

BE PART OF THE TRUE VINE

Acts 9: 26-31; Psalm 22:26-32; 1 John 3:18-24; John 15:1-8

“Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.” Last Sunday we celebrated Good Shepherd Sunday, when we were reminded of our responsibility to follow in the footsteps of Christ, the Good and Eternal Shepherd. We were challenged to live lives worthy of our call as Christians – a life of selfless sacrifice and mutual love – dying to self and living for others.

A story is told of Mahatma Gandhi. He is known as the “Father of Indian Independence.” We all know him as the modern creator and leader of passive and non-violent resistance and social protest. He was born in India, and was brought up a Hindu. He later migrated to South Africa where he studied law. As a student in the apartheid South Africa, Gandhi was faced with prejudice and discrimination against people of color. He later began to read the gospels and was very much interested in learning about Jesus Christ. One Sunday morning when Gandhi attempted to attend a church service, he was stopped at the entrance of the church, and told that people of color were not welcomed at the church. Due to that unfortunate incident, Gandhi never set foot in a Christian church to learn about Jesus. When asked about his experience, Gandhi is quoted as saying, “You Christians really have someone in Jesus Christ, but you do not know it; and you do not use His power that is available to you.” He went on to say, “I truly love your Christ, but I hate you, Christians, because you do not follow the teachings of Christ.”

Today’s first reading tells us of a similar experience Saul (later named Paul) had. Saul was an ardent persecutor and murderer of Christ’s followers. He finally encountered Christ while he was on his way to Damascus to murder Christians. He was converted to the Way, and later became an ardent supporter and preacher of the good news. Because of his past life, some Christians were suspicious of him, thus, they did not want to have anything to do with him. Someone had to vouch for him before the community of believers would accept him into their fold. It was not until Barnabas stepped forward to speak on his behalf that Saul (Paul) was given a chance at acceptance as one of their own. This incident highlights the fact that in order to have a genuine relationship with God we must have good relationships with others – our mothers, fathers, children and members of the Christian community. As a Christian, one should not try to go it alone – we need the love and the support of others in the community. You and I need the congregation and the congregation needs us. That is why in today’s gospel Jesus says: “I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). We can only bear lasting fruit if we are able to bond together.

Left alone, you and I can do nothing. We need to be a part of the Vine, Jesus Christ, Who manifests Himself in His Church. In fact, left alone we will not be able to bear fruit. When you and I discriminate against each other and act as though we are islands, we lose our Christian identity, which challenges us to see each person as a creature of God – a brother and a sister, branches of the One and True Vine, Jesus Christ. In fact, if you and I are faithful to the unity that exists in Christ, “ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you.”

Let us pray for our children who are confirmed this Sunday, that sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, they may become active members of the Vine, Jesus Christ, and thus may bear fruits in the witness they give in the Christian community.

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP

PARISH NEWS

CHILDREN’S MASS: Please make it a point to bring



your child to our Children’s Mass next Sunday. The 10 a.m. Mass will focus on our children. The Parish Children’s Choir will sing the Mass. The children are encouraged to sit together with other children at designated place during the Mass.

SOCIAL MINISTRY: Our Food Pantry has an ongoing need for dry goods, especially **cereal, rice, pasta sauces, juices, canned fish/meat, canned fruits & condiments.** Please keep this in mind on your next trip to the supermarket. Thank you for your continuing support!



The **FLOWERS** in front of the Altar have been donated by the Confirmation Class.



The **ALTAR FLOWERS** flanking the tabernacle are donated this week in loving memory of Fiore Brusco by Louis and Angela Brusco.



The **ALTAR BREAD & WINE, ALTAR CANDLES,** and **SANCTUARY LAMP** for this week have been donated in loving memory of Fiore Brusco by Louis and Angela Brusco.

MAY PROCESSION & CROWNING: This **Monday, May 7th, at 6:45 p.m.** St. Bartholomew’s Parish will celebrate the Queenship of Mary, our Mother. Our newly confirmed and this year’s First Communicants will process to the Church and crown the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary in this beautiful May devotion.



The short program is filled with devotional songs to Mary that are sure to bring back youthful memories. Please help us fill the Church to honor Our Blessed Mother.

MOTHER’S DAY NOVENA MASSES: Next Sunday, May 13th, is Mother’s Day. Our Parish will have a Novena of Masses for all our mothers – living and deceased. The Novena of Masses will begin on Sunday, May 13th, and finish on Monday, May 21st.



There are cards and/or envelopes at the back of the church. If you want your mother, mother-in-law or any mother remembered in the Novena of Masses, please write out the envelope with your donation and drop it in the collection basket or bring it to the Rectory during the week.

The annual Holy Name Society Mother’s Day breakfast will take place after the 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. Masses on Sunday, May 13th.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



We congratulate 29 of our children who made their First Holy Communion last Sunday, April 29th, and we welcome them to the Table of the Lord:

Fabian Anderson	Dotun Obasa
Jeremy Anderson	Cordelia Pastor
Kiana Anderson	Luis Pastor III
Jessica Batac	Giuliana Piarulli
Angelica Blanco	Colin Reardon
Christopher Caiola	Edward Rodriguez
Jessica Caruso	Juliana Scarpelli
Ryan Costello	Alanna Seguin
Jason Dos Santos	Jason Tiziano Silva
Joseph Durso	Matthew Tritto
Michael Fontanello	Anaya E. Velez
Amanda Gentile	Martin Wall
Anthony Lamaruggine	Nathaniel Walsiyen
Julia Lucero	Erin Wasylenko
Madison Wuestenhoefer	



The **Rosary Altar Society** meeting will be held this Monday, May 7th, immediately following the May Procession & Crowning in the McManus Parish Center. All women of the Parish are invited.

WEDDING JUBILEE MASS & CELEBRATION

St. Bartholomew's couples who are celebrating their **25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary** anytime this year (2012) are invited to attend the 11:30 a.m. Mass on May 20th. They will be blessed and honored during the Mass which will be followed by a Reception in the McManus Parish Center. Please call the Rectory to register and tell us how many guests you might be expecting at the Reception.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION: Adults interested in learning more about the Catholic faith or wishing to prepare for Confirmation should contact the Religious Education Office for information about the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). Call (914) 476-6676 for further information.

On Wednesday, May 16th, at 6:30 p.m., the **Gianna Mass** will be offered at St. Catherine of Siena Church, 411 East 68th Street (between York & First Avenues), Manhattan, **for the intentions of those struggling with infertility and pregnancy-related difficulties**. Time for veneration of the relics of St. Gianna will be made available. A light wine and cheese reception will follow at which Dr. Anne Nolte from the Gianna Center and additional Creighton fertility practitioners will be on hand to speak with anyone who is interested. The event is open to the public. All are welcome.

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA: Held after the 9 AM Mass on Mondays.



TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

May 1, 2011

Adults' Contribution	\$8052.15
Children's Contribution	\$64.85
Last Year's Total	\$8117.00

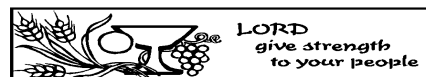
April 29, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$6959.40
Children's Contribution	\$123.40
This Year's Total	\$7082.80

"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!



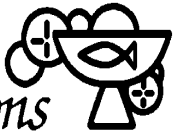
Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Alejandra Santander, Andy DeFabritis, Maryann Tolli, Maria Marte, Ed Carpenter, Barbara Rup, Jule Yaskovic, Rosalie Heit, Dolores Santamarena, Florence B. Swetz, Clare Yaskovic, 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 Swiatkowicz, Rose Botcheller, Silvia Georgi, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Steve Oddo, Roseann Mercandetti, Frances Swetz, Paul Bolduc, and Amelia Gagliardi.

OUR "FIRE VICTIMS" NEED YOUR HELP!

You may have seen it on TV or read in the local newspaper about the devastating fire incident that burned down a three-family apartment building this past Sunday, April 29th, at 76 Crotty Avenue, Yonkers. Unfortunately, one of the victims is a registered family (Mildred Blanco) in our parish, with three children. Needless to say, they have lost everything to the fire, including three of their favorite pets (two cats and a dog). Therefore, as a Parish Family, we are rallying behind them to provide all the necessary support we can gather.

During the week you may have received a call from the Parish Office requesting you to help the family in this time of need with some monetary donations. We are thankful to those of you who have already responded to this worthy cause. If you have not already done so, and would like to help, please place either cash or check in an envelope marked *"Fire Victims"* and mail/drop it at the Rectory Office. Checks must be made out to *St. Bartholomew's Church*. (Memo: *Fire Victims*).

MAY 6, 2012

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Saturday, May 5 (Anticipated Mass)

Easter Weekday

5:00 PM Lucille & Victor Serricchio +

Sunday, May 6

8:30 AM Constance Steffans +

10:00 AM Fiore Brusco +

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Maria & Carmelo Terrusa & Family +

Monday, May 7

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Albert Seigal +

9:00 AM Mary Krakowiak +

Tuesday, May 8

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Michele Quardi +

9:00 AM Sister Maria Cira +

Wednesday, May 9

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Domenico Rapone +

9:00 AM Regina Bartolomeo +

Thursday, May 10

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Intentions of Bishops & Blessings on USA

9:00 AM Marcello Barcello +

Friday, May 11

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Paul Bolduc (living)

9:00 AM Margaret Pezzente +

Saturday, May 12

Easter Weekday

9:00 AM Saul Torres +

Saturday, May 12 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Julieann Campisi Moroch +

Sunday, May 13

Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:30 AM Ethel Castagnozzi +

10:00 AM Frances Nanoia +

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Novena

MAY 6, 2012

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 an 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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WELCOMING OUR NEW PARISHIONERS

We especially want to welcome these families and individual who joined or returned to our Parish family this April:

Adam and Mary Brish
Roger and Maria Guevara
Stephanie Matos

Please feel free to speak to our pastor or any of the pastoral staff if you need any assistance. Your presence in our parish family means a lot to all of us. Once again, welcome!

