

**Fr. Dave's Den:** A devoted father was teaching his young son how to operate a gasoline-powered lawnmower. The safety-conscious dad walked by his son's side, reiterating procedures and precautions. Suddenly, the mother called to her husband from the back door. He stopped, turned, and answered her. Meanwhile the mower got away from the boy cutting a swath, two-feet wide to a beautiful flower bed. As the father was chewing out his son, the mother called again. This time she said, "Remember John, we are raising children not flowers."

One of the most beautiful realities in life is family. Family is perhaps the greatest gift God has given to us. What is it that constitutes a family? There are no doubt many answers to this question. On the most basic level, family is a shared name and a common bloodline. But family is so much more.

Among the many elements of family is a profound sense of traditions. The typical family is often defined by the traditions they celebrate.

When it comes to defining our Parish family, the tradition of the Mass takes precedence. Each week we come together as a family at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. It is the source and summit of all that we are and all that we do. We are enriched by each other's presence and when one person is missing we feel their absence.

One of the other traditions that has marked us as a Parish family for fifty-four years is the annual Parish Festival. This Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> we embrace once again this old tradition that always seems to renew us.

You know, it's interesting how when I meet people, whether they are Priests, Religious or laity and tell them I am Pastor of St. Bartholomew's, they always have the same reaction. "That's the place that used to have the biggest festival ever."

While the festival isn't as big as in the days of Monsignor, it none the less is just as important to the Parish and community. Apart from raising funds for the Parish operations and future projects, the Festival is an opportunity for us all to come together as a family and community and support one another.

As Pastor, I am so grateful to everyone who has helped us continue this rich tradition. Although it demands a lot of hard work and sacrifice, the Festival remains one of the special jewels of our Parish. I hope every family in the Parish can contribute something in the way of time, talent and treasure to this event. It is really our moment

as a family to shine and give something to the community. If you cannot work, I hope you will at least come and walk through our midway of food, games and fun. And thanks to everyone who has purchased sweepstakes tickets. If you get a call from me after 11:00 PM on Saturday evening, then you know you won! But really, we all are winners for being part of such a wonderful family with deep roots and a bright future because, "The best is yet to be"!

Thanks to everyone who attended the Blessings from Heaven party, and thanks to everyone who assisted with the St. Bart's Stocking Project. In a few weeks I will be sharing with you all that has been done thus far with the St. Bart's Stocking Project funds. Remember, because of the Festival there is no Holy Hour this week, nor is there Bingo on Monday night.

For your information, we are continuing our interview process for the Social Service position. Very soon I hope to receive the recommendation of the search committee and make a final decision on the candidate. Please keep us all in your prayers. And as always be assured of my prayers for you.

The parish CD *Lift Up Your Hearts* is now a reality! I am grateful to Will Smith for all of his efforts in this project. And thanks to Paul Byers for his expertise in recording and producing the CD. And many thanks to Ashley Bouchard for producing the beautiful artwork on the cover of the CD. Thanks to Jessica, Ginny, Donna R., and Donna L. for their assistance in selling the CD. You can purchase the CD by calling the rectory at 412-242-3374.

Finally, I invite everyone to put the Blessed Mother in their window so that we can have good weather for the Festival -- thank you Mary.

### ***Magnificat Breakfast***

Magnificat, a ministry to Catholic women, will be holding a prayer breakfast on August 14, 2004 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon at the Holiday Inn North Hills on McKnight Road. The Breakfast features fellowship, praise and worship, intercessory prayer, and a speaker. The speaker will be Char Vance, comedian and Catholic convert, who experienced a miraculous healing on a trip to Medjugorje. The cost is \$15.00. The registration deadline is August 9. For more information and reservation, call Pam at 412-461-8906.



School News with Mrs. Fleet

Remember that though the school year has ended you can still register your children for preschool through eighth grade at St. Bart’s school. Also, please continue to save Campbell’s product labels, Shop N Save receipts, Box Tops for Education, and school friendly copy paper.

St. Bart’s Golf Outing

The Annual St. Bartholomew Golf Outing will be held Monday, October 4, 2004 at Alcoma Country Club. More information will be forthcoming.

BINGO

St. Bart’s Bingo is held every Monday night in Helzlsouer Hall, starting at 7:00 PM. There will be no Bingo this Monday, August 2, 2004. Plan to join us for Bingo each night of the Festival, August 4 through 7!

Religious Education News with Arlene Golden

The religious education office is closed for the summer. Classes for religious education will begin the third Sunday of September.

A Respect Life Meditation

(Vatican II - Gaudium et Spes #50) “The parents themselves, should ultimately make this judgment (transmitting human life) in the sight of God. But in their manner of acting, should be aware that they cannot proceed arbitrarily. They must always be governed according to a conscience conformed to the divine law itself, and should be submissive toward the Church’s teaching office, which authentically interprets that law in the light of the gospel.” We pray that Bishops, Priests, and teachers who bear the responsibility of witnessing to the truth, have the courage to proclaim and teach and defend this truth boldly to all husbands and wives.

Music Notes

Why This Music Now?

The Responsorial Psalm

In the middle of the Bible is the book of Psalms. David and the other writers are “bearing their souls to God.” These prayers are not the simply “Hi God. Thanks. Bye.” These psalms take us to the lowest depths of the human spirit as well as the highest high of jubilant praise to God. The writers of the psalms speak their truest feelings through prayer to God. Unlike many of the Old Testament books of the Bible that are historical, the psalms focus and express feelings.

While the General Instruction of the Roman Missals dictates that “The responsorial psalm should correspond to each reading and should customarily be taken from the Lectionary,” (Chapter 2, Paragraph 61), there is however some flexibility with seasonal psalms, also known as common psalms.

The next time we come to the responsorial psalm in the missalette, look at the fine print underneath the words Responsorial Psalm. You’ll notice that certain seasonal or common psalms can be used to replace the one that is set to go with that Sunday’s readings - these are merely suggestions, but still allowable. This is why during some months, or some seasons like Advent, we at St. Bart’s sing the same response for a few weeks in a row. The theory is that when we are familiar with a song, we are more likely to sing it. When we sing it, we are familiar with it, which leads to more focused meditation on the scripture passage.

Paragraph 61 continues: “It is appropriate that the responsorial psalm be sung, at least as far as the people’s response is concerned... However, in order that the people may be able to join in the responsorial psalm more readily, the people remain seated and listen, but also as a rule take part by singing the response... If the psalm cannot be sung, then it should be recited in a way more suited to fostering meditation on the word of God.”

Once again, we are told that singing is a good expression of meditation on God’s word and should be something everyone takes part in - no matter what their voice type or skill.

“How I love your teaching, Lord! I study it all day long.” Psalm 199:97

### Barns filled with Riches

The mortgage is paid off. So are the loans that were taken out for college tuition and children's weddings. The second home that was once a far-off dream is now so close that it seems safe to dig out the real estate magazines. And then ... a daughter or son can no longer take care of a child. It's time to start over, this time as grandparents in the parents' role. Thousands of older adults face this situation today, becoming temporary or permanent guardians of their grandchildren.

Vanity of vanities. The years of toil with sights set on a great reward now belong to someone else: food, clothing, braces, summer camps, and school tuition. But, as one grandmother said of her 13-year-old granddaughter, Megan, "It has all been worth it. She brings such joy. What would I do without her?" And so the barns filled with "riches" are again taken down and new and true riches are discovered. Once again a new self is found in Christ, and the storehouse is filled with life that is truly pleasing to God.

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### Treasures from our Tradition

When Pope Pius XII died in 1958, there was the usual buzz of speculation about likely successors. Cardinal Agajanian, Patriarch of the Armenians, was highly thought of as a likely choice. This took many Catholics by surprise, since he had never celebrated the same liturgy as Pope Pius, but followed ancient Armenian customs according to the Eastern Church, which veils the Eucharistic liturgy from sight by a series of curtains, and in which the priest kneels while the people stand for Communion.

In the years that followed, the Second Vatican Council would affirm the dignity and independence of the Eastern Churches, in complete union with Rome, yet different in patterns of life and worship. We have the same faith, the same sacraments, and the same pope. Yet everywhere in the world our separate Churches are combined into families held together by the ministry of bishops. All of this serves as warning: if you ever say, "But we've always done it this way," you are on very thin ice indeed!

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### Mass Intentions



#### **MON., August 2 - Weekday**

10:00 A.M. John Vacchiano (Jean Vacchiano)

#### **TUES., August 3 - Weekday**

10:00 A.M. Paddy McGrath (Family)

#### **WED., August 4 - St. John Mary Vianney**

7:00 P.M. *No Holy Hour due to Festival*

#### **THURS., August 5 - Weekday**

10:00 A.M. James Noone (Wife Kitty)

#### **FRI., August 6 - Transfiguration of the Lord**

10:00 A.M. James Meehan (Jean Vacchiano)

#### **SAT., August 7 - St. Sixtus**

10:00 A.M. Berry & Kohley Families (Cindi Lou Meshanko)

11:00 A.M. Confessions heard until 12:00 noon

5:00 P.M. Maureen Abrams (Rose Marie Kietter)

#### **SUN., August 8 - 19th Sunday in Ordinary**

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

10:30 A.M. Carmine Parrotta (Parrotta Family)

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

Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed:  
Mary C. Whiteford, Irene Sabo, Joanne K. Horovitz,  
Kathleen DiNardo, Jennie Zevola, and Naomi Keenan

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Weekly Offering: Total: \$8150.00 Env. Dist.: 1753 Env. Used: 637  
Scrip Program Approximate Profit: \$151.98

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### Young Adult Sunday



Jesus Christ conducted his entire ministry, and saved the world, as a young adult. Next Sunday, August 8, 2004, parishes across the Diocese of Pittsburgh will celebrate Young Adult Sunday and honor Him and other young adults, singles and couples, in their late teens, 20s and 30s.

To learn how our parish is getting involved in Young Adult Sunday, please contact the rectory at 412-242-3374.

For more information on young adult ministry, please contact Gary Slifkey at the Department for Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the Diocese of Pittsburgh at 412-563-6373, or: [gslifkey@diopitt.org](mailto:gslifkey@diopitt.org).