

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The church is open 9 AM to 6 PM daily
for visiting, prayer and meditation.

SUNDAYS

8 AM EUCHARIST, IN THE CHAPEL
A quiet, traditional service, no music.

9 AM EUCHARIST, IN THE CHURCH
A simple, spirit-filled, tuneful celebration.

10 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL & ADULT FORUM
Education for all ages.

11 AM CHORAL EUCHARIST, IN THE CHURCH
Traditional liturgy with hymns,
St. Bartholomew's Choir, and
The Boy and Girl Choristers

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

5 PM "COME AS YOU ARE" EUCHARIST

MONDAY - FRIDAY

In the Chapel

12:05 PM EUCHARIST

5:30 PM EVENING PRAYER

6 PM "SUNDAY ON WEDNESDAY" EUCHARIST

SATURDAYS

In the Chapel

10 AM MORNING PRAYER AND EUCHARIST

THE REV. F. M. "BUDDY" STALLINGS
Priest-in-Charge



ST BART'S

325 PARK AVENUE
AT 51ST STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022

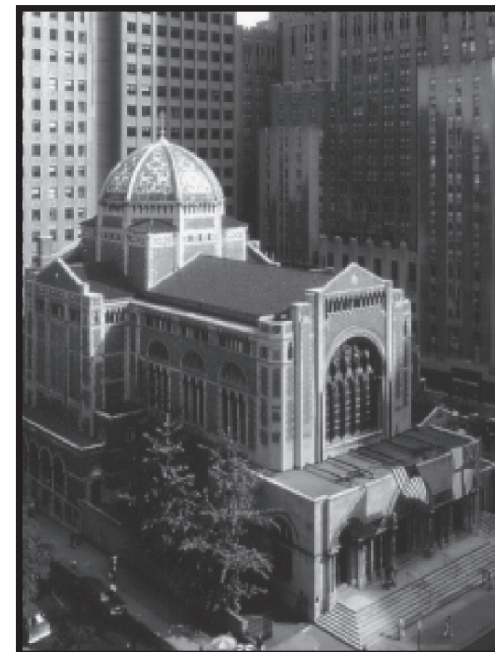
212-378-0222
central@stbarts.org
stbarts.org

FREE PARKING FOR SUNDAY SERVICES AT
136 EAST 51ST STREET

PLEASE PRESENT YOUR PARKING
TICKET TO AN USHER.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF

ST BART'S



FOUNDED in January 1835, in the then-fashionable Bowery section of Manhattan, St. Bartholomew's began its life as part of the Evangelical movement in the Episcopal Church. Worship services were held in a plain church at the corner of Great Jones Street and Lafayette Place. At first growth was slow, but by 1872 St. Bartholomew's was large and prosperous enough to build a splendid new church at Madison Avenue and 44th Street. Designed by James Renwick, the architect of St. Patrick's Cathedral, the building was later embellished with a triple portal by Stanford White.

It was from the Madison Avenue pulpit that David H. Greer, called as rector in 1888, inspired the parish to become a major force for social welfare in the city. During the enormous immigration of the late 19th century, St. Bartholomew's huge parish house on 42nd Street (built with the support of the Vanderbilt family), ministered to large numbers of the new arrivals, who lived in appalling poverty in the tenements of the East '40s and '50s.

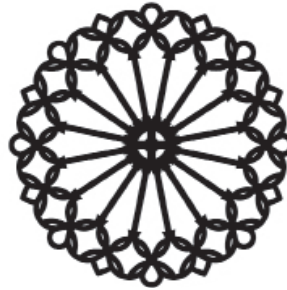
The parish house included a gymnasium, laundry, print shop, employment bureau, loan association, health clinic and social clubs. A chapel provided diverse forms of worship in several languages.

St. Bartholomew's also became a force in the musical life of the city and the wider church. Under the leadership of organist Richard Henry Warren, a full choir of men and women became famous. Leopold Stokowski, who went on to a career as one of the world's great conductors, was brought from Europe by St. Bartholomew's to direct its choir.

Over time, serious structural problems developed in the Madison Avenue building, so the parish commissioned Bertram Goodhue to design a new church on Park Avenue between 50th and 51st streets. In 1918, the parish moved into the new building, which was built in the Romanesque style and provided a harmonious setting for the Stanford White portal which had been brought from the old building. As funds and materials were available, the interior was decorated in the Byzantine style with major mosaics in the narthex and over the high altar.

In the 1920s, as the neighborhood changed, immigration slowed and tenements gave way to apartment houses and offices, the

parish house and clinic on 42nd Street were closed. The community house, adjoining the church at 50th Street, was built during rector Robert Norwood's tenure (1925-32). A poet and prophet, Norwood was a dynamic preacher who brought large crowds to the church week after week. His interest in ministering to the growing number of young professionals flocking to the city led to the founding of the Community Club.



Well into the 1960s, St. Bart's was one of the three or four largest congregations in the Episcopal Church. As its immediate neighborhood changed from primarily residential to corporate and commercial, the parish ministry increasingly reached out to the community and non-members. The music ministry included more public concerts, and St. Bartholomew's took the lead in midtown in beginning a substantial ministry to the poor.

In 1981 a real estate developer offered a plan to build an office tower on the site of the adjacent community house, ensuring a financial endowment of the church's mission and maintenance. Conflict developed within the parish and between the church and the city over the designated landmark status of the building. In the ensuing years, St. Bart's became synonymous with the very real issues between the religious community and the historic preservation movement, and with the attendant constitutional questions. The case

worked its way to the Supreme Court, which in 1991 upheld the New York State landmarks law and forbade change to the historic building.

The congregation paid a heavy price for the battle. Half the membership left, and charity and relationships were strained. The existing financial problems deepened. Maintenance on the building was deferred.

In the calling of a new rector in 1994, church leadership made a commitment to growing St. Bartholomew's as a congregation and in restoring and preserving its landmark building. Because of this, attendance and membership have grown. We have affirmed the sacred function of the space and the mission of the church.

We are ministering to those less fortunate by operating a homeless shelter every night of the year, as well as a soup kitchen and food pantry which serve over 200 families monthly. A Café (on our outdoor terrace in warm weather, inside the community house in winter) offers daily food and hospitality. An innovative interfaith education program, the Center for Religious Inquiry sponsors speakers and occasional courses on the great religions of the world, emphasizing the universal themes shared by all. We offer a strong and growing children and family ministry and substantial adult education.

At the heart of all we do is powerful worship and superb music. St. Bart's is determined to be a "church for these times"—a place strong enough to weather a recession and creative enough to be a thinking person's church, faithful to the Christian tradition in the very heart of New York.