

**CHRIST IS OUR WATER OF LIFE!***(Exodus 17:3-7; Ps. 95:1-2, 6-9; Rom. 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42)*

Water is life! Without water, the sea creatures, the plants, the animals, you and I will certainly perish! The first reading of today has clearly been chosen to fit with the gospel reading, in which Jesus promises the Samaritan woman that He will give her the water of life.

Let me briefly draw your attention to the fact that in the dry climate of Palestine, water is an obvious symbol of salvation. Therefore, in the first reading of today, it is not unusual that the Israelites complained when they were faced with thirst aggravated by the scourging desert sun and heat. They confronted Moses: "Why did you ever make us leave Egypt?" They wanted to go back to Egypt where they could die honorably as slaves rather than die shamefully as animals in the desert under the pretext of freedom.

You and I are on a journey of faith! In this journey, like the Israelites, we are often faced with hardship in various forms. We are often tempted. There are different demands made of us in our families – work places – community – in the church. We are faced with the material and financial obligations to support our families – pay bills – mortgages – rents – insurances. We are expected to make donations to the church and to pay taxes. Most times, life seems to be too burdensome and stressful. We often feel the *scourging heat* by the demands life makes on us – of being faithful to our commitments – the demands of sacrificing our time and our resources for the good of those in need. We are often challenged by the absence of love, unity and peace in our families and in the society at large – by the sickness or the death of a loved one. There is a bad habit you and I would like to shake off, but it has not been easy at all. When we are faced with difficulties and uncertainties, we sometimes grumble and wish to *go back to Egypt* – to go back to our *old ways*. As a result, we fail to appreciate all the good deeds and the good things the Lord God has done for us. You and I should always count our blessings and give thanks to God for His goodness to us, rather than dwelling on the difficulties we face in life.

It was the great Bishop of Hippo, Saint Augustine who stated "My heart is restless till it rests in God." Today's scripture readings exhort you and me to have faith and trust in God. If we truly trust in Christ, He will be there to provide for us when we go through the *rough roads and the scourging desert of life without water*. God-with-us in the Lord Jesus is always ready to satisfy our heart's worthy desires. He will be there to strengthen and to lead you and me to His everlasting glory. Thus in the gospel we see the Samaritan woman, who upon her encounter with Jesus, was assured that "Whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst". Jesus is our *Water of life*; hence, we must approach Him with faith and trust since He exhorts you and me to "Come to me, all you who work hard and carry heavy burdens, and I will refresh you" (Matt. 11:28). Therefore, "if today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts" (Ps. 95:8). Trust, and do not harden your heart, but like the woman of Samaria, go and share your own personal experience of Jesus with others. Through your own encounter with Jesus and your shared experience, invite those in your family and neighborhood to come to Jesus Who is the true Provider of our human needs. Like many of the Samaritans, may all come to listen and hear Jesus speak to them personally and thus, bear witness that He is "truly the Savior of the world."

**Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP**

**PARISH NEWS**


**HOLY HOUR:** This Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, is First Friday. We will have our monthly Holy Hour at 1 p.m. in honor of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. On Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Divine Mercy Holy Hour will begin at 3 p.m. Every one is encouraged to participate in these wonderful devotions.



**OUR FAMILY MASS:** Next Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will celebrate our Family Mass at 10 a.m. All children and their families are encouraged to attend. Mass will be followed by "Family Breakfast" at the McManus Parish Center. All are welcome.

The members of the Rosary Altar Society will attend the 8:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**OUR 2011 EASTER WISH-LIST**

Once again, it is that time of the year I request additional help from you, on top of all you do for your beloved parish.



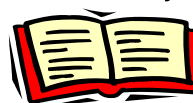
Thank you for always responding whenever I call upon you to step forward and assist our parish in any way possible.

In the spirit of Lent and in anticipation of a joyous Easter feast, I am once again inviting you, our parish families or individuals, who can afford to assist the parish in purchasing the following liturgical items needed for the Holy Week and Easter ceremonies and the new Liturgical Year beginning this Advent:

1. 1 Paschal (Easter) Candle @ \$350
2. 10 bundles of Palms for Palm Sunday @ \$60 each.
3. New Roman Missal (used at the Altar) @ \$250
4. 10 packets of the New Roman Missal cards @ \$20 each.

Please, note that any of the above items can be donated in memory of your loved ones; and will be so noted in the Easter Bulletin.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Every Friday evening during Lent, the devotion of the Stations of the Cross is held in the Church at 7 p.m. Families are encouraged to participate together. We will also have the Stations of the Cross at 2 p.m. on Good Friday, just prior to the 3 p.m. Good Friday Service.

**Bible Study**

**PARISH BIBLE STUDY:** Join Father Anthony and your fellow parishioners in discovering more about the Bible this Friday and every Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the School. Bring a friend! Come and have fun exploring both the Old and New Testaments.

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



"If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts." Learn to listen and soften your hearts to each other on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter, April 9-10 (1 night weekend). For more information, call toll free (877) 697-9963, ext. 3.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter's mission of renewal in the Church and change in the world is to assist couples and priests to live fully intimate and responsible relationships by providing them with a Catholic "experience" and ongoing community support for such a lifestyle.

Couples celebrating their **50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary** anytime during 2011 are invited to attend the **Annual Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass** with Archbishop Dolan at St. Patrick Cathedral, **Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**, at 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Please contact our Rectory Office for more information. The deadline for registrations for the Mass is Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. This event is sponsored by the Family Life/Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New York.

### FINAL PARISH LOTTERY WINNERS

From November 4<sup>th</sup>, through the end of December 2010, *St. Bartholomew's Centennial Calendar Lottery* had **8 additional lucky winners**. They are:

November 28 <sup>th</sup>	Mark Valentinetti
December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Joyce Pietrowski
December 12 <sup>th</sup>	Alfred DiFranco
December 19 <sup>th</sup>	Lorraine Zigabarra
December 20 <sup>th</sup>	Marion Howley
December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Catherine Hickey
December 28 <sup>th</sup>	Irene Barton
December 30 <sup>th</sup>	Loreen Ryan

Please stop by the Rectory Office, Monday to Friday, between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. to pick up your winnings. **Congratulations to our winners! Thank you to everyone for your participation in this fundraising effort; also, a special thank you to Joe Chimenti for organizing and tracking the results and Helen Hanrahan for handling the banking end!**



Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Thomas Occhiogrossi.

**Unable to make our Holy Hours or looking to do something extra for Lent? Please consider ...**

#### 24 HOUR ADORATION

Saint Paul the Apostle Church  
602 McLean Avenue, Yonkers

Begins following their 9 a.m. Mass on Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>  
Ends with Benediction at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>

**MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA:** Held after the 9 a.m. Mass on Mondays.

**RECITATION OF THE ROSARY:** Join your fellow parishioners in praying the Rosary after the 9 a.m. Mass on weekdays and Saturdays.



### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

- The **budgeted** Collection for last Sunday was \$6000.00.
- The **actual** Collection for last Sunday was \$6068.55
- The **Snow Removal Collection** totaled \$2463.20

We thank everyone for their generosity to St. Bartholomew's Church. May God bless and reward all your sacrifices for the Parish!

**PARISH SCHOOL SUPPORT:** Next Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will take up a second collection in support of our Parish School. Please, endeavor to donate generously.

### CHURCH BEAUTIFICATION CONTINUES

Over the next three weeks we will begin a three-pronged project to further beautify our church: our pews will be refurbished, our kneelers will be replaced, and our pews will be padded. This work will begin this Monday after the 9 a.m. Mass and be completed before Palm Sunday. **While sections of the pews will be unavailable from time to time during the weekdays, the church's availability will not be affected.** We apologize for any inconvenience.



Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Alejandra Santander, Amadeu Amorim, Gloria Flanagan, Grace Raguso, Andy DeFabritis, Maryann Tolli, Maria Marte, Julieann Moroch, Ed Carpenter, Barbara Rup, Jule Yaskovic, Rosalie Heit, Dolores Santamarena, Florence B. Swetz, Clare Yaskovic, Neil Caruso, Raymond Fitzpatrick, Sr., Deacon James Byrnes, Andrea Objay, Carmen Torres, John Esposito, Francis Farrell, Mark Baum, Christine Bellino, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, Mildred Moscarello, Edith Dugan, John & Gary Roth, Lena Castaldo, Joyann Allan, Anna Rita Morgante, Carmela Massaroni, Lois Burton, Mary DeStefano, Carmella DelBene, Ann Ceriale, Dan Seratto, Mark Cianfaglione and Shawn Colon.

**CHRISM MASS:** Mass of Chrism will be celebrated this year on **Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**, at 4 p.m. in St. Patrick's Cathedral. Every parishioner is encouraged to attend this beautiful ceremony, where we celebrate with the Archbishop of our Archdiocese and witness our priests renew their vow to serve God's people with the humility of a good shepherd. **Please come support our own parish priests.** A bus from our parking lot directly to St. Patrick's Cathedral will be available at cost. Please call the Rectory @ 914-965-0566, Monday to Friday to reserve a seat.

### HAIRSPRAY

Don't miss Sacred Heart High School's production of the Big Fat Broadway Musical **HAIRSPRAY**. Performances will be on **Friday and Saturday April 8-9, at 8 p.m. and a matinee performance on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.** Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$8 for students and senior citizens. For information or tickets please call 914-965-6953.

**MARCH 27, 2011**

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*Mass  for the  
Intentions  Week*

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**Third Sunday of Lent**

Saturday, March 26 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Sunday, March 27

8:30 AM Peter DeMattia +

10:00 AM Frank & Carmela Legio +

11:30 AM Katherine Azzari +

5:00 PM Virgilio Brizido +

Monday, March 28

**Lenten Weekday**

7:00 AM Lewis, Louise & Stanley Kasper +

9:00 AM Delia & John Tighe +

Tuesday, March 29

**Lenten Weekday**

7:00 AM Richard, Ann & Joseph Frischman +

9:00 AM Alice Olsen +

Wednesday, March 30

**Lenten Weekday**

7:00 AM Pasqua Capuano +

9:00 AM Thomas & Patrick Keane +

Thursday, March 31

**Lenten Weekday**

7:00 AM Samuel Garofola +

9:00 AM No Intention

Friday, April 1

**Lenten Weekday**

7:00 AM God's blessings upon the U.S.A

9:00 AM Angelo & Elena D'Aquila +

Saturday, April 2

**Lenten Weekday**

9:00 AM George Goresen +

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Saturday, April 2 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Lucy & Carl Rossi +

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Sunday, April 3

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

8:30 AM Elizabeth & Carl Laredo +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM John Bryce +

5:00 PM Raymond Shannon, Jr. +

**MARCH 27, 2011**

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY!

**We  
Love  
To  
Serve  
You!**



Our warmest welcome to our visitors! We are glad you came to celebrate the Eucharist with us today. We thank God for you! Do not hesitate to let us know how we may serve you.

Every family and single adult to be considered active parishioner of St. Bartholomew's Parish must be properly registered in the Parish, receiving and regularly using the Parish Weekly Collection Envelopes. Only in this way can the Pastor issue documents attesting to Catholic practice of the faith and Parish membership, e.g. a letter to be a Godparent or Sponsor. For further information call the Parish Office at 914-965-0566.

If you have not registered or need to correct some of the information in our file, please fill out this form and check (X) the appropriate box below (you may also use the complete Registration Form found on the table at the rear of the Church), and drop the completed form into the collection basket or drop off/mail it to the Rectory. Thank you!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

- I am a visitor.
- I am interested in parish membership.
- Change of Address / Telephone Number.
- I am moving out of the Parish.
- I am going to the hospital.
- I would like to be visited by a priest / minister.
- Please send me the *Catholic New York*.
- I would like to learn more about the Catholic Faith.

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***A Lenten Reflection***

- Give up complaining—focus on gratitude.
- Give up pessimism—become an optimist.
- Give up harsh judgments—think kindly thoughts.
- Give up worry—trust Divine Providence.
- Give up discouragement—be full of hope.
- Give up bitterness—turn to forgiveness.
- Give up hatred—return good for evil.
- Give up negativism—be positive.
- Give up anger—be more patient.
- Give up pettiness—become mature.
- Give up gloom—enjoy the beauty that is all around you.
- Give up jealousy—pray for trust.
- Give up gossiping—control your tongue.
- Give up sin—turn to virtue.
- Give up giving up—hang in there!