

LOVE WITHOUT RESERVE

(Ex. 22:20-26; Ps. 18:2-4, 47, 51; 1Thess. 1:5c-10; Matt. 22:34-40)

Laws have a reason to exist only insofar as they are explanations and adaptations of the great Law of the love of God and the love of neighbor! In the Law of Moses, the Scribes and Pharisees counted 613 precepts in the Torah, and there were various interpretations on priority. They made the Law of God a burden too hard for the people to bear. God's laws that were meant to bring relief to the people had in turn brought despair. The Scribes and the Pharisees had become so entrenched with the *letters of the law* that they deliberately ignored the *spirit of the law*! Thus, Jesus, in more ways than one, reacted angrily to the repressive and frosty attitude of the Scribes and Pharisees in interpreting the law when He retorted: "Woe...to you lawyers! For you load people with burdens hard to bear..." (Luke 11:46). Here, Jesus was reacting against legalism, and thus, put all laws in their proper perspective. Today's gospel affirms that every law is based on the commandments of the love of God and neighbor.

The entire scripture revolves around the love of God and love of neighbor. St. John in one of his epistles says: "If you say, 'I love God,' while you hate your brother or sister, you are a liar. How can you love God Whom you do not see, if you do not love your brother (or sister) whom you see?" (1John 4:20). To further illustrate this point, St. Paul says: "If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal" (1Cor. 13:1). To practice the kind of love Christ demands we must go beyond mere sensual feelings of love that usually bring couples together, but cannot sustain a relationship. Christian love is the attitude we have towards God and our fellow human beings – an attitude of care and concern that continues to exist even in the midst of anger, misunderstanding and dislike. Indeed, Christian love is a choice, a decision to put God above all else, and to treat others, as we would have them treat us. Thus, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength" (Deut. 6:5); and in addition, "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Lev. 19:18).

Loving your neighbor as oneself does not mean that love of others cannot exist without healthy love of self, but that one must always place oneself in the situation of the neighbor. Thus, in today's first reading we are exhorted: "You shall not molest or oppress an alien...You shall not wrong any widow or orphan..." You should not extort money from your debtors. Return to the owner what you borrowed. We must bear in mind that it is the profound human love for another that offers an image of love of God. Love of God and neighbor should not be abstract, emotional, vague, and lacking in precision. Aestheticism and vague statements or philosophical and theological recitations on love do not do much good for the poor, the abandoned, the stranger, the needy, the widow, the sick, the aged and the orphan. Without the love of neighbor, the love of God remains a sterile figment of the mind – a barren emotion. Equally, without the love of God, love of neighbor is but a refined form of self-love and can often be reduced to a qualified act of charity that may not withstand the test of time whenever one is faced with difficulties and disappointments. Our love for God must manifest in love for others! You and I must love God with all our hearts, soul and mind. We must love Him and desire Him above all things, including our possessions and our time. You and I should bear in mind that to be truly religious is to love God and to love those whom God made in His own image.

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP


PARISH NEWS



"Remember those who have gone before us..."

NOVENA MASSES FOR ALL SOULS: Wednesday, November 2nd, is All Souls day. We will have a 9-day novena of Masses for all our departed loved ones. If you would like your loved ones to be remembered at these Masses, kindly fill out the "All Souls" envelope found in your envelope packet or on the tables at the rear of the Church, include your stipend, and drop it in the Collection basket or bring it to the Rectory during the week.

ALTAR FLOWERS for this week have been donated in loving memory of Fiore Brusco by Louis & Angela Brusco.



The **ALTAR BREAD & WINE, ALTAR CANDLES** and **SANCTUARY LAMP** for the week have been donated in loving memory of Fiore Brusco by Louis & Angela Brusco.

NEW MEMBERS NEEDED: From 2nd Grade right through Senior Citizen, you have the opportunity to sing the Lord's praises by joining one of St. Bartholomew's Choirs - Children's Choir, Teen Choir, Folk Group, or Adult Choir. New members are always welcome; and no experience is necessary. Please see the Music Director, Erika, or call the Parish Office at 965-0566.



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 Office for help at (914) 476-6676.

Registration for **Religious Education Classes** for public school children is open. Classes are available for children in Pre-K through High School, including those with Special Education needs. **All Catholic children attending public schools should enroll in a religious education program.** Please call (476-6676) for more information.



THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meeting will take place this Monday, October 24th, at 7 p.m. in the school. All members are encouraged to attend.

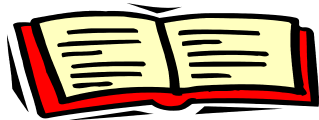


LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

- The **budgeted** Collection for last Sunday is **\$6345.00**.
- The **actual** Collection for last Sunday is **\$4907.10**.

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).

Bible Study



Our **PARISH BIBLE STUDY SESSION** will take place this Friday, October 28th, at 7:30 p.m. in the School. Make time to join your fellow parishioners to learn more about the many Books of the

Bible in both the Old and New Testaments. Bring a friend! Come and have fun.

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

Anyone who needs to report an alleged incident of sexual abuse of a minor by a priest, deacon, religious, or lay person serving in the Archdiocese of New York is asked to contact Sister Eileen Clifford, O.P. at 212-371-1000 ext. 2949 or Deacon George J. Coppola at 914-861-1762. Both may also be reached via e-mail at victimassistance@archny.org. Information can also be found on the Archdiocesan website, www.archny.org. In keeping with the Archdiocesan policy regarding sexual abuse of minors, this information is provided to ensure that our children remain safe and secure.

NEW ROMAN MISSAL PRESENTATIONS

Presentations on the upcoming changes to the liturgy will be held:

FOR ADULT LECTORS, EMEs (Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist), & PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL on Thurs, Oct 27th, at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center – attendance is very important unless Rosary Altar or Holy Name presentation already attended.

FOR PARISHIONERS on Tues, Nov 8th, Election Day, in a classroom of the school building - 2 presentations one at 10 a.m. & one at 7 p.m. Because of limited space, reservations required. Call Cheryl Duda (476-6676).



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, 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, and Jeanne Simmons.

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.

ATTENTION DRIVERS: We will be hosting the New York *Defensive Driving Class* in the McManus Parish Center on **Saturday, October 29th, 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 3 years. The cost of this course is \$49. **To enroll, please call Chris Morea on (800) 492-9444 or (718) 824-9698.**

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

In today's gospel we are given the two great commandments. He challenges us to love completely and unconditionally. Start now by loving your spouse as Christ calls us to do. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is November 5/6. For more information call toll free 1-877 697-9963, ext.3 or visit www.wmearchny.org.



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 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.

OCTOBER 23, 2011

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Saturday, October 22 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Fiore Brusco +

Sunday, October 23

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 +

Monday, October 24

Weekday

7:00 AM Louise Bolduc's Special Intention (living)

9:00 AM Daniel DeRosa +

Tuesday, October 25

Weekday

7:00 AM Anthony Parinello, Jr. +

9:00 AM Margaret Foley +

Wednesday, October 26

Weekday

7:00 AM Mary Lynch +

9:00 AM Edith Fruggiero +

Thursday, October 27

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Ann Olsen +

Friday, October 28

Saint Simon and Saint Jude, apostles

7:00 AM Julia & Dennis Cashin +

9:00 AM John Henry Roth +

Saturday, October 29

Weekday

9:00 AM Gloria Brusco Flannagan +

Saturday, October 29 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Living Members of the Pisacreta Family

Sunday, October 30

Thirty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:30 AM Carl Laredo +

10:00 AM Thomas Muscente +

11:30 AM Frank & Carmela Legio +

5:00 PM All the People of Our Parish

OCTOBER 23, 2011

**SAINT SIMON & SAINT JUDE
APOSTLES
OCTOBER 28**



Jude is so named by Luke in the Acts. Matthew and Mark call him Thaddeus. He is not mentioned elsewhere in the Gospels, except, of course, where all the apostles are referred to. Scholars hold that he is not the author of the Letter of Jude. Actually, Jude had the same name as Judas Iscariot. Evidently because of the disgrace of that name, it was shortened to “Jude” in English.

Simon is mentioned on all four lists of the apostles. On two of them he is called “the Zealot.” The Zealots were a Jewish sect that represented an extreme of Jewish nationalism. For them, the messianic promise of the Old Testament meant that the Jews were to be a free and independent nation. God alone was their king, and any payment of taxes to the Romans - the very domination of the Romans - was a blasphemy against God. No doubt some of the Zealots were the spiritual heirs of the Maccabees, carrying on their ideals of religion and independence. But many were the counterparts of modern terrorists. They raided and killed, attacking both foreigners and “collaborating” Jews. They were chiefly responsible for the rebellion against Rome which ended in the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

COMMENT: As in the case of all the apostles except for Peter, James and John, we are faced with men who are really unknown, and we are struck by the fact that their holiness is simply taken to be a gift of Christ. He chose some unlikely people: a former Zealot, a former (crooked) tax collector, an impetuous fisherman, two “sons of thunder” and a man named Judas Iscariot.

It is a reminder that we cannot receive too often. Holiness does not depend on human merit, culture, personality, effort or achievement. It is entirely God’s creation and gift.

God needs no Zealots to bring about the kingdom by force. Jude, like all the saints, is the saint of the impossible: only God can create his divine life in human beings. And, God wills to do so, for all of us.

QUOTE: “Just as Christ was sent by the Father, so also He sent the apostles, filled with the Holy Spirit. This He did so that, by preaching the gospel to every creature (cf. Mark 16:15), they might proclaim that the Son of God, by His death and resurrection, had freed us from the power of Satan (cf. Acts 26:18) and from death, and brought us into the kingdom of His Father” (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, 6).

From *Saint of the Day*, edited by Leonard Foley, O.F.M., & Pat McCloskey, O.F.M.

