

Fr. Dave's Den: Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Christ the King. On this final Sunday of the liturgical year we acknowledge Christ as our King. The kingship of Christ transcends the traditional notion of a king. For Christ's throne is the cross, his crown is one of piercing thorns, and his power is love. The preface for today's Mass describes the essence of Christ's kingdom which is uniquely extraordinary in as much as it is one "of truth and life, of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice and peace." On this glorious feast let us behold the King and rededicate ourselves to God's kingdom by daily seeking truth, life, holiness, grace, justice, and peace.

In the context of this rich feast, we as a parish family also celebrate the 50th anniversary of St. Bartholomew School. We are privileged to welcome Bishop Donald W. Wuerl who will serve as the principal celebrant and homilist for this milestone that we will mark at the 5:00 PM Saturday evening Mass. Bishop Wuerl has been a strong proponent of Catholic education. Under his leadership, the Pittsburgh diocese has developed a solid base of parochial schools that promote Christian values for Catholics and non-Catholics alike. Today we thank our Bishop not only for celebrating with us fifty years of Catholic education, but also for his continued prayers and support. Please find enclosed within this bulletin a special letter from Bishop Wuerl acknowledging our celebration.

We also welcome to our parish this weekend the Sisters of the Divine Redeemer who over the last fifty years have been so present to our parish and school. We are most grateful for their faithful commitment to our school and the humble witness they have offered to our students. One of the compelling ways we can express our gratitude for these holy women is to make an offering in their name to the Retirement Fund for the Religious. The second collection today will be for the Retirement Fund for the Religious. Thank you for your generosity.

All the men of the parish are invited to the Men's Club meeting on Sunday, November 21, beginning

at 6:00 PM. Dr. Anthony DiGioia, renowned orthopedic surgeon will be the guest speaker. Chef Beck will be serving stew and cornbread. The requested donation is \$5.00. Bring a friend!

This Thursday, November 25, our nation will celebrate the great feast of Thanksgiving. Before we sit down at our family tables and consume all the traditional fixings, I invite everyone to the table of our Lord for Thanksgiving Mass at 9:00 AM. We have been so blessed as a parish family in a myriad of ways. From our new parish sign, heart defibrillator, and new access door in Helzlsouer Hall, to the sidewalk and newly refurbished church, we have so much for which to be grateful. Perhaps the greatest blessing is the lively spirit of unity and peace we enjoy as a family. What better way to say thanks than to come to Mass and celebrate Eucharist?

Next Sunday we begin the holy season of Advent and a new liturgical year. The start of the new year typically leads to some resolutions. As we embark on this new year, I invite everyone to resolve to embrace a greater devotion and participation in the Eucharist. Our Holy Father has proclaimed this year as the year of the Eucharist. In his Pastoral Letter, *The Eucharist: Source and Summit of the Life and Mission of the Church*, Bishop Wuerl states, "Not only is the Year of the Eucharist a time for renewed fervor, commitment, and faith involving the Lord Jesus present in the Eucharist, it is also a time to let the energizing spirit of the Eucharist so fill us that we become evangelists as were the first disciples of Jesus, people intent on sharing the Good News with others."

Next to attending daily Mass, I invite everyone to be attentive to weekly Holy Hour. Every Wednesday from 7:00 PM until 8:00 PM we have the opportunity to adore our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. In this designated time, the Lord offers us a refuge and he speaks to our hearts. He promises to listen to our cares and concerns. Be sure to make a date with the Lord. Have a blessed week, and remember to return your sweepstakes tickets for Monday's drawing!

School News with Mrs. Fleet

Happy Birthday to us! This is a very exciting weekend as we have so many wonderful festivities planned to commemorate our school’s fiftieth anniversary. The highlight of this weekend is celebrating liturgy with Bishop Donald Wuerl on Saturday, November 20, at 5:00 PM.

An Open House with light refreshments will follow this special Mass. The school families are also invited to a family bingo on Saturday evening beginning at 7:30 PM.

It is an awesome privilege to be serving as your school principal during this momentous year. I am honored to be serving as not only the educational leader at St. Bartholomew School but also as a faith leader for our faculty, staff, and students. Jesus is certainly the one I hope all of us are modeling.

There is a parent/guardian Confirmation meeting set for Monday evening, November 22, in church. Monday, November 22, will also be a dress-up day. Avon Christmas orders are due on this day as well. Please look for your monthly envelope to come home on November 22, as well.

We ask you to keep our first through fifth grade students, chaperones, and teachers in prayer as they journey to the Pittsburgh Zoo on Tuesday, November 23.

All of you are invited to our Thanksgiving prayer service that is scheduled for Wednesday morning, November 24, at 9:00 AM. Sister Mary Ann and our first graders are planning this para-liturgy. Boys are expected to wear dress shirts and ties. We will also have an 11:15 AM dismissal on this day. No lunch will be served at school. Extended Care will be available for both the AM and PM sessions.

There is no school from November 25 through November 29 due to our Thanksgiving vacation. Classes resume on Tuesday, November 30.

The season of Advent begins on Sunday, November 28. As we have done so in the past, we will celebrate a weekly Advent wreath service as a school family each week of Advent. Our first service for this year will be held on Tuesday, November 30.

Thanks for your continual support of our Catholic school. The nurturing of our faith is a top priority for all of us. God bless you always!

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

(Mark 9:36-37) “Then Jesus took a little child, stood him in their midst, and putting His arms around him, said to them, ‘Whoever welcomes a child such as this for My sake welcomes Me. And whoever welcomes Me, welcomes not Me, but Him who sent Me.’”

We pray that all parents will accept Jesus’ challenge through his Church to welcome and nurture the children created by a loving Father and entrusted to their loving care.

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.**

Life Teen - Leading Teens Closer to Christ

There is no Life Teen this weekend due to the 50th Anniversary of St. Bart’s School. Welcome back to all alumni. All Life Teen teens should watch for the Joe Corbi’s forms and an update on what’s up for the next life night to come in the mail.

Compassion

“I would rather feel compassion than know the meaning of it.”

- St. Thomas Aquinas

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!

Thanksgiving

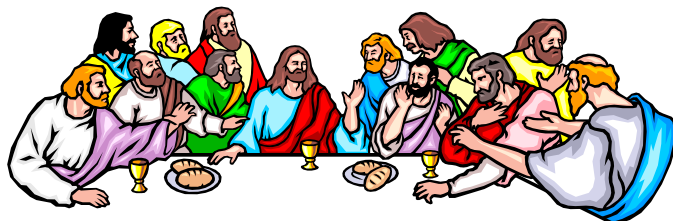
Would you like to contribute Thanksgiving food to people in need? If yes, please bring non-perishable goods to the entrance of the Church on the weekend of November 20 and 21. Bags are available today at the entrance of the Church if needed. The Ladies of Charity, St. Vincent de Paul Society, and the 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).

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S WOMEN'S GUILD

The St. Bart's Women's Guild will have a Christmas party on December 7, 2004. The Guild invites all women of the parish to join the festivities. Chef Beck will cater and reservations may be made by calling Katherine at 412-798-9819. Watch future bulletins for further information.

Year of the Eucharist

Eucharistic Adoration is held daily, Monday through Friday, at Epiphany Church (across from Mellon Arena) immediately following the 12:05 PM Mass. At 4:45 PM the Rosary is prayed following Benediction and the 5:15 PM Mass. Everyone is invited to pray and adore the Lord during this Year of the Eucharist.



Mass Intentions



MON., November 22 - St. Cecilia

10:00 A.M. Elizabeth Camarda (Family)

TUES., November 23 - St. Columban

10:00 A.M. Ellen Jane Myers (Mary Anne Hall)

WED., November 24 - St. Andrew Dung-Lac

7:00 P.M. Holy Hour

THURS., November 25 - Thanksgiving Day

10:00 A.M. People of the Parish

FRI., November 26 - Weekday

10:00 A.M. Maguire Family (Joanne Maguire)

SAT., November 27 - Weekday

10:00 A.M. Mass for Living: Ann Gazzoli, Mary Williams, & Helen Andrejco (Ann Gazzoli)

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

5:00 P.M. People of the Parish

SUN., November 28 - First Sunday of Advent

8:00 A.M. William & Theodosia Welsch (Dave & Winnie Slatery)

10:30 A.M. Joseph DeBellis (Marie & Family)

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

Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed:

Carmen Marchitello

Weekly Offering: Total: \$8351.50 Env. Dist.: 1603 Env. Used: 640

Scrip Program Approximate Profit: \$188.22

This weekend's second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious

SISTER ROBERTA SWARCZKOPF

"A Perfect Ending: Poetry and Remembrances," the book memorializing the late Sister Roberta Swarczkopf is on sale here at St. Bart's this weekend. Enjoy Sister Roberta's poetry and artwork as well as stories and memories from the people whose lives she touched. Look for a table at the reception after the Alumni Mass and at both Masses on Sunday. Should you have any questions, comments, or other orders, please call 412-901-6807, or email: rememberingroberta@hotmail.com.

Our Lord Jesus Christ the King

November 21, 2004

I rejoiced because they said to me, "We will go up to the house of the LORD."

— Psalm 122:1