



Reflections

A bimonthly publication from St. Bartholomew Catholic Faith Community

Rejoice and Celebrate the Season

Advent Penitential Service
Thursday, December 10, 7:00 p.m.
Children's Liturgy of the Word for
Grades 1 - 5

Rose Ensemble
Christmas in Elizabethan England
Sunday, December 20, 7:00 p.m.
Tickets, \$17, \$25, \$35 for adults; \$14,
\$22, \$32 for students/seniors. For more
information or to buy tickets, call
651/225-4340 or go to www.st-barts.org,
Upcoming Events & News.

Christmas Eve Masses*
Thursday, December 24
4:00 p.m.
Children's Choir and
Instrumental Ensemble
7:30 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.
Parish Choir and Instrumental Ensemble

Christmas Day Mass*
Friday, December 25
10:30 a.m.
Parish Choir and Instrumental Ensemble

Feast of the Holy Family
December 26 & 27
Saturday, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Feast of Mary, Mother of God
Holy Day of Obligation
Thursday, December 31
5:00 p.m.
Friday, January 1
10:30 a.m.

Feast of the Epiphany
January 2 & 3
Saturday, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

** Please note that Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass times have changed as a result of a directive from the Archdiocese. See our website, www.st-barts.org, Events & News for details.*

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Help for Moms

Excerpted with permission from The Catholic Spirit, September 10, 2009

Delores Popescu thought she had the flu in February 2008. At the time, she was a high school student at Main Street School of Performing Arts in Hopkins.

Someone she knew suggested she might be pregnant, so she talked to the school nurse, who suggested she go to Minnetonka Life-Care Centers just down the street.

Popescu followed the nurse's advice and paid a visit. Seven months later, her daughter, Luna, was born. Thanks to numerous visits to the center both before and after Luna's birth, Popescu is happy and confident as she works toward her high school diploma, which she hopes to get in January upon graduation from the Self-Education Center in Richfield.

'Like a miracle'

Popescu is among the thousands of unwed mothers to take advantage of services offered by Total LifeCare Centers, which has 23 centers in Minnesota and three in Wisconsin. TLC was founded in 1974 by St. Joseph of Medialle Sister Jeanne Therese Condon and celebrated its 35th anniversary Sept. 26.

"I'm so thankful they're there," Popescu, 18, said of the staff at Minnetonka Life-Care Centers. "In a way, they're kind of like a miracle. They're just so great and so helpful."

Popescu's remarks are music to the ears of people like Will Coissart, TLC executive director for the last 16 years. He noted there has been a steady increase of services offered to women like Popescu in recent years. In 2008, TLC provided 24,291 client services, up from 18,283 in 2007 and 15,145 in 2006.

"Sometimes, all women need is one person to believe in them and say, 'You can do it,'" he said. "Sometimes, that's all it takes to have the hope, the courage and the good outcome that [Popescu] did."

Times have changed in crisis pregnancy ministry. First, the stigma of being an unwed mother has all but vanished, meaning pregnant women are more willing to come forward for help. Second, centers are offering more services and resources for women, stretching far beyond the initial pregnancy test and counseling to try and persuade them not to choose abortion.

Now, women can get ultrasounds at some of the centers and can also get practical

items like car seats, strollers, cribs and diapers. Not only that, but they also can receive further counseling and education in things like parenting, budgeting and nutrition.

"To me, it's beautiful because it demonstrates to that woman that we care about her and her family and her children beyond just the point where she's chosen life," Coissart said. "We want her to be successful in every part of her life so she and her children can be happy and healthy."

Popescu is participating in one of TLC's newest programs, called Earn While You Learn. She comes in to a center once or twice a week for education and/or counseling and earns various baby items by doing so. Thus far, she has earned a crib, car seat and stroller, plus gained valuable information that she has put to work in raising Luna.

For more information about Total LifeCare Centers, go to the link on our website, www.st-barts.org, under Social Concerns, Respect Life.

We will celebrate Respect Life Weekend on January 23 and 24. Plan to stop by Fellowship Hall that weekend to learn more.

Give Thanks at Year-End

by Cindy Schriever

Year-end is a good time to reflect on your accomplishments during the year and to give thanks for God's many blessings in your life. Between now and the end of the year is also a good time to support the ministries of the church. Besides being a blessing to the work of Jesus Christ, you may also benefit from tax deductions.

Corporate Matching: Many parishioners work for employers who will match their employees' gifts to their parish school. Often these benefits are extended to retired employees as well. We encourage our parishioners, employed or retired, to inquire whether their employer will match their gifts to St. Bartholomew School. We know from experience that many will.

Donor Directed Giving: Some larger charitable organizations, such as United Way, allow you to designate all or a portion of your contribution to a qualified nonprofit organization. When you fill out the contribution form, find the location to designate a specific amount to a 501(C) (3) organization. List the name of the organization as The School of Saint Bartholomew, 630 East Wayzata Boulevard, Wayzata, MN 55391. That's all there is to it! Donor names are forwarded to Saint Bartholomew once a year.

Gifts of stock, mutual funds, insurance, retirement accounts and life income gifts: The legal designation is: The Church of Saint Bartholomew of Wayzata * 630 East Wayzata Boulevard * Wayzata, Minnesota 55391. Please call Cindy

Schriever at the time of transfer at 952/473-6601.

Estate Planned Giving: As always, please consult your attorney and/or tax advisor as to how to minimize current income taxes and/or estate taxes. The correct legal designation for planning your gift is: The Church of Saint Bartholomew of Wayzata * 630 East Wayzata Boulevard * Wayzata, Minnesota 55391.

For more information on giving opportunities, contact Cindy Schriever, 952/473-6601, cschriever@st-barts.org or go to our website, www.st-barts.org, under Stewardship.

To accommodate the increase in paperwork, please have all transfers and designations completed by December 29th.

Homes for the Holidays

by Rob Norr

Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners (IOCP) kicked off its 14th annual Sleep Out fundraiser on November 14 at Klapprich Park. The theme for this year's campaign is "Shelter from the Storm." Saint Bartholomew parishioners joined the Kick Off at Klapprich Park by participating in a candle light procession that took place following the Saturday 5:00 pm Mass. The Sleep Out Kick Off featured food, music, campfires, prizes and fun.

The IOCP Sleep Out helps address the current economic hardships in our community. This year IOCP needs to raise \$2 million in order to cover the housing needs. You can donate by contacting Jill Kohler at IOCP, (952) 404-9388 or jkohler@iocp.org. Donation envelopes are also available at the information desk at Saint Bartholomew. For more about Sleep Out 2009, including stories about families in need, go to our website, www.st-barts.org, under Events & News.

Another helpful way that you can respond to IOCP's affordable housing efforts is to volunteer your time helping to renovate a



Parishioners Greg Engel and Nancy Kralovec lend their hands to help renovate the Boulevard Apartments across the street from Saint Bart's.



new IOCP apartment building, located across the street from Saint Bartholomew on Wayzata Boulevard. This renovation is aimed at addressing the current shortfall of "starter" housing in Wayzata.

When completed in the summer of 2010, the renovated building, now called Boulevard Apartments, will provide six apartment units for local families who qualify. Funding for the renovation has come from a variety of sources, including your donations from the Sleep Out campaign. CommonBond Communities will manage this apartment building upon completion.

Saint Bartholomew parishioners, skilled and unskilled volunteers, have already been working on the apartment renovation. But more help is needed. To volunteer, contact Kim Vohs, IOCP Housing Director, at (952) 745-2238 or kvohs@iocp.org. Your help with the building renovation saves IOCP significant sums of money.



A Recipe for a Sweet Sacrifice

In the Book of Numbers, God gives the Israelites a clear recipe for how they should mix flour, oil and wine to add to their animal sacrifice so that it would be a "sweet-smelling offering to the Lord." - Numbers 15:7. Since, like the Israelites, we also are called to sacrifice to God, we should ask ourselves if our sacrifices are sweet or are they bitter. When we give grudgingly, sparingly or with resentment our sacrifice can be bitter. Try this recipe for a sweet sacrifice.

1. Start with a generous portion of "first fruits."
2. Mix with love for God and all of His creation.
3. Add gratitude for all that God has given to you.
4. Season with trust that God will always provide all that you need.
5. Serve with joy, knowing that your gift is good.

The Giving Benefits of School's Cool

by Denise Didier

The culmination of the School's Cool program each August is an incredible end to this wonderful ministry opportunity. After months of seeking donors, shopping for school supplies and organizing the supplies for over a hundred students - the fun begins. Now it's time to shuttle all of these supplies to the Banyan Community in the East Phillips neighborhood of south Minneapolis. Upon arrival, the Banyan staff eagerly participates in the unloading and preparation of the supplies before distribution to the excited students can begin.

And so, on a warm, summer day this past August, 121 kids of the Banyan Community received backpacks, school supplies and school clothing. As they hoisted their new packs on their shoulders, and

carried bags of supplies from the Banyan Center, smiles and fellowship abounded. Incredibly, the value of the School's Cool donations from Saint Bartholomew parishioners this year was almost \$19,000!

The goal of the School's Cool program is to build a bridge between our communities and cultures, and to provide the necessary tools for the Banyan kids so their focus can be on succeeding in their education. The Banyan youth are, by and large, from immigrant families who are intent on assimilating to an entirely new life that poses challenges on many levels. With the support of our parishioners, via the School's Cool program, once again this year it was mission accomplished! Thank you for your support!



L to R Londa Bilski, Tyler Didier, Denise Didier, Maggie Didier and Tonya Jackson from the Banyan Community load up the backpacks and school supplies that benefited so many school children in the East Phillips neighborhood.

Profiles in Faith

A Vine Bears Fruit

by Teresa Litfin-Wertz

Vocations. Now that is a word you may not hear in everyday life. It doesn't mean the word is absent in our society or in our Saint Bartholomew community, for that matter. There is some excitement in the air at Saint Bart's with the news that two young men from our church are in varied stages of preparation for the priesthood.

Let me introduce you to Henry J. Shea, S.J. and share his journey into the Society of Jesus, the largest religious order for men in the Roman Catholic Church. Henry J. Shea, S.J. is the son of Hank Shea and Anne Simonett. Henry (H.J.) was in the public school system through sixth grade. When his family moved to Wayzata, he started seventh grade at Benilde-St. Margaret's and graduated from there in 2003.

On to Georgetown University he went where he graduated in 2007 with a BA in government. Henry also studied at the Universidad Alberto Hurtado in Santiago, Chile and taught English as a volunteer in Panama. In the summer of 2006, he worked at the Philanthropy Roundtable in Washington, DC. Henry completed his two year novitiate (see inset for explanation) in Syracuse this summer. His experiments, as they are called, included working in an elderly care facility, a homeless shelter and soup kitchen in Philadelphia, and as a nurses' aide at Calvary Cancer Hospital in the Bronx. He also taught freshman Old Testament and coached mock trial for spring semester at Scranton Prep, a Jesuit high school in Scranton, PA.

That is a lot of ground to have covered when you are just 24 years old. To say that Henry is an overachiever is underestimating his accomplishments thus far. He states, "I may honestly say that I have enjoyed every minute of it. The whole experiment, like my vocation, has been, challenges notwithstanding, an immense gift for which I give thanks to God."

Henry took some time out of his hectic schedule to share his thoughts and faith-filled story with our church community.

Q: When did you first think about becoming a priest? When did you decide it was what you wanted for your life?

"I think that I first started thinking about priesthood during my sophomore year in



Henry taking his vows at Holy Cross Church in Syracuse, New York, on the Feast of the Assumption, August 15, 2009. He is kneeling before the Provincial of the New York Province, Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J., who is holding the Blessed Sacrament. Beside him stands, to the left, the Provincial of the Maryland Province, to which Henry belongs, Fr. James Shea, SJ, and to the right, Fr. John Higgins, SJ, the Socius of the New England Province.

high school when I came to know the chaplain there, Fr. Kermit Holl, OSC (the Crosiers). Nevertheless, I had pushed the idea aside and by the time that I was headed for Georgetown, I had my sights set upon law and possibly politics.

Midway through my freshman year there, I had a powerful experience of the Holy Spirit. It was spontaneous and came out of the blue, and it changed my life. I had gone in to speak to my theology professor about questions I had surrounding religious liberty and constitutional law. She recommended that I read John Courtney Murray, a famous Jesuit theologian of the twentieth century. A little later, she also gave me a few essays written by other Jesuits about Murray. I went to see her one afternoon, and as I waited I leafed through them. They had struck something very deep within me, and as I set them down again on a desk, my heart was filled with what I can only describe as joyful exhilaration and love. It took me a few years to fully discern and respond to what was given me, but even then, I have long had a sense, I think, even before Georgetown, that mine was a Jesuit vocation. It's a gift which to this day—just writing about it, in fact!—leaves me with immense gratitude to God."

Q: How did your education at Georgetown affect or inspire your desire or thoughts about priesthood and is that when you learned and decided on the Jesuit order?

"Whether in the classroom, the chapel, or on retreat, a number of the Jesuits that I met at Georgetown made a lasting impression on me. These were well-educated and well-balanced men who also loved Christ and were giving their lives in service to his church."

Q: You are such an articulate, talented public speaker. And having had great success on the speech team in high school and a degree in government you could have chosen any path - you felt called in spite of these strong gifts?

"And I wouldn't trade it for the world. The other day a young guy entering the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal out here in New York City told me about a witty prayer that I imagine has been around for quite awhile: "Thank you, Lord, for saving me from my own plans!"

For quite awhile in high school and college, I had all kinds of other plans in mind, filled with a lot of "me, me and me," or, as St. Ignatius describes it in the Spiritual Exercises—a thirty-day silent retreat which every Jesuit novice has made since the time of Ignatius himself (!)—"riches, honor and pride." Thankfully the Lord helped me to see all that for the hot air that it was and beckoned me to live in the real depths of his self-giving love."

Q: How did your family receive the news? Were they surprised or is this something they've always known?

"I think that in certain respects it was a surprise to all of us. That being said, they are now some of my biggest supporters. Professing vows this past August, especially, was a tremendous family celebration, with grandmothers, aunts, uncles, cousins, etc. All told I think there were nearly thirty family members there."

Q: You sound like an old soul in the way you think and write. What was your upbringing like?

"I had a very good upbringing, with a lot of care and solid role-models. My dad has long been a real hero of mine. My mom

Profiles in Faith

passed away from brain cancer when I was young. A few years later, my dad re-married my stepmom, Chris Shea, and we moved to Wayzata. I also have two step-brothers (Tate and Rob Preston).

So there were certain challenges, too. And I suppose those experiences made my sister and I mature at a younger age than we would have otherwise."

Q: You could be the poster child for the Jesuit order. You are young, very intelligent, articulate, handsome—the world is your oyster kind of thing—but you chose this above all else. It seems like it could be a great marketing approach for the Jesuits and for religious vocations in general. How do you feel about that statement?

"There are plenty of us as well-suited for that kind of thing as I am. The marketing and vocation talks and articles are all important, I grant that, but ultimately it's the Lord who calls. The key is to listen. And that can be difficult nowadays.

What has sustained and guided me in my own vocation is hardly original. Such are the same sources of grace that have flowed through the heart of the Church for centuries: daily prayer, the sacraments and the word of God, works of mercy and love of neighbor, especially the poor. Jesuits have long had a special devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which has been so central in



L to R Henry's step-brother Tate Preston, grandmother Pearl Shea, Henry, sister Claire Shea, step-mom Chris Shea, and dad, Hank Shea.

my own life, too. The love of the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, really present to us in the Eucharist, has been my one great foundation: if we build our lives upon him, I trust, he will take care of the rest."

Q: What is next in terms of having finished your two year novitiate, please share what you know about your next stage, First Studies.

"I'll be here at Fordham University for the next three years, two philosophy and one theology mixed in. It's an excellent program, designed to cover the whole of philosophical history, beginning with the Greeks. At the same time, the curriculum is also systematic in focus, with an emphasis

upon contemporary Thomism. The philosophy courses are fairly fixed, whereas the theology is more open to election (these will serve as supplementary credits later on during our three years of theological study).

We have a great community here with a lot of good men (there are 25 of us scholastics and three priests, in total). Scholastics typically do a morning meditation upon rising for an hour; we also meet for Morning Prayer. Then study and class and more study. Our main mission during these three years, we are told, is study. We have daily Mass in the house chapel and community dinner. Each of us has an apostolate, too, to keep us engaged in active ministry; this year I'm teaching CCD at a local Latino parish in the Bronx."

Q: How do you feel about the 11-year ordination process? Obviously you will be busy but...it's a long time.

"That's certainly true. Nevertheless, the formation is very worthwhile and full of great opportunities along the way. I think it's exciting.

Jesuit formation is meant to cover all the bases: spiritual, intellectual, pastoral, human, and so on. By the time that a man is ordained, then, through both a lot of grace and hard work, the plan is that he will be a fully prepared and well-integrated priest, available to be sent wherever he is most needed in the vineyard of the Lord."

The Road to Becoming a Jesuit Priest

The Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) was founded by Ignatius of Loyola in 1540 for the sake of evangelization and the service of the Church. In fulfilling this mission, Jesuits have engaged in a broad variety of fields. They are well known for the wonderful educational institutions they have built, lead and teach in, however they also work prominently in intellectual research and publishing, giving retreats, pastoring parishes, and social justice ministries.

The first step known as *Candidacy* is a time wherein a man may be interested in joining the Jesuits and explores this with a spiritual director.

The next step is *Novitiate*, which is the first stage of formation. Novices spend two years in short ministerial assignments such as teaching, giving retreats or working with the marginalized. The Novice begins to live the three vows of the Jesuits: poverty,

chastity and obedience. They spend time learning the history and practices of the order. Novices can place the letters n.S.J. after their names, which stands for the Society of Jesus. After vows, the "n" is dropped and one becomes an S.J.

When the two years have been completed the novice is ready to pronounce his *First Vows* (poverty, chastity and obedience) and a vow to persevere to final profession and ordination. The man enters down the path of a scholastic (priest) or a Jesuit brother.

The following period is *First Studies* when the scholastic enters his academic formation. This could include a bachelor's degree if not already earned or studies in theology and philosophy. Jesuits serve on faculties at high schools and universities so they will typically earn at least two masters degrees or a doctoral degree in some area other than theology. Depending on previous education this stage lasts two to four years.

Regency is the next stage where the scholastic is engaged in full-time ministry, called an Apostolate, which could be teaching in a secondary school, missionary or other ministry the Jesuits are involved with. This stage lasts two to three years.

Theology is the stage preceding ordination. Scholastics must complete at least four years of theology studies. This will include the attainment of a first degree in theology (such as the Bachelor of Sacred Theology), and usually a second (masters level) degree in a specialized area related to theology.

Ordination follows and the new priest will receive a ministerial assignment or be sent back for further studies. There are some additional studies and choices made, but this overview gives parishioners an idea of the progression to Jesuit priesthood.

The sources used for this article were the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus and Wikipedia

Warm Summer Thoughts for Cold Winter Days

by Gabbie LeJeune

Looking for ways to stay warm on a cold winter day? It's not too early to start thinking about the youth ministry activities for next summer and beyond. We will have more details and registration forms in late winter/early spring, but for now, mark your calendars for these great events and stay warm.

Christpower 2010: June 20-26, 2010

Christpower is a high school mission trip to Minneapolis. Teens from multiple parishes stay at Ascension and each day our work groups go to the homes of parishioners from either Ascension or St. Bernards to help them out with whatever they need. There is a lot of yard work, painting, and cleaning to be done. It's a great mission trip that "takes place in our own backyard" and gives teens an opportunity to serve others while growing in their own faith.

Summer Stretch: 2010 Dates TBA

Summer Stretch is a fun summer program for middle school students on Wednesdays during the summer. In the morning we'll

start by going to morning mass then we'll do various service projects and in the afternoon we'll do something fun.

World Youth Day 2011- Madrid, Spain

August 10-23, we will be joining up with youth from all over the world in Madrid, Spain for World Youth Day. Although this event is more than a year away, now is the time to start planning. We will be holding meetings and registration in January/February.

Boundary Waters Experience 2010

For the past six years we have had the opportunity to participate in the Boundary Waters experience as we've joined with youth from our sister parish Holy Rosary as well as young people from Sagrado Corazon de Jesus parish in south Minneapolis.

This is more than a fun, challenging week in the boundary waters area. The uniqueness of these trips isn't just the "shear nature" of the wilderness, but the true exposure through hands-on experience

with God's creation by having guided meditation times, an interactive bible study, and the sharing of your personal story.

Through teamwork, compassion, truth and humility, a special family-like bond is developed during the week between each youth, chaperone, and the professionally trained guides.

If you are between the ages of 14 to 17, come and join other youth from Saint Bart's and challenge yourself to grow as a person and in your faith.

We will have details and registration forms available in late winter/early spring.

If you would like more information about any of these events, contact Jim DeShane, jdesbane@st-barts.org or Gabbie LeJeune, youthministry@st-barts.org, 952/473-6601.

Meet Youth Ministry Coordinator Gabbie LeJeune

My family has been going to Saint Bart's for awhile. I was around last year teaching sixth grade faith formation and helping with high school faith formation. I'm really enjoying taking on the role as youth program coordinator. I organize the faith formation programs for middle school and high school students and am planning to add some other fun events this year. I've enjoyed getting to know all of the kids and am looking forward to continuing to work with them!

I grew up going to Our Lady of Grace in Edina. I went to middle school at St. Hubert in Chanhassen and high school at Holy Family Catholic High School in Victoria. I was on a synchronized skating team growing up and dance line in high school. I graduated from the University of St. Thomas with a degree in General Business Management and Catholic Studies. While at St. Thomas I spent a semester abroad in Rome, Italy. After I graduated from UST, I decided to continue my education in Interior Design at Dunwoody College of Technology. I'll be finishing up this summer.

Check Out Our Revamped Website!

Although the url is the same, the next time you visit our website, www.st-barts.org, you'll see it has a whole new look and feel. We hope you feel the site captures the warm, welcoming, caring, vibrant community that is our Saint Bartholomew Catholic Faith Community.

More enhancements are still to come in the near future. Look for details about the new site in the next issue of Reflections. We welcome your thoughts and feedback on how we can continue to improve the site.

SCHOOL NEWS

Why Send Your Children to Saint Bartholomew School?

by Lynn Volkenant, Principal

At Saint Bartholomew School and other Catholic schools, young people are educated as whole people, with infinite capacity and well-developed morals and ethics.

Frequently, I am asked how I became such a strong proponent of Catholic education. Families want to know why they should choose to send their children to a parochial school, when the neighborhood public schools offer a fine education. Yet, almost every week, these families come to me with their decision made, that Saint Bartholomew School is the place for their children. Families, who are willing to sacrifice other living expenses, work extra jobs, explore tuition aid possibilities, and stretch every dollar in order that their children might experience the full benefits of a PreSchool through Grade Six education in a small Catholic environment. I feel humbled by their commitment to the school. These families have reflected a



Kindergarten teacher Cathy Anderson and her class take part in the all-school food drive to benefit the community.

great deal about the long-term benefits and cost of choosing a Catholic education.

It may be difficult for parents to put into words the thoughts they have about their children's education. Many just want to carry on the traditions of their own education in Catholic Schools, knowing the transformation of self that resulted. These families seek to offer their children the same environment that played an important part in their own lives. Others have become frustrated with large classes, limited leadership opportunities, and the lack of spiritual direction in other schools.

Sharing Within Our Community

Recently, I watched as all the Saint Bartholomew students, PreSchool through sixth grade, participated in a food drive for their neighbors. I was touched by the enthusiasm, tenacity, and love our children showed. Many of the adults in our school were moved to tears by the kindness showed by each child as we prayed over the more than 2,000 food items donated. For each of those children, important work and learning took place and they became better people for having participated.

I have been witness to the development of children and young people for many years, teaching, and learning in both public and parochial settings. I have watched young people thrive within and through their Catholic school experience. I can say without hesitation, the Catholic schoolchildren are wiser and stronger in their sense of self. They participate in rich and respectful relationships with others.

At Saint Bartholomew and other Catholic schools, young people are educated as whole people, with infinite capacity and well-developed morals and ethics. They choose to honor and love God. As adults, they are people who engage purposefully in their own lives and have a desire to share the gifts they have been taught to recognize in themselves. All of us are blessed by their lives well lived. There really is something different and most special about a Catholic school!

A Parent's Perspective

by Keely Kapeller

Dear Friends,

This is a letter explaining why our family feels so blessed to be at Saint Bartholomew School. We have two daughters, Abby (6) and Ellie (5)... and another child on the way in April!

We have been parishioners at Saint Bart's for about eight years and joined the school last year after winter break. We started Abby at a school near our house and it was clear after a couple of months that it wasn't working for her. When we toured Saint Bart's in December of last year, we knew immediately that it was where she belonged. Every day after she started she came home (and continues to do so) with a smile on her face, telling us about her day. Ellie also fit right into kindergarten this year and has made the decision that she is going to stay in kindergarten for the next six years.

There are so many reasons why Saint Bart's is such a fantastic school. First and foremost, the staff is incredible. The teachers and administrative staff all care so deeply about our children and their education - along with encouraging their spiritual growth. When your five year old comes home from school starting to read and then doing the sign of the cross in Spanish, you know that your children are getting an amazing, well-rounded education.

We have many more years at Saint Bartholomew School and can honestly say that we are looking forward to every one of them. Along with the staff, you couldn't find a nicer, more dedicated group of parents anywhere. Although we have only been at the school less than a year, our family has made friends with other families that will last a lifetime. We truly consider ourselves blessed to be a part of such a wonderful community.

Upcoming Events

December

- Thurs., Dec. 10, 10:00 a.m.
The Heart of the Matter (55+)
- See Front Cover for Masses and Events for December

January

- Thurs., Jan. 14, 10:00 a.m.
The Heart of the Matter (55+)
- Sunday, Jan. 31

Pancake Breakfast and School Open Houses after Masses to kick off Catholic Schools Week Jan. 31 - Feb. 5

What's on Our Website?

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

Member Update

Baptisms

Charlotte Marie Shafer
Siena Marie Yusefzadeh
Grayson Alan Harkess
Adeline Grace Cox
Nicholas John Syme
Ann Maria Nelson
Quinn Elbert Krelic
JosieRae Lucas Nolan

Marriages

Jeromey John Stoneburg & Leann Emily Deal

Marcus William Schumacher & Sarah Elizabeth Coleman

Deaths

Ernest Marciniak
Joseph O'Connell
Suzanne Bangert

New Members

Patricia Jaffray
Helen & Kevin Landgraver
M. Kenneth & Joan Novak
Brianna Mann & Ed Held
Kathryn & David Check
Eric & Katie Winter
John & Aedie McEvoy
Paul Dombeck & Sarah Gustafson-Dombeck
Jeanne Alm
Nancy & Christopher Patton

February

- Thurs., Feb. 4 - March 18, 7:00 p.m.
Adult Bible Study
The Book of Revelation
- Thurs., Feb. 11, 10:00 a.m.
The Heart of the Matter (55+)
 - Wed., Feb. 17
Ash Wednesday Masses
8:45 a.m., noon, 6:00 p.m.

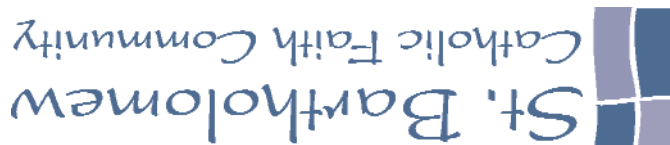
Please Pick Up Your Pictorial Directory

Reminder: Parishioners who had their photos taken by Lifetouch, submitted a photo or ordered a directory can pick up their complimentary directory during the week in the parish office, between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. If you have questions, contact Terri Kedzuf in the parish office, 952/473-6601, tkedzuf@st-barts.org.

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Pastor: Fr. Michael Reding
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Comments/suggestions are welcome.
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