

*In Deus's Den:* **The month of October** typically signals cooler temperatures, colorful leaves and the onset of the harvest. For the Church, October means at least two things—life and Mary.

**First**, the Church celebrates Respect Life Sunday today. The theme for this year's celebration is "Help Build a World Where Human Life is Always Loved and Defended." As Catholics we are reminded to behold the precious gift of life from the womb to the tomb. Every form of human life demands dignity, respect and a voice.

**In Evangelium Vitae**, the late Pope John Paul II stated, "What is urgently called for is a general mobilization of consciences and a united ethical effort to activate a great campaign in support of life. All together, we must build a new culture of life; new because it will be able to confront and solve today's unprecedented problems affecting human life."

**One** of the "unprecedented problems" affecting human life today is stem cell research. In a "Reflection on Stem Cell Research," Bishop Donald Wuerl contextualizes this problem. He writes, "Modern science has developed a remarkable technology called stem cell research. This new medical research industry currently treats any number of illnesses and injuries and holds out promise for more potential cures using adult stem cells.

**However**, a new public and political position is being promulgated that argues it is not enough to use adult stem cells for morally legitimate research but claims that we must explore research that uses human embryonic stem cells. This research requires the youngest and most vulnerable members of our human family have their lives sacrificed solely for the benefit of others.

**Who has the right** to take the life of another regardless of his or her stage of development? The new mentality implies that if enough doctors, scientists or politicians define certain lives as expendable the continuum of human life can be violated. Whenever that principle is accepted, the basic human right to life becomes dependent upon the will of those who have power."

**In the coming weeks** we will speak more about this very important topic.

**Second** in this month of October, the Church celebrates Mary. This Friday, October 7 is the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. During this month it is a good time for us to renew our devotion to the Rosary. In addition to the Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary, there is now the Luminous Mysteries as promulgated by Pope John Paul II. The Luminous Mysteries are 1) The Baptism in the Jordan, 2) The Wedding at Cana, 3) The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God, 4) The Transfiguration and 5) The Institution of the Eucharist.

**Today we welcome** all those who will be receiving the Anointing of the Sick at the 12:30 PM Mass. And do not forget that the Blessing of Pets will take place today at 3:00 PM in the upper parking lot. All pets must be accompanied by a human being. And please pray for good weather tomorrow as St. Bart's School sponsors its Third Annual Golf Outing at Edgewood Country Club.

**Finally**, be sure to circle October 29 on your calendar. That is the date of our Annual Oktoberfest in Helzlsouer Hall--more info to follow. And do not forget about Rocky Bleier – Saturday, October 8, in Helzlsouer Hall.

**Have a blessed week!**

*Thank You!*

The St. Bartholomew Women's Group would like to say "thank you" to the many people who donated cakes and gifts to our Card Party. We also thank the ladies who attended the party and made it such a success!

*Angel's Closet*

Once again the Christ Child Society is offering winter coats for children 15 years of age and younger. If you or anyone you know is in need of a winter coat, please contact Sister Dorothy at 412-242-7357.

School News with Mrs. Fleet

**Please join us** on Monday, October 3, for our School Golf Outing. All are most welcome to join in the fun.

**Our seventh and eighth grade girls** will assemble to hear about Mt. Alvernia High School on Wednesday, October 5.

**Oakland Catholic High School** is the destination for a visit by our eighth grade girls and their chaperones on Friday, October 7. Please keep them in your prayers.

**Come to Mass** with us on Friday, October 7. Mrs. Deet and our fourth graders will help to plan our liturgy.

**Please continue** to save all Campbell product labels, Box Tops for Education, and Shop n' Save receipts. Thank you for all that you do for our school family.

**Registrations are still open** for all students in grades three-year-old preschool through eight. We do offer half- and full-day kindergarten sessions. For more information please call the school office at 412-242-2511.

**LAST CHANCE!**

This is the last chance call for anyone who might be interested in signing up for the St. Bartholomew Women's Group's trip to Lancaster, Pa. to see the *Miracle of Christmas* play. Not only will we see this renowned play, but we will also be doing some shopping and we will even make a stop in Hershey, Pa! The cost of the trip is \$195.00 per person, and includes bus fare, overnight accommodations, the play, dinner and breakfast. We are scheduled to leave from the church Friday morning, November 18, 2005, at 7:45 AM, and return to the church Saturday evening, November 19, 2005, at 8:00 PM. However, we still need four people to sign up for the trip to go. This promises to be a very nice trip and would even make a lovely early Christmas gift. Please call the rectory if you have any questions or to sign up for the trip.

Religious Education News

**Supplies are always needed** for the classrooms.

Things like glue sticks, crayons, pencils, craft paper and the like are greatly appreciated. You can bring the supplies to the office on Sunday mornings or leave at the rectory marked for the attention of CCD. If you would like to help us spread the word of God in music, we would also gratefully accept the donation of portable CD players and CD's. Thanks so much in advance.

**RCIA classes** will begin on Tuesday October 4 at 7:00 PM at St. Gerard's Parish.

**This is the first year** we will be sharing resources in the cluster of parishes. Those interested in the formation of the faith should contact the rectory or the CCD office.

**BINGO**

See you at Bingo, Monday nights at 7:00 PM in Helzlsouer Hall!

Coffee and Catechism

"Coffee and Catechism" will resume classes on Thursday, October 13, 2005, following the 10:00 AM Mass in the Rectory Conference Room. All are welcome. For more information, call Bob Wheeler at 412-241-0524.

A Respect Life Meditation

(Pope John Paul II at a ceremony of the anointing of the sick—1982) "The sick, the elderly, the handicapped, and the dying teach us that weakness is a creative part of human living, and that suffering can be embraced with no loss of dignity. Without the presence of these people in our midst, we might be tempted to think of health, strength, and power as the only important values to be pursued in life. But the wisdom of Christ and the power of Christ are to be seen in the weakness of those who share his suffering."

**We pray** that John Paul's witness to life will forever resound in every heart.

## Mass Intentions



### **MON., October 3 - Weekday**

10:00 A.M. Theresa Molchen (Husband, Matt Molchen)

### **TUES., October 4 - St. Francis of Assisi**

10:00 A.M. Arthur Mulach (Marie & Family)

### **WED., October 5 - Weekday**

7:00 P.M. Holy Hour

### **THURS., October 6 - St. Bruno**

10:00 A.M. Sylvia Scherger (Bea Cooney)

### **FRI., October 7 - Our Lady of the Rosary**

10:00 A.M. Harydzak Family (Lena Harydzak)

### **SAT., October 8 - Weekday**

10:00 A.M. James F. Wagner (Wife, Mary)

5:00 P.M. People of the Parish

### **SUN., October 9 - 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 A.M. Gloria Miller (Ernie & Jennie Pitts)

10:30 A.M. Giuseppe Fratangelo (Mother, Mary)

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

Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed.

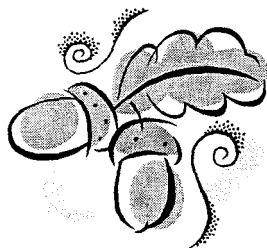
Walter Proch

## CYO Basketball

All high school boys and girls who are interested in playing CYO basketball please contact Steve Bodnar, Head Coach, 412-793-8602, Dennis Donahoe, Assistant Coach, at 412-242-5691, or Joe Pronio, Assistant Coach, at 412-798-0145. Thank you and hope to see you there.

## Men's Club

Have you bought your tickets yet for the afternoon luncheon with Rocky Bleier? If not, do not wait! The deadline to buy is this Wednesday, October 5, 2005. Remember, ladies are welcome also.



## In the Vineyard

As usual, today's first and third scripture readings are obviously related, with the second continuing one of Paul's letters—these days, the letter to the Philippians. The vineyard stories from Isaiah and Matthew both talk about evildoers coming to a bad end.

In Isaiah, it's the vineyard itself that produces "wild grapes" instead of the crop the owner dreamed of and worked for. So it will be "trampled" and "overgrown with thorns." In Matthew, those to whom the owner leased the vineyard destroy the dream. So the owner "will put those wretched men to a wretched death and lease his vineyard to other tenants" (Matthew 21:41).

Yes, if we reject divine love we come to a bad end. And with all this talk of the unfaithful being trampled and thrown out, it's consoling to hear Paul's message to the Philippians, who were by no means perfect. "Have no anxiety at all," Paul said (Philippians 4:6). "Then the God of peace will be with you" (Philippians 4:9).

© Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

## Treasures from our Tradition

The confessional is a familiar setting in literature and drama. Everyone from Dostoevsky and Shakespeare down the line to Seinfeld has used the sacrament to tragic or comic effect or to reveal aspects of character otherwise hidden. All of this theater, from world classics to slapstick, has had a numbing effect on our own expectations, and has skewed how the culture looks at us and our struggle with sin and forgiveness, hope and healing.

Yet the artists are on to something. The reconciliation chapel is a place where hearts are laid bare, where honesty is the watchword, and people confess their deepest needs. It is also a place of rebirth, or at least realignment. It is, like the baptismal font, a place where something dies, and where something else is born. Today, although literature has barely caught up, the place is usually not the dark and gloomy cabinet of old; rather it is a chapel that speaks of peace, serenity, and the comfort of a welcome home. People in one parish were astonished recently to see their children skipping with delight as they left the place of their first confession. We have to wait a bit for world literature to catch up with this reality, but at least we can experience the joy of penance, the thrill of a new beginning, the assurance of God's love.

-James Field, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.