

***Today we celebrate the
31st Sunday in Ordinary Time.***

Our readings this week speak of our need to welcome the "outcast" into our lives. As Christians we often find ourselves struggling to live according to the call we each received at our Baptism. Also, as Christians, we are a universal people that should always strive to open our minds and our hearts to focus on the unity of all people. Remember, we welcome outcasts into our lives when we stop seeing them as such.

Memorial Mass. . . . On Monday, November 5th we will celebrate our annual Memorial Mass at 7 PM here in the Church. This mass is held to commemorate and pray for all those who have been buried through our parish this past year. I invite you to join with us in praying for our deceased and their loved ones.

Holy Hour . . . This Wednesday at 7 PM we will once again have holy hour in our Church. Joining us this week will be one of our seminarians, Michael Sedor, from St. Paul Seminary. Michael will offer a scripture reading and reflection for us. Please try to come and pray with us and offer our support to Michael and our other seminarians.



Welcome Bess Biamonte. . . . After consultation and approval of the Finance Council, I began a search for a part-time Social Service Minister. I wanted to let you know that we have hired Bess Biamonte to help with some of the "things" that came under my jurisdiction as social minister and pastoral associate. Bess comes to us with much

experience in the social ministry field, as well as knowledge of St. Bart's Parish. She and her husband Bart sent their two children to St. Bart's School—a few years ago. Bess will be working 10-15 hours per week. I look forward to you getting to know Bess and to working with her. You can reach her at 412-242-7357.

Hand Bells. . . . A few weeks ago two cases of hand bells were taken from the church. At the time it was discovered, the Penn Hills Police Department made a report, but to this day we have not heard anything. These bells were insured and we have received the money, minus \$1,000.00 to cover our deductible. If anyone would like to donate anything to help defray the cost of replacing the bells that were taken, please do so by either dropping your donation off at the rectory or putting it in the collection basket. I just ask that you mark your donation appropriately so that it is recorded accordingly. Thank you.

Woodworker and/or refinisher needed. . . . If you or anyone you know is talented in this art and are willing to offer your talent to the needs of our parish, please call and let me know. I have a couple of small projects that need some attention.

We may have a ghost . . . By this time you have probably received our Lucky 12 Sweepstakes tickets. Somehow, and I am not really sure how, some of the envelopes have been arriving with last year's letter and flyer attached. This letter is dated 2006 and signed by Fr. Dave Bonnar. If you mistakenly received this letter with your tickets, please call the office and we will get a copy of this year's letter off to you. Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Have a blessed week.

-- Sister Dorothy



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MASS

Please join Mrs. Deet and the fourth grade class for mass on Thursday November 8 at 10:00 AM.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

This evening November 4, an informative meeting will be held regarding First Reconciliation. Parents and/or guardians are asked to attend this meeting. The meeting will be held in the church beginning at 7:00 PM.

PTG MEETING

The PTG will hold their monthly meeting on Monday, November 5 at 6:30 PM in the school library. All parents are encouraged to attend.

**SHANKSVILLE
FIELD TRIP**

The 7th and 8th graders and their chaperones will be taking a field trip on Monday, November 5 to Shanksville PA. Please keep them in your prayers.

ELECTION DAY

There will be no school on Tuesday, November 6.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

There will be no school on Wednesday, November 7 for 4th through 8th grade for parent conferences. Preschool through 3rd grade will not have classes on Thursday, November 8th.



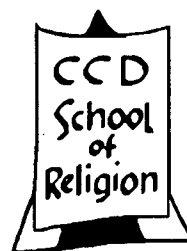
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SANTA SHOP

The students will have an opportunity to shop on Wednesday and Thursday during school hours 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Santa shop will also be open during evening parent/teacher conferences 4:30 PM until 7:00 PM. Santa's helpers have been working very hard to get his shop ready!

SBAA

The SBAA will have their monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 6 at 6:30 PM in the Parish Conference Room. Please join the SBAA as they discuss many important topics.



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CONFIRMATION

An important meeting for parents, guardians and sponsors of those who plan to be confirmed in 2008 will be held **Sunday November 11th at 7 PM in the church.** At least one parent/guardian of the child to be confirmed is required to attend.

**Turn Clocks
Back**



Sunday
November
4th

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WOMEN'S GROUP LADY PALOOZA

Do you work in a business that hosts home parties? If so, we are looking for you! The St. Bartholomew Women's Group is hosting Lady Palooza, a fun evening of shopping on Tuesday, November 27 from 6-9 PM. If you are a party consultant and would be interested in a table for the evening, please contact MiMi Shento at 412-897-7346. Consultants will be accepted on a first come/first serve basis.

BLOOD DRIVE

We would like to thank everyone who donated blood last Sunday. Our campaign was a success. We were able to donate 30 total blood products to the blood bank. Four lucky participants won a \$25.00 scrip card for the merchant of their choice. Thanks to all of the volunteers that made it such a success!! A special thanks goes out to Marcia Irr for organizing the event.



ADVENT RETREAT

If you are interested in finding out more about this day of retreat, please call Regina Premozic at 412-795-0507. It will be held at St. Emma's Retreat House in Greensburg on Saturday December 1st. The speaker is Fr. Angelus Shaugnessy, OFM, Cap. Price for the day is \$25, including lunch. We can carpool from St. Bart's. What a great way to get ready for the Christmas Season.

MASSSES for the WEEK

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MON., NOV. 5 WEEKDAY

10:00 A.M., DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE
LEGION OF MARY (LEGION OF
MARY)

TUES., NOV. 6 WEEKDAY

8:00 A.M., ST. IRENAEUS
9:00 A.M., ST. JOSEPH

WED., NOV. 7 WEEKDAY

8:00 A.M., ST. IRENAEUS
9:00 A.M., ST. GERARD, ST. SUSANNA
7:00 P.M., HOLY HOUR (MICHAEL SEDOR,
SEMENARIAN TO OFFER REFLECTION)

THURS., NOV. 8 WEEKDAY

10:00 A.M., JIM RIHN (WIFE, CARMELA)

FRI., NOV., 9 DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

10:00 A.M., THOMAS DOUGHERTY
(WIFE, MARGAET)

SAT., NOV., 10 VIGIL, 32ND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

5:00 P.M., GEORGE NICHOLS (FAMILY)

SUN. NOV., 11 32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 A.M., PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
10:30 A.M., ELIZABETH SPARR

Please remember in your prayers the sick, shut-ins,
and hospitalized members of the Parish.
Please remember in your prayers the departed
members of our parish family, especially
JOSEPH CICCONE

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Growing in

FAITH

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

November 2007

St. Bartholomew Parish

Sr. Dorothy Pawlus, CSFN, Parish Life Collaborator

One Minute Meditations

A roomful of friends

Learning about the saints is a like walking into a large room full of strangers. You scan the faces looking for a friendly one who beckons you over. Find ways to scan the sea of faces looking for the ones with whom you would like to become friends.

Don't miss a good meal

After living and dying for love of us, Jesus invented a way to remain with us in the Holy Eucharist. In this wonderful Sacrament, he makes himself the food of our souls. That's a meal you don't want to miss.

The living God

"This God shows himself to us; he looks out from eternity into time and puts himself into relationship with us ... He has "defined" himself and stands now before us as our Lord, over us and in our midst."

Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI), *God is Near Us*.



Stewardship is about love, not money

For many of us, we think "stewardship" means "fundraising." In fact, real stewardship is about love. When we practice good stewardship, we become more fulfilled, have a greater sense of purpose, and live happier lives and build a better world.

And while it's not just about money, good stewards have all the money they need.

Sharing love. All families come together in love to care for each other, enjoy each other, and help each other. Healthy families put the needs of the family first before spending time or money on anything else.

In God's family, we also come

together in his love to care for each other. As stewards, we find ways to use our time and gifts to meet the needs of God's family first.

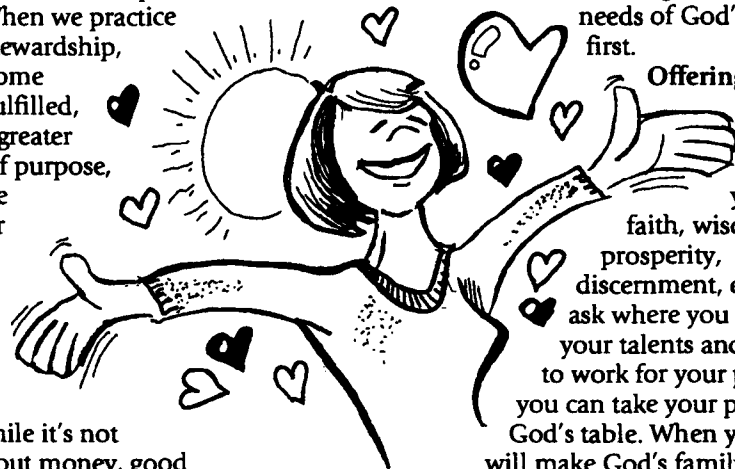
Offering love.

Take stock of the gifts you have:

faith, wisdom, prosperity, discernment, etc. Then ask where you can put your talents and resources to work for your parish so you can take your place at God's table. When you do, you will make God's family stronger and healthier.

Showing gratitude for God's love.

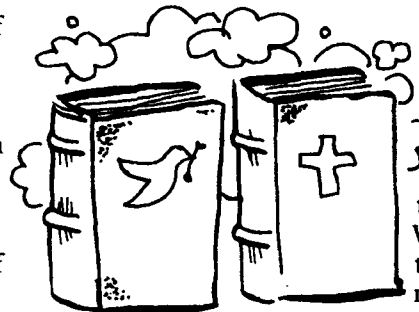
Practicing good stewardship means understanding that God has generously given us gifts which we, in turn, use for his purpose. Everything we have and everything we are comes from God. He deserves the best we have to give.



Why do Catholics do that?

Why do Catholics read the Bible?

The Bible is a set of books written under God's inspiration. The Old Testament traces God's relationship with the Jews and the New Testament recounts the life and teachings of Jesus and the growth of the early Church.



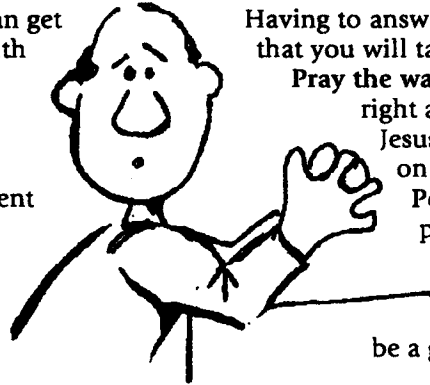
Since God is the author of the Bible, we know it is true. We also know that the Bible contains all that God wants us to know about him. What better way to get to know God than to read his book?

Pray constantly, but when?

There's no question that daily life can get hectic. The more quiet time you have with God, the better, but quality is more important than quantity. Try these tips:

Write it on the calendar. Have a reminder come up on your PDA or computer, or write it on your appointment calendar, "Appointment with God."

Find a prayer partner. Is there someone at work or in your neighborhood with whom you can spend time each day in prayer?



Having to answer to a partner will make it more likely that you will take the time.

Pray the wait. Waiting for an elevator is just the right amount of time for a "Glory Be," or the Jesus prayer ("Jesus, son of God, have mercy on me a sinner").

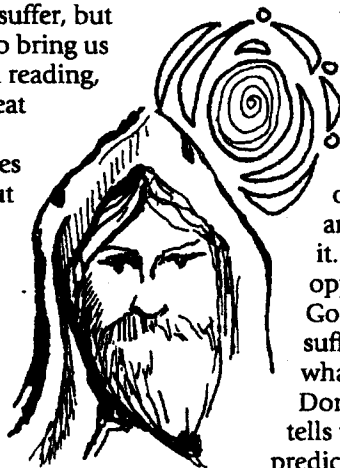
Pocket your prayer. String ten beads, ten paper clips or ten of anything that will fit into your pocket. Pull it out when you have a moment and say ten quick prayers. The weight in your pocket will be a good reminder, too.

from Scripture

Luke 21:5-19, "good" suffering

God doesn't want us to suffer, but he often uses our suffering to bring us closer to him. In this Gospel reading, Jesus warned of a time of great suffering and predicted opportunities for the disciples to tell their persecutors about Jesus and his love. He promised to be with them and inspire them in what to say.

As he predicted, Jerusalem fell after months of siege by the Roman armies during which its inhabitants suffered terribly. Many disciples were tried and executed, but many people were converted by their



testimony.

Suffering comes from living in a world made imperfect by sin. Jesus points out that he doesn't want our needless suffering and will help us through it. If we look for opportunities to glorify God in the midst of our suffering, he will tell us what to say and when.

Don't forget: God always tells the truth. As Jesus' predictions of difficult times have come true, so will his promises of happiness in the next life if we stay true to him.

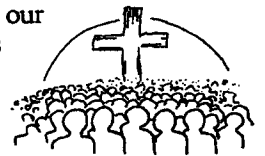
Q What does it mean to & "live my faith?"

Living our faith each day can help shape a better society and a more peaceful world. For reference, turn to the Gospels, the Ten Commandments, and other tools like the Catholic principles of social justice. Then try these ideas for a start:

Begin at home: How we treat our spouse, children, siblings and parents illustrates reflects our faith. This means treating them with respect, putting their needs before our own, and forgiving them easily.

Take it to work: Christians often have to choose between competing values in the workplace. Remember that we are called not just to avoid evil but to do right. Don't let your desire to do well in your job keep you from advocating for justice.

Americans enjoy one of the most affluent lifestyles in the world. Remember, "Everyone to whom much is given, of him will much be required" (Luke 12:48). Catholics are called to take care of the poor, help the vulnerable, welcome the stranger, treat all with dignity. That's how we live our faith.



Feasts & Celebrations

Nov. 1 - All Saints Day. In the early Church, each saint and martyr had a feast day. Later persecution of Christians created so many martyrs that there weren't enough days for individual commemorations. Eventually Pope Gregory IV designated Nov. 1 as All Saints Day.

Nov. 2 - All Souls Day. We remember all the dead on this day, especially our loved ones and souls in Purgatory. Our prayers and sacrifices can help them get to 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 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.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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