

# CROSSROADS



## DON'T MISS

### EVERY SUNDAY

8 am Traditional Eucharist  
9 am Eucharist in the Round  
11 am Choral Eucharist and Sermon

### ALSO EVERY SUNDAY

10 am Children & Family Chapel:  
Families with children ages 2–12 enjoy a brief, upbeat, and fidget-friendly service.

10:10 am the Rector's Forum with teaching and speakers on a variety of sacred and secular subjects.

10:15 am Sunday School classes for children ages 4 and over: Register in person at St. Bart's Central, using the form in the CY&F brochure.

Sunday details always up to date at: [www.stbarts.org/comingthissunday.asp](http://www.stbarts.org/comingthissunday.asp)

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**ST. BART'S CENTRAL** is our 7-day-a-week help desk. Come by or call 212-378-0222 or email [central@stbarts.org](mailto:central@stbarts.org)

From the Rector

## The saving grace of Christmas

Every year at Christmas, in the middle of a joyous and crowded Christmas service, someone looks up from prayer, and in the candlelight, a miracle happens.

A cynical and abused heart is healed. Someone is touched by a distant truth and goes home and reconciles with a loved one, reconnects a broken friendship, shows a little love in spite of himself or herself.

It's Christmas once more.

I use the word miracle advisedly. Consider what that person has had to endure, and then filter out, in order to catch the actual spirit of Christmas.

I suppose we've heard it all enough that we've pretty much settled for the frenzy that starts the day after Halloween. Some just try to get away from it all. Last year I met a family who was so exhausted by the Christmas hassles of shopping, and the argument over whose family would be more offended if they didn't come over, that they packed up their kids and their gifts (and their artificial "pre-lit" Christmas tree) and flew to a resort in Cozumel.

Understandable, I guess. So too the way we protest the mindless piped in "Jingle Bells," or the cranky little battles over saying "Merry Christmas" instead of "Happy Holidays," or marketers' insistence that the "season" now begins with the bizarrely-named "Black Friday."

Then I remember that Christmas has been part of my professional life for a long time. I've planned and participated in hundreds of services, sung those carols more times than I can recall and preached sermons on the same texts over and over.

God's grace is a saving grace, and I've been saved again and again by those faces—many of whom we see just once a year, some who will never come our way again—that look up in the candlelight toward the pulpit, the manger and the altar with hope and openness that somehow

shines through the exhaustion and hassle.

Christmas is never quite the way it ought to be, or the way we remember it at its fondest or its worst. There is no magical golden time when all was well with this observance. After all, many of our sturdy American church ancestors legally forbade its observance.

Something about it—emotionally, commercially, religiously—won't leave us alone. But do we have to give it up, or fly away, or turn it into a cranky cause?

Grace can save us in the small things. We put on a big production at Christmas in church. I don't apologize for a minute. We're celebrating our Savior's birth. We're marking an event that changed history and can still do so. And—let's be honest—we're competing against the hijacking of the festival as well as the exhaustion.

The saving grace is that in the middle of our big services, which play out against the backdrop of what bigger forces have done to Christmas, there are those souls who hear again the message of the angels: Fear not.

We can do this. Right here where we live. Right in the midst of the junk. Because of God's saving grace we never tire of the songs, the gestures and the truth. And truth is that because God was born in humankind, we are worth more that we can ask or imagine. You're worth it.

Be with us this year. Or be someplace where they do what we do and pray what we pray. Here or there, throw a little extra gift in the plate to make sure that hope trumps fear, that new energy for life and love will outlast the hassles. A miracle for sure.

A happy and holy Nativity, my friends,

—BILL TULLY

## Christmas at St. Bart's

For a schedule of worship services, concerts, plays, and fun, see page 3.

## Coming Up

### See the Eucharist up close

What does “Eucharist” mean? How is Jesus in the bread and wine? What is the water for? Preoccupied by these and other questions? The Rev. Elizabeth Garnsey will lead an interactive instructed Eucharist, Tuesday, December 11, 6pm.

### Holiday job hunting

St. Bart’s Career Assistance Center presents “Job Search & Holiday Parties—Introducing Yourself in 60 Seconds,” Wednesday, December 12, at 6:30 pm. Make the most of holiday parties by learning how to present yourself and gain networking contacts and allies in your job search. This workshop will be led by career coaches Win Sheffield and Sharon Naulty; cost is \$20. Register by contacting St. Bart’s Central.

### Next “Strategies” session begins January 15

The Career Assistance Center’s next session of “Strategies for an Effective Job Search” will begin Tuesday, January 15th, at 6:30 pm. The workshop, taught by professional career coaches, lasts 12 weeks. Cost is \$395; space is limited to 25 participants. Scholarships available. For information, contact St. Bart’s Central.

### From the guest register

Dear Father Kevin,

Judy and I want to thank you and J.D. and so many of your members and welcome team for creating such a welcoming environment. The Holy Spirit certainly is working through you all at St. Bart’s.

Our plans were to go to the 11 o’clock service at a church near St. Bart’s. We were walking past St. Bart’s when the early service let out and we saw all of the dear animals. We wandered into St. Bart’s, were filled with awe at the beauty of the church, and went up to see a video that was playing near the communion rail. We were pleasantly greeted by J.D. and he suggested we fill in a visitor’s card, so we did. It was such a pleasure talking with J.D. But, alas, time was passing and we needed to get on our way.

The other church was quite empty and quiet except for the choir that was rehearsing in preparation for the 11 o’clock service. We sat in the chapel and enjoyed the art. We read the memorial statements for those families and individuals impacted by 9/11. We used the restrooms.

➤ 4

## Meet Tom Ehrich

I have been asked to introduce myself and to say briefly what my thoughts are about Church Growth and Development.

Moving to New York in July fulfilled a dream that began four careers ago, when I studied at Columbia and fell in love with the city.

That master’s degree led to six years as a staff reporter for *The Wall Street Journal*. Then came three years of seminary and 18 years of serving parishes in Indiana, Missouri and North Carolina.

I took a break from parish ministry to focus on business consulting—including a three-year whirlwind stint of traveling constantly to Europe to consult for the United States Navy. Then I formed my own company, Morning Walk Media Inc., to manage my writing and church consulting work, including the Church Wellness Project ([www.churchwellness.com](http://www.churchwellness.com)).

I decided a year ago that my business needed to be located in New York. My wife and I and our 16-year-old son moved here in July. Our oldest sons already lived here.

My first new client in New York was St. Bart’s, for which I did intensive work in communications, membership and giving.

In the process, I fell in love with this congregation and began to see its enormous heart and enormous potential. Now, as a member of the staff, I have the daunting opportunity to implement the very ideas that emerged from the consultation.

In working on Membership Development, I want to maintain a balance among three elements. I call them Recruitment, Retention and Transformation. A new friend would call them Invitation, Preservation and Transformation.

The point is: we want to welcome new members to this congregation, we want to serve, love and deploy existing members, and we want to help every one of us go deeper in our faith, to become what the Bible calls “new creation.”

All three elements must be in balance.

I am working with many people in these efforts, starting with the Parish Council and some lively volunteers. This is work for many hands. When you are invited to serve, please say Yes.

Next month I’ll say a word about Communications.

*Tom Ehrich is Director of Church Growth and Development. You can contact him at [ehrich@stbarts.org](mailto:ehrich@stbarts.org) or (212) 378-0209.*



### A Prayer for Children

Loving God, we pray today in thanksgiving during this Christmas season for the many ways that you have blessed the children of St. Bart’s and for all children around the world. We pray especially for those who are hungry, homeless, lonely or frightened.

Help them to know that you are with them always and that your love and care will never end.

Teach us to share what we have and to reach out to other children, so that they have what they need to grow into the people you created them to be, in this, our world community. Amen.

## Poetry

### As if we were not already waiting

As if we were not already waiting,  
we carve out a time  
when the days turn cold  
to notice that  
we’ve been waiting  
On ourselves.

As if we were  
the only Ones waiting,  
we sigh and toss back  
our heads  
like children waiting  
to rip open  
‘the only thing  
we’ve ever wanted,’  
which is put aside  
a week or so later.  
We’ve been waiting  
for a very long time,  
God and us.

It is not easy to wait—  
for anything,  
let alone for something  
like This.  
I cannot teach a child  
to wait properly—  
I do not know myself

How to wait  
in peace, for Peace  
How to sit with longing  
And hurt  
And hope.  
How to breathe

When Breath is coming  
To take a seat at my table  
To move in for a while  
and wait for me  
to stop waiting  
for the perfect moment to  
live as if the Truth of love  
in action were ‘the only thing  
I’ve ever wanted.’

God is coming to us  
All the time.  
God is coming to us  
All the time.  
And we are becoming to God  
Like the fingertips  
of God and Adam  
that Michelangelo saw.  
Occasionally touching.

—Kathy Bozzuti-Jones

# Advent and Christmas at St. Bartholomew's

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2 • ADVENT 1**

**9 am Eucharist in the Round**

Bach: "Zion hört die Wächter singen" (from *Cantata #140*)

Sermon: The Rev. William McD. Tully

**11 am Choral Eucharist**

Plainsong: *Missa Kyrie fons bonitatis*, music of Manz and Ramsey

Sermon: The Rev. William McD. Tully

**5 pm Advent Lessons And Carols**

This beautiful service foretelling the birth of Jesus in scripture and music, will be sung by St. Bartholomew's Choir, the Boy & Girl Choristers and St. Bart's Singers. Music of Willcocks, Grayston Ives, Susa and Carter.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9 • ADVENT 2**

**9 am Eucharist in the Round**

Stainer: "How beautiful upon the mountains"

Sermon: The Rev. Elizabeth Garnsey

**11 am Choral Eucharist**

Trafka: *Mass for St. Bartholomew's*, music of Ives, Tavener and Handel

Sermon: The Rev. William McD. Tully

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15**

**4 pm Christmas Play**

*For details, see page 5.*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16 • ADVENT 3**

**8-11 am Cleaning & Greening**

We build community as we do this annual labor of love. All volunteers welcome to join in a wide variety of jobs.

**9 am Eucharist in the Round**

Shephard: "The Secret of Christ"

Sermon: The Rev. Gideon L.K. Pollach

**11 am Choral Eucharist**

Darke: *Communion Service in E*, music of Handel (excerpts from *Messiah*) and Mendelssohn

Sermon: The Rev. William McD. Tully

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23 • ADVENT 4**

**9 am Choral Eucharist**

Archer: "The angel Gabriel"

Sermon: The Rev. William McD. Tully

**11 am Choral Eucharist**

Plainsong: *Missa cum júbilo*, music of Mathias and Victoria

Sermon: The Rev. Tom Ehrich

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 24**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**4 pm Family Festival Eucharist**

*For details, see page 5.*

**6 pm Christmas Eucharist with Carols**

Special music by the Boy & Girl Choristers

Sermon: The Rev. Elizabeth Garnsey

**8 pm and 11 pm The ChristMass**

Identical services to accommodate everyone: full "midnight" atmosphere and festivities with St. Bartholomew's Choir and St. Bart's Singers. Favorite carols. Malcolm:

*Missa ad praesepe*, music of Rutter,

Trafka, Cleobury, and Scheidt

Sermon: The Rev. William McD. Tully

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**11 am Festival Eucharist**

with St. Bartholomew's Choir; Child care and Storytime Carol Singalong for Children in the Chapel; festive reception following. Malcolm: *Missa ad praesepe*,

Music of Holst and Chilcott

Sermon: The Rev. Tom Ehrich

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30 • CHRISTMAS 1**

**9 am Carols chosen by the congregation**

Sermon: The Rev. Elizabeth Garnsey

**11 am Lessons, Carols & Eucharist**

Trafka: *Mass for St. Bartholomew's*, music of Mathias and Rutter

Sermon: The Rev. Elizabeth Garnsey

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 31**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**

**6 pm Eucharist in the Chapel**

A quiet, reflective year-end service.

## Great Music for the Holiday Season

*For details about any of these concerts, see the 2007-08 Great Music brochure or visit [www.stbarts.org](http://www.stbarts.org)*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1 • 8 PM**

(7:30 pm pre-concert talk)

**The Hidden Road: Seasonal Works** By Britten & Finzi with The Dessoff Choirs, James Bagwell, Music Director and St. Bartholomew's Boy & Girl Choristers. Tickets: \$35, \$20, \$15 Students/seniors

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14 • 7:30 PM**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15 • 7:30 PM**

**Veni Emanuel**

The Ensemble Adventori tours through 1,000 years Of Christmas music. Tickets: \$25, \$15 students/seniors

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 17 • 6 PM**

New York's Largest Outdoor Carol Sing Join us on the steps of St. Bartholomew's Church for this New York tradition. Free

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23 • 3 PM**

**Bach's Christmas Oratorio, Parts I-III** Mary Greer conducts The Orchestra of St.

**Tuesday, December 18 at 7:30 pm**

**A Joyous Christmas Concert**

An annual New York favorite, this concert will feature St. Bartholomew's Choir and the Boy and Girl Choristers with Festival Brass and organ performing holiday favorites. Experience the joy of this festive season with great choral works both sacred and secular, and a carol sing-along in the candlelit splendor of our great church. This year's concert will include the New York premiere of "Christus natus est," a cantata for choir, brass, organ and percussion by the acclaimed English composer Cecilia MacDowall. Tickets: \$35, \$20, \$15 students/seniors

Luke's and New York Baroque Soloists. \$35, \$25, \$15 students/seniors

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29 • 8 PM**

**Angels & Shepherds:**

**Baroque Christmas Pastorales**

Artek, America's Premier Baroque Ensemble, presents a sumptuous program of 17th and 18th century pastorales, arias, and concertos with orchestra. Tickets: \$40, \$20 (\$10 Off for students/seniors)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30 • 3 PM**

**Family concert:**

**Amahl and the Night Visitors**

In Gian Carlo Menotti's holiday classic, the lives of a crippled shepherd boy and his widowed mother are transformed by a visit from the three kings on their journey to Bethlehem. A touching musical fable for the whole family. Tickets: \$40, \$20 (\$10 off for students/seniors)

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 31 • 8 PM**

**Bachworks: The Brandenburg Concerti**

Angel club seating: \$100, \$45, \$35, \$20 students/seniors

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 31 • 11 PM**

**A Concert To Usher In The New Year**

William Trafka, St. Bartholomew's Director of Music and Organist, will play rich works by Buxtehude and Elgar in a final 2007 celebration of the landmark anniversaries of these composers. Bach, Cook and Widor plus Trafka's transcription of Aaron Copland's "Fanfare For The Common Man" will be played at the stroke of midnight. Free



We noticed some folks talking over coffee. We asked the security guard for some information. He wasn't that friendly. We looked into the sanctuary. There were but a handful of people there, and it was about 10:50. We realized the security guard was the only person who had spoken to us. We looked at each other and said, "Maybe we should go back to St. Bart's. It's only two blocks away."

Ten minutes later after a brisk walk, we were joyfully greeted at St. Bart's. And what a wonderful opportunity to worship our Lord it was, and to share in the meal He had provided. Afterwards over a cup of coffee, talking with J.D. again, and enjoying the beauty and solitude of the garden off of the right side of the church (with the wonderful visual contrast of modern and old looking up at the modern skyscraper through the "window"), we realized that the Holy Spirit had brought us back to St. Bart's, our home away from home.

Tell J.D. we send greetings of peace, and we thank you all for sharing Christ's love.

Dave and Judy Curry

### From the parish register

#### Baptized

November 4: Ariel L. Feisher-Auvers, Desiree Fowler, Beatrice M. Morgan, Tyler J.L. Norman, Camilla A. Norton, Sophie S.P. Riva, Iman G.S. Saleeby, Jady N. Santiago, James R. Snow, Stephen H. Snow, Abigail E. Stephenson

#### Welcomed

October 21: Dennis J. Biondolillo, Sara W. Burns, Marianthe Colakis, Phoebe Colongon, Jacinto Cruz, Erika Davis, Matthew F. Davis, John Dillon, The Rev. Tom Ehrich, Heidi Ehrich, Obianuju Enendu, Dana English, Sarah Evans, J.J. Hennessey, Lesley Mazda, Savannah Mazda, Wilson Meeks, Ted Nelson, Kenneth Parame, Sarah Skog, Stephanie Terril, Eric Thelen, Michael Whalen, Sam Whalen, Thomas Whalen

#### Weddings

Kelsea-Janette Kaplan and Mathew L. "Peter" Kaplan (October 27); Lindsay E. Schmidt and Jeremy A. Beard (November 3); Sheryl B. Tierney and Richard C. Finch (November 10)

#### Funerals/Memorial Services

Leo E. Cobb (November 5)

#### Died

Nancy D. Boylan, William Niewiarowski

## St. Bart's Players + volunteers = Christmas Miracles for children

St. Bart's Players will stage a holiday-themed reading of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" to benefit the Christmas Miracles program, December 10-12 with performances to be held in the Chapel.

The readings follow on the success of last year's staging of "It's a Wonderful Life."

"Everyone who saw 'It's a Wonderful Life' raved that it should be an annual event" said Judy Hall, the Christmas Miracles project coordinator. "We're delighted that The Players are sharing in the spirit of the holiday again this year. To paraphrase Tiny Tim, we are truly blessed, everyone."

For eight years, the Christmas Miracles project has brightened the holidays of children and families at the Life Center Family Shelter in lower Manhattan. Every year, more than 200 children who live in the shelter write letters to Santa. The letters are then displayed in the narthex and the 109 entrance of St. Bart's so that parishioners can help Santa gather up all the requests. "We hope that folks will take a few minutes to read them and take as many as they can" Hall said. "Share them with your co-workers or friends so that all the children's wishes can be fulfilled. If you don't like to shop you can make a cash donation and we will do the shopping for you!"

If you would like to help perform Christmas Miracles, you can wrap gifts at the church on Sunday, December 9th, or you can help with the party at the shelter on Wednesday, December 19th. Contact St. Bart's Central to sign up or get more information.

Tickets to "A Christmas Carol"—just \$15—are available by contacting the box office at St. Bart's Central (212) 331-0248.



Rebecca Barnes and Mark D'Alessio were two of many St. Bart's parishioners who delivered presents to children living in the L.I.F.E. Shelter in December 2006.

### A Joyous Event

On December 8, at 3 pm, The Rt. Rev. Catharine Roskam will receive the vows of Sister Claire Joy (aka Claudia Snipes) at her Life Profession in the Community of the Holy Spirit. Sr. Claire Joy has been a long-time member and volunteer in Community Ministries. All are invited.

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PS Form 3526, September 2008 (Page 2 of 2)

# Crossroads for Kids

youth and parents, too

## Holiday events for the Family

Saturday, December 15

4 pm Christmas Play

With a brand new, contemporary nativity script! Cast and crew include St. Bart's youth, Sunday school, preschool, and choristers. A reception in the north porch will follow the performance. Free.

Monday, December 24 • Christmas Eve

4 pm Family Festival Eucharist

A service featuring children and youth leading the way as readers, torch-bearers, acolytes, choristers, Christmas angels and animals. The word is "family-friendly"—and that applies to the length of the service, the homily, and an opportunity for children to gather around the altar for a good view. Joyous carols, old and new, for all to sing.



Photo by Karen Nielsen

Katya Davis and Mark Anthony Bozzuti-Jones paint one of two Friendship murals during Family Night Outreach on November 16. Designed by Steve Ross, the murals will be sent to our sister communities in Tanzania and England, where the children will complete the murals with illustrations of their community lives.



## Faith on the Ground:

### Children Explore Helping Others

by James Topping

If someone gave you one hundred dollars, what would you do with it? This is the seemingly simple question we posed to our second and third grade Sunday school class several weeks ago as the precursor to a discussion of Luke 16, the parable of Lazarus and the rich man. The children eagerly shared their ideas about what they would do with their newfound cash. One child would purchase a year's worth of candy, another a car, another a Nintendo, and still another would save the money toward something really special.

We then read the parable together, and the children were quick to point out what the rich man might have done with his vast resources to help the suffering Lazarus. He could have shared his food, bought Lazarus some medicine, or just taken the time to talk to him. This insightful and enthusiastic group of children really

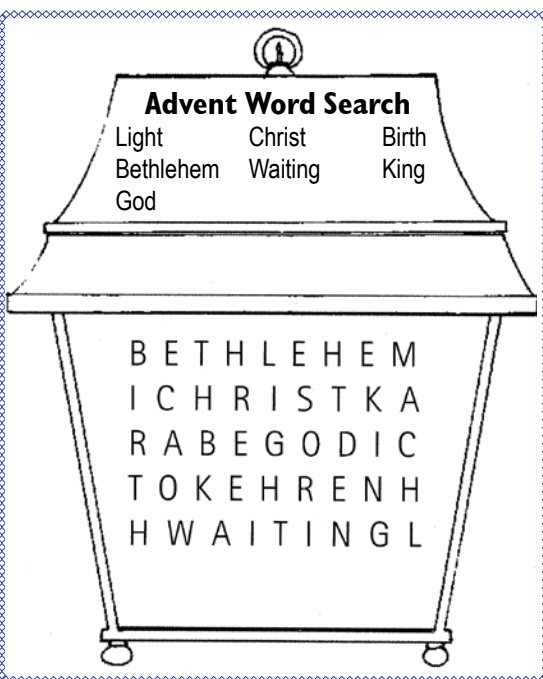
understood that by ignoring the poor man living on his doorstep, the rich man had missed an opportunity for giving—and that missing this opportunity had spiritual consequences. My wife and I are newbies at teaching Sunday school; this was going well!

We then asked the class what Jesus would do if someone gave him \$100? He would buy a house for a homeless family, food for the poor, or simply give it all away, the children said. What followed was a lively and inspiring discussion about the opportunities we have for helping others and for giving to others. We all have diverse resources we can share with those who need them, and we can do this as individuals, as families, and as members of St. Bart's.

*James Topping and his wife, Heather Kelly, teach Sunday School to second and third graders. They have two children, Ethan and Clare.*

## Seeing the sacred in everyday life

You are invited to join other St. Bart's families for an e-course, "Practicing Spirituality with Children," a 40-part course delivered by e-mail. The twice-weekly e-mail—a single beautifully-formatted page, contains a short passage from a book about children's spirituality, or spiritual parenting, or children's book with a spiritual message, along with a simple "practice" suggestion for you and your children to do together. Moreover, participants will also have the opportunity to join in a circle of St. Bart's folks who wish to share experiences and concerns in a closed online conversation group. The fee is \$25. You can join the course at any time (with the opportunity to catch up on past emails). The course will be accessible through [www.stbarts.org](http://www.stbarts.org) in mid-January.



## Sundays

8 am Eucharist and Homily

A quiet, traditional language service, no music.

9 am Eucharist and Sermon

A simple, spirit-filled, tuneful celebration.

10 am Children & Family Chapel

10 am THE CENTER for youth (ages 13-16)

10:15 am Sunday School for all ages

10:15 am The Rector's Forum

11 am Choral Eucharist and Sermon

Traditional liturgy with hymns and St. Bartholomew's Choir.

Child care is provided for the 9 and 11 am Sunday services.

## Monday–Friday

8 am Morning Prayer

12:05 pm Eucharist

5:30 pm Evening Prayer

## Thursday

6 pm Thursday Evening Eucharist

## Saturdays

10 am Eucharist

## Visiting/Getting in touch

Church entrance: Park Avenue between 50th and 51st streets

The church is open for visiting, prayer, and meditation every day from 8 am to 6 pm (Thursday to 7 pm).

Mailing address and church office entrance:

109 East 50th Street, New York, New York 10022

Phone: 212-378-0200

Fax: 212-378-0281

email: [central@stbarts.org](mailto:central@stbarts.org)

web site: [www.stbarts.org](http://www.stbarts.org)

To email any member of the staff: [lastname@stbarts.org](mailto:lastname@stbarts.org)

To phone the clergy directly (area code 212):

William McD. Tully, Rector: 378-0251; Kevin D. Bean, Senior Associate: 378-0215; Elizabeth Garnsey, Associate: 378-0285; Gideon Pollach, Associate: 378-0245; Bruce W. Forbes, Honorary Associate: 378-0210; J.D. Clarke, Deacon: 378-0229.

On nights and weekends one of our clergy is always available for pastoral emergencies. Dial 212-378-0250 and your call will be automatically forwarded to the on-call priest.

- Questions, sign-ups, event tickets, and general information: St. Bart's Central at 212-378-0222 or [central@stbarts.org](mailto:central@stbarts.org).
- Psychotherapy and Spirituality Institute, 212-935-5023.

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