

THE

Journey

Volume I, Issue XI

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There are some topics that are considered too 'controversial' for some churches or denominations to discuss. For other churches and denominations however, these issues are constantly in the limelight. As a priest, I have often wondered where and when these issues might appear in my role as pastor and how I would react to the opportunity to discuss the issues.



Father Adam

I originally felt that I would just avoid these controversies and have done so throughout my first year as a priest. However, I find myself being pulled by the Holy Spirit to tackle one such issue.

This is an issue that is both political and religious. This is an issue that our National Catholic Church has taken a strong stance against. This is an issue that is the forefront of the healthcare debate that has consumed our nation. This issue is abortion.

So, why now, why discuss abortion during the month of November as we quickly approach the Season of Advent? Well, it is the month of November that we recall as a church and nation what we are thankful for. I am thankful that my mother choose life, she decided to bring me into this world as God planned. I am thankful for the opportunity to live!

Recently, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (Roman Catholic) issued a declaration that in every church bulletin in every parish in the

United States, Catholics are urged to contact their local politicians and let them know that funding for abortions cannot be tolerated in any healthcare reform bill. Planned Parenthood retaliated with a statement that all Pro-Choice Catholics should fight back against their bishops and fight for choice. Fight back against the bishops? The bishops who are descendants of the Apostles? The Apostles who were picked by Jesus Christ to lead the Church? In other words, let us as a nation tell Jesus that the innocent lives of babies are for us to dispose of!

The National Catholic Church is a pro-life Church. But we have done little to address this issue that is sweeping across our Church, nation and world. Let us look at some statistics:

The average number of worldwide abortions in one year is 42 million. That averages out to be about 115,000 babies killed a day. 1.37 million of those abortions occur in these United States, which is the nation founded on Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness, if you fortunate enough to leave the womb alive. Let us look at another statistic: the number of American lives lost in all of the wars in which this country has fought, according to the US Veterans Association, is 1.5 million total. There was a total of 1.6 million abortions in the US in 1990. We as Americans kill more babies a day than the number of people killed when the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.

Of course, this does raise debate and concern. What about issues of rape, incest and possible harm *cont. pg 3*

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Wed. 9am - 11:30am

Sacristan's Corner: CHRIST THE KING



"It's good to be the king!" "I was treated like a king." "Long live the King!"

We use the word "king" in so many con-

texts, even in so many jokes. We in the United States don't have a clear appreciation for kingship, having formed this nation by stepping out from under the thumb of a certain tyrannical royal more than 200 years ago. But we also fail to appreciate the benevolent rule of our Creator, who loves us.

In a few weeks, on the Sunday before the first Sunday of Advent, we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. On that day, the readings will remind us of the prophetic testimony of the coming of the Son of Man. We will acknowledge that Jesus Christ, the One who was and is fully God and fully Man, has earned His place on the throne by both dying and then defeating death, by giving Himself up for the salvation of us, His subjects. By His Blood, He has made us into a kingdom. Not a kingdom to be exploited and abused, but a kingdom of priests to serve God in splendor.

Humankind reacts oddly toward those that they recognize as their kings. We build them up, then tear them down. We accept their uplifting of our pride, then resent them when they remind us of our duty, and our shortcomings. We make ourselves kings in the tiny little private realms we inhabit. And even when the Son of God comes to save us from ourselves and from the evil that oppresses us, first we cry "Hosanna!" And then we cry out "Crucify Him!"

At this time of year, on a Tuesday early in November, we travel to places close to home to choose those whom we would have lead us. Yes, it is a good thing to participate in our civic responsibilities, and to

appreciate that freedom. It is good to respect and support lawful, God-given earthly authority. It is good not to choose our rulers, then to cut them down. But is right and proper to make God the ultimate ruler, the King of our lives. To see His loving reign in all of the blessings of our world. To exclaim, as His Body and Blood are lifted during Holy Mass, "My God and my King!" And to realize and trust that He does better things for us than we can ask or imagine.

Jesus, with your Blood you have redeemed us. You have turned your Cross into your Throne. You are Christus Rex. Christ the King. AMEN.

Bob Shovah

Preparing the Way:



*Advent and
the Future of
BVMC*

Saturday
November 21, 2009
9:00am

Pioneer Bank Conference Room

A retreat that will focus on building up the spiritual and physical life of our parish in preparation for the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

RSVP by Nov. 14th with Fr. Adam

Cash Bonanza Winner: Ben Peplowski

Following Mass on Sunday, October 18th, Fr. Adam picked a ticket from the collection of Cash Bonanza tickets that were sold over the past few months. The lucky owner of the winning ticket was Mr. Ben Peplowski. On behalf of the PolishFest 09 and the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, "Congratulations, Ben!"



Ben Peplowski, winner of the Cash Bonanza is presented his check by PolishFest Chair, Jeanmaire Vollmer

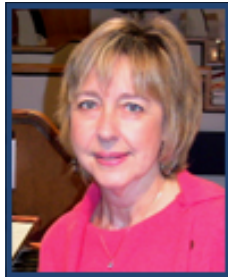
Animals and Costumes

The month of October brought to BVMC many animals and costumes as we celebrated Francis of Assisi and our 2nd Annual Community Halloween Party. Thank you to all who participated. Turn out for both was excellent and we hope to continue building our success each year!



Getting to Know BVMC: Regina Pollack

How long have you been a parishioner at BVMC?



I've been a parishioner of the BVMC parish all my life. I was baptized in the parish as an infant.

Ann Dross is my godmother. My godfather, Ted Zembrzuski, passed away several years ago. Along with my parents, both godparents had a strong influence on my faith development.

What led you to BVMC?

In my case, I guess the question is "what kept me at BVMC." Over the years, I was blessed to grow up among so many parishioners and clergy who lived and breathed their faith and devotion to Jesus and the church. I've always felt a powerful sense of Christian unity within our parish family, even though there were rough spots along the way. Early on, I found music to be the pathway that best opened my heart and mind to God and am forever grateful for the generations of choir members and musicians that shared, and continue to share, that journey with me. I am certain that on Christmas, Easter, and other special occasions, the choir always sounds fuller

and richer because the voices of all those who came before us join in with us. It is wonderful to feel their spirit still with us.

What would you say to someone who might be considering making BVMC Parish their home for worship?

To those who may be considering making BVMC their home for worship, you can expect to find a friendly, welcoming community with many opportunities to worship and serve. You will find reverent services, inspiring sermons, a place where children can happily grow - and (I have to say it....) good food!

Anything else you care to share with BVMC parish?

Family, church, and work have always been intertwined for me. After working for NYS for 30 years, my colleagues at work know all about the happenings at BVMC. I do miss having my daughters - and granddaughters - in this area and escape to see them in Asheville and Houston as often as I can. Although officially retired, I still work for NYS a couple days a week and that seems to be a good balance. George and I are happily getting used to married life and settling into our new home. We're looking forward to a visit from our grandchildren next week!

Cont. to the health of the mother? Well, all of these issues combined are responsible for less than 3% of the total number of abortions in the United States.

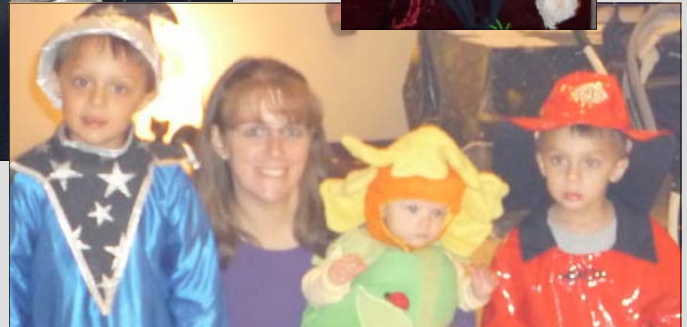
We have a responsibility as Catholic Christians to fight for life, natural life, from natural birth to natural death. Cardinal Bernadine coined this the "Seamless Garment" or womb to tomb rights to life.

People always ask why no one stepped in to stop Hitler until he was well on his way to slaughtering 6 million people. Well, why are we standing by idly while since 1973 over 49 million innocent children have been torn in half, beheaded and burned while in the womb?

This is the perfect opportunity for the Church to seriously ask the question: "What would Jesus really do?" We know the answer. Please take the time to write to your local political leaders and let them know that we stand united as Christians for the right to life, we are thankful for our lives!

s Galore!!

sted the Blessing of Animals/St.
all who helped with these events.



Saint of the Month: Elizabeth of Hungary

Feast Day:
November 19th.

St. Elizabeth was born in Hungary in 1207, the daughter of Alexander II, King of Hungary. At the age of four she was sent for education to the court of the Landgrave of Thuringia, to whose infant son she was betrothed. As she grew in age, her piety also increased by leaps and bounds. In 1221, she married Louis of Thuringia and in spite of her position at court began to lead an austere simple life, practiced penance, and devoted herself to works of charity. Her husband was himself much inclined to religion and highly esteemed her virtue, encouraging her in her exemplary life. They had three children when tragedy struck - Louis was killed while fighting with the Crusaders. After his death, Elizabeth left the court, made arrangements for the care of her children, and in 1228, renounced the world, becoming a tertiary of St. Francis. She built the Franciscan hospital at Marburg and devoted herself to the care of the sick until her death at the age of 24 in 1231. St. Elizabeth is the patron saint of bakers, countesses, death of children, falsely accused, the homeless, nursing services, tertiaries, widows, and young brides. Her symbols are alms, flowers, bread, the poor, and a pitcher.



www.catholic.org

Hospital Visitations and Sick Calls:

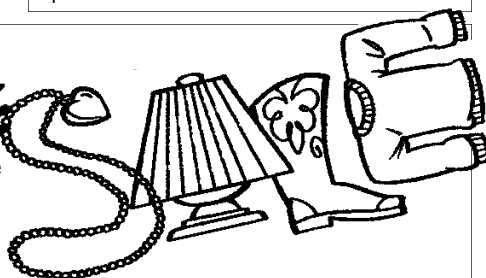
Just a reminder that if you or a loved one are in the hospital, please contact Fr. Adam and let him know. Due to HIPAA laws, the hospitals no longer give out patient names. Thank you.

BINGO!

Bingo Help Needed: Since 2002, bingo has provided a significant source of the revenue we depend upon for operating the parish. We are still in immediate need of volunteers. If you can help, please contact Dick Malchow as soon as possible.

ANS
RUMMAGE
and Frozen Polish Food Sale

Saturday,
November 14th
9am - 2pm



Prayer List

Silvio Brighenti
Joe Brennan
Irene Calka
Paul Cooke Jr.
John Cooke
Ben Cooke
Jeff Durkee
Brendan Durkee
Jean Egan
Ann Marie DelRa
Alice Houser
Carl Layman
Karen & Richard Malchow
Christina Malczewski
Cynthia Mayhew
Nancy Merrill
Rev. Nigel Mumford
Robert Nagle
Genevieve Novak
Nancy Pascale
Elizabeth Peplowski
Veronica Pilitowski
Henry Radzyminski
Stanley & Edna Radzyminski
Michael Robochik
John Scarchilli
Bob Shovah
Jean Tomaski
Jane White

To add or remove a name from the parish prayer list please see Father Adam, thank you.

Of Note:

Bingo

Bingo is held every Thursday at 7:15pm. Come early and enjoy a fantastic meal prepared by the Częstochowa Polish Kitchen staff. Then try your luck at bingo. Another way to support our fundraising efforts.

Future Articles - Your Input

The Journey is the newsletter of all the faithful of our parish. You are all invited to contribute to the monthly Journey. Please share your stories of faith, your concerns for the church or even recipes if you like! Please email or deliver any articles for the Journey to Fr. Adam.

Thank you and God Bless!

Sunday Readings

Nov. 1: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12a

Nov. 8: 1 Kings 17:10-16, Hebrews 9:24-28, Mark 12:38-44

Nov. 15: Daniel 12:1-3, Hebrews 10:11-14, Mark 13:24-32

Nov. 22: Daniel 7:13-14, Revelation 1:5-8, John 18:33-37

Nov. 29: Jeremiah 33:14-16, 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2, Luke 21:25-28, 34-36