

Fr. Dave's Den: "How is your prayer life?" That is a question we all are being asked to ponder from the Word of God last week and now this week. Last week you might recall the readings centered on prayer as we were encouraged to be persistent with prayer. This week the focus is on humility in prayer.

In the Gospel Jesus tells a parable about two people praying. The first person, a Pharisee, prays with a self-righteous tone praising himself in contrast to everyone else. The second person, a tax collector, could not even raise his eyes to heaven. He beat his breast and prayed, "O God, be merciful to me a sinner."

The way we pray reveals much about our person. That is to say, how we pray really says a lot about who we are. Perhaps the real question we should ask ourselves is: "What does my prayer say about me?"

The countdown is rolling for the 50th Anniversary celebration of St. Bartholomew School. There is a whole schedule of events planned for November 19 and 20. The centerpiece of the celebration will take place on Saturday, November 20, 2004 at 5:00 PM Mass with Bishop Donald Wuerl presiding. Following the Mass there will be a reception in the gym for alumni and a family bingo for current school families in Helzlsouer Hall. Enclosed within this week's bulletin is a special insert containing information on a 50th Anniversary booklet. If you or your family wish to purchase an ad, please complete the form and return to the school or rectory ASAP. The deadline will be Monday, November 1, 2004. Please make all checks payable to St. Bartholomew School. Thanks for your support of St. Bart's School.

Recently Bishop Wuerl released a Pastoral Letter *Envisioning Ministry for the Future* to the clergy, religious and faithful of our Diocese. The Bishop states, "It is necessary for us to address together how qualified and effective pastoral ministry can continue in this local Church with fewer priests today than we had two decades ago, and, therefore, with greater demands and responsibilities placed on them." The basic premise is that "Fewer Priests does not necessarily mean less ministry."

In the coming year there will be a diocesan-wide consultation on meeting the future sacramental and pastoral needs of the faithful. Within our parish – the consultation will begin with our Parish Pastoral Council. Subsequently, this process will extend to our cluster (St. Bartholomew, St. Susanna, St. Gerard Majella, St. Joseph (Verona) and St. Irenaeus). Ultimately the process will reach the Pastoral Center of the Diocese. It is hoped that this consultation process will build a general sense of collaboration among parishes. Examples of such collabora-

tion would be the establishment of Mass Schedules that complement neighboring parishes as will shared sacramental preparation for Baptism, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, First Penance and Communion, Confirmation and Marriage. Parishes could also join together in elementary religious education and youth ministry as well as social justice programs. As the process unfolds, I will do my best to keep you well informed.

Today is World Mission Sunday. The theme is "So that all the nations may hear the Gospel." The second collection at all the Masses this weekend will be for the Missions.

Today is also the Blood Drive. You can give the gift of life from 8:00 AM until 1:15 PM in Helzlsouer Hall. Thanks to Marcia Irr and Sister Dorothy for their assistance in setting up this drive.

While we are on the subject of thanks, I want to express gratitude to Sister Dorothy, Larry Lucas and the Ladies of Charity for their direction and support with last week's Anointing of the Sick Mass. And thanks to George and Ginny Beck and everyone who participated in the German smorgasbord for a wonderful Oktoberfest Celebration. DANKA.

In anticipation of the Christmas holiday, St. Bartholomew Parish will be recording a Christmas CD to be sold. All proceeds will benefit St. Bart's Parish. The CD which will feature the children's choir, bell choir, adult choir, Will Smith and yours truly will be entitled, "Let There Be Light". Although the CD will not be released until the Advent Season, you can pre-order one for \$16.00. While supplies of "Lift Up Your Hearts" remain, you can purchase both CD's for a discount rate of \$26.00. This special price is available **only** for the **combination** of the CD's. (Please Note: All CD orders placed **must be prepaid** by cash or check.) Please know that the Church will be closed today, October 24 from 12:00 noon till 4:00 PM for the taping and next Saturday, October 30, 2004 from 12:00 noon till 4:00 PM for the same reason.

November 1 is All Saints Day. This year it is not a Holy Day of Obligation as it falls on a Monday. There will be our normal 10:00 AM Mass. Please do not forget that the Annual Memorial Mass for those who have died during the past year will take place Monday, November 8 at 7:00 PM in Church.

Have a wonderful week!

BINGO

Join us every Monday night in Helzlsouer Hall at 7:00 PM for Bingo St. Bart's style! Remember that the drawing for the Harvest Sweepstakes will be held at Monday Night Bingo, November 22.

School News with Mrs. Fleet

Please keep our kindergarten and preschool students in your prayers as they travel to Reilly's Pumpkin Farm for a fall field trip on Wednesday, October 27. All are welcome to join us at 9:00 AM on Wednesday, October 27, for a rosary prayer service in Church, and our monthly envelope should be distributed on Wednesday, October 27.

Our first grading period ends on Thursday, October 28. Friday, October 29, will be a dress-down day as our kindergarten through eighth grade students celebrate Halloween. We will have our annual costume parade around 1:15 PM, weather permitting. Following our parade, students will have a Halloween party in their homeroom from about 1:45 to 3:00 PM.

Mr. Heid and our upper elementary teachers will conduct a marathon to raise money for Children's Hospital for our students in grades six, seven, and eight on Friday morning, October 29, from 9:00 AM to 10:20 AM. All proceeds will benefit Children's Hospital.

Our Home Interiors candle pick-up is scheduled for Friday, October 29, between 2:00 and 3:30 PM.

St. Bart's Student Council is sponsoring a dance for our students on Friday evening as well from 7:00 to 10:00 PM in our gym for students in grades five through eight.

The SBAA recognition breakfast for our eighth grade athletes and cheerleaders will be held on Sunday morning, October 31, at 9:00 AM in the school cafeteria. Following this breakfast, all are invited to attend the 10:30 AM Mass. Why not come out to Friendship Park later that afternoon to see our Bruins football players beginning at 1:00 PM? You are sure to have a terrific afternoon watching our young athletes and cheerleaders in action.

Please remember that our 50th Anniversary celebration will soon be upon us. Please keep the dates of November 19 and 20 in mind.

Thanks for all that you do for all of us at St. Bartholomew School.

Life Teen - Leading Teens Closer to Christ

Retreat is getting closer! This weekend is the last chance for the discount price of \$60.00. As of Monday, October 25, the price is \$65.00. The final sign up deadline is November 1. Retreat is November 12 through 14. Don't miss out on a great retreat! And remember we have made arrangements if there are Friday night playoff games, so see any core member or call Colleen at 412-242-3277 to sign up.

Religious Education News with Arlene Golden

"God listens to people who are humble." - Sirach 35:18b

Religious Education: Religious Education families, please note if your child is to receive a sacrament this year, he or she needs to have attended religious education classes at least one year prior to receiving a sacrament.

Baptism Class: Parents wishing to have their child baptized are to attend a class prior to scheduling the baptism. The next class is Tuesday, November 9, at 7:00 PM, in room 206 of the school. The next upcoming baptisms will be held Sunday, October 31, after the 10:30 AM Mass, and Saturday, November 6, at 1:00 PM.

CVOL: Catholic Vision of Love is a diocesan program that presents Christ's vision of love and sexuality. Parents/guardians of youth in grades five through eight, both school families and CCD, who didn't attend the meeting last Monday are asked to contact the religious education office to obtain the handbook and information on this important curriculum.

Parish Scholarship Program

Duquesne University is again offering scholarships of \$4000.00 per academic year to academically talented high school seniors through its Parish Scholarship Program. To be considered for this program, the student must be a member of a parish in the Pittsburgh Roman Catholic Diocese, and must be recommended by his or her pastor. To qualify, students must be academically talented as determined by the admissions committee. Please contact the rectory if you are interested in more information on the program or if you wish to be nominated. The deadline for nominations is December 31, 2004.

Saint Vincent College

High school juniors or seniors and their families are invited to Get Acquainted Day Open House at St. Vincent College, Latrobe, on Sunday, November 7. Registration is from 11:30 to 11:45 AM, followed by an introduction to St. Vincent College and a student panel. Find out more about this top-ranked Catholic, Benedictine, liberal arts college. Listen to financial aid and admission presentations, meet faculty, administrators and coaches, and take a campus tour. Those arriving early are invited to attend 9:30 AM Mass in the historic St. Vincent Basilica and/or brunch in the Community Dining Hall at 10:30 AM. For information or reservations, please phone 1800-782-5549, email admission@stvincent.edu, or visit www.stvincent.edu.

GOD'S LOGIC IS NOT OURS

Nobody will ever mistake the Bible for a logic textbook. We need to remember this when we approach today's readings. How can a God who knows no favorites have a chosen people, or give us the disciplines of fasting and almsgiving and then instruct us not to talk about them? God, in love and tenderness, knows how quickly we can get "into a rut." The Spirit-inspired passages like the instruction from Sirach and the parable in Luke to help drag us out of the rut of thinking that God's ways are our ways.

Sirach poetically uses contrast to answer the question, "Whose prayer will reach the lofty clouds of heaven?" The answer? Those who are lowly on earth. Jesus amplifies this in his parable of the Pharisee and the publican. It is Spirit-inspired illogic that communicates today's message: God hears the voices of those who are ignored by the rest of the world.

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Treasures from our Tradition

Every week, some treasures from our tradition are shared here. Where does all this history come from? The history of God's people of prayer is always coming to light, mostly because scholars have dedicated their lives to research. They translate and ponder prayers and songs; explore the places used for worship; look at the vessels, books, and vestments; and read works from legal documents to letters and diaries. In the 1930s, Hitler's rush to arm Germany closed seminaries as priests and seminarians alike were drafted into service.

One professor, Father Josef Jungman, forced from his classroom, spent the war years in an Austrian library. His careful work disclosed much of what we know of the history of the Mass. His great work, *The Mass of the Roman Rite*, describes the evolution of Eucharistic celebration and inspired generations of scholars to explore a tradition surprisingly rich and varied. It was said of him that he had a command of the past that cast new light on the present, and opened up a clear direction to the future. His contributions to the Second Vatican Council helped shape the way that we worship today. At the end of his life, in 1975, his studies completed, he told a friend that he was waiting patiently for the Lord's knock at the door to take him to the heavenly banquet.

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Mass Intentions



MON., October 25 - Weekday

10:00 A.M. Frank R. Rauch (Family)

TUES., October 26 - Weekday

10:00 A.M. Sylvester & Marie Dabkowski (Don & Marilyn Dabkowski)

WED., October 27 - Weekday

7:00 P.M. Holy Hour

THURS., October 28 - Sts. Simon & Jude

10:00 A.M. Armand Sciullo (Daughter)

FRI., October 29 - Weekday

10:00 A.M. Bernie Filipich (Family)

SAT., October 30 - Blessed Virgin Mary

10:00 A.M. Mario & Frank Santamaria (Family)

11:00 A.M. Confessions heard until 12:00 noon

5:00 P.M. Hugh, Helen, & William Lavery
(Mary Ellen Kendgia)

SUN., October 31 - 31st Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

10:30 A.M. William DeSantis (Andy & Tilda Merola)

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

Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed:

**Dennis Bradley, Gino Opice, Alfred Rochez,
and Sandra Vilsack**

Weekly Offering: Total: \$ 8300.50 Env. Dist.: 1753 Env. Used: 637
Scrip Program Approximate Profit: \$156.68

This weekend's second collection is for Diocesan Mission Sunday.

PLEASE BE ALERTED

Several of our parishioners have notified us that they have received phone calls from someone claiming to be from the Diocese of Pittsburgh and they are conducting a census. Along with the census, these people are offering a booklet that is to be used in medical emergencies and the solicitors want to bring this booklet to your home. These solicitors are not from the Diocese, but from the Catholic Cemeteries Association. Just know that you have no obligation to speak with them or allow them to come into your home.

