

Fr. Dave's Den: In this month of November we continue to pray for our beloved dead and to think about the mystery of death. Many years ago St. Ambrose reflected on death. This is what he said: "The Lord allowed death to enter this world so that sin might come to an end. But he gave us the resurrection of the dead so that our nature might not end once more in death; death was to bring guilt to an end, and the resurrection was to enable our nature to continue forever."

"Death in this context is a Passover to be made by all mankind. You must keep facing it with perseverance. It is a Passover from corruption, from mortality to immortality, from rough seas to a calm harbor. The word 'death' must not trouble us; the blessings that come from a safe journey should bring us joy. What is death but the burial of sin and the resurrection of goodness?" Thanks to everyone who came to the annual Memorial Mass last week to pray for our beloved dead. May all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace!

This coming weekend our parish will officially celebrate the golden anniversary of our school. It will be a homecoming weekend of sorts. Nearly 300 alumni and friends of St. Bartholomew will be attending the dinner dance on Friday evening, November 19, at Alcoma Country Club. On Saturday, November 20, we will welcome Bishop Wuerl who will preside and preach at the 5:00 PM Mass. Please be attentive to the following factors:

1. Parking will be at a premium. Please follow the directions of the parking lot attendants.
2. Mass will no doubt be just a little bit longer than usual.
3. Please, in respect of the Bishop, arrive on time and remember everyone is expected to remain in Church until the Bishop reaches the back vestibule.
4. The adult choir and the bell choir will be participating in this liturgy. They will be seated in the chapel area.
5. While all the living and active priests who served at St. Bart's were invited, the following priests have stated that they will be in attendance, along with the Dean, Fr. Mike Decewicz; Fr. David DeWitt, Fr. Samuel Esposito, Fr. Pierre Falkenhan, Fr. Jim Garvey, Fr. Alan Morris, and Fr. Jim Ruggerio.
6. A good number of Sisters of the Divine Redeemer who taught at our school will also be in attendance.

Following the Mass, there will be a reception for

alumni and friends in the gym. While parents and students will be having a family bingo in Helzlsouer Hall. In anticipation of the reception, each family in the parish is asked to donate one dozen of cookies. Cookies can be dropped off at the rectory all week long during regular office hours.

I am grateful to our principal, Mrs. Diane Fleet, PTG President Doreen Casey, members of the 50th Anniversary Committee which includes: George Beck, Dottie Craver, Diana Dawson, Lisa Hope, Stan Janaszek, Bob Rick, Ann Ruffing, and Cecilia Shepard. Thanks also goes to all the many people who have worked so hard to make this coming weekend so memorable.

Next Sunday there will be a second collection at all the Masses for the Retirement Fund for the Religious. This is an annual collection mandated by the Diocese. We all have been served well over the years by religious brothers, sisters, and priests. Thank you for your generosity!

Do not forget to return your Harvest Sweepstakes tickets to the rectory. The drawing is Monday evening, November 22, during Bingo.

The Men's Club will meet next Sunday, November 21, at 6:30 PM in Helzlsouer Hall. Dr. Anthony DiGioia, renowned orthopedic surgeon will be the guest speaker. Chef Beck will be preparing beef stew, cornbread and regular biscuits. By that time, we might even have a little snow to make the stew taste even better. Please call the rectory to make a reservation.

Life Teen - Leading Teens Closer to Christ

Retreat is this weekend! Please keep our teens and Core team in your prayers.

ST. BART'S GOLDEN AGERS

The Annual St. Bartholomew's Golden Agers Christmas Party is to be held Friday, December 3, at 12:00 PM at Hoss's in Penn Hills. The cost is \$10.00 per person. Please make reservations by calling Irene Glasstetter at 412-242-1089 by November 20, 2004. Thank you.

Red Rose Day

Birthday of Pittsburgh expresses sincerest appreciation to you for your most generous Red Rose Day collection of \$288.75 to assist women and girls with unexpected pregnancies. We have immense gratitude to you because your gift came at time when our funds were critically low to the point of almost having to close our office. Thank you so much. We also appreciate the efforts of Charlotte Cramer for coordinating the volunteers who assisted in the collection.

School News with Mrs. Fleet

Please keep our eighth grade boys and chaperones in your prayers as they travel to Central Catholic High School on Monday, November 15. All Sarris Candy orders are due to the school office by Monday, November 15, as well.

Market Day pick up is scheduled for Tuesday afternoon from 5:15 to 6:00 PM in the gym.

Our fifth graders will be treated to a dress down day and pizza party as they won the PTG Membership Drive. They will celebrate on Wednesday, November 17.

Are you a fan of Mickey Mouse? If so, then you would know that Thursday, November 18, is his birthday. Since Mrs. Fleet is such an avid Disney fan, we will celebrate with a Disney dress down day on Thursday, November 18. As usual, all dress down days are optional, and if students wish to, they may wear their school uniforms instead.

This will be a very exciting week here at St. Bartholomew School. On Friday, November 19, we will have an 11:15 AM dismissal followed by a faculty meeting. Our second graders and Miss Begley invite you to attend Mass with us on this day at 10:00 AM.

In the evening, we will celebrate with alumni from the past fifty years with a dinner dance at Alcoma Golf Club. Not only alumni will be present, but pastors, teachers, and staff are also invited.

On Saturday, November 20, alumni basketball games will be played throughout the day, an open house is scheduled, Mass with Bishop Wuerl begins at 5:00 PM and we are hosting a family bingo in the cafeteria after Mass. Food will be available during the basketball games, open house, and during our bingo.

Please feel free to join us for any of these festivities. For further information, please call the school at 412-242-2511.

A special thank you to Ms. Diane Silverman, the Medicine Shoppe of Penn Hills, on Frankstown Road, for the donation of Epi pens for our emergency care kit.

Again, I wish to thank all of you for your tremendous support of our excellent school. God bless you. Happy 50th Anniversary St. Bartholomew School!

BINGO

St. Bart's Monday Night Bingo is held every Monday in Helzlsouer Hall, starting at 7:00 PM. Remember that the Harvest Sweepstakes drawing will be held at Bingo on Monday, November 22.

Religious Education News with Arlene Golden

"You will be saved because you believe in me and have stayed faithful to me." Luke 21:19

What does it mean to be faithful to God?

Confirmation: A meeting for parents/guardians and sponsors of students receiving confirmation this year will be Monday, November 22, at 7:00 PM, in the Church. A sponsor must be at least 16 years old and a practicing Catholic. If the sponsor is not a member of St. Bart's a letter from his or her pastor verifying that he or she is a member in good standing is necessary. Also, a current baptismal certificate should be on file in the Religious Ed. Office.

RCIA: Adults wishing to become Catholic are invited to attend classes on Monday evenings. This is called the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Anyone over the age of 18 who wishes to be confirmed is also invited to attend these classes. Don't delay, call Arlene Golden at the Religious Ed. Office today 412-242-7207.

A Respect Life Meditation

(Dr. Charles E. Rice, Notre Dame law professor - September 16, 2004) "...any pro-life effort that temporizes on contraception will be futile, because the trajectory is a straight line from the approval of contraception to the approval of abortion, euthanasia, pornography, promiscuity, divorce, homosexual activity, in-vitro fertilization, and cloning."

We pray that Dr. Rice's analysis will inspire all Catholics to think seriously about the teachings of Christ's Church concerning the sanctity of all human life.

Sister Roberta Swurzkopf

Great news! The published work memorializing Sister Roberta, *A Perfect Ending: Poetry and Remembrances*, is finally complete and hot off the press! Because of the overwhelming support of Sister's St. Bart's family for this project, the Sisters of the Divine Redeemer would like to make it available here first. The book will be on sale at all Masses next week, November 20 and 21. For more information or to order in advance, please call 412-901-6807, or email rememberingroberta@hotmail.com.

Christmas Needs

Do you know someone or a family in need of a Christmas gift? If you know a person, family, child, or infant that needs a gift for Christmas, please call Sr. Dorothy at 412-242-7357. Give the name, address, phone number, and age of each person in need. All information is confidential.

Thank you from the Parish Family

Heavenly Father, for all that we have and all that is yet to be, we give you thanks. In this time of Remembrance and Thanksgiving, we the parish family of St. Bartholomew thank you, Fr. Dave, for letting us share your vision in all the blessings we have received.

That vision has truly lifted up our hearts to the Lord in all that we see and touch; whether we enter the school, the rectory, the Church, even the grounds, your care for us is evident. For the beauty, inside and out in the fresh new look of our worship space, we thank you, but most of all, for the sacraments which keep us holy and unique, especially the Eucharist.

We thank God for your gift of song that often ushers in the presence of the Lord Jesus who we celebrate and share. Through you we embrace our faith more fully and express it in the love we have for one another. May all those who are home-bound know that we speak for them as well in saying thank you.

In your own words, "THE BEST IS YET TO BE!" We see your prayer for us reaching beyond anything we can imagine, always leaving us for expectation and hope. May God continue to bestow many and varied blessings on you!
"Where there is no vision, the people perish" Proverbs 29:18.



Give a Gift at Christmas

During Advent, you may share the spirit of Jesus' birth by giving a gift to a needy person through St. Bartholomew's Giving Tree. Pick a tag from the Giving Tree and buy a special gift for the person described. Wrap the gift and place the tag from the tree on the outside of the package, then place the gift under the Giving Tree by December 12, 2004. The Ladies of Charity will deliver your gift to the special person you selected. Thank you for your giving spirit!

Mass Intentions



MON., November 15 - St. Albert the Great

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

TUES., November 16 - St. Margaret of Scotland

10:00 A.M. Mass of Increase of Vocations (Knights of Columbus)

WED., November 17 - St. Elizabeth of Hungary

7:00 P.M. Holy Hour

THURS., November 18 - Weekday

10:00 A.M. Jim Rihn (Wife Carmela)

FRI., November 19 - Weekday

10:00 A.M. Calogera Messina (Josephine & John Collins)

SAT., November 20 - Weekday

10:00 A.M. Thomas & Richard Neal (Family)

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

5:00 P.M. 50th Anniversary of St. Bart's School - People of the Parish

SUN., November 21 - Our Lord Jesus Christ the King

8:00 A.M. David R. Smith, Sr. (Son Dave & Family)

10:30 A.M. Norman Cicero (Wife & Family)

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

Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed:

Nellie Kennedy, Mary Moore, and Alfred Capone

Please join us in welcoming in baptism:

Rocco Jon Schneiderlochner, Savannah Noel Korotko, Teagan Rae Treganowan, and Nicholas Frank Capalongo

Weekly Offering: Total: \$9230.50 Env. Dist.: 1603 Env. Used: 651
Scrip Program Approximate Profit: \$315.57

CORRECTION: PLEASE NOTE!

In last week's bulletin we mentioned an SBAA basketball tournament which was to be held last week and this week. The tournament has in fact been rescheduled for December 4 and 5, and 11 and 12. The games on December 4 and 11 will be played from 9:00 AM until 8:00 PM, and the games December 5 and 12 will be played from 1:00 PM until 6:30 PM.

Thanksgiving

Would you like to contribute Thanksgiving food to people in need? If yes, please bring non-perishable goods to the entrance of the Church on the weekend of November 20 and 21. Bags are available today at the entrance of the Church if needed. The Ladies of Charity, St. Vincent de Paul Society, and the Food Pantry Ministry will distribute your gifts of food to the people in need in time for Thanksgiving. If you wish to contribute financially, please place your contribution in an envelope marked "Thanksgiving Food Drive" and place it in the collection basket. "I was hungry and you gave me to eat." (Matthew 25:35)