

A DWELLING PLACE FOR GOD

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Ps. 67:2-8; Rev. 21:10, 22-23; John 14:23-29

When Jesus began His public ministry, He worked in regions that were predominantly occupied by the Jews. Although He sometimes ventured out of the Jewish territory to other territories, His many followers were mainly Jews. His twelve Apostles and other close disciples were all from Jewish descent. After His resurrection, shortly before His ascension to Heaven, Jesus called His Apostles together and gave them a mandate to evangelize outside the Jewish territory: "I have been given all authority in Heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples from all nations. Baptize them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." (Matthew 28:18-20).

Since the first century, Jesus' mandate to "make disciples of all nations" has been effectively employed by His Church. There has always been renewal; and the Church has been growing both in number and stature. When I arrived in this parish eight years ago, it was comprised mainly of people of Irish and Italian descent, but now we have people from all over the world. We are a "united nations!" The Church continues to grow! With the growth and the influx of people from other nationalities - different cultures, customs and mannerisms, also comes challenges and difficulties.

In the first reading we hear of the dispute that broke out in the early Church. Because the early followers of Jesus were predominantly Jews, they saw their faith in Jesus as part of the reformation of Judaism. Thus, their Jewish laws, customs, rituals and traditions influenced their Christian beliefs. That being the case, paranoia later set in, and with the influx of Gentiles to the Christian faith, the Jewish believers were quickly becoming the minority; hence, some of them became radically conservative in their insistence that new believers (the Gentiles) must follow all the requirements of Judaism. They must be circumcised if they were to be Christians. To resolve this issue, the elders of the Church chose representatives led by Paul and Barnabas and sent them to Antioch with this message: "It is the decision of the Holy Spirit and of us not to place on you any burden beyond these necessities..."

In last Sunday's gospel Jesus commanded us to: "love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." He further emphasized that it is through the love we have for one another that others will know that we are His disciples. In today's gospel, Jesus talks about another kind of love: "Whoever loves Me will keep My word... Whoever does not love Me does not keep My words..." As we think and pray for the candidates who are confirmed in our parish today, we reflect on the mandate the Lord gives to them to be disciples of love, peace and unity. We must also remember that our baptism and confirmation mandate us to reach out, without discrimination, to those who are different from us. We should not burden others or ourselves beyond "these necessities" - Loving Christ by keeping His commandments.

Jesus wishes for you and me, *peace* - "Not as the world gives." The world (media, politicians, so-called experts, etc.) gives you *pseudo peace*. They entice us with feel-good promises, but Jesus gives us *inner and lasting peace* through the selfless love we show to others. Trust Him and "Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid," remember, "Whoever loves Me...My Father will love him...We will come...and make Our dwelling with him." Love God and invite Him to make His dwelling place in your heart and home.

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP

PARISH NEWS



MAY PROCESSION & CROWNING: This **Monday, May 6th, 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.

The **Rosary Altar Society** meeting will be held this Monday, May 6th, immediately following the May Procession & Crowning in the McManus Parish Center. All women of the Parish are invited.



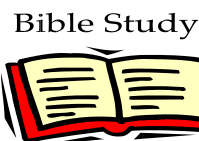
CHILDREN'S MASS: Please make it a point to bring your child to our Children's Mass next Sunday and the rest of the Sundays in May. The 10 a.m. Mass will focus on our children. The Parish Children's Choir will sing at the Mass. The children are encouraged to sit together with other children at a designated place during the Mass.



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.



PARISH BIBLE SHARING / STUDIES



Bible Study This Friday, May 10th, we invite you to come join your fellow parishioners in discovering more about the Bible at 7:30 p.m. in the School building. The session will be moderated by our Parochial Vicar, Father Daniel Oghenerukevwe, MSP. Bring a friend! Come study/pray the Bible with us. Come and have fun exploring the Bible!

Next week we will take up the collection for the Church in Central & Eastern Europe. This collection supports Catholic organizations that provide affordable shelter and train seminarians in a region still struggling in the aftermath of atheistic Soviet rule. By providing pastoral care, catechesis, and aid, your donations help restore the strength of the Church in the region. Please give generously.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA MASSES: Next Sunday, May 12th, 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 12th, and finish on Monday, May 20th.



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 12th.

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.



2013 ARCHDIOCESAN STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

To date our Parish has received \$54,146 in pledges/gifts from 184 families; our 2013 Cardinal's Appeal goal is \$51,000. Thank you to all who have helped us to meet and exceed our goal. The Appeal is a vital source of funding for the programs and ministries that sustain the parishes across the Archdiocese. It is not too late to participate in this worthy cause. Thank you, again, to all who have so generously responded to this call. Please, if you have not yet done so, consider participating in this worthy cause. Thank you!



YOUTH GROUP CAR WASH

Next Saturday, May 11th
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
St. Bart's Parking Lot
\$7

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

STEWARDSHIP

What shall I render unto the Lord
for all his benefits to me?

TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

April 30, 2012

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

April 28, 2013

Adults' Contribution	\$5145.55
Children's Contribution	\$125.75
This Year's Total	\$5271.30

**"WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR OURSELVES ALONE
DIES WITH US; WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR OTHERS
AND THE WORLD REMAINS AND IS IMMORTAL."**

~ Albert Pike

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, Andy DeFabritis, Maria Marte, Barbara Rup, Jule Yaskovic, Rosalie Heit, Florence B. Swetz, Clare Yaskovic, Neil Caruso, Deacon James Byrnes, Andrea Objay, Carmen Torres, Frank Marra, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, Edith Dugan, Gary Roth, Joyann Allan, Lois Burton, Mary DeStefano, Mark Cianfaglione, Shawn Colon, Margaret Maccia, Nicole Ryan Betancourt, Anthony Spinner, Audrey & Alfred Falcone, Kathleen Hayes, Marge Muraik, Stan Buoninfante, Donna Vasconez, Gene DelBene, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatkowicz, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Roseanne Mercandetti, Louis Brusco, Josephine Daniele, Jennifer Dorsey, Valerie Riccardi, Fatima Panik, Joanne Moscarello, Marian Fletcher, Anna Bonacci, Minerva Hernandez, Paula Parente, Barbara Olivieri, Bridget O'Malley, Anna Brucculeri, Peggy Clevenberg, Gerald Mazzerese, Jr., Patricia Keane, Louis Milone, Joey Bastardi, Carol Stola, Amada Ortiz, Karen Aprea, Stephen Sarich, and Neil Cawley,.

WEDDING JUBILEE MASS & CELEBRATION

St. Bartholomew's couples who are celebrating their **25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary** anytime this year (2013) are invited to attend the 11:30 a.m. Mass on June 9th. 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.



MAY 5, 2013

Mass  *for the*
Intentions *Week*

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Saturday, May 4 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Lucille & Victor Serricchio +

Sunday, May 5

8:30 AM Constance Steffens +

10:00 AM Renelida & James Cabrera +

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Frank & Carmela Legio +

Monday, May 6

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Antonio Marchetti +

9:00 AM Fiore Brusco +

Tuesday, May 7

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Anne Marie & Francis Byrnes & Grandchildren +

9:00 AM Marcello Barcello +

Wednesday, May 8

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Honor of Holy Trinity & Holy Family

9:00 AM Aristide Scipioni +

7:30 PM Emil & Sally Mesler +

Thursday, May 9

Ascension of the Lord

7:00 AM Anne Marie & Francis Byrnes & Grandchildren +

9:00 AM Harold Smith, Jr. +

12:00 Noon Margaret Pezzente +

7:30 PM Lena Castaldo +

Friday, May 10

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM In Honor of Holy Trinity & Holy Family

9:00 AM Father Michael J. Feeney, OFM +

Saturday, May 11

Easter Weekday

9:00 AM Frances Swetz +

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Saturday, May 11 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Sunday, May 12

8:30 AM Elizabeth Laredo & Margaret Liddell +

10:00 AM Frances Nanoia +

11:30 AM Carole Ferraro +

5:00 PM Novena for Our Living & Deceased Mothers

MAY 5, 2013

ASCENSION THURSDAY (May 9th)



The fortieth day after Easter Sunday, commemorates the Ascension of Christ into heaven, according to Mark 16:19, Luke 24:51, and Acts 1:2.

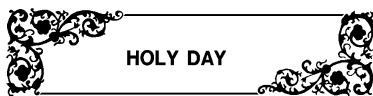
In the Eastern Church this feast was known as *analepsis*, the taking up, and also as the *episozomene*, the salvation, denoting that by ascending into His glory Christ completed the work of our redemption. The terms used in the West, *ascensio* and, occasionally, *ascensa*, signify that Christ was raised up by His own powers. Tradition designates Mount Olivet near Bethany as the place where Christ left the earth. The feast falls on Thursday. It is one of the Ecumenical feasts ranking with the feasts of the Passion, of Easter, and of Pentecost among the most solemn in the calendar, has a vigil and, since the fifteenth century, an octave which is set apart for a novena of preparation for Pentecost, in accordance with the directions of Leo XIII.

Although the place of the Ascension is not distinctly stated, it would appear from the Acts that it was Mount Olivet. Since after the Ascension, the disciples are described as returning to Jerusalem from the mount that is called *Olivet*, which is near Jerusalem, within a Sabbath day's journey. Tradition has consecrated this site as the Mount of Ascension and Christian piety has memorialized the event by erecting over the site a basilica. St. Helena built the first memorial, which was destroyed by the Persians in 614, rebuilt in the eighth century, to be destroyed again, but rebuilt a second time by the crusaders. This the Moslems also destroyed, leaving only the octagonal structure which encloses the stone said to bear the imprint of the feet of Christ, that is now used as an oratory.

Not only is the fact of the Ascension related in the passages of Scripture cited above, but it is also elsewhere predicted and spoken of as an established fact. Thus, in John 6:63, Christ asks the Jews: "If then you shall see the son of Man ascend up where He was before?" and 20:17, He says to Mary Magdalene: "Do not touch Me, for I am not yet ascended to My Father, but go to My brethren, and say to them: I ascend to My Father and to your Father, to My God and to your God." Again, in Ephesians 4:8-10, and in Timothy 3:16, the Ascension of Christ is spoken of as an accepted fact.

The language used by the Evangelists to describe the Ascension must be interpreted according to usage. To say that He was taken up or that He ascended does not necessarily imply that they locate heaven directly above the earth; no more than the words "sitteth on the right hand of God" mean that this is His actual posture. In disappearing from their view "He was raised up and a cloud received Him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9), and entering into glory He dwells with the Father in the honor and power denoted by the scripture phrase.

(Catholic Encyclopedia)



ASCENSION THURSDAY MASS TIMES: This Thursday, May 9th, we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, a Holy Day of Obligation. The Mass schedule will be as follows:

Wednesday, May 8th, at 7:30 p.m.; and **Ascension Thursday**, May 9th, at 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 12 Noon & 7:30 p.m.

