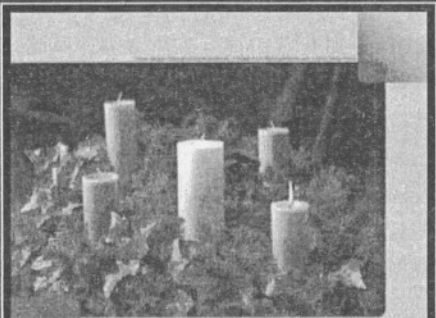


*First Sunday of Advent
November 28, 2010*



You know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed; the night is advanced, the day is at hand. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.
-Romans 13:11-12

STAY AWAKE!

It's a horrifying realization to make while you're driving: You've been asleep.

You are terrified. How long was I asleep—a minute, longer? God, what if I never saw that headlight or heard that horn? You have a new, so-

bering awareness of where you are going and the dangers of your journey.

The season of Advent begins with Jesus' sobering warning — STAY AWAKE!

For Matthew's community, Christ's return as the judge of the living and the dead was imminent; the chilling images of today's Gospel are intended to call Matthew's church to vigilance for the end of this world and preparation for the beginning of the next — an event they believed they would see in their lifetimes.

The First Sunday of Advent calls us to "stay awake" and not sleep through the opportunities life give us to discover God and the things of God; these Advent days compel us to "watch," to pay attention to the signs of God's unmistakable presence in our lives.

Father, giver of this precious and wonderful life of ours, wake us up to the preciousness of every moment you give us.

Do not let us sleep through the Advent we live every day.

May Christ's coming shake us awake that we may come to know you in the love of others and the goodness of this world you have given us.

Once again, I am overwhelmed by the generosity of the parishioners of St. Bart's. We collected enough food, between the school and parish, to feed 8 families for Thanksgiving and many weeks after. On behalf of these families I extend a most heartfelt thank you. May God continue to bless you for your generosity.

Our St. Bart's Women's Group is planning an after Christmas Party for the women of the parish. This party is scheduled for January 25th. Please mark your calendar's. Further information will be coming in future bulletins.

Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas. So often I find myself getting overwhelmed with "the things" that need done and not preparing myself for the celebration. We have provided reflection books for your use in helping to prepare your heart for this holy season. I pray that we all have a good and holy Advent.

WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION

**WEEK OF 11-21-10 —(next week)
Budgeted Collection Amount \$8,100.00**

If we give simply from what we have left over after all our needs are met, it is not really sacrificial.

If there is no pain in our giving, then we can be sure that we are not giving enough.

Have a Blessed Week.

- - Sister Dorothy



SCHOOL NEWS

SCHOOL CLOSED

MONDAY NOVEMBER 29 FOR THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY. THERE WILL BE NO EXTENDED CARE PROVIDED.

SANTA SHOPPE



The elves of St. Bartholomew school have been very busy stocking the Santa Shoppe with wonderful gifts. The students will have an opportunity to do their Christmas shopping for their families on Tuesday November 30, and Wednesday December 1.

Mass

Please join the 2nd graders and their teacher Miss Begley as they host the 10 AM mass on Thursday December 2. The students really enjoy seeing everyone at their mass.



CONGRATULATIONS

Bruin JV and Varsity Football Teams on your victory in winning the Diocesan Championship! We are so proud of all of you. GO BRUINS!!!

MEN'S CLUB

St. Bart's Men's Club is having a get-together on:

Sunday, December 12, 2010.

Guest speaker will be:

Penn Hills Planner

Howard Davidson

Food and beverages will be served. To reserve your place please call the rectory or Andy Merola at 412-247-5435.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MASS

All are invited to join Bishop David Zubik and Latino Catholics, for the annual "Our Lady of Guadalupe Spanish Mass" On Friday, December 10, 7:00 PM at St. Paul Cathedral. The celebration begins at 7:00 PM with The "Our Lady" procession. Enjoy the festival reception afterwards in the Cathedral's social hall.

Once again this year, St. Bart's will be having a giving tree. Your response to the requests we receive has always been overwhelming and I hope we will be able to help as many people as we always have. We ask that if you take an angel that you return your gift by Sunday, December 12th. Thank you for your generosity to help those that are less fortunate.



Who is the better rememberer in your family? If it's you, don't rub it in. If it's your spouse, express your appreciation for saving you time and embarrassment. Be grateful you still have some memory even though it may take time for information to bubble up from your archives.

Sharing the Gospel

Remember that when God told Noah to build an ark, his neighbors laughed at him. Then one day God sent the flood. Only Noah's family was saved because they listened to God, and they were ready. Jesus has already told you that one day he will come back. He wants you to be saved. He wants you to be ready. When you read Bible stories, listen carefully. Love God like Noah did, and learn to do what God asks.

Prayer

Dear God, help me to love you and to be ready for Jesus.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of Noah and his family on the ark with all the animals.

Mission for the Week

Make sure the movies, games, and music you choose help you grow closer to Jesus.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE



Christ redefined the Kingdom of God as peacemaking, feeding the hungry and housing the homeless. In our homes, every time harsh words are forgiven, or a meal is served, or a child is tucked into bed, we inch forward the Kingdom of Heaven. Ordinary events are sacred



**CENTRAL CATHOLIC
ALUMNI, FAMILY &
FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO**

**A
FREE CONCERT
2ND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS**

**POPS CONCERT
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12
2:00 PM TO 3:30 PM**

**CENTRAL CATHOLIC'S
MCGONIGLE THEATER
EVERYONE IS WELCOME
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE OFFERED
AFTER THE CONCERT**

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Advent Weekday

10:00 AM John E. Kotts (Joseph Sudick)

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 30

Saint Andrew

8:00 AM St. Irenaeus

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

Advent Weekday

8:00 AM St. Irenaeus

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

1:30 PM **QUEST BIBLE STUDY**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2

Advent Weekday

9:00 AM Lena Carmosina (Thelma Ruggiero)

6:30 PM **QUEST BIBLE STUDY**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3

Saint Francis Xavier

10:00 AM Robert McCarthy (St. Bart's
Women's Group)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

VIGIL, SECOND SUNDAY

OF ADVENT

4:00 PM **CONFESSIONS**

5:00 PM Don House (Wife, Rose)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 AM Tedesco Family

(Granddaughters)

10:30 AM People of the Parish



The Sanctuary Candle is lit this week in memory of John E. Kotts from Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Kotts & Family