

## A CALL TO FORGIVENESS ON 9/11

*Sirach 27:30-28:7; Psalm 103:1-4, 9-12; Rom. 14:7-9; Matt. 18:21-35*

Where were you on September 11, 2001? It was exactly ten years ago this Sunday, when terrorists hijacked airplanes and flew them into the twin-towers in New York City and the Pentagon, causing the death of nearly three thousand innocent people. Today, we gather as a faith community to commemorate the tenth anniversary of this heinous attack on US soil. As Christians we have the responsibility to pray for the repose of the souls of those who died in the attack – to pray for lasting healing on every family that lost loved ones. We also pray for the men and women in the military who have died since 9/11 in the *war on terror*, and for their families as well.

Many of us are still emotionally and spiritually wounded as a result of the attack. It is difficult for some to get over the emotional pain that the attack has inflicted on their ego. For many, ten years later, they find it very hard to forgive the perpetrators of the terrorists' attack. When the US Navy Seals, on May 2, 2011, killed Usama Bin Laden, the mastermind of the 9/11 terrorists' attack, many people across the country, including the president, rejoiced. Yes, as a nation, we felt relief that the individual who caused the worst attack and pain on our country was dead. As President Obama put it, "Justice has been done!" Undeniably, the thought of a world without Usama Bin Laden would bring some sort of peace of mind; but this is cumbersome. There may not be any easy answer to the many questions that followed after 9/11, but one thing we know for sure is that it is not the *Christian way* to rejoice in the suffering or the loss of any human life.

Thus, it is ironical that on the Sunday that marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11, the theme of our readings is *mutual forgiveness*. The first reading from the Book of Sirach exhorts you and me to practice mutual forgiveness, because "The vengeful will suffer the Lord's vengeance...Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven." In other words, if we desire forgiveness, we must forgive those who hurt us. This is the commitment we make each time we pray the Lord's Prayer: "Our Father... forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us..." In other words, whenever we say this prayer, we are recommitting ourselves to forgive others their trespasses so that when we ask for forgiveness the Lord will forgive us.

Judaism, until Jesus' time, taught that a person had the duty to forgive an offender up to three times and no more. Because of Jesus' teaching on forgiveness, Peter's enthusiasm led him to ask: "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times? Jesus answered, I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." Peter may have thought that he was generous in forgiveness, but Jesus' response, "seventy times seven" teaches us that there is no limit to the number of times we must forgive those who offend or harm us. Thus, on this 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11, you and I are challenged by Jesus' teaching to forgive our enemies and those who harm us. Like Peter, we might ask: How many times are we going to forgive these terrorists? For how long are we going to put up with them? Should we ever forgive them at all? To these, Jesus gives you an answer: *My child, I know how difficult it is to forgive your enemies; I have been there. You will gain nothing in holding back; instead, you will hurt yourself all the more. Forgive and let go and you will experience true happiness. True happiness can only be gained if you are willing to forgive and open your heart for healing. This is a challenge that we must take because forgiveness is not an option but an obligation. Forgiveness heals – it builds bridges – it strengthens relationship – it restores hope and confidence.*

**Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP**



HOLY NAME SOCIETY

**MEETING:** This Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, the Holy Name Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All men of the Parish are welcome.

Registration for Religious Education classes for public school children, running September through June, is open. Classes are available for children in Pre-K through High School senior year, including those with Special Education needs. Classes are available to prepare children of all ages for the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation, regardless of any lack of previous instruction. **All Catholic children attending public schools should enroll in a religious education program.** Please call (476-6676) for more information.



**Religious Education helps to build a strong foundation**

## OUR CHILDREN'S MASS RESUMES



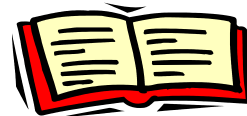
Next Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, we will have our first Children's Mass after the summer break. We urge parents to please make it a point to bring their child to the Children's Mass at 10 a.m. every Sunday with the exception of the first Sunday of the month, which is the Family Mass. We also ask parents to encourage their children, who are in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and above, to sign up to join the Children's Choir to sing at the Children's Mass.

**The ALTAR CANDLES and SANCTUARY LAMP** for this week will be lit in loving memory of Frances Nanoia.



**SOCIAL MINISTRY:** Our Food Pantry has an **ongoing need**, for cereal, pasta, canned fish/meat, canned vegetables, canned fruits, rice, jelly, boxed meal setups (such as Macaroni & Cheese or *Rice-a-Roni*), juices and beverage mixes. Please keep this in mind when you see sales on your trips to the supermarket. Thank you for your continuing support!

**PARISH BIBLE STUDY:** Every Friday we invite you to come join your fellow parishioners in discovering more about the Bible at 7:30 p.m. in the School. Sessions are moderated by our Pastor, Father Anthony Bassey, MSP. Bring a friend! Come study and pray the Bible with us. Come and have fun exploring the Bible!



## TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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.saintbartsparish.org](http://www.saintbartsparish.org) or call the Rectory Office (965-0566) during business hours. Please contact Gina Tummolo on (914) 462-6549 or at [ginatre@aol.com](mailto:ginatre@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 ([alicejacob@optonline.net](mailto:alicejacob@optonline.net)). Your help with this important fundraiser is greatly needed.



**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).



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



### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

- The **budgeted** Collection for last Sunday was \$6500.00.
- The Collection for last Sunday totaled \$6126.00
- The collection in support of our buildings and grounds totaled \$1530.30

We thank everyone for their generosity to St. Bartholomew's Church. May God bless and reward all your sacrifices for the Parish! As St. Paul says, "Each of you should give as you decided personally, and not reluctantly as if obliged. God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to fill you with every good thing, so that you have enough of everything at all times, and may give abundantly for any good work" (2Cor. 9).

### SEMINARY COLLECTION

Next Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, you will have the opportunity to help train a priest by supporting St. Joseph's Seminary in a second collection.



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, 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, Jeffrey Milowe, Gene DelBene, Angelina Brusco, and Michael Petnuch.

### MESSAGE FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

Welcome back from your summer break! We hope you bring renewed enthusiasm as we begin this new year of choir rehearsals on **Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> - children beginning at 6 p.m. and the adult choir at 6:45 p.m.**

All our choirs would welcome new members. Please consider taking this opportunity to sing the Lord's praises. Come join us! Welcome back! - Erika Podorigora



### WE HAVE SHORT-TERM NEW TENANTS!

We welcome the **Yonkers Charter School of Educational Excellence**, that is renting our School building for a period of one month, while waiting for the completion of buildings at their permanent site located at 260 Warburton Avenue, Yonkers.

We hope that they will enjoy their stay with us and consider staying longer than the one month called for in the present lease.

*SEPTEMBER 11, 2011*

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*Mass Intentions for the Week*



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Twenty-Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

**Saturday, September 10 (Vigil Mass)**

5:00 PM Pragana Family

**Sunday, September 11**

8:30 AM Deceased Members of Joseph Family +

10:00 AM David Jacob +

11:30 AM Frank & Carmela Legio +

5:00 PM All the People of Our Parish

**Monday, September 12**

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Sofia Shannon +

**Tuesday, September 13**

Saint John Chrysostom, bishop and doctor of the Church

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Evelyn Smith (living)

**Wednesday, September 14**

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Bolduc & Savard Families

9:00 AM Rafael Vazquez & Luis Mercado +

**Thursday, September 15**

Our Lady of Sorrows

7:00 AM Carmine DiMarcello +

9:00 AM Vincent Giordano +

**Friday, September 16**

Saint Cornelius, pope & martyr and Saint Cyprian, bishop & martyr

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Emil & Sally Mesler +

**Saturday, September 17**

Weekday

9:00 AM Frank Bartolomeo III +

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**Saturday, September 17 (Vigil Mass)**

5:00 PM All the People of Our Parish

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**Sunday, September 18**

Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:30 AM Carmine Nicholas Maccia +

10:00 AM Frank & Angela Nanoia +

11:30 AM Caroline Longobardi +

5:00 PM Vigilie Prizida +

SEPTEMBER 11, 2011

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## Prayer for 10th Anniversary of 9/11



Almighty God, Lord of all compassion,  
We remember the terrible events of this day in America ten years ago.  
We are reminded that we live in a broken and grievously divided world, where some are bent on terror and destruction.  
We recall that day when planes speared into the twin towers in New York, that later collapsed in dust and fire to rubble; another hit the Pentagon, and a fourth crashed because brave men fought to stop it reaching its target.  
In a world where some are willing to die in the name of their religion, killing and maiming thousands of innocent people, we struggle to understand and combat terrorism.  
As Jesus commanded, we pray for our enemies; for an end to the hatred, the wrong teaching and beliefs, and the recruiting of suicide bombers, some no more than children.  
We pray for the victims of this day in 2001 and other atrocities.  
We pray for the children left orphaned; for bereaved parents; for people still suffering from injuries and terrible memories.  
We pray for those who work to relieve and heal the suffering.  
Pour your Spirit upon us to enable us and all your people to work for justice and true peacemaking,  
In the name of Jesus Christ, King of peace and Lord of lords,

Amen.

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### **CATECHETICAL SUNDAY**

Next Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> the Church celebrates Catechetical Sunday. At the 10 a.m. Mass, our catechists will be commissioned to hand on the faith to the children, youth, and adults of our Parish. Please make an effort to show your support for them in this important ministry by attending the 10

