

ST. BARTHOLOMEW CHURCH 2007 ANNUAL REPORT



The year 2007 was another busy year in the life of St. Bartholomew Parish. A typical week within the walls of St. Barts includes the Liturgy at weekend Masses and daily Monday – Thursday. The Mass is the focus of our faith life, and when we take advantage of all the parish offers, we enrich and strengthen ourselves personally and in this community. Fr. Tom Sievel, our pastor, and our deacons Ed Giard and Bill Bartlett, guide us in our spiritual lives. Their leadership brings us closer to God and their messages strengthen our understanding of the word of God. The lay people of our parish have many opportunities to share in the liturgy. We have 43 Ministers of Holy Communion, 14 Lectors, 26 Altar Servers, 35 Greeters, and 22 Ushers.

The Music Program and Adult Choir at St. Bart's is directed by Jane Peacock. The Youth Choir is directed by Mary Jo Tomsic. Their talents enhance our liturgies and touch our souls in a way that only music can. We are blessed to have 7 cantors and additional organists Melissa Sullivan and Carol Gregoire.

Religious Education classes for Grades PreK-8 meet Sunday morning, Monday evening, and Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. Once a month the children sing their praise to God at the Children's Mass with a special song that they rehearse during their classes. Under the guidance of Denise Bartlett, our Director of Religious Education, her assistant Donna Battistone and many dedicated catechists, the program flourishes and provides spiritual education to 315 children.

Eighty young people in Grades 9 & 10 attend Confirmation classes once a month on Sunday evenings and meet additionally for service projects and other special events. Vicky Rispoli, Youth Minister and her assistant Kathy Piggott are joined by many volunteers as catechists, fundraiser organizers, service project coordinators, and peer ministers. Junior Youth Ministry is directed by Charlie Ambrosetti for our middle school parishioners. Both Youth Groups meet once a month.

The Noah's Ark Nursery is available at the 10:15 a.m. Mass and welcomes our youngest parishioners to be cared for by a staff of loving volunteers. Children's Liturgy of the Word is available for young children during the Mass and is also staffed by devoted volunteers.

The parish office is open for parishioners after Masses on Sunday and weekdays Monday-Thursday. Diane Gluhosky, Administrative Assistant, is there to assist in all aspects of parish life, coordinating the many ministries of our parish, record keeping and bookkeeping.

Along with the Parish Office, the offices of Religious Education, Music Ministry, and Youth Ministry share the building with Grade 6-8 students and teachers of Assumption School. All of this makes for a bustling and vibrant place where we worship, learn, enjoy friendships, and can come in times of need.

This year we said thank you and farewell to our custodians Bob Kostek and Dave Fearn. After many years of faithful service they have retired from our staff. We welcome Tom Rymarzick who brings a great deal of experience and competency to his position as our custodian. Bill Cullina takes care of the grounds of St. Bart's.

Several groups meet weekly. The Legion of Mary has faithfully met each Monday evening for many years and brings prayer and comfort to those hospitalized or homebound. RCIA meets once a week to share the Catholic faith with those who wish to become baptized or confirmed in the Church. The Adult Choir rehearses every Wednesday evening. Small Church Communities have flourished this past year and now have 4 groups meeting regularly and a Core Team that continues to guide them and invite others to join. The Sanctuary Committee works with the Liturgy Committee and weekly prepares the sanctuary with beautiful floral arrangements. Every Friday evening a group gathers to pray the rosary and always welcomes anyone to join them.

The other ministries of St. Bartholomew Parish are the Altar Society, Bart's Herald, Bereavement Ministry, Children's Social Activities, Convalescent Home Ministry, Council of Ministries, Elizabeth Ministry, Finance Council, Homeless Shelter volunteers, Liturgy Committee, Mary-Martha Ministry, Offertory Money Counters, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Seasonal Sharing, and our newest ministry, the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Thank you to the many volunteers who give of their time to St. Bartholomew Parish and keep these vital ministries thriving year after year. We always welcome others to join in any way that appeals to them. For any further information, please call the parish office.

The year 2007 included these events:

Men's Breakfasts	Aug 13-17 - Bible Camp
Feb 23 - Pasta Dinner at Maneeley's	Sept 9 - Parish Picnic-Kick-off for 50 th Anniv.
Mar 31 - Dinner Dance at Maneeley's	Oct 6 - Blessing of Animals
Mar 20 - Lent Soup Supper & Evening Prayer	Oct 12 - Children's Pumpkin Party
Mar 24 - Senior Breakfast	Oct. 20 - Confirmation
Mar 25 - Lent Penance Service	Nov 9 - Wine Tasting, 50 th Anniv.
Mar 31 - Children's Easter Party	Nov 10 - Mass of Remembrance
Apr 21 & 28 - First Communion	Nov 11 - Pancake Breakfast
May 20-25 - Haiti Pilgrimage	Dec 16 - Advent Penance Service
June 23 - Garden Tour	Dec 22 - Children's Christmas Party

This year marked the end of the Repair My Church campaign which began in 2006. Our financial goal was met and we thank all those who generously contributed. The project began with the installation of new windows and blinds in the offices and classrooms. Further projects for 2008 will include storm windows for the church, pointing of the brick exterior of the building, repairs to the parking lot, and new doors for the front of the church.

In October we made a plea for financial help in our weekly offertory for operating expenses. Thank you so much to those who responded by increasing their offerings and to those families who made the commitment to contribute to the parish financially and to use the weekly offertory envelopes. With your help, we were able to end the year 2007 in a strong financial standing. 2008 will again be a year of careful budgeting and use of our resources. We rely on your continuing support and financial stewardship to meet our goals.

PARISH STATISTICS

<u>PARISH CENSUS</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Adults	2132	2710
Children	850	830
Families	1090	1187
<u>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</u>		
Pre-School	5	2
Grades 1-5	196	246
Grades 6-8	114	108
Confirmation	80	100
RCIA	2	9
<u>SACRAMENTAL RECORDS</u>		
Adults Received into the Church	0	6
Child Baptisms	28	38
Adult Baptisms	0	3
First Communions	53	53
Confirmations	43	41
Marriages	6	6
Funerals	22	27