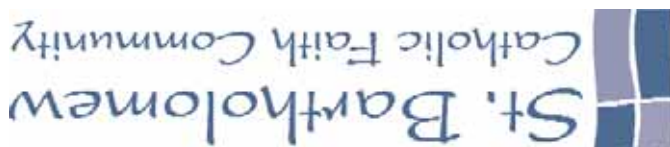
New Members

Spencer Morgan
Dan & Jennifer Conroy
James Wrubel
Lindsay Wuczyna
Gary & Deborah Gniffke
Melissa Clift
David & Michelle Anderson
Jacob Keding & Jenessa Dorale
Christopher & Nicole Truso
Todd & Debbie Sperling
Bob & Linda Minarik
John Haugland
Joe & Jone Hafermann
Todd & Carol Krautkremer
Dennis & Sarah Showalter
Lee & Melissa Olmscheid
Hayden & Michele Johnson
Robert & Mary Lawton
Michael & Jacqueline Helm

Reflections is a publication (6 issues/yr.) of St. Bartholomew Catholic Faith Community, 630 E. Wayzata Blvd., Wayzata, MN 55391
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Reflections Mission: To reflect parish life through writings which educate, inform and inspire the actions and teachings of our Catholic community.
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