

Fr. Dave's Den: "The dual calling of faith and citizenship is at the heart of what it means to be a Catholic in the United States at this time." These words come from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops statement: The Challenge of Faithful Citizenship – A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility.

Within this document the Bishops present some guidelines for us to be both Catholic and American. In today's bulletin, please find a special insert on this document which is so timely in as much as Election Day is less than two months away. Please read this document which outlines seven key moral principles we should keep in mind in our discernment of candidates and issues. These principles are: Life and the dignity of the human person, Call to family, community, and participation, Rights and responsibilities, Options for the poor and vulnerable, Dignity of work and the rights of workers, Solidarity, and Caring for God's creation.

The insert also lists ten questions for the campaign. As we prepare for the election I believe it is vital that we have a Catholic understanding and live out a faithful citizenship. These inserts were purchased especially for your information and consideration. If anyone has any questions about this document, feel free to contact me at 412-242-3374.

The mission statement for our parish notes that we are a "family of faith... who desire to deepen their relationship with God and one another in keeping with the Father's plans." One of the clear ways we as a parish deepen our relationships with God and one another is by attending Holy Hour. Holy Hour takes place every Wednesday night from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Holy Hour includes an opening hymn, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, scripture passage, homily, silent adoration, meditation hymn, pastoral prayer, benediction, and a closing hymn. If you need to gain a focus in your life then Holy Hour is for you. If you are trying to uncover God's plan in your life, then Holy Hour is for you. If you just need some peace and quiet in your life, Holy Hour is for you. If you love the Lord, then Holy Hour is for you. See you at Holy Hour!

In an effort to enhance our Holy Hours, we recently purchased a new cope and humeral veil. The existing vestments are worn. In addition, we also purchased a

new censor and boat (container for incense) as well as a new Holy Water bucket and sprinkler. If anyone wishes to purchase any of these articles in memory of or in honor of a loved one, please feel free to contact me.

For years, St. Bartholomew Parish has held Bingo every Monday night. In addition to forming community, the Monday Night Bingo has raised much money for the general operation of the Church. Every Monday night there are many people who come to our Bingo. The success of Bingo is largely the result of the dedicated men and women who work it. In recent years, however, we have lost some workers due to age and death. We are in need of some Bingo workers. Even if people could offer one Monday night a month – that's twelve Monday's a year – it would make a difference. If you are interested, please call me at the Rectory. Thanks to all of our dedicated workers for their faithful support.

Men, don't forget that tonight is the Men's Club dinner meeting. Join us for an evening of fun, food, and fellowship.

Good luck to our St. Bart's Bruins Football teams as they begin a new season. Go Bruins!

Next Sunday, September 19, 2004 is Catechetical Sunday. All catechists will receive a special blessing at the 10:30 AM Mass.

Have a wonderful week!



Music Notes

CHOIR IS A BLAST

We had a ton of fun on Thursday night! Were you there? If not, that's OK! The choir is always open to people who are willing to sing. While we have a very dedicated core group of people, we are always looking to expand. No experience is necessary. Don't worry, we have many people who can help and lead you along while you learn the choir ropes. See you in Church Thursday night from 7:30 - 9:00 PM.

School News with Mrs. Fleet

Happy Grandparents' Day to all grandparents! We appreciate all that you do for you grandchildren and all of us!

Officer Phil is scheduled for an assembly on Monday, September 13, for all of our students in grades kindergarten through three. He will discuss safety issues with the children. Band classes begin today. Good luck to all of our students as they enhance their musical talents.

Curriculum Night and Open House is scheduled for Tuesday evening, September 14. Our evening begins at 6:30 PM with a welcoming in each student's homeroom. Look for further information about this evening to come home via your child/children.

You are welcome to join us as we celebrate the Mass at 10:00 AM on Friday, September 17. Mrs. Smith and our seventh graders will help to plan our liturgy.

All school families are welcome to attend the 5:00 PM Mass on Saturday, September 18. Our wonderful PTG is sponsoring a Welcome Back Dinner. All school families are welcome to attend Mass and dinner that evening.

We continue to save Campbell's labels, Box Tops for Education, and Shop N' Save receipts. You may deposit these in the vestibule area and/or send them in an envelope to the school office. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation with these incentive programs.

God bless you always.

BINGO

Don't forget about St. Bart's Monday Night Bingo! Join us this Monday, and every Monday, at 7:00 PM in Helzlsouer Hall.

Life Teen - Leading Teens Closer to Christ

This week starts Life Teen again. If you missed us this week, save September 25 and come join the fun!

A Respect Life Meditation

(Humanae Vitae, Pastoral Directives to Priests #28 - Pope Paul VI, 1968) "Your first task is to expound the Church's teaching on marriage without ambiguity. Be the first to give the example of loyal internal and external obedience to the teaching authority of the Church.

We pray that all priests, in preparing engaged couples for the Sacrament of Marriage will have generous hearts and instill in these couples a genuine spirit of covenant love, humility, and purity.

Religious Education News with Arlene Golden

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: The next Baptism class is Tuesday, September 14 at 7:00 PM. 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. This is the first week back for Children's Liturgy of the Word.

Vocation Awareness Weekend

Single, Catholic adults, ages 18-40 who are seeking answers to questions about religious life or priesthood are invited to the Vocation Awareness Weekend at Saint Paul's Monastery on the South Side to be held September 24 through 26. The free weekend is sponsored by the Serra Clubs in the Pittsburgh area and the Pittsburgh Religious Vocation Council. To register or to get more information, please contact Sister Pat Rogan in the Department for Consecrated Life, at 412-921-5800, extension 15.

Cavish Forgiveness

Moses appeals to God for compassion in today's first reading. The point of Moses' pleas is not to provide a blueprint for pacifying an angry God, but to demonstrate that no matter our sin and its grievousness, God will always forgive.

In his letter to Timothy, Paul uses himself, the great sinner, as an example of just how great is God's forgiveness. Finally, today's Gospel parables create a mural of God's forgiving love. Like a diligent housekeeper, a good shepherd, a loving father, God goes out of the way to recover the lost and to forgive. By pointing out that the woman leaves her nine silver pieces, that the shepherd leaves his ninety-nine sheep waiting, and the father leaves his elder son upset, Jesus urges us to abandon a stingy view of life. If God can be so generous, so forgiving, and so loving to those deemed unworthy, we must act likewise.

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TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION



Although New Year's Day has been fixed firmly on January 1 for several hundred years, Labor Day has the feel of a great dividing line between leisure and routine. The pace of life has since picked up, and new schedules and commitments crowd in. In the background is God's call to consider our schedules, the third commandment, still life-giving and binding, to make holy the Lord's Day by worship and rest. Jews see the Sabbath, Saturday, not so much as a day of worship, but a day of rest, a day of renewing friendship with God by delighting in the beauty of creation and the joy of family and friends. It is a day for contemplating the wonders of God's creation, but not disturbing it.

For Christians in the first three centuries, the Lord's Day, Sunday, was not for rest, but worship. It was a regular work day. People met before dawn, and after Eucharist hurried off to daily routines. Today we come to Mass, but many hurry off to essential work, and not a day of rest. The Lord's Day is not the Sabbath, but we can enhance Sunday's ability to transform us if we consider embracing some Sabbath values: having a family meal, going for a walk in a beautiful place, making room in our lives to open ourselves more fully to holiness of life in Christ.

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Mass Intentions



MON., September 13 - St. John Chrysostom

10:00 A.M. Victor Ludovici (Tom Klocko)

TUES., September 14 - Exaltation of the Holy Cross

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

WED., September 15 - Our Lady of Sorrows

7:00 P.M. Holy Hour

THURS., September 16 - Sts. Cornelius & Cyprian

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

FRI., September 17 - St. Robert Bellarmine

10:00 A.M. Rose Ditillo (Son Ronnie)

6:00 P.M. Rehearsal: Olsen - Lobby

SAT., September 18 - Blessed Virgin Mary

10:00 A.M. Michael Ritko (Veroksy Family)

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

3:00 P.M. Wedding: Olsen - Lobby

5:00 P.M. Diane Llewellyn (Mom & Dad)

SUN., September 19 - 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

10:30 A.M. Deceased Olsakovsky Family (Andrew & Aileen Olsakovsky)

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

Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed:

Louise Rick and Patty Helbling

All collection and Scrip information for the weeks of September 12 and 19 will be published in the September 26, bulletin.
Scrip Program Approximate Profit: \$309.66



56th Annual Rosary March

In this Rosary March, through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother, we hope to make a strong statement of love and loyalty to our Catholic Church. We pray for the Holy Father, for healing in the Church and for Holy Vocations.

In Pittsburgh we will assemble at the Epiphany Church on Sunday, October 3, 2004, at 2:15 PM and march to Saint Mary of Mercy Church at the Point for Holy Mass to be celebrated at 3:15 PM. Many Catholics will join in marches all over the world, coordinated to take place at exactly the same time. We are very anxious for Our Lady to be honored publicly by a large number of her children. We only have this opportunity twice a year in the Rosary marches in May and October. If you cannot come, please be with us in spirit and in prayer.