

DON'T BE AFRAID, HE IS RISEN!

(Rom. 6:3-11; Matt. 28:1-10; Acts 10:34, 37-43; Col. 3:1-4; John 20:1-9)



In the Apostles' Creed we say, *I believe in Jesus Christ...He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. What did He descend to the dead to do? Why did He descend to the dead in the first place? He descended to the dead to go and wake Adam and Eve from their sleep. He descended to the dead to free all those who were held captive by the clutches of death. He descended to the dead in order to lock the gates of Hell, and thus prevent you and I from its imprisonment. "On the third day He rose again."*

ALLELUIA! Rejoice, *the Lord has indeed risen, alleluia!* This is one of the ancient acclamations at Easter. Apostle Paul, writing to the Corinthians in A.D 56 about the living tradition of the Resurrection which he had learned after his conversion at the gates of Damascus, said: "In the first place, I have passed on to you what I myself received: that Christ died for our sins, as Scripture says; that He was buried; that He was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures; that He appeared to Cephas and then to the Twelve...This is what we preach and this is what you believe" (1Cor. 15: 3-11). The mystery of Christ's resurrection is a real event with manifestations that were historically verified, as the New Testament bears witness. Indeed, this is what was preached to us and it is truly what we believe. Hence the Apostle further contends, "if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is empty and our belief comes to nothing...And if Christ has not been raised, your faith gives you nothing, and you are still in sin. Also those who fall asleep in Christ are lost."

Surely, you and I are not lost! Easter is the feast of life. This is the day that reveals, "Our belief has not been futile." Christ has risen from the dead! At the Easter Vigil we lit the Paschal Candle and our little candles symbolizing Christ as Light of the universe. The ceremony draws on the symbolism of light versus darkness – truth versus falsehood – hope versus despair – life versus death. The fire that we lit at Easter Vigil burns out the works of darkness in us and restores us to a new life in Christ. Darkness has been overcome and those who were dead in sin are raised to new life in Christ Jesus. Christ Who descended to the dead has risen and has brought us to new life in Him! Christ, our light has risen from the dead, let us rejoice and be glad!

For the people who walk in the darkness of sin, ignorance and insecurity, Christ's light is shone upon them. Alleluia, Christ is risen! You and I have been raised with Him, therefore, we must "seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth." In other words, you and I must not become captivated by the glitter of life nor be infected with contemporary commercialism so that we lose sight of the things of heaven. God has raised Christ our light from the dead, hence let no part of you remain in darkness. During these tough economic times, do all that you can to bring the light of the risen Christ to those who are less fortunate.

We have witnessed Him Who rose from the dead; we must proclaim Him to all men and women. "Do not be afraid! Go and tell My brothers (and sisters)..." about the good news and help bring the risen Christ to them to heal their sickness and give relief to their pains.

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP

PARISH NEWS

May He Bless you and yours this EASTER



My dear friends rejoice, for the Lord has truly risen!

The Pastor, the clergy, and the staff wish you and yours a Happy and Blessed Easter!

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? We have a program tailored to these adults.. Call Cheryl Duda at 476-6676.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: There will not be Religious Education classes this week.

FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Register **now** for next year's Religious Education program. Children in public school who will be entering First Grade through High School in September are eligible for these after school and evening classes. Besides grade level classes, instruction prepares children for Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. Call Cheryl Duda (476-6676) for information.



MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA MASSES:

Sunday, May 8th, 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 Mother's Day and finish on Monday, May 16th.

There are cards and/or envelopes at the back of the church; they will also be available at the Rectory Office, Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. 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 members of the Rosary Altar Society will attend the 8:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, May 1st.

The **Bread & Wine, Altar Candles and Sanctuary Lamp** for the week have been donated by Louis & Angela Brusco in loving memory of the deceased members of the Brusco & Nanoia Families.



AN ADDITOUNAL DONATION OF PALMS

After last Sunday's bulletin was forwarded for printing, we were unable to include the donation of palms for last weeks Palm Sunday Masses by the Sukhra family in memory of Zoila L. Salazar and Eira Maria Toral. We thank them for this donation.



EASTER VIGIL & EASTER DONATIONS

My dear parishioners, rejoice and be glad, for the Lord has risen as He promised! He has risen to bring us new life!

On this Easter day, I sincerely thank the Lord for the parishioners who have responded positively to my "wish-list" and have generously donated items we needed for the Palm Sunday and Easter celebrations. As always, I am humbled by your out pouring of love and generosity. I am blessed to have you as my parishioners.

- ❖ The Paschal Candle for this Easter has been donated by Carol and Tom Swetz in honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary.
❖ The New Roman Missal (used at the Altar) has been donated by Sam and Margit Farraj in loving memory of Maria Koehler.
❖ Packets of New Roman Missal Cards have been donated by Lou and Angela Brusco in memory of the deceased members of the Brusco & Nanoia families
❖ Packets of New Roman Missal Cards have been donated by Mary Ann and William Cook in memory of the deceased members of the Cook, Baumeister, Darretta and Lutomski families

I reserve my special thanks to all those who took part in preparing the Holy Week and Easter liturgies: our Liturgy Team led by Cheryl Duda, our Music Director, Erika Podoprigora, the Children, the Teen/Youth, the Adult, and the Folk Choirs, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Altar servers, men of the Holy Name Society, Deacon Bob and Father Donald. I appreciate your talents, time and effort. I also wish to thank Harry Rivera for sprucing up the church for our Holy Week and Easter celebrations.

Father Anthony

ATTENTION DRIVERS!

We will be hosting the New York Defensive Driving Class at St. Bartholomew's McManus Parish Center on Saturday, May 14th, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Completion of this course reduces up to 4 points on your driver's license and will lower your auto liability and collision insurance premiums by 10% for three years. The cost of the course is \$49. To enroll, please call the Rectory during business hours or Chris Morea at (800) 492-9444. Register now; seating is limited.

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.

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 \$6620.00.
• The actual Collection for last Sunday was \$6353.10.

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

PARISH SCHOOL SUPPORT: Next Sunday, May 1st, we will take up a second collection in support of our Parish School. Please, endeavor to donate generously.



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, Carmela Massaroni, Lois Burton, Mary DeStefano, Carmella DelBene, Ann Ceriale, Dan Seratto, Mark Cianfaglione, Shawn Colon, Margaret Maccia, and Nicole Ryan Betancourt.

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.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29TH
1:30 - 7:30 PM

MCMANUS PARISH CENTER

Please plan on participating in St. Bart's Blood Drive the Friday after Easter. We run drives during holiday periods when the need for blood is great and donations are usually down. If you can donate, please call Tony Sciacca (423-3592) for an appointment; and please spread the word to your family and friends, too. !



YOU ARE INVITED to come and share the joy with our children who will be making their First Holy Communion at the 11:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, May 1st. Please do keep them in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

APRIL 24, 2011

Mass  *for the*
Intentions *Week*

Easter Sunday

Saturday, April 23 (Easter Vigil)

8:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Easter Sunday, April 24

8:30 AM Gloria Brusco Flanagan +

10:00 AM Gloria Bassey +

11:30 AM Carmela & Frank Gerace +

Monday, April 25

Monday in the Octave of Easter

7:00 AM Bonaventuro Amato +

9:00 AM Thomas Swetz, Sr. +

Tuesday, April 26

Tuesday in the Octave of Easter

7:00 AM John DiRodio +

9:00 AM Stephen Hickey +

Wednesday, April 27

Wednesday in the Octave of Easter

7:00 AM Rita Bolduc (living)

9:00 AM Peter Burke +

Thursday, April 28

Thursday in the Octave of Easter

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Edward Schettino +

Friday, April 29

Friday in the Octave of Easter

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Julieann Campisi Moroch +

Saturday, April 30

Saturday in the Octave of Easter

9:00 AM Peter DeMattia +

Saturday, April 30 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Ann Marie Salvaraj +

Sunday, May 1

Second Sunday of Easter

8:30 AM Elizabeth Laredo +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Richard Raffio +

5:00 PM Deceased Members of Lucchetti & Capuano Families

APRIL 24, 2011

WELCOME TO ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Happy Easter to all our visitors! Our warmest welcome to you!
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.

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, 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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EASTER PRAYER

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the threefold joyful shout resound
Throughout a world sighing in darkness and death
Because the Lord is risen from the tomb this day.
He broke the chains of death
That once held bound all of Adam's race.
He smashed asunder death's oppressive hand
And restored life to all who bore the ancient curse.
Christ is triumphant over the powers of darkness
And brings light and life to all believers.
Therefore, friends, rejoice with strong hearts
And let the church echo the joyful sound
Of heaven's choir and all of earth's creation.
With great acclamation and holy praise we cry out:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Amen.