

*Fr. Dave's Den:* **Once upon a time** an Ohio woman lost her purse in a shopping center. Fortunately for the woman, a young lad found it and returned it to her. Meanwhile, after looking through the purse the woman commented, "That's funny, before I lost my purse there was a twenty dollar bill in it. Now I find two fives and ten one dollar bills." "That's right," agreed the honest lad. "The last time I found a lady's purse, she didn't have change for a reward." I guess some people will do whatever it takes to get a reward.

**In today's first reading** from the second book of Kings, a woman extends hospitality to Elisha the prophet. Elisha is so moved by this woman's kindness that he asks, "Can something be done for her?" When told that her husband is aging and she has no son, Elisha calls for this woman and says, "This time next year you will be fondling a baby son."

**It would seem** that the woman is rewarded for her hospitality, but there is more to this story. The woman is rewarded for her faith. This reward is foreshadowed in today's Gospel when Jesus says, "Whoever received a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward...."

**Not everything we do in life** yields a reward in this life. But when we exude hospitality and faith there is always the promise of reward. Sometimes, however, we won't experience this reward until the life to come. In the meantime, let us pledge to be hospitable, kind, and faithful.

**Congratulations** to those who participated in the new St. Bartholomew Bereavement Program. Recently, the program concluded with a beautiful prayer service in Church. I was honored to be a part of the gathering. Once again, I commended the participants for their courage in owning and addressing their grief. While the grief will continue, there is a greater awareness of support. Thanks to Sr. Dorothy for coordinating this wonderful program, and many thanks to the support staff Sr. Dorothy assembled: Joette Zarotney, Kathy Ankeny, Mimi Nichols, and Pat Moore. A new bereavement group will be forming soon. For more information, please call Sr. Dorothy at 412-242-7357.

**Thanks to** parishioner Dawn Angiulli for her excellent presentation on the Vial of Life program through the St. Margaret Foundation. Hopefully, every family will heed her advice. For more information on this matter, please call Sr. Dorothy.

**Today's second collection** is the annual Peter's Pence collection for the benefit of the Holy Father. This collection, which coincides with the Feasts of Sts. Peter and Paul on July 29, enables the Holy Father to respond with emergency financial assistance to those throughout the world who suffer from war, oppression, and natural disasters. Thank you for your generosity.

**Next weekend, July 2 and 3**, we will welcome our new music director. We cannot announce her name pending diocesan approval. There is much documentation that needs to be gathered to make this process complete and until all of that documentation is received and reviewed by diocesan authorities, we cannot make any formal announcement. I can tell you, however, that we are excited about having this person on board.

**Please note** that at the recommendation of our cluster task force there will be no Mass in our parish on Monday, July 4, 2005. Masses that day will be held at St. Gerard's and St. Irenaeus at 9:00 AM. St. Bartholomew is scheduled to have Labor Day Mass on Monday, September 5, 2005, at 9:00 AM.

**Finally**, June 30, marks the one year anniversary of Sr. Rosemary McLain's death. May God grant her eternal rest.

**Have a rewarding week!**

### *Atlantic City!*

It's time to sign up for the annual fall trip to Atlantic City! We will be staying at the Sands from Tuesday, October 4 to Thursday, October 6. The cost per person is \$157.00 (double occupancy). A down payment of \$57.00 is due by July 15, with the balance due by August 29. You will be getting \$20.00 back at the casino. Don't wait to sign up, seats are already filling up! Call the rectory at 412-242-3374 to reserve your place.

**School News with Mrs. Fleet**

**Remember**, we are still accepting registrations for preschool through eighth grade. Please call the school office at 412-242-2511 for more information.

**Please continue** to save all Campbell product labels, Box Tops for Education, and Shop n' Save receipts. Thank you for all that you do for our school family.

**Central Catholic Youth Football**

The Viking Youth Football Camp for boys entering grades 4 through 9 will be held from July 25 to July 27 at Central Catholic High School. For more information contact Mike Kennedy at 412-571-0265. Thank you!

**B-I-N-G-O**

Join us for Bingo this and every Monday evening at 7:00 PM in Helzlsouer Hall. This is the week to play, the Little Derby jackpot is up to \$550.00, the Magic Number is up to \$400.00, and the regular jackpot is \$500.00. What a week for Bingo at St. Bart's!

**Life Teen - leading Teens Closer to Christ**

Thanks to all that came out to help make our car wash a huge success! We were able to raise over \$360.00 for the American Cancer Society and we even washed a Harley! Special thanks to John Parrillo and The Rapp Funeral Home for providing such a great location. Any teens that signed up for the Kennywood trip on July 1, you will be getting a phone call soon. Please remember the Core team in prayer this weekend as we will be on retreat.

**Religious Education News with Arlene Golden**

*"Jesus said, 'Anyone who gives even a cup of cold water to someone who belongs to me will be rewarded.'" Matthew 10:42* There are many ministers in the Church who bring the Word of God to people. We are all called to nourish each other and stand up for what is right. As my ministry draws to a close, I thank all of you who have nourished me in my faith journey at St. Bart's. You have also been welcoming to me and in so doing have made Jesus visible to people. A piece of you will always be with me.

**First Communion Videos**: The videos and photos are now available for pick-up at the rectory.

**Vacation Bible Camp**: Listed are the neighboring parishes offering Vacation Bible Camp this summer:

Word of God, July 11-15, contact Joe Markowski 412-351-0670

Our Lady of Joy, July 18-22, contact office at 412-795-4389

St. Susanna, July 25-29, contact Leann Hrubetz 412-798-3591

**A Respect Life Meditation**

(Christendom College Update, 1994 report on "Veritatis Splendor" Conference) "Compare this statement: 'A feeling of happiness is the sign of a good conscience,' to this statement: 'A deadened conscience can never attain joy. Any saloon can have a happy hour, but only a church can have a Holy Hour. There is no greater profession of faith than prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.'"

**We pray** that all parishioners will enhance their spiritual life by attending the Holy Hour each Wednesday at 7:00 PM.



## The Richness of Life in Christ

Today we have the beautiful story of the woman promised a child, the wonderful exhortation about life in Christ, and a powerful instruction from Jesus. An embarrassment of riches? Not if we take Jesus' words about "welcome" to heart. The many challenges and blessings offered to us today by Elisha, Paul, and Jesus should be cause for rejoicing, and welcomed heartily into our lives. And, like the great treat that they are, they should be enjoyed and shared generously with others.

Today's reading from Romans was chosen very early in the liturgical life of the Church to be the sole apostolic instruction received by candidates for baptism at the Easter Vigil. This illustrates its importance as a core belief, and as a means of comprehending the story of the Resurrection. Christ's resurrection is not merely a story about something that he underwent once upon a time, but it is our story, the story of how we joined the other members of the one Body of Christ, the church. We were not only dead, but we were buried; not ultimately buried, but raised to eternal life with Christ.

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## Treasures from our Tradition

Confirmation is complicated, at least in its history. It arose in response to real problems deeply felt, not the least of which was the desire of the bishop to minister to all who were baptized. But it also has to do with the early crisis of how to deal with persons baptized by congregations that had broken bonds with the greater church: heretics. People reasoned that no matter how wrong-headed the minister might be, Christ would always work in the waters of baptism. No matter what, God would sweep aside all human obstacles to claim the new life in the water. They were not so sure about the ability of someone who had broken with the church to confer the Spirit.

By the fifth century, already-baptized persons coming into the church were anointed with chrism but not rebaptized. This anointing with *myron* chrism was seen as an act of reconciliation by the church, and a seal upon the commitments vowed by the newcomer. Today, we preserve this ancient practice by never "rebaptizing" Christians who have been baptized in water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We affirm the candidates' baptismal dignity, and we celebrate confirmation at their first reception of the Eucharist.

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## Mass Intentions



### **MON., June 27 - St. Cyril of Alexandria**

10:00 A.M. Paul Ciuksza (Wife)

### **TUES., June 28 - St. Irenaeus**

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

### **WED., June 29 - Sts. Peter and Paul**

7:00 P.M. Holy Hour

### **THURS., June 30 - First Martyrs of the Church**

10:00 A.M. Ursula & Joe Lazzaro (Chianese Family)

### **FRI., July 1 - Blessed Junipero Serra**

10:00 A.M. Sonny Russman (Donna Russman)

6:00 P.M. Rehearsal: Kay-Besselman

### **SAT., July 2 - St. Thomas**

10:00 A.M. John & Eva Valicenti (Johanna & Maria Valicenti & Family)

3:00 P.M. Wedding: Timothy Kay-Sarah Besselman

5:00 P.M. Anthony J. Macioce (Anna Mae Macioce & Daughters)

### **SUN., July 3 - 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

10:30 A.M. Joseph & Mathilda Corpora (Family)

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

Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed:

**Gloria Hurley and James Carrozzi-McGregor**

## Festival Tickets

This is a reminder to make sure you return your Festival raffle tickets to the rectory by 12:00 noon on July 18 to be eligible for the Seller's Bonus Drawing. The Seller's Bonus will be drawn at Monday Night Bingo. You could win \$1000.00!

## Your Attention, Please!

We are in need of ushers to serve at the 5:00 PM Saturday evening Mass and also at the 8:00 AM Sunday morning Mass. If you usually attend either of these Masses and have been thinking of serving the parish, please consider this simple, but very important, ministry. It is so central to our Church community that everyone is made to feel very welcome at our Masses and ushers are the first representatives that people new to the parish meet. If you are interested, please contact Andy Merola at 412-247-5435. Thank you!