

THE CHATTER

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
P.O. BOX 265
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www.stbartston.org
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FOR FIFTY YEARS

PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH AND LOVE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, IN WORD AND IN DEED.

VOLUME 48 NUMBER 12

ADVENT

DECEMBER 2005

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S 2005 CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Saturday Christmas Eve December 24
4:00 PM.....Holy Eucharist
No incense
7:00 PM.....Choral Sing
7:30 PM.....Holy Eucharist
with choir & incense
10:30 PM.....Choral Sing
11:00 PM.....Holy Eucharist
with incense

SUNDAY CHRISTMAS DAY December 25
10:00 AM.....Holy Eucharist
No incense

**Nursery Care will be provided at both the
4:00 PM and 7:30 PM services.**

HOLY CONFIRMATION DECEMBER 14 AT ST. BART'S



The Rt. Rev. Keith L. Ackerman, Bishop of the Diocese of Quincy, Peoria, Illinois will be coming to St. Bartholomew's on Wednesday Evening, December 14. Bishop Ackerman will confirm the candidates of St. Bartholomew's. The service will be begin at 7 PM.

CHRISTIAN MUSIC/SKATE NIGHT

Rainbow Roller Rink, 101 Oliver Street, North Tonawanda, offers a Christian Music Night during their open skating session - the first Monday of every month. Skating to Christian music takes place from 4 PM until 8 PM. Admission is \$4, which includes skate rental. For more information call them at 693-1100.

THE BISHOP SCAIFE GUILD

On Thursday, December 8, at 7:00 PM we will be having our annual *Advent Cookie Program*. Our musical program this year will be the L.A.D.D./F.A.C.E.S. Bell Choir. They are sponsored by the Lutheran Association for the Developmentally Disabled and are from Niagara County. We will also be making boxes of cookies for our shut ins as well as enjoying some of the cookies and punch. We welcome donations of 4 dozen cookies.

We will have an update of our profits from our tables of baked goods, candy and crafts at the Red Sleigh Fair.

COMING EVENTS:

January 18, 2006 - Report Brunch

March 18, 2006 - Lenten Soup Luncheon (tentative date)

HELP STILL NEEDED: Sewers to make bags for the wheel chairs and walkers of residents at the Episcopal Church Home. Materials are supplied.

Please check the display case for gift items. Call Marilyn Alliger (877-8335), Dorothea Haase (929-5745) or Bonnie Fleischman (875-6402) to order.

Please continue to support the *Bundles for Babies* project that makes up bundles for the less fortunate in our communities. Baby items may be left in the basket by the Guild's display case. Diapers are especially needed. These items are taken to the Network of Religious Communities office on Delaware where the bundles are made up. Thanks again to the generous person for the funds to buy diapers for the babies.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S COMPUTER CLUB

We will be meeting every second Wednesday of each month, from 7 to 8:30 PM.

THE FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION OCCURS ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH!

87 bags of food, 16 boxes of dehydrated food and 2 cash donations were taken to the Food Pantry in November - **this is a new record!** Canned fruit, peanut butter, pancake mix and jelly are always needed as well as paper products and toiletries. Financial contributions may be made to the North Tonawanda Food Pantry.

Please "double bag" your contributions of food - paper inside plastic is good.

THE 40TH ANNUAL CHILDREN'S MANGER GIFT PRESENTATION IS COMING!!!

On Sunday, December 11, St. Bartholomew's will be celebrating "*Manger Sunday*." For any of the three services, all adults and children are invited to bring **unwrapped** gifts for needy children. These will be presented before the altar, placed into the empty Advent Manger, and then distributed to needy children in the Buffalo area. This is a wonderful opportunity to teach your children the true principle of Christmas - it is the season to give. So, next time you are shopping, have your children not only pick out gifts for themselves, but also a gift that they can give to another child in need.

VESTRY MEETING

The new roof on 398 Fries Road, the replacement of missing shingles on the church and garage roofs as well as gutters on the Fr. Jones Youth Building have been completed. The Thanksgiving/Advent/Christmas offerings were designated to go to *Chuck Colson's Prison Fellowship Ministries, Our Little Roses, Saving Grace Ministries* and the *WNY Food Bank*.

Installation of new counter tops and back splashes in the kitchen will be done to complement the new ceiling tiles and painting of the walls done by Parishioner Tom Bell.

The annual election will be held on the second Sunday of Advent, December 4, due to the regular election Sunday falling Thanksgiving weekend.

TO THE WOMEN OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW'S

Do you pray all the time? Do you serve the Lord in your parish? Do you have a desire for others to come closer to the Lord? Would you like to do these things more? In January, there will be an event that the Lord may be calling you to explore.

St. Bartholomew's is going to be starting a chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King. This is a National Order of lay women who choose to pray and serve our Lord Jesus Christ in a deeply spiritual way. Look for news about the introductory brunch to be held in January 2006.

Any questions, call Marilyn Commins - 731-9633.

GENERATION NEXT - YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

December 5 - FUN Night

December 12 - CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 19 - Christmas Caroling

December 27 Through 30 - JOSHUA REVOLUTION

CROWN CORNER

Introduction: "Therefore if you have not been faithful in the use of worldly wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you?" (Luke 16:11)

"This small group study is a ten week in-depth study of what scripture teaches about being stewards of God's Time, Money and Possessions. It is also about ways of becoming consistent savers, generous givers and prudent consumers."

The average contribution to foreign ministries is about \$20 where as people gamble an average of \$1,200 per year. Where is your time, talent and money spent?

An introduction to potential students will take place on Thursday March 30, 2006, 7 to 9pm. New Student Orientation will be one evening during the week of April 10, 2006 with weekly classes to begin on or about the week of April 24.

If you are interested in participating in the next small group or want more information please contact: Mark DiMaria – 832-8505, Gary Wisniewski – 694-9154 Or online at www.crown.org and click on Small Group Studies.

"Everything you should know about handling money can be found in God's Word."

ST. BART'S BOOK STUDY GROUP

The Church Book Group will resume for four Thursdays in late January or the beginning of February.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Come join the Women's Fellowship Group beginning on Tuesday evenings, at 7 PM in the undercroft. We are continuing our Bible Study of The Mystery of God's Will by Chuck Swindoll. If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Henzler at 836-6725

MISSIONETTES

Missionettes is a national girls club designed to help girls develop their gifts and abilities through encouragement, support, and biblical teaching. We have two age groups that meet the first and third Wednesday of every month. Prims: grades kindergarten-second grade meets at 6:45 PM and Stars: grades third-fifth meets at 7 PM. If you are interested in becoming involved in this ministry, please contact Kathleen Ward at 623-0507 or Caroline Rudin at 875-6462.

ST. BART'S ANGELS

As we approach the end of 2005, St. Bart's Angels would like to report that our donations for this year. We have made and distributed 97 hats, 34 scarves, 44 afghans, 49 pairs of slippers, 28 pairs of baby booties and 20 ski head bands. With your help we are hoping to double these numbers in the coming year. St Bart's Angels work behind the scenes they are people that just want to share their God given talents to make gifts for others.

If you are interested in be a part of the Angels, we don't have meetings, we generally work our of our own homes and keep in touch by phone or e-mail. We welcome knitters, crocheters and anyone with sewing skills, If you don't have any of these gift's and you just want to donate materials that will help too. For more info please contact Diane Heer at 692-3649.

EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY SERVICES

We had 28 gifts totaling \$13,035.00 for 2005. The \$10,000 was part of our *Mission Outreach*, which are the funds that would have gone to the diocese as part of our *fair share*.

SENDING CHRISTMAS CARDS TO OUR SHUT-INS



Remember our Shut-ins

St. Bartholomew's has a number of members who are homebound and can rarely attend church services. Please help us to remind them that they are in our thoughts and prayers by considering sending Christmas cards to them. Please see Deacon Ed Kusmierczyk for the address list.

