

**Fr. Dave's Den:** "I will not leave you orphans." Jesus utters this promise in today's gospel. The fulfillment of this promise is found not only in the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, but also in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. When we celebrate Eucharist and receive the sacred body and blood of Jesus we become one with Christ and each other. In this sacrament of communion we clearly are not orphans. Jesus is with us and we are brothers and sisters to one another.

**Today at a special 12:30 PM Mass**, our second graders will meet Jesus for the first time in the Eucharist. As they receive the body and blood of Jesus they become one with him and one with us. "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad." Congratulations to those little one's whose names appear in another section of this bulletin. We need only to look into their beautiful eyes to recapture that awesome joy we experienced that first time we received Jesus in the Eucharist. What a special day for all of us!

**Thanks to the many hands** and hearts that brought our first communicants to this moment in their faith journey. Of particular note, I wish to thank their parents/guardians and siblings. You are the first Church to them. Thanks to the teachers, as well, who show them the way. The journey does not end for these little ones today. It only begins. May God bless our first communicants, their families, and teachers! May they always know that Jesus will not leave them orphans.

**Today marks the beginning** of the month of May which is traditionally dedicated to our Blessed Mother. This is a good time for us to rededicate ourselves to the rosary. The rosary enables us to reflect with Mary on the mysteries of Christ in the context of our own mystery. At the same time, the rosary allows us to seek Mary's intercession. Before every weekday Mass the rosary is prayed. I am so grateful to the loyal group who keep this beautiful devotion alive. For your information, the school will celebrate May Crowning in the Church on Friday May, 13, 2005, after the 10:00 AM Mass. All are welcome.

**Speaking of Mary**, we are moving forward in our plans to clean-up and renovate her altar. If you wish to be a part of this project by offering a monetary gift in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please give me a call at 412-242-3374. Meanwhile, the sculpture for the Blessed Sacrament altar is taking shape. Very soon

the new lighting will be added to this area and the back wall will be painted. Thanks to the parishioners who have come forward to underwrite these expenses. Thursday, May 5, is the Ascension of the Lord, a Holy Day of Obligation. The Masses for this feast will take place on Wednesday, May 4, at 5:00 PM and Thursday, May 5, at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM. Because of the Vigil Mass on Wednesday, there will be no Holy Hour.

**The second leg** of the St. Bart's Stocking Fund is in full gear. By now, every registered parishioner should have received a letter with a pledge card. There are many options for giving to this campaign which will run through December 2005. The purpose of this project is to raise funds to replace the front steps, sidewalks, and side entrance of Church, as well as reseal the windows in the baptistery. Please help us reach our goal of \$70,000.00. Thank you for your generosity and support of St. Bartholomew Parish.

**Finally**, with the Food Bank being closed, we now will only collect food at certain times of the year. These times will be announced in the bulletin. Once again, I thank everyone for their support of our Food Bank.

**Have a blessed week!**

## 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.

## Sincere Appreciation from Sister Sylvia, OSF

To Father Dave and all of you who prayed for me and wished me well during my recent hospitalization. May God bless and reward you for your thoughtfulness.

School News with Mrs. Fleet

**Congratulations** to our second graders as they receive the Holy Eucharist for the first time on Sunday, May 1, at 12:30 PM.

**The week of May 1 through May 7** is also Teacher Appreciation Week. The teachers of St. Bartholomew School are not only excellent educators, but they are all tremendous people. They diligently work to help our students excel academically, spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue to foster the Kingdom of God here on earth.

**Progress reports** will be distributed on Monday, May 2. Please join us for the 10:00 AM Mass on Thursday, May 5, the Ascension of the Lord. Mrs. Gravina, Mrs. Dolan, and our third graders will help to prepare our liturgy.

**We welcome our grandparents** and special friends who have already made a reservation to share lunch with our students on Thursday, May 5.

**Thank you to Mr. Heid** and our Student Council who will supply a delicious breakfast for our teachers and staff on Thursday morning from 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM.

**On Friday, May 6**, we welcome preschool students to our Step-up to Kindergarten day. This event will take place from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. For further information, please call the school office at 412-242-2511.

**Applause goes to our PTG** for the delicious lunch they will provide for our teachers and staff on Friday, May 6. Our PTG is always most hospitable to our St. Bartholomew School family.

**Thank you goes again** to all of you for your continuous support of our school. May God bless you always!

**THIRD GRADING PERIOD AWARDS**

**High Honors**: Jacqueline Bissonette, Christopher Craver, and Amanda Hart. **Honors**: Samantha Boggess, Amanda MacDonald, Anthony Myers, Brittany Restori, Robert Sadler, Alex Salerno, Philip Salerno, and Nicole Williams. **Honorable Mention**: Lindsay Cahill, Claire Giblin, Arianna Labriola, Lauren Richards, and Kelsi Shanley. **Perfect Attendance**: Jessica Adams, Lauren Bouchard, Christopher Bright, Adam Burkhart, William Butterfield, Rori Cain, Taylor Delval, Anthony Henderson, Katherine Hope, James Maher, Elizabeth Mahoney, Megan Maturo, Anthony Myers, Nicholas Nejak, Marissa Paredes, Rheta Richards, Gretchen Shepard, Jeffrey Socash, Maria Tarassi, Dennis Turpin, and Stephanie Zagorski.

Religious Education News with Arlene Golden

*"Jesus said, 'If you love me, I will show myself to you.'" John 14:15 The love for Jesus has helped me to see God in the children. The catechists have helped me to see God in their dedication to the students.*

**CCD classes have ended until the fall.** It has been God's gift to have the children with us these past eight months.

**A special "thank you" is extended** to our very faithful catechists:

Sister Mary Joseph, Kindergarten

Ms. Lindsey Valenti, Grade 1

Sister Mary Ann, Grade 2

Mrs. Denise Verosky, Grade 3

Ms. Lynne Trzyna, Grade 4

Mr. Robert Lester, Grade 5

Mrs. Barb Vento, Grade 6

Ms. Tina Cardinal, Grade 7

Mr. Joe Vento, Grade 8

Kathy Spieler, Youth Helper

Susan Duncan, Connie Skindzier, and Pat Vaughn, Substitutes.

**Special Tribute to Office Helpers**: I would be remiss if I didn't also acknowledge the dedicated office help I have had this year in Bill Haddad and Cindi Valenti.

**First Communion Videos**: The Communion DVDs and videos will be available in four to six weeks. The religious education office will notify families when they are available.

**BINGO**

Bingo is held this and every Monday at 7:00 PM in Helzlsouer Hall. Come and play the best!

**A Respect Life Moment**

(Stem Cell Research and Human Cloning, copyright 2004, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC)

**WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF HARVESTING DONOR CELLS FROM THE INTENDED RECIPIENT OF THE STEM CELL THERAPY?**

Because these cells come from the patient, they are an exact match and will not be rejected by the body as foreign tissue. Also, because no foreign substance is placed in the body, there are fewer regulatory barriers to their medical use.

**Notice to *All* Current Eucharistic Ministers**

Also to anyone who may be interested in this ministry, in our Church and/or to the homebound:

The Diocese of Pittsburgh has informed us that anyone who serves in this capacity must be recertified. This new certification will be for a period of three years.

All ministers who wish to continue in this ministry or who are interested in this ministry need to complete the attached form and put it in the collection basket next weekend, May 7 and 8, 2005. Should you have any questions, please contact Sister Dorothy at 412-242-7357.

Thank you and God Bless!

Please fill out this form and place it in the collection basket or return it to the rectory.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to continue my ministry as Eucharistic Minister for the Church:  
 YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to continue my ministry as Eucharistic Minister for the homebound:  
 YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to have someone contact me about becoming a:  
 Eucharistic Minister for the Church:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Eucharistic Minister for the homebound:  
 \_\_\_\_\_

I have signed the Pastoral Code of Conduct:  
 YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Mass Intentions**



- MON., May 2 - St. Athanasius**  
10:00 A.M. Cooney & Bonzer Families (Bea Cooney)
- TUES., May 3 - Sts. Philip & James**  
10:00 A.M. Andrew DeRubeis (Tilda Merola & Family)
- WED., May 4 - Ascension Vigil**  
5:00 P.M. Cecelia L. Dugan (Family)  
7:00 P.M. No Holy Hour
- THURS., May 5 - Ascension of the Lord**  
10:00 A.M. People of the Parish  
7:00 P.M. Andrejco & Petriga Families (Mike & Helen Andrejco)
- FRI., May 6 - Easter Weekday**  
10:00 A.M. Ioli-Secola Families (Rita & Children)  
6:00 P.M. Rehearsal: Kraykovic-DeLuca
- SAT., May 7 - Easter Weekday**  
10:00 A.M. Albert & Maria Rosso (Rosso Family)  
1:00 P.M. Wedding: Kraykovic-DeLuco  
5:00 P.M. Living & Deceased Mothers & Grandmothers of the Parish
- SUN., May 8 - Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
8:00 A.M. Living & Deceased Mothers & Grandmothers of the Parish  
10:30 A.M. Living & Deceased Mothers & Grandmothers of the Parish

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

Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed:

**Sylvester Lombardo**

***Congratulations First Communicants!***

Garrett Anderson, Patrick Armstrong, Kurt Baurle, Alexander Brewton, Taylor Delval, Luke Dymerski, Zane Gates, Gina Gionta, Lawrence Gyles, Baylee Haddad, Tyler Hajduk, Madison Hintemeyer, Kathalyn Howard, Janine Jelinek, Nicole Jones, Natalie Karpinski, Katelyn Kelly, Courtney Kozel, Katelynn Macioce, William Navari, Jasmyn Nguyen, Brendan Persichetti, Kaylie Rypcinski, Gretchen Shepard, Hannah So-cash, Aliyah Tullis, and Stephanie Vigliotti.