

Fr. Dave's Den: **One of the most inviting** and consoling statements uttered by Jesus appears in today's Gospel. Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest." It's heartwarming to know that we can go to Jesus with our struggles and burdens. Not only does He help us to shoulder them but He promises us rest.

Interestingly enough, these words, which are often proclaimed at funerals, serve as the caption of the long awaited sculpture of Jesus that will soon be affixed to the wall above the tabernacle. Jesus is depicted with open hands inviting all of us to come to Him with our sorrows.

As Pastor, I am grateful to the three families who made the upgrading of this altar possible. One family underwrote the expense of the sculpture, the other family covered lighting, painting, and gold leafing, and the third paid to have the six candlesticks replaced. Their names are found on the memorial plaque in the back of Church. What a beautiful way for us as a parish to conclude the year of the Eucharist!

Bishop Paul Bradley, Auxiliary Bishop and General Secretary of the Diocese of Pittsburgh has accepted our invitation to come and bless the sculpture and the entire Blessed Sacrament area. Bishop Bradley will celebrate the 10:30 AM Mass on Sunday, September 25, 2005. As we arrive closer to this date we will provide more information.

I also wish to acknowledge the handful of families who contributed to the upgrading of the Blessed Mother altar. Their names have been placed on the plaque in the back of Church. It truly is inspiring to witness such faith filled generosity. Wow! May God reward you for your kindness.

Thanks to those parishioners who donated the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph statues in the back vestibule of Church. The names of these donors are also found on the memorial plaque.

A month from today the 55th Annual Parish Festival begins. Keep in mind that all sweepstakes tickets must be returned by Monday, July 18 to be eli-

gible for the \$1000.00 early bird drawing. You can return your tickets via the mail, Sunday collection, or the rectory.

Attention all business leaders: do you pay any of the following taxes: Corporate Net Income Tax, Capital Stock and Franchise Tax, Bank and Trust Company Shares Tax, Insurance Premium Tax, or Mutual Thrift Institution Tax? If you do, you can divert these taxes to a Pre-K-12 scholarship organization and get at least a 90% tax credit for the gift. By the way, existing federal charitable deductions apply, making it a dollar-for-dollar gift in most cases. This means you can give a gift to St. Bartholomew School without it costing you anything out of your pocket. As one accountant put it, "It is a no-brainer." If you wish to know more about this program, please call Dr. Ron Bowes at 412-456-3090.

Tomorrow our nation celebrates its independence. How blessed we are to live in the greatest country in the world. Just a reminder, at the recommendation of the cluster task force, there will be no Mass at St. Bart's tomorrow. Mass will be celebrated at St. Gerard and St. Irenaeus at 9:00 AM. St. Bart's will host the Labor Day Mass.

Finally, tomorrow, Bobo and I will leave for vacation. The Masses will be covered by Frs. David Poecking, Matt Cirilli and Ed Yuhas. In the event of an emergency and you need a priest, you can call the parish office and our staff will accommodate your need. You can also call Fr. Barkin from St. Susanna at 412-798-5596, or Fr. Brennan from St. Gerard at 412-793-3333. Please note that there will be no Holy Hour the next two weeks.

Have a restful 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.

B-I-N-G-O

There will be no Bingo at St. Bart's this Monday evening due to the 4th of July holiday. Join us again next Monday evening at 7:00 PM in Helzlsouer Hall.

A Respect Life Meditation

(Thomas Jefferson, Author of the Declaration of Independence) "Taking care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only object of good government."

We pray that all Americans especially those who govern our country will realize that God's gifts of liberty and happiness are meaningless if His gift of life is denied to the weakest and most dependent members of our society.

Congratulations to Honors Students

Congratulations to the following final quarter honors students:

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

North Catholic: Anne Arezina, April Austin, JoAnn McLaughlin, Mary Kate McLaughlin, and Stephen Zubritsky.



Let
Freedom
Ring!

Novena to St. Anne

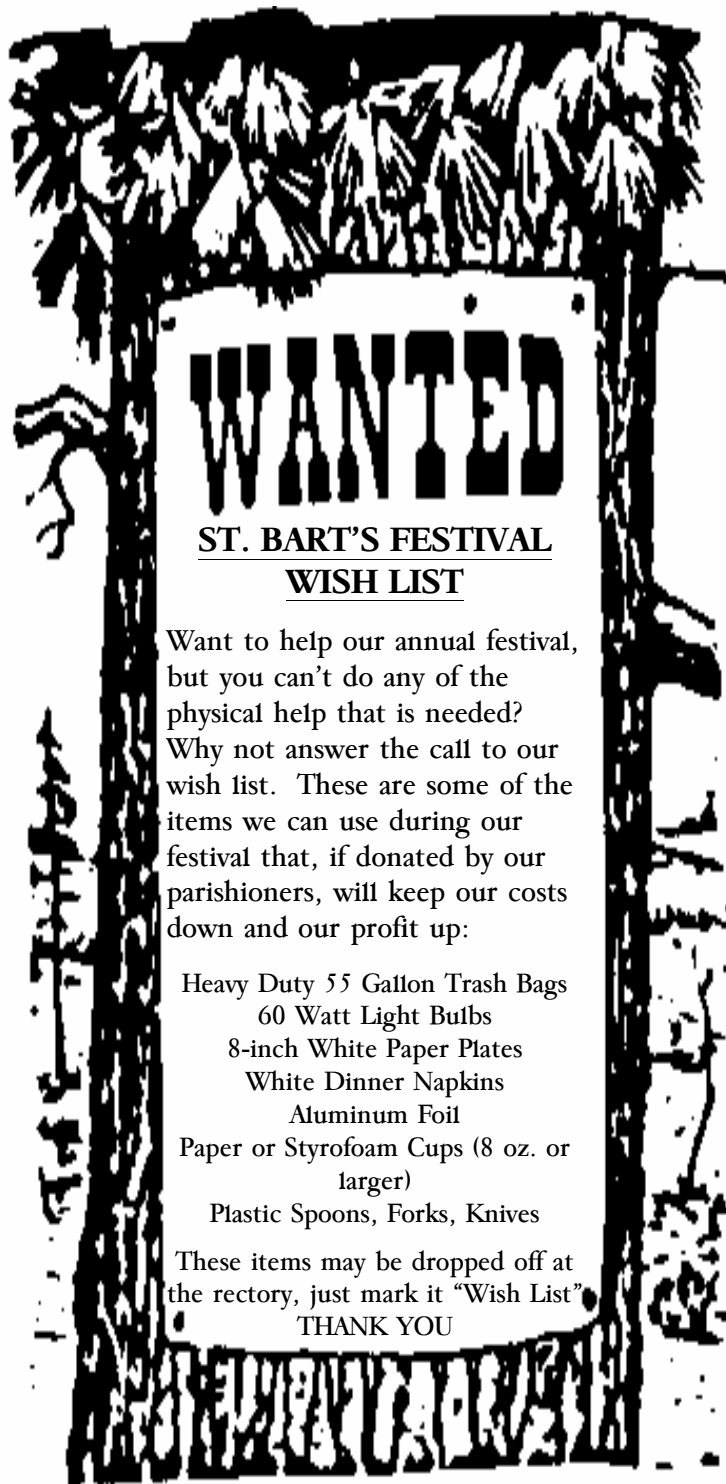
St. Anne Parish in Castle Shannon is once again holding their Novena in Honor of St. Anne. The opening will be Monday, July 18, 2005 during the 8:00 AM and 7:00 PM Masses. Devotions will be held Monday through Friday after the 8:00 AM Mass and Monday through Friday during the 7:00 PM Mass. There will also be Novena's Saturday, July 23, after the 8:00 AM Mass and Sunday, July 24, after the 10:00 AM Mass. The solemn closing will be Tuesday, July 26, at 7:00 PM, and will include prayers, a homily, benediction, procession, and a closing at the outdoor shrine (weather permitting). For more information, you may contact St. Anne's at 412-531-5964.

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 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.

Atlantic City!

Please note: The correct dates for the Atlantic City trip this season are indeed *Wednesday*, October 5 to *Friday*, October 7. This is different from the usual Tuesday to Thursday trip. 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, as well as a free buffet breakfast and dinner. Don't wait to sign up, seats are already filling up! Call the rectory at 412-242-3374 to reserve your place.



WANTED

ST. BART'S FESTIVAL WISH LIST

Want to help our annual festival, but you can't do any of the physical help that is needed? Why not answer the call to our wish list. These are some of the items we can use during our festival that, if donated by our parishioners, will keep our costs down and our profit up:

- Heavy Duty 55 Gallon Trash Bags
- 60 Watt Light Bulbs
- 8-inch White Paper Plates
- White Dinner Napkins
- Aluminum Foil
- Paper or Styrofoam Cups (8 oz. or larger)
- Plastic Spoons, Forks, Knives

These items may be dropped off at the rectory, just mark it "Wish List"
THANK YOU



Mark your calendars now and save some time for our festival construction. Beginning July 23-24 from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM the first wave of construction will begin. July 26 through July 28 construction will be done in the evenings from 6 PM to 9 PM, and then July 30-31 from 8 AM to 5 PM. Final touches to the festival grounds will happen August 1 and 2. Don't wait for someone to call you to help, just show up. There is plenty to do for all ages!!

Mass Intentions



- MON., July 4 - St. Elizabeth of Portugal**
10:00 A.M. No Mass at St. Bartholomew
- TUES., July 5 - St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria**
10:00 A.M. Frank DeCarolis (Family)
- WED., July 6 - St. Mary Goretti**
7:00 P.M. No Holy Hour
- THURS., July 7 - Weekday**
10:00 A.M. John & Susan Gerdino & Fran Walsh (Daughter & Sister)
- FRI., July 8 - Weekday**
10:00 A.M. Mary Jane Bruens (Mary Kay Kuenzi)
- SAT., July 9 - Augustine Zhao Rong & Martyrs**
10:00 A.M. Sr. Rosemary McLain (Kathleen, sister)
5:00 P.M. Rinny Secola (Rita & Children)
- SUN., July 10 - 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time**
8:00 A.M. People of the Parish
10:30 A.M. Robert J. Habina (Wife, Bebe)

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

Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed:

Helen Schmoyer

Golden Wedding Anniversaries

The Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh is again planning its annual Golden Wedding Celebration for the couples who have been married for 50 years. This year's celebration will take place on Sunday, October 2, 2005, beginning with a Mass at 3:00 PM at St. Paul's Cathedral. A reception will follow at Oakland Catholic High School.

If you are a parishioner celebrating your 50th wedding anniversary in 2005, and would be interested in attending the celebration along with the other jubilarian couples, please call the rectory or drop a note in the collection basket no later than July 25, 2005. Invitations will be sent out after responses have been received.



Growing in FAITH

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

July 2005

St. Bartholomew Parish
Rev. David J. Bonnar, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

God gives you what you can handle

"No trial has come to you but what is human. God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it."

(1 Corinthians 10:13)

Make Sunday the Lord's Day

"Our spiritual life," said Pope Benedict XVI, "essentially depends on the Eucharist. Without it, faith and hope are extinguished, charity becomes cold. Thus, dear friends, I exhort you to attend ever more to the quality of Eucharistic celebrations, especially on Sundays, so that Sunday will truly be the Lord's Day and will confer fullness of meaning on everyday events and activities."

Help in healing

All around us are people in pain. Let us be the ones who are sensitive to the hurts of others regardless of their age or circumstance.



Are you ready for the Eucharist?

Imagine the preparations you would make if you knew that Jesus was coming to visit you.

You would clean house, prepare delicious food for him, and clear your schedule so you could give him your full

attention. These activities are similar to the preparations we need to make every time we receive Jesus in the Eucharist.

Get ready. Do whatever is necessary to make sure you are properly disposed for communion with Christ. If you are not free from serious sin, attend Confession, do penance, and amend your life.

Fast before the feast. The Eucharistic Fast is an ancient custom that helps us

to receive Holy Communion with reverence. Abstain from food or drink, with the exceptions of water and medicine, for at least one hour before

receiving Holy Communion.

Give him your attention.

The rituals of the Mass help us to focus

completely on God's love for us and ours for him. Follow along with the prayers (use a missal, if necessary) and sing the songs so that you don't miss a moment of this celebration.

Attend Mass every Sunday. If Jesus asked to come over, you wouldn't say, "I'm too busy this week, how about coming next week?" Then never miss an opportunity to meet him in the Eucharist on Sunday.

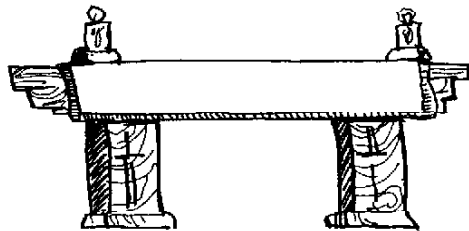


Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why does the priest kiss the altar?

In the early Church, the altar came to symbolize Christ himself since it is the site of his sacrifice in the Mass. Also, relics of martyrs used to be (and sometimes still are) placed in the altar so that the Mass was celebrated over them. This made the altar a special place in the church.

In addition, the priest has a



special relationship to the altar through his reception of Holy Orders and his connection to Christ. His kiss celebrates that relationship.

"Speak Lord, your servant is listening."

When God decided it was time to put the prophet Samuel to work, he called Samuel's name while he slept. Samuel didn't recognize God's voice, and hurried to his mentor, Eli, and asked what he needed. Eli sent him back to bed. Again, God called and Samuel didn't recognize his voice. Finally, Eli figured out that it was God's voice calling to Samuel and told him to answer, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:10).



Samuel was fortunate to have a friend who was wise in God's ways. When he listened to Eli and responded to God, "all Israel from Dan to Beersheba came to know that Samuel was an accredited prophet of the LORD" (1 Samuel 3:20). He played an important part in God's plan.

How many times has God called us but we haven't recognized his voice? Try to make time each day to give him your undivided attention. Only then can you learn of the great things he has in store for you.

from Scripture

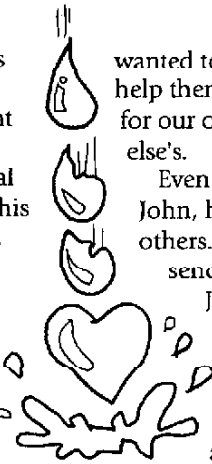
Matthew 14:13-21; Jesus' pain only increases his love.

In the passage preceding this reading, Jesus learned of John the Baptist's murder, so he went to a deserted place to be by himself. He needed time to deal with his grief alone, to mourn his loss. But he didn't dwell on his grief or pain. He faced it, dealt with it, and moved on.

When he returned, Jesus met a large crowd and was "moved with pity" for them and spent time curing the sick. Despite his personal pain, he

wanted to connect with other people and help them heal. Sometimes the best cure for our own pain is to relieve someone else's.

Even though Jesus still grieved for John, he remembered his love for others. When the disciples wanted to send the people away to find food, Jesus refused and fed them himself. They ate as much as they wanted and had plenty to spare. This is another reminder to us that Jesus will always give us what we need, and more besides.



Feasts & Celebrations

July 11 - St. Benedict. While pursuing an education in Rome, Benedict became disgusted with the life of privilege and retired to a cave outside of Rome for three years. Others who recognized his holiness followed him. In 529 he built Monte Cassino - his first monastery - and wrote the rule of the Benedictines, "Ora et Labora," which means "Pray and Work."

July 14 - Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha (1680). A smallpox epidemic struck her Native American village and left Kateri orphaned, disfigured, and half-blind. Introduced to Catholicism

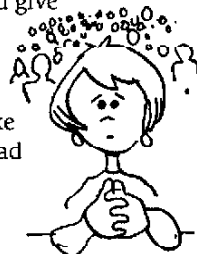
by missionaries, she was baptized at the age of 19 and moved to a Christian village where she lived in holiness and self-denial.

July 16 - Our Lady of Mount Carmel. A holy place to ancient Jews, people went to Mt. Carmel to pray and live closely with God. Carmelite tradition holds that the Blessed Mother appeared to St. Simon there in 1251 and gave him a scapular. Wearing one has become a popular way to honor the Blessed Mother.



Why is it necessary for me to pray for other people?

If Jesus personally asked you if there was anything you needed, wouldn't you give him a list that included favors for your friends, and family? It would make you feel great to spread the wealth of Jesus' generosity.



In fact, Jesus promised his faithful followers that, "whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it" (John 14:13-14). The Creator of the Universe promised that when we are united with his will, he will come to our aid whenever we ask.

Intercessory prayer - asking God for favors for other people - helps us to spread the wealth of Jesus' generosity. It is a wonderful way to declare our love for one another. "The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful" (James 5:16). Plus, when we ask for God's intercession for others, we become more aware of their needs. That is what Jesus wants.

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