

**Fr. Dave's Den:** "You have faith in God; have faith also in me." These words spoken by Jesus in today's Gospel point to the key of life - FAITH. As the saying goes, "You gotta believe." We also have heard the phrase, "Keep the faith." The Easter season, and for that matter, life, is all about believing and faith. How does anyone live without faith? May God deepen our faith to follow His son Jesus who says, "I am the way and the truth and the life."

**Last weekend** with the help of parishioner and Finance Council member Lisa Macioce, we announced a capital campaign to raise funds for the replacement of sidewalks and steps around the Church. With this second leg of the St. Bart's Stocking Project, we hope to raise \$70,000.00. Today is Pledge Sunday. Every family is asked to make a pledge by completing a pledge card and placing it in the collection basket. There are many options for giving. You can give a one-time gift or make a gift over the next eight months. Please be as generous as possible. Those who do not complete a pledge card will soon receive a letter with a pledge card enclosed. Thank you for your generosity. And special thanks to Lisa Macioce for her excellent presentation.

**For your information**, our plan is to begin with the front steps and sidewalks first. This first phase of the project will begin in a few weeks. There is no good time for a capital campaign.

**After evaluation** of the services we provide through our parish food bank and in consultation with the Finance Council, Pastoral Council, and members of the St. Bart's St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. Bartholomew's Parish has decided to discontinue operation of the parish food bank. The food bank was founded with the intention of caring for our needy parishioners. Through the years, the food bank has not only met the needs of our parishioners, but also extended itself to the needs of the people in the Penn Hills community. At this time, there are four other food banks in Penn Hills that receive federal funding to operate. St. Bart's has never received funding except from our

own parishioners. St. Bartholomew Parish will support the existing food banks in lieu of operating our own. If any parishioner is in need of food, please contact Sister Dorothy. Following the social directives of the Catholic Church, we will continue to assist those who need assistance with the help of the existing food banks and our St. Vincent de Paul Society.

**As Pastor**, I thank all of our parishioners, too many to mention, who have contributed to our food bank. In particular, I salute the core group of dedicated workers under the direction of Shirley Schilling and Dottie Craver.

**Thanks to everyone** who assisted with the Earth Day clean-up. It's so important that we take pride in our parish grounds. Speaking of grounds, thanks to Vigliotti Landscaping for keeping our grounds so well groomed. And thanks to the "green thumbs" planting group under the direction of Vickey Pfauth for all that they do to beautify our grounds.

**Congratulations** to our eighth graders who received the Sacrament of Confirmation this past week at St. Susanna Parish by Bishop Wuerl. Can't you just see the Spirit moving within our parish? The names of the confirmed appear in another part of this week's bulletin.

**Next Sunday**, our second graders will meet Jesus for the first time in the Eucharist at a special 12:30 PM Mass. All are welcome. Please keep our second graders in prayer.

**Have a Spirit-filled week!**



School News with Mrs. Fleet

**Crill Tog Uniform Company** will be at St. Bartholomew School on Monday morning at 10:00 AM for uniform measurements for next school year.

**Market Day pick-up** is scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, from 5:15 PM to 6:00 PM in the gym.

**Our Science Explorers** in grades one and two will meet Tuesday after school in the gym from 3:15 PM to 4:15 PM, and on Wednesday our third through fifth grade Science Explorers will do the same.

**All are welcome** to attend our Arts and Science Fair at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, April 27. Our PTG will also be sponsoring a book sale, a bake sale, and themed basket raffles.

**There will be no school** on Thursday, April 28, due to a Diocesan in-service.

**April 29 finds our second graders** celebrating Jesus Day. Ms. Begley and our young students will help to plan our 10:00 AM Mass. All are welcome to worship with us.

**Please plan on attending** our SBAA Monte Carlo and Night at the Races scheduled for Saturday evening, April 30. You are sure to have a terrific evening filled with lots of fun.

**Thanks again** for all that you do for St. Bartholomew School. God bless you.

*Congratulations to Honor Students*

Congratulations to the following students who have achieved honors:

Mt. Alvernia: High Honor - Stephanie Ranallo and Amy Yonick. Honor - Jessica Hon.

Central Catholic: High Honor - Aric Bush, Andrew DeRubeis, Daniel Donahoe, Joshua Martin, David Pina, Andrew Pirollo, Joseph Ranallo, and Chad Restori. Honor - Anthony Angiulli, Gene Cahill, Ryan Kovacs, Gino Macioce, Charles Maher, and Andrew Thornburg.

**BINGO**

Bingo is held this and every Monday at 7:00 PM in Helzlsouer Hall. This week we feature a \$500.00 Jackpot and the Derby game is at \$650.00! Come and play the best!

Religious Education News with Arlene Golden

*“Jesus said, ‘Anyone who believes in me will be able to do things that I do and even greater things than I do.’” John 14:12. Jesus wants us to know that we can do what he did: cure the sick, be forgiving, help the blind to see and the lame to walk. Can we do the work of Jesus in our family and neighborhood?*

**Last Class:** This Sunday, April 24, is our last CCD class. 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:** First Communion handbooks will be due in the catechetical office by Jesus Day, the retreat day for the second graders. Jesus Day is scheduled for this Friday, April 29, in St. Bart's School. 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.

**First Communion Video:** Families may order a video or DVD of their child's First Communion for \$16.00. Please return the order form and check to the Catechetical Office no later than this Sunday.

**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)

**WHAT IS A STEM CELL LINE?**

It is an ongoing, living colony of stem cells in a laboratory, from which cells can be obtained for research or other uses. Sometimes these are called “immortal” cell lines, but that is misleading because they do eventually deteriorate. Embryonic stem cells are said to be easier to grow in a stem cell line, but they also tend to develop serious genetic abnormalities associated with cancer.

## Women's Group

It is with great excitement that we announce the first meeting of the newly formed St. Bartholomew's Women's Group on Tuesday, April 26, at 7:00 PM in Helzlsouer Hall. The sub-committee, which consists of Katherine Abriola, Dawn Angiulli, Dot Craver, Colleen Ford, Bebe Habina, Denise Ludovici, Laura McCarthy, Marion Reynoso, Ann Ruffing, Fran Schomburger, and Lynne Tryzna, are eager to share with all the women of our parish their combined efforts for the future endeavors of this group. Should you have any questions, please contact Sister Dorothy at 412-242-7357.

## Bereavement

The Bereavement Team of St. Bartholomew Parish invites our parishioners who are experiencing any significant loss in their lives to participate in a seven week bereavement program. This program will run from Thursday, May 5 through Thursday, June 16 and will be held in the Pastoral Conference Room at 7:00 PM. If you are interested in attending, or if you are unsure if this program is for you, please contact Sister Dorothy at 412-242-7357.

## Diaper Drive

As we continue our commitment to reach out to the poor and needy in our community, St. Bartholomew Parish will once again participate in the Catholic Charities Diaper Drive for mothers who struggle to provide for their infants. Disposable Diapers sizes 1-4 and/or baby wipes may be placed in the baskets provided at the entrance of the church on Mother's Day, May 8. A cash contribution is also welcome. Please make your check payable to Catholic Charities and place it in the collection basket. May Mary, mother of Jesus, bless you for your kindness and support of these needy mothers.

## Life Teen - Leading Teens Closer to Christ

Congratulations to all the 8th graders on your confirmation this week. We are hoping to see you at Life Teen soon! Our next Life Night is April 30th. It's a special night, we will be having a picnic dinner and then off to the theater to see our own Rob Garfalo in "Seussical" at Woodland Hills High School. If you have not called Colleen to receive a ticket you must do so by this Wednesday April 27. Also we are looking for some parents to help with some picnic food. If anyone can send a dish or something please call Joanne Turka (412) 242-1116.

*Many thanks to all who sent cards and prayers for my return to good health. They brighten my day! -Colleen*

## Mass Intentions



### **MON., April 25 - St. Mark**

10:00 A.M. Louisa Varish (Ann & Gil Ruffing)

### **TUES., April 26 - Easter Weekday**

10:00 A.M. Cooney & Bonzer Family (Bea Cooney)

### **WED., April 27 - Easter Weekday**

7:00 P.M. Holy Hour

### **THURS., April 28 - St. Peter Chanel & Louis Mary de Montfort**

10:00 A.M. Mr. & Mrs. Argentino Sciulli (Nino & Ida Sciulli)

### **FRI., April 29 - St. Catherine of Siena**

10:00 A.M. Sally Sweeney (Sister M. Sylvia & M. Rosita)

### **SAT., April 30 - St. Pius V**

10:00 A.M. Frances Triolo (Family)

5:00 P.M. Sonny Russman (Donna Russman)

### **SUN., May 1 - Sixth Sunday of Easter**

8:00 A.M. Rita End (Evans Family)

10:30 A.M. Rose Venturella (Marie Manzo)

12:30 P.M. First Holy Communion

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

Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed:

Josephine Civitts

## Congratulations to the Confirmed!

Hannah Balkovec, Jenna Lynn Berent, Jacqueline Bissonette, Devon Bistarkey, Dylan Bober, Samantha Boggess, William Brashear, Jon Brewton, Lindsay Cahill, Michelle Cerra, Anna Coleman, Linda Dakaud, Aloni Garcia, Amanda Geisler, Takashi Gyles, Amanda Hart, Ian Johnson, Renee Jones, Arianna Labriola, John Lesko, Amanda MacDonald, John Maciupa, Shannon McNeillie, Daniel Paredes, Brandon Pellegrino, Brittany Restori, Robert Sadler, Alexandra Salerno, Philip Salerno, Jr., Kaitlyn Schrantz, Kelsi Shanley, Deja Sims, Susan Spieler, Amber Synan, Kristen Trichtinger, Matthew Zullo, and Samantha Zunich.