

Fr. Dave's Dev: "How lovely is your dwelling place, Oh Lord, of Hosts."

These words from Psalm 84 truly describe our newly painted and carpeted Church. Indeed, how lovely is God's dwelling place -- Wow!

Thanks to all of you dear parishioners who made this work possible. As Pastor, I appreciate your continued prayers and support of our Parish and Church. Special thanks to parishioner, Mary Lois Verrilla, the lady who paints Pittsburgh, and Ms. Cathy Stewart, a professional Church designer for all their efforts in coordinating the color scheme of the paint and carpet. I also want to thank the professional painters from Cugini and all the people at Molyneaux Carpets for a job well done. The painting will now focus on the windowsills in the vestibules of the Church, the Sacred Heart Chapel and the outside trim of the Church. As beautiful as everything looks, remember, "The best is yet to be!"

Tomorrow, November 8, 2004, we will celebrate the Annual Memorial Mass for those who have died from our Parish during the past year. The names of the deceased will be called aloud by Sister Dorothy Pawlus and a family member is to come forward to receive the lit candle from the Easter candle. All are invited to attend this Mass to support our brothers and sisters as they continue to mourn the loss of their loved ones. There will be a reception following the Mass in the back vestibule of Church. Do not forget to inscribe the names of your deceased relatives and friends in the Book of Remembrance located in the back vestibule of Church.

In this month of Thanksgiving, I want to thank Larry Lucas for his faithful assistance with the Funeral Ministry of the Parish. Larry is a great help to our grieving families and to me. I also want to acknowledge Will Smith our Music Director, and Sister Dorothy Pawlus our Social Service Director, (who will become a full-time employee December 1) for their prayerful presence. Thanks to our Ladies of Charity for their participation in our Funeral Ministry. Your attentiveness to our grieving families makes such a difference.

Now that the interior of Church is finished, Holy Hour resumes this Wednesday at 7:00 PM. In this Year of the Eucharist proclaimed by our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, weekly Holy Hour affords us the opportunity to demonstrate our love for the Eucharist and reflect on the power of this most wondrous mystery. What is more, if we find ourselves struggling with life, Holy Hour provides an opportunity for us to be refocused, refreshed, renewed and reinvigorated.

Monday, November 15, our Parish Pastoral Council will

meet at 6:30 PM in the Pastor's Conference Room to conduct the diocesan mandated Consultation on Envisioning Ministry. In his most recent Pastoral Letter to the Faithful of the Diocese, Bishop Wuerl invites all parishioners to envision ministry for the future. Please keep the Council in your prayers as it embraces this very important work. And thanks to Ms. Pat Nigro for agreeing to serve as our Project Coordinator. As always, we will keep you posted. Keep in mind that November 19 and 20 we will celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of our Parish School. Bishop Wuerl will be celebrating the 5:00 PM Mass Saturday, November 20, 2004 after which there will be a reception in the gym for alumni and friends. As we prepare for this event with the expectation of many alumni returning, I kindly ask each family to donate a dozen of cookies. Cookies can be dropped off at the Rectory any time the week of November 14. Also please be advised that parking will be at a premium that evening given the anticipated large crowd. Let's all try to be patient with one another and attentive to the parking attendants.

The Men's Club will meet on Sunday, November 21, at 6:30 PM in Helzlsouer Hall. Dr. Anthony DiGioia, renowned orthopedic surgeon will be the guest speaker. Chef Beck will have something delicious for everyone. Please call the Rectory to make a reservation.

Do not forget to return your Harvest Sweepstakes tickets. The drawing is Monday, November 22, at the Bingo. Some people have approached me about the possibility of omitting the Sign of Peace at Mass due to concern about the flu. Please know that the Sign of Peace is an integral part of the Mass. Remember we are a family! We all simply need to trust in Jesus, practice good hygiene, and use common sense. Peace be with you.

Have a wonderful week!

BINGO

Join us every Monday night in Helzlsouer Hall at 7:00 PM for Bingo St. Bart's style! Remember that the drawing for the Harvest Sweepstakes will be held at Monday Night Bingo, November 22.

Life Teen - Leading Teens Closer to Christ

Retreat is next weekend! If any teen that has signed up for retreat has not received a letter with instruction for retreat, you need to call Colleen this week. The next Life Night will be December 4. This is also the weekend of the pizza/cookie dough sale. All teens should watch for forms to be sent in the mail. Help Life Teen with our only fund raiser of the year by selling a pizza or two!

School News with Mrs. Fleet

There is a PTG meeting on Tuesday evening at 6:30 PM in the library, and St. Bartholomew School is hosting a Principals' Meeting on Tuesday, November 9. Please pray for a successful day.

On Wednesday and Thursday of this week, parent-guardian/teacher conferences will be held. Students in grades preschool through three will have class on Wednesday, November 10 and students in grades four through eight will have conferences that day.

On Thursday, November 11, conferences will be held for students in grades preschool through three and there will be classes for students in grades four through eight.

Our Santa Shop will be in full swing on November 10, 11, and 12.

Congratulations to Sr. Mary Ann and our first grade for winning the Innisbrook classroom incentive. Sister and her students had the highest percentage of student participation in our recent sale. They will be treated to a dress down day and a pizza party on Wednesday, November 10.

Congratulations to Mrs. Deet and our fourth grade as they won the incentive for our recent Health and Beauty Aid Drive. Mrs. Fleet will treat them to a pizza and beverage party on Thursday, November 11.

Our school body is in the midst of collecting nonperishable food items from November 1 through November 12. All donations will be given to our local food bank.

Thank you to all veterans of St. Bartholomew Parish. Your service to our country and your levels of courage and patriotism are commendable. We appreciate all that you did to protect our freedoms. God bless you.

Please plan on joining us for Mass on Friday, November 12, at 10:00 AM. Mrs. Gravina, Mrs. Dolan, and our third graders will help to plan our liturgy.

November 12 is also a lucky day for some of our students. They will be treated to a reward luncheon from Mrs. Fleet for being top sellers in our recent Innisbrook fund raiser.

Do you like basketball? If so, why not plan on taking in a few games on Saturday, November 6; Sunday, November 7; Monday, November 8; Saturday, November 13; or Sunday, November 14. The St. Bartholomew Athletic Association is sponsoring an exciting tip off tournament on these dates. The championship games will be held on Sunday, November 14.

Thanks for all that you do for all of us. Have a great week.

Religious Education News with Arlene Golden

Baptism Class: Parents wishing to have their child baptized are to attend a class prior to scheduling the baptism. The next class is this Tuesday, November 9, at 7:00 PM, in room 206 of the school.

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

(By columnist James K. Fitzpatrick - September 2, 2004)

"If the Church's teaching on abortion ever becomes the law of the land in the United States, it will not be through Papal edict, but because Catholics, as citizens, entered the public arena to apply right reason to shape public policy on an important matter of conscience, just as Christians did on issues such as racial justice and workers' rights."

We pray that all thoughtful citizens will form their consciences in accord with the teachings of Jesus Christ so that the scourge of abortion will be removed from our beloved land and the world.

Men's Club

Just a reminder that the upcoming meeting is on November 21 at 6:00 PM, instead of the usual 6:30 PM. The guest speaker is Dr. Anthony DiGioia, an orthopedic specialist. Refreshments and dinner prepared by Chef Beck will be served. The cost is \$5.00. Please RSVP by phoning the rectory.

Penn View Art Center

Penn View Art Center, located at 999 Rock Run Road, Elizabeth Township, will be having their Fall Show and Sale. This art and craft sale will be November 20 and 21: 27 and 28 from 2:00 to 8:00 PM and by appointment. This event is free to the public. For inquiries or directions, please call 412-751-7821.

The Resurrection of the Dead

Each Sunday we proclaim, "We believe in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting." Today's readings invite us to explore these beliefs.

The passage from 2 Maccabees makes it clear that belief in the resurrection of the dead was not born in Christianity, but in a time preceding Jesus' coming. The martyred brothers proclaim their conviction that God will raise them to new life. No threat of death can bring them to break one of their religious laws. Death of their bodies is no death at all, compared to the spiritual death that would result from transgressing the law.

The silly riddle about marriage put to Jesus in the Gospel gives him an opportunity to speak of the "coming age," when no one will be given in marriage, and no one will be liable to death. Jesus, too, stresses how ancient is this teaching, attributing this belief to Moses who knew that God is the God of the living.

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Treasures from our Tradition

New religious faith gives fresh lenses for viewing human customs, and the wisdom to transform them. In the ancient world, the Romans feared the dead. Funeral customs were designed to hasten the departure of souls to the next world. Cremation was the rule, although burial increased in popularity in the second century. Procession from the place of death to the place of cremation or burial was the most important part of the funeral. Those who carried the funeral bier carried it low, close to the ground, to promote the soul's departure to the nether world.

Christians, on the other hand, did not fear the dead, but cherished them as they consigned them to Christ's love and protection. Gradually, they began to reject customs rooted in fear. Christians carried their dead to their resting places singing, with the bier carried high, away from the ground and toward the heavens. For the Christian, the grave was a sign of hope and a place of remembrance. Superstitious Romans feared burial places, and so the Christians cherished them as places of remembrance and prayer, and in time, even celebrated the Eucharist there. In November, many of us visit the cemetery for prayer and the autumn clean-up. By cherishing our dead, we are responding in faith to a vital part of our Christian tradition.

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Mass Intentions



MON., November 8 - Weekday

10:00 A.M. Dianne Zacchia (Widman & Zacchia families)

TUES., November 9 - Dedication of Lateran Basilica

10:00 A.M. Mary Jane Glover (Glover Family)

WED., November 10 - St. Leo the Great

7:00 P.M. Holy Hour

THURS., November 11 - St. Martin of Tours

10:00 A.M. Elmer Herold (Family)

FRI., November 12 - St. Josaphat

10:00 A.M. Deceased Members of the Kearney Families (M/M Ernest Pais)

SAT., November 13 - St. Frances X. Cabrini

10:00 A.M. Anthony, Edith, & Margaret D'Andrea (Margaret D'Andrea)

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

5:00 P.M. 50th Anniversary - Otha & Dorothy Fink (Otha & Dorothy)

SUN., November 14 - 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

10:30 A.M. Michael DeCarlo (Tony & Linda Rossi)

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

Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed:

Robert Habina, Sandra Proch, and Anthony Giglio

Weekly Offering: Total: \$8554.50 Env. Dist.: 1603 Env. Used: 676
Scrip Program Approximate Profit: \$305.98

Parish Blood Drive

St. Bartholomew's semi-annual Blood Drive wishes to thank all those who contributed to this October's drive. We would like to thank, in particular, Marcia Irr, the Blood Drive coordinator, and all the volunteers who have assisted in this effort. We collected 26 units of blood and deferred 3 donors, giving St. Bartholomew's Blood Drive a total collection of 29. Thank you so much for your help in providing the Central Blood Bank with the means to save lives!



Growing in FAITH

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

November 2004

St. Bartholomew Parish
Rev. David J. Bonnar, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

The dignity of grace

What parent could bear losing a child to a violent death? Yet St. John's Gospel says that Mary stood by the Cross watching her son die (John 19:25). She wasn't overcome by it or prostrate before it.

Mary loved her son with all her heart, but she was strengthened by an unquestioning faith in God's will. With his grace, Mary stood in dignity, waiting for God to be glorified.

True hospitality

In the Gospel story of Martha and Mary, St. Luke tells us that Martha hustled around serving Jesus while Mary sat at his feet (Luke 10:38-42).

Jesus teaches Martha that true hospitality means giving your guest undivided attention as Mary does. Let us always give our undivided attention to the Guest whom we welcome into our anxious and busy hearts.

"We know that all things work for good for those who love God."

(Romans 8:28).



Five ways to refresh your prayer life

Like many things we do every day, our time in prayer can become dull or uninteresting unless we remain creative in our approach. Whenever this happens, try tips like these for enlivening your prayer life:

Breathe deeply. Before you pray, take five slow breaths counting to four as you inhale and exhale. This can help you distance yourself from the pace of a busy day. It helps to quiet your mind and your body.

Pair prayer with fasting. When his disciples couldn't expel a particularly troublesome demon, Jesus said, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting" (Mark 9:29).



Add power to your prayer by fasting from food, a favorite entertainment, or doing anything sacrificial.

Place yourself into Scripture. Choose a Bible story and put yourself in the scene so you can experience it personally.

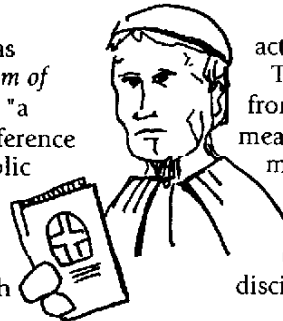
Pray for others. Keep a list of people who you know need God's help, and set aside time each day to pray for them. Jesus loves a generous heart that is inspired by his own.

Don't fill the silence. Catholics tend to think that in order for prayer to be productive, we have to actually say something. Prayer is a dialog between two people who love each other. Listening is as important as talking. How else can we hear the voice of God?

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics use the Catechism?

Pope John Paul II has described *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* as "a sure and authentic reference text for teaching Catholic doctrine." It is the authoritative compilation of what the Catholic Church



actually teaches.

The word "catechism" comes from the Greek word katekhein, meaning to resound, to echo, to make (one) hear. To catechize is to instruct. A catechism is a compilation of the basic truths to be used to instruct disciples and guide teachers.

The saints were human like us

Sometimes we forget that the saints were people like us. They had the same weaknesses and temptations we have today, but conquered it all for God.

Getting to know some of them gives us models of holiness we can follow to Heaven. For example:

St. Augustine drove his mother crazy. A devout Christian, St. Monica shed many tears over her son's partying, paganism, and lack of respect for holiness. She prayed for



him for years and never lost faith in God's power to work miracles. Slowly,

Augustine changed, was baptized, and became one of the great saints of the Church. St. Monica is an example for all mothers who want their children to achieve Heaven.

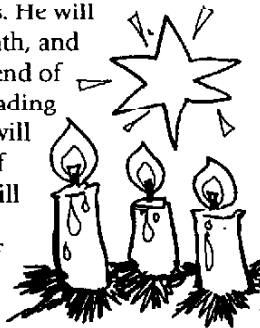
St. Thomas Becket enjoyed the riches and power that came with being a close friend of King Henry II of England. All he had to do to keep his position was support the king's efforts to dismantle the Church's power. Instead, Thomas gave it up to protect his Church. He died at the king's hands.

from Scripture

Matthew 24:37-44,
"Is he here yet?"

Next month we celebrate Jesus' coming at Christmas. He will also come at our death, and he will come at the end of time. This Gospel reading reminds us that we will never know ahead of time just when he will come for us.

Advent is a time of warning, a time of preparation, a time of urgency. With Advent starting at the end of the month, this is a good time to ask, "What do I need to do



to be ready to greet the Lord?"

Start by resolving to change your life. Examine your conscience and pick one or two sinful practices you want to eliminate.

Then do whatever you can to grow closer to God. Spend more time in prayer, attend Mass faithfully, go to Confession.

Finally, give a few minutes in prayer each day for someone who may be struggling.

Then when Christmas comes, you will know you are ready to greet the Lord.

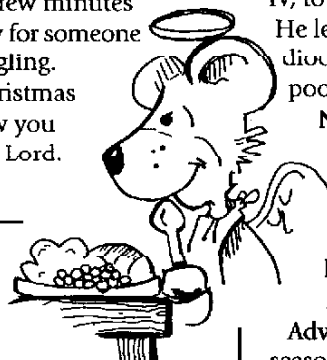
Feasts & Celebrations

This month we pray for the dead, especially the souls in Purgatory. Our prayers and sacrifices help them achieve Heaven faster.

Nov. 4 - St. Charles Borromeo (1584). After earning doctorates in civil and canon law by the age of 21, he was called to Rome by his uncle, Pope Pius IV, to be cardinal and bishop of Milan. He led by example to reform his diocese and tirelessly worked for the poor and sick in his care.

Nov. 10 - Pope St. Leo, the Great (461) Pope St. Leo helped the Church stay united despite attacks from false teachers and warring tribes. He is famous for his explanations of the faith.

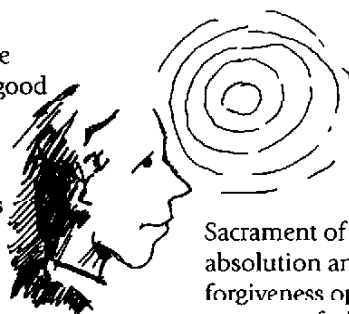
November 28 - First Sunday of Advent. During this four-week season, we anticipate the Messiah's birth, remembering the time when he was awaited. During Advent we also look forward to Christ's reign and his coming on the last day. Catholics all over the world light candles in an Advent wreath each night of the season to signal the coming of the true light of Christ.



Does God love me less when I sin?

Fortunately, God's love doesn't depend on how good we are. Remember the parable Jesus told of the prodigal son (Luke 15)? No matter what the son's transgressions, the father received him in complete love. That's how God feels about us.

Think of God's love as the light from the sun - it's so bright we can't comprehend it. But we can close our eyes or pull the curtains to keep the light from coming in. The light is still



there, but we can't experience it as well because we have shut it out. Sin shuts our hearts to God's love. To help, Jesus created the

Sacrament of Reconciliation. Receiving absolution and being assured of God's forgiveness opens our shuttered hearts so we can feel God's love again.

"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ." (Ephesians 2:4-5).

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