

## TOUGH LOVE

(Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Psalm 66: 1-7, 16, 20; 1Peter 3:15-18; John 14:1521)

"Beloved: Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope..." (1 Peter 3:15)

May I use this opportunity to congratulate twenty of our children who received the holy Sacrament of Confirmation last Sunday; and also to reemphasize what was said to them by the confirming prelate, Bishop Gerald Walsh, that Confirmation is not the end, but the beginning of their Christian journey. They must understand that the Sacrament of Confirmation imprints a character on each of them, and empowers them to stand up for what they believe and avoid bad company and falsehood. Consequently, it makes them true Disciples of Christ and empowers them and sends them on a mission. The Bishop reminded the newly confirmed of the "Miracle on the Hudson," and challenged them to emulate the courage and wisdom of the pilot, Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, who, putting into practice what he learned thirty-five years earlier, was able to land his plane safely on the Hudson River on January 15, 2009, saving the lives of 155 passengers. As confirmed Christians, you should "Always be ready to give an explanation...for your hope (faith)." When the time comes, you must be ready and willing to put into practice what you learned in school, catechism classes, Bible Study and in church.

Today's first reading prepares us for the coming of the Holy Spirit, and outlines for us some of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. In the reading we heard how Philip, Peter and John continued to carry out the work of preaching the good news – driving out demons, healing the sick, baptizing the multitude and laying hands on them for the reception of the Holy Spirit. As confirmed Catholics, you and I have become *soldiers of Christ*, and have been tasked to defend the faith we were baptized into, and to uphold the Church's teaching, which we were taught in Catholic schools and Religious Education programs. We are summoned to show that we love God by being faithful to the commandments He has given to us through the Church. Thus, in today's gospel, Jesus says to you and me, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." Jesus' commandment is the *commandment of love* – "You must love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your mind, and with all your soul...and you must love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:34-40).

You and I know that being faithful to Jesus' commandments requires a lot of discipline and sacrifice. Jesus' commandment is that "...love one another. Just as I have loved you..." (John 13:34). In other words, you and I must be ready to sacrifice our time, our resources, our talents and even our lives for the good of others. It has to be a self-sacrificing love. This is the kind of love that Saint Peter talks about in the second reading when he says, "it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be the will of God, than for doing evil" (1 Peter 3:17). By the grace of the Spirit you and I received at Confirmation, we will be able to endure the pain and suffering that come with the good we ought to do. In our day-to-day living and in our encounter with other people, you and I must always remember to keep Jesus' *commandments of love* because, "Whoever has My commandments and observes them is the one who loves Me. And whoever loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and reveal Myself to him."

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP




This Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, is a legal holiday. The Rectory Office will be closed. There will be only one Mass on this holiday at 9 a.m.

**SHARING COMMUNITY MEAL:** This Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will be providing our Sharing Community Meal. Please bring your ziti or dessert to the Rectory. Doors will open at 6:45 a.m. The Sharing Community truly appreciates our efforts. Please keep up the good work! For information, please call the Rectory Office.



**ASCENSION THURSDAY:** This Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, a Holy Day of Obligation. The Mass schedule will be as follows: Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, at 7:30 p.m.; and *Ascension Thursday*, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 12 Noon & 7:30 p.m.



**HOLY HOUR:** This Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, is First Friday. We will have our monthly Holy Hour at 1 p.m. On Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, the Divine Mercy Holy Hour will begin at 3 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to participate in these wonderful devotions.



The **ALTAR FLOWERS** have been donated in loving memory of the following deceased veterans: Bruce Beck, Fiore Brusco, John Brusco, Carmine Davi, John DiRodio, Anthony Giuriceo, David Jacob, Joseph Laudadio, Margaret Liddell, Robert A. Liddell, Martin Magzag, Carmine Manno, Andrew J. McCormack, Gabriel Nanoia, Anthony Pelliccio, Francis J. Romano, and Harold Smith, Jr.



The **ALTAR BREAD & WINE, ALTAR CANDLES** and **SANCTUARY LAMP** for the week have been donated by the Rosary Altar Society in honor of their deceased veterans.

**FAMILY MASS: A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND SHARE WITH OTHER FAMILIES:**

Next Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate Family Mass at 10 a.m. After the Mass, we will gather, with the new Communicants and Confirmed for our Annual **Communion Breakfast** in the McManus Parish Center. The Family Mass provides an opportunity for you to get to know other families and members of the parish. Therefore, endeavor to join us every first Sunday of the month. All are welcome!



## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Congratulations to the 20 children who were sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation here at St. Bartholomew's Church by Bishop Gerald Walsh last Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Briana Elizabeth Aquino	Caitlin Paula Golebiowski
Courtney Clare Aversano	Jennifer Lidia Guzman
Kylie Siobhan Reardon	Jason Michael LaLima
Khristine Joy Basa	Sidney Marie Leiriao
Patricia Catherine Breheny	Sara Faith Matias
Theodore Allan Chappory	Marybeth Wei McNally
Nicholas Mark Chimenti	Jeffrey Alexander Ramilo-Santos
Justin Edwin Colon	Colleen Elizabeth Ryan
Donald Joseph Foley	Quinn Austin Scarpelli
Anthony Joseph Fontanello	Lisa Vincenza Tummolo

We thank God for these children and ask all our parishioners to pray that the graces they have received from the Sacrament of Confirmation will be used for their salvation and the salvation of all.

### TO ALL WOMEN OF THE PARISH!



The **Rosary Altar Society** invites all women of the Parish to join them for an evening of relaxation and fun on Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m., at J.C.

Fogarty's, 60 Kraft Avenue, Bronxville. The price, \$20, includes pasta, salad, choice of entrée, dessert and coffee/tea. For reservations please call Dolores (969-3388) or Josephine (476-5386) by Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The **Rosary Altar Society** will attend the 8:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.

### 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 Annual Parish Picnic sponsored by the Holy Name Society is scheduled for Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, at St. Joseph's Seminary from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Please plan on attending this great family day.

**MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA:** Held after the 9 a.m. Mass on Mondays.

**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 **\$5850.00**.
- The **Collection** for last Sunday was **\$5414.95**.

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

**SUPPORT OUR PARISH SCHOOL:** Next Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, we will take up a second collection in support of our school. Please be generous!



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



**Congratulations** to our newest Christians, **Marie Claire Kaura**, who was baptized on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>; and **Sally Ann Connors**, who was baptized on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. We thank their parents and sponsors for presenting them for baptism, and we pray God to bless and

keep these children and their parents in their journey of faith.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Vincenza Sciveresi. *Rest in Peace*

**FATHER'S DAY CARDS AND NOVENA:** Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, is Father's Day. We will have a 9-day Novena of Masses for all fathers - living and deceased. The Novena of Masses will begin on Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> and end on Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. There

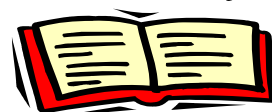
**GREAT GIFT FOR**

**Father's Day**

are cards and/or envelopes at the back of the church. If you want your father, father-in-law or any other father remembered in the Novena of Masses, please fill out the envelope and place it in the collection basket or bring it to the rectory during the week. Remember, on Fathers Day we will invoke a special blessing on all the fathers during the Masses that weekend.

Join Father Anthony and your fellow parishioners in discovering more about the Bible this Friday and every Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the School. Bring a friend! Come and have fun exploring both the Old and New Testaments.

### Bible Study



MAY 29, 2011

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*Mass*  *for the*  
*Intentions* *Week*

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**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Saturday, May 28 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Catherine & Joseph Mole +

Sunday, May 29

8:30 AM Harold Smith, Jr. +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Rose & Gaetano Legio & Family

5:00 PM Virgilio Brizido +

Monday, May 30

**Easter Weekday - Memorial Day**

9:00 AM Sister Jerome Parinello +

Tuesday, May 31

**The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

7:00 AM Nicholas W. Losapio +

9:00 AM Paul Mercandetti's 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday (living)

Wednesday, June 1

**Saint Justin, martyr**

7:00 AM Robyn Mickens-Barrett +

9:00 AM No Intention

7:30 PM Clotilda Campana Ryan +

Thursday, June 2

**The Ascension of the Lord**

7:00 AM Maria Loreta Lucchetti +

9:00 AM Gloria Brusco Flanagan +

12:00 Noon Rose O'Brien +

7:30 PM Julieann Campisi Moroch +

Friday, June 3

**Saint Charles Lwanga & his companions, martyrs**

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Stephen Hickey +

Saturday, June 4

**Easter Weekday**

9:00 AM Thomas & Clementina Schettino +

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Saturday, June 4 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Frank & Carmela Legio +

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Sunday, June 5

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

8:30 AM Carl Laredo & Robert Liddell +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Luciano LaBruzzo +

5:00 PM Antonio Vitullo +

## ASCENSION THURSDAY (June 2<sup>nd</sup> )



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)**