



2009

ST. BART'S STAFF

Rev. Stephen Sledesky, *Pastor*
Rev. Marcin Pluciennik, *Parochial Vicar*
Deacon William H. Bartlett
Diane Gluhosky, *Business Manager*
Denise Bartlett, *Director of Religious Education, Grades K-8*
Donna Battistone, *Religious Education assistant*
Jane Peacock, *Director of Music*
Vicky Rispoli, *Confirmation and Youth Ministry*
Kathy Piggott, *Youth Ministry and Parish Office assistant*
Debi Ashmead, Donna Connelly and Serge Arel,
Jr. Youth Ministry
Tom Rymarzick & Sean St. James, *Custodians*
Bill Cullina, *Grounds Maintenance*

This past year has been a year of transition for St. Bartholomew Parish. The linkage of St. Bart's with St. Bridget Parish culminated a plan that began in 2003 with the inception of CCM, The Catholic Community of Manchester. The anticipated time of having fewer priests for the town of Manchester brought our community together to plan for the future and to make the transition as smoothly as possible. On July 30, 2009 we linked with St. Bridget Parish and welcomed our new pastor, Fr. Stephen Sledesky and parochial vicar, Fr. Marcin Pluciennik and we bid farewell to Fr. Tom Sievel. St. James Parish, with pastor Fr. Kevin Cavanaugh, linked with Assumption Parish. Fr. Cavanaugh is assisted by Fr. Grzegorz Jaworowski and Fr. Honore Kombo.

At the close of 2009, we are a cohesive and active parish with many ministries and committees contributing to our parish family. We strive to meet the needs of all of our parishioners, spiritually and socially. This year we welcomed 81 new families into our parish. We now have 1,106 families at St. Bart's. Some of our cherished members have moved or passed away, but will always be in our prayers.

In **Sacraments** this year, we celebrated:

- 30 adults, children and infants in Baptism
- 47 received First Communion
- 54 were Confirmed
- 5 couples were united in Marriage
- 17 Funerals

The average attendance at weekend Masses is 692 people. Our Religious Education and Confirmation Programs have 397 children and youth enrolled.

Following are summaries for the year 2009 of the ministries of Liturgy, Religious Education, Junior and High School Youth Ministry, and Music.

Liturgy Committee Besides our weekend liturgies and holidays, St. Bart's has a beautiful cycle of devotions throughout the year that direct us to other areas of our church grounds. Palm Sunday and the June Corpus Christi Procession find large crowds singing and walking around the outdoor Stations of the Cross on Ludlow Rd, the Labyrinth area, and around our walkways at the lawn on East Middle Turnpike. In May, the Crowning of Mary by a new First Communion recipient happens after Mass at the Statue of Mary, surrounded by glorious flowers in her garden. This summer, a "Prayer Walk" was offered for the first time on a Saturday morning in July. Father Tom led us around the Ferguson Rd. reservoir, stopping at several peaceful vistas to incorporate grateful prayer into the blessings of nature.

Religious Education Grades Pre K-8 The Religious Education Program is thriving here at St. Bart's! We "keep on" growing. There are 330 students in grades Pre-K thru 8th, as young as 3 years old and continuing into their early teens! We have 35 inspirational and devoted catechists, and one awesome assistant, Donna Battistone. We have 90 additional adults who help in the ministry as substitutes, making Monday night phone calls to parents, monitoring the parking lot on Monday nights, Youth Mass, coffee and donuts, Haiti committee, and helping out in the Hall on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon. As the saying goes "It takes a village"... or St. Bart's community to insure that our young people receive the best Religious education possible. These volunteers are a shining example that "we are many parts but all one body" of Christ, each using their time and gifts in furthering the Kingdom of God. They keep this program vibrant, alive and well.

We continue to serve the poor in our collection of food for Haiti each month, as well as MACC at our Youth Mass. Many of our catechists stress the importance of helping those in need physically, emotionally and spiritually. The students may send cards to the homebound, toiletries to the needy or collect soda cans to buy Christmas gifts, to name just a few. In particular, our Middle School students collected \$1800 for our Jump Rope-a-thon held in the Fall. Our young people enthusiastically and actively participate at Mass each month as greeters, readers, gift bearers, ushers, handing out bulletins, and last but not least, sharing their melodious voices. Our 8th graders had a day retreat this past January. There was much laughter and enthusiasm, as well as a deep spiritual maturity and honesty that went beyond our wildest expectations! We are truly a blessed community. Look out 2010-here we come-with the gifts and talents of all our volunteers and young people and with God by our side, we can accomplish things great and small!

Denise Bartlett

Jr. Youth Group The theme selected for the Junior Youth Group this year is "Created in His Image". This seems like a natural progression from last year when our lessons and activities with the youth were focused on recognizing that we all have God given talents and gifts. Those are meant to be shared with others in our family and community.

In the kick off meeting in October, the activity was to create tie dye tee shirts with the youth group. Through this activity, we emphasized that each individual is created to be unique yet also intended to be part of a family and faith community. Each tie dye tee shirt signifies our personal individuality while promoting a sense of unity for the group. The youth can wear these tee shirts as they participate in group activities and service projects. "Though we are many parts, we are all one body in Christ" – Romans:12:4-5

In November, we watched the movie, "Saving Sarah Cain", a story about a young and successful columnist who was very focused on herself and her career. Through the tragic event of losing her only sister, Sarah is asked to care for her nieces and nephews that were raised in a very strict Amish community. As she struggles to balance her career aspirations with the demands of her new family, she is forced to re-evaluate her life and priorities and put her trust in God. God uses these circumstances in Sarah's life to bring her back to her faith and family. This experience, although very difficult, transforms her life.

For December, we brought in toiletry items and made baked goods for members of our community at Green Manor Lodge. We brought them cheer, cards and sang Christmas carols and then we called out their names and gave them stockings full of gifts. The residents at Green Manor welcomed us with smiles and asked us to come again soon. This experience helps them realize as young members of the community, they really can make a difference.

Recently, in early January, we got together for an evening of fun. Spending time with your parish families' members is important and getting to know each other better through some light games of Jeopardy. A great way to reinforce some of the facts learned in their earlier grade school catechism years.

Debi Ashmead, Donna Connelly and Serge Arel

High School Youth Ministry St. Bartholomew's High School Youth Ministry has many components to this wonderful ministry: Outreach & Evangelization, Catechesis, Community, Prayer & Worship, Justice & Service, Guidance & Healing and Enablement. Through many programs, activities and experiences we try to create an environment that will give our youth the opportunity to recognize God's presence in their lives and in the world. We encourage our youth to nourish their minds and hearts with the word of God and to grow as active Christians.

Our ministry currently serves six surrounding towns and high schools. We currently have over 15 amazing adult volunteers who have blessed this ministry with their time, talent and treasures. Here are just a few things the ministry had to offer in the past year: Sacrament of Confirmation, Faith Formation, Youth Group Gatherings, Retreats, Mission trip, Service Projects, Peer Ministry, Youth Choir, Benefit Concert, Bible Camp, Religious Education teacher assistants. We attended the National Catholic Youth Conference and the New England Catholic Youth Gathering in NH, Diocesan Youth Spectacular, Social Activities, Parish Senior Citizen Breakfast, Parish Pancake Breakfast, Car Wash, High School Senior Mass, End of the Year Gathering with our youth and their families, (about 100 in attendance), and many wonderful key note speakers for our youth events. Through this ministry we are able to serve and minister to our parish family of St. Bartholomew and the surrounding communities. **Thank you for your continued prayers and support to our ministry.**

Vicky Rispoli

Music Ministry 2009 was a challenging year for those who serve in Music Ministry. In January, we joined to sing our faith in the resurrection at the Funeral Mass of beloved cantor and choir member Ron Rivas, who modeled his faith for us all during years of health struggles. July saw a farewell Mass for longtime Deacon Ed Giard, and our pastor, Father Tom Sievel. Again, our songs reflect joy and trust in God's plan for his servants, but parting is always difficult.

Happily, we are energized by our new pastor Father Stephen and parochial vicar, Father Marcin, and we enjoy the strong singing they both bring to the Mass. Another exciting occasion was the performance of the National Anthem by the St. Bartholomew Choir at a Norwich Defenders Minor league baseball game in August – we are blessed with a choir that always represents us with strength and beauty of sound.

Jane Peacock

Throughout the year, the many ministries and committees at St. Bart's keep our parish life alive and thriving and they always welcome anyone who would like to become involved. There's something for everyone!

St. Bart's parishioners gave generously to support the financial health of the parish. We thank each and every one of you for your offerings in our parish collections throughout the year. This past year has been especially difficult for so many in a strained economy, but we were able to meet our budgeted income and have been very cautious in keeping expenses within the budget.

Funds raised in the monthly Church Maintenance collection were used for a new lawn tractor/mower, a floor buffing machine, repairs to the wrought iron railings at the rectory, tree removal at the rectory, repairing the church dishwasher, inspecting and cleaning the fans in the church, and for supplementing the cost of materials and products used in the maintenance of the church building. In 2010, funds will be used to upgrade the security camera monitoring system at the parking lot entrance and in the church, and other repairs or improvements as necessary. The newly formed Garden Committee did a tremendous job of fall clean-up and will return in the spring to continue the work of tending to the garden areas around the church.

The pointing of the brick exterior of the building was completed in 2009 and the projects of ramping the entrance from the parking lot and improving the Ludlow Rd. front entrance of the church are planned for 2010. These projects are funded from the money raised in the Repair My Church campaign in 2007.

We value your continued support and financial stewardship in meeting our goals. May God continue to bless you all in the year 2010.

Following is an overview of our 2009 Financial Statement and 2010 Budget.

St. Bartholomew Church, Manchester, CT
2009 Financial Statement / 2010 Budget Report

	<u>2009 Actual</u>	<u>2009 Budget</u>	<u>2010 Budget</u>
<u>INCOME</u>			
Weekly Offertory	365,663	365,000	365,000
Holy Days	20,289	20,000	20,000
Parish Collections	9,979	9,100	17,100
Church Maintenance	41,757	30,000	30,000
Interest/Dividends	3,185	10,000	2,000
Rental Income	14,200	19,200	10,800
Stole Fees	1,656	2,000	2,000
Gifts, Charity, Bequests	10,284	9,300	8,300
Programs & Events	11,798	7,100	7,100
Religious Education	21,525	18,600	20,100
Miscellaneous	10,648	7,700	4,500
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>510,984</u>	<u>498,000</u>	<u>486,900</u>
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Payroll	233,727	245,400	221,000
Employee Benefits	26,015	28,800	30,050
Contracted Labor	34,338	26,300	27,250
Utilities	37,837	37,000	33,200
Insurance	9,910	10,400	10,400
Repairs & Maintenance	19,615	14,000	34,500
Rectory Operating Expenses	4,438	11,800	3,000
Office, Copier, Postage	9,362	10,500	10,500
Miscellaneous	0	0	1,500
Liturgy; candles, flowers, missalettes	11,945	10,500	10,000
Rel. Education, Youth Min.	26,890	35,000	37,400
Charity, Social Ministries	11,728	8,000	9,000
Events & Socials	17,065	11,000	10,000
Professional Fees	1,222	3,100	1,500
Publications & Memberships	5,843	4,500	4,500
* Cathedraticum	24,073	24,000	24,000
** Catholic School Assessments	3,000	5,000	3,000
Depreciation	14,756	12,000	12,000
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	<u>491,764</u>	<u>497,300</u>	<u>482,800</u>
Net Income	19,220	700	4,100
Youth Ministry Fundraising Income	35,344		
Youth Ministry Fundraising Expense	36,719		
	17,845		

* (Cathedraticum - Parishes contribute 5.5% of income to the Archdiocese of Hartford)

** (Catholic School Assessments - Parishes pay a subsidy for students attending Catholic Schools)