

*Fr. Dan's Den.* "I must have dozed off." How many times have we uttered these words to someone? Perhaps we were sitting on the couch reading a book or watching TV and all of a sudden we fell into a deep sleep. And then a noise, be it a door slamming or a voice, awakens us. And as we open our eyes, what do we usually say? Many of us, I am sure, say, "I must have dozed off."

Whether we are young or old of heart, it is so easy to doze off. The slumber may last only minutes, but in that short moment of time, we can miss so much.

In today's second reading, St. Paul warns the Thessalonians about falling asleep and missing the day of the Lord. He writes, "Therefore, let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us stay alert and sober." According to St. Paul, the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. This day, then, will be unannounced and a surprise to everyone. As a result, there is a need to be awake and alert.

During this final month of the liturgical year we are encouraged not only to pray for our beloved dead but also to prepare for our own passing in death. One of the best ways to prepare for this reality is to fight the tendency to doze off spiritually by committing ourselves daily to the discipline of prayer. Prayer keeps us grounded. What is more, prayer reminds us again and again that we are called to a greater destiny. St. Augustine acknowledged this point when he wrote, "O God, you made us for yourselves. Our hearts are restless until they rest in you."

As long as we live and breathe, the restlessness continues. And yet, none of us know for how long. Remember, that day comes like a thief in the night. So, in the words of St. Paul, "Therefore, let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us stay alert and sober."

There will be an informational meeting for parents and guardians of confirmation candidates on Monday, November 14, 2005, in church at 7:00 PM.

Recently, I was in the mall doing a little shopping and in the background I thought I heard Christmas music. Actually, I did hear that music. In any event, that music signaled, for me at least, the start of the holiday shopping season. As you prepare to do your shopping, I hope you will shop with us and our scrip program. Shopping with scrip is easy and

it benefits our parish. We can obtain scrip from over hundreds of establishments. Gift certificates make great gifts. In the Church vestibules and right outside the scrip room there is a complete list of participating establishments. Save yourself a trip and buy scrip.

As your make your plans for Thanksgiving, please be advised that we will celebrate Thanksgiving Day Mass at 9:00 AM, November 24, 2005. All are welcome.

Next weekend's edition of the Pittsburgh Catholic will be mailed to every registered household in the diocese. If you do not receive one, it probably means that you are not registered in the parish. Please feel free to contact the parish.

Please keep me in your prayers as tomorrow will be my first meeting with the Deanery as Dean. St. Bart's is hosting the meeting.

Finally, congratulations to Wanda and Hank Weber as they celebrate 50 years of marriage.

### Giving Tree

As we get ready to enter the season of Advent, St. Bartholomew's Ladies of Charity are making plans for the Annual Giving Tree. If you know of someone in our parish that needs some help this Christmas, please call Sister Dorothy at 412-242-7357 at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

### Scrip News

As the sales pick up for the Scrip program, so does the excitement. We have nearly doubled our volume since the "plea" went out. Trying to keep everyone up to date, we will share the following information. Some or all of the Foodlands in the area are franchised or owned and operated separately. Of these Foodlands, eight decided to switch suppliers with whom they received their inventory. Since the suppliers run the ads, the name was changed from Foodland to ShurSave. This is the reason the gift certificates we currently offer for sale are redeemable at the ShurSave on Frankstown only. We will contact Beulah Road Foodland to inquire as to their possible interest in joining our ever growing list of retailers. In addition, Chic-Fil-A and Community Supermarkets have been discontinued.

School News with Mrs. Fleet

**There is a parent/guardian meeting** for confirmation on Monday, November 14, 2005, at 7:00 PM in church. Sponsors are encouraged to attend also.

**Sarris candy orders** are due back to school on Monday, November 14, please.

**Market Day orders** may be picked up on Tuesday, November 15, from 5:15 to 6:00 PM in the school gym.

**Please keep** our eighth grade boys and their chaperones in prayer as they travel to Mt. Alvernia on Wednesday, November 16. They will participate in a day of peace.

**There is a PTG meeting** on Wednesday evening, November 16, at 6:30 PM, in the school library.

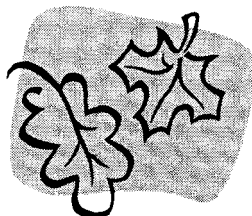
**We will celebrate** a Disney dress-down day on Thursday, November 17 in honor of Mickey Mouse's birthday, which is really on November 18.

**Our school family** will be treated to a Pioneer Days assembly on Thursday, November 17.

**Please join us** for Mass on Friday, November 18, at 10:00 AM. Ms. Manzo and our fifth graders have helped to plan our liturgy. During this celebration, our students, staff, and faculty will bring donated food items to be shared with those in need in our community. Thanks to Fr. Dave and Sr. Dorothy for helping us to arrange this outreach project.

**There is an 11:15 AM dismissal** on Friday, November 18. A faculty meeting will follow. Extended Care will be available for both AM and PM sessions. No lunch will be served in school that day.

**Thank you all** for your continued support of St. Bartholomew School. We truly appreciate your prayers and generosity. May God bless you always!

Religious Education News

**CCD:** Parent Handbooks will be distributed next week during classes. Please remember to sign and return the form indicating the book was received and reviewed.

**We would like to acknowledge** our CCD students who have achieved honor roll during this grading period. Parents, please bring report cards to the office and we will do the rest.

**Remember** that there will be *no CCD class* on Sunday, November 27, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

**Thanksgiving project:** In thanksgiving for the many blessings we share, the CCD program will be joining St. Bart's Lifeteen in supporting Lifeline of Southwest, Pa. Lifeline supports families through the gifts of needed supplies for infants and toddlers. Items they are most in need of include: baby bottles, crib sheets, infant formula, infant towels, socks, shampoo, sleepers, baby wipes, and onesies. Bring all items to the CCD office. Thanks in advance!

**Confirmation reminder:** A *very important* meeting for parents, guardians, and sponsors of those who plan to be confirmed in May of 2006 will be held Monday, November 14, at 7:00 PM in the church. Please make every effort to attend.

**RCIA:** Please continue to keep Scott Shepherd and Jennifer Mitcheltree in your prayers as they continue their faith journey. They will celebrate the Rite of Acceptance with us the first Sunday in Advent.

Respect Life Meditation

(Pope John Paul II, Evangelium #30) "If it is true that human life is in the hands of God, it is no less true that these are loving hands, like those of a mother who accepts, nurtures, and takes care of her child."

**We pray** that all mothers and fathers give thanks to our heavenly Father for the wisdom and courage to raise their families in a spirit of detachment from worldly goods.

Have you ever made God a promise to make this Advent and Christmas Season different? Something special? Less commercial?

This is your opportunity. St. Bartholomew Parish together with the Women's Group and the Men's Club are sponsoring the following day of prayer for all of our parishioners.

**ADVENT:  
SEASON OF WELCOME AND PROMISE  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2005**

1:00 PM—Retreat with Sr. Jaqueline Ketter of St. Joseph Spirituality Center

5:00 PM—Mass

6:00 PM – Dinner in Helzlsour Hall

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**REGISTRATION FORM**

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

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost:       \$10.00—with dinner  
              \$5.00—without dinner

**Please bring your Bible.**

You may drop off your registration form and money at the rectory or place them in the collection basket. Any questions, please call Sister Dorothy at 412-242-7357.

**Mass Intentions**



**MON., November 14 - Weekday**  
10:00 A.M. Nellie Kennedy (Daughter Jeannie Yates)

**TUES., November 15 - St. Albert the Great**  
10:00 A.M. Giovannina Ariondo (Daughter Michalina Pastor & Family)

**WED., November 16 - St. Margaret of Scotland**  
7:00 P.M. Holy Hour

**THURS., November 17 - St. Elizabeth of Hungary**  
10:00 A.M. Sheridan Marpes (Marcy Marpes/C. Alicia DePastino)

**FRI., November 18 - St. Rose Philippine Duchesne**  
10:00 A.M. Jim Rihn (Carmela Rihn, wife)

**SAT., November 19 - Weekday**  
9:00 A.M. Memorial Mass: Mary Murphy  
10:00 A.M. Bud Ley (Cathy & Bill Shannon)  
5:00 P.M. Edgar & Magdalen Myers (Tomer Family)

**SUN., November 20 - Christ the King**  
8:00 A.M. People of the Parish  
10:30 A.M. Audrey Ruefle (Fran & Earl Schomberger)

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

Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed.

**Francis Kress**

We welcome in baptism:

**Erin Kathleen Ryan and Isabella Sophia Ciccarelli**

The following Mass intentions were sent to the Seminary to be said during the month of November 2005:

Armand Sciuillo (Daughter)  
Teresa Pizzonia Hawkins (Family & Friends)  
Michael Moore (Nancy E. Pcolar)  
Robert Glasstetter (Ann Ruffing)  
Kenneth Eckels (Nick Falce)  
Elizabeth Rauso (Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Sartoris)  
Sr. Rosemary McLain, RSM (Irene & Elaine Ponzetto)  
Oliver Christie (Stan & Kate Podkul)  
Martin White (McLaughlin Family)  
Robert Gunning (Virginia Fey)  
Katherine Kisic (Grainger House Staff)  
Marian Cammarata (Richard Tomer Family)  
Harry Nieser (Kerry Nieser)  
Mother of Joseph Gomez (Lorraine Barnicle)  
Mary Beth Klocko (Tom Klocko)  
Frank DeCarolis (Louis Tassari)  
Grace Massung (Leo West & Jean)  
Paddy O'Flaherty (Terrence Flaherty)  
Carmen R. Tedesco, Jr. (Joe & Barb Vento)  
Patricia Helbling (Dot & Bill Craver)