

**JESUS IS OUR HEALER!***Job 7:1-4,6-7; Ps. 147:1-6; 1 Cor. 9:16-19,22-23; Mark 1: 29-39*

Today's first reading, taken from the book of Job, belongs to the third group of Old Testament books, called the *Writings*. The Book begins with a prose narrative in which Job, who up until now was upright, God-fearing, and a prosperous family man, is suddenly overcome by calamity, both domestic and economic. In this account, Job is thus led to wrestle with the problem of suffering. In today's passage, he laments of endless suffering and sleepless nights. To fully understand the context of today's reading, you must read chapters one and two of the book of Job.

For a few days now I have been battling with a cold! Last Sunday, some of my parishioners jokingly and lovingly said to me, "You are not allowed to get sick." I wish I had the choice! In fact, no one does, because pain and suffering, both physical and mental, and ultimately death, are going to remain with us. It would be wonderful if we had a genius that could make it possible for our species to no longer need physicians and hospitals, but that dream will never be realized. Misery and pain certainly form an integral part of the human condition. The germane question is: "How do you and I handle this aspect of our human existence?"

In the Old Testament era, as demonstrated in the Book of Deuteronomy, suffering and pains were interpreted as a direct punishment for sin. Even in Jesus' time, any ailment was attributed as a direct consequence of sin. Thus, in John's gospel, Jesus' disciples asked of the man who was born blind: "Master, was he born blind because of a sin of his or of his parents?" Jesus' answer to them tells us that pain and suffering are to be seen and accepted as part and parcel of our human nature. Therefore, He said, "Neither was it for his own sin nor for his parents. He was born blind so that God's power might be shown in him" (John 9: 1-3). Surely, such should be our attitude towards pain and suffering – because if we truly believe without any doubt, God's power is surely going to be shown in us.

Job was a righteous man, who had all along maintained his integrity and was faithful to God, but still he suffered great pain and misery. Job's experience goes to show that a person's righteousness does not give him or her any claim upon God's grace. The suffering and the pain you and I go through each day simply constitute the sign that pain and misery form an integral part of our human existence. Jesus is the only One with power and authority Who can heal us and take away our pain and misery. Thus, the Bible guides us on how we should handle the problem of suffering and misery. Although the Bible does not offer a final solution, it gives all Christians some very consoling insights on how to cope with misery when it strikes us.

The Gospels portray a Christ Who enters the world of the sick and suffering with healing words and touches. Job's reflections on the miseries of human life are meant to provide a background for the healing work of Christ, of which today's gospel speaks. Christ has come to heal us and take away our pain as shown in the act of the healing of Peter's mother-in-law and all the sick that were brought to Him. When Job reached the depth of despair, he humbly admitted that he couldn't survive without the power of God. He professed his total dependency on God even for his life. We must learn from Job and know that God has come to heal us in Christ. Thus, you and I must always "Praise the Lord, Who heals the broken hearted."

*Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP***PARISH NEWS****TITHING – GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING**

This Sunday is an important day in our parish, because, starting today, we are adopting tithing – *God's Plan for Giving* – as a way of life in our parish. During the past two weeks, I hope that all of you have prayed in order to determine God's will for you in this matter.

Let me seize this opportunity to sincerely apologize to all of you for the absence of two of the witnesses we were expecting last weekend. It was due to some miscommunication on our part. That notwithstanding, we very much trust in your judgment and understanding! As a parish we are going through some difficult times financially, especially since the closure of our parish school last June.

So far we are coping very well – enduring the burden of having to maintain the building and grounds and pay all the bills associated with the school building. At the same time, we are also doubling our effort to see that our parish is pastorally, spiritually and financially vibrant. Thus, we need everyone's support and involvement – all hands must be on deck!

Therefore, I encourage you to faithfully consider the call to contribute 5% of your gross income to your beloved parish of St. Bartholomew and another 5% to the charities of your choice. I cannot thank you enough for all the sacrifices you are making for this parish. I am very much indebted to you.

*Father Anthony***Congratulations**

We want to congratulate and welcome our new co-secretary, **Karen Maccia-McKenna**, to the administrative staff of St. Bartholomew's. We thank her for accepting the position and wish her all the best of luck in this very challenging position. As a parish we look forward to benefitting from her wealth of experience and dedication to duty.

The **ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY** meeting will be held this Monday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All women of the Parish are invited.



**CHILDREN'S MASS:** Please make it a point to bring your child to our Children's Mass next Sunday and the rest of the Sundays in February. 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 with other children at a designated place during the Mass.

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

If you or someone you know needs information on the Catholic Faith or have 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.



## FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

Today we rejoice and celebrate *World Day for Consecrated Life*. Over the years, many men and women have chosen to live out their baptismal vocation by professing the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience. They do this by joining a religious congregation, a secular institute, or through private vows. We pray for these people and ask God to bless our Church with others who will dedicate their lives to God's service.



*"Praise the Lord Who heals the broken-hearted."* Don't become broken-hearted in your marriage. Learn how to keep your relationship alive and vibrant on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend, February 11/12. For more information, call (877) 697-9963, ext. 3 or visit [www.wmearchny.org](http://www.wmearchny.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.

### OPERATION HEARTS AND HOME

Children in African orphanages do not stand much of a chance in life. You can be a lifeline. Operation Hearts and Home (a 5013C Charity) is headed to Ethiopia February 17<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, to work in Ethiopian orphanages with a group of volunteers from New York. They will assist both older and younger orphans. If you are interested in helping, please consider donating your gently used laptops, iphone, iPod touch, cell phones (and batteries), and graphing calculators. Should you need more information about joining the trip or to donate, call (631) 659-3468 or (516) 662-4094 or go to [www.operationheartsandhome.org](http://www.operationheartsandhome.org). You will receive a letter for tax purposes.

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 \$6673.10.

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

Next week our parish will take up the **Peter's Pence Collection**. This Collection allows the Holy Father to cast the light of Christ upon the world by providing emergency assistance to those who need it most around the globe. Please be generous in next week's Peter's Pence Collection.

### 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, Steve Oddo, and Roseann Mercandetti.

### 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.

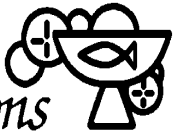
**DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION:** Held the First Saturday of every month at 3 PM. All are encouraged to participate.

**RECITATION OF THE ROSARY:** Join your fellow parishioners in praying the Rosary after the 9 a.m. Mass on weekdays and Saturdays.

*FEBRUARY 5, 2012*

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*Mass Intentions for the Week*



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**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

5:00 PM George R. Goresen +

**Sunday, February 5**

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 +

**Monday, February 6**

**Saint Paul Miki & Companions, martyrs**

7:00 AM No Intention  
9:00 AM Agnes Oroffa +

**Tuesday, February 7**

**Weekday**

7:00 AM No Intention  
9:00 AM Angel Jachero +

**Wednesday, February 8**

**Weekday**

7:00 AM No Intention  
9:00 AM Mary O'Neill +

**Thursday, February 9**

**Weekday**

7:00 AM No Intention  
9:00 AM No Intention

**Friday, February 10**

**Saint Scholastica, virgin**

7:00 AM No Intention  
9:00 AM Marcello Barcello +

**Saturday, February 11**

**Weekday**

9:00 AM Daniel & Bryan Esposito +

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**Saturday, February 11 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM Julieann Campisi Moroch +

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**Sunday, February 12**  
**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:30 AM Emil & Sally Mesler +  
10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish  
11:30 AM Julieann Campisi Moroch +  
5:00 PM Felix Vazquez & Jose Romero +

**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 (or 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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**PRAYER FOR CONSECRATED PERSONS**

God, our Father, we thank You for calling men and women to serve in Your Son's Kingdom as sisters, brothers, religious priests, consecrated virgins, and hermits, as well as members of Secular Institutes. Renew their knowledge and love of You, and send Your Holy Spirit to help them respond generously and courageously to Your will. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

