

Fr. Dan's Dem. "Gaudete!" On this third Sunday of Advent the Church celebrates "Gaudete Sunday." "Gaudete" is a Latin word that translates as "Be joyful." As we light the third candle in the Advent wreath there is cause for rejoicing because the coming of Jesus is imminent.

In today's second reading, St. Paul issues a challenge to the Thessalonians and all of us. He writes, "Rejoice always." It is one thing to be joyful, but how does one be joyful always? St. Paul develops this thought in his next sentence when he says, "Pray without ceasing." It would seem that the prayerful person is a joyful person. If we wish to recapture joy in our lives, perhaps we need to commit ourselves more fully to the discipline of prayer. Prayer allows us to look at life through God's eyes. So this week the message is two-fold: Be joyful and pray! Nothing zaps us of joy more than sin. Sin is a commission or omission that alienates us from God and one another. As human beings we all deal with sin in different ways. Some of us deny it entirely. Some of us rationalize it away. Still some of us on our own negotiate deals with God about our sin. In these days of Advent, as we prepare a way of Jesus, the Church invites us to confess our sin and receive the special grace of absolution in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

If we are unhappy and lacking joy in our hearts, it is possible that we are in need of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. When was the last time we celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

This week there will be many opportunities to celebrate this Sacrament and experience the merciful embrace of our Lord:

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

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

Wednesday, December 14, 7:00 PM at St. Susanna

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

Saturday, December 17, 11:00 AM at St. Bart's

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

The last scheduled opportunity for Reconciliation will be Monday, December 19, at St. Joseph Parish.

As always, there is the option to celebrate the Sacrament behind the screen or face to face. Remember, the priest is present not as a judge but as an instrument of God's mercy. And what is said in that forum remains there through the seal of confession. Most of the aforementioned scheduled confessions will begin with a prayer service in which the Act of Sorrow will be said. If anyone has any questions, concerns, or difficulties about this Sacrament feel free to contact me. Be joyful! Pray! And

confess! The great things about this experience is that it allows us all to begin anew. Thank God for fresh starts! Everyone is invited to participate in the decorating of the church on Thursday, December 22. some of the decorating can take place after the 10:00 AM Mass and throughout the day. The second session can take place at 6:00 PM. Let us together prepare the way for the Lord.

As you make your plans for Christmas, we will observe the following schedule:

Saturday, December 24:

5:00 PM Vigil

9:30 PM Carols

10:00 PM Mass

Sunday, December 25:

8:00 AM Mass

10:30 AM Mass

For New Year's weekend, there will be Mass Saturday at 5:00 PM and Mass Sunday at 8:00 and 10:30 AM. Please note that there will be no confessions on Saturday, December 24, or Saturday, December 31.

Make plans to ring in the New Year with us at St. Bart's at a New Year's Eve party. More information will be forthcoming.

Thanks to John Rosella of Gross Funeral Home for supplying the pocket calendar cards that feature St. Bartholomew Parish. These cards are available in the vestibule.

Have a joyful week!

Masses Sent to Seminary

The following mass intentions were sent to the Seminary to be said during the month of December 2005:

Audrey Ruele (Gil & Ann Ruffing)

Sylvia Scherger (Bea Cooney)

Mary Ann Werner (Family)

Teresa Pizzonia Hawkins (Family & Friends)

Michael Moore (Ann Ruffing)

Elmer Herold (Family)

Harry Nieser (Robert Nieser)

Sr. Rosemary McLain, RSM (Kay Vento)

M. Joseph Klocko (Tom Klocko)

Oliver Christie (Maurice Baldy)

Paddy O'Flaherty (Stan & Kate Podkul)

Louise Rick (Christine Cassella)

Mathilda Corpora (Jacob Family)

Warren Kietter (The Ennis Family)

Angelo Zallo (Family)

Henry Sciuolo (The Pfauth Family)

Michael D. Scarpino (Barb & Joe Vento)

Alfred Rochez (Til & Al DiTommaso)

Paul E. Stock (Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence P. Vogel)

Landy Troiano (Ladies of Charity)

School News with Mrs. Fleet

We will continue to prepare for the birth of our Savior by conducting another Advent wreath service on Monday morning at 9:00 AM.

Market Day orders will be available for pick-up on Tuesday, December 13, from 5:15 to 6:00 PM in the gym.

Students from grades three through eight will participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday, December 14, at 1:00 PM in Church. Thank you to Fr. Dave and our other visiting priests for providing this opportunity for our school family.

Sarris candy pick-up is set for Wednesday, December 14, from 2:00 to 3:15 PM at school.

All progress reports are due back to teachers on December 14, 2005.

Please join us for Mass on Friday, December 16, at 10:00 AM. Mrs. Pricer and our eighth grade will help to plan our liturgy.

Thanks for saving Campbell product labels, Shop N Save receipts, and Box Tops for Education for us. We appreciate your helping hands.

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.

Respect Life Meditation

(Excerpts from the Leaflet Missal Co. "Litany for Life" - 1989) "Deliver us from evil." (Mt 6:13)
 "From the evil of contraception... From the evil of abortion... From the evil euthanasia... From the evil of child abuse.... From all war... From poverty and destitution... From selfishness and hatred... Lord, deliver us."

We pray that all sins that diminish the dignity of human life will be forgiven through a sincere and humble confession to a priest.

Religious Education News

Christmas Giving: In the Christian spirit of giving to those in need, we are continuing to seek donations for the folks at Lifeline for the Christmas Season. This is an organization that works to help families that are struggling with the material needs for their children. Items most needed are: baby bottles, formula, crib sheets, infant towels, socks, shampoo, sleepers, baby wipes and onesies. Please bring all items to the CCD office no later than December the 18. Many thanks in advance.

Christmas Celebration: This year we will be celebrating the season with the CCD students on December 18 during the class sessions with a viewing of the video "Jesus B.C." The film is a unique way of telling the story of the arrival of the Baby Jesus. More details will be available in the parent newsletter. Please come and join us!!!

CCD Christmas Break: The final class for this "year" will be December 18, classes will resume on Sunday January 8. Please make a note of it.

RCIA: Jennifer and Scott continue on their journey of conversion. They now move to the phase of the Catechumenate for more in depth instruction of our Faith. They were both very moved by all of the good wishes expressed to them after the Rite of Acceptance. As a faith community, we continue the journey with them as a renewal of our own faith. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

A Note of Appreciation

Thank you to Father Dave, the parish staff, and all the parishioners for your prayers and concern during our recent experience. While we never reached our destination, Florida, we were blessed with the loving care of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine and all the hospital staff for their care and kindness to us. How reassuring it was to know that while we were so far away, our family at St. Bart's were praying for a successful recovery and safe return home. We certainly felt your prayers and will be forever grateful to you. May God bless and reward each and everyone. God certainly loves us for making us a part of such a wonderful family. May you have a very blessed and Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year. - The Three Sister Travelers

Congratulations St. Bart's Honor Students

Congratulations to the following students for their achievements at St. Bartholomew School for the first grading period:

Honorable mention—Jessica Adams, Sarah Brickett, Taylor Ford, Alexis Modero, Ben Pun-turi, Brendan Rick, Trevor Smith, Maria Tassari.

Honors—Mario Buczkowski, Emily Burkhart, Josh Casey, Christopher Craver, Robert DiGioia, Jason Dillon, Claire Giblin, Reed McLaughlin, Carly Pina, Alexis Restori.

High Honor—Lea Brown, Sarah Butterfield, Rob-bie Cain, Anthony Myers.

Perfect Attendance—Jarred Brevard, Alex Brew-
ton, Lea Brown, Dana Brunot, Jordan Burgess,
Emily Burkhart, Morgan Bush, Sarah Butterfield,
Josh Casey, Matthew Casey, Christopher Craver,
Lauren Czerwien, Jonathan Dawson, Kathleen
Dawson, Nicholas DeSarno, Hope DiGioia, Ryan
Dillon, Juliana Fratangelo, Zane Gates, Andrew
Geisler, Claire Giblin, Aurora Goring, Alex Lin,
Steven Lin, Maya Logan, Joseph Macioce, Gil
Maher, Elizabeth Mahoney, Matthew Mahoney,
Reed McLaughlin, Anthony Myers, Loren Minor,
Vincent Morgano, Julianna Nichols, Marissa
Paredes, Carly Pina, Nanette Pina, Noelle Pina,
Richard Pirolo, Alexandra Pofi, Sarah Poremba,
Julie Richards, Will Rogo, Jeffrey Socash, Holden
Sommers, Ryan Sommers, Jude Suvak, Renee
Tillman, Stephanie Vigliotti, Caleb White.

Night Divine

The St. Bernadette Parish Festival Chorus, under the direction of Christopher McCloskey, presents a Christmas cantata Night Divine, "A Few of our Favorite Things," this Sunday, December 11, 2005, at 3:00 PM, at St. Bernadette Parish, at 245 Azalea Drive, in Monroeville.



Mass Intentions



- MON., December 12 - Our Lady of Guadelupe**
10:00 A.M. Deceased King & Brutscher Family (M/M Ed King)
- TUES., December 13 - St. Lucy**
10:00 A.M. John Gilmartin (Family)
- WED., December 14 - St. John of the Cross**
7:00 P.M. Holy Hour
- THURS., December 15 - Advent Weekday**
10:00 A.M. Norma DePaul (Husband)
- FRI., December 16 - Advent Weekday**
10:00 A.M. David R. Smith, Sr. (Son, Dave & Family)
- SAT., December 17 - Late Advent Weekday**
10:00 A.M. M/M Gaylord Hegedus (Jean Hoburg)
5:00 P.M. Albert Wheeler (Wife & Daughter)
- SUN., December 18 - 4th Sunday of Advent**
8:00 A.M. George J. Walters (Wife & Children)
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.

Last weekend we welcomed in baptism:

Travis Allen Korotko, Jr.

Giving Tree

Gift donations for the Giving Tree are due to the rectory this weekend. Thank you for your generosity!

Christmas Decorating

Mark your calendar now for Thursday, December 22, 2005, after the 10:00 AM Mass and also at 6:00 PM. We will be decorating the Church for Christmas that day. All are welcome!



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