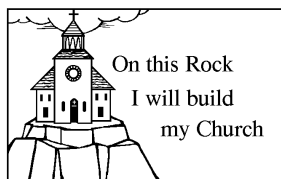


## USE YOUR KEY WISELY

Is. 22:19-23; Ps. 138:1-3, 6, 8; Rom. 11: 33-36; Matt. 16:13-20



Many years ago, I did an interactive preaching with my parishioners. I wanted to know Who they think Jesus is. I got various answers: “He is the Savior – He is a miracle worker – He is the Son of God – He is the Son of Mary – He is the Messiah – He is the Son of David – He is a physician and a healer.” While all these answers are correct, one of the answers that really struck me is the one given by a teenage girl: “Jesus is my personal Lord and Savior!” Who is Jesus to you? Is He your Lord and Master? If Christ is your Master, do you see yourself as His steward?

Today’s first reading and the gospel speak about *keys*. Keys are symbols of authority! A key symbolizes a position of trust and stewardship. One can only give the key to his/her apartment / house to someone he or she trusts. A steward who receives the keys from his master knows that he has the confidence of his master and with the keys he has access to everything in the household.

Hezekiah was the king of Israel between the 715 BC and 687 BC. He appointed Shebna as his steward (secretary). When King Sennacharib of Assyria later laid siege to Jerusalem leaving the people in absolute fear and panic, prophet Isaiah had warned King Hezekiah not to surrender but to trust in God. He later assured the king’s secretary, Shebna, and his emissaries that by God’s intervention Sennacharib and his army would be defeated. This indeed came to pass as Isaiah prophesied, and Sennacharib was killed. After the defeat, Shebna, who was only a steward, became arrogant, claiming the victory and thus prided himself as the one who defeated Sennacharib and delivered Judah. A steward must always remember his proper place as a steward and should never think of himself as the owner, master or king. Credit should be given to God alone!

Shebna offended the Lord by his arrogance, thus in today’s first reading He threatened: “I will thrust you from your office and pull you down from your station.” The leadership of Israel would be taken away from Hezekiah and his arrogant secretary, Shebna, and be given to Eliakim, a humble, loyal and respectful person. Therefore, “...I will place the key of the House of David on Eliakim’s shoulder. When he opens, no one shall shut. When he shuts, no one shall open.”

In today’s gospel, the Lord entrusted Peter with a key, symbolizing trust and authority. This happened as a result of Peter’s profession of faith: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God...Blessed are you...Peter...upon this rock I will build My Church...I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven...” Like Eliakim and Peter, you and I are the Lord’s stewards, and He entrusted us with the *keys to His kingdom*. Unlike Shebna, we must not abuse the privileges the Lord has generously given to us. Instead we should embrace Jesus as the Master and Owner of all that we are and have, and thus, humble ourselves to serve Him in others. As God’s stewards you and I must be faithful to His word in the scripture – to the sacraments He administers to us through His Church – obey all that His vicar on earth, the Pope, teaches, because “Whatever (he) binds on earth shall be bound in heaven...whatever (he) looses on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

# PARISH NEWS



By the PASTOR

## OUR AIR-CONDITIONING UNIT NEEDS REPAIR

For more than four years you may have noticed that the air conditioning / heating units have not been cooling or heating properly. Recently I invited some technicians to take a proper look at the units and to analyze the problem. Fortunately, it is not as bad as we feared, the compressor is not damaged, but there is leakage from one of the units which renders the compressor non-functioning. Apart from the gas leakage, the units’ vents are clogged and need to be power washed and properly cleaned.

The scope of the work to be done on the air conditioning system includes:

- Injecting dye solution with nitrogen into one of the two refrigerant circuits.
- Locating and repairing any leaks found on the system.
- Evacuating the system of any non-condensable materials.
- Charging the system with refrigerant.
- Replacing all driers on the circuit.
- Checking the system operations and controls.

The units located in the basement and at the rear end of the parking lot of the church also need to be:

- Chemically cleaned.
- Have fan belts and filters replaced.
- Have controls for proper operation checked.
- Have all bearings checked.

In terms of cost for the repairs, we are still negotiating the price with the contractor. You will duly be informed when we have finally signed the contract. All that we need now is your prayers, understanding and support. The duration of the work is not yet determined, but it is certainly going to take some days in not weeks. That means that we all need to pray for a cooler temperature in the coming days. Please bear with us as we try to fix the system for the long term enjoyment of all our parishioners and visitors.

## WE WILL SOON “GO GREEN”

Dear Parishioners last January I informed you that each bulb in our church consumes 250 Watts, and that there is a total of 70 bulbs in the church. Thus, whenever the lights are turned on, 250 x 70 watts of energy are used. Our monthly Parish bills for gas & electric for the church and rectory sometimes top \$5000 during the winter. Since then, various ways to cut down the cost on our electricity bill while providing more efficient, friendlier and brighter lighting within the church have been proposed. In other words, I am looking for lighting that is friendlier to the environment as we opt to “go green.” I am grateful to Karen McKenna who, on behalf of the parish, has been liaising with the various companies who are proposing to make our energy consumption more efficient and less expensive.

## TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD PRESCHOOL PROGRAM FOR PRE K & KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN



The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a worldwide religious formation program developed to nurture the child's relationship with God. The format, inspired by the Montessori Method, is simple. All learning in the room is hands-on in typical Montessori fashion. The catechist gathers

with the children in small groups in a beautiful environment, called the *atrium*, containing interactive materials representing the Bible and the Church's liturgy. Our parish is opening an *atrium* this fall.

The program is for children ages 3 and up. For information or to enroll a child, please contact Cheryl Duda on (914) 476-6676.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** The Religious Education office needs adult volunteers to assist as monitors during class times, so there is always a second adult in the building when children are present. Monitors will not be required to teach. Please call Cheryl Duda (476-6676) this week if you can help out.

**HOSPITALITY MINISTERS:** Individuals are needed to serve our parish as hospitality ministers at all of our Masses. Hospitality ministers greet people as they arrive, assist in taking up collections, distribute bulletins at the end of Mass, and provide assistance when needed. Hospitality ministers help to create a welcoming and prayerful atmosphere for all who come and worship with us. Both men and women are welcome to volunteer to serve at the Mass they typically attend. High school and college students are welcome to serve at our 5 p.m. Youth Mass. For more information, please contact Cheryl Duda (476-6676).

### REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES, LIVING AND DEAD

The Mass Books for both 2011 & 2012 are open and have availability. Consider giving a loved one the graces associated with having a Mass offered on their behalf; also, consider offering the Altar flowers, Altar bread and wine, Altar candles, or lighting the Sanctuary lamp for your intention. Come to the Rectory Office, **Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.** to make arrangements.



The first Sunday evening of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass, our Youth Group meets in the McManus Parish Center. All youths age 13 and up are invited.

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

**EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTION:** Held the First Friday of every month at 1 p.m. Please join us when you are able.

**DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION:** Held the First Saturday of every month at 3 p.m. All are encouraged to participate.

**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 \$5700.00.
- The Collection for last Sunday was \$4268.80.
- The Collection in support of our Church's work in the home Missions, as well as Latin America, and the Caribbean totaled \$1613.00.

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



Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Alejandra Santander, Amadeu Amorim, Grace Raguso, 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, Francis Farrell, Mark Baum, Frank Marra, Christine Bellino, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, Edith Dugan, John & Gary Roth, Lena Castaldo, Joyann Allan, Anna Rita Morgante, Lois Burton, Mary DeStefano, Carmella DelBene, Dan Seratto, Mark Cianfaglione, Shawn Colon, Margaret Maccia, Nicole Ryan Betancourt, Anthony Spinner, Audrey & Alfred Falcone, Kathleen Hayes, Marge Muraik, Eve Gammino, Stan Buoninfante, Donna Vasconez, Mary Ann Berengur, and Jeffrey Milowe.

### COMING SOON!!

#### ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S PARISH CARNIVAL

Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>



**VENDORS WANTED:** St. Bartholomew's is inviting applications from interested persons who would like to display their merchandise at our Parish Carnival on Friday, Saturday and/or Sunday. For information or a vendor application, check our website [www.saintbartparish.org](http://www.saintbartparish.org) or call the Rectory Office (965-0566) during business hours.

Please contact Gina Tummolo on (914) 462-6549 or at [ginate@aol.com](mailto:ginate@aol.com) with any questions.

We are still looking for volunteers to help at our Parish Annual Carnival, Thursday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, thru Sunday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please indicate your availability by returning the Volunteer Form or calling the Parish Office (965-0566) or Alice Jacob (963-1686) or e-mail ([aliceajacob@optonline.net](mailto:aliceajacob@optonline.net)). Your help with this important fundraiser is greatly needed.



The **ALTAR BREAD & WINE** for this week is donated in loving memory of Thomas Swetz, Sr. by Frances Swetz.

AUGUST 21, 2011

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*Mass*  *for the*  
*Intentions* *Week*

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Twenty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time

**Saturday, August 20 (Vigil Mass)**

5:00 PM Margaret Divi +

**Sunday, August 21**

8:30 AM Carl Dietze, Robert & Chester Rodesky +

10:00 AM All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Caroline Longobardi +

5:00 PM Joseph Como +

**Monday, August 22**

Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 AM John H. Roth +

9:00 AM Thomas Swetz, Sr. +

**Tuesday, August 23**

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Kay Thomey +

**Wednesday, August 24**

Saint Bartholomew, apostle

7:00 AM Edward Cashin +

9:00 AM Costanza & Umberto Stangarone +

**Thursday, August 25**

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Ted Otto +

**Friday, August 26**

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Khazneh & Jameel Rabadi +

**Saturday, August 27**

Saint Monica

9:00 AM Antonia Cordts +

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**Saturday, August 27 (Vigil Mass)**

5:00 PM John Henry Roth +

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**Sunday, August 28**

Twenty-Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:30 AM Robert Josephson +

10:00 AM Salvatore Guadagno +

11:30 AM Nicolantonio Romagnoli +

5:00 PM All the People of Our Parish

*AUGUST 21, 2011*

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## **FEAST OF THE PATRON SAINT OF OUR PARISH, BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE**

*AUGUST 24*



In the New Testament, Bartholomew is mentioned only in the lists of the apostles. Some scholars identify him with Nathanael, a man of Cana in Galilee who was summoned to Jesus by Philip. Jesus paid him a great compliment: "Here is a true Israelite. There is no duplicity in him" (John 1:47b). When Nathanael asked how Jesus knew him, Jesus said: "I saw you under the fig tree" (John 1:48b). Whatever amazing revelation this involved, it brought Nathanael to exclaim, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel" (John 1:49b). But Jesus countered with, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this" (John 1:50b).

Nathanael did see greater things. He was one of those to whom Jesus appeared on the shore of the Sea of Tiberias after His resurrection (see John 21:1-14). They had been fishing all night without success. In the morning, they saw someone standing on the shore though no one knew it was Jesus. He told them to cast their net again, and they made so great a catch that they could not haul the net in. Then John cried out to Peter, "It is the Lord."

When they brought the boat to shore, they found a fire burning, with some fish laid on it and some bread. Jesus asked them to bring some of the fish they had caught, and invited them to come and eat their meal. John relates that although they knew it was Jesus, none of the apostles presumed to inquire who He was. This, John notes, was the third time Jesus appeared to the apostles.

**COMMENT:** Bartholomew or Nathanael? We are confronted again with the fact that we know almost nothing about most of the apostles. Yet the unknown ones were also foundation stones, the twelve pillars of the new Israel whose twelve tribes now encompass the whole earth. Their personalities were secondary (without thereby being demeaned) to their great office of bearing tradition from their firsthand experience, speaking in the name of Jesus, putting the Word made flesh into human words for the enlightenment of the world. Their holiness was not an introverted contemplation of their status before God.

The simple fact is that humanity is totally meaningless unless God is its total concern. Then humanity, made holy with God's own holiness, becomes the most precious creation of God.

**From *Saint of the Day*, edited by Leonard Foley, O.F.M., & Pat McCloskey, O.F.M.**

***We will celebrate the feast day of the patron saint of our parish at the 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. Masses. Please, endeavor to join us as we commend our parish to the kind patronage of Saint Bartholomew.***

