

Fr. Dave's Den: "**Take courage, it is I**, do not be afraid." These are the words Jesus utters to his disciples in today's Gospel. The disciples are in a boat and as the waves intensify they become frightened. What appears as a ghost is none other than the Lord Jesus walking on water. Jesus senses fear and doubt and so he says, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

The word courage comes from the Latin word "coure" which means "heart." A courageous person is one who exudes heart. But there is even more to the word courage. One definition holds that courage is "fear that has said its prayers." Fear is a part of life, however, when we give our fears to the Lord and acknowledge his presence, great things can happen. May the Lord give us the courage we need to face our fears and travel the seas of life.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our 55th Parish Festival. It takes many hands to conduct a festival. As Pastor, I am most grateful to all of our parishioners who gave of their time and talent. Of particular note, I commend the Festival Committee for their hard work, attention to detail, and dedicated service. And thanks to all of our sponsors. The names of our sponsors will appear in a future bulletin. Just think, we are 365 days away from the 56th Annual Festival. Remember, the best is yet to be!

The Festival Appreciation Dinner, for the benefit of all festival workers, will take place on Saturday, September 17, at 6:30 PM in Helzlsouer Hall. If you worked at the Festival and wish to attend please call the rectory and make a reservation. And if you did not work, it still is not too late, as the tear down of the Festival takes places all day Sunday, beginning at 8:00 AM.

The Bishops of Pennsylvania have released a statement "Questions and Answers on Stem Cell Research." The statement is now available on the website of the PA Catholic Conference, www.pacatholic.org. The printed text of this document also appears in this weeks edition of the Pittsburgh Catholic.

Please note that Monday, August 15, 2005, is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin. Because this day falls on a Monday, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year. We will have Mass at 10:00 AM.

Wednesday, August 24, 2005, is the feast of St. Bartholomew. Because this is our patronal feast we will have a special Mass at 7:00 PM. The Mass will replace the regularly scheduled Holy Hour. Following the Mass there will be a reception in the back vestibule of Church. I invite all of our parishioners, ministers (catechists, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, ushers, servers, cantors, choir members, wedding coordinators), Ladies of Charity, church cleaners, Finance Council members, Pastoral Council members, money counters, Bingo workers, coaches - in short, everyone. We have so much to be thankful for within our parish family. Please make plans to join us.

Have a blessed week!

Women's Group News

Quilting class beings Tuesday, September 13, 2005, in Helzlsouer Hall. A Spiritual Reading Group will begin on Sunday, September 18, 2005, at 7:00 PM. More information regarding these two groups will be available in next week's bulletin. The Card Party is scheduled for September 24, 2005. Contact Fran Schomburger or Katherine Abriola for information.

Bereavement

A seven-week Bereavement Program is scheduled to being on Thursday, September 15, 2005, in the Pastors Conference Room at 7:00 PM. For additional information, or to register, please contact Sister Dorothy Pawlus at 412-242-7357.



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.

School is less than 3 three weeks away, beginning Thursday, August 25, 2005, and it is a half day.

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.

Atlantic City

There are still a few seats open on the trip to Atlantic City. This promises to be a great trip, we will be staying at the Sands from Wednesday, October 5, to Friday, October 7. If you are interested in going, please call the rectory at 412-242-3374 to sign up. The cost is \$157.00 per person, based on double occupancy.

Religious Education News

Registration forms were mailed to families of students who attended CCD this past year. Additional forms are available in the rectory if needed.

Remember the \$5.00 discount for early registration if the forms are returned by August 13.

Please make every effort to return the forms as soon as possible so that proper plans can be made for classrooms and teachers.

We are in need of CD players that are gently used and in working order. Music is essential to our faith; we would like to be able to share this with the children. If you would be able to help, or if you have music to contribute, please call the CCD office.

We are still in need of those who are feeling the call to teach our young ones, experience not necessary! Please call the CCD office or rectory.

Blessings to all!

A Respect-Life Meditation

(Pope Paul VI - *Humanae Vitae*, 1968) "In his encyclical the Pope accurately predicted the following consequences of practicing contraception:

1. A general lowering of morality.
2. Less regard and respect for women's psychological/physical well-being.
3. Governments would start to use repressive measures for birth control.
4. People would begin to treat the human body like a machine."

We pray that these consequences, which have become sad realities in recent years, will be reversed by a sincere repentance accompanied by a positive acceptance of God's plan for human sexuality.



Presence

It is difficult to be truly present to another. We speak of putting in an appearance or showing up. Even when we arrive, we are often distracted. We think ahead, or we review an unsettled past. Nonetheless, we are at our best when we truly show up. We are most fully ourselves when we are absorbed in something worthy of us: creative work, good conversation, prayer. In these instances we are wholly ourselves and wholly outside ourselves.

Elijah knew this kind of engagement. He was one of God's great prophets. In today's first reading, he follows God's command to journey to that most holy place, Mount Horeb. And there in great silence, Elijah encounters God.

As for Peter and the apostles, they discover the presence of God after the storm at sea. They and the sea and the winds are stunned into silent reverence.

© Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co

Treasures from our Tradition

In many church buildings constructed in the early twentieth century, there is a window or statue of Pope St. Pius X. Often, these windows were purchased with coins collected by grateful children, since in 1910 a decree admitted much younger children to First Communion. Before then, only teenagers were customarily confirmed and then admitted to the Eucharist. What we often think is ancient practice in fact sometimes has fairly shallow roots, in this case fewer than ten decades. For centuries, Communion had marked the end of formal religious education, but a hundred years ago, Pius X located it at the point at which a child could express a desire for the sacrament and receive it with understanding. In 1917 a new code of canon law determined that age to be about seven, and this practice was observed almost everywhere until the beginning of the Second Vatican Council forty years ago.

In a growing number of dioceses, recent practice has restored the sacramental order Pius X's generous decree upset, and increasingly confirmation is celebrated before First Communion. But the gift Pius gave to the children of the Roman Church remains firm: everywhere we admit children to the Lord's table. Where the traditional order has been restored, seven-year-old children are confirmed before First Communion. —James Field, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

Mass Intentions



MON., August 8 - St. Dominic

10:00 A.M. Nicola Pugliese & Maria Neri (Maria Pugliese Fava)

TUES., August 9 - St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

10:00 A.M. Ralph & Mary Zottola (Family)

WED., August 10 - Weekday

7:00 P.M. Holy Hour

THURS., August 11 - St. Clare

10:00 A.M. William Landy (Chesebrough & Rardin Families)

FRI., August 12 - Weekday

10:00 A.M. Bob & Betty Klaus (Family)

SAT., August 13 - Sts. Pontian and Hippolytus

10:00 A.M. Jeffrey T. Shafer (Dorothy Shafer)

12:30 P.M. Memorial Mass: Berenice Kruper

5:00 P.M. Elmer Quigley (Family)

SUN., August 14 - 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

10:30 A.M. Thomas Dougherty (Margaret Dougherty)

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

Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed:

Edward Anick and Betty Malone

Mandatory Workshop for Eucharistic Ministers

As the Church continues to observe the "Year of the Eucharist," the Institute for Ministries and Department for Worship will be hosting a deanery enrichment evening for all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion on August 23, 2005, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, here at St. Bartholomew Parish. All Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion from St. Bartholomew Parish are expected to participate. Registration is required in order that materials may be prepared for expected participants. There is a \$10.00 donation that will be collected from all participants at the meeting to cover the cost of materials. Please register by calling the rectory office at 412-242-3374.