

St. Bartholomew Parish

*111 Erhardt Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15235*

*Sister Dorothy M. Pawlus, Csn
Parish Life Collaborator*

*Very Rev. Albin C. McGinnis
Priest Director*

*Rev. John R. Rushofsky
Sacramental Minister*

*September 9, 2007
23RD Sunday in Ordinary Time*

PASTORAL STAFF

Sister Dorothy M Pawlus, Csn
Parish Life Collaborator
412-242-3374
srdorothy@stbartsparish.com

Rev. John R. Rushofsky
Sacramental Minister
412-242-3374

PARISH DIRECTORY

Office: 412-242-3374
Fax: 412-242-1488
Website: www.stbartsparish.com
E-Mail: office@stbartsparish.com

PARISH PERSONNEL

Melissa Busbey, ext. 10
Office Manager/Bookkeeper
melissa@stbartsparish.com

Ginny Beck, ext. 12
Part-time secretary
ginny@stbartsparish.com

Donna Lamanna, ext 12
Parish Site Administrator
donnal@stbartsparish.com

Mary Ellen Lang, ext. 15
Music Director

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Office: 412-242-2511
Fax: 412-242-8317
E-Mail: school@stbartsparish.com
Cafeteria: 412-731-1386

SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Linda Pricer, Principal, Ext. 3
Marianna Janaszek, Tuition & Bookkeeping, Ext. 2
Peggy Monfredi, Secretary, Ext. 0
Extended Day, Ext. 5

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PERSONNEL

412-242-7207

Denise Verosky, Program Director
denise@stbartsparish.com
Colleen Ford, Assistant Program Director
Life Teen Coordinator
colleen@stbartsparish.com

WEEKDAY CLUSTER MASS SCHEDULE

St. Gerard Majella
121 Dawn Drive, Verona
Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday – 9 am

St. Irenaeus
387 Maryland Avenue, Oakmont
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday – 8 am

St. Joseph
825 Second Avenue, Verona
Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday – 9 am

St. Susanna
200 Stotler Road, Penn Hills
Monday, Wednesday, & Friday – 9 am

Today we celebrate the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

"Whoever does not carry their own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple"



What does your cross look like? Has your cross changed over the years or are you still carrying the same cross you began carrying when you first decided to be a follower of Jesus? Have you ever laid down your own cross to help someone else carry theirs?

These questions came to mind as I reflected on our Gospel from St. Luke today. I do not believe that God is asking us to "hate" our father, mother, brothers, and sisters. No, I believe that God is asking us to put God first in our lives and in doing so, the act of letting go often occurs.

What might it mean for each of us personally to put God first in our lives? Could it be that we are being called to give up something that we love and put ourselves at the service of the needy, of our church, our community? I invite you to take some time this week and to search your heart, seeking what God may be asking at this time. I pray that each of us has the courage to respond to God's nudging in our lives.

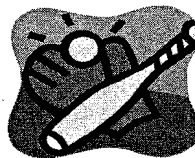
WELCOME FR. JOHN RUSHOFSKY

It gives me great please to welcome Fr. John Rushofsky to St. Bartholomew Parish as our Sacramental Minister. We appreciate his willingness to serve our parish in this capacity and we look forward to Fr. John's enthusiasm to share himself and his gifts with us. WELCOME!!!

FESTIVAL APPRECIATION DINNER

Everyone who helped with the festival; before, during and/or after are welcome to join us for our appreciation dinner on September 22, 2007 after the 5 pm mass in Helzlsruer Hall. We only ask that you let us know that you will be there by calling the rectory. Thank you and hope to see you there.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW SOFT BALL TEAM



Congratulations to our men's softball team who took 2nd place this year. Way to go men!

RCIA

Plans continue to be underway for this year's RCIA program. This program is held as part of our Cluster Parishes. If you or anyone you know is interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, please call me at the rectory.

MASS WITH PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS FOR HEALING

A mass with the single intention of healing will be held September 9th at 3 pm at St. Gerard Majella Parish. This mass will be celebrated by Fr. Bill Kiel who is Pastor of St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church in Indiana, PA. Everyone is invited to join in prayer for yourself, family members and friends who seek God's Healing.

Have a blessed week.
- - - Sister Dorothy

**CURRICULUM /OPEN HOUSE**

On Thursday, September 13th , St. Bartholomew School will host a Curriculum Night and Open House for all school parents and guardians from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM in the school. Come and meet the teachers and see what we have planned for the new school year.

OFFICER PHIL SAFETY PROGRAM

On Friday, September 14, the kindergarten-through grade three classes will attend the Officer Phil Safety Program in the gym at 9:00 AM. Parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

MASS

Please join us for the 10:00 AM mass on Thursday, September 13. Mrs. Egan and the sixth grade class have prepared this special celebration. All are invited to attend and celebrate this mass with our school children.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children's Liturgy of the Word will begin for the new school year this weekend at the 10:30 Mass. And every first Saturday of the month starting on October 6th. We are always in need of volunteers to help with this ministry. Interested? Please call the Religious Education Office at (412)-242-7207 or Robbie Lester at (412)-731-5295



Do you know someone who is divorced, separated or widowed? A Beginning Experience weekend September 28th-30th, 2007 at St. Joseph's Spirituality Center in Baden offers an opportunity for healing one's loss in a caring atmosphere. Registration deadline is September 22nd, 2007. The Beginning Experience is supported by the Office for Family Life and Catechesis of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. For information , make a confidential call to Bernadette Warner @ 412-257-0134



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WOMEN'S GROUP GENERAL MEETING

Is September 25th in the school cafeteria. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Dr. Laura Locassio. Dr. Locassio is a chiropractor with a practice in Murrysville. Her topics of discussion will be headaches, muscle aches and lower back pain. Dr. Locassio will be offering mini-chair massages as well as answering your questions.

COOKBOOKS are still available for purchase, they are a nice idea for a holiday grab bag!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP is underway, Bring along a friend and you both will get a chance to win a beautiful door prize when you renew your membership and your friend becomes a new member. If your last name begins with a M through Z please bring a dessert to share. If you have any questions, please call Denise at 412-251-1651.

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

Psalm 90:1

LADIES OF CHAIRTY

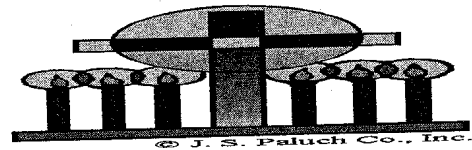


The Ladies of Charity will be holding their meeting on September 18th at 6:30 PM. They will be meeting on the rectory porch for a barbeque and meeting .

St. Bartholomew Women's Group
Card Party & Luncheon
Saturday, October 6, 2007
Noon--4 PM
School Cafeteria

SEPTEMBER MASSES SENT TO THE SEMINARY

Mildred Verosky (Carmela Rihn)
Edward Anick (8:00 AM Ushers)
Puszko Family (Family)
Anthony Antonucci (Paul Antonucci)
Theresa Pizzonia-Hawkins (Family)
Joseph Robl (Vince, Cathy, Vincent & Christopher Bauma)
Frances Boscia (Bob & Phil Ann Karl)
Earl Schomburger (St. Bart's Women's Group)
Mary Beth Klocko (Tom Klocko)
Ruth Plunkett (Charles & Eileen McCartney)
Edward King (Bob, Chris & Bryan Reel)
Helen Yanko (George & Anna Yanko & Family)
Donato DiNardo (Nino & Ida Sciulli)
Stella Orgero (Tony & Marie Ciccotelli)
Albert Rosso (Rosso Family)



MON., SEPT. 10 WEEKDAY
9:00 A.M. BRADY-HAGERTY FAMILY
(CLAIRE BRADY)

TUES., WED., SEPT. 11 & SEPT. 12
8:00 A.M., ST. IRENAEUS
9:00 A.M., ST. GERARD'S, ST. JOSEPH

WED., SEPT. 12 HOLY NAME OF MARY
7:00 A.M. HOLY HOUR

THURS., SEPT. 13 WEEKDAY
10:00 A.M. VICTOR LUDOVICI

FRI., SEPT. 14 WEEKDAY
10:00 A.M. JERRY REYNOSO (EMMETT ORR)

SAT., SEPTEMBER 15 WEEKDAY
4:00 P.M. NO CONFESSIONS
5:00 P.M. DECEASED MEMBERS OF JOHN &
ELIZABETH OLSAKOVSKY FAMILY
(MR. & MRS. OLSALOVSKY)

**SUN., SEPTEMBER 16 TWENTY-THIRD
SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
8:00 A.M. PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
10:30 A.M. EDITH & ANTHONY D'ANDREA
(MARGARET D'ANDREA)

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
Annette Napoletano

**WE WELCOMED INTO BAPTISM
ON SEPTEMBER 2, 2007
DAVID MICHAEL BRESUCIAK
&
CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL KUSK
CONGRATULATIONS & MAY GOD BLESS
YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES**

Growing in FAITH™

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

September 2007

St. Bartholomew Parish

Sr. Dorothy Pawlus, CSFN, Parish Life Collaborator

One Minute Meditations

Think of this

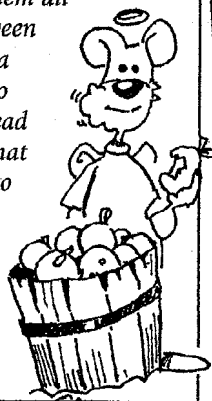
When bad things happen consider this: Jesus knows how you feel. Without cause, he was beaten, tortured, humiliated, and murdered. It doesn't get much worse than that. Asking Jesus to help you accept your sufferings will make them easier to bear.

Jesus, the family man

Though he was suffering greatly, one of Jesus' last thoughts on the cross was of his mother. He asked John to care for her after his death. He knew that family is a great gift from God. Try to give your family the very best of yourself.

From St. Therese of Lisieux

"I have not the courage to search through books for beautiful prayers ... unable either to say them all or choose between them, I do as a child would do who cannot read - I just say what I want to say to God, quite simply, and he never fails to understand."



Do you really trust God?

Do you trust God with everything in your life or only some things? Do you give him your problems but take them back when he doesn't do what you want? Yet it is only when we have complete trust in God that our lives work well.

Is God trustworthy? A trustworthy person has high moral integrity and character. We have thousands of years of history in the Bible that prove God means what he says and says what he means. He always does what he promises.

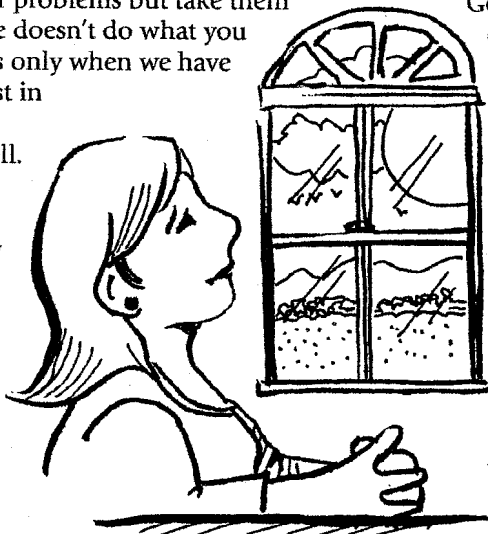
Is God capable? Certainly God took care of King David, Job, Moses and even Jesus. Does that make him

capable and interested in taking care of you?

God has power over all creation so he certainly has the ability to accomplish anything. He has infinite wisdom, so he knows what you need. More to the point, God loves you with unimaginable intensity so he always wants what is best for you. In fact, God is more qualified than you are to take care of what you need.

Are you ready to really trust God?

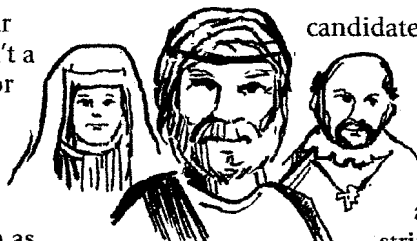
Start by thanking him no matter what. Everything that he allows to happen to us is for our good. Then remind yourself that God is fully in charge. Finally, ask him what you should do next and do it.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why does the Church canonize saints?

Prior to the year 1234, there wasn't a formal process for declaring someone a saint. This led to some figures of legend becoming known as saints. Pope Gregory IX established procedures to investigate the life of a



candidate to determine if he or she has achieved sainthood in Heaven.

The Church wants us to look to the saints as role models and advocates. Therefore, a stringent and objective process must be followed before someone can be declared a saint.

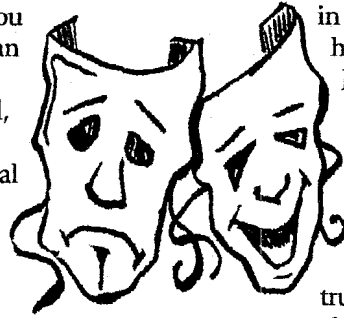
Dealing with your feelings

Feelings don't make us sin but our response to them can cause us to sin. Here are four ways you can get your feelings to work for you rather than against you.

Don't let them rule. No matter how you feel, always do what you know to be right. Doing the right thing may even change your emotional response.

Talk it over. Ask someone you trust to help you develop Christian responses to your emotions.

Pattern Jesus. When we decide to shape our



behavior in accordance with God's ways, everything in us, including our feelings, will work harmoniously. The key is to ask, "What would Jesus do?"

Commit to the truth. Often we allow our feelings to "run away" with us. When that happens, a situation can seem worse than it really is, an accidental slight intentional, and a thoughtless remark vicious. Instead of giving in to the emotion, commit to understanding the truth. What really happened? With the help of the Holy Spirit, you can discern the right response.

from Scripture

Luke 16:19-31, Our brother's keeper

This is one of the clearest and most direct parables Jesus told. It starts with Lazarus, a beggar who lay suffering, miserable and ignored outside the home of a rich man. By contrast, the rich man had a wonderful and comfortable life on earth oblivious to what was happening outside his very door. In the afterlife, however, it is the rich man who suffers torment and begs for relief.

The rich man was condemned not because he was wealthy, but

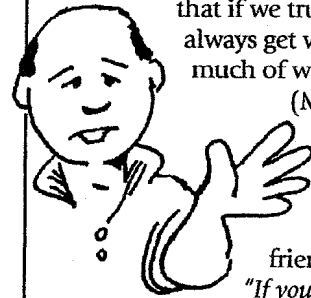


because he had become blind to the suffering of others. He knew what Scripture and the prophets said that God expected of him but he didn't do it. His suffering in the afterlife was just punishment.

The Bible makes it plain that he wants us to love each other as he does. When we live our faith, we transform our prayers into deeds of love just as Jesus asked. As he demonstrates in this parable, the reward for doing what Jesus asked will be eternal joy.

Q Why doesn't & God answer A my prayers?

When you pray really hard for something and don't get it, it probably feels like God didn't answer. In fact, the answer was "no." The Bible tells us that if we trust God, we'll always get what we need and much of what we want, too (Matthew 6:25-33).



But we have to do our part. Strengthen your friendship with God. "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you" (John 15:7). God wants our friendship all the time, not just when we want something. Daily prayer is key.

Come clean. Unconfessed sin creates static in the connection to God. The sacrament of Confession helps clear the line. In Psalm 32, David says that his life was miserable when he avoided responsibility for his sin. As soon as he confessed it, God answered his prayers.

Look for it. God's answer may not be what you were looking for but may be even better. Keep watch for the unexpected.

Feasts & Celebrations

Sept. 13 - St. John Chrysostom (407). A powerful public speaker, he was a brutal critic of clergy who abused their office and royals who turned a blind eye to the suffering of the poor. He died in exile as a result.

Sept. 27 - St. Vincent de Paul (1660). St. Vincent de Paul, was devoted to the spiritual and physical relief of the poor and sick. He founded several hospitals, and ransomed over 1,200 galley slaves from North Africa.

Sept. 21 - St. Matthew. Also known as Levi, he was a notorious tax collector. St. Matthew left everything

when Jesus called him to spread the Gospel. He wrote the Gospel According to Matthew.

Sept. 29 - St. Michael, St. Gabriel, and St. Raphael, the Archangels. Members of the third hierarchy of angels around the throne of God, archangels are entrusted with important missions to mankind such as St. Gabriel's visit to the Blessed Mother to tell her she had been chosen as the mother of God.



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