

THE CROSS OF JOY AND HAPPINESS!*Isaiah 50:4-9; Psalm 116:1-6, 8-9; James 2:14-18; Mark 8:27-35*

Don't you and I sometimes wish we could live a life without pain? Yes, it would be awesome to live a life that is pain-free! But that ideal would be contrary to the law of nature where the human body, like any other created material, has to undergo certain changes as it develops and ages. Studies have shown that people who grow up in disadvantaged societies tend to have the capacity to cope with pain and suffering better than those who grow up in affluent ones like ours. Ours is a society that does all it can to do away with the reality of pain and suffering. For some, the reality of pain and suffering is very much incompatible with happiness; thus, they rely heavily on prescribed / non-prescribed painkillers - others depend solely on illegal drugs to make them "feel high" and forget their pain. Some have gone to the ultimate extent of tragically ending their precious lives through suicide in order to "escape" the challenges of pain and suffering. Unfortunately, the society, directly or indirectly, has created the impression that contentment and happiness can only be found where there is less pain or none at all.

A Christian perception of life must be different. As Christians, our lives are fashioned after the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a life where you and I are called to "die to self and live for others." It is a life of the cross! This truth is highlighted in today's gospel passage where Jesus, following Peter's confession that He was the Christ, drew their attention to the fact that it was imperative for Him, "the Son of Man (to) suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days." No one wants the cross for himself or for his loved ones! No one wants to die in agony! Not even Peter!

Although, Peter and the other disciples comprehended that Jesus was the Messiah from God, they still did not understand what that meant. As we sometimes think of any affluent or wealthy person, they thought Christ would be without pain and suffering. Frankly, Jesus becomes understandably disappointed when His followers, you and I, do not know Him well enough: "Get behind me, Satan! You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." This tells us how narrow-minded we usually are whenever we think it is sufficient to be a baptized Catholic, but are not willing to embrace pain and suffering, and are not willing to sacrifice our time, talent and treasure for the good of the community. Do not be eager to wear the *crown* if you are not ready to be pricked by its *thorns*! Do not be eager to get to heaven if you are not prepared to walk the narrow road! There can be no *gains of heaven* without the *pains of earth*. Christian, "What good is it...if someone says he has faith but does not have works?" How can you claim to be a Christian when your actions are contrary to Jesus' teaching on compassion, forthrightness, faithfulness, selflessness and generosity? In fact, a true and authentic Christian "must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me" daily.

Do you really know Who Jesus is? Maybe not, thus, He asks you and me to "Get behind Me..." and learn from Me! He must be the one to lead while we follow. We must always allow Jesus to lead us, no matter how difficult it might seem. As Christians we must see the essence of our life here on earth as that of a sacrificial service. We must put our trust in Christ while abandoning our personal ambition in service for the greater good. Your life as Christian has no meaning unless "You take up (your) cross and follow Me."



PARISH NEWS



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) will meet this Monday, September 17th, at 7:00 p.m. in the school building. We encourage all members to attend.

Registration for Religious Education classes for public school children, running September through June, is open. Classes are available for **children in First Grade through High School Senior year**, including those with Special Education needs. Classes are available to prepare children of all ages for the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation, regardless of any lack of previous instruction. **All Catholic children attending public schools should enroll in a religious education program.** Please call (476-6676) for more information.



Religious Education helps to build a strong foundation

OUR CHILDREN'S MASS



The next two Sundays, September 23rd & 30th, we will have Children's Mass at the 10 a.m. Mass. We urge parents to please make it a point to bring their child to the Church every Sunday. We also ask parents to encourage their children, who are in 3rd grade and above, to sign up to join the Children's Choir to sing at the Children's Mass.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Andrew Piacente.



Rest in Peace

SAVE THESE DATES

St. Bartholomew's Rosary Altar Society sponsors

CLOTHING DRIVE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH

From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wearable clothing, linens and toys accepted. For information call Alice Jacob (963-1686) or the Rectory Office (965-0566).



St. Bartholomew's Holy Name Society
Sponsors in Honor of Steve Hickey

OKTOBERFEST

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH

Following the 5 p.m. Mass

Reservations are required. A wonderful family occasion to share good food, music and fun with your fellow parishioners!

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

Today, throughout the U.S., is Catechetical Sunday. Each year we celebrate the importance of the catechetical ministry by recognizing our catechists and commissioning them to serve in this ministry. We thank the following catechists and program assistants for their dedication to handing on the faith to the children, youth, and adults in our parish. Catechists: Cheryl Duda, Teresa Buoninfante, Ellen Califano, Loreta Capuano, Ellen Chimenti, Maryann Cook, Maryellen Esposito, Tina Falcone, Christine Fitzpatrick, Jeanette Giardini, Patricia Mahoney, Anne McShane, Roseann Mercandetti, Bernadette Novak, Joyce Pietrowski, Mariana Rodriguez, Maureen Schettino, & Jackie Wong. Program Assistants: Paul Capuano, Alice Jacob, & Elizabeth Mulvaney. Special thanks to Amanda Albanese, a High School student, who offers her help with our youngest children.



Prayer for Catechists

Jesus, You told us that laborers for the vineyard would be few and that we should pray to the Lord of the Harvest in the hope that many might respond. You have answered our prayers by sending us catechists for Your vineyard.

Bless these men and women who have responded to Your call to the ministry of catechesis. May they be filled with zeal for Your Church, with care for those they catechize, and with love for Your Word of Life. Let Your Spirit come upon them so that Your Word may echo through their teaching and through the witness of their lives. Through our catechists, may the members of our parish whom they teach be transformed into witnesses to Your Word. And may these catechists receive the blessing Your Son promised to all who labor in Your vineyard.

We pray to You, gracious Father, in the name of Your Son, Jesus, the Word of Life, and in the unity of the Holy Spirit Who transforms us by that Word, one God, forever and ever, **Amen.**

The **CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** will meet this Wednesday, September 19th, at 7 p.m. in Room 111 of St. John's Riverside Hospital, 967 North Broadway, Yonkers, for education & support to help cope with cancer. Call (914) 964-4441 for information.

PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES



Beginning the **first week of October**, Religious Education classes will be held on **Wednesdays from 3:45 p.m. – 5 p.m.** for Pre-K and Kindergarten children. The materials used for this *Catechesis of the*

Good Shepherd program are all "hands-on", such as miniature Mass items, priest vestments, a wooden Good Shepherd figure, sheep, and a sheepfold to mention a few. **Registration is limited, so please call 476-6676 this week for information and registration.**

Congratulations!!!

Mary Jane George Edattel and Sandeep Samuel Masih who were married on Friday, September 7, 2012, at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Malverne, NY. Please keep the newlyweds in your prayers.



✠ **STEWARDSHIP** ✉
What shall I render unto the Lord
for all his benefits to me?

Tithing - God's Plan for Giving

September 11, 2011

Adults' Contribution	\$5147.30
Children's Contribution	\$75.50
Last Year's Total	\$5222.80

September 9, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$6792.60
Children's Contribution	\$135.45
This Year's Total	\$6928.05

"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, Dan Seratto, 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, Steve Oddo, Roseann Mercandetti, Amelia Gagliardi, 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, Edith D'Aquila, Anna Brucculeri, and Peggy Clevenberg.

REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES, LIVING AND DEAD

The Mass Book for 2013 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, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.** to make arrangements or to inquire about the availability of a particular date.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2012



Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, September 15 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Sunday, September 16

8:30 AM DiPaolo & Fancellu Families
10:00 AM Deceased Members of Joseph Family +
11:30 AM Ricciardi & DiVenuto Families
5:00 PM Rafael Vazquez & Luis Mercado +

Monday, September 17

Weekday

7:00 AM Evelina Mariani +
9:00 AM Frank Bartolomeo +

Tuesday, September 18

Weekday

7:00 AM Rita Bolduc +
9:00 AM Frank & Angela Nanoia +

Wednesday, September 19

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention
9:00 AM Frances Swetz +

Thursday, September 20

Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest & Paul Chong Ha-sang and Companions, Martyrs

7:00 AM No Intention
9:00 AM Concetta Darretta +

Friday, September 21

Saint Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist

7:00 AM Maria & Gerardo Marchetti +
9:00 AM Francis Farrell +

Saturday, September 22

Weekday

9:00 AM Mary Krakowiak +

Saturday, September 22 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Manuel & William Pragana +

Sunday, September 23

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM Frank & Carmela Legio +
10:00 AM Mildred & Michael Pollick +

SEPTEMBER 16, 2012

5:00 PM

For All the People of Our Parish

SEPTEMBER 16, 2012

**WELCOME TO OUR PARISH
FAMILY!**

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.

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CONGRATULATIONS to Jack Danial, Kavia Garayua, Nyia Garayua, Raymond Molina, and Jarilyn Rodriguez who celebrated the Rite of Acceptance last Sunday, September 9th. They are now officially recognized as catechumens on their journey to become Catholics. We also congratulate Nancy Silva for whom we celebrated a Rite of Welcoming. Nancy is preparing to complete her initiation into the Catholic Church.

