

# ST. BARTHOLOMEW UPDATE BULLETIN INPUT

## 1. Please list the current strengths of our parish.

- Excellent music program – 10
- Excellent homilies/liturgies – 9
- Strong involvement by a broad spectrum of parishioners in a wide range of spiritual, social, and charitable activities. – 8
- Wonderful and caring parishioners/community – 6
- Great, friendly staff – 4
- Coffee talk – wonderful opportunity for adult faith and growth – 2
- Fr. Bob – 2
- School – 2
- Sr. Janet – 2
- Opportunities for adult faith education/sharing through coffee talk, speakers, Faith Quest
- A clean, beautiful and prayerful space
- Dedicated parish staff and parishioners who work together to create St. Bartholomew's mission of active discipleship
- There is a place for everyone in our parish.
- Sanctuary and body of church seasonally decorated
- Outreach
- Our programs address the needs of parishioners, especially the older members of the parish.
- Welcoming parish
- All requests for volunteers are usually met with enthusiastic response.
- We have large, well maintained physical plant and grounds that are run efficiently.
- Interfaith food drive and St. Vincent De Paul events
- There are many parishioners that are accepting of special needs individuals.
- Location
- Small Christian communities
- Youth mission trips
- The Core Team is a group of strong and dedicated people.
- Faith Quest has been valuable in keeping my focus on the Lord and meeting other people who also want to grow in the Lord.

**2. During this process we will continue to remind ourselves that we are working to provide a stronger parish. Please list the current areas that you feel need improvement at St. Bartholomew.**

- Youth activities – including youth Mass, music – 6
- A warmer welcome for new parishioners – 4
- A variety of Mass schedules between surrounding churches (We need an evening Mass for people that work on Saturday and Sunday.) – 2
- Larger gathering area in the back of church – 2
- Continue to involve the church and community township into our community. – 2
- Sacramental preparation could be more intensive.
- Community service for adult and youth should be encouraged more.
- Sunday collection needs to increase to meet the parish budget.
- The need to be more caring.
- Social outreach to needy
- The Eucharistic ministers need to be more organized and dressed appropriately for their ministry.
- Reduce distractions during Mass – cell phones, excessive use of restrooms, babies crying.
- Use telephone committees and e-mail to alert parishioners of important news / announcements.
- Be open about parish plans, finances, and selection process for special committees.
- New pews
- A planned upgrade of our 1960-1970's landscaping
- Young married couples ministry
- More integration of musical instruments
- Can we open up all the youth and young adult activities to the public?
- More restrooms
- Better sound system in cry room
- Offer one Mass that has contemporary music.
- More inclusion of all students (private and public school)
- Lack of attention to the servers
- Have a coat rack in the gym during all events.
- Teach the catholic faith in all aspects.
- Personal invitation from the pulpit is needed on a regular basis. This invitation needs to be made by our Pastor with further information given briefly by lay leaders.

- Make better use of successful organizations. With more shows, Bart's Bard would be more effective. The children's show in advent was hugely successful. Another show, for non-singers, would reach more people, too.
- Better communication
- St. Bartholomew should interact with other parishes.
- St. Bartholomew should interact with other faiths.

**3. Be creative! If you could snap your fingers, what would you change at St. Bartholomew today?**

- Return of the 7:30 evening Sunday Mass –3
- Have weekday Mass start on time. – 2
- All the pews filled with parishioners actively involved in worship – 2
- Resume Welcome Sundays. Ask everyone to greet those around them at the start of each Mass. – 2
- Share the joy of God's amazing love. – 2
- Have every parishioner involved in some way.
- A copy of the liturgy for the parish library
- Parish movie nights showing films in the Pastors Room or Disciples Room via the VCR/TV
- A group interested in planting and tending Mary's Garden
- A square dance in the KAC for all parishioners
- A parish fundraiser using the KAC for a rain or shine garage sale
- Periodic informational nights on various Catholic topics
- Invite experts (writers from The Catholic Telegraph, Archdiocesan chairperson, etc.) to speak on various topics.
- More diversity
- Bake sale
- St. Bartholomew night at Music Hall
- New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance in the KAC
- Bible study group / Rosary Group
- "Help Wanted" list for parish volunteers
- A trip to Ireland with fellow parishioners
- Bereavement committee
- Boat outing on the Ohio River with fellow parishioners.
- Lenten Fasting Club
- The inability of people to smile, accept and care completely for each one of our parishioners.
- Sunlight is blinding through the windows.
- Side Alter for small groups of worship
- Return of fallen away parishioners

- Make staff more accessible.
- Hold hands, across the aisles while praying the Lord's Prayer.
- Encourage people to stay and visit after Mass.
- More openness about parish plans, finances, and selection process for special committees.
- We need to nourish our parishioners with physical and mental support.
- Make the whole church handicap accessible, including the Alter.
- Improve lighting for the music ministry area.
- Larger gathering area
- Family opportunities (softball, picnics, etc.)
- Music at other Masses
- Focus on community
- Consider using the property for Condos for senior parishioners. This would bring in revenue and would bring more people physically closer to the Church, especially if they are handicapped.
- Decorate the inside of the church on a regular basis to make it look livelier.
- Have a great website and an e-mail network in the parish.
- Consider a modern wide screen entertainment screen to use for visual programs, etc.
- More senior activities
- Make the school the best non-public school available in the area.
- Show that we genuinely care for each and every person – love is infectious.
- Personalize our worship.