

FIRE OF LOVE AND UNITY

(Gen. 11:1-9; Rom. 8:22-27; Jn. 7:37-39; Acts 2:1-11; Gal. 5: 16-25; Jn. 20:19-23)

The beginning of the Book of Genesis tells us that before Creation the earth was a formless void, thus, "when God began to create the heavens and the earth...the Spirit of God hovered over the waters" (Genesis 1:1-2). It was through the Spirit of God that the heavens and earth, and all that is in them were made. In other words, God's Spirit has a creative force. God's Spirit is what makes you and me exist today, because, after "Yahweh God formed Man, dust drawn from the clay, and breathed into his nostrils a breath of life and man became alive with breath" (Genesis 2:7).

Since Creation, the Spirit of God has had a living effect in God's creatures. God created Man in His own image, but Man would have remained a formless image without life if God did not breathe His Spirit into him. God's Spirit, therefore, is a source of life – a life-giving substance. The Spirit of God has always been a binding force of nature that bonded the human race together. But when Man sinned due to pride, and his longing to "be like God," He brought discord and division into the world (Gen. 3:1-13; 11:1-9).

Since the Fall of Adam and Eve, it has been our desire to be restored to our original state, thus, the Church prays, "Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Thy faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Thy love...Send forth Thy Spirit and they shall be created...And Thou shalt renew the face of the earth..." As the Church celebrates the feast of Pentecost today, she prays for the restoration of the human race to its former glory. The Church prays that the "Fire of Pentecost" should consume human pride, disunity, hatred, corruption, malice, selfishness, bigotry, and every form of evil that envelopes our world. She prays that the "Fire of Pentecost" should enkindle the "flame of love and peace" in our hearts – our families – our church – our community – our neighborhood – our country.

On Ascension Thursday, Jesus commissioned you and me, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." And last Sunday He prayed, "Holy Father, keep them in Your name that You have given Me, so that they may be one just as We are one." God's Spirit is a spirit of unity, and it is only this Spirit Who can bind us together. Thus, as we celebrate Pentecost, we should remember the binding force of a family fireplace - where warmth is felt, meal is shared, stories are told, memories are rekindled, and love is exchanged. Pentecost is a day for Christians all over the world to celebrate their unity, and their love for one another. As confirmed Christians, Pentecost reminds you and me of our responsibility to "go out to the whole world" and preach tolerance and peace instead of war and violence - unity instead of division.

In the United States, this Monday we celebrate Memorial Day. The unique thing about this day is that we celebrate the lives of those who were patriotic enough to die for their country. They obeyed the commands of their commander-in-chief, the President; thus, they died in the line of duty. As Christians, if indeed, sacrificial love touches our hearts, like the soldiers, we must be willing to die for our faith. We must obey our "Commander-in-Chief," Jesus Christ, by keeping His Commandments. The lessons of Memorial Day for you and me should go beyond the "fallen soldiers," and focus on whether, like them, we Christians are willing to carry out the wishes of our "Commander-in-Chief," Jesus Christ - making sacrifices that are required of any true and faithful Catholic. May the Pentecost Fire burn within our hearts!

PARISH NEWS



This Monday, May 28th, is a legal holiday. The Rectory Office will be closed. There will be only one Mass on this holiday at 9 a.m.

HOLY HOUR: This Friday, June 1st, is First Friday. We will have our monthly Holy Hour at 1 p.m. On Saturday, June 2nd, the Divine Mercy Holy Hour will begin at 3 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to participate in these wonderful devotions.



The **ALTAR FLOWERS** have been donated in loving memory of the following deceased veterans: Bruce Beck, Fiore Brusco, John Brusco, Victor D'Angelo, Carmine Davi, Anthony DePaolo, Daniel DeRosa, Vito DeSantis, John DiRodio, Anthony Giuriceo, Robert Howley, David Jacob, Joseph Laudadio, Margaret Liddell, Robert Liddell, Martin Magzag, Carmine Manno, Andrew T. McCormack, Gabriel Nanoia, Anthony Pelliccio, Jerry Pisacreta, Francis Romano, Edward Smith, Harold W. Smith, and Robert Smith.



The **ALTAR BREAD & WINE, ALTAR CANDLES** and **SANCTUARY LAMP** for this week have been donated by the Rosary Altar Society in honor of their deceased veterans.

FAMILY MASS: A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND SHARE WITH OTHER FAMILIES:

Next Sunday, June 3rd, we will celebrate Family Mass at 10 a.m. After the Mass, we will gather, with the new Communicants and Confirmed for our Annual **Communion Breakfast** in the McManus Parish Center. The Family Mass provides an opportunity for you to get to know other families and members of the parish. Therefore, endeavor to join us every first Sunday of the month. All are welcome!



Congratulations to our newest Christian, **Angelina Rose Franco**, who was baptized on Sunday, May 20th. We thank her parents and sponsors for presenting her for baptism, and we pray God to bless and keep this child and her parents in their journey of faith.

Now is the time to register your child for Religious Education classes for the fall. Classes are available for children in kindergarten through high school. Children who attended classes here this past year are reminded to return their re-registration papers. New families wishing to enroll their children or to find out more information should contact Cheryl Duda on (914) 476-6676.





The FINANCE COMMITTEE will meet this Thursday, May 31st, at 7 p.m. in the Rectory. All members are asked to attend.

FATHER'S DAY CARDS AND NOVENA: Sunday, June 17th, is Father's Day. We will have a 9-day Novena of Masses for all our fathers - living and deceased. The Novena of Masses will begin on Sunday, June 17th. There are cards and/or envelopes at the back of the church. If you want your father, father-in-law or any other father remembered in the Novena of Masses, please fill out the envelope and place it in the collection basket or bring it to the Rectory Office during the week. Remember, on Father's Day we will invoke a special blessing on all the fathers during the Masses that weekend.

GREAT GIFT FOR Father's Day

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Fred A. Basli and Patricia Polizzi.



VISIT MARYKNOLL: The Religious Education Office is arranging a Parish Trip to visit the Maryknoll Fathers on Saturday, June 16th. The trip will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Brother John Blazo will conduct a tour, followed by lunch, and a visit to the Maryknoll Museum. With participation by 20-25 people, the cost will be about \$20 per person. Please contact Cheryl Duda (476-6676) **this week** for reservations or questions.

1ST ANNUAL PARISH RAFFLE



Have you returned your Raffle stubs for our first Annual Parish Raffle? The winning tickets for our latest fundraising effort will be drawn at this year's Parish Picnic. Three lucky participants will take home cash prizes of \$2,000, \$1,000, or \$500 - just in time to kick off summer!

Raffle Books and donations can be placed in an envelope marked Raffle and deposited in the Sunday Collection basket, dropped off, or mailed to the Rectory Office. For the Month of May, leading up to our June 10th Parish Picnic, you will be able to turn in your Raffle Tickets and donations or purchase additional Raffle Tickets after each Sunday Mass, as well as at the Rectory Office. Please make all checks payable to St. Bartholomew's Church. Raffle Tickets are \$2 each or a book of six tickets costs \$10.

Please help make this fundraising effort a success. Good luck and God bless!

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.



Tithing - God's Plan for Giving

Table with 2 columns: Contribution Type, Amount. Rows: May 22, 2011 Adults' Contribution (\$5253.60), Children's Contribution (\$161.35), Last Year's Total (\$5414.95)

Table with 2 columns: Contribution Type, Amount. Rows: May 20, 2012 Adults' Contribution (\$6023.45), Children's Contribution (\$69.15), This Year's Total (\$6092.60)

The Ascension Thursday collection totaled \$1760.90.

"The true purpose of tithing is to secure not the tithe, but the tither; not the gift, but the giver; not your money, but you... for God."

REMEMBER YOUR BELOVED PARISH

Remember, "We make a living by what we earn. We make a life by what we share." Please remember our Parish in your Will as a lasting and loving gift to your parish family. Thank you!




Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Alejandra Santander, Andy DeFabritis, Maryann Tolli, Maria Marte, 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, Mark Baum, Frank Marra, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, Edith Dugan, Gary Roth, Joyann Allan, Anna Rita Morgante, Lois Burton, Mary DeStefano, Dan Seratto, Mark Cianfaglione, Shawn Colon, Margaret Maccia, Nicole Ryan Betancourt, Anthony Spinner, Audrey & Alfred Falcone, Kathleen Hayes, Marge Muraik, Stan Buoninfante, Donna Vasconez, Mary Ann Berengur, Gene DelBene, Angelina Brusco, Mary Romanchik, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatkiewicz, Rose Botcheller, Silvia Georgi, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Steve Oddo, Roseann Mercandetti, Paul Bolduc, Amelia Gagliardi, Louis Brusco, Josephine Daniele, Jennifer Dorsey and Valerie Riccardi.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Michael Breen Hall, 5 Strathmore Road, Scarsdale, will hold a Spring Tag Sale - Saturday, June 2nd, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. & Sunday, June 3rd, 11 a.m. to 5p.m. For information call Rosemary Borges on (914) 646-0597.

This Friday, June 1st, is the cutoff for reservations to join the Rosary Altar Society dinner outing on Tuesday, June 5th, at J.C. Fogarty's, 60 Kraft Avenue, Bronxville. For more information and reservations, please call Dolores (969-3388) or Josephine (476-5386).

MAY 27, 2012

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

Pentecost Sunday

Saturday, May 26 (Vigil Mass)

Saint Philip Neri, Priest

5:00 PM Sharon Siravakian +

Sunday, May 27

8:30 AM Deceased Members of Magzag Family +

10:00 AM Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin Mary

11:30 AM Julieann Campisi Moroch +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Monday, May 28

Weekday - Memorial Day

9:00 AM Joseph Pasciucco +

Tuesday, May 29

Weekday

7:00 AM John S. DelBene +

9:00 AM Grace Raguso +

Wednesday, May 30

Weekday

7:00 AM Angelina Carrozza +

9:00 AM Rose Botcheller (living)

Thursday, May 31

Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 AM Bridget O'Malley (living)

9:00 AM Mary McCarthy +

Friday, June 1

Saint Justin, Martyr

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Salerno & DelBene Families

9:00 AM Thanksgiving to the Blessed Mother Mary

Saturday, June 2

Weekday

9:00 AM Maria Loreta Lucchetti +

Saturday, June 2 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Marion DeMuro +

Sunday, June 3

Most Holy Trinity Sunday

8:30 AM Caroline & Peter Klee +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Carole Ferraro +

5:00 PM Helen Carlise +

