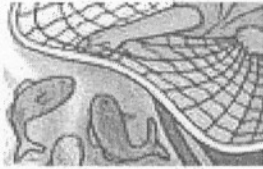


SAINT BARTHOLOMEW PARISH

THIRD SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

January 25, 2009



Today we return to Mark's Gospel. We hear Jesus' preaching message and Mark's version of the call of Simon, Andrew, James and John. What is most striking is the immediacy of their response. Not only individuals, but sometimes whole cities respond to the word of the Lord, as the Ninevites do in the story of Jonah.

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

These words from the lips of Jesus in today's Gospel signal the beginning of his public ministry. The arrest of John the Baptist, just prior to the beginning of Jesus' public ministry foreshadows Jesus' own future. In fact, the very word "arrest" is used in Matthew's account of the Passion as Jesus is arrested.

The message of Jesus to "repent" is really a call for us to change from our sinful ways. Change is never easy for us as individuals. And change is just as challenging on a collective level. Nevertheless, change is inevitable and if we do not change, we die.

In this ordinary time, we are encouraged to let God be God and we, for our part, are to be our human selves. In other words, God is to be our strength. And what a strength it is. For St. Augustine once said, "When you are our strength, it is strength indeed, but when our strength is our own it is only weakness."



Today at our 10:30 am Mass we kick off Catholic Schools Week. We welcome our students who will minister today as lector, gift bearers, bell ringers, altar servers and cantors. We thank them for their service to us.

What a great theme for this year's celebration—Celebrate Service. Our students and teachers are great examples to me of what it means to put yourself at the service of others. I am sure that you have seen in the bulletin the various activities they are involved in throughout the year through Student Council, Service Club and school wide activities. A few examples include, participating in our Angel Tree, Children's Hospital Fund Raiser, collecting clothing, etc.

For me, there is a woman involved in our school that truly embodies what it truly means to be of service and this woman is our own Mrs. Linda Pricer. In case you didn't know, Mrs. Pricer attended St. Bart's School and has taught here for 35 years. The last three years, Mrs. Pricer has not only continued in her role as teacher, but has also served as our principal. Under Mrs. Pricer's leadership and with the support of our families, teachers and staff, and our parishioners, our school has become even stronger.

Thank you Mrs. Pricer for all you do. It is an honor for me to minister with you as we continue to provide quality Catholic education to the students that come through our doors. May God Bless you and your family.

*Blessings,
Sister Dorothy*

ST. BARTHOLOMEW PARISH



Special Person Lunch

Students are inviting a special person to join them for lunch on Monday, January 26th. Students will also provide a tour of our school to their special person.

Cake Walk

Students will participate on Wednesday, January 28th in our Annual Cake Walk. Students are asked to donate a cake or cupcakes for this fun event.



Mass

Please join Mrs. Pricer and the 8th graders for mass on Thursday, January 29th at 10am. Our students put a lot of preparation in to their masses.



We will showcase our students, teachers, staff and facility on Thursday, January 29th from 1 pm-3 pm.

Please join us and see the benefits of Catholic School education. Our doors are always open to you.



Special Movie Day



All students will be treated to a movie and popcorn on Friday, January 30th.

ATLANTIC CITY

MARCH 31 THRU APRIL 2, 2009

\$155.00 PER PERSON BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY — INCLUDES BUS TRIP, ROOM, BUFFET DINNER AND \$20.00 COMP.

\$55.00 DEPOSIT DUE JANUARY 31.

FINAL PAYMENT FEBRUARY 23RD.

PLEASE CONTACT THE RECTORY TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS. MAKE SURE YOU CALL EARLY AND GET ON THE LIST — SEATS ON THE BUS ARE ASSIGNED ON A FIRST COME BASIS BY YOUR TOUR LEADER.

Neighborhood Crime Watch counts on citizens to organize themselves and work with law enforcement to keep a trained eye and ear on their communities, while demonstrating their presence at all times of the day and night. Officer Lynch has worked it out with the Penn Hills Volunteer Fire Departments to host information meetings regarding the Neighborhood Crime Watch Programs. Below please find the dates and times that are scheduled. Officer Lynch encourages each of us to attend one of these meetings. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Station #1: Lincoln Park, 7520 Mt. Carmel Rd.
February 5, 2009, 7 PM

Station #2: Rosedale, 5806 Verona Road
February 12, 2009, 7 PM

Station #3: North Bessemer, 1701 Leechburg Rd.
February 19, 2009, 7 PM

Station #4: Point Breeze: 6th and Center
February 26, 2009, 7 PM

Station #5: Thad Stevens, 2792 Robinson Blvd.
March 5, 2009

Station #6: Universal, 2025 Main St.
March 12, 2009, 7 PM

Station #7: Penn 7, 125 Universal Rd.
March 19, 2009, 7 PM



As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." — Mk 1:16-17

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

JANUARY 25, 2009

NORTH CATHOLIC



North Catholic will hold a placement exam for incoming freshman on Saturday, February 7th at 9:00 AM.

Space is limited, so register today.

Please call Mary K. Masa at 412-321-4823 Ext. 127.

North Catholic is also currently accepting applications for new and transfer students.

Become a part of the North Catholic tradition!

VINCENTIAN ACADEMY



High School college prep students wishing to enroll at Vincentian Academy need to register for the entrance exam scheduled for

February 7, 2009 at the Academy. For additional information contact Mr. William Stringert at 412-364-1616 x123.

The St. Bartholomew Men's Club has invited Police Officer Dennis Lynch to speak on "Crime Prevention" on

Sunday February 8th at 6:00 PM.

All men of the parish are welcome!

Please phone the rectory if you plan to attend.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Make a commitment to do something to improve your marriage February 13-15 at the Toffress Resort, State College, PA. For more information or to register, contact Mary & Lou Locante at 412-635-7775 or check out the website at wwwme-pittsburgh.org

JANUARY 25, 2009



MON., January 26, TIMOTHY & TITUS

10:00 AM Mary Anderson (Kathryn Severn)

TUES., January 27, ANGELA MERICI

8:00 AM St. Irenaeus

9:00 AM St. Gerard Majella, St. Joseph

WED., January 28, THOMAS AQUINAS

8:00 AM St. Irenaeus

9:00 AM St. Gerard Majella, St. Susanna

7:00 PM Holy Hour

THURS., January 29, WEEDKAY

10:00 AM Ellen Jane Myers & Helen Rupp
(Mary Ann Hall)

FRI., January 30, WEEKDAY

10:00 AM Margaret Irvine (Gil & Ann Ruffing)

SAT., January 31 Vigil, Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

4:00 PM CONFESSIONS

5:00 PM People of the Parish

SUN., February 1, Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:00 AM DeWitt Family (Nieces)

10:30 AM Frank Sonetti, Jr. (Parents Frank & Linda Sonetti)

Please remember in your prayers the sick, shut-ins, and hospitalized members of our parish; also the recently departed members of our Parish Family, especially Nicholas Fratangelo



The Sanctuary Candle will be lit this week in memory of Marcella Maizie from her family