

Fr. Dan's Dev: One of my favorite moments during the celebration of Mass occurs when as a priest I say, "Life up your hearts," and everyone responds in unison, "We lift them up to the Lord." The lifting up of our hearts is an experience of prayerful surrender and sacrifice. This act is a form of worship that transcends words. It is a disposition that we acknowledge at Mass but hopefully live out each day as devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Today, the entire Church lifts up her hearts to Christ the King. On this final Sunday of the liturgical year, we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. Jesus' kingship is not about riches and power, but the poor and service.

The preface for today's Mass describes Jesus' kingdom as "a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love, and peace." Through baptism we are called to be servants of the king and ambassadors of his kingdom. On this glorious feast, may we recommit ourselves to Christ the King by lifting our hearts to him and heeding his words from today's Gospel, "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me."

"Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." On Thursday of this week, we will gather as a nation around our dinner tables to give thanks to the Lord our God for his graces and blessings. There is no greater expression of thanksgiving than the Mass itself. As a consequence, I invite everyone to come and gather around God's table to give thanks. Mass will take place at 9:00 AM. Please note that this time is different than the typical 10:00 AM time. Past experience has shown that the 9:00 AM time slot is more convenient. What is more, there will be no funerals on that day, so we can easily have the Mass at 9:00 AM. With Sister Dorothy and our entire parish staff, I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving Day. In these days, let us be grateful to God, for "it is right to give him thanks and praise."

The second collection today is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. For years, so many of the reli-

gious worked in parishes and schools for almost nothing. And now, they face some of the same costs we do living in the world. This collection allows us the opportunity to say "thanks" and to lend our support. Statistics reveal that your donations are making a difference. Last year 91 monasteries that are sites for ongoing contemplative prayer received grants for critical retirement needs. What is more, 437 religious institutions that minister to the poor received grants that help ensure adequate elder care.

This weekend's edition of the Pittsburgh Catholic will be mailed to every registered household in the diocese. If you do not receive a Catholic newspaper in the mail, that means that you are not registered in the parish. Please make every effort to be registered by calling the rectory.

On Saturday, December 3, our parish will hold an Advent Day of Recollection for men and women. The day begins with 10:00 AM Mass and concludes with dinner. For more information and to make a reservation, please call Sr. Dorothy at 412-242-7357.

The Holy Season of Advent begins next weekend. Once again, we are making available limited copies of *The Word Among Us* for your spiritual enrichment. Advent marks the beginning of the new Church year and a time of prayerful waiting for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. This season of prayerful expectation is a good time to make some spiritual resolutions. One way to enter into this season is to attend Holy Hour each Wednesday night from 7:00 to 8:00 PM.

As we begin the Holy Season of Advent and light the first candle, I invite everyone to wear something purple.

Have a wonderful week!



School News with Mrs. Fleet

All Avon orders are due to the school office by Monday, November 21.

You are welcome to attend our Thanksgiving prayer service on Wednesday morning, November 2, at 9:00 AM in Church.

Ms. Begley and our second graders have planned our para-liturgy.

There is an 11:15 AM dismissal on November 23 due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Extended Care will be available for both AM and PM sessions. No lunch will be served in school Thursday. There will be no school and no Extended Care from Thursday, November 24 to Monday, November 28, due to Thanksgiving vacation. Classes resume on Tuesday, November 29.

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.

The St. Bartholomew School family wishes to extend heartfelt thanks to all of you for your continued support of the Catholic school education we provide here in Penn Hills. We could not do it without all of your prayers, hard work, dedication, and monetary support. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers on a daily basis. God bless you real good!

Congratulations to Honor Students

Congratulations to the following students who achieved honors this term at Central Catholic High School. High Honor: Jon Brewton, Aric Bush, Daniel Donahoe, Charles Maher, Andrew Pirollo, Joseph Ranallo, and Chad Restori.

Honor: John Buczkowski, Andrew DeRubeis, Robert Kensinger, Ryan Kovacs, Gino Macioce, Joshua Martin, David Pina, Christopher Williams.

Religious Education News

Attention all eighth grade Confirmation candidates: As an excellent service opportunity, Miss Lang needs help changing the music books in Church on Saturday, November 26, at 1:00 PM. Join us in the Church, the more the merrier!

Life Teen—Leading Teens Closer to Christ

Are you needing some ideas for quick meals? Are you needing to make cookies for the holidays? Well, Life Teen is here to help! We are selling Joe Corbi's pizza and cookie dough this weekend, November 19 and 20. Please help support Life Teen.

Respect Life Meditation

(Catechism of the Catholic Church #2258) "Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of Life from its beginning until its end..."

We pray that all will enthusiastically accept and witness to this Church teaching and make it an important part of their everyday faith in Jesus Christ, our King.

Women's Group Christmas Party

Plans are underway for the Parish Women's Group Christmas Party to be held on Tuesday, December 6, in Helzlouer Hall, starting with hors d'oeuvres at 6:00 PM. A catered dinner will begin at 6:30 PM. Also, there will be raffles, Christmas carols, door prizes, a cookie exchange, and Christmas ornament grab bag (\$5.00 limit for those wanting to participate). All women of the parish are invited. Members are encouraged to bring a guest. If your guest enrolls in our Women's Group, you both will be entered into a special prize drawing. Tickets will be sold at a cost of \$10.00 after all Masses the weekend of November 26 and 27, or you can make your reservations now by calling Katherine at 412-798-9819.

Have you ever made God a promise to make your 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**

12:45 PM—Registration in Vestibule of Church

Afternoon of prayer with Fr. Dave and Sr. Dorothy

5:00 PM—Mass

6:00 PM – Dinner in Helzlsour Hall

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

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

You may drop off your registration form and money at the rectory or place them in the collection basket. Registration ends November 30, 2005. Any questions, please call Sister Dorothy at 412-242-7357.

Mass Intentions



MON., November 21 - Presentation of Blessed Virgin
10:00 A.M. Gloria Miller (Frank & Audral Copo)
TUES., November 22 - St. Cecilia
10:00 A.M. Frank & Mario Santamaria (Maria Santamaria)
WED., November 23 - St. Columban
7:00 P.M. Holy Hour
THURS., November 24 - Weekday (Thanksgiving)
10:00 A.M. People of the Parish
FRI., November 25 - Catherine of Alexandria
10:00 A.M. Ellen Jane Myers (George J. Myers)
SAT., November 26 - Weekday
10:00 A.M. Joseph J. Capobianco (Capobianco children)
5:00 P.M. Mr. & Mrs. T. Hoolahan (Jim & Marion Hoolahan)
SUN., November 27 - 1st Sunday of Advent
8:00 A.M. People of the Parish
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.

Theresa Stevick, Mary Anne Monico, and Virginia Scarberry

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.

GOLDEN AGERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The St. Bartholomew Golden Agers Christmas Party is to be held on Friday, December 2, 2005, at 12:00 noon, at Hoss's in Penn Hills. The cost is \$11.00 and reservations must be made by November 25, 2005. Please call Irene Glasstetter at 412-242-1089.

Christmas Decorating

Mark your calendar now for Thursday, December 22, 2005, at 7:00 PM. We will be decorating the Church for Christmas that evening. All are welcome!