

The Second Sunday of Advent

Contemplative Eucharist at 5 pm

December 7, 2025



You can find yours here.

Here is a place that is ancient and new, a faith that we hold going back to Jesus, back to his spiritual ancestors, back to those who walked the earth and found holy ground. And what we do is often based on really ancient patterns—worship and music; loving service to the poor, the hurting, the lonely; working for justice and peace; lively, fearless education and formation of minds and souls. And that faith is also completely contemporary, engaged in the culture and the needs of the moment.

What we are for

The dignity and worth of every person. An open minded, passionate commitment to truth. The importance of everyone's own spiritual journey. God's friends wherever we find them. Seeking Christ in every person who comes through the door. The sacredness of life's rites of passage. The value of community. The hard work necessary to make sure that all are welcomed. Telling the truth about life's challenges. A "user-friendly" church experience. Children, youth and families.

What we are against

Claiming to have all the answers. Elitism and exclusivism, especially in church. Bigotry for any reason. Authoritarianism. Indifference to injustice and suffering. Certitude in the face of ambiguity and superficial answers to hard questions. Boring sermons, bad music and general cluelessness. (So, God help us, because we don't always avoid these!)

What we value

Community, open hearts, open minds, open arms. Faith. Fortitude. Staying current, but equally staying rooted in tradition. Reason and honesty. Civic responsibility as New Yorkers, Americans and global citizens. Debate that allows for mutual respect. Music and beauty for their own sake. Joy in God's creation. Anyone who makes an effort to get to know and follow Jesus.

We are so glad you are here!

CONNECT WITH US



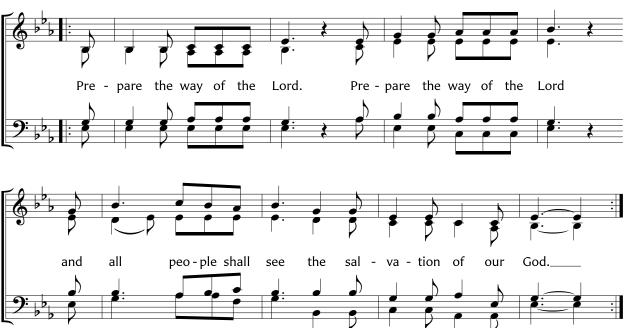
Thank you for joining us today.If you are new to St. Bart's, please visit **stbarts.org/hello** or scan the QR code above to fill out our online Connect Card.



Prelude

The people remain seated for the opening song.

Chant



Words and music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994).

The people stand with the presider.

The Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People You come to your people and set them free.

The Prayer for the Evening

Presider Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your

angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your

love's sake.

All Amen.

The Ministry of the Word

The Collect

Presider May God be with you.
Presider And also with you.

Together, let us pray.

All God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready for the

message that prepares the way, that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy

Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

The people sit.

The Lesson Romans 15:4-13

Lector A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound

in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lector The Word of the Lord. People Thanks be to God.

An extended period of silence is kept. The people stand as the music begins.

Hymn 75



Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt. Music: *Ascension*, Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904-1988). **The Holy Gospel** Matthew 3:1-12

Preacher The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Preacher In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent,

for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with

unquenchable fire."

Preacher The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

After the preacher introduces the sermon, the people sit.

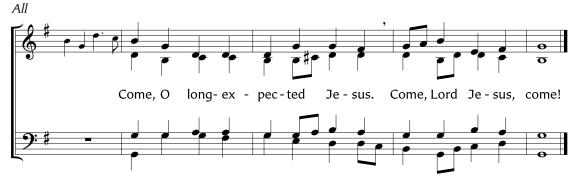
The Sermon The Reverend Peter D. Thompson, Vicar and Interim Rector

An extended period of silence is kept. The people stand as the music begins.

The Prayers of the People

Presider Come, O Long-Expected Jesus. Hear us as we call upon you. Fill us with Advent hope as

we watch and wait.



Intercessor Come and strengthen your Church. Keep us from grumbling, and teach us to welcome

others as you have welcomed us.

All Come, O Long-Expected Jesus. Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Intercessor Come and bless the nations with peace, that enemies may dwell together in harmony and

wars may cease in every land.

All Come, O Long-Expected Jesus. Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Intercessor Come and deliver justice for the meek of the earth. Bring down the powerful, lift up the

lowly, and fill the hungry with good things.

All Come, O Long-Expected Jesus. Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Intercessor Come and heal the sick, including those we now name.

The people may add their own petitions.

All Come, O Long-Expected Jesus. Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Intercessor Come and raise the dead, including those we now name.

The people may add their own petitions.

All Come, O Long-Expected Jesus. Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Intercessor Come and give us joy. Inspire our song of thanksgiving for every blessing you have

bestowed, including those we now name.

The people may add their own petitions.

All Come, O Long-Expected Jesus. Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Presider God of all peoples, whose servant John came baptizing and calling for repentance: help

us to hear his voice of judgement, that we may also rejoice in the word of promise, and be found pure and blameless in that glorious Day when Christ comes to rule the earth as Prince of Peace; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for

ever.

All Amen.

Newcomers seeking to be welcomed come forward to the front of the chapel.

The Welcoming of Newcomers

Presider Dear People of God. today we welcome new sojourners into this community of St. Bart's.

We celebrate and honor their unique gifts and stories as together we seek to join the Holy Spirit in the work of transforming lives, transforming the church, and transforming the

world.

Presenter I present these persons to be welcomed fully into the life of this parish.

Priest Do you desire to continue your journey into Christ in the fellowship of Saint

Bartholomew's Church in the City of New York?

Newcomers I do.

Priest Will you commit yourself to seek and serve Christ in this community of faith and pledge to

serve, pray, and give to build up our common life?

Newcomers I will, with God's help.

Priest Will you now help to welcome others as Christ has welcomed each of us?

Newcomers I will, with God's help.

Priest Will you who witness these promises, do all in your power to support these persons in

their life in Christ?

People We will.

Presider Let us pray.

God of welcome and embrace, you make your home among mortals, and in you, we all

have a place:

A place to belong and a place to become;

People a place to pray and a place to play;

Presider
People
Presider
Presider
People
Presider
Preside

Presider a place to love and a place to be known;
People a place to be fed and a place to call home.

Presider Give us grace, O God, to become what we proclaim and embody what we believe; in the

name of the One who is Love Incarnate, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

All Amen.

The Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

The people exchange a sign of God's peace with one another and then sit.

Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

- ** We extend a special welcome to all who are new to St. Bart's today.

 Please visit **stbarts.org/hello** to let us know who you are!
- ** Many are surprised to learn that St. Bart's does not have a large endowment. We rely on the generosity of members and visitors alike to sustain our ministries for the future. Visit **stbarts.org/give** or place your offering in the plate as it is passed. Thank you for your support!



The people stand.

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider May God be with you.
People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them up to God.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God.
People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

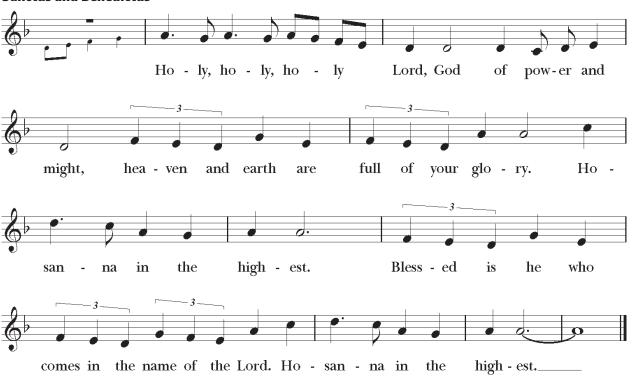
Presider Mystery of the Winter skies, we thank you in the darkening hour for opening our eyes to see your starlit beauty; for parting the wide heavens to send your gentle light; for offering

your word to take our mortal flesh.

Jesus was promised by those who shared your dream of peace; John the Baptist cleared his way with words of desert fire; Mary and Joseph accepted his coming with tenderness and faith; we know that he draws near again to show us who we really are with honesty and love.

Now we take up the song of hope that we might awaken to his coming among us and the world might be touched by the footfall of his glory:

Sanctus and Benedictus



Music: Robert Powell (1932-2025).

Presider

We ask that your Holy Spirit will fall upon us and upon these gifts, that these fragile, earthly things may be to us the body and blood of our lord and brother, Jesus Christ; who, on the night that he was betrayed, gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom. Calling them to his table, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me." In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me." As on that night, so here and now he offers himself in touch and taste beyond all words can hold.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Presider

Therefore, in our eating and drinking we are filled with the life-giving presence of Christ; we proclaim him as creation's host; transforming poverty into plenty in the reckless generosity of love.

Inspire us with hope that one day death and greed will be no more and people without number will come from east and west, north and south, to share the kingdom meal. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be yours, Mother of blessings, for ever and

ever.

All AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

Presider

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

All

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Fraction Anthem

The presider breaks the bread. Silence is kept.

Presider Tear open the heavens and come down, O God;

People In this bread and in this wine; in this meal and in our lives.

The Invitation to Communion

Presider

The Bread of Life and The Cup of Salvation: every time we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim Christ's death until he comes.

The people sit.

At the Communion

- All are welcome to receive Holy Communion, including children. Please follow the instructions of the ushers. Both bread and wine are offered. After receiving the bread, please proceed to the chalice of wine if you would like to receive it. Wine is received by drinking from the common cup.
- If you require a gluten-free wafer, simply request one from the communion minister when the bread is offered to you.
- Those who do not wish to receive communion are still invited to receive a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you would like a blessing.
- If you are unable to travel to a communion station, please alert an usher so that communion can be brought to you.

The people stand.

The Prayer after Communion

Presider Let us pray.

All Eternal God, for whom we wait, you have fed us with the bread of eternal life:

keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before Christ when he comes

again. Amen.

The Evening Canticle and Antiphon

All Guide us waking, O God, and guard us sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ,

and asleep we may rest in peace.

Presider Praise be to God, we have lived to see this day. God's promise is fulfilled, and our duty is

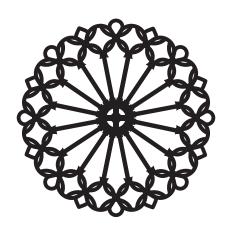
done. At last you have given us peace, for we have seen with our own eyes the salvation you have prepared for all nations, a light to the world in its darkness, and the glory of

your people Israel.

All Guide us waking, O God, and guard us sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ,

and asleep we may rest in peace.

The Blessing



Hymn Wild and lone the proph-et's voice ech-oes through the des - ert still, 2 "Bear the fruit re - pen-tance sows: lives of jus - tice, truth, and love. 3 With such preach-ing, stark and bold, John pro-claimed sal-va - tion near, choice, bid - ding us to do God's will: call - ing to make a oth - er claim than those; set your heart on things a - bove. Trust no time-less warn-ings hold words of hope to all and his who hear. "Turn from sin and be bap-tized; cleanse your heart and mind and soul. Soon the Lord will come in power, burn-ing clean the thresh-ing floor: we dare to jour-ney on, led by faith through ways un - trod, Quit-ting all the sins you prized, yield your life to God's con - trol.

then will flames the chaff de - vour; wheat a - lone shall fill God's store." till we come at last like John to be - hold the Lamb of



Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944). Music: *Aberystwyth*, Joseph Parry (1841-1903).

The Dismissal

Presider When Christ comes, may we be watching and waiting.

People Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Postlude

Service Participants

Presider The Reverend Zack Nyein **Preacher** The Reverend Peter D. Thompson

Lector Erin Salvatore **Usher** Sam Meyer **Altar Guild** David Carson

Associate Organist and Choirmaster Alexander Pattavina

Director, Operations & Facilities Charles Bryant **Facilities** Anthony Thomas

We continue to hold in our prayers

Nadia, Daniel, John, Michael, Channing, Melissa, Chris, Alain, Mariana, Clark

Source and Copyright Information

Collect of the Day: from *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*, © 2002 Consultation on Common Texts, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Prayers of the People: from *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*, © 2002 Consultation on Common Texts, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Concluding Collect: adapted by The Church of Ireland from *A Handbook for the Lectionary*, © 1980 Geneva Press. Hymn Before Communion: Music: Copyright © 1938, H. Hugh Bancroft. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-709111 when applicable.



Newcomers are welcome to all gatherings

Learn more at **stbarts.org/sunday.**

Coffee Hour

12:15 PM IN THE GREAT HALL

- **Children, Youth, and Families Lunch** 12:15 PM IN THE GREAT HALL
- # Living Christ Sangha

3-4:30 PM VIA ZOOM



Tree of Gifts

St. Tabitha's Guild at St. Bart's is sponsoring a Tree of Gifts for the 2025 holiday season. The tree, located in the narthex through January 4, features their handmade needlecrafts for Advent and Christmas. Your donations of new hats, scarves, and gloves are also welcome and can be placed on the tree. All items will be donated to Crossroads Community Services, Inc. and the Coalition for the Homeless.



Christmas Flowers and Music

Christmas Flower and Music tributes at St. Bart's are a time-honored tradition for remembering loved ones and expressing gratitude for special people and blessings. Our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day service leaflets will include a listing of these tributes. To dedicate a gift of flowers and music, please visit **stbarts.org/christmas**, or contact Susannah Wade Lewis in the Development Office (**swadelewis@stbarts.org**). Please submit your tribute gift by December 14 to ensure inclusion in the leaflets.



December 14, 2025

The Third Sunday of Advent

- \$\$ JOIN US IN PERSON AT 9 AM, 11 AM, AND 5 PM.
 YOU MAY ALSO JOIN OUR SUNDAY MORNING LIVESTREAM SERVICE AT 11 AM
 on our website (stbarts.org/worship/livestream), via YouTube or Facebook Live
 (@stbartsnyc).
- THE FORUM AT 10 AM
 My Friends Call Me Mrs: A Chat With a Single Mrs. Claus in the Era of the Trad
 Wife Parishioner Ann Votaw talks about claiming the role of Mrs. Claus as a single
 woman in New York. She invites us to consider how feminist imagination, humor, and
 Christian community can reshape traditional narratives in this cultural moment.



Weekday offerings to recenter your soul in God's grace and goodness.

AWAKE: 15 MINUTES OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION TUESDAY-THURSDAY AT 8:15 AM IN THE CHURCH AND ONLINE

HOLY EUCHARIST • TUESDAY-THURSDAY AT 12:05 PM IN THE CHAPEL

NIGHT PRAYER • MONDAY-FRIDAY AT 8:30 PM VIA ZOOM

BIBLE STUDY • WEDNESDAYS AT 1 PM VIA ZOOM

IMAGINE WORSHIP NYC • THURSDAYS AT 7 PM IN THE CHAPEL

CENTERING PRAYER • FRIDAYS AT 9 AM VIA ZOOM

ONGOING AND UPCOMING

THE CHURCH IS OPEN MONDAY AND FRIDAY, 9:30 AM-4:30 PM AND TUESDAY - THURSDAY, 8 AM - 4:30 PM FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION

THE BOOKSTORE IS ALSO OPEN DURING THESE HOURS.

Awake: 15 Minutes of Prayer and Reflection

TUESDAY-THURSDAY, DEC. 2 - DEC. 23 AT 8:15 AMStart your day with 15 minutes of prayer, reflection, and beautiful music for the Advent season. Available in person and online. **stbarts.org/awake**.

Time and Waiting during Advent

WEDNESDAYS, 6-7 PM, VIA ZOOM, DURING ADVENT

This series is hosted by our Living Christ Sangha meditation community. It will explore a series of meditations on time from Thich Nhat Hanh's book *Inside the Now*, and will connect the meditations with the awakened waiting we are called to cultivate in Advent. More at **stbarts.org/adventsangha**.

LGBTQ+ Holiday Party

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8 FROM 6 - 9 PM IN THE CHAPEL

The LGBTQ+ Community at St. Bart's invites you to its annual holiday celebration in the chapel. Festive beverages and refreshments will be served, and all friends and allies are welcome! Suggested donation: \$25. RSVP at **stbarts.org/lgbtqholidayparty**.

Glory on Park: A Gospel-Inspirational Christmas Celebration

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11 AT 7 PM, IN THE CHAPEL

Artist in Residence Mark A. Miller and the Imagine Worship Choir lead us in celebrating the season with joy and exuberance. Join us for a festive Eucharist with a mix of traditional, contemporary, and gospel Christmas classics at 7 pm, followed by a festive reception. This service will be livestreamed. Learn more at **stbarts.org/imagine.**

20s/30s Advent Happy Hour

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12 AT 6:30 PM

Gather with St. Bart's young adults for a holiday happy hour. Anyone ages 20 through 39 is welcome to join us for a time of fellowship and good cheer. For event detals, please email **20s30s@stbarts.org**.

The Adoration of The Magi

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, AT 7:30 PM

Great Music at St. Bart's presents Adoration of the Magi, the annual recital by baritone Jeff Morrissey. The evening features carols from around the world, spirituals and cherished Christmas favorites, all presented in the intimate setting of the chapel. Tickets at **mmpaf.org**.

The Church Club Christmas Party

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 FROM 6 - 8 PM IN ROOM 33

Join The Church Club of New York at St. Bart's for our Annual Christmas Party following the 5 pm service. Enjoy a festive reception with caroling led by acclaimed pianist Tina deVaron, known for her performances at the Carlyle, the Waldorf-Astoria, and other NYC venues. Gather around the piano for Christmas favorites, good company, and sparkling wines and soft drinks. Nonmembers may register as guests of the Board of Trustees at **stbarts.org/churchclub**.

The Joyous Christmas Concert

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, AT 7:30 PM

Hear St. Bartholomew's Choir as we celebrate the holiday season in our beautiful sanctuary with beloved traditional carols as well as festive new arrangements of Christmas favorites, all accompanied on our famed pipe organ. Tickets and more information at **mmpaf.org**

Community Carols

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT NOON

St. Bartholomew's Choir leads a jubilant service of lessons and carols particularly tailored to those who work nearby. The service will last under an hour and will be livestreamed.

Light in the Darkness: A Service of Comfort and Peace

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT 7 PM

Together we will hold space for contemplation, healing, and reflection, especially appropriate for those experiencing grief. Light a candle, be still, and find rest for your soul. Learn more at **stbarts.org/imagine.**

Candlelight Carols

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, AT 5 PM

Hear the Christmas story and sing your favorite carols in this majestic service that includes music by our combined choirs and an awe-inspiring candlelit procession. This service will be livestreamed.

Casting Call: Come-As-You-Are Christmas Pageant

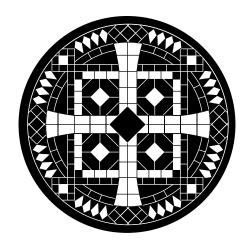
CHRISTMAS EVE AT 4 PM

All children and youth are welcome to participate in this treasured New York holiday tradition. You don't have to be a member of the church or even a resident of the city or state to join the fun! Learn more and sign up.



+

TO SEE OUR COMPLETE SCHEDULE FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMASTIDE VISIT STBARTS.ORG/ADVENTCHRISTMAS



Clergy and Staff

Vicar and Interim Rector The Reverend Peter D. Thompson (pthompson@stbarts.org)
Senior Associate Rector and Pastor of Imagine Worship The Reverend Zack Nyein (znyein@stbarts.org)
Senior Associate Rector The Reverend Meredith E. Ward (mward@stbarts.org)
Canon in Residence The Reverend Canon Stephanie Spellers (sspellers@stbarts.org) +
Assistant Rector The Reverend Canon Andrew J.W. Mullins (amullins@stbarts.org) *
Assisting Priest The Reverend Molly O'Neil Frank (moneilfrank@stbarts.org) +
Deacon The Reverend Deacon John F. Wirenius (jwirenius@stbarts.org) *

Organist and Choirmaster Dr. Paolo Bordignon (pbordignon@stbarts.org) **Associate Organist and Choirmaster** Mr. Alexander Pattavina (apattavina@stbarts.org) **Administrative Associate for Music** Mr. Ian Anderson (ianderson@stbarts.org)

Director of Parish Life and Events Ms. Veronica Shea (vshea@stbarts.org)
Associate for Parish Life and Events Mr. Paul Rodriguez (prodriguez@stbarts.org)
Associate for Community Engagement Mr. Curry Brinson (cbrinson@stbarts.org)
Associate for Next Generation Ministries Ms. Effie Diprenda (ediprenda@stbarts.org)
Director of Development Ms. Susannah Wade Lewis (swadelewis@stbarts.org)
Manager of Development Mr. Brian Van Steen (bvansteen@stbarts.org)
Head Verger Ms. Sarah Bessey (sbessey@stbarts.org) *

* Non-stipendiary + Part-time



The Vestry of St. Bart's

Wardens Miriam K. Schneider, Ray Vandenberg

Rachel Farrar, Dall Forsythe, Jennifer Fuller, David Hilder, Tim Hook, Natalie Johnson, Mary Robin Jurkiewicz, James Marion, Lizzie Min, Kari Parks, Robert Radtke, Robert Sweeney, Mary Kate Wold

Chancellor Patrick MacMurray

Assistant Chancellors Anne Rabbino, Douglas Tanner, Alice Yurke-Davis

Honorary Wardens Fletcher Hodges III, Percy Preston, Jr.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

325 PARK AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10022 INFO@STBARTS.ORG



@STBARTSNYC STBARTS.ORG