

Fr. Dan's Den: It was a few days before Advent and Mom was trying to ascertain what her children remembered from last year's family celebration of Advent. She asked, "Who can tell me what the four candles in the Advent wreath represent?" Seven-year old Luke jumped in and said, "There's love, joy, peace and ... and." "I know," six-year old Elise interrupted to conclude her brother's thought: "Peace and quiet!" For many of us, these days are anything but quiet, given the hustle and bustle of the season. And yet, Advent is incomplete without some sense of quiet and solitude.

As we begin the holy season of Advent and mark the start of the new liturgical year, would it not be special if we all resolved to seek more quiet in our lives? There is so much noise and much of it is self-created. When was the last time we drove in the car with the radio off? Or when did we sit in the living room without the T.V. on? How can we ever attune our minds and hearts to this holy season if we are not quiet?

There are many spiritual ways in these four weeks for us to embrace quiet. One of the more peaceful ways is by attending weekday Mass and Wednesday Holy Hour. Holy Hour takes place from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM and much of that time includes quiet before the Blessed Sacrament. As we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas, I call your attention to the following themes for Holy Hour: Wednesday, November 30 – Lord, open my ears; Wednesday, December 14 – Lord, open my eyes; and Wednesday, December 21 – Lord, open my heart. In these four weeks we will ask the Lord for the graces to listen, look, and love.

Please find in the vestibules of church copies of *The Word Among Us* for the Advent Season which are made available to you for your spiritual enrichment.

Another way to find quiet in these days is to avail ourselves to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated every Saturday from 11:00 AM till 12 Noon. There will, however, be no Confessions on Saturday, December 24. There will be many opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament during the week of December 12:

Monday, December 12 at St. Gerard's - 7:00 PM.

Tuesday, December 13 at St. Bart's - 7:00 PM.

Wednesday, December 14 at St. Susanna - 7:30 PM.

Thursday, December 15 at St. Irenaeus - 7:00 PM

Monday, December 19 at St. Joseph, Verona - 7:00 PM.

The last day for scheduled Confessions at St. Barts will be Saturday, December 17, from 11:00 AM till 12 Noon. While there will be multiple priests available for the Sacrament, please note that I will be the only priest available on Saturday, December 17. Do not wait till the last minute.

One final way to seek quiet in this season is to participate in the Parish Day of Recollection this Saturday, December 3, at 1:00 PM. The day will focus on the Season of Welcome and Promise. After 5:00 PM Mass there will be dinner for those retreat-ants who wish to stay. Be sure to call the rectory to make your reservation.

In recent weeks things have been anything but quiet with our facility. Much work continues to be done and it isn't always visible to the human eye. Some of these projects include updating of boiler system components in church and school, the purchase of two new air compressors for the church, the painting of the church boiler room, a new security system for the door between the rectory and church, and the addition of new light fixtures for the rectory. In addition the Finance Council unanimously approved the purchase of new windows for the rectory. Originally, the windows were going to be done piecemeal but the price was so good the council recommended that all the windows be done. These new windows should allow for better fuel efficiency. Also, a recent visit by the insurance control of our diocese mandated the installation of emergency lighting for the Church. The Finance Council approved this expenditure.

I am grateful to our finance council for their commitment to our parish. And I particularly applaud our maintenance man Gary Caskey for his hard work and dedication to our parish. Having just completed his first year with us, Gary has been such a blessing. With his many skills, we have been able to save money by not having to call people in to fix this or that. Thanks, Gary, for all that you do! And many thanks to Jim Lear, parishioner and maintenance volunteer who has done so much for the good of our facility.

Have a great week!

School News with Mrs. Fleet

There is no school on Monday, November 28 due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Classes resume on Tuesday, November 29.

Please join us for Mass on Friday, December 2, at 10:00 AM. Mrs. Deet and our fourth grade will help to plan our liturgy.

The school family will conduct an Advent wreath service on Tuesday, November 19 around 9:00 AM in school. We will all anxiously be awaiting the birth of our Lord and Savior.

Our monthly envelope will be distributed on Wednesday, November 30.

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!

St. Joseph School—Breakfast in Bethlehem

On Saturday, December 3, 2005, St. Joseph School, Verona, will present "Breakfast in Bethlehem" for children ages 2 to 5. Enjoy a Blessed Breakfast (French toast sticks, sausage, and orange juice) and listen to the Holy Christmas story. Children may dress as their favorite Christmas story character and participate in the story. To register, please call 412-828-7213 no later than November 30.

Respect Life Meditation

(Excerpt from "I Sow, Others Will Reap" by Charles De Foucauld, ordained 1901, martyred 1916, beatified November 13, 2005 by Pope Benedict XVI) On the Eucharist: "The goal of every human life should be the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament." On priests: "The priest is a monstrance whose obligation is to show Jesus. The priest must disappear so that others can see only Jesus."

We hope that many parishioners will come, see, and adore the Blessed Sacrament each Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM and pray for an increase in priestly and religious vocations.

Women's Group Christmas Party

Plans are underway for the Parish Women's Group Christmas Party to be held on Tuesday, December 6, in Helzlsouer 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 this weekend, November 26 and 27, or you can make your reservations now by calling Katherine at 412-798-9819.

Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols

Join us on this first Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2005, at 4:00 PM St. Susanna Church for an Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols, featuring the choirs of St. Bartholomew, St. Gerard Majella, St. Irenaeus, and St. Susanna Parishes. All are welcome to attend. A reception will follow.

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: \$5.00

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

Mass Intentions



MON., November 28 - Advent Weekday
10:00 A.M. John Helbling (Lise & R.J. Pavlik)
TUES., November 29 - Advent Weekday
10:00 A.M. Frank & Mario Santamaria (Maria Santamaria)
WED., November 30 - St. Andrew
7:00 P.M. Holy Hour
THURS., December 1 - Advent Weekday
10:00 A.M. Edward Anick (St. Bart's Money Counters)
FRI., December 2 - Advent Weekday
10:00 A.M. Sheridan Marpes (Marcy Marpes/C. Alicia DePastino)
SAT., December 3 - St. Francis Xavier
10:00 A.M. Joseph Weitz (Lou & Josie Colapietro)
5:00 P.M. Louis & Anna Chianese (Chianese Family)
SUN., December 4 - 2nd Sunday of Advent
8:00 A.M. Bernie & George Bonnar, Walter Jaczynski, and Mary & Harry White (Pat & Harry White)
10:30 A.M. People of the Parish

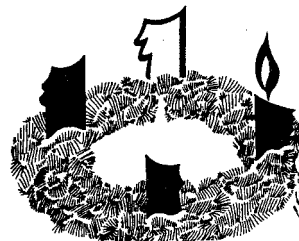
Please remember in your prayers the sick, shut-ins, and hospitalized members of the Parish.
Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed.

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.

Christmas Decorating

Mark your calendar now for Thursday, December 22, 2005, at 6:00 PM. We will be decorating the Church for Christmas that evening. All are welcome!



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