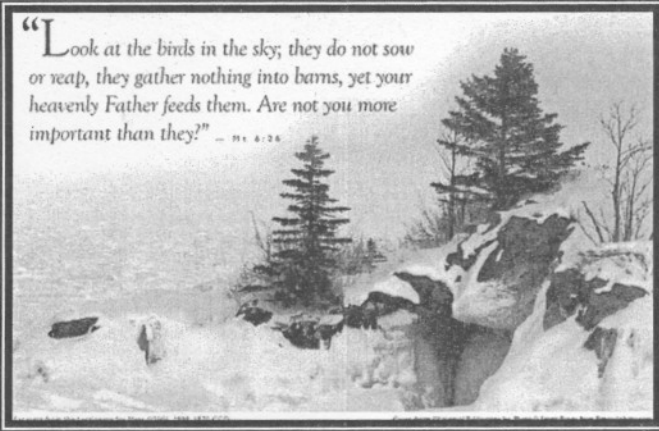


SAINT BARTHOLOMEW PARISH

8th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 27, 2011

"Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they?" — Mt. 6:26



It has been a difficult couple of years for many because of the downturn in the economy. People have lost their jobs, their savings, and their homes. The recovery has been very slow. Stories about people employing a variety of strategies to survive are regular fare on local news broadcasts and in the newspaper. The effects have been felt across the economic spectrum. Even with a variety of government relief efforts (stimulus spending, extended unemployment benefits, etc.) households are suffering. The questions posed in today's Gospel, "What are we to eat?" "What are we to drink?" "What are we to wear?" are very real ones for a large group of the distressed populace.

St. Francis loved this passage from Matthew's Gospel that we read today. His absolute trust in God led him to strip off his clothing in the city square of Assisi and renounce all his possessions. As a beggar, he went out and founded a community of brothers whose hallmark was that they would own nothing. But even Francis' charismatic interpretation of the Gospel ended up being modified by reality. Franciscans needed places to stay and food to eat. One can't survive by shedding all of one's clothes in a North American winter!

So what do we do with today's Gospel about the lilies of the field that neither work nor spin and yet are more beautiful than all Solomon's splendor? Is Jesus spinning a fairytale with no real world meaning? That is certainly one way to look at the text: that the simple words of the Bible just cannot apply to the complicated economics of the modern day. But another interpretation may also have merit. These difficult times could be the invitation we need to trust in God even more—whether we are personally suffering or whether we feel secure. The temptation to despair may be great. The call to hope, even in darkness, comes from God.

It is so hard to believe that Lent will soon be here. Ash Wednesday is March 9th, which is only another week away. Next week's bulletin will highlight our "Lenten activities". I know how busy everyone's life can be, perhaps you are being called to enrich your spiritual life by participating in our Lenten activities. I hope to see you.

I have heard some rumors lately that some of the parishioners think that we only have funerals at St. Bart's on the days we have morning mass scheduled, which would be Monday, Thursday and Friday. This is **NOT** the case. Through the generosity of spirit and time, we are able to obtain the services of many very holy priests, most of the time from our own Cluster, who so willingly offer us their priestly ministry of burying the dead. So in case you have heard this or in case you have passed on the wrong information~~St. Bart's has funerals any day of the week except Sunday. Thanks for passing the right information along.

WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION
WEEK OF 2-20-11—\$7,656.80
Budgeted Collection Amount \$8,100.00

† **STEWARDSHIP** ✉
Giving is an act of the heart. You may give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.

Have a Blessed Week
—Sister Dorothy

ST. BARTHOLOMEW PARISH



School News

Once again St. Bart's will be showcasing our school on Tuesday, March 1, 2011 from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Parents considering St. Bart's School are encouraged to come and speak with the faculty, staff and students.

Read Across America Day
In honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday, St. Bart's will celebrate Read Across America Day on Wednesday, March 2, 2011. "You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child."



Mass

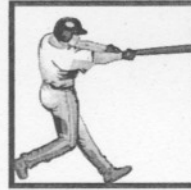
Please join Mrs. Conn and the 4th graders for Mass on Thursday, March 3, 2011 at 10 AM. The students have worked very hard to prepare for this mass.

Basketball

Are you looking for something fun to do this weekend? St. Bart's will be hosting the Jump Start Basketball Tournament in our gym on Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday. The Jump Start League consists of developmental teams, with students in 3rd and 4th grade.

Fish Fry: Bigger and Better

The PTG has purchased additional fryers for the Fish Fry this year and we are ready for a busy season. See you on Friday's in Lent, beginning Friday, March 11th in the cafeteria.



As I sit by my window watching the snow come down, all I can think about is how much I am looking forward to spring when St. Bart's Men's Softball begins preparing for the upcoming 2011 softball season. St. Bart's is a member of the **Eastern Suburban Church Men's softball League** which is comprised of 21 churches of all denominations. Although the teams are very competitive, good sportsmanship and team camaraderie come first and foremost over winning. Because we are representing our parish, St. Bartholomew, it is very important that each player represent himself in a very dignified and sportsmanlike manner. As a reminder to the entire league, a team prayer is said before and after every game. We are recruiting a few new players for the 2011 season, men who have a love for the game and possess that competitive edge!

As always, we thank Sister Dorothy for her continued interest and support and especially want to thank our 2010 sponsors, some of whom have been with us since we first organized back in 1994.

Gross Funeral Home
Fedele Insurance
Bill Aglietti Lawn Care
Dave Smith Auto Sales

If you interested in playing, want more information or want to become a sponsor please call Rege Walney (Manager) 412-731-9673 or Ron Zarotney (Secretary/Treasurer) 412-731-8391 or 412-855-8317. Thank You~~Ronald Zarotney




GOLDEN AGERS

The Golden Agers will hold their next meeting on Friday March 4th at 1:30 PM in Helzsouer Hall. Please bring a small gift as a prize for Bingo. New members are always encouraged.

FEBRUARY 27, 2011

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE



Because we believe we can control our own world, we attempt to juggle multiple agendas and we pay a price of neglecting those closest to us. Too late we reach the point of asking "Was it worth it?" We really can't serve two masters.



LENTEN AFTERNOON OF RETREAT
"Mary at the Foot of the Cross"

Brother V. Kenneth, FSC

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2011

12 noon — Lunch in Cafeteria
1 pm — Church

This retreat is open to all parishioners. There is no cost.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS



How do you know when you love enough? Ponder Jesus words to his followers, "Love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12) Jesus loved by serving, spending time with the apostles, eating with them, going to weddings and funerals, talking, and giving his life. How about you?

Registrations For New Families

New families can register at any time by calling the rectory (412-242-3374) and speaking with Sister Dorothy, Parish Life Collaborator. Members of the parish who reach the age of 18 should register separately as adults. If you have recently changes your status, married, moved out of your parent's home or graduated from college you need to re-register.

If you move, we would also appreciate a call to the rectory so that our records will be in order.

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2011

Weekday

10:00 AM Special Intention

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2011

St. David of Wales

8:00 AM St. Irenaeus

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2011

St. Agnes of Bohemia

8:00 AM St. Irenaeus

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

1:30 PM **QUEST BIBLE STUDY**

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2011

St. Katherine Drexel

10:00 AM Elizabeth Begley (St. Bart's
PTG)

6:30 PM **QUEST BIBLE STUDY**

FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2011

Weekday

10:00 AM Rose Parrotta (Patti Diamond)

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2011

VIGIL, 9th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4:00 PM **CONFESSIONS**

5:00 PM People of the Parish

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2011

NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 AM Henry & Rose Ditillo (Son,
Ronnie)

10:30 AM Albert Morra (Bobbie Furnier)



*Our Sanctuary Candle
is lit in memory of
Mary Rose Calvano
from her daughter Pat &
Family.*