

Fr. Dave's Den: **It was in the middle** of the dog days of summer. The house was full of guests and there was no air conditioning. The hostess finally got everyone seated for dinner and asked her seven-year-old daughter to say grace. "But mother," said the little girl, "I don't know what to say."

"**Yes, you do**," said her mother, "just say the last prayer you heard me use."

Obediently, the child bowed her head and recited hesitantly: "Oh Lord, why did I invite these people on such a hot day?"

Have you ever attempted to pray and just did not know what to say? In today's second reading from the Letter to the Romans, St. Paul alludes to this situation. Paul writes, "The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible groaning."

When we find ourselves struggling in prayer, we need to pause and surrender ourselves to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit offers a focus and, at times, a jumpstart. "Come Holy Spirit, deepen our prayers."

This statement on prayer by St. Paul indicates that prayer itself is a gift from God. One of the prefaces for the weekday Mass expresses this point when it says, "Our prayer of thanksgiving is itself your gift." Today, then, we ask the Spirit to help us when we are unable to pray as we ought. And we thank Almighty God for the wonderful gift of prayer.

Speaking of prayer, Holy Hour resumes this Wednesday at 7:00 PM. There is perhaps no better way to be on a vacation with the Lord than to spend time with Him before the Eucharist. All are welcome.

It is with great pleasure that I am able to announce to you our new Music Director, Miss Mary Ellen Lang. Mary Ellen comes to us with 35 years of experience as an organist and choir director in the Greensburg Diocese. We look forward to experiencing Mary Ellen's gifts and talents through her

music and we welcome Mary Ellen to St. Bart's. She tells us that she is "very happy to be here." Welcome and many blessings, Mary Ellen!

Have you turned in your sold Sweepstakes tickets so as to be eligible for the early bird drawing? The drawing is tomorrow evening, July 18, 2005, during the Monday Night Bingo. Good luck to all of you sellers. And thanks for supporting St. Bartholomew Parish.

What comes after the Early Bird Drawing? The 55th Annual Festival! It is only 17 days away. As we near the homestretch we need your help. You can help us by cleaning your house, garage, drawers, closets, etc., and parting with your treasures which can be sold at the White Elephant Flea Market. You can start baking for the bake sale, or you can start saving your quarters for Bingo, which is held every night of the Festival in the gym. You can come up during the week and assist with the set-up, or you can come and work a booth. It would be nice if everyone could come out and work. The more the merrier. And remember, if you work before, during, or after Festival you are eligible to attend the Festival Appreciation Dinner and cash in on some nice door prizes. The dinner is only open to workers. For more info on how you can help, call the rectory and ask for Ginny Beck.

Have a glorious week!

COME, HOLY SPIRIT!



DEEPEN OUR PRAYERS.

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.

Festival Memories

We want you to help us write the Sunday, July 31, 2005 bulletin! Since that will be the Sunday before the 55th Annual St. Bartholomew Parish Festival, we are looking for your Festival memories. After 55 years, there have most certainly been some very treasured moments to relate. Write down your thoughts (four or five lines) and drop them off at the rectory no later than this Sunday, July 17, 2005, so we can publish your stories or memorable moments in the July 31 bulletin. Please include your name and phone number. Your items may be subject to editing due to space restrictions.

A Respect Life Meditation

(Pope John Paul II, General Audiences, August 3, 1994) "The love of husband and wife which is not turned in on itself, but according to the impulse and law of nature is open to new life, becomes, with the help of God's grace, an exercise of holy and sanctifying charity, in which the spouses contribute to the Church's growth.

We pray that the Holy Father's teaching will deepen our love and respect for all families in the Church and in the world.

Cantor Meeting

There will be a meeting for all cantors on Thursday, July 28, at 7:00 PM in the Church. Cantors are asked to bring their music. Anyone interested in becoming a cantor is also invited to attend this informational meeting. If you are unable to come, please call Mary Ellen at 724-335-8707.

Religious Education News

Greetings and hopes that all are enjoying the blessings of a great summer!

It is not too early to think about registration for fall classes in religious education. Classes will resume for elementary and junior high students on Sunday September 25. Class times will remain the same: 9:00 AM to 10:15 AM. Early registration will begin the week of July 25.

Have you thought about teaching? All that is needed is a desire to share the faith with our youth. The rewards are great!

Volunteers are needed in the office and to assist in all classrooms. All who wish to help are welcome; please call the religious education office at 412-242-7207.

B-I-N-G-O

Bingo is this and every Monday evening at 7:00 PM in Helzlsouer Hall. This is a big week at Bingo, we have two magic numbers, the Lil' Derby is up to \$350.00, the California Tic-Tac is \$225.00, and the Festival Sweepstakes raffle will be drawn. Remember, you have until 7:00 PM on Monday, July 18 to return your tickets. See you there!

Lancaster Bus Trip

The St. Bart's Women's Group is sponsoring a bus trip to Lancaster, Pa. The bus will leave St. Bartholomew's parking lot at 7:45 AM on Friday, November 18, 2005 and return on Saturday, November 19, at 8:00 PM. In between, the group will experience a myriad of adventures, including, but not limited to: a performance of *Miracle of Christmas* at the Millennium Theatre, dinner at Hershey Farms Restaurant, overnight accommodations at the Lancaster Host Resort (bring your bathing suits), shopping at Kitchen Kettle Village, a stop at the National Christmas Center, and what might just be the highlight - a visit to "Hershey Chocolate World"! Reservations are now being accepted until August 20, 2005 and must be accompanied by a \$50.00 deposit. Oh yeah, the cost of this momentous excursion is a price of \$195.00 per person, double occupancy. Gentlemen are welcome on this trip as well. If you have any questions, please contact Sister Dorothy at 412-242-7357 or Jessica at 412-242-3374.

SETTING ASIDE THE WEAPONS OF WAR

In a reading from a couple of weeks ago, we hear from the prophet Zechariah who wishes that God would banish chariots and horses. Why, we might ask the prophet Zechariah today, would God want to banish chariots and horses? The answer follows: because they are used to violate God's reign of peace, along with the warrior's bow. In the days of Zechariah, chariots and horses were high-priced items used only for war-making. They were the aircraft carriers and nuclear missiles of his day. And for his culture, which thought of any king as being a military leader first and foremost, a king riding on a lowly beast of burden to proclaim peace without horses, chariots, and bows would have set his listeners topsy-turvy.

This lowly, beast-riding king of peace, we believe, was fulfilled in Jesus, gentle and humble of heart. In a world torn by military strife often generated by differing religious views, and even in our own lives and homes where we are often at "war" over the tiniest things, we would do well to stop and consider to what degree we are willing to be like that "king" whose way of gentleness and humility is the way for us to find rest for our weary souls.

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Patiently Awaiting Judgment

Matthew, more than any other evangelist, talks about Jesus leaving and returning home. Often Jesus leaves the house because crowds have assembled outside and want to be taught. Today, after having taught and dismissed the crowds, his disciples follow him home, seeking further explanation of what seem to be, at least to us today, pretty straightforward parables. For both Matthew and Mark, when Jesus is in the house with his disciples it signals a special teaching moment, and it should cause us today to perk up our ears. Usually it is Jesus giving commonsense advice about what it will mean to follow him. Today is no different. To follow Jesus means to be ready to encounter the followers of evil, to have to live and work and preach among them. It means patiently awaiting the judgment that can only come from God, the judgment of justly deciding who will be thrown into the flame and who will live to be a brightly shining saint. Let us heed this house-teaching, for it will be the same for us who follow Jesus Christ today.

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Mass Intentions



MON., July 18 - St. Camillus de Lellis

10:00 A.M. Diane Llewellyn (Mom & Dad)

TUES., July 19 - Weekday

10:00 A.M. Albert, Sr., John, & Duane LaFrance
(Kay LaFrance Wharton)

WED., July 20 - Weekday

7:00 P.M. Holy Hour

THURS., July 21 - St. Lawrence of Brindisi

10:00 A.M. Debbie House (Dad & Mom)

FRI., July 22 - St. Mary Magdalene

10:00 A.M. Maddalena Ditano (Nino & Ida Sciulli)

6:00 P.M. Rehearsal: Komoroski-Turner

SAT., July 23 - St. Bridget of Sweden

10:00 A.M. B. Williams - Mass for Living (Friends and Loved Ones)

3:00 P.M. Wedding: Jeffrey Komoroski - Heather Turner

5:00 P.M. Fr. Dave's 17th Anniversary

SUN., July 24 - 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

10:30 A.M. Teresa Pizzonia (Mother, Dad, Brothers, and Sisters)

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

Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed:

Nellie Kolcun and Vincenzo Tropiano

Thank You to Donors

The Festival Committee wishes to thank those who have contributed so far to both the Festival Wish List and also to the White Elephant Sale. Your donations are so very helpful! We are still taking items for both, and in particular we are in need of ziplock bags for the Wish List. Also, please remember that the White Elephant can not accept tires or encyclopedias as donations. Once again, a big thanks to our contributors, as well as to our tireless workers!

