

IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

(Is. 45:1, 4-6; Psalm 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-10; 1Thess. 1:1-5b, Matt. 22:15-21)

In Exodus 20: 1-3, we read: "God said...I am the Lord your God...Do not worship any god except Me." You and "I pledge allegiance to...the United States of America...one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." Our nation was built on God's values! However, like many other nations we practice the policy of separation of church and state. In contrast, during Jesus' time, no one ever conceived of the idea of separation of church and state. At that time the official Roman religion revolved around emperor worship, while the religion and government of Judah revolved around the Lord, the God of Israel. It is no wonder that there was always a clash between Rome and Judah. It was often violent and bloody, but could have been prevented!

Most people do not love paying taxes! In today's gospel, we see the *Pharisees* who resented the Roman occupation of the pure land of Israel. They did not support the Roman occupation and their policy of paying the *census tax*. On the contrary, the *Herodians* supported it. The former tried to trap Jesus: "Tell us...Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" They wanted Jesus to take a political stand, but He did not want to be drawn into the *fight*. If He supported a side, He would either be considered a *collaborator* or an *insurrectionist*. Hence He retorts: "Why are you testing Me, you hypocrites...Repay Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." Over the years, this pronouncement has been taken out of context, and has been used to justify a *two kingdom* ideology or philosophy, where life is divided into two autonomous realms – the secular and the religious, or worse still, it has been used to justify unswerving obedience to secular authority. These views are far from the truth of the Gospel. By saying: "Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar," Jesus addresses the *census tax* issue only and exemplifies His rejection of violence as a way of dealing with oppressive or hostile situations / governments.

In every aspect of our life, we must give to God what belongs to Him – *honor – worship praise – glory – obedience!* As Christians living in a materialistic and consumerist society, we are faced with balancing the demands of *Caesar* with the commands of God. All over the world, Catholics are called to live a life of the gospel in any and every situation. At baptism, we promised to reject *Satan – to obey and love God above all things*. Inasmuch as we have the civic duties to vote, pay taxes and patronize our country; we have a much higher obligation to be faithful to our religious duties – our baptismal promises. We must put God first above all other things.

In today's first reading, the Lord blesses Cyrus, because, although he was a pagan king, he respected God and put God first in his dealings with the people. In the second reading, St. Paul writing to the Thessalonians, compliments them for "their work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ". As Christians, we are called to endure and continue to be committed in our faith in the midst of challenges. We should not give in to pressure from political leaders and legislators who pass laws that seek to destroy lives by legalizing abortion, going to war or by continuing the practice of the death penalty. When societal values and governmental legislations conflict with our Christian values, we must always give priority to God's laws, rather than human's. A Christian has the duty and indeed the obligation to obey God's commandments over and above all civil and human legislations.

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP


PARISH NEWS


CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS TO THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

We congratulate and thank the following members for accepting the call to serve as members of our Parish Pastoral Council:

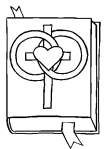
Richard Califano (chairperson)	Joan Liddell
Claire Campisi (vice chairperson)	Kelly Foley
Karen Maccia-McKenna (secretary)	Fred Madera
Sally Pinto (vice secretary)	Jeanne Simmons
Ellen Chimenti (committee leader)	Deacon Bob Clemens
Cheryl Duda (committee leader)	
Nancy Arzola (committee leader)	
Louise Bolduc (committee leader)	
Alice Jacob (RAS representative)	
Daniel Panik (HNS representative)	

The first formal meeting of this Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) will take place next week Monday, October 24th, at 7 p.m. in the school. All members are encouraged to attend.



The **ALTAR BREAD & WINE** for this week is donated in loving memory of Gloria Flanagan by Louis & Angela Brusco.

Congratulations to Kimberley Louise Howley and Thomas Anthony Frabizzio who were married here at St. Bartholomew's Church on Friday, October 7th. Please keep the newlyweds in your prayers.



HAVE YOU PRAYED YOUR ROSARY TODAY? This month of October is the "Month of the Holy Rosary!" We are encouraged to say at least a decade of the Rosary in honor of our Blessed Mother, Mary, requesting her intercession for our needs and the needs of the whole world. If you do need literature on how to pray the Rosary or you need a Rosary, please feel free to call our Religious Education Center for help at (914) 476-6676.

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

REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES, LIVING AND DEAD
The Mass Books for both 2011 and 2012 are open and have availability. Consider giving a loved one the graces associated with having a Mass offered on their behalf. 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, **Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.** to make arrangements or to inquire about the availability of a particular date.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

September 8, 2011
The Birth of Mary

Dear Friends in the Lord:

Our Lord, before returning to His Father in Heaven, announced the gift of the Holy Spirit and charged His followers to be His witnesses "To the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

We are all familiar with this fundamental duty as Catholics. Each year, we renew our baptismal call, especially during our Easter celebration. And, in October, as the entire Church celebrates World Mission Sunday, we have an opportunity to fulfill this duty in a special way. Through prayer and sacrifice, we are able to support those missionaries who bring the teaching of Jesus to faraway places. In doing so, we are renewing our own vocation as missionaries.

Thankfully, there are many Catholic organizations that extend the treasures and talents of Americans to those parts of the world where people are struggling to find enough to eat or to send their children to school. However, the Church's missionary activity begins with the proclamation of faith: "Jesus is Lord!" He is our common hope - a hope that not only clothes and educates, but also saves. On World Mission Sunday, October 23rd, I invite you to "celebrate the hope that saves" through prayer and participation in the Eucharist, as well as by giving generously to the World Mission Sunday Collection.

Your vital contribution to the Pontifical Mission Societies will support those 1,150 young mission (arch)dioceses and communities awaiting the "Good News" of Jesus as their saving hope. As we pray and respond here in the United States, we join with every parish and chapel around the world to renew ourselves and our Church.

May God bless you and our archdiocese.

With prayerful best wishes, I am,

Faithfully in Christ,
Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan
Archbishop of New York

Congratulations to our newest Christian, Ethan Ayala, who was baptized on Saturday, October 8th. We thank his parents and sponsors for presenting him for baptism, and we pray God to bless and keep this child and his parents in their journey of faith.



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

EUCHARISTIC 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.



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

- The budgeted Collection for last Sunday is \$6345.00.
The actual Collection for last Sunday is \$6371.90.

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...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).

Next Sunday, Pope Benedict XVI calls every Catholic in the world to celebrate our vocation to be a missionary. It's World Mission Sunday!

As Catholics around the world - here at home and in the Missions - gather at the Eucharist around the table of the Lord, we are to pray for the Church's worldwide missionary work. We pray for those awaiting the "Good News" of our Lord's great love for us and for the missionaries who offer the poor and suffering the light of Christ. And we are to offer financial help through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith for more than 1,150 dioceses in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Pacific Islands.



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 Santamora, 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, Eve Gammino, Stan Buoninfante, Donna Vasconez, Mary Ann Berengur, Gene DelBene, Angelina Brusco, Mary Romanchik, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Alice Hefler, and Jeanne Simmons.

CATHOLIC WIDOWS / WIDOWERS: The Catholic Widows and Widowers of Yonkers will hold their monthly meeting at 7:15 p.m., on Monday, October 17th, in the Father Anthony Hall, next to St. Ann's Big Church, 31 College Place, Yonkers. Coffee and cake will follow after the meeting. New members are welcome. For more information, please call (914) 476-4436.

The CANCER SUPPORT GROUP will meet this Wednesday, October 19th, at 7 p.m. in Room 111 of St. John's Riverside Hospital, 967 North Broadway, Yonkers, for education & support to help cope with cancer. Call (914) 964-4441 for information.

YOUTH GROUP: 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.

OCTOBER 16, 2011

Mass  for the
Intentions *Week*

Twenty Ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Saturday, October 15 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Ann & Joseph Frischman +

Sunday, October 16

8:30 AM All the People of Our Parish

10:00 AM Maria & John Spagnola +

11:30 AM Living Members of Legio & Terrusa Families

5:00 PM William Mitchell +

Monday, October 17

Saint Ignatius of Antioch, bishop and martyr

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Claire Vella (living)

Tuesday, October 18

Saint Luke, evangelist

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Deceased Members of the Como Family +

Wednesday, October 19

Saint John de Brebeuf & Saint Isaac Jogues, priests & martyrs, and their companions, martyrs

7:00 AM Ann Pohorence & Angela Spadaccia +

9:00 AM Helen & Pete Pietrowski +

Thursday, October 20

Weekday

7:00 AM John & Nancy Gaffney +

9:00 AM Frances DiRodio +

Friday, October 21

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Gloria Flanagan +

Saturday, October 22

Blessed John Paul II, pope (OM)

9:00 AM Julieann Campisi Moroch +

Saturday, October 22 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Fiore Brusco +

Sunday, October 23

Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:30 AM Elizabeth & Carl Laredo +

10:00 AM Vincent Russo +

11:30 AM All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Angelica Perez +

OCTOBER 16, 2011

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY!

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.

ROSARY ALTAR BUS TRIPS

**To Reading, PA for Shopping the Vanity Fair Outlets
Saturday, November 5th**

The price is \$35 per person. For information and reservations, call Joan (476-6860) or Dolly (969-6575)

and

**To Radio City for the Christmas Show
Wednesday, December 7th**



The package includes the bus, lunch & an almost all new show. For information and reservations, please call Nancy on 376-2025.

