

*To Dean's Den:* Someone once said, "A tear is deeper than the sea." A tear is but a miniscule drop, but it reveals so much. Tears come from the deep recesses of the human heart. As such, there are happy tears and there are sad tears.

Today's first reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah states, "The Lord will wipe away the tears from every face." The tears, in this particular case refer to the sad tears that are often associated with the death of a loved one. This reading, in fact, is often proclaimed at funeral liturgies.

Whenever someone close to us dies, how can we not tear up? The little droplets of tears not only express our sense of loss, but also show the profound love in our hearts for that person. Not even death can extinguish that love. And as time goes by the Lord seeks to wipe away the tears from our face.

One of the clear ways in which the Lord wipes away our tears is at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. As a priest who has officiated at numerous funerals, I am always amazed how often the tears momentarily diminish and even disappear at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. There's something so calming about the Mass. In many ways, the Mass is the fulfillment of Isaiah's vision from today's first reading. For when we celebrate Mass the Lord provides, "a feast of rich food and pure choice wines." And the hand of the Lord rests on the mountain.

Even after the funeral liturgy, we can still visit the holy mountain in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and remember our loved one. The offering of a Mass Intention is a special way to remember our beloved dead. When the intention is for a loved one, we go to great lengths to be at that Mass. And on Sundays and Holy days, we also sit in the appropriate pew to bring up the offertory gifts.

Today's bulletin insert contains important information on securing a Mass Intention for a loved one in 2006. As you know, because of the high number of funerals, not all of our intentions are able to be honored. When a funeral occurs, typically the scheduled Mass intention is bumped and then rescheduled or sent to the Seminary to be offered by one of the four priests in residence. Also keep in mind that every Sunday Canon Law demands that one Mass be offered by the Pastor for the people of the parish.

This year in addition to offering Masses for loved ones,

you now have a new option for remembrance. For Sunday Masses you can purchase flowers for the altar in memory of a loved one. We will mention your loved one's name in the prayers of the faithful. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact Ginny Beck at 412-242-3374. May the Lord wipe away our tears!

As we continue to celebrate Respect Life Month, I encourage everyone to become more aware about the Church and stem cells. A stem cell can become a more differential cell type in the body. Stem cells are significant because they can be used to replace or heal damaged tissues. Stem cells are classified as embryonic type and adult type. While adult stem cells involve no harm to the donor; embryonic stem cells signal destruction of human life. The Church is not against stem cell research. Adult stem cells, in fact, naturally exist in the body and provide a natural repair feature for many body tissues. Already adult stem cells have proven an acceptable and successful therapy for some diseases. Embryonic stem cells, on the other hand, have not contributed anything in the way of therapy to a medical situation. What is more, embryonic stem cells go against the natural law. Bishop Wuerl identified the problem with embryonic stem cells, "At the heart of the moral issue involving embryonic stem cell research is the fact that the embryo is killed so that his or her stem cells can be used for research. Current literature already speaks about destroying the embryo as necessary to 'harvest' useful cells for the good of someone else. Since there is an undeniable continuity beginning at conception through growth, birth and the continuing development of life until natural death of the human person, at what point do we permit harvesting of parts of that living human for someone else?" In short, the Church supports the use of adult stem cells but is opposed to embryonic stem cells.

There will be a meeting tomorrow, Monday, October 10, 2005 at 7:00 PM in Church for all parents of second graders preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Do not forget our parish Oktoberfest will take place Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> after the 5:00 PM Mass. Cost is \$5.00.

Finally, please pray for me as I assume the added responsibilities of Dean of the East Suburban Deanery.

Have a blessed week!

School News with Mrs. Fleet

There is a parent/guardian meeting for First Reconciliation on Monday, October 10, at 7:00 PM in the church.

The SBAA will hold a parent/guardian information night on Monday, October 10, at 7:00 PM in the gym.

Our PTG meets on Tuesday, October 11, at 6:30 PM in the library.

Parent/guardian-teacher conference forms are due back to school by Tuesday, October 11.

School pictures will be taken on Wednesday, October 12. Individual photos will be taken as well as our annual outdoor shot. This is an optional dress-up day, too. Please pray for nice weather.

All are welcome to join us for Mass on Friday, October 14. Mrs. McGreal and our third graders will help to plan our celebration.

Did you know that this is Fire Prevention Week? Please make sure you have smoke detectors on every level of your home. Now is the time to change their batteries too.

Your prayers are requested for our eighth grade boys and their chaperones as they travel to Central Catholic for a tour and luncheon Tuesday, October 11.

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.

Blood Drive

The semi-annual St. Bartholomew Parish Blood Drive will be held Sunday, October 28, 2005, from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM in Helzlsouer Hall. To register, please call Marcia Irr at 412-731-0639.

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**

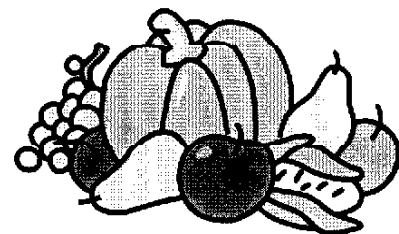
See you at Bingo, Monday nights at 7:00 PM in Helzlsouer Hall!

A Respect Life Meditation

(John Paul II, Address to Diplomats Accredited to the Holy See, January 10, 2005) "The Church proclaims the "Gospel of Life." The State's primary task is safeguarding and promoting human life. Today there are conflicting views regarding abortion, assisted procreation, stem cell research, and cloning.

"The Church's position is clear. The human embryo is identical with the human being that will be born. Whatever violates the integrity of the embryo is ethically unworthy of man, as is any research that treats the embryo as a laboratory specimen."

We pray that each of us will recognize the personhood of the unborn.



### Come to the Feast

"On this mountain, the Lord of hosts / will provide for all peoples / a feast of rich food and choice wines" (Isaiah 25:6). That's what Isaiah tells us today. God is putting together a huge party for "all peoples," to "wipe away / the tears from every face" (Isaiah 25:8).

And what does Jesus tell us? The reign of God, he says, "may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son" (Matthew 22:2). When the guests didn't come, the king had his servants, go out "into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find" (Matthew 22:9). We are called to deliver that invitation.

One of the themes woven into today's liturgy is that of divine generosity. Asleep to reality, people often think they have "earned" what they have. In our better moments, though, we know that all our gifts—even the spiritual gifts—come through God's generosity. Our vocation is to invite people, to remind them the tickets aren't for sale. We can only show up and say thank you. © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co

### Treasures from our Tradition

When the fathers of the Second Vatican Council met to discuss the sacrament of penance, they were required to draw up a new rite, including several forms. The hot button for debate was so-called "general absolution," by which a penitent could be absolved of sin without confessing to a priest. This was a difficult debate, compounded by widely varying traditions in both East and West. Some were surprised to learn that the Holy See had already given permission, during the First and Second World Wars, for this form. In 1944 the Vatican issued a decree saying this form was valid under extreme conditions, which bishops in mission lands and Latin America took as a kind of "blanket permission."

Thus, the fathers of the Council were alarmed to find this practice fairly widespread, not only in war, but in peaceful places with huge numbers of faithful and few priests. Although they eventually produced a ritual with three different forms, the forms are not considered equal, and the enriched and revised individual form is preferred. The enrichments include a welcome of the penitent, a sign of the cross with an encouragement to trust in God's compassion, new texts rich in the Word of God, praise for God's mercy, and a dismissal. - James Field, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

### Mass Intentions



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

10:00 A.M. Deceased Members of DeLuca Family  
(Gino & Mary Jean Deluliis)

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

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

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

7:00 P.M. Holy Hour

#### **THURS., October 13 - Weekday**

10:00 A.M. Albert, Sr., John, & Duane LaFrance (Kay LaFrance Wharton)

#### **FRI., October 14 - St. Callistus I**

10:00 A.M. John Vacchiano (Wife, Jean)

#### **SAT., October 15 - St. Teresa of Jesus**

10:00 A.M. Guy Granata (Family)

5:00 P.M. George F. & Clara Myers (George J. Myers)

#### **SUN., October 16 - 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

10:30 A.M. Ann Esposito (Rose McMeekin)

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

Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed.

David W. O'Connor and Lorraine Parrendo

### Coffee and Catechism

Coffee and Catechism will resume study of the Catechism of the Catholic Church on Thursday, October 13, 2005, following the 10:00 AM Mass in the Pastors Conference Room. Everybody is welcome. For more information, please call Bob Wheeler at 412-241-0524.

### Lancaster Trip

To all those signed up for the bus trip to Lancaster, sponsored by the St. Bartholomew Women's Group, please note that final payments for the trip are due in to the rectory by Tuesday, October 18, 2005. If you have any questions, please contact Sr. Dorothy at 412-242-7357 or Jessica at 412-242-3374.



