

**JESUS IS MY SHERPERD!**

(Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps. 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; 1Peter 2:20b-25; John 10:1-10)



For very many of us, Psalm 23 (The Lord is my shepherd...) is the best remembered and loved psalm of all the 150 psalms. Today, being the fourth Sunday of Easter we celebrate *Good Shepherd Sunday*. The reason being that the Gospel of the day (John 10:1-10), the psalm and the second reading from 1Peter 2: 20b-25 has the same theme – Christ the Good Shepherd. The image of the *good shepherd* comes from the Old Testament. Like Karl Rahner recalled: “It was usual in ancient times to call princes, (kings),

those who ruled the nations, the shepherds of their people. The image was perfectly intelligible to the people of that time. They pictured a person going before his flock, feeding and guiding them, leading them to pasture, defending them, looking after them.” It was, therefore, appropriate for Jesus to call Himself, *The Good Shepherd* Who lays down His life for His sheep (John 10:14-15).

As a young boy growing up in a rural and traditional village, I remember how people who were faced with one difficulty or another were advised to consult traditional healers and fortunetellers for solutions. Some even chose to consult palm readers, mind / psychic readers or witches for guidance or advice. On the other hand, in modern society, people who have similar problems tend to gravitate toward psychiatrists, lawyers, therapists or marriage counselors for guidance or advice. Different people have different ways of coping with their problems. For you and me, the question is, “Where does God fit into our schedules? Who do we go to when we are faced with difficulties? Who do we consult when confronted with challenges heavier than we can handle?”

Christ is the Good Shepherd that you and I should take our problems to. Today’s first reading is the continuation of Peter’s Pentecost speech to the Jewish people. The Bible tells us that upon hearing Peter’s speech, “Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day” to the number of believers. The Bible wants us to accept Jesus as our Good Shepherd. He is the Psychiatrist, the Counselor, the Physician and the Healer you and I must turn to when we are faced with challenges and difficulties – “the Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want!” We must experience Jesus and His healing power in His word when we read the Bible – we must experience Him in the Eucharist when we receive Communion – we must experience Him in the community when we actively participate at Mass. Jesus is the gate of the sheepfold through which you and I should enter in security. He is the Shepherd that we must follow so that we “might have life and have it more abundantly.”

As some of our children receive their First Holy Communion this Sunday, we commend them to the loving care of Christ, the Good and Eternal Shepherd. We pray that Jesus, Whom they receive in the Eucharist, will always be for them a source of strength and support. Whenever they are faced with life’s challenges, may they turn to Christ, the Good Shepherd, Who came so that they may have life. We pray that as a parish community, together with their families, like Christ, we may remain committed to our call to be good shepherds to these little ones by words and example.

**Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP**

**PARISH NEWS**

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** The Parish Pastoral Council will meet this Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the school. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting.

**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.



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

Registration for the 2011 – 2012 Religious Education program for public school children, running September through June, is open. Classes are available for children entering 1<sup>st</sup> grade in September through High School, including those with Special Education needs. Classes are available to prepare children at 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.

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION - RCIA**

Do you know a non-Catholic adult who wishes to explore the Catholic faith; or a Catholic who has never received First Communion or been Confirmed? Please help spread the word that we have a program tailored to these adults. This is an ideal time to inquire about our program. Call Cheryl Duda at 476-6676.

**WEDDING JUBILEE MASS & CELEBRATION**

St. Bartholomew’s couples who are celebrating their **25<sup>th</sup> or 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary** anytime this year (2011) are invited to attend the 11:30 a.m. Mass on June 12<sup>th</sup>. 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.



The **ALTAR FLOWERS** are donated this week by the First Communion children.

The **ALTAR BREAD & WINE** for the week has been donated by the 2011 First Communion children.



The **SANCTUARY LAMP** for this week will be lit in loving memory of Marion Mercorelli.

# We Appreciate...

St. Bartholomew's Parish wants to express special thanks to the Holy Name Society for the wonderful breakfast they provided on Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, Mother's Day, for not only all the mothers of the Parish and their families, but also for including the entire Parish family following that Sunday's 8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m. Masses.

## 2011 ARCHDIOCESAN STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

As stewards and disciples of Christ, we recognize that all the goods and riches in our life are gifts from God. Strengthened by the Eucharist, we respond to God's generosity in our lives with gratitude by using and sharing our gifts in service of others. Please share your gifts and make a gift to the 2011 Archdiocesan Stewardship Appeal. **Thank you!**

## GOOD NEWS FOR MARRIED COUPLES

The Family Life Office of the Archdiocese of New York and the Catholic Marriage Movement (CMM) is inviting all couples to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Couples Congress: **UNITED IN LOVE**.

**THEME:** *A Time for Healing, A Time for Educating*

**DATE:** **Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>** in Cardinal Hayes High School in the Bronx, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>** in St. Patrick's Parish in Highland Mills from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (ending with Holy Mass)

This is a day of formation for all of the couples who desire a healthy marriage, who desire to better manage their finances, and who seek to have a better relationship with their children. The only requirement is that the couple attend together. It is open to married couples, cohabitating couples, and engaged couples (18 and older). Donation: \$10 per couple (lunch included) - For more information, please call (646) 794-3199 or (347) 431-4253.

## MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

*"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."* Bring new life to your marriage on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter, August 12-14. For more information, call toll free (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.

**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 weekdays and Saturdays.



## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

- The **budgeted** Collection for last Sunday was **\$6000.00**.
- The **Collection** for last Sunday was **\$5458.65**.


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



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 Toli, 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, Carmela Massaroni, Lois Burton, Mary DeStefano, Carmella DelBene, Ann Ceriale, Dan Seratto, Mark Cianfaglione, Shawn Colon, Margaret Maccia, Nicole Ryan Betancourt, Anthony Spinner, Audrey & Alfred Falcone, and Kathleen Hayes.

## THE 2012 MASS BOOK IS OPEN

The Mass Book for 2012 opened on Ash Wednesday and there are still many dates open in this year's Mass Book, as well. Consider giving a loved one or someone (living or deceased) 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 sanctuary lamp 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.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Alfred C.  *Rest in Peace* Batista and Nicholas W. Losapio.



**CONFIRMATION:** Next Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Bishop Gerald Walsh will confer Confirmation on 20 of our candidates at the 11:30 a.m. Mass. Please keep these children in your prayers.

The **CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** will meet this Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> 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. The topic is *MUSIC and Art from the Heart*. Call (914) 964-4441 for information.

**St. John the Baptist Church Annual Carnival**  
670 Yonkers Avenue (Church Parking Lot)  
**Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> - 12 Noon to 8 p.m.**  
Rides - Games - Food

*MAY 15, 2011*

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*Mass &  for the Intentions  Week*

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**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Saturday, May 14 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Anthony DeStefano +

Sunday, May 15

8:30 AM Robert Liddell +

10:00 AM Charles & Maria Barba +

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Novena

Monday, May 16

**Easter Weekday**

7:00 AM Novena

9:00 AM Bonnie Paluzzi Casmano +

Tuesday, May 17

**Easter Weekday**

7:00 AM Peter Paxinos +

9:00 AM Umberto Stangarone +

Wednesday, May 18

**Easter Weekday**

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Bolduc & Savard Families

9:00 AM Julieann Campisi Moroch +

Thursday, May 19

**Easter Weekday**

7:00 AM Daniel Linehan +

9:00 AM Debra DiCaprio +

Friday, May 20

**Easter Weekday**

7:00 AM Frances Ciarnella +

9:00 AM Stephen Hickey +

Saturday, May 21

**Easter Weekday**

9:00 AM Lucille Santini +

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Saturday, May 21 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Thanksgiving to the Blessed Mother Mary

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Sunday, May 22

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

8:30 AM Constance Steffens +

10:00 AM Gabriel Nanoia +

11:30 AM Raffaele Falcone +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

MAY 15, 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 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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VOCATION SUNDAY

**Today, is "Good Shepherd Sunday" – *World Day of Prayer for Vocations*. We pray that young men and women in our parish and elsewhere may answer the call to the ordained priesthood and religious life.**

**PRIESTHOOD**

"The priest ... is something transcendent; through baptism he brings souls to birth, through the sacrament of penance he purifies them, through communion he gives them our Lord's Body as He Himself did at the Last Supper, and at their death He helps them to appear before the Beloved by giving them their final forgiveness and the supreme strength ... Every single day of his life, a priest does what Jesus did during His three years of ministry – He teaches all people to know, love and serve their good Master. What a vocation!"

By Charles De Foucaulo