

In Denise's Den: **In life** there are certain dates that remain forever engraved in our minds and hearts. September 11 is one of those dates. I'm sure we all remember where we were and what we were doing on that ill-fated day. Imagine, people like you and me awakened and went to work. Some of these people boarded planes early that morning. Sadly, so many of these people never came home. In an instant their lives were tragically and innocently taken away. And many of the emergency service personnel who responded to this catastrophe never made it home either.

The events of September 11 left not only a big hole in the New York skyline, but they also created a grieving emptiness in every caring human heart. Life can change so suddenly. And life is not always fair. All life is fragile and is meant to be handled with care.

On this anniversary of September 11, we pray for all of those who lost their lives. We remember the loved ones they left behind. And we take a moment to appreciate the precious gift of life that we can so easily take for granted. Sometimes in our humanness we do not appreciate someone or something until it is lost. While of us are perfect and we all come with baggage, we are all creations of God made in his image and likeness. The best gift we can give to one another in the spirit of today's Gospel is forgiveness. If we expect forgiveness of God, how can we not forgive one another.

The responsorial refrain for today's Mass states: "The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion." May the Lord empower us to be more like him by exuding kindness, mercy, patience, and compassion.

This Saturday, September 17, we will have our Festival Appreciation Dinner following the 5:00 PM Mass in Helzlsouer Hall. If you worked with the Festival in any way you are invited to attend this event. Please make sure to call the rectory and make your reservation no later than Wednesday, September 14. In addition to a delicious meal, there will also be some door prizes.

Next Sunday, September 18, is Catechetical Sun-

day. This is the day the Church commissions all religious teachers otherwise known as "catechists." We also pray for the success of our school and CCD program. I am particularly grateful to our CCD catechists who give freely of their time without any compensation to pass the faith on to our children. I am also grateful to Denise Verosky and Colleen Ford who serve as Program Managers. CCD officially begins on Sunday, October 2, 2005 at the "same time and same station," as they say. **The new Women's Group** is holding a Card Party on Saturday, September 24, from 12:00 noon to 4:00 PM in Helzlsouer Hall. For reservations and information, please call Katherine Abriola at 412-798-9819.

On Sunday, September 25, Bishop Paul Bradley will preach and preside at the 10:30 AM Mass. Bishop Bradley will bless our new sculpture, *The Inviting Jesus*. All parishioners are invited to this celebration. If you plan on coming, please be sure to wear your Sunday best. Please, no jeans, t-shirts, shorts, or tennis shoes. A reception will follow.

The St. Bartholomew School Golf Outing will take place on Monday, October 3, 2005, at Edgewood Country Club. The day will include lunch, a shotgun start, dinner, raffles, and many prizes. The cost is \$132.00 per player. To make your reservations, please call Tony at 412-798-0820.

Have a beautiful week!

Reading Group

A new Reading Group is forming! The #1 Best Seller, *The Purpose Driven Life*, is the selected book for study and discussion beginning Sunday, September 11, at 7:00 PM in the school library. Registration is \$15.00 and includes your copy of this power, life enriching best seller! Group size is limited, please register early by calling Sister Dorothy at 412-242-7357, or Denise Ludovici at 412-371-3715.

School News with Mrs. Fleet

There is a parent/guardian meeting for all students interested in our Suzuki violin program on Monday evening, September 12, 2005, at 6:30 PM in the school library.

Our SBAA will meet on Monday, September 12, 2005, at 6:30 PM in Room 206.

Tuesday, September 13, will be an optional dress up day for St. Bartholomew School teachers, staff, and students.

Our PTG will meet on Tuesday, September 13, 2005, at 6:30 PM in the library. Thank you to Mrs. Shanley and Mrs. Punturi for volunteering to be co-presidents of this year's PTG.

Basketball coaches or anyone interested in coaching St. Bartholomew School teams this year are meeting on September 13, 2005, at 8:00 PM, in Room 206 of the school.

Market Day orders are due on Wednesday, September 14.

All are welcome to St. Bartholomew School Open House and Curriculum Night on Thursday, September 15, from 6:15 PM to 8:30 PM. Teachers will give an overview of the plans for an exciting school year.

We invite you to join us for mass on Friday, September 16, at 10:00 AM. Miss Manzo, Mr. Heid, and our fifth graders will help to plan this liturgy. Student Council members will be inducted at this mass too.

We continue to save all Campbell product labels, Box Tops for Education, and Shop n' Save receipts. Thank you for your help!

Registrations are still available for Preschool, half-day or full-day Kindergarten, and all grades one through eight. Please call the school office for further information.

Quilting and Card Party

Quilting class will begin on September 13, 2005, at 7:00 PM in Helzlsouer Hall. Please call Sue Luxbacher at 412-731-9281. Sue will be able to give you the details and sign you for the class.

Also, the Fall Fantasy Luncheon and Card Party is scheduled for Saturday, September 24, 2005, from 12:00 noon to 4:00 PM, in Helzlsouer Hall. The ticket price is \$8.00. There will be a silent auction and raffles, too. For reservations, call Katherine at 412-798-9819. We are also asking for donations of unused door prizes, if you have any to give, please call Joan at 412-731-2655 for pickup. Thank you!

Religious Education News

Additional forms are available in the rectory if needed.

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!

BINGO

Bingo is back after our Labor Day holiday. This week the Magic Number is up to \$250.00, the California Tic-Tac is up to \$275.00, and the Lil' Derby is up to \$500.00! See you at Bingo, Monday nights at 7:00 PM in Helzlsouer Hall!

A Respect Life Meditation

(Mother Theresa, Washington, D.C., 1994) "The greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion. IF you don't want your children, give them to me." **We pray** that the sign of peace exchanged at every Mass celebrated each day will symbolize our unity with our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

Masses Sent to the Seminary

The following mass intentions were sent to the Seminary to be said during the month of September 2005:

Deceased Ferla & Henninger Families (Lois Ferla)
Shawn Patrick Noone (Noone Family)
Mr. & Mrs. Argentino Sciulli (Nino & Ida Sciulli)
Teresa Pizzonia Hawkins (Family & Friends)
Michael Moore (Andrew W. Paneurak)
William DeSantis (Francis Ferragonio)
Guisseppe & Julia Sciulli (Valentino & Maria Sciulli)
Robert Glasstetter (The Helblings)
Mary Moliterno (Capobianco Family)
Margaret Tierney (Tomer Family)
Richard Chasko (Patricia Lloyd)
Kenneth Eckels (Nick Falce)
K. Landy (Mary Lou Palsa)
Elizabeth Flynn (Virginia J. Fey)
Patsy Massarelli (Family)
Eileen Fitch (Rita O. Denne)
Elizabeth Rauso (Christine Stillio)
Helen Suriano (Residents of Duff Manor)
Bernadette Slavik (Maria Rossi)
Adelaide Vento (Rose)

Forgiveness

Nearly ten years before, a son and father parted ways when the business they shared went bankrupt. The son blamed the father. They did not speak to each other again.

Then the father became seriously ill. The mother called the son and told him he had better come soon. The son walked sheepishly into the hospital room. The father motioned his son to him and whispered: "Did you ever think you could do anything that would keep me from loving you?"

Resentment and anger are foul things, the first reading from Sirach tells us. Remember the last things. Stop hating. Live by the commandments. As St. Paul writes to the Romans, we are to live for the Lord and die for the Lord.

For us Americans on the anniversary of September 11, 2001, forgiveness does not come easily. Yet Jesus' parable in today's Gospel reminds us of God's compassion. The immense sin of humanity has been forgiven and stricken from the record. We are to forgive others in the same way.

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Treasures from our Tradition

Our national memory will keep this day holy for generations to come, as we remember the innocent dead. Our memories of the attack on our nation are intertwined with memories of how we human beings are natural symbol-makers. In one parish, as a candlelight vigil ended, the assembly, without being instructed, took their candles and stood shoulder to shoulder, down the steps and along the city streets for a quarter mile. Slowly, people came out of their houses bearing tapers and candles. In the first hours of crisis, we stood vigil, we prayed from the heart, and we celebrated the human ability to draw light out of terrible darkness. Stories of that terrible day necessarily drift to tales of heroism, courage, dignity, faith, solidarity, hope, community. The church learned long ago through hard experience that "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." Perhaps the victims of 9/11 have gifts to bring that we are only just discovering as believers in a just and loving God. They are teaching us still, and today is a day for lighting candles at the table and being silent for a moment before the abundance of God's gifts. Today reminds us that we are capable of acts of indescribable beauty even in the face of great evil.

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Mass Intentions



MON., September 12 - Holy Name of Mary

10:00 A.M. Carl & Carl, Jr. Vaporetti (Chianese Family)

TUES., September 13 - St. John Chrysostom

10:00 A.M. Victor Ludovici (Family)

WED., September 14 - Exaltation of the Cross

7:00 P.M. Holy Hour

THURS., September 15 - Our Lady of Sorrows

10:00 A.M. Michael & Michelle Wentworth (Mary Wentworth)

FRI., September 16 - Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian

10:00 A.M. Anthony & Edith D'Andrea (Margaret D'Andrea)

SAT., September 17 - St. Robert Bellarmine

10:00 A.M. Mrs. Frances Cinna (Anthony Cinna, Jr., son)

5:00 P.M. Walter & Julie Szatkowski (Bernie Nichols Family)

SUN., September 18 - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

10:30 A.M. Marion & Richard Ellrod (Tomer Family)

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

Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed.

Lancaster Bus Trip

We will be going on an over-night trip to see a performance of *The Miracle of Christmas* at the Millennium Theatre. 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. Reservations are now being accepted 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. We still need to fill about 20 seats on the bus, so if you are interested, please call. If you have any questions, please contact Sister Dorothy at 412-242-7357 or Jessica at 412-242-3374.

Bereavement

A seven-week Bereavement Program is scheduled to be 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.