

*Fr. Dave's Den:* There is something exciting to turning the page on a calendar. Such an act signals a particular newness. On the other hand, turning the calendar can be a bit unsettling for it reminds us of just how quickly time passes by as we forge deeper into the often unknown future.

During this past week, after the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, we as a Church turned the page on the liturgical calendar as we entered the season of Ordinary Time. For many of us this is both an exciting and anxious time. It is exciting in as much as it presents us with a fresh, new time. And perhaps it is a bit unsettling because it came so quickly. What is more, this season really calls us to live in the ordinary.

One of the major themes of this season is vocation. Vocation, of course, refers to one's calling which comes from God. We all have a vocation – and the challenge of life is to discover that calling through prayer. When we embrace our vocation, there lies the promise of peace for all of us. In fact, in today's opening prayer, we pray these words: "Father of heaven and earth, hear our prayers, and show us the way to peace in the world." May the Lord show us the way to peace by leading us all to our vocation in life.

Today is Ecumenical Sunday when we celebrate what God is doing through the many ecumenical agencies – local, regional, national and international – that comprise the modern ecumenical movement and the work toward bringing about unity among all Christians. As you say grace before meals, I invite you to pray the following prayer for Christian unity:

Lord Jesus Christ, at your Last Supper you prayed to the Father that all should be one. Send your Holy Spirit upon all who hear your Name and seek to serve you. Strengthen our faith in you, and lead us to love one another in humility. May we who have been reborn in one baptism be united in one faith under one shepherd. Amen.

Tomorrow, January 17, we remember Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who worked untiringly to bring about peace and unity in our world. Let us work ardently to make his dream a reality and bring an end to racism, prejudice, and discrimination in all forms.

Wednesday, January 19, – "Soup's On". Once again Chef Beck will be preparing soup. This month's flavors are: Wedding Soup and Italian Vegetable. Pre-orders are requested. Some walk-ins will be available. Cost is \$1.75 for a bowl, \$3.50 for a pint and \$6.25 for a quart. All proceeds benefit St. Barts. For more info, call the rectory.

Saturday, January 22, has been established by the United States Catholic Conferences of Bishops "as a particular day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life."

Do not forget the Annual Appreciation Dinner that will take place on Friday, January 28, 2005, at 6:30 PM in Helzlsouer Hall. If you have served the Church in any way during the past year, please feel free to call the rectory with your reservation and join us. This is the parish's Christmas gift to you in gratitude for your service to the parish. Please note that you must make a reservation and this is for adults only – who have been active in a particular ministry or service to our parish. There will be dinner, door prizes and dancing.

Sunday, January 30, 2005 the Men's Club will gather for a lasagna dinner at 6:30 PM in Helzlsouer Hall. The guest speaker will be State Representative, Anthony DeLuca. Please call the rectory to make a reservation. Donation is \$5.00.

Thanks to everyone who assisted with the undecorating of the Church which was completed in record time. And thanks to everyone who made our celebration of Christmas so special.

Saturday, February 12, following the 5:00 PM Mass, St. Bart's will host the Second Annual St. Valentine's Dinner Dance. The evening will feature a sit-down dinner, refreshments, dessert, dancing and door prizes. Tickets are \$40.00 per couple and can be obtained at the rectory.

Finally, this past week we received official word regarding the Sacrament of Confirmation for all eighth graders from St. Bart's School and CCD program. The Sacrament will be conferred by Bishop Donald W. Wuerl on Thursday, April 21, 2005, at 7:00 PM in St. Susanna Church.

Have a wonderful week!

School News with Mrs. Fleet

Due to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday and a Clerical Day, there will be no school and no extended daycare on Monday, January 17, and Tuesday, January 18.

For all school families who purchased two or more pies in November from the Market Day sale, students may dress down on Wednesday, January 19.

Did you know that our school students are selling hoagies? All orders are due by Thursday, January 30. If you are interested in ordering a delicious hoagie, please contact one of our students or staff members.

There is an SBAA general open meeting on Thursday, January 20, at 6:30 PM in the library.

Please plan on joining us for Mass at 10:00 AM on Friday, January 21. Ms. Begley and our second graders will help to plan this liturgy.

Please continue to save Box Tops for Education, Campbell's labels, and Shop 'n Save receipts for us. We appreciate everything that you do on behalf of our school family.

Congratulations to Claire Giblin. She won our school's National Geographic Geography Bee. Claire will now take a written test to see if she qualifies for the next round which is a state level competition. Good luck, Claire!

**BINGO**

Bingo is held this and every Monday at 7:00 PM in Helzlsouer Hall.

**A Respect Life Meditation**

(Humanae Vitae - Doctrinal Principles: Illicit Ways of Regulating Birth #14... Pope Paul VI, 1968) "Direct sterilization, whether of the man or the woman, whether perpetual or temporary, is to be absolutely excluded as a licit means of regulating birth, as the teaching authority of the Church has frequently declared."

We pray that all husbands and wives will prayerfully consider the reality that struggling to live the will of our heavenly Father will often entail great sacrifices.

**Attention All Ladies**

Attention all ladies of the Parish (young, old, and in-between). Please join Sister Dorothy in planning our new Ladies Guild/Group. There will be a planning meeting on January 27 at 6:30 PM in the Pastoral Conference Room. If you are able to make it, please let Sister know by calling 412-242-7357. If you are unable to make it, but would like to share some exciting new ideas, please let us hear from you, too. Sister Dorothy looks forward to meeting with you!

**Religious Education News with Arlene Golden**

*When John the Baptist saw Jesus, he said: "Look, there is the Lamb of God!" (John 1:29)*

**Religious Education Classes:** Children in grades K-8 meet Sunday mornings, 9:00 to 10:15 AM, in the school. Parents/guardians are reminded to call the catechetical office if their son or daughter will be absent.

**Class Cancellations:** In the event of inclement weather or other emergencies, parents/guardians are reminded to tune to KDKA, WPXI-TV, or WTAE-TV for cancellation information.

**First Reconciliation:** Parents/Guardians of children receiving their first reconciliation this year are reminded to complete their workbooks and return them to the catechetical office. First Reconciliation is Monday, February 28, at 7:00 PM in the Church.

**Life Teen - Leading Teens Closer to Christ**

Well, the Steelers gave us a "bye" week this week. Life Teen really returns on Saturday, January 29, and it's all about "fun." Watch for next week's announcement for all of the details! Teens look for an email from the Core!

**MEN'S CLUB**

The St. Bart's Men's Club will be meeting again on Sunday, January 30, at 6:00 PM. State Representative Tony DeLuca, Sr. will be our featured speaker. A \$5.00 donation is requested to defray the cost of our lasagna dinner. Please call the rectory for reservations.

**Atlantic City!**

Once again, the time has come to make reservations for the Spring bus-trip to Atlantic City. We will be staying at Caesar's from April 5 to April 7, 2005. The cost is \$143.00 per person (based on double occupancy). A deposit of \$43.00 is required by March 1, 2005, to hold your reservation. Please contact the rectory at 412-242-3374 to make your reservations.

**Resting in God**

The Diocesan Department for Persons with Disabilities is sponsoring a morning of faith and fellowship for parents and caregivers of children with disabilities. Please join us on Saturday, January 29, 2005, at St. Paul Seminary, from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM. There will be a presentation by Rev. Kris Stubna, S.T.D., Secretary of Education of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. For more information or to register by January 25, please contact Grace Harding of the Diocese at 412-456-3119.

## **The Catholic Church - Here Comes Everybody**

This popular way of describing the universality of our Church is a theme of today's readings. The prophet Isaiah tells of God's servant who will be the "light of the nations." It will not be enough for this servant only to bring back the survivors of Israel's dispersion and captivity. God's salvation must reach to the ends of the earth.

Saint Paul writes to a local church of mainly Gentiles and presumably former sinners of all kinds in Corinth. He greets them and tells them that they are to take their place with "saints everywhere" in the name of Jesus Christ.

The Gospel reading from John tells of Jesus' commissioning by the Father in the Holy Spirit to bring salvation to all, to take away the sins of the world. This Chosen One has come to baptize the world in God's Spirit. Everybody.

As you hear these words, consider your own task to bring the good news of salvation to everyone you will meet in the coming days, weeks, years.

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## **TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

By Candlemas, forty days after Christmas, February 2, the season of Christ's coming has depleted our candle supply. Soon, the parish will order a new paschal candle from a catalogue or candlemaker, or in some communities, wax will be collected to be melted and molded. Last year's paschal candle shows the wear and tear of summer heat, or many funerals or baptisms.

Paschal candles have been around since at least the fourth century, when Constanine's biographer Eusebius reported that the night of the sacred vigil was "transformed into the brilliancy of day, by lighting throughout the city pillars of wax, while burning lamps in every place so that the splendor of this night was brighter than the brightest daylight."

Light was a precious commodity in the ancient world, and this lavish use of precious beeswax was a sign of the Christian's call to bear Christ's light into the world's darkness. In a pre-electric age, a whole city aglow from the paschal flame must have been a glorious sight, and a reminder to every baptized Christian of our vocation to "be the light of the world."

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## **Mass Intentions**



### **MON., January 17 - St. Anthony**

10:00 A.M. Raymond DelVaglio (Family)

### **TUES., January 18 - Weekday**

10:00 A.M. David Slatery (Wife Winnie)

### **WED., January 19 - Weekday**

7:00 P.M. Holy Hour

### **THURS., January 20 - St. Sebastian**

10:00 A.M. Mary Lou Manuppelli (Robert Manuppelli & Family)

### **FRI., January 21 - St. Agnes**

10:00 A.M. Thomas & Richard Neal (Family)

### **SAT., January 22 - St. Vincent**

10:00 A.M. Armand Sciuлло (Daughter)

5:00 P.M. Arthur Mulach (Marie & Family)

### **SUN., January 23 - 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

10:30 A.M. John J. Tierney (Lois Tierney)

Please remember in your prayers the sick, shut-ins, and hospitalized members of the Parish.

Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed.

**A. Samuel Pace**

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Weekly Offering: Total: \$9606.50 Env. Dist.: 1603 Env. Used: 710

Scrip Program Approximate Profit: \$312.42

Christmas Collections:

Christmas Charities: \$3503.40

Christmas Collection: \$11681.78

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## **Eucharistic Ministers to the Homebound**

A meeting is scheduled for all Ministers of the Eucharist to the Homebound on January 20, at 6:30 PM in the Pastoral Conference Room. Please bring with you a list of who you visit, their address and phone number, and the scheduled day of your visit each month. Please RSVP to Sr. Dorothy at 412-242-7357. Thank you for all you do! If you are an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist and would be interested in ministry to the sick and homebound, please contact Sr. Dorothy at 412-242-7357 and plan on attending the January 20 meeting. As a note of clarification - these are two separate ministries in the eyes of the Church and there is distinct training required for each. If you feel called to either ministry at this time, we would be happy to have you serve with us.