



St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church

Our Vision: *Transforming lives through a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Our Mission: *To share Christ's love and His Word with our community and the world through Christ-centered outreach, worship, prayer, and biblical study.*

VOLUME 68 NUMBER 3

The Chatter

MARCH 2025

ANOTHER SEASON OF LENT!

As we continue our reflections on the church seasons we now come to the most challenging season of them all - LENT! Lent is an opportunity for us to not only reflect on sin's destructive nature but to remember what Jesus had to go through to overcome it. While Advent focuses on the coming of Christ, Christmas His Incarnation, and Epiphany the Light of His revelation, it is during Lent that we come face to face with His suffering. Jesus became like us not only to communicate God personally and perfectly, but to suffer and die for mankind. His suffering and death not only exposed the evil of sin but also revealed the love of God. Many know **John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."** However, it is **Romans 5:8** that tells us how that love was shown when the Apostle Paul wrote, **"But God demonstrates His own love towards us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."**

God's love for us is not only sacrificial but it's unconditional! God doesn't love us because, if, or when we do something, He loves us period. **Romans 8:38-39** tells us that **"nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord!"** And yet, there is one thing that can get in the way to experiencing the love of God - the self! When we turn from the love of God we lose the very life source and reason for living. We still live in a dark world and we still do battle with our selfish human nature. The only way to grow in the love of Christ is to spend time with Him. That is how we are filled with the Holy Spirit. Recall that after praying and fasting for 40 days, Jesus was tempted by the devil *and then* that He was led by the Holy Spirit to begin His ministry (**Lk. 4:1-15**). Such times of prayer and fasting enable us to walk in faith and repentance each and every day.

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St. Bart's Web Information

www.stbartston.org

Also see our [Facebook](#) page for more!



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Lent provides us the way for renewed commitment to do battle with our sinful nature as we spend more time with the Lord in prayer, worship, and in His Holy Word. On the Friday's (7-8:30 PM) during Lent with the exception of March 21 and Good Friday I will be leading a Bible Study on ***"Defending the Faith."*** When people ask "Can the Bible be trusted?" or "How do we know it is the Word of God?" what would you say? Or questions like "What about life after death, heaven, and hell?" And "what about the divinity of Jesus?" "How do we know He is God?" These questions will be addressed in detail during our studies. I hope you can join us and please invite a friend or family member!

Yours in Christ,
Father Ward

ASH WEDNESDAY

The Beginning of Lent

March 5, 2025

**Holy Eucharist and the
Imposition of Ashes**

6:45am 9:30am 7pm



*Remember man
that you are
dust and into
dust you shall
return.*



THE THREE PILLARS OF LENT

VESTRY

ST. BART'S: CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF MINISTRY!

FEBRUARY 2025

CONFIRMATION & 70th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: This year Holy Confirmation will be moved to the 4:30 PM service Saturday, May 17, followed by a dinner celebrating our 70th anniversary as a parish. More details will be given as we get closer to the celebratory weekend.

Discipleship Team: Volunteers are needed! If this is something you may be interested in joining, or simply want more information, please do not hesitate to contact John Hillestad and/or Donna Daniele.

2025 Budget and Pledge Letters: If you have not received your letter, contact Fr. Ward. Please remember to send in your pledges as this helps the budget committee do a review of our income vs expenses on a regular basis as well as prepare next year's budget.

Altar Flowers: You've probably noticed the beautiful fresh flowers at the altar each week (except Lent). Please know a memorial or thanksgiving donation for the flowers (\$30) is always welcome. The name of your loved one or the thanksgiving designation will then be put in the bulletin for the designated week.



**DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL CHATTER is
Tuesday, March 18 Thank you.**

PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM

Prayer Requests – If you, your family and/or your friends are in need of prayer there are prayer request cards in the pews and at the front church entrance. They can be deposited in the church box at the front entrance. They are picked up twice a week. Also, you can request prayers online through our website under the tab “Parish Life” or this link: <https://www.stbartston.org/prayer-requests>

Intercessory Prayer – Sundays at the 10 AM service during the ministration of communion. See the weekly bulletin for dates. Also, look for the **lavender** Intercessory Prayer tags on people willing to pray with/for you.

If you are in need of some quiet time the **Prayer Room** is open daily during office hours (from 9 am till 3pm) and can be used before, during or after the weekly Saturday and Sunday services.

When you have had **Prayers Answered** and, if you would like to (confidentially) share them with us, you can do that by dropping us a note in the prayer box at the church entrance. We would love to hear from you.



Mark 2:2-11: *‘And some people came, bringing to Him a man who was paralyzed, carried by four men. And when they were unable to get to Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and after digging an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralyzed man was lying. And Jesus, seeing their faith, said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” ‘*

And what about those friends? Their love for the paralyzed man was obvious. They were willing to try anything to help him.

And isn't that what intercessory prayer comes down to? Our love for our friends, family and the lost. So much love for them that we are willing to tear open the roof of the house, digging through the dried mud and thatch to create an opening above Jesus to intercede for them as they cannot pray for themselves. We have all had times when we needed to be carried by our friends through prayer.

Peace, Love and Joy in our Lord Jesus Christ.

BIBLE STUDIES



Women's Tuesday Evening Bible Study

meets at 6:30 pm **every other** Tuesday.
Our current study is **COURAGEOUS HEROES OF FAITH**, men and women of the Bible who overcame extraordinary difficulties.
Our March meetings will be the 11th and 25th.

See Louise Jones if you wish to be a part of this study, so she can have needed materials ready for you.

Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study

meets at 10:30 am. We are studying the book of Amos, using a study guide by Jennifer Rothschild called Amos: An Invitation to the Good Life.
See Sharon Scott for more information.

ALL women are invited to join one or both Bible Study groups.



Men's Discipleship Group

meets every Tuesday evening, 6:30pm.
Contact John Krull for more information.

All men are invited to attend.

A NEW SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY IS COMING!!!

Sunday morning Bible Study is back for a special 6-week session! **(March 9– April 13)**
We will be discussing **"Building Healthy Relationships,"** which is from the Fruits-of-the-Spirit series. Homework is NOT required but questions are provided for discussion at home or in the group. A sample of the individual topics included in the study is posted on the tri-fold in Fr. Amend Hall, along with a sign-up sheet.

Books are no more than \$10 each; final cost is determined by the number of books ordered. Couples may share a book if they desire.

We will meet in the room across from the library, from **8:15am to 9:45am.**

COFFEE WILL BE PROVIDED!

8 O'CLOCKERS: PLEASE JOIN US! EVEN THOUGH WE START AT 8:15, YOU WILL HAVE 30-40 MINUTES OF DISCUSSION IF YOU COME TO CLASS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE 8AM SERVICE.

Any questions? Contact Brenda Wisz, facilitator.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Please keep those from our Parish Family who are serving our country in the Military in your prayers. Please let the church office know if there is anyone that should be added to or removed from this prayer list.

*Virginia Boy– Navy
James Kerins– Army
Sean MacLeay–Navy
Matthew Miller– Army
Matthew Prohaska– Air Force
Andrew Rebl– Army*



FOOD PANTRY:

31 bags and boxes of food and other items were donated in February. We received a thank you letter from them expressing their extreme gratitude to our church.

Remember that we collect for the NIACAP Food Pantry the first weekend of every month.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

**DONATE
FOOD
HERE**



ROMEO's

(Retired Old Men Eating Out)

Every Tuesday at 12 noon, a group of men meet for lunch and fellowship at various restaurants around the area.

See John Krull to get on their email list to see where they are going next !!

ALL men are welcome to join them!!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



There will NOT be a Men's Breakfast in March.

Instead, the men's group will be going to the **Iron Sharpens Iron Conference (ISI).**

For information about the ISI conference, contact John Krull. Krull.

Last day to sign up is Sunday, March 2nd.



Attention Women of St. Bart's

Save the date! On **Saturday, April 5, 2025** we will have a one-day retreat with a special guest speaker. We will be gathering to deepen our ability to hear God's voice in our day to day lives. Come be refreshed in the season of Lent. Please contact Kacy Wandel for more details and/or to assist in continued planning, 570.815.5357





Next Steps

A Generation Next Newsletter

March 2025

Are you ready for a miracle?



Though life can be tough, and some days worse than others, there are still plenty of good things that we experience. Some of these good things come from our hard work, some from the generosity of others, and some from a more mysterious and less predictable source. The word we commonly use to describe that third category is: miracle. A miracle is not only a gift, but also a sign of God's presence and intervention in our world, and there is no greater miracle than the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. In this series we will explore the miraculous events surrounding Jesus' resurrection and discover how His love is selfless, sacrificial, powerful, and hopeful.

Next Happenings

Wednesdays, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Join us for our regular meetings filled with engaging lessons and activities
Dinner provided

No YG Meeting Mar. 5th

Due to Ash Wednesday

No YG Meeting Mar. 26th

Due to Urban Air Event

Friday, March 28th

6:00 pm Urban Air

Save the Date: April 25th

6:00 pm Easter Egg-stravaganza

Save the Date: May 22nd

6:00 pm Bowling Event

*"My soul will exult in
my God:
For He has clothed me
with garments of
salvation."*

Isaiah 61:10 NASB

A Letter From our Director



Liz Burkett

"But when he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him." Luke 15:20

Have you ever felt like you messed up so badly that you couldn't come back from it? Maybe you hurt someone, made a bad choice or drifted away from God. It happens to all of us. The good news? God is always ready to take us back.

In the story of the Prodigal Son from Luke 15, the younger son completely wastes his life-he makes terrible choices and ends up feeling lost and empty. But when he finally decides to return home, his father doesn't scold him or push him away. Instead, he runs toward him with open arms.

That's exactly how God sees you. No matter how far you've strayed, He is always ready to welcome you back. But repentance isn't just about feeling bad for what you've done. It's about making a decision to change. It's about realizing that life apart from God isn't fulfilling, and choosing to come home to Him.

The season of Lent is a time to get real with ourselves and recognize our need for God and remember that without God, we are nothing, but with Him, we have everything. It's also a call to repentance, to turn away from sin and let go of our pride, so I encourage you during this season of Lent to think about an area of your life where you know you need to turn back to God. Maybe its your attitude, the way you treat others, or a habit that pulls you away from Him. Say a short prayer asking God for strength to change and come home to Him.

*In Christ,
Liz*



Friday March 28th - Urban Air Adventure Park Event. Come climb, jump and soar with us at this awesome trampoline park in the Walden Galleria Mall. We will meet at the event center at 6:00 pm and pickup will be at 8:00 pm. Cost is \$30 per person and is due by March 19th. Pizza will be provided. A waiver form must be signed in order to participate in this event. You can fill out a form online at urbanair.com. Just go to the my park tab and click on sign waiver.

Save the Date: Friday April 25th 6-8pm. Come Join us for an eggcellent game night where teams will compete to see who knows the most about Easter and how well they can win it in a minute. Prizes will be awarded, and pizza will be served at this awesome night of fun, so don't miss out be sure to RSVP you and your friends by April 13th.



Save the date: Bowling Event on Thursday May 22nd from 6-8pm. We will be having fun bowling at Transit Lanes on 7850 Transit Rd in Williamsville, NY 14221. The cost is \$25 and will include bowling ball and shoe rental, chips, pizza (gluten free available), fries, chicken tenders, and pop. We will meet at the Bowling Center at 5:45pm and pickup will be there as well.



March Birthdays

- 1 Tina Gwizdowski
- 3 Linda Cadena, Lynn Farley
- 5 Donna Daniele, Rosemary Taber,
Connie Wiegen
- 7 Patsy Winkler
- 10 Isabelle Hillestad
- 11 Karen Decker
- 13 Robin Prohaska, Kelley Wojnowski
- 14 Thomas Brzeczowski, Matthew Welch
- 15 Thomas Crane, Jessica Kyser
- 17 Gerald Bella
- 18 Ashley Decker, Nathaniel Hillery,
Ryan Hillery, Albert Schreier,
Jeanette Smalter
- 19 William Cosentino, Kristen Fish,
Kate Hillestad, Sharon Hughes
- 20 Kim Condon, Richard Heer, James Hyzy
- 22 Janice Nolan
- 24 Jon Prohaska
- 25 Jon Arnold, Arianna Kyser
- 28 Linda Johnson
- 29 Nancy Militello, Morgan Tobin
- 30 Carol Baldi, James Scott





APRIL

- 1 Pamela Morrison
- 2 Aidyn McAndrews
- 3 Jennifer Gradzewicz, Jacquelyn Luckoski
- 4 KatieGrace Hillestad, Edward Woepfel
- 5 Joan Bella, Makayla Johnson

If you notice a mistake in the birthday list please call (716) 831-1777 or email
the secretaries: secretaries@stbartston.org

March Calendar

MARCH 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			 WEDNESDAY			¹ 10am GriefShare 10:30am Youth Conf. Class 4:30 pm HE
² 8 & 10 am HE 10am Sunday School 11:30am Cherub Choir 12pm New Member's Class	³	⁴ 6:30 Neighborhood Watch, Men's Disc. 7pm Vestry	⁵ ASH WEDNESDAY 6:45am, 9:30 am, 7pm HE 10:30am Women's Bible study	⁶ 6:30pm Cont. Music Rehearsal	⁷ 7pm Fr. Ward's Bible Study "Defending the Faith"	⁸ 10am GriefShare 10:30am Youth Conf. Class 4:30 pm HE
⁹ 8 & 10 am HE 10am Sunday School 11:30am Cherub Choir 12pm New Member's Class	¹⁰	¹¹ 6:30pm Men's Disc. Ladies Bible Study	¹² 9:30am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6pm Youth Group	¹³ 6:30pm Cont. Music Rehearsal	¹⁴ 7pm Fr. Ward's Bible Study "Defending the Faith"	¹⁵ Iron Sharpens Iron 10am GriefShare 10:30am Youth Conf. Class 4:30 pm HE
¹⁶ 8 & 10 am HE 10am Sunday School 11:30am Cherub Choir 12pm New Member's Class	¹⁷ 	¹⁸ 6:30pm Men's Disc.	¹⁹ 9:30 am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6pm Youth Group	²⁰ 7pm Prayer Night	²¹ Fr. Ward is away on a retreat: NO Bible Study	²² 10am GriefShare 10:30am Youth Conf. Class 4:30 pm HE
²³ 8 & 10 am HE 10am Sunday School 11:30am Cherub Choir 12pm New Member's Class	²⁴	²⁵ 6:30pm Men's Disc., Ladies Bible study	²⁶ 9:30 am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study	²⁷ 6:30pm Cont. Music Rehearsal	²⁸ 7pm Fr. Ward's Bible Study "Defending the Faith"	²⁹ 10am GriefShare 10:30am Youth Conf. Class 4:30 pm HE
³⁰ 8 & 10 am HE 10am Sunday School 11:30am Cherub Choir 12pm New Member's Class	³¹					

PERSECUTED CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>"May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father."</p> <p>—1 Thessalonians 3:12-13</p>						
2 BURUNDI Pray for young Christian converts, who face harsh persecution from the close-knit Muslim community.	3 CHAD Pray that Christians who are persecuted by family members or Islamists will experience God's peace and provision.	4 UGANDA Pray for the families of 37 students who were killed in a 2023 Islamist attack on a Christian school.	5 IRAN Praise God for the Bibles that have been smuggled into Iran. Pray for the success of ongoing Bible distributions.	6 INDIA His church has been vandalized, and he has been harassed and pressured by Hindu radicals.	7 SIERRA LEONE Pray that the gospel will reach the 50% of Sierra Leoneans who are Muslims and 37% who practice ethnic religions.	1 JORDAN Pray for Ghazel, who was hospitalized when her husband beat her severely for placing her faith in Christ.
9 MYANMAR (BURMA) Pray that many among Myanmar's Burman ethnic majority will come to faith in Christ.	10 TURKEY (TURKEY) Pray for Pastor Nurettin, who leads a small church of Kurdish Christians.	11 KUWAIT Praise God for openness to the gospel among younger Kuwaitis and for the courageous front-line workers reaching them.	12 KAZAKHSTAN Pray that Christians like Ali and Ismail, who lost their jobs because of their faith, will experience God's provision.	13 LEBANON More than a million Syrian refugees have entered Lebanon since 2012. Pray that many will come to know Christ.	14 TOGO Many Togolese follow traditional religions. Pray that they will be set free from spiritual bondage.	15 CUBA Pray that Christian children will remain firm in faith while being taught atheistic ideologies at school.
16 DJIBOUTI Pray for the advancement of the gospel despite government efforts to limit Christianity's growth.	17 MOROCCO Pray for a spirit of unity in Christian communities, and pray that believers will grow in faith.	18 GUINEA Using Philipians 1:9-11 as a guide, pray that Christians will have opportunities to grow in biblical understanding.	19 NIGERIA Pray for the boldness of front-line workers in areas where Islamist violence is common.	20 BHUTAN Pray for Christians like Karma, Deki and Ratno, who have lost jobs and citizenship because of their faith.	21 PHILIPPINES Praise God that many Christians have remained in Muslim-dominated Mindanao as bold witnesses for Christ.	22 COLOMBIA Pray for the protection of Christian children, who are often forced to join guerrilla groups.
23 AZERBAIJAN Pray that children who receive children's Bibles will place their faith in Christ.	24 MEXICO Pray that outreach bases in remote areas will bear spiritual fruit in reaching indigenous groups with the gospel.	25 LIBYA Pray that new Christians persecuted by their families, communities and radical Muslims will remain firm in Christ.	26 UZBEKISTAN Pray that unregistered house churches will remain undetected by the government.	27 SRI LANKA Pray that a church will be firmly established in a village where Christmas Care Packs were distributed.	28 AFGHANISTAN Pray for Christians who have remained in the country and face extreme persecution from the ruling Taliban.	29 MAURITANIA Pray that indigenous Christians will experience God's peace; leaving Islam is illegal in Mauritania.
30 SOMALIA More Somalis live outside the country than within its borders. Pray that Somalis everywhere will hear the gospel.	31 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO Pray for Divine, who was orphaned and badly burned when rebels set her church on fire.	<p>NOTES:</p> <p><i>March</i></p>				

The Cross by Vera Thomas

**I carry a cross in my pocket, a simple reminder to me
of the fact that I am a Christian, no matter where I may be.**

**This little cross is not magic, nor is it a good luck charm.
It isn't meant to protect me from every physical harm.**

**It's not for identification, for all the world to see.
It's simply an understanding between my Savior and me.**

**When I put my hand in my pocket to bring out a coin or a key,
the cross is there to remind me of the price He paid for me.**

**It reminds me, too, to be thankful for my blessings day by day,
and to strive to serve Him better in all I do and say.**

**It's also a daily reminder of the peace and comfort I share
with all who know my Master and give themselves to His care.**

**So, I carry a cross in my pocket, reminding no one but me
that Jesus Christ is Lord of my life, if only I let Him be.**

