

Fr. Dave's Den: In today's Gospel, Jesus turns to the power of imagery as He speaks to His disciples about the Christian life. He says, "You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world." Salt flavors, purifies, and preserves. Light scatters darkness and provides a sense of peace and security. The images of salt and light describe the essence of discipleship. To be a disciple is to be like salt and light. Imagine a meal without salt or a night without light. When we embrace these images we not only demonstrate that we are disciples, but we also bring something special to the world. May God give us the grace to be salt and light for the whole world.

Today is World Day for Consecrated Life. This year's theme is "Your Light Must Shine." We thank almighty God for the gift of our dear Sisters who shine the light of faith throughout our parish.

We praise God not only for the unique gifts of our Sisters - Dorothy, Mary Ann, Geraldine, Mary Ann, Mary Joseph, Rosita, and Sylvia - but also for the charism of their respective communities. Our parish is enriched because of the Holy Family of Nazareth community, the Divine Redeemer Sisters, and the Sisters of St. Francis of Millvale. I will be hosting a luncheon for the Sisters later this week at the rectory.

Today is also Parish Share Sunday. On this day we are reminded of our need to assist our Bishop with the works of the diocese. Our Parish Share Pledge enables the diocese to be a resource to us and the six county region of our diocese.

Our Parish Share goal for this year is \$88,868.00. To reach that goal every family is asked to make a contribution of \$350.00. You can make this a one-time donation or pay it over the course of the year. By now everyone should have received a letter from me in the mail with a pledge card. I ask you to be as generous as your circumstances permit. And thank you to our morning Mass group who stuffed the envelopes for this mailing.

This Wednesday, February 9, we begin the Holy Season of Lent. In addition to the 10:00 AM Mass there will also be a 7:00 PM Mass and a Word Service at 4:30 PM. Ashes will be distributed at each of these times. Please note that the imposition of the ashes is not a blessing, but a concrete "mark of repentance." To receive ashes is also to embrace the description of Lent and its penitential practices. Because children below the age of reason are not candidates for the various penitential practices, they are not typically to receive ashes.

Do not forget the Fish Fry which will take place every Friday in Lent except Good Friday. There will also be a Fish Fry on Ash Wednesday. For more information, please call the school at 412-242-2511.

Once again we are making available to you for your spiritual enrichment copies of *The Word Among Us* meditation booklet. Please be sure to take one of these booklets home with you. They are FREE.

Stations of the Cross will take place every Friday at 2:00 PM. Stations on Friday evening will alternate between St. Bart's and St. Joe's every other week. For the complete schedule, please see the insert in today's bulletin.

During the Lenten season we will be singing a new song, *Turn My Heart, O God*, by Marty Haugen, every Sunday. May the Lord turn our hearts during this Lenten season.

Monday is the last day to make your reservation for the Valentine's Dinner Dance which will take place on Saturday, February 12, following the 5:00 PM Mass. The evening includes a sit down dinner (New York Strip steak or Orange Roughy), dancing, and door prizes. The cost is \$40.00 per couple.

Finally, this Saturday, February 5, marks my 43rd birthday. I am so grateful to God for my parents, family, and friends. And I am most grateful to you, the wonderful people of St. Bart's. Everyday it is both a joy and an honor to celebrate life with you.

Have a grace-filled week!

Lenten Day of Recollection

A Day of Recollection, open to all parishioners, is to be held Saturday, March 5, 2005, at Mt. Nazareth Center (Provincialate of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth) located at 285 Bellevue Road, in the Bellevue area of Pittsburgh. We will have a bus leaving St. Bart's at 10:30 AM for Mt. Nazareth Center. Speakers include Sr. Dorothy, our Social Minister, Bess Biamonte, Social Minister at Good Shepherd in Braddock, and Michelle Harrison, teacher at Mt. Nazareth Center. The day will conclude with liturgy celebrated at 4:00 PM with Fr. Dave. The cost for the day is \$15.00. For further information or to sign up, please contact Sr. Dorothy at 412-242-7357.

School News with Mrs. Fleet

There will be a PTG meeting on Tuesday evening, February 8, at 6:30 PM in the school library. Market Day orders are also due on Tuesday, February 8.

Please join us for Mass on Ash Wednesday, February 9, at 10:00 AM. Mrs. Duell and our sixth graders will help to plan our liturgy.

Why not plan on some delicious fish dinners and/or sandwiches this week? You will actually be able to double your pleasure by attending our PTG Fish Fry on Wednesday and again on Friday. Everyone is invited to the school cafeteria to enjoy the yummy food that is being prepared for you.

Our SBAA will meet on Thursday, February 10, at 6:30 PM in the school library.

Our students invite you to attend Stations of the Cross with them on Friday, February 11, at 2:00 PM. Yearbook ads are due on February 11 as well.

Please continue to save Box Tops, Shop 'n Save receipts, Campbell's labels, and copy paper for us. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

BINGO

Beat cabin fever with Bingo! St. Bart's Bingo is held this and every Monday at 7:00 PM in Helzlsouer Hall.

LENTEN PRESENTATION

North American Martyrs Parish offers a Lenten presentation by Fr. Mark Gruber, OSB, anthropologist, author, and lecturer from St. Vincent's Monastery. Fr. Gruber will be speaking on the topic of Christ and the Eucharist on Thursday evening, February 10, at 7:30 PM in DeLuca Hall. For further information, please contact Katie Horvath at 412-373-1656.

St. Bart's New Woman's Group

Thank you to all "32" women of St. Bartholomew's who were able to join us for a successful evening of brainstorming of ideas for our new Woman's Group. It was an evening filled with much energy and excitement for our future endeavors. Stay tuned for further updates as we collate everyone's ideas.

Religious Education News with Arlene Golden

Jesus said, "You are called the light of the world." We are called to be the light of the world for Jesus and bring peace to others.

Religious Education Classes: Children in grades K-8 meet Sunday mornings, 9:00 to 10:15 AM, in the school. Parents/guardians are reminded to call the catechetical office if their son or daughter will be absent.

Class Cancellations: In the event of inclement weather or other emergencies, parents/guardians are reminded to tune to KDKA, WPXI-TV, or WTAE-TV for cancellation information.

First Reconciliation: Parents/Guardians of children receiving their first reconciliation this year are reminded to complete their workbooks and return them to the catechetical office. First Reconciliation is Monday, February 28, at 7:00 PM in the Church.

Confirmation: Candidates will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on April 21, 2005. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Wuerl at St. Susanna Parish. A retreat is being planned for Friday, March 4, at St. Susanna's.

Life Teen - Leading Teens Closer to Christ

Since it is Super Bowl weekend, Life Teen will be collecting for the Jubilee Soup Kitchen after all Masses. Thanks in advance for your generosity. Any teens that missed Life Teen this weekend can join us February 19. All high school teens are welcome. Start with Mass at 5:00 PM and stay for the Life Night!

Congratulations St. Bart's Honors Students!

High Honors: Jacqueline Bissonette - 8, Christopher Craver -7, and Amanda Hart - 8. **Honors:** Anthony Brewton -8, Robbie Cain -7, Amanda MacDonald -8, Robert Sadler -8, and Nicole Williams -8. **Honorable Mention:** Samantha Boggess - 8, Morgan Bush - 7, Taylor Ford - 7, Claire Giblin - 7, Alexis Modero - 7, Brittany Restori - 8, Lauren Richards -8, Philip Salerno -8, and Maria Tassari -7.

Stations of the Cross

A further reminder that this Lent, we will be sharing evening Stations with St. Joseph Parish every other week. It will be announced in the Mass Intentions portion of the bulletin where Stations will be held each week. You may contact St. Joseph Parish for directions at 412-795-5114.

God's Summons

If we are not able to witness concretely to the love of Christ in our lives, then we are truly salt that has gone tasteless. Our flavor and impact are lost. How difficult it is to get them back again. In the late 1940s the Christophers movement began in the United States. The Christophers' motto, "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness," attracted many through the Christophers' effective use of the media, advertising, and the encouragement of its members to proclaim Christ in the workplace. Jesus calls us to be that candle and to set ourselves in the most visible place. Jesus, who brought eternal light to the world, tells us that we, too, are the light of the world. Through our words and actions we must let our light shine in the sight of all so that in seeing our good works, everyone may give praise to God.

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Treasures from our Tradition

You need more than water for a bath. Most family bathrooms contain an arsenal of soaps and emollients, lotions, shampoos, and conditioners to combat grime and honor the body. A bath without oil is still unthinkable. No wonder early Christians used lavish amounts of oil to "paint" the skin of people drawn dripping wet from the baptismal font on Easter. There were two oils used in baptism long ago. "Oil of exorcism" protected candidates from "evil spirits"; it strengthened their resolve and purified their purposes. The second oil, slathered over them after baptism's bath, "sealed" them, making them like Christ, the anointed one, the priest, the prophet, the king. Chrism has always had a powerful odor; rich resinous perfumes are stirred in before it is consecrated. As the newly baptized were embraced by new brothers and sisters in Christ, the scent permeated the hall of Eucharist, a sign of our connection to Christ and to one another.

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Mass Intentions



MON., February 7 - Weekday

10:00 A.M. Holy Face of Jesus (Anonymous)

TUES., February 8 - Weekday

10:00 A.M. NO MASS

WED., February 9 - Ash Wednesday

10:00 A.M. Frank Talotta (Wife Lena & Son)

4:30 P.M. Word Service

7:00 P.M. Joseph J. Capobianco (Angela, Rocky, & Joey)

THURS., February 10 - St. Scholastica

10:00 A.M. Mary J. Senderak (Sr. Geraldine)

FRI., February 11 - Our Lady of Lourdes

10:00 A.M. Alex Ciocca II (Family)

2:00 P.M. Stations of the Cross

7:00 P.M. Stations of the Cross (St. Bart's)

SAT., February 12 - Lenten Weekday

10:00 A.M. Kathy Spratt (Jean Hoburg)

11:00 A.M. Confessions

5:00 P.M. All Married Families

SUN., February 13 - 1st Sunday of Lent

8:00 A.M. Joseph W. Regan (Family)

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:

Robert Bosch and Charles Camic

Bereavement Support Group Training

Catholic Charities will be conducting a training seminar for those who would be interested in conducting a Bereavement Support Group. This training will take place at St. Bartholomew on February 17, at 6:00 PM in the Pastors Conference Room. For additional information or to register for this training, please contact Sister Dorothy at 412-242-7357.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Gn 1:1-19; Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday: Gn 1:20 — 2:4a; Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2;

Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32