

**CHRIST'S POWER AND AUTHORITY!!***Deut. 18:15-20; Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9; 1Cor. 7:32-35; Mark 1:21-28*

Last weekend we kicked off our parish campaign towards becoming a "Tithing Parish." Even though the snowy weather prevented some of our parishioners from attending Sunday Mass, we had the pleasure of welcoming two witnesses from New Jersey and Rockland County respectively, who generously shared with us their personal experiences concerning tithing. Coincidentally, last Sunday's readings challenged us to leave behind "our boats, fishing nets and parents" to follow Christ. They called for detachment on our part, if we truly desire to follow Christ – Nothing, not even marital, domestic relationship or emotional attachment should distract us from leaving everything and following Christ because "this world in its present form is passing away."

In today's second reading Apostle Paul exhorts you and me "to be free of anxieties." In fact, when we free ourselves from inordinate attachment to material things, and depend solely on God, we find ourselves becoming less stressed and anxious. If you and I truly believe that everything that we have is a gift from God, then we will be willing to share a tenth of it with Him, knowing fully well that He will certainly replenish what we have generously shared with trust. Our dependency and attachment to material things often takes away our freedom to be faithful Christians. Thus, Paul further exhorts us to be aware that a call to discipleship is a call to emotional detachment from those things that might distract us from submitting our wills and intellects to God and His service. He encourages a life of total detachment and dependency on the will of God – loving Him above all things.

Emotional and/or physical attachments to material things do often provide us with some false security. It often provides us with a leeway to place mundane things above heavenly matters - to put temporal things and/or human beings above God, Who is the source of all that we are and possess. Today's gospel tells us that when Jesus taught in the Temple, "the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes." Unfortunately, in today's society, false prophets abound via radios – televisions – Internet – movie theaters – billboards – computer/video games. Sometimes, instead of submitting ourselves to seeing Christ as the source of power and authority, we allow these things and people to play god to us – manipulating our anxiety, thus aiding us to ignore Christ's teaching authority as explained by His Church. You and I must do our best to deny these *false prophets* the opportunity of preventing us from listening to Jesus Who teaches us with *power and authority*.

Today's scripture challenges you and me to reflect on whom we have given authority. Who or what is guiding and leading our daily lives? To whom or to what do we give the power to guide us away from our God, our faith, and our Church? To what or to whom do we give power over us? Jesus invites us to the life of discipleship and He intends us to be freed from anxieties. He wants to drive away the *devil of materialism* that possesses us. He wishes to purge us of the *unclean spirit of attachment*, and to set us free. Christ initiates us into His discipleship and He invites you and me to acknowledge His teaching authority, therefore, "if today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts."

**Rev. Anthony Ita Basse, MSP**

**PARISH NEWS**

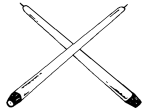
**FEAST OF PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**

This Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> is the feast of the Presentation of the Lord. There will be a candle procession at the beginning of the 9 a.m. Mass.



**SHARING COMMUNITY MEAL:** This Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will provide our Sharing Community Meal. Please bring your ziti or dessert to the Rectory. Doors will open at 6:45 a.m. The Sharing Community truly appreciates our efforts. Please keep up the good work! For information, please call the Rectory Office.

**ST. BLAISE'S FEAST DAY:** This Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, is the feast day of St. Blaise. We will have the **Blessing of Throats** only during the 7 a.m. & 9 a.m. Masses.



**HOLY HOUR:** This Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, is First Friday. We will have our monthly Holy Hour at 1 p.m. On Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, the Divine Mercy Holy Hour will begin at 3 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to participate in these wonderful devotions.

**THE ALTAR BREAD AND WINE** for this week has been donated in loving memory of Carmine N. Maccia by Margaret Maccia and Karen Maccia McKenna.



The members of the Rosary Altar Society will attend the 8:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.

**OUR FAMILY MASS:** Next Sunday, February 5<sup>th</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.



# What's New?

Since Carrie D'Angelo retired from the Rectory Office at the end of last year, the Office has been opened from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Monday to Friday). But all that is going to change, because starting this Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, the parish will enjoy the services of two secretaries and the Office will open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Monday to Friday). We want to apologize for any inconveniences you may have encountered this past month. Thank you for your patience and understanding!

# MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts." Open your hearts to each other on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend, February 11/12. For more information, call (877) 697-9963, ext. 3 or visit [www.wwmearchny.org](http://www.wwmearchny.org).

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.

## WORLD MARRIAGE DAY Sunday, February 12, 2012

10:15 a.m. Mass

St. Patrick's Cathedral

Reception immediately following: St. Patrick's Cathedral

Meeting Rooms, 51<sup>st</sup> Street & Madison Avenue

Celebration to honor the vocation of marriage and family. Reception to follow. Seating is limited. For further information or reservations call (646) 794-3190.

## OUR PARISH R.C.I.A. PROGRAM

If you or someone you know needs information on the Catholic Faith or has not been confirmed, please call the Religious Education Office listed on the cover for information on the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.) in our parish.



## OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Are you interested in serving the parish but not sure how to put your energy & talents to good use? Whether it be something as simple as manning the reception area during religious education classes, periodically decorating our bulletin boards, preparing classrooms for use, making scripted calls to parents, cutting & preparing materials for classes, distributing program promotional flyers or helping with the setup & clean up for different events, we can use your help. Call Cheryl Duda (476-6676) for information.

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION WEBSITE

Have you checked out the Adult Faith Formation section of our website ([www.saintbartsparish.org](http://www.saintbartsparish.org)) recently? There is new content each week to encourage frequent viewing. The "Weekly Justice Challenge" is a favorite of many!

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 AM 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 \$6550.00.
- The **actual** Collection for last Sunday was \$4558.75.
- The **Collection for Snow Removal** totaled \$1429.15.

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

## 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, 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, 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, and Steve Oddo.

## REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES, LIVING AND DEAD

Consider giving a loved one or someone who has a special place in your life the graces associated with having a Mass offered on their behalf. You may have a thanksgiving Mass offered for your loved ones or for yourself on such occasions as birthdays, wedding anniversaries, etc.

Also, you may consider offering the Altar flowers, Altar bread and wine, Altar candles, or lighting the Sanctuary lamp for a week for your intention. Come to the Rectory Office, **Mon. – Fri., 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.** to make arrangements or to inquire about the availability of a particular date.

## OPERATION HEARTS AND HOME

Help children who live in third world orphanages by donating your gently used electronics!! Operation Hearts and Home, [www.operationheartsandhome.org](http://www.operationheartsandhome.org) is a registered 501-3C charity dedicated to improving the lives of orphans worldwide through education, medical and humanitarian assistance. Please consider donating your used laptops, cell phones (and batteries), and graphing calculators. You will receive a letter for tax purposes. For information call (631) 659-3468.

JANUARY 29, 2012

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Mass  for the  
Intentions Week

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Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Saturday, January 28 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

**Sunday, January 29**

8:30 AM Elizabeth Laredo +

10:00 AM Marie Caloia +

11:30 AM Clement Giuriceo +

5:00 PM Michael Petnuck +

**Monday, January 30**

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Deborah Kucera +

**Tuesday, January 31**

Saint John Bosco, priest

7:00 AM Stephen Hickey +

9:00 AM Joe Power +

**Wednesday, February 1**

Weekday

7:00 AM Amadeu Amorim +

9:00 AM Alfred Forlini +

**Thursday, February 2**

Presentation of the Lord

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Bridget Keating +

**Friday, February 3**

Weekday – Saint Blaise, bishop & martyr

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Carmine Nicholas Maccia +

**Saturday, February 4**

Weekday

9:00 AM Angelo Capobianco +

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**Saturday, February 4 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM George R. Goresen +

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**Sunday, February 5**

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM Robert Liddell +

10:00 AM Patricia DiMitro +

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Frank & Carmela Legio +



