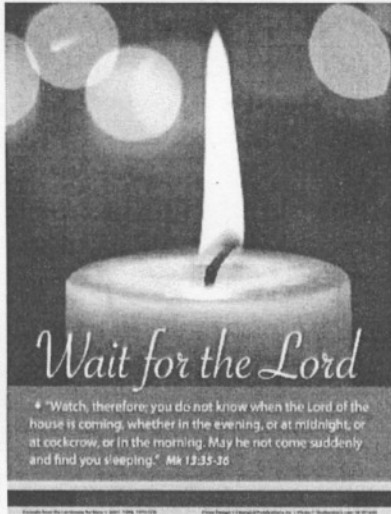


SAINT BARTHOLOMEW PARISH — FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Although these reflections usually focus on the Gospels, during the Advent/Christmas season this year, we'll turn to the first reading, which generally comes from the prophet Isaiah. Biblical scholars have long recognized that the Book of the Prophet Isaiah comes out of three different historical periods of the people of Israel. The first part (chapters 1-39) was written in the years before the Exile in Babylon. The inhabitants of Jerusalem were well off, confident, and self-reliant. Worship of God was an afterthought. Chapters 40-55 were written during the Exile, which lasted from 587 BC to 538 BC. This section of Isaiah is filled with words of comfort and consolation. The final part of Isaiah (chapters 56-66) was composed after the return to Jerusalem and includes some of the most hopeful writing in the Old Testament, with promises of a new heaven and a new earth.

It's little wonder that the church turns to the latter part of Isaiah during the Advent/Christmas season, when we celebrate the birth of the Savior who is the fulfillment of all our longing.

Much was made earlier this year of the prognostications of radio preacher Harold Camping who suggested that the world would end on May 21. Some people were so caught up in his prediction that they stopped working and spent their time spreading the message of judgment day. Camping's message resonated with those who were looking for certainty in a very uncertain world.

The writer of the third part of Isaiah had to contend with the same thing. The Jewish people had just returned to Jerusalem after fifty years of captivity. Their city was in ruins, and their future was unsure. Isaiah proclaimed that they should focus on the Lord, and at the same time rebuild their city. It is that balance of the heavenly and the worldly that we must especially strive for at this time of year in our own culture.

PRIEST:

The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE:

And with your spirit.

WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION

WEEK OF 11-20-11—

Budgeted Collection Amount \$8,100.00

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Today the much awaited changes to the mass begin. Bess Biamonte and I have offered 11 in-services on the changes, so we hope that all are ready.

I ask all of you to keep our priests in your prayers in a special way. They will be going through the most intense renewal probably of their priestly life as they learn the changes in the New Roman Missal. The changes for us are minimal, but for our priests, they are intense.

For most of us change is not easy, especially when it is imposed upon us. I pray in a special way that God will open our hearts and our minds to embrace the changes and that through these changes we will become closer in our relationship with our God.

*Blessings,
Sister Dorothy*

Welcoming the New Translation of the Roman Missal

Eternal God, whose Spirit wove the many voices of humankind into one tongue of proclamation at Pentecost, bless our community of faith as we begin the use of this new translation of the Roman Missal.

Help us faithfully to praise your majesty and give thanks for your goodness to your people.

May the words we use, as inadequate as they are to express your greatness and your love, help us to draw closer to you, the source of life.

May this new translation foster true devotion among your people, and bind us together in one community of faith, always ready to seek your will and prepared to serve our brothers and sisters in charity and love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW PARISH

SCHOOL NEWS

NO SCHOOL

There will be no classes on Monday, November 28, 2011. There will be no extended care offered. School will resume on Tuesday, November 29, 2011.

SANTA SHOPPE

Our elves have been busy preparing our Santa Shoppe at school. Students will be shopping on Tuesday, November 29th and Wednesday, November 30th. Information has been sent home with your children.



POINSETTIA SALE

Orders and money are due on Tuesday, November 29, 2011 for poinsettia and Christmas flower orders.

STUFF A BUS

Students will be participating in the Toys for Tots Stuff a Bus promotion on Thursday, December 1st. Students are asked to bring a NEW toy to school to be placed on the bus. Once sorted, teachers will be delivering the toys. If you would like to donate a NEW toy, please call the school office to make arrangements.

PICTURE RETAKE

Students will have the ability to have their pictures retaken on Friday, December 2. Times will be sent home with your children.



Readings for the Week of November 27, 2011

Monday:	Is 2:1-5/Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday:	Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday:	Rom 10:9-18/Mt 4:18-22
Thursday:	Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday:	Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31
Saturday:	Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35--10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday:	Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8



Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh is in need of volunteers to help on Tuesday afternoons between 12:30 and 2:30 with arts and crafts and field trips. Also, volunteers are welcome to help drive clients to and from doctor's offices, the airport and the bus station, serve as escorts for group activities like bowling, shopping, movies and other events, and help staff who are blind or vision-impaired. For more information, contact Nancy Schepis, volunteer coordinator, 412-368-4400 or nschepis@pghvis.org.

All are invited to join Bishop David A. Zubik and Latino Catholics, for the annual "Our Lady of Guadalupe Spanish Mass" on Monday, December 12, 7:00 pm, at St. Paul Cathedral. The celebration begins at 7:00 pm with the "Our Lady" procession. Enjoy the festive reception afterwards in the Cathedral's social hall.

Prayer Line Prayer Chain Ministry

Advent marks the beginning of the new Liturgical Year. In celebration of this new beginning, St. Bartholomew Parish will be beginning a "Prayer Line" prayer chain. The number is listed on the front of the bulletin. Call the number any time of day and add an intention for prayer. Please give only the first name of the person you wish to be prayed for. The chain phone calls will be passed on every Monday and Thursday.

We all know that as the Body of Christ we are responsible for one another and there is great power in prayer. Our thanks goes out to the 22 core members of this ministry.

NOVEMBER 27, 2011



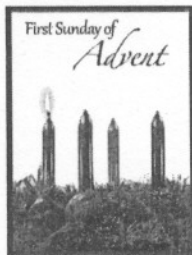
St. Gerard Majella

Church (Penn Hills), 121 Dawn Drive (off of Hamil Road), will be having a Santa Breakfast on Sunday, December 11th from 8:30 am until 12 noon in the

church Social Hall. Don't miss the good food, surprises for the children, Chinese auction, 50/50 raffle, bake sale and of course, Santa. There will be many gift items available to help you with your Christmas Shopping.

Hope to see you there! 412-793-3333

**"Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping."
Mk 13:35-36**



PARENTING POINTERS

The day after Thanksgiving offers us some free time - especially if leftovers free up cooking time. How did you use your time? Hectic shopping? Nurturing family ties? Missing someone dear? Relaxing? Make family your priority.



MARRIAGE MOMENTS



"Let there be spaces in your togetherness." (Kahlil Gibran) As wonderful as togetherness is, where do you go to get some space just for yourself? Do you have a special time, place, or hobby that regenerates your spirit?

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2011

Advent Weekday

10:00 AM Joseph & Marie DeBellis
(Family)

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 29, 2011

Advent Weekday

8:00 AM St. Irenaeus
9:00 AM St. Gerard, St. Susanna

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2011

St. Andrew

8:00 AM St. Irenaeus
9:00 AM St. Gerard, St. Susanna
1:30 PM **QUEST BIBLE STUDY**

THURSDAY DECEMBER 1, 2011

Advent Weekday

10:00 AM Don House (Wife, Rose)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2011

First Friday

10:00 AM Edith & Anthony D'Andrea
(Margaret D'Andrea)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2011

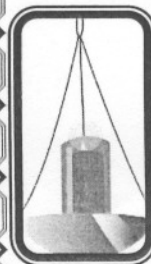
Vigil Second Sunday of Advent

4:00 PM **Confessions**
5:00 PM Margaret DeMine
(Patti Diamond)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2011

Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM People of the Parish
10:30 AM James McMeekin (Family)



*The Sanctuary Candle is lit
this week in memory
Of
The Deceased DeRiggi & Moehring
Families from
Tina Cardinal*