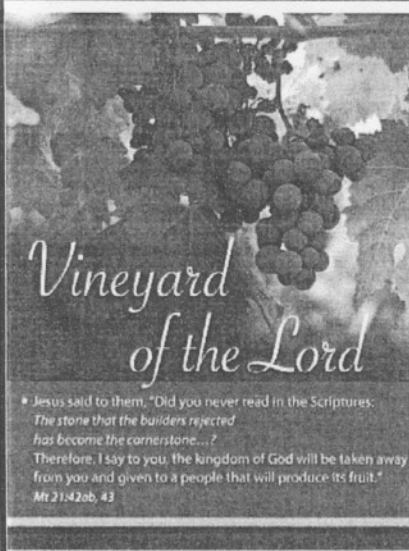


In the midst of the current economic crisis, home foreclosure rates are at an all time high. While the causes are many, there are several items that economists point to in particular. The development of new financial instruments, such as mortgage-backed securities, led investment funds to seek out more and more investors with promises of huge returns.

Mortgage lenders discovered a ready source of capital through these funds and went after potential home buyers whose own finances may have been shaky. And buyers, dazzled by the prospect of a new home larger than anything they may have thought possible, entered into ill-considered contracts that placed them in financial jeopardy after a few years. The construction industry added to the market woes by building large tracts of homes on speculation presuming that future sales would continue at the record pace that was already beginning to slow.

A lot of the housing market process was built on hope: fund managers' hope that profits would remain high; lenders' hope that buyers would keep coming forward; buyers' hope that they would earn enough in the future to afford their mortgage; builders' hope that someone would buy what they were putting up. Like the landowner in the parable, there was hope that everything would turn out just fine with the ever increasing ratcheting up of effort.

It didn't work out in the housing market, and it didn't work out in the parable either. The landowner's son was killed. The tenants of the vineyard will meet a wretched end, and others will get the benefit of the vineyard. The crash of the housing market might be a good cautionary tale for all of us. While we may want to build up our own little kingdom here on earth, it is really the kingdom of God in which our treasure lies. Are we making a regular investment in that kingdom, so that we will be ready for our final retirement?



Vineyard of the Lord

• Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone...? Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit." Mt 21:42ab, 43

Approved for Printing by the Bishop, April 15, 2010. Photo: Michael J. O'Connell

**ST. BART'S
FESTIVAL DATES
OCTOBER
6, 7, 8 & 9**

WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION
WEEK OF 9-25-11 — \$6,800.75
Budgeted Collection Amount \$8,100.00

RAFFLE TICKETS
Please return your tickets as soon as possible. Extra tickets available in the office.



Parishioner Betsy Bissonette, now known as Sister John Paul (far right) was received as a novice of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth on Saturday, September 24, 2011. We pledge our prayers and support as Sister John Paul continues to follow God's call in her life.

Our Ladies of Charity will be participating in 40 Days For Life, which is a community based campaign that draws attention to the evil of abortion through the use of a three-point program of prayer and fasting, constant vigil, and community outreach. Our ladies will be participating in the prayer and fasting portion of the program beginning September 28th through November 6th. If you would like to participate, please choose a day and offer your prayer and fasting to end abortion. If you would like additional information, please contact Bess Biamonte at 412-242-3374.

I want to thank you for all of your prayers for my brother David and my family. David is still in intensive care on a ventilator and they are not sure what is causing his inability to breathe on his own. Please pray with me that they can determine what is causing this and then be able to treat him. Thank you so much.

Our festival begins this week and there is a lot of activity happening on our grounds. I know we have asked you to help in a variety of ways, but I have one more request, "Please, come to the festival" and invite your family and friends. We offer a lot of great food, pastries, games and rides. It is always such a rewarding feeling when we see our parishioners participating. See you at the Festival.

Sister Dorothy

ST. BARTHOLOMEW PARISH



SCHOOL NEWS

PROGRESS REPORTS

Signed progress reports for all students are due back to the school office on Monday, October 2, 2011. All parents are encouraged to view grades at rvsgradebook.com.

MASS

Please join Miss Homer and her 3rd grade class on Thursday, October 6th at 10 AM. The students work very hard to make these masses special. All are encouraged to join us.

FALL FESTIVAL

The church Fall Festival will begin on Thursday, October 6th and run through Sunday, October 9th. Please use extra caution in the parking lots during this time. No students are to be picked up or dropped off at the school office. All morning drop offs should happen in the rear of the school.

Pre-Sale Ride tickets are being sold at the rectory and in the school office.



Readings for the Week of October 2, 2011

Sunday: Is 5:1-7/Phil 4:6-9/Mt 21:33-43
Monday: Jon 1:1-2:2, 11/Lk 10:25-37
Tuesday: Jon 3:1-10/Lk 10:38-42
Wednesday: Jon 4:1-11/Lk 11:1-4

Thursday: Mal 3:13-20b/Lk 11:5-13
Friday: Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2/Lk 11:15-26
Saturday: Jl 4:12-21/Lk 11:27-28
Next Sunday: Is 25:6-10a/Phil 4:12-14, 19-20/Mt 22:1-14 or 22:1-10

GOLDEN AGERS

The Golden Agers will meet on Friday, October 7th, 2011 in Helzsouer Hall at 1:30 PM.

They will be playing bingo. Remember to bring a small gift for the bingo prizes. New members are encouraged to attend.



YOU MAY DROP OFF "WISH LIST" ITEMS AT THE RECTORY OR IN THE VESTIBULE OF THE CHURCH. BASKET DONATIONS MAY BE PLACED IN COLLECTION BASKET OR BROUGHT TO THE RECTORY.

Order your ride all day wristband in advance and **SAVE!** There will be 7-8 rides again this year.



Ride all day wristbands are only \$12.00 in advance, compared to \$15.00 at the festival, or \$2.00 - \$3.00 per ride individually.

Festival Setup

Setup will continue on October 1 & 2 at 8 AM and October 3, 4, and 5 at 6 PM.

Any help will be very much appreciated. No special skills needed, there is always some way to help.

Any questions, please give me a call.


OCTOBER 2, 2011

Help for Grieving Singles Widowed, divorced or separated?

Beginning Experience offers help to hurting "single again" folks. The weekend and optional post weekend sessions focus on a personal inward journey to begin a new life with renewed courage and hope. Grief, regrets, confusion, self doubt? You don't have to go through this alone. There are others walking this hard road. We know the pain. Come to a safe place. Travel from heartache to hope.

The next weekend will be held October 14-16, 2011 at the Gilmory Center in Moon Twp, PA. Payment arrangements and possible financial assistance are available. For more information: www.BeginningExperience.org or make a confidential call to Lyn at 412-448-9019 or Steve Smith at 412-367-4948 or 412-720-8694

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE



Every family is visited by difficult times which can unite or divide. These hardships, which we would quickly reject, hold the potential to be the unifying "cornerstone" where we drop our pettiness and defenses and pull together, linked by a common bond and love for one another.

PARENTING POINTERS

"I was in prison and you came to see me." (Mt. 25:35) Now this might seem like a hard work of mercy to do with a child. Consider, however, that sending a child to her room or "time out" is a kind of imprisonment. Give them a way to redeem themselves afterwards.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS



"One of the best things about marriage is that it gets young people to bed at a decent hour." (M. M. Musselman) Is there a night owl in your family? Have you worked out compatible bedtimes? If not, when do you cuddle?

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TII



MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2011

Weekday

10:00 AM Patricia Karafa (C. Lowrey)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2011

Saint Francis of Assisi

8:00 AM St. Irenaeus

9:00 AM St. Gerard, St. Joseph

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2011

Weekday

8:00 AM St. Irenaeus

9:00 AM St. Gerard, St. Susanna

1:30 PM **QUEST BIBLE STUDY**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2011

Weekday

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2011

Our Lady of the Rosary

10:00 AM Otha Fink (Dorothy & Children)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2011

Vigil, Twenty-Eighth Sunday Ordinary Time

4:00 PM **NO Confessions**

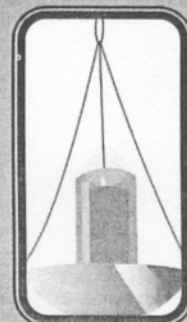
5:00 PM Evelyn Tedesco (Daughters)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2011

Twenty -Eighth Sunday Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Lawrence P. Craver
(Mary Ellen, Christina, Justin, Ashley, Christopher)

10:30 AM People of the Parish



*The Sanctuary Candle is lit
this week in memory
of
Lawrence Craver
From Mary Ellen &
Children*