

Fr. Dave's Den: This week we celebrate Catholic Schools Week. This year's theme is: "Faith in Every Student." For fifty years our parish has been blessed with a Catholic school. Thousands of students have walked through the doors of our school building and have been embraced with faith by priests, principals, and faculty alike. At St. Bartholomew School we believe in every student and because of that we can say, "The best is yet to be." There are a host of activities planned for Catholic Schools Week. Some of these events include Black and Gold Dress Down Day, a Talent Show, Teachers, Staff, and Student Appreciation Day with no homework or tests, a World of Electronic Music assembly, and Open House. The week culminates with a Friday 10:00 AM Mass with Fr. Kris Stubna, Diocesan Secretary for Education, presiding.

This evening, Sunday, January 30, at 6:30 PM, the Men's Club will gather in Helzlsouer Hall for a lasagna dinner by Chef Beck. The guest speaker is State Representative Anthony DeLuca, Sr. Please call the rectory to make your reservation.

Wednesday, February 2, 2005, is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This is the day on which the Church blesses candles that will be used throughout the year. Because it falls on a Wednesday, a day on which there is no scheduled Mass, we will bless candles Wednesday evening during Holy Hour. Holy Hour begins at 7:00 PM. Candles will be made available for home use. If you wish to take a packet of candles home, we kindly ask for a donation of \$2.00.

On this same day, Fr. Paul Bradley will reach the fullness of the priesthood when he is consecrated as an auxiliary Bishop for our Diocese. Bishop-elect Bradley is a Glassport native who among other assignments served as Pastor of Madonna del Castello, Swissvale, St. Sebastian, Ross Township, and St. Paul Cathedral, Oakland. Congratulations to Bishop-elect Bradley.

Thursday, February 3, is the Feast of St. Blase, Bishop and Martyr. This is typically the day that throats are blessed with these words: "Through the intercession of St. Blase, Bishop and Martyr,

may you be freed from every ailment of the throat and every other disease in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." Throats will be blessed during the 10:00 AM Mass. The school children will attend a 9:00 AM word service with the blessing of throats. In the event of a funeral, the funeral will be scheduled for 11:00 AM.

What are you doing for St. Valentine's Day? Once again, St. Bartholomew's is sponsoring a couples dinner/dance on Saturday, February 12, 2005, following the 5:00 PM Mass. The evening includes a delicious dinner, dancing, and door prizes. The cost is \$40.00 per couple. You must purchase a ticket in advance at the rectory. Monday, February 7, is the last day for reservations.

Very soon every registered family will be receiving a letter with information regarding the annual Parish Share appeal. Next Sunday, February 6, marks the official kick-off of this appeal.

Finally, there will be no confessions this Saturday. If you wish to go to confession, you can call me for an appointment during the week or go to St. Joseph for their Saturday, 11:00 AM confessions.

Have a blessed week!

Lenten Day of Recollection

A Day of Recollection, open to all parishioners, is to be held Saturday, March 5, 2005, at the Mt. Nazareth Center (Provincialate of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth) located at 285 Bellevue Road, in the Bellevue area of Pittsburgh. The day will begin at 10:30 AM and will include speakers Sr. Dorothy, our Social Minister, Bess Biamonte, Social Minister at Good Shepherd in Braddock, and Michelle Harrison, teacher at the Mt. Nazareth Center. For further information or to sign up, please contact Sr. Dorothy at 412-242-7357.



School News with Mrs. Fleet

Our SBAA is planning a Family Fun Night for Saturday, January 29. For information please call Bob Rick at 412-795-4604.

Catholic Schools Week celebration begins on Sunday, January 30. The following is a list of activities we have planned for St. Bartholomew School:

Monday, January 31: Buddies Matching Colors and Get Together Activity Day - Lunch and Activities 11:30 AM to 1:50 PM. (Preschool - shades of red/purple; kindergarten, second, and eighth - shades of yellow/gold; first and fifth - shades of blue; third and sixth - shades of brown; fourth and seventh - shades of green).

Tuesday, February 1: Black and Gold Dress Down Day, All Day Cake Walk.

Wednesday, February 2: Slipper Day (bring them to school to put them on), Talent Show at 1:00 PM.

Thursday, February 3: Teacher and Staff Appreciation Breakfast provided by Student Council, Student Appreciation Day (no homework tonight and no tests on Friday), World of Electronic Music assembly from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM.

Friday, February 4: Dress Up Day, Open House (preschool through grade eight) from 9:00 AM to 11:15 AM, Father Kris Stubna is coming to celebrate Mass at 10:00 AM, faculty meeting and PTG sponsored luncheon for faculty/staff, 11:15 AM dismissal.

Did you know that Saturday, February 5, is a special day here at St. Bartholomew Parish? It is the birthday of our beloved Pastor, Father Dave. Happy Birthday, Father Dave! May the good Lord continue to bless you with good health, happiness, and holiness. Enjoy your special day!

Please continue to save Box Tops for Education, Campbell product labels, and Shop 'n Save receipts.

We are also in need of elementary school friendly copy paper even if it is used on one side. A bonus feature for us would be the donation of a package or packages of any colored copy paper. We like to print our monthly calendar and/or special items on brightly colored paper. We appreciate all that you do for all of us. Thank you and God bless you always!

BINGO

Beat cabin fever with Bingo! St. Bart's Bingo is held this and every Monday at 7:00 PM in Helzlsouer Hall.

Religious Education News with Arlene Golden

Jesus teaches us how God blesses us and shows us the way to live in peace.

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.

Confirmation: Candidates will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on April 21, 2005. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Wuerl at St. Susanna Parish. A retreat is being planned for Friday, March 2, at St. Susanna's.

MEN'S CLUB

The St. Bart's Men's Club will be meeting again this 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.

Life Teen - Leading Teens Closer to Christ

If you missed Life Teen this weekend, well don't worry. You're in luck as we will be meeting again next weekend, February 5. Since it's "souper" bowl Sunday - that's right "souper" bowl, Life Teen will be collecting for the Jubilee Soup Kitchen after all Masses. All high school teens are welcome, come join us for Mass at 5:00 PM and stay for the Life Night.

GOLDEN AGERS

There will be a meeting of the St. Bartholomew Golden Agers on Saturday, February 4, at 1:30 PM in Helzlsouer Hall. See you there!

Humility

During the Revolutionary War a group of colonial soldiers was assigned to fell some trees to build a bridge. The job was going slowly; there were not enough men to complete the task in any suitable time. Suddenly a man dressed like an officer appeared on horseback. "Not enough men to do the work?" he asked the soldier in charge. "Why don't you get off your horse and help?"

"Oh, I couldn't do that," the other man responded. "I am the officer in charge."

The first man then dismounted and worked with the soldiers until the job was completed. Then he said to the one in charge: "The next time your troop has a difficult task, just send for the commander-in-chief and I will be glad to come." That man was George Washington.

Today's readings present a similar theme of setting aside all worldly airs and pretensions and surrendering oneself to God. Nothing can be accomplished without God. It is those who humble themselves, those whom the world views as common and contemptible, who are the ones that God will bless abundantly.

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Treasures from our Tradition

The prayers surrounding baptism often speak of being "clothed in Christ," and clothes are an important consideration. In ancient times, adults were probably baptized without any clothes at all, and old texts survive asking people to leave fancy garb and jewelry behind as they enter the font. Baptism was typically in a private place, the community waited elsewhere, and the casting off of clothing was hardly a public moment, nor was it embarrassing in ancient cultures where privacy was largely unknown.

Nonetheless, what was left behind on one side of the font was replaced on the other as a white robe was wrapped around the newly baptized. It was a robe of honor, a dazzling sign of a new beginning for a society that valued clothing as a sign of personal identity. For the newly baptized, a whole week in white garments was the rule, through the second Sunday of Easter, called "Sunday *in Albis*," because of all the folks wearing their baptismal robes.

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Mass Intentions



MON., January 31 - St. John Bosco

10:00 A.M. Joseph J. Capobianco (Angela, Rocky, & Joey)

TUES., February 1 - Weekday

10:00 A.M. Marcella Maizie (Family)

WED., February 2 - Presentation of the Lord

7:00 P.M. Holy Hour

THURS., February 3 - St. Blase

10:00 A.M. John Cooney (Bea Cooney)

FRI., February 4 - Weekday

10:00 A.M. Jerry McCaffrey (Wife Bonnie & Family)

SAT., February 5 - St. Agatha

10:00 A.M. Anthony B. Petrone (Petrone Family)

11:00 A.M. No Confessions

5:00 P.M. Clem Tarasi (Wife)

SUN., February 6 - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 A.M. Alfred Rochez (Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Tierno)

10:30 A.M. People of the Parish

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

Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed.

Yolanda Rinchiuso, mother of Jean Stellitano

A Word of Appreciation

We, the Sisters of St. Francis, residing at St. Bart's Convent wish to extend our gratitude and appreciation to Father David Bonnar, his staff, and all the parishioners for the many kindnesses, support, and good wishes shown to us over the Holidays. This is our third Christmas here and we feel so much a part of the parish family. Again accept our gratitude and may God bless you and give you peace, good health, and happiness during the New Year 2005. Please know that you are in our prayers.

Blessed are the peacemakers



Growing in FAITH

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

February 2005

St. Bartholomew Parish
Rev. David J. Bonnar, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

Lent begins this month

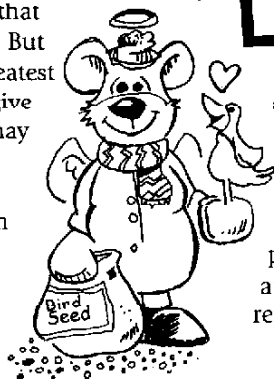
Ash Wednesday on February 9th marks the first day of Lent. To prepare for Easter, we are called to spend more time in prayer, perform works of charity, and practice self-denial. Pick one reasonable action in each of these three pillars of Lent. That way you are more likely to stick with it through the whole season.

Symbols in the Mass

Ever notice how many symbols we use in the Mass? For example, kneeling, shaking hands, the water and wine, the Elevation of the Host. Each is an action in itself but also has another, deeper meaning. They represent the many ways God is present in our lives.

A greater gift

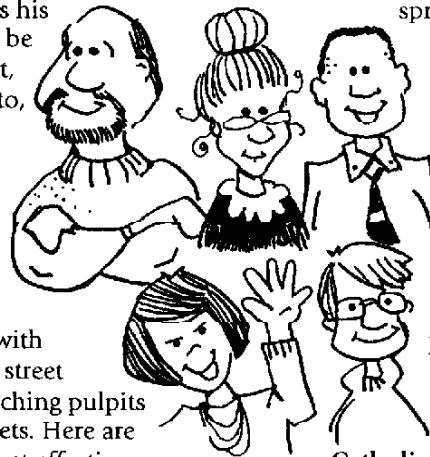
When someone is in trouble, we often want to take action. It's satisfying to know immediately that we've helped. But one of the greatest gifts we can give is prayer. It may be the most effective action we can take.



Five easy ways to show your faith

God intends his gift of love to be shared. In fact, Jesus told us to, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). Yet, few of us are comfortable with preaching on street corners or pitching pulpits in supermarkets. Here are some gentle, yet effective ways to share your faith with others:

- **Guard your speech.** According to the Talmud, the Jewish interpretation of the laws given to Moses, gossip is as serious a sin as murder. Don't engage in it and leave the room when the conversation turns to gossip or dirty jokes.
- **Avoid bad language.** Small but visible examples of the integrity that



springs from your faith may encourage nonbelievers to want to know more.

- **Recall a meaningful experience with God.** Sometimes a person seeking God needs to hear concrete examples of how he enriches lives.
- **Offer to pray.** Even nonbelievers appreciate prayers in times of need. Be sure to credit God with the outcome.

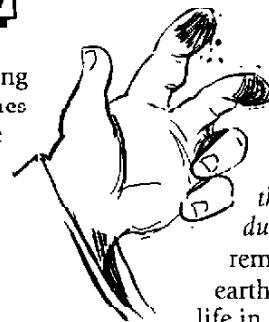
• **Be unapologetically Catholic.** Don't skip Mass to accept social engagements. Keep your Lenten fast at dinner parties. Your actions will tell others that your faith means a great deal to you.

Not everyone to whom you witness will come to God immediately, but the seeds you plant will help God's kingdom to grow one soul at a time.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do we get ashes on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday?

To ancient Jews, wearing sackcloth and sitting in ashes demonstrated repentance and humility, and acted as a penance. Thus, the early Church adopted the practice of wearing ashes at the start of Lent to show repentance, too.

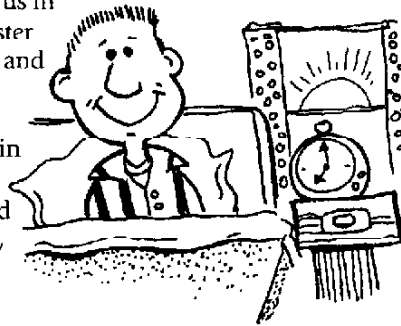


But as he places the ashes on our foreheads, the priest says, "Remember man that you are dust and unto dust you shall return," to remind us that our time on earth will pass away but our life in Heaven will last forever.

Wake up brand new on Easter morning

Easter celebrates the new life given to us in Jesus' death and resurrection. When Easter comes this year, let it find you different and new. Decide what changes you need to make, and create a plan for Lent.

Don't hold back. Is there something in your life that is coming between you and God? For example, are you involved in an unhealthy relationship? Drinking, smoking, spending, or eating too much? Take positive steps to move it aside.



Say "yes" after "no." Eliminating a bad habit creates room for a good one. Pick one to master during Lent.

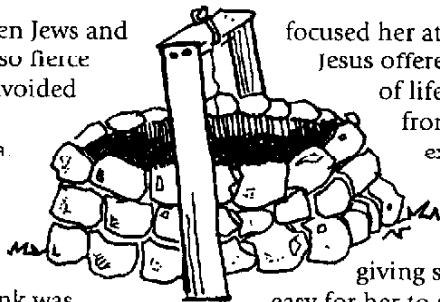
Reach out to someone. Can you spare a night to work at a shelter or soup kitchen? Look in on a lonely neighbor? Visit a neglected resident in a nursing home? Mother Teresa said, "Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time, and always start with the person nearest you."

Share your plan. Tell others of the changes you want to make during Lent and ask for their support.

from Scripture

John 4:5-42; Life-giving water

Hatred between Jews and Samaritans was so fierce that most Jews avoided even traveling through Samaria. They certainly didn't speak to Samaritans. So Jesus' respectful request for a drink was shocking to the woman at the well.



focused her attention on who he was. Jesus offered the woman a new way of life and used something from her every day experience to illustrate his point. To people who dwell in the desert, water is a life-giving substance. Thus it was easy for her to understand the life-giving nature of the living water Jesus offered her.

Even so, she was unimpressed by his promise to give her living water until he - a stranger and a Jew - revealed to her what he knew about her personal life. That knowledge made her open to his words and

God often does the same for us. He uses our every day experience to teach us of his love. Each day during Lent, look for ways God is offering you living water through your familiar routine.

Feasts & Celebrations

February 2 - The Presentation of the Lord. Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple to make the required offering forty days after his birth. They were devout Jews, faithful observers of the law of the Lord.

February 3 - St. Blaise (316). He was martyred for refusing to renounce his Catholic faith. Priests bless throats on this day because St. Blaise, reportedly a physician, healed many ailments of the throat.

February 5 - St. Agatha (251?). St. Agatha dedicated herself to God and kept her vow of chastity, even under

torture. To strengthen her in prison, God sent a vision of St. Peter who comforted her and healed her wounds.

February 9 - Ash Wednesday. The first day of Lent.

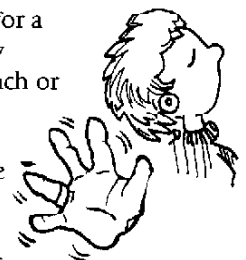
Ashes from the burnt palms of the previous Passion Sunday are blessed and placed on the forehead as a sign of penance.

February 22 - St. Peter's Chair. We celebrate St. Peter's establishment of the Holy See and pray for the preservation of God's Church.



Q & A Why do we fast during Lent?

Ever prepare for a special dinner by eating a light lunch or skipping it all together? The idea was to make room for your favorite foods.



That's the basic idea behind fasting during Lent. The penance we do during this season helps us create more room in our lives for God. Giving something up for Lent doesn't have to be about food. You can "fast" from anything that you treasure but don't really need. Fasting creates an inner hunger that can take you in one of two directions. It can eliminate the desire for the thing you have given up thus making more room for God. Or it can create a stronger desire for what you gave up. So when you finally return to it, you appreciate it all the more.

Either of these options can bring you closer to God. The important thing is that choosing to fast during Lent will help you celebrate the richness of Easter in a more complete way.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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