

Fr. Dan's Den: "Give Thanks and Remember."

This is the title of a hymn which is often sung in Church throughout the year. It could just as easily describe the entire month of November. For as a nation, we give thanks, and as a church we remember.

Thanksgiving Day serves as the centerpiece of our country's gratitude. The Church's remembering however cannot be relegated to just one day. The object of our ecclesial remembering is our beloved dead. Throughout this entire month of November we remember all of those who have gone before us in the faith.

This remembering begins on Tuesday, November 1 with the Feast of All Saints, a Holy Day of Obligation. The Masses for this day are Monday, October 31, at 5:00 PM and 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM on November 1. On this day we celebrate the saints of God who come to our aid and we aspire to join them one day in God's time.

The remembering continues on November 2 with the celebration of All Soul's Day. On this day we remember all of the faithful departed. On Wednesday, November 2 at 7:00 PM we will not only remember all of the faithful departed, but we will remember in a special way all those who were buried from our parish during the past year in a special Memorial Mass. This Mass will take place in lieu of Holy Hour. As each deceased person is named we invite a family member to come forward and light a candle in their memory. Following the Mass there will be a reception in the back vestibule of the Church. Whether we lost a loved one or not during this past year, the All Soul's Day Mass offers us all an opportunity to remember our deceased brothers and sisters.

Throughout the entire month of November, as has been our custom, we will also be able to remember our loved ones by inscribing their names in the Book of Remembrance. The Book of Remembrance will be located in the back vestibule of Church right before the center doors. This month is also a good time to visit the cemetery and pray for our beloved dead. Next Sunday, November 6 at 3:00 PM there will be a special prayer service at Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Our own Sister Dorothy Pawlus will be a part of this service.

Perhaps the most compelling act of remembrance is to have a Mass offered for our loved one. Ginny Beck, has already begun the detailed process of scheduling Mass information for the 2006 liturgical year. Be sure to make your requests as soon as possible. Please note that Mass requests are not taken over the phone. And keep in mind that because of the large number of funerals, we may not be able to satisfy your weekday intention. As

an alternative, we are inviting parishioners to remember their deceased loved ones by purchasing flowers for the altar. For more information, please call Ginny Beck at the rectory. And keep in mind that for the Church November is really another word for Remember.

While the mystery of death and dying is front and center in this month of November, it is a good time for all of us to not only reflect but also prepare. Part of this preparation involves securing a living will and a Last Will and Testament. Next Monday, November 7 at 7:00 PM in Church, Sr. Mary Traupman, CDP will be present to speak about advanced directives and wills. This is a free service provided to our parishioners and opened to our cluster parishes. I invite everyone to take full advantage of this opportunity. Don't wait until it is too late. Be sure to have everything in order for yourself and your family.

Tuesday, November 8, is Election Day. Because voting will be taking place in the school gym, there will be no school. There will, however, be soup on sale (vegetable and wedding) – eat in or take out from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM. This soup is prepared by our own Chef Beck and his dear wife, Ginny. All proceeds benefit St. Bart's Parish.

The number 12 for many is just another number. For the coming weeks this number will take on a greater meaning. Stay tuned!

Finally, I hope that everyone will make every effort to buy scrip. It will make such a difference!

Have a blessed week! And be sure to "Give Thanks and Remember."

Scrip Program

Various gift cards are available for immediate purchase from the parish office, also before and after weekend Masses. Full lists of all participating Great Lakes retailers are located next to the weekly bulletins. Decide which certificates you wish to purchase; then submit the form along with name, phone number and payment. Any order placed prior to 1:00 PM on Sundays will be organized for pick up the following weekend. The Scrip Program offers a great deal of convenience. Did you know that Giant Eagle gift cards are accepted at the pharmacies and directly at the Get Go gas pumps? Make your life easier, stay within your budget and fund raise all at the same time. Please schedule time "to shop" and think about making a commitment to this program.

School News with Mrs. Fleet

All are welcome to watch our students, faculty, and staff during our Halloween parade on Monday, October 31 around 1:15 PM, weather permitting. We will march from the library entrance, around the Church and back in to school. Our students will be in costume and many of our teachers and staff will be too.

Students in grades six, seven, and eight will conduct a marathon for Children's Hospital here at school the morning of October 31. All funds raised will be donated.

There will be an early dismissal on Tuesday, November 1, at 11:15 AM. The teachers have a scheduled Clerical Day that afternoon. Extended Care will be available for both of our AM and PM sessions. Lunch will not be served at school this day.

We will all attend the parish planned liturgy on All Saints Day at 10:00 AM.

Our Innisbrook pick-up is scheduled for Wednesday, November 2.

Please join us for Masses on Friday, November 4, at 10:00 AM. Mrs. Smith and our seventh graders have helped to plan our liturgy.

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.

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.

BJNGO

This is a great week for St. Bart's Monday Night Bingo! The Little Derby is up to \$750.00, the Magic Number is up to \$300.00, and the California Tic-Tac is up to \$425.00! See you this week at Bingo in Helzlsouer Hall at 7:00 PM.

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.

Memorial Mass

Our Annual Memorial Mass is scheduled for Wednesday, November 2, at 7:00 PM in our church. We will remember all those who have been buried from St. Bartholomew's during this past year. All parishioners are invited to attend and pray for and with the families who grieve the loss of someone they love. There will be a reception after Mass with refreshments provided by our Ladies of Charity.

Prayer Service of Remembrance

On Sunday, November 6, 2005, at 3:00 PM, Catholic Cemeteries Association is sponsoring a Prayer Service of Remembrance at Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Everyone is invited. Prayers will be led by Deacon Joe Kosko, Sister Dorothy Pawlus, and our Ladies of Charity. Come join with us in remembering those who have gone before us.

Advance Directives for Healthcare

On November 7, 2005, at 7:00 PM, in St. Bartholomew Parish, the parishes of St. Bartholomew, St. Gerard Majella, St. Irenaeus, St. Joseph, and St. Susanna will host a presentation on advance directives for healthcare decision-making, ethics of decision making, making healthcare decisions in advance, and the importance of designating financial decision makers. Forms will be available. Completing an advance directive involves designating a healthcare decision maker, as well as alternate decision makers. If you wish to complete an advance directive on that day, please bring names, addresses, and phone numbers of the people you would rely on to speak for you in a healthcare setting, when you are not able to speak for yourself. All parishioners are invited to attend this very informative program.

God is in Charge

"Who do you think you are?!" today's readings demand. We are called up short, put in our place, given a dose of reality. Who is God? Who is in charge? Who is the greatest?

We begin a passage from the prophet Malachi, one of the latest prophets, who wrote after the Jews returned from Babylon. Calling people to task in God's name, he condemns the divisions and false teachings that have cropped up, reminding them that all were created by the one God. Paul tells the Thessalonians the same thing, but in a positive way—praising them for remembering that it is God who is at work within them.

Finally, the Gospel presents Jesus speaking out against hypocrisy and vainglory. "You have but one teacher . . . you have but one Father" (Matthew 23:8, 9). We are firmly put in our place. God is in charge.

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Treasures from our Tradition

In the days ahead, we celebrate the saints who live in glory, and the vast number of people who have gone before us in the Christian life as "works in progress." Reading any saint's biography, you quickly become aware that they were persons singularly aware of their faults and sins, their human propensity to miss the mark. Penance is a recurring theme in their lives, and many found a "confessor" who coached them in the spiritual life.

Today, a new form of penance can coach us in our journey, because the setting is an assembly of the faithful. In this form, there is time given for people who wish to confess and be absolved to meet privately with a priest for a few moments. Before the community is dismissed, everyone joins in an act of praise for God's mercy, usually by singing a hymn together. The individual part is not compulsory, and you can certainly participate fully and fruitfully without the individual confession. The joy of this liturgy is itself an impetus to change and to open up more fully to this wonderful gift of our faith. You have already been forgiven, of course. That was accomplished for you on the cross. It is the Christian task to open ourselves up, as did the saints, to the reality of that gift.

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Mass Intentions



MON., October 31 - Weekday

10:00 A.M. Diane Llewellyn (Mom and Dad)
5:00 P.M. Loretta Zimmerman (Sandra Katanick)

TUES., November 1 - All Saints

10:00 A.M. Elizabeth Sparr (M/M Ed King)
7:00 P.M. People of the Parish

WED., November 2 - All Souls

7:00 P.M. Memorial Mass

THURS., November 3 - St. Martin de Porres

10:00 A.M. Anthony Shento (Pat Shento)

FRI., November 4 - St. Charles Borromeo

10:00 A.M. Jenny Gabriel (Daughter)
6:00 P.M. Rehearsal: Nickle-Ventrice

SAT., November 5 - Weekday

10:00 A.M. Paul A. Loera (M/M Joseph Toia)
3:00 P.M. Wedding: James Anthony Nickle -
Christina Marie Ventrice
5:00 P.M. Anthony Calvano (Wife, Daughter, &
Family)

SUN., November 6 - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 A.M. Stella Orgero (Richard Orgero)
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.

Advent

It seems so far away, although it really is not. There will be an Advent Retreat here at St. Bartholomew's on Saturday, December 3, 2005. Please mark your calendars. More information will be forthcoming.

Usher's Request

In order to avoid confusion during the offertory, the ushers ask that anyone who wishes to bring up the offertory gifts, because the Mass intention is for their loved one, to please notify an usher before Mass. If no one comes forward, it is the usher's discretion to ask someone else. There is a pew reserved for "Gift Bearers."

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

November 2005

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

One Minute Meditations

Advent is coming

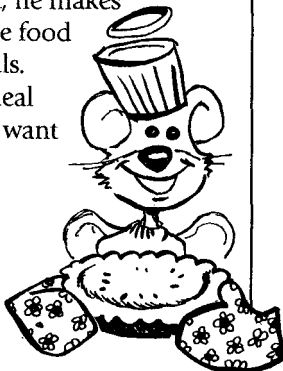
On November 27th, we start a new liturgical year and begin the season of Advent. We get ready by going to Confession, striving to achieve greater holiness, and counting down the days until the Savior comes!

Give life

Each day you can make a choice to either give life or block it. Life-giving choices are those that help God's love flow through you in the form of compassion, empathy, forgiveness, respect. Behavior like discrimination, gossip, anger, insensitivity diminish the love others feel. Choose to give life.

Don't miss a good meal

After living and dying for love of us, Jesus invented a way to remain with us in the Holy Eucharist. In this wonderful Sacrament, he makes himself the food of our souls. That's a meal you don't want to miss.



Love can make us saints

It is very Catholic to admire the saints, yet we often think that we can't measure up to most of them. We need to remember that these people became saints not just because of their great deeds but because of their love of God and neighbor. If they can do it, so can we.

St. Francis of Assisi was used to a carefree life of luxury. God had to knock him off his feet with a deadly illness to get his attention. Throughout the rest of his life, Francis denied God nothing. He lived the Gospel literally – did all that Jesus said to do – joyfully and without limit. Great are the rewards when we

hold no love back from God.

St. Monica shed many a mother's tears over **St. Augustine's** partying, paganism, and lack of respect for holiness. Through her prayers and the guidance of **St. Ambrose**, **St. Augustine** came to adore the God he discovered in Scripture. His love for God made him a new man.

St. Dominic was a devoted minister and protector of the faith. As he lay dying, he said to his friends, "Do not weep, for I shall be more useful to you after my death and I shall help you more effectively than during my life." He loved all of God's people.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Advent is a time of warning, a time of preparation, a time of urgency. It is when the Church wants us to ask, "What do I need to do to be ready to greet the Lord?"

We know that Jesus

Why do we celebrate Advent?

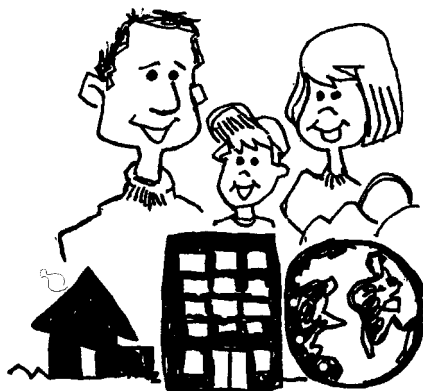
will come at our death and he will come at the end of time. The season of Advent encourages us to make the necessary preparations so we can joyfully greet Jesus whenever we meet him next.



Living a Catholic life

Our history is rich with Catholic men and women like us who have carried their faith into the world and made a difference. When we live a Catholic life, we help shape a better society and a more peaceful world.

It starts at home. Our Gospel values mean that we value our families and friends as gifts of God's love. This translates into spending time together, working to strengthen and build up our loved ones, and showing them that we are instruments of love.



We take it to work. As people of faith,

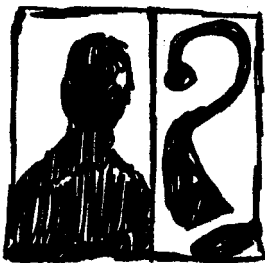
we are often asked to choose between competing values in the workplace. Making Catholic choices means not just avoiding evil but making conscious choices for good. It means taking our Catholic conscience wherever we go.

Out in the world. *"Every one to whom much is given, of him will much be required"* (Luke 12:48). Catholics – especially in the United States – are called to care for the poor, protect the vulnerable, welcome the stranger and treat all with dignity.

from Scripture

**Matthew 24:37-44,
"Is he here yet?"**

Next month we celebrate Jesus' coming at Christmas. St. Mark quoted the parable of the master's mysterious return to remind us that Jesus will come when we least expect it. We have no way of knowing when the Second Coming will be, or even when our own lives will end. Jesus reminds us to be watchful, sweep off the layer of dust on our souls and be ready to welcome him when he comes for us.



for our imminent visitor. Start by resolving to change your life. Examine your conscience and pick one or two sinful practices you want to kick.

Then do whatever you can to grow closer to God. Spend more time in prayer, attend Mass faithfully, reconcile through Confession.

Finally, give a few minutes in prayer each day for someone else who may be struggling.

Then when your Master comes, you know you will be ready to greet him with joy.

Feasts & Celebrations

November 12 – St. Josaphat (1623). Born in the Ukraine to Orthodox parents, St. Josaphat converted to Catholicism, became a Basilian monk, then a priest, and was named Bishop of Vitebsk (now in Russia). He worked hard for unity in the Church and was martyred for his efforts.

November 13 - St. Frances Xavier Cabrini (1917). Mother Cabrini started the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart in Italy and founded 67 institutions to care for the sick and forgotten in Europe, S. America, and

the U.S. She died in Chicago and was the first U.S. citizen to be canonized.

November 17 – St. Elizabeth of Hungary (1231). The daughter of the King of Hungary, Elizabeth chose a life of penance and service. Married at the age of 14, her beloved husband was killed after only six years of marriage.

She joined the Secular Franciscan Order and spent the last years of her life caring for the poor. She is the patron of Catholic charities.



Q & A How Can I Find More Time For Prayer?

The more time we spend in prayer, the stronger our relationship with God will be. Try these tips for working more prayer into your daily routine:



Set goals. For example, trying for 15 decades of the Rosary each day or intercessions for ten people each week can be a good trigger to help you remember to pray.

Find a prayer partner. Is there someone at work or in your neighborhood with whom you can spend time each day in prayer? A partner will help you stay focused and make it more likely that you take that time.

Use a reference. There are a number of prayer resources designed to be used throughout the day. The most well-known is the *Liturgy of the Hours* used by many priests and other religious. You can find a guide at any Catholic bookstore or Amazon.com.

Write it on the calendar. Have a reminder come up on your PDA or computer, or write it on your appointment calendar, "Appointment with God."

OUR MESSAGE
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