

## GOD: FIRST, MIDDLE OR LAST?

Deut. 6:2-6; Heb. 7:23-28; Mark 12:28b-34

A couple of weeks ago, I had a chat with a nine-year-old child. When I asked him how he was doing, I was amazed by the answer he gave me: "Oh, it's tough, Father!" What does a nine-year-old know about life being tough? "Come on Raymond, you don't have any bills to pay - you don't have to buy groceries - pay someone's school fees - you don't even have to think about washing or ironing your cloths. So, what do you mean by, "Life is tough?" In order to calm my curiosity, the boy explained further: "Father, I had two baseball games this morning, a basketball game this afternoon, and I just finished a soccer game an hour ago...now I am very tired!" I couldn't help, but to sympathize with my little friend, Raymond. I understood why he would see life as "tough" and why he would be tired at the end of the day. I urged Raymond that he didn't have to participate in all those sporting activities or to play all those games in one day. Disappointedly, he confided in me that his parents make him do it. If this child's conclusion of the fact is true, the question we might ask is: "Where do we place our priorities?"

"The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." In any community or society there are *statutes, norms* or *code of conduct*. Governments and countries are governed by decrees or constitutions. These laws are there to ensure peace and harmony. But, above all these, God's Laws are there to bring us salvation in His eternal Kingdom. There are also rules and regulations governing social and recreational activities like football, softball, soccer, baseball, boxing, etc. There is the civil law to govern and direct what citizens of a country do. Sometimes one or more of this set of rules contradicts or conflicts with God's commandment that is redemptive in nature. We often find ourselves in a maze – what should I believe in? Which of these laws or statutes are more important?

Our children are growing up in *new culture* - a society bombarded with sporting and cultural activities. A new culture whereby our young are being brought up to believe that what comes first in their life (or weekly routine) is their devotion to the secular matters. Sadly, children are caught in this dilemma and are forced to ignore the religious/spiritual development of their lives through prayers and Sunday Mass attendance. Parents / guardians would rather bring them to games, dances and/or rehearsals instead of Church. The confusion comes when the child attends Church or catechism class and hears that what comes first is our love of God. We can only show we love Him by dedicating time to prayers - going to Mass on Sundays and Holydays. Our actions and attitudes as adults sometimes confuse these little ones, thus, some of them wonder, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Which of these regulations should take priority in my life? I find myself in a culture where I am bombarded with many social, recreational and religious activities every day. What must I do? How do I prioritize these things? I am confused!

Matters relating to God and pertaining to Him alone should take priority in our lives. In our observances of the different statutes and regulations - our desires, time, energy, resources, talents and our capabilities should primarily be directed to pleasing God. No doubt, we must love God above all other things by our words and deeds, but we cannot claim to love God when we do not have love for others in the community; therefore, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself!" Parents, sport organizers/directors and all must know that "There are no other commandments greater than these."

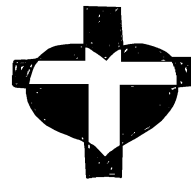
Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP


**PARISH NEWS**



The **Rosary Altar Society** meeting will be held this Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All women of the Parish are invited to attend.

**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 November. 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 during the Mass.



Our **SOCIAL MINISTRY** is having a special **Thanksgiving Food Drive**. For the next two weekends, please bring to church Thanksgiving appropriate, non-perishable fixings, especially, canned sweet potatoes, boxed mashed potatoes, coffee, tea, and juices. Thank you.

We will be in need of **some frozen turkeys, fresh / frozen pies, desserts or fruit** on the **Sunday and Monday morning (November 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>)** of Thanksgiving week. Due to a lack of refrigerator / freezer storage space, we can only accept pies or turkeys at the lower level of the Rectory **before each Mass that Sunday or on Monday morning between 6:45 and 8 a.m.** for distribution on that Monday morning.

**UPDATE: THE 2012 STEWARDSHIP APPEAL**

**Good News:** Two weeks ago our parish received a rebate check of **\$7,583.85** from the Appeal Office representing 100% of over-the-goal amount collected so far by the Campaign. You may remember that our parish goal for the 2012 Appeal was \$50,500. **Through the participation of 212 of our families, we exceeded that goal with pledges of \$63,421.85.** Of that total pledge, \$58,083.85 has already been paid to the Appeal; remaining balance is \$5,338. When all the outstanding pledges are paid, our Parish may receive an additional rebate of over \$5,000.

It is heartwarming to see that through your participation in the 2012 Stewardship Appeal our parish has directly benefited and is rewarded in the amount of \$7,583.85. Thank you all for your support of this Appeal and our Parish. God bless you all!

**PARENTS! TAKE NOTE!!**



All children who are in the children's choir will be singing at the 5 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve on December 24<sup>th</sup>. There will also be special caroling by the children prior to this Mass at 4:30p.m. It is important that the children attend each practice session every Tuesday, at 5:45 p.m. Part of the weekly practices will be in preparation for this Christmas Eve event.

## THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### BELIEVING IN THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD



As nature sheds her colors, the Church reminds herself in a powerful way of the destiny of each human planned by our loving God, eternity with Him. This month began with the celebration of those members of the ecclesial family who “finished the race and won the crown” because of Divine Mercy. Then we continue reflecting on the needs of the

souls in purgatory. This Catholic doctrine is one which we should remember and take confidence in as believers. The Sacred Scripture recalls the deeds of Judas Maccabeus in which he prays for atonement for the dead, “...that they might be delivered from their sins” (2Macc. 12:46). The Catechism is about the Catholic Church building upon the teachings of the councils of Florence and Trent and teaches: “All who lives by God’s grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation, upon death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.” In other words, though we have received forgiveness, we still must bear the consequences of our sins. While our parents would forgive us for not listening to their words and though they loved us despite failing to be responsible for our homework, they still grounded us for a period of time before moving on. If we showed remorse and did some extra chores or extended ourselves in some other way, they might have lessened the penalty. Sound familiar? That is what an indulgence is.” An indulgence is partial or plenary, accordingly removes either part or all the temporal punishment due to sin. The faithful can gain indulgences for themselves, or apply them to the dead.” These words came from the document on indulgences issued by Pope Paul; Christ’s power coming through the Church can affect such an occurrence. Let us remember our loved ones participating in the Eucharist, being in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, mediating on the Stations of the Cross, and performing works of Charity. There is a Church in Rome which contains the bones of monks from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. In front of them is a sign in many languages: “Where you are now, we were: where we are now, you will be.” Let us pray for those who have gone before, so that they may pray in heaven for us.



This is a reminder that our Parish Youth Group will meet this Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup> following the 5 p.m. Mass. All members and other youths ages 13 and above are encouraged to attend.

**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

#### October 30, 2011

Adults' Contribution	\$5599.20
Children's Contribution	\$88.80
<b>Last Year's Total</b>	<b>\$5688.00</b>

#### October 28, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$5467.50
Children's Contribution	\$148.00
<b>This Year's Total</b>	<b>\$5615.50</b>

-----  
*"The true purpose of tithing is to secure not the tithe, but the tither; not the gift, but the giver; not your money, but you... for God."*  
-----

**Thank you** to all those who are participating in our *tithing program!* May God bless and reward your sacrifices! For those who are not yet tithing, I encourage you to please give it a prayerful thought. Thanks!

#### 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, Raymond Fitzpatrick, Sr., Deacon James Byrnes, Andrea Objay, Carmen Torres, John Esposito, Frank Marra, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, Edith Dugan, Gary Roth, Joyann Allan, Anna Rita Morgante, 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 Petruolo, Cynthia Swiatkowicz, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Steve Oddo, Roseann Mercandetti, Louis Brusco, Josephine Daniele, Jennifer Dorsey, Valerie Riccardi, Fatima Panik, Joanne Moscarello, Marian Fletcher, Anna Bonacci, Minerva Hernandez, Paula Parente, Barbara Olivieri, Carol Swetz, Bridget O'Malley, Anna Brucculeri, Peggy Clevenberg, Gerald Mazzerese, Jr., Patricia Keane, Louis Milone, and Joey Bastardi.

#### REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES, LIVING AND DEAD

The Mass Books for both 2012 and 2013 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.  
-----

NOVEMBER 4, 2012

---

Mass  for the  
Intentions *Week*

---

**Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Saturday, November 3 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM James Mahoney +

**Sunday, November 4**

8:30 AM Peter Klee +

10:00 AM Anna & Gaetano Brucculeri's 66<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Novena for Deceased Loved Ones

**Monday, November 5**

**Weekday**

7:00 AM Novena for Deceased Loved Ones

9:00 AM Sharon Siravakian +

**Tuesday, November 6**

**Weekday**

7:00 AM Novena for Deceased Loved Ones

9:00 AM Sarah Menchen +

**Wednesday, November 7**

**Weekday**

7:00 AM Novena for Deceased Loved Ones

9:00 AM Douglas McElmeel +

**Thursday, November 8**

**Weekday**

7:00 AM Novena for Deceased Loved Ones

9:00 AM Tatyana Shannon +

**Friday, November 9**

**Dedication of the Lateran Basilica**

7:00 AM Novena for Deceased Loved Ones

9:00 AM Marcello Barcello +

**Saturday, November 10**

**Saint Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor of the Church**

9:00 AM Novena for Deceased Loved Ones

\*\*\*\*\*

**Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Saturday, November 10 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM Mary & Joseph Cuzzo +

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday, November 11**

8:30 AM Carl Dietze, Robert & Chester Rodesky +

10:00 AM Loretta & Michael Kennedy +

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Ramberto Blanco +

NOVEMBER 4, 2012

**WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY!**

**We  
Love  
To  
Serve  
You!**



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.

**PRAYER FOR THE ELECTIONS**

Lord God, during this election time it is easy to get wrapped up in the negative, in fault-finding, criticism and contentiousness. Cause our hearts to be sweet and pure, obediently acting as You want Your children to act, with prudence and decency. In this way, we can be Your light shining in our darkened world. May we do everything without complaining or arguing, so that through our examples the world may see You, Who are loving and forgiving.

Lord, You are actively involved in every part of Your creation at every moment. Grant to all Americans a willingness to get involved in this Tuesday's elections, resisting complacency and passivity. Let each one know the value of his or her vote, and let each one exercise their privilege with diligence and faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen!

