

**Fr. Dave's Den:** St. Vincent de Paul once said, "The reason why God is so great a lover of humility is because He is the great lover of truth. Now humility is nothing but truth, while pride is nothing but lying."

**The word of God** today is all about humility. In the first reading, Sirach states, "My child, conduct your affairs with humility, and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts." Meanwhile, in the Gospel, Jesus echoes this theme when he says, "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

**In a world filled with pride** we are called everyday to be humble. Often times the road of humility is the least traveled road. Nevertheless, it's the road that leads to heaven. This week, let us pray, "God give me a humble heart."

**One of the manifestations of humility** is recognizing that we as human beings do not have all the answers. True humility enables us to acknowledge our imperfections and need for help. In that spirit of humility with the hope for a shared renewal, I invite all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, and Ushers to attend a special meeting on Wednesday, September 22, 2004, at 7:00 PM. The first part of the meeting will begin with Holy Hour, followed by a one hour informational meeting. Having been Pastor for two years, I believe the time has come for us to gather together to examine and rededicate ourselves to our respective ministries. It is my expectation that all Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, and Ushers will make every effort to attend this meeting. In the event of a scheduling conflict, there will be a make-up meeting on Wednesday, October 6, 2004, at 7:00 PM.

**Do you know** anyone in your family or community who wishes to become a Catholic? Or maybe you know someone who has never been confirmed. The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is a great way to become fully initiated into the Catholic faith. Every Monday night beginning at the end of September, there will be convert classes. For more information, call the rectory at 412-242-3374.

**Did you know** that there are 119 days until Christmas? Christmas falls on a Saturday this year which means there will be no anticipated 5:00 PM Mass on Saturday evening, December 25. Nevertheless, for those of you who wish to sleep in on the day after Christmas, we have just received approval from the Diocese of our request to add a Mass on Sunday, December 26, at 12:30 PM. It is

my hope that the 10:30 AM ushers can work out coverage for this additional Mass. And, for your information, there will be a 5:00 PM and 10:00 PM Mass on Friday, December 24, and 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM Masses on Christmas Day. Christmas will be here before we know it!

**It's not too early to start** your Christmas shopping with our fabulous Scrip Program. You can purchase certificates from various establishments and at the same time help the Church. In the first year alone, St. Bart's has taken in \$14,000.00 from the Scrip Program. If everyone purchased scrip, just think what we could do for our parish. Thanks to Terry Bistarkey, Bob Brashear, Jude Punturi, and Megan Shanley for all of their oversight and direction with this program. Thanks to our sellers. And thanks to you the buyers for supporting our program.

**Welcome to Sister Dorothy Pawlus, CSFN**, our new Director of Social Services, who begins her responsibilities with us tomorrow.

**Finally**, St. Bartholomew School will hold its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Golf Outing on October 4, 2004 at Alcoma Country Club. The cost is \$110.00 per golfer. The price includes cart and green fees, lunch at the turn, and a delicious dinner. Tee time is 10:00 AM. There will be lots of prizes. If you don't golf, you can join us for dinner at a cost of \$40.00. You can also be a sponsor for \$50.00. Thanks for supporting St. Bart's School.

Life Teen - Leading Teens Closer to Christ  
Mark your calendars! Life Teen returns on Saturday, September 11. Join us for Mass at 5:00 PM and then stay for the Life Night. This is your chance to meet new friends, catch up with old ones, and just have a great time!

### **Attention Choir Members**

Choir Picnic and Barbeque

Thursday, September 2, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

on the Rectory patio

Start your Labor Day weekend off early! Come to the Choir picnic and barbeque this Thursday. Have you been thinking about joining the choir? This is the first step! Come meet and mingle with the very people that make the music. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks will be provided. Spouses and children are especially welcome.



School News with Mrs. Fleet

**We will be** in full gear on Monday, August 30, as all of our students will be present for our first complete day of classes.

**There will be** a band demonstration on this day as well for students in grades four through eight who are interested in our instructional program.

**Monday will also be** our preschool drop-in visitation day. Our new preschool teacher is Mrs. Christy Gilkey. She is anxiously awaiting all of our registered preschool students and will be happy to meet and greet any new students and their families who are interested in our fabulous preschool program.

**On Tuesday, August 31**, Mr. Ott, our Suzuki violin instructor will host an assembly in the morning for grades one through three. That same evening at 6:30 PM in our school library, Mr. Ott will be available to discuss the Suzuki violin program with interested parents and guardians.

**Please join us** for our first school liturgy of the year at 10:00 AM on Friday, September 3. Our newly elected Student Council and Mr. Heid will help to plan our celebration.

**Registrations** are still open for all grades preschool through eight. Please call the school office at 412-242-2511 for further information.

**We continue to save** Campbell's labels, Box Tops for Education, Shop N Save receipts, and copy paper that is elementary school friendly.

**We appreciate** all that you do for us. God bless you always.

Religious Education News with Arlene Golden

Enjoy the remaining days of summer as we look forward to the opening of Religious Education classes.

**Religious Education:** Did you know there are Religious Education classes for children starting at age 5? Registration for all families begins next week. Classes for children in Kindergarten through eighth grade meet in the school on Sundays, from 9:00 AM to 10:15 AM. Families who have already attended classes in the past will receive a print-out in the mail. Please make any corrections or add any new students, and return the form to Arlene Golden at the Religious Education office. New families are asked to contact the Religious Education office to obtain a form. Classes begin Sunday, September 19.

**RCIA:** Are you an adult thinking of joining the Catholic Church? Are you a Catholic but have never been confirmed? Perhaps you have received the sacraments of initiation but feel the need to update. The RCIA is for you. Classes are now forming and will be meeting on Monday evenings. Why not call Arlene Golden at the Religious Education office to inquire?

**Baptism:** Families wishing to have their child baptized are required to attend a class and watch a video before choosing a baptism date. Baptisms are the first Sunday of the month, after the 10:30 AM Mass. The classes are the second Tuesday of the month, at 7:00 PM. This gives families two weeks to complete the paperwork and have the necessary verification for the godparents sent to the office prior to the date of baptism.

**Children's Liturgy of the Word:** Did you know there is a special liturgy for children ages five and above? Children come to Saturday evening Mass with their families and are called forward to go and hear God's word in child's language. The children return to their families at the Offertory. Adults are welcome to help "shepherd" the children to and from Church.

Music Notes

Why This Music Now?

*The Closing Hymn*

During Lent, we did not have a closing hymn. As the priest processed down the aisle, we stood in silence until he had left the assembly. Our silence displayed the solemnity of the season.

The closing hymn is like the summary of our celebration. Often it reflects what has been said during the liturgy we just celebrated. For example: *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* (MI #425) or *In the Day of the Lord* (MI #565) are examples of hymns that reflect what we may have heard during the liturgy.

The closing hymn can also answer the question: What do we do now with what we have heard? For example: *With One Voice* (MI #527) or *City of God* (MI #329) instruct us to bring God's word to everyone we meet.

With these examples in mind, we should make our best efforts to wait until the priest has left the assembly and/or the close of the final hymn. If we can wait during the season of Lent, we can wait during all season in the Church year.

St. Augustine once said, "To sing belongs to lovers." As we celebrate each part of the Mass each week, we can show our love for God through our praise, our prayers, and our participation - in both word *and* song.

*"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God."*

*Colossians 3:16*

## **BINGO**

If you enjoyed playing Bingo at our Festival, join us every Monday night at 7:00 PM in Helzlsouer Hall for more of the same great fun!

### **A Respect Life Meditation**

(“Voting Can be Faith and Prayer in Actions” by columnist Frank Morriss, April 1, 2004) “It is immoral to buy a gun for someone to use in a robbery or homicide, uncaring of how it might be put to such use. It is also immoral to vote for someone who might, as a lawmaker or judge grant permission for the legal use of abortion. In a sense, when we vote, we all become lawmakers or judges. We put into office those who will do whatever evils they are known to espouse. By our votes we enable them to carry out their agendas.

We pray that all those who love little children will repudiate abortion; go to the polls and use their vote for the best choice... life!

### **GOLDEN AGERS MEETING**

There will be a meeting of the Golden Agers on Friday, September 3, at 1:30 PM in Helzlsouer Hall. All are welcome to attend!



### **Treasures from our Tradition**

The readings today center on mindfulness: awareness of where we stand in God's plan. The mountain of Sinai carries a message of the majesty and distance of God, while Jesus' presence as host of the banquet speaks of intimacy and mystery. September's shadow calls us all to mindfulness as we prepare to return to life outside of summer. The Christian life holds these two places of knowledge of God in careful balance: even in the accounts of the Passion we see the table of the upper room in balance with the Mount of Olives. *Altar* means “high place,” yet it is also a table. The former liturgy of the Latin Rite began with the priest bowing at the foot of the altar's three steps, chanting *Introibo ad altare Dei*, or “I will go to the altar of God,” followed by the altar servers' response, “The God who gives joy to my youth.” Many parishioners can recall and recite this scene by heart. As with so many things in liturgy, there are layers of meaning in our worship. The altar table evokes memories of the high places once reserved for encounter with the holy, and the intimacy of the table

### **Mass Intentions**



#### **MON., August 30 - Weekday**

10:00 A.M. Joseph J. Capobianco (Capobianco children)

#### **TUES., August 31 - Weekday**

10:00 A.M. Jason Strom (Family)

#### **WED., September 1 - Weekday**

7:00 P.M. Holy Hour

#### **THURS., September 2 - Weekday**

10:00 A.M. Steven P. Tierney (Lois Tierney)

#### **FRI., September 3 - St. Gregory the Great**

10:00 A.M. Kozusko Family (Joanne Maguire)

6:00 P.M. Rehearsal: Johnson-Matthews

#### **SAT., September 4 - Blessed Virgin Mary**

10:00 A.M. Mary Jane Glover (Glover Family)

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

3:00 P.M. Wedding: Johnson-Matthews

5:00 P.M. Frank X. Larkin (Mary Larkin)

#### **SUN., September 5 - 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time**

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

10:30 A.M. Dorothy Breit (Denise Verosky & Family)

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

Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed:

---

Weekly Offering: Total: \$8305.50 Env. Dist.: 1753 Env. Used: 635

Scrip Program Approximate Profit: \$197.61

Sunday, September 12, there will be a second collection for the Bishop's Education Fund.

---

### **Humility**

Today's reading from Sirach celebrates what will become the theme of today's Gospel: humility. Pride causes us to demand from others an exalted estimate of our status, but humility allows us to see things more clearly. It allows us a broader perspective. Humility promises us the favor of God and the love of those who know us.

The second reading is a study in contrasts: the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai and the giving of salvation on Mount Zion. The Law's appearance is greeted with solemnity, mystery, even fear. But Christians are not to be afraid. Coming to God's mountain with Jesus, “the mediator of a new covenant,” is a happy, exuberant experience.

The parable in today's Gospel concerns the danger of pride and the necessity of humility. The banquet setting, often used by Jesus, is a symbol of heaven's abundance and of the fulfillment of God's promise. The parable is not simply good advice on how to avoid embarrassment; it is about salvation. © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.