

*Jr. Dave's Den:* If God were to grant you one wish, what would it be? What is the one thing in life you covet most? In today's first reading from the Book of Kings, the Lord appears to Solomon in a dream and says, "Ask something of me and I will give it to you." What does Solomon seek of God? What would you ask for? Solomon's wish is an understanding heart, for he says, "Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong." Imagine, Solomon could have asked for anything, but he simply asked for an understanding heart. And yet, when we step back and look at the big picture, an understanding heart is an important key to life. May the Lord bless us all with an understanding heart so that we can distinguish right from wrong.

Do you remember where you were this same weekend of July 23 and 24 seventeen years ago? The year was 1988 and the weather was hazy, hot, and humid. I was with my family and friends realizing a dream and celebrating the greatest weekend of my life at my home parish of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin, Whitehall. Saturday morning I was ordained a priest of Jesus Christ through the invocation of the Holy Spirit and imposition of hands by Bishop Donald Wuerl. Following the Mass I received my first parish assignment to St. Vitus, New Castle. And the next day, I celebrated my first Mass. It was an awesome, faith-filled weekend. And every weekend thereafter during the past seventeen years has been just as fulfilling. As I mark the anniversary of these sacred moments in my life, I thank God for the call to priesthood. Everyday it is a joyful adventure to be a priest. And I thank God for my parents and siblings who nurtured my vocational seed and throughout the years have been pillars of support to me. And on this weekend I thank God for you, the staff and parishioners of St. Bartholomew Parish for your prayerful support and trust. What a humble privilege it is to be your pastor.

While I am ordained to live out a divine reality, I

am faced everyday with my own humanness. This humanness, although beautiful in as much as it is the work of God, is nonetheless imperfect and weak. If I have offended anyone by commission or omission I humbly seek your mercy. I pledge to you my all and I believe that "the best is yet to be." In the meantime, let us continue to pray for one another.

Monday, July 25, is the annual Pittsburgh Priests Memorial Golf Outing at Rolling Hills Country Club in McMurray, Pa. This is a great day for all of us priests to remember our deceased brother priests and enjoy each other's company on the course. Please say a prayer for the success of the day.

Congratulations to Erin Milanovich who won the \$1000.00 early bird seller's raffle. Thanks to everyone who sold and/or purchased sweepstakes tickets. There still is time to sell and/or buy more chances on a first prize of \$3000.00, second prize of a 48" JVC high definition TV, and third prize of an Oglebay Resort Package. Tickets are available at the rectory.

We now are in the homestretch of preparing for our 55th Annual Festival. If you can lend a hand with the prep work, just show up after dinner each night. Also, we are asking each family to work during the festival. The more the merrier.

Finally, everyone is welcome to attend a light fare-well reception for Divine Redeemer Sisters Mary Ann and Geraldine on Saturday, July 30, following the 5:00 PM Mass in the back vestibule of Church. We are grateful to both Sisters Mary Ann and Geraldine, as well as the entire Divine Redeemer community for their many faithful years of service to our parish and school.

Have a joy-filled week!



### ***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.

**For your information**, The first day of school is Thursday, August 25, 2005, and it is a half day.

### **A Respect Life Meditation**

(Fr. Lee Chang, Secretary of the Commission on Justice and Peace, Catholic Bishops Conference in Korea, May 2005) "An embryo is a human being and we cannot become accomplices to a society that kills its smallest members to find a cure for its oldest ones."

**We pray** that all scientists use their God-given talent to benefit the lives of all persons.

### **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.

### **Life Teen - Leading Teens Closer to Christ**

The Relay for Life is over for this year. And thanks to all that came to the Mother's day pancake breakfast and the Car Wash and gave donations our teens raised \$2415.30. But the BIGGEST donation came from the McCaffrey family in memory of their dad and husband, Jerry, in the amount of \$10,025.00. Our grand total came to \$12,440.30. A huge thank you to the McCaffrey's, Beck's, and to the people of St. Bart's for helping to fight cancer!



### ***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 week we have two magic numbers, a \$500.00 jackpot, and our Little Derby is up to \$700.00! Come and play to win!

### **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.

## Jackpot

In our lottery- and sweepstakes-laden culture, it is common to ask ourselves or others what they would do if they won. In today's first reading, Solomon certainly hits the jackpot. What prize could be greater than having God Almighty agree to give you whatever you ask for? Out of all the things he could have asked for, Solomon chose to ask for understanding, and was rewarded with it. We would do well to wonder what we would ask for if God made us the same offer. Actually God does make us the same offer each and every day, by granting us another day of life, a bit of the earth's goods, some gift or ability, some call to goodness, some portion of the divine will. Each of these is a "prize." We should stop and examine what we are going to do with our prize: keep it or use it selfishly, or put it at the service of the spread of the gospel?

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## ST. VINCENT COLLEGE

High School juniors and seniors and their families are invited to Get Acquainted Day Open House at Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, on Sunday, August 7, or Sunday, August 14. Registration is from 11:30 to 11:45 AM, followed by an introduction to Saint Vincent College and a student panel. Early arrivals may attend 9:30 AM Mass in the historic Saint Vincent Basilica and/or brunch at 10:30 AM in the Community Center Dining Hall.

Find out more about this top-ranked Catholic, Benedictine, liberal arts college. Listen to financial aid and admission presentations, meet faculty, administrators, and coaches, and take a campus tour. For information or reservations, phone 1-800-782-5549, email [admission@stvincent.edu](mailto:admission@stvincent.edu), or register online at [www.stvincent.edu](http://www.stvincent.edu).

## Mass Intentions



### **MON., July 25 - St. James**

10:00 A.M. Patricia Ostrowski (Peggy Noweck, Mother)

### **TUES., July 26 - Sts. Joachim & Anne**

10:00 A.M. Isadoro Porco (Daughter, Marie Ciccotelli & Family)

### **WED., July 27 - Weekday**

7:00 P.M. Holy Hour

### **THURS., July 28 - Weekday**

10:00 A.M. Sister Anna DiLorenzo (Nino & Ida Sciulli)

### **FRI., July 29 - St. Martha**

10:00 A.M. Ellen Jane Myers (Mary Ann Hall)

### **SAT., July 30 - St. Peter Chrysologus**

10:00 A.M. E. J. Herd (Mother)

5:00 P.M. Carl, Sr. and Margaret Gaus (Mr. & Mrs. Carl Gaus)

### **SUN., July 31 - 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

10:30 A.M. Anthony Giglio (June & Rege Blahut)

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

Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed:

**Dan Fitzpatrick, brother of parishioner Ted Fitzpatrick, Vingenza Zallo, and William Lhota**

## Ladies of Charity News

Congratulations to Lynne Trzyna, St. Bartholomew's Ladies of Charity President, who has been elected to the position of Secretary of the Diocesan Ladies of Charity Board. We also applaud you for your leadership as President of our parish Ladies of Charity.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the Early Bird Seller's Bonus Sweepstakes winner Erin Milanovich with ticket number 1573. She won \$1000.00 in the drawing which was held last Monday evening at Bingo.