

Fr. Dave's Den: **The teacher** asked her students, "Does anyone know what Sunday is?" A little girl in the front row raised her hand and said, "Sunday is Easter." "Excellent!" said the teacher. The teacher had one more question, "Now, what is Easter?" Once again, the little girl raised her hand and responded, "Easter is when Jesus rose from the grave." Before the teacher could congratulate her, the smart little student kept talking, "But if Jesus sees his shadow he has to go back in the grave for seven weeks."

The Good News of Easter is that Jesus is risen and alive. Alleluia! The shadow of death is destroyed by the resurrection of Jesus, the light of the world. This light is symbolized in the Easter fire from the Vigil which illumines the darkness of suffering and death. The fire burns throughout this Easter season in the Paschal candle. The ancient Easter hymn sung at the Vigil speaks of this candle. "Accept this Easter candle, may it always dispel the darkness of this night! May the Morning Star which never sets find this flame still burning: Christ that Morning Star who came back from the dead and shed his peaceful light on all mankind, your son who lives and reigns for ever and ever." And hopefully, that light will burn within our hearts.

Easter is also about water and baptism. Today we welcome all of the newly baptized into the faith, particularly Doug McClain and Richard Suggs, and infant Emma Caskey. And we recommit ourselves to our own baptismal promises in which we renounce Satan and all his works and promise to serve God faithfully in his Church.

At the heart of Easter is the Eucharist where we receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ and become one with him and each other. Today we rejoice with one another around the table of the Lord. In a special way, we welcome Stephanie Mercurio, Douglas McClain, and Richard Suggs, who are now fully initiated into the life of the Church. We also congratulate Kailyn Chichilla, a second grader who celebrated her first holy communion at the Easter Vigil. Kailyn is moving and unable to participate in the First Holy Communion with all of the second graders on Sunday, May 1, 2005.

Keep in mind that Easter is not just a day but a season. I invite everyone, particularly those who are not always with us for whatever reason, to continue celebrating this great mystery of our faith. "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!"

Thanks to everyone who has worked so hard to make

our celebration of Easter so solemn and special. Of particular note, I wish to acknowledge all of the people who clean our Church. Thanks to our RCIA team of Denise Verosky and Joe and Barb Vento, the decorating committee, the choir under the direction of our music director, all of our ministers, lectors, ushers, and servers, and you the people of St. Bart's. On behalf of our entire parish staff, I wish you all a happy and blessed Easter.

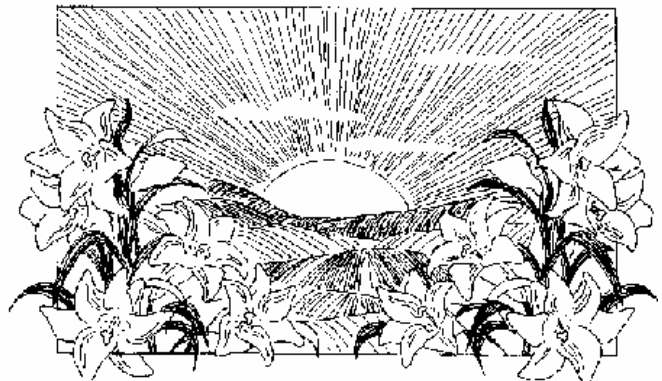
To those who are with us for the first time in a long while - WELCOME! Just a friendly reminder, only those who are registered in the parish, celebrated all the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation), and receive envelopes are eligible to be a sponsor for baptism and confirmation. Make sure you are registered in the parish and practice your faith.

Enclosed within this week's bulletin is pertinent information regarding Envisioning Ministry and our parish cluster which includes St. Bart's, St. Susanna, St. Gerard, St. Joe's Verona, and St. Irenaeus. Please keep this information nearby. Thanks to Fr. Ed Wichman, Pastor of St. Joe's, for gathering all the data.

Finally, the Anointing of the Sick Mass will take place on Sunday, April 10, 2005, at 12:30 PM.

Sacrament of Anointing

The Sacrament of Anointing will be held at a special 12:30 PM Mass on Sunday, April 10, 2005. If you or anyone you know is in need of this sacrament, please join us. The Ladies of Charity and the Life Teen members will be in attendance to assist anyone who is in need. There will also be light refreshments in the vestibule after Mass. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Sr. Dorothy at 412-242-7357.



HE IS RISEN

School News with Mrs. Fleet

He is risen! Alleluia! We wish all of you a most happy and blessed Easter holiday!

There is no school on Monday, March 28. Classes resume on Tuesday, March 29.

A Twin Dress Down Day is scheduled for Tuesday. Holy Childhood Lenten donations are due back on Tuesday, March 29, along with your Home Interior orders. Also, the third grading period ends on Tuesday, March 29.

Our monthly envelope is scheduled to be distributed on Wednesday, March 30.

You are most welcome to join us on Friday, April 1, at 10:00 AM as our seventh graders and Mrs. Smith help to plan our liturgy.

Thank you for your continued support of our ongoing collection of Campbell product labels, Box Tops for Education, and Shop 'n Save receipts.

We are still in need of elementary school friendly copy paper in white or pastel colors. If, when you are doing some spring cleaning, you come across some ties that you are willing to donate to our school, please keep us in mind. You may bring them to school or leave them in the vestibule of Church by our collection area. God bless you for all that you do all of the time for our school families.

BINGO

St. Bart's Bingo is held this and every Monday at 7:00 PM in Helzlsouer Hall.

Golden Agers

A meeting of the St. Bartholomew's Golden Agers is scheduled for Friday, April 1, 2005. See you there!

Men's Retreat

This is the final week to sign up for this year's Men's Retreat at St. Paul's. Since this year's is a free-will offering, there is no monetary reason not to attend. Come spend some one-on-one time with the Lord the weekend of April 1 through 3. It is a decision you will not regret. Please see Tom Kmonk for more information.

Religious Education News with Arlene Golden

Jesus was standing right in front of them. "Peace be with you," he said. We are the peace-makers of Jesus.

Religious Education Classes: No classes this Sunday, Easter Sunday. Classes will resume on Sunday, April 3, from 9:00 AM to 10:15 AM, in the school. Just four sessions left, let's try to have perfect attendance.

Last Class: The last class session is Sunday, April 24. On this Sunday, students will attend the 10:30 AM Mass and sit with their class in Church as our final Mass of the school year. Families are invited to attend this liturgy. Any child who won't be attending this liturgy is to be picked up no later than 10:00 AM at the school. Other students will be brought to the Church.

First Communion Families were given the First Communion handbook to work with their child at home. These books will be due in the catechetical office by Jesus Day, the retreat day for the second graders. This day is scheduled for Friday, April 29, in St. Bart's school. Any adult who has a child receiving First Communion is invited to come and help shepherd the children on this day. Families will also be working at home on the First Communion banners, which also are due in the office by Jesus Day. These banners will be sent home this week. Families may decorate the banner any way they think appropriate. First Holy Communion is Sunday, May 1, at a special 12:30 PM Mass.

Confirmation The rehearsal for Confirmation is Sunday, April 17, 2:00 PM, at St. Susanna Parish. Confirmation with Bishop Wuerl is Thursday, April 21, 7:00 PM at St. Susanna.

Please call Arlene Golden at the Catechetical Office at 412-242-7207 if you have any questions or concerns.

A Respect Life Moment

(Stem Cell Research and Human Cloning, copyright 2004, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC) Is embryonic stem cell research advancing so slowly because this research is banned in the United States? No. Embryonic stem cell research is fully allowed in the United States - there is no federal law (and almost no state law) against it. The government has only set some limits on the number of embryonic stem cell lines eligible for federal funding. Supporters disappointed at failures using these cells sometimes blame this stem cell research "ban" (which is not really a ban at all). But the much more serious obstacle lies in the nature of the cells, which are not working out as some predicted.

What Do You Know?

"What do you know?" is the question linking all three readings today. Imagine the shock waves that shot through the city of Jerusalem that first Easter morning. Jesus' body was missing! By the time Peter spoke the words found in today's first reading, fifty days had passed, so he began by saying, in effect, "I take it you know what has been reported all over Judea about Jesus of Nazareth." Of course they knew by then, but in today's Gospel we are taken back to the first day. We meet Mary Magdalene exclaiming, "We don't know where they put him!"

What do we know? In the second reading Paul asks, "Do you not know that a little yeast leavens all the dough?" Do we know the power of our own faith? Do we know the effect we can have on others?

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Treasures from our Tradition

The Lenten journey is now complete, its mission of renewal and preparation to receive new life fulfilled. The call to worship the Risen Lord has been received, and we gather to experience together the consoling presence of Christ in word and sacrament. We are at our best today, crowded and cramped to be sure, but the fullest sign of who we are meant to be. Christ has claimed us in the waters of baptism, we have acquired wonderful companions, and together we can accomplish great things.

This is the day for rekindling the old flames of baptismal commitment, so we light the paschal candle, and by its light we make yet again the ancient promises to reject evil's grip and empty promises. Today we do not recite the creed, but respond with one voice to age-old questions. New life has to be nurtured, both the life of the newly baptized and the renewed life of those who have passed through Lent's refining prayer, fasting, and giving alms. At any Mass during the next fifty days, you may be surprised by grace and splashed by water!

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Mass Intentions



MON., March 28 - Easter Monday

10:00 A.M. Marie & Albert Rizzo (Rose & Don House)

TUES., March 29 - Easter Tuesday

10:00 A.M. Funeral Liturgy: James Wagner

WED., March 30 - Easter Wednesday

7:00 P.M. Holy Hour

THURS., March 31 - Easter Thursday

10:00 A.M. Ronald Collins (Lesa Wolfarth-Pugliese)

FRI., April 1 - Easter Friday

10:00 A.M. Sandra Vilsack (Pat Nigro)

SAT., April 2 - Easter Saturday

10:00 A.M. Richard Capone (M/M Gil Ruffing)

5:00 P.M. Sophie Giuliano (Daughter Mary Grace Giuliano)

SUN., April 3 - Second Sunday of Easter

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

10:30 A.M. Mr. Frank Mueller (Jim & Marion Hoolahan)

Please remember in your prayers the sick, shut-ins, and hospitalized members of the Parish.

Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed:

Dorothy J. Smith, F. Ward Bate, James Wagner, and Michael Fornicoia

Attention: Women of the Parish

I am sure all of you have been waiting for news about the new St. Bartholomew's Women's Group. After our initial meeting, a core committee had been formed and has been working diligently on all of the suggestions that were presented. The committee is eager to present to all interested women the fruits of their labor. A meeting is being planned for Tuesday, April 26, at 7:00 PM in the school cafeteria. We hope to see everyone that evening. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sr. Dorothy at 412-242-7357.

Bereavement Ministry

A parish bereavement team has been formed to provide ministry to those who are experiencing significant loss. We will begin our new program on May 5, and it will run for seven consecutive weeks. Please watch upcoming bulletins for further information or call Sr. Dorothy at 412-242-7357.