

**Fr. Dave's Den:** During the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, as the priest pours a drop of water into the wine, he prays inaudibly, "By the mystery of this water and wine, may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity." Indeed, Jesus humbled himself to share in our humanity by becoming man.

**Today's feast** of the Baptism of the Lord is another example of Jesus' humble identification with humanity. While John initially resists this event, he eventually complies with Jesus' command. For Jesus says, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting to fulfill all righteousness." The subject of Jesus' baptism conjures many questions. Perhaps the greatest question is: "If Jesus was the Son of God, why did he need to be baptized?" Perhaps the best answer to this question is: Jesus became baptized so as to fully identify himself with humanity. What is more, the baptism of Jesus was to be, according to God's plan, a moment of great revelation for the world and affirmation for Jesus as evidenced by the voice that emanated from the heavens saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

**Baptism** inevitably signals a two-fold commitment. On the one hand, we acknowledge God's commitment to us. On the other hand, there is also our commitment to God. This feast affords us all the opportunity to reflect on our commitment with God and his Church. Where are we in our relationship with God? Is God first in our lives?

**Now that the Holidays have passed**, I am sure that we have all had our fill of leftovers. No doubt many of us have been living off of leftovers (ham, bread, cookies, etc) in recent weeks. When it comes to our relationship with God, we must not give him our leftovers. God deserves the best and we need to do everything we can each day to serve him and his Church a full course. While that necessarily involves sacrifice, it is important to note that there are eternal rewards.

**With regard** to our commitment with the Church, let me remind you that there is room in the Church for everyone. Not only is there room, but there is also a need. As you reflect on your commitment, please know that there are many opportunities to serve God and his Church. And remember, "The pay isn't great, but the retirement plan is out of this world."

**Thanks to everyone** who participated in the first New Year's Eve party. I am particularly grateful to George and Ginny Beck, Tom and Angie King, and Dave and

Lil Fussaro for their hard work in planning the event. A good time was had by all. Thanks to the businesses, whose names appear in another part of this bulletin, for their donated door prizes. We not only live in a wonderful parish but we also are blessed to be part of a generous wider community.

**Do not forget** the Annual Parish 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.

**Thanks to your overwhelming generosity**, our parish collected over \$6000.00 for the tsunami relief fund. That is incredible. As we pray about this catastrophe, let us find consolation from the psalmist in Psalm 65 who prays:

"You still the roaring seas,  
The roaring of their waves,  
And the tumult of the peoples."

**Remember we can deepen** our commitment with God and the Church and pray for all the needs of the world by attending Holy Hour every Wednesday night from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

**Do not forget**, we will be undecorating the Church after today's 10:30 AM Mass. All are welcome.

**Lent** officially begins one month from today.

**Have a blessed week!** And let us pray, "May we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity."

### **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 a Eucharistic Minister and would be interested in ministry to the sick and homebound, please contact Sr. Dorothy and plan on attending the January 20 meeting. Remember that these are two separate ministries and there is distinct training required for each. If you feel called to either ministry, we would be happy to have you serve with us.

School News with Mrs. Fleet

Our eighth grade graduation picture will be taken on Monday, January 10, at 1:30 PM in Church. Also, our photographer will be taking club and group pictures for our yearbook and retake pictures for any student who needs one.

On Tuesday, January 11, we will have a dress down day for the Chimbote mission in Peru. The donation for this dress-down day will be \$2.00.

Our PTG will meet on January 11 at 6:30 PM in the library. Also, Market Day orders are due on this same day.

Please plan on joining us for Mass on Friday, January 14, at 10:00 AM. Mrs. Gravina, Mrs. Dolan, and our third graders will help to plan our liturgy. Our second grading period ends on Friday, January 14.

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

Did you know that Tuesday, January 11, is National Thank You Day? With that in mind, the St. Bartholomew School family would like to extend our gratitude to you for your continued support of our excellent school. All that you do for us does not go unnoticed and is greatly appreciated. God bless you always.

**BINGO**

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

**A Respect Life Meditation**

(Humanae Vitae - Doctrinal Principles: Responsible Parenthood #10 - Pope Paul VI, 1968) "In the task of transmitting life, husband and wife are not free to proceed completely at will... they must conform their activity to the creative intention of God, expressed in the very nature of marriage and of its acts, and manifested by the constant teaching of the Church."

We pray that all married couples will recognize that the sacredness and dignity of marriage must be carefully safeguarded and its responsibilities fulfilled.

**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**

The baptismal waters bring us salvation. Water can also bring destruction as we witnessed. Let us keep in our prayers all those people who suffered loss.

Baptisms: Sister Dorothy will be conducting the baptism classes. Please contact her office at 412-242-7357 for details. The classes now will be held the third Monday of the month in the Pastors Conference Room.

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. Classes resume this Sunday, January 9, 2005.

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**

Teens, don't forget, Life Teen is back from Christmas break next Saturday, January 15, 2005, after 5:00 PM Mass. Join us to kick off the New Year!

**MASSES SENT TO THE SEMINARY**

The following mass intentions were sent to the Seminary to be said during the month of January:

Sara Sciallo (Daughter)  
Elmer Herold (Family)  
Margaret M. Hornick (Friends)  
Teresa Pizzonia Hawkins (Family & Friends)  
McQuillan Family (Kenneth McQuillan)  
Joe Snyder (J. Carter Tackett)  
Elvira DeJuliis (Gino & Mary Jean DeJuliis)  
Florence Wellen (Daughter)  
Dianne Zacchia (Widman & Zacchia Families)  
Richard Neal (Family)  
Evelyne Iervalino (Henry Herman)  
Joe Rihn (Family)  
Virginia Kerr (A. M. DiGioia, Jr.)  
John Civitts (Hazel Santoliquido)  
Virginia Capone (David & Helen Capone)

**Un-Decorating**

Please join us this Sunday afternoon, January 9, 2005, after the 10:30 AM Mass as we undecorate. All are welcome to join us, many hands make light work.

## Called to Serve

The status of God's beloved Son is not one he clings to. It is one he shares. All of us are called to be sons and daughters of God. In Jesus, we can all claim God's favor. The second reading makes this clear. Here we read of the baptism of Cornelius and his household. Peter's speech recalls the anointing of Jesus by the Holy Spirit and the great power that swept through Israel and on to the doorstep of the Gentile Cornelius. As for his household, so for us. There is an end to our work on earth, to our baptismal vocation and the honorable work we do. But there is no end to the saving life given to us through baptism. There is no end to the life of the children of God; there is no end to God's compassion, which we know in Christ Jesus. There is no end to our status as chosen and beloved people of God. Because of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we are forever among those on whom God's favor rests.

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## Treasures from our Tradition

Through the centuries, artists and craftspeople have depicted Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River by John. At first in mosaics and frescoes, and later in tapestries, stained glass, and paintings, the scene is familiar. Jesus is standing waist-high in flowing water. Above him, standing on dry land, John the Baptist pours water over Jesus. The first artists to depict this were sketching from memory. This is exactly how most people were baptized in the early days: as adults, standing or kneeling in the water, with water poured over their heads.

This method of baptizing, called immersion, is the favored way today. An adult enters a font, or an infant is lowered a bit into the water supported by a parent's hand, and water is poured or splashed over them. The treasures of baptistry art attest that submersion, or plunging beneath the water's surface, is not really in our tradition, and that "infusion," the mere pouring of a few drops of water, yields too narrow an understanding of what it means to be plunged into Christ's life. Jesus Christ has gone before us into the water, and waits for us there with abundant gifts. No wonder the tradition calls for abundant symbols!

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## Mass Intentions



### **MON., January 10 - Weekday**

10:00 A.M. James Greene (Greene Family)

### **TUES., January 11 - Weekday**

10:00 A.M. William Landy (Chesebrough & Rardin Families)

### **WED., January 12 - Weekday**

7:00 P.M. Holy Hour

### **THURS., January 13 - St. Hilary**

10:00 A.M. Evelyn Tedesco (Husband Vincent)

### **FRI., January 14 - Weekday**

10:00 A.M. Mary Beth Klocko (Tom Klocko)

### **SAT., January 15 - Weekday**

10:00 A.M. Jack Steinkirschner (Gil & Ann Ruffing)

5:00 P.M. Joan Livolsi Stack (Gen Cicero & Family)

### **SUN., January 16 - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

10:30 A.M. Mary Senderak (Sr. Geraldine)

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

Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed.

Last weekend we welcomed in Baptism:

**Ian James Robl**

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#### Weekly Offering:

12-19-04: Total: \$7386.50 Env. Dist.: 1603 Env. Used: 555

12-26-04: Total: \$7196.50 Env. Dist.: 1603 Env. Used: 562

1-2-05: Total: \$10919.75 Env. Dist.: 1603 Env. Used: 669

Tsunami relief collection: \$6252.99

Scrip Program Approximate Profit:

12-19-04: \$1054.91

1-2-05: \$312.42

Next Sunday's second collection is for St. Anthony Schools.

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## Thank You!

On behalf of all the recipients of the gifts received from the Giving Tree, please accept my most heartfelt THANK YOU to all the people of St. Bartholomew Parish who gave so generously to those who are less fortunate. Your giving spirit was overwhelming. The many gifts that you gave brought special joy and blessings to children, the poor, the homeless, and the homebound during this blessed season.

A special thank you to: Lois Ferla and her committee, who organized and executed this enormous project; the children from our school and CCD, for preparing the angels for our tree; and our Ladies of Charity for helping to organize and deliver gifts to our homebound parishioners. May God bless one and all!



ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S PARISH  
WISHES TO THANK THE  
FOLLOWING ESTABLISHMENTS  
FOR PROVIDING DOOR PRIZES  
FOR OUR  
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY



McDonalds' ,11591 Frankstown Road  
Ritzland Floral Shoppe  
Laurie's Shear Artistry, Frankstown Road  
Pasquales Pizzeria  
PNC Bank, Saltsburg Road  
Penn Hills Video  
Eat N Park  
Tivoli's Restaurant  
Arby's, Saltsburg Road  
Community Super Market  
Pasqualino's  
Morgan's Restaurant  
Profiles Plus Hair Salon, Saltsburg Road  
Hair Connection, Saltsburg Road  
Shop N Save, Penn Hills  
AZ Chevrolet  
Advance Auto Parts, Frankstown Road  
Cox's Jewelry  
Vocelli Pizza  
Wheeler Paints  
Penn Hills Foodland  
D'Imperio's Restaurant  
Donut Shack, Frankstown Road  
The Double Tulip, Saltsburg Road  
Donut Connection  
Pirollo's Delicatessen  
Flowers in the Attic

A special thank you to Rimini's Bakery and the Pizzonia Family  
for providing the buns and rolls served at our dinner.



**SOUPER WEDNESDAY IS HERE!!**

**EVERYONE'S BEEN ASKING "WHERE'S THE SOUP?"**

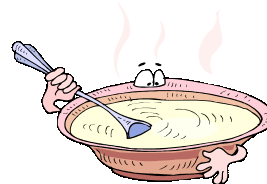
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2005  
FROM 3 PM TO 7 PM**

**HOMEMADE SOUP WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR  
TAKE-OUT ONLY IN THE  
PASTOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM LOCATED BY THE  
GARAGES IN THE RECTORY**

**THE SOUP'S WILL BE  
WEDDING  
AND  
ITALIAN VEGETABLE**

**PRICES ARE:**

**\$1.75 FOR A BOWL  
\$3.50 FOR A PINT  
\$6.25 FOR A QUART**



**TO GUARANTEE THE SOUP YOU WANT WILL NOT RUN OUT,  
PRE-ORDERS WILL BE TAKEN -TURN IN THE BOTTOM  
PORTION OF THIS FLYER TO THE RECTORY BY FRIDAY,  
JANUARY 14, 2005**

**WALK-INS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE**

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**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_ WEDDING  
\_\_\_\_\_ BOWL \_\_\_\_\_ PINT \_\_\_\_\_ QUART**

**\_\_\_\_\_ ITALIAN VEGETABLE  
\_\_\_\_\_ BOWL \_\_\_\_\_ PINT \_\_\_\_\_ QUART**