

A LIFE OF TRUE REPENTANCE

(Ezekiel 18:25-28; Ps. 25:4-9; Phil. 2:1-11; Matt. 21:28-32)

"Thus says the Lord: You say, The Lord's way is not fair...Is it My way that is unfair, or rather, are not your ways unfair?"

Last Sunday, through Prophet Isaiah, the Lord revealed to us that His ways are not our ways, and His thoughts are not our thoughts. The theme of God's magnificence and compassion runs through today's scripture readings. Very often we are overwhelmed by His merciful love and compassion. We find it difficult to comprehend or understand God's sense of justice. As human beings, subjective in our thinking and in our judging of others and ourselves, we wish God would be as subjective and circumstantial as we are.

When the Jews were under Babylonian captivity, they suffered pain and oppression. Their cities and the Temple in Jerusalem were destroyed, and they concluded that God had punished them for the sins of previous generations. Thus, they complained that God was not fair. The Lord you and I serve is certainly not a God Who prepares fire and brimstone in order to punish and destroy His children. He is the God of love, mercy and compassion. He does not wish that we die with our sins, rather He wants us to repent, turn away from our sins and reconcile with Him. Instead of perceiving God as one who sends us to the fires of Hell, we should be men and women who take responsibility for our actions. Whenever we sin, we are making a decision to turn away from life, and to embrace death. Therefore, Prophet Ezekiel reminds us today, "When someone virtuous turns away from virtue to commit iniquity and dies, it is because of the iniquity he committed that he must die." The emotional, spiritual or the material death of such a person is the consequence of his/her actions – of turning away from God's love to sin.

In the response to the psalm you and I plead, "Remember Your mercies, O Lord." Yes, the Lord will always remember His mercies because He is "MERCY-FULL". But He wants you and me to take responsibility for our actions – our sinfulness. We must leave our old ways behind and return to Him. The freewill God has given to us and the human freedom we enjoy requires full responsibility for what we do and should do. It is only when we admit our guilt and do not project it to others – when we individually admit, "that I have sinned through my own fault, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do" – that God can forgive us our sins. To be able to gain entrance into God's Kingdom, we must humble ourselves, repent, turn away from our sins and reconcile with God our Father, because "if someone wicked turns from the wickedness...does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life, since he has turned away from all the sins that he has committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die."

We should not think that because we are baptized we will gain automatic entry into Heaven – there should not be any complacency in our practice of the faith. Such an attitude would mean that we are behaving just like the *first son* in Jesus' parable in today's gospel. Instead, we should behave like the *second son*, who initially said, "I will not," but later repented. By our past sins, you and I have said, "I will not" to God and His commands. It is high time we repented, confessed our sins, turned away from them, and lived according to God's commandments, so that like other repentant sinners (the tax collectors and prostitutes), we might gain entrance into God's kingdom.

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP



PARISH NEWS



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

Next Sunday, October 2nd, we will celebrate Family Mass at 10 a.m. **However, because of the Carnival we will not have our usual "Family Breakfast"** this month. 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!



MARRIAGE BANNS

This is the publication of marriage banns between Kimberley Louise Howley and Thomas Anthony Frabizzio; if you are aware of any reason they should not marry, according to the Catholic rite, please contact the Pastor, Father Anthony Bassey, MSP.



HOLY HOUR: This Saturday, October 1st, is First Saturday. The Divine Mercy Holy Hour will begin at 3 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this wonderful devotion.



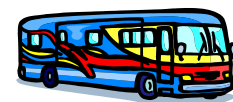
The members of the **Rosary Altar Society** will attend the 8:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, October 2nd.



Rosary Altar Society's Bus Trip to Radio City for the Christmas Show

Wednesday, December 7th

The package includes the bus, lunch & an almost all new show. For information and reservations, please call Nancy on (914) 376-2025.

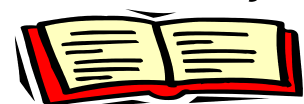


TEEN / YOUNG ADULT CHOIR: We are in the process of expanding our teen and young adult choir. Recently a few college age musicians have stepped forward and expressed an interest in playing for our 5 p.m. Sunday Youth Mass. At this time the group is looking for a bass player and additional vocalists. All high school and college age young adults are welcome to join. See Erika, our Music Director, or contact Cheryl Duda of the Liturgy Committee (476-6676), if you are interested.

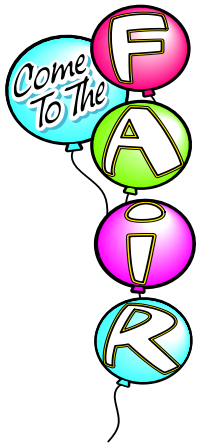


Because of the Carnival, our Parish Bible Study **will not be held** this Friday. The class will resume, next Friday, October 7th, at 7:30 p.m. in the school.

Bible Study



One who boasts of being a self-made person relieves the Lord of a lot of responsibility.



As you all know our **Annual Carnival** kicks off this Thursday, September 29th, thru Sunday, October 2nd. We invite all our parishioners, friends and families to come and have fun and celebrate with St. Bart's at this annual family event. Parents and grandparents, bring your families to enjoy the rides and games.

Throughout the Carnival, our parking lot will not be available for parking. Parishioners coming for the weekday and Sunday Masses, and those coming for the Carnival are advised to park on the side Streets or the Municipal parking lot on Saw Mill by Lockwood Avenue. We are sorry for any inconveniences

this may cause to our parishioners.

INSTRUMENTS NEEDED: The Music Ministry needs some instruments. If you have an **acoustic guitar** or a **drum set** that you can donate, please see Erika, our Music Director, or contact Cheryl Duda of the Liturgy Committee on (914) 476-6676.



Religious Education helps to build a strong foundation

Registration for Religious Education classes for public school children, running September through June, is open. Classes are available for

children in Pre-K 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.

CHILDREN'S OFFERING ENVELOPES: Distribution of the Children's Offering Envelopes will be completed this week. Please have your child begin using their envelopes the weekend of October 1st & 2nd.

YOUTH GROUP: 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.



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

- The **budgeted** Collection for last Sunday was **\$6700.00.**
- The **Collection** for last Sunday totaled **\$5646.25.**
- The **collection in support of St. Joseph's Seminary** totaled **\$2426.00.**

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).

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**SCHOOL SUPPORT COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY**  
**October 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Did You Know ?**

Even though school has now closed, the parish is obliged to pay the unemployment, severance packages and medical benefits of the teachers who lost their jobs when the school closed. We also have to maintain the building and grounds, and pay the utility bills. As always, we depend on your generous support to meet these obligations. Please consider these facts when you make your donation next Sunday for the "School Support." Thank You!



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 Santamorena, 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, and Nicole Pisani-Frame.

**OCTOBER: MONTH OF THE ROSARY**  
**(PRAY THE ROSARY WITH YOUR FAMILY!)**

According to an account by a 15<sup>th</sup> century Dominican, Alan de la Roch, Mary appeared to St. Dominic in 1206, after he had been praying and doing severe penances because of his lack of success in combating the Albigensian heresy. Mary praised him for his valiant fight against the heretics and then gave him the Rosary as a mighty weapon, explained its uses and efficacy, and told him to preach it to others.



"Since the prayers of the Rosary come from such excellent sources — from Our Lord Himself, from inspired Scripture, and from the Church — it is not surprising that the Rosary is so dear to our Blessed Mother and so powerful with heaven." Therefore, I encourage you to take a moment and pray the rosary together with your family everyday

*SEPTEMBER 25, 2011*

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*Mass Intentions for the Week*



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Twenty-Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

**Saturday, September 24 (Vigil Mass)**

5:00 PM Joseph Frischman +

**Sunday, September 25**

8:30 AM Jerry Pisacreta & Betty D'Angelo +

10:00 AM Mildred & Michael Pollick +

11:30 AM Lawrence Tiplady +

5:00 PM All the People of Our Parish

**Monday, September 26**

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Tony Desiderio +

**Tuesday, September 27**

Saint Vincent de Paul, priest

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM John & Emilia DeRosa +

**Wednesday, September 28**

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Carmine DiMarcelo +

**Thursday, September 29**

Saint Michael, Saint Gabriel, & Saint Raphael, archangels

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Paul Montalbano +

**Friday, September 30**

Saint Jerome, priest & doctor of the Church

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Claire Desimini (living)

**Saturday, October 1**

Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, virgin & doctor of the Church

9:00 AM Benny Capuano +

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**Saturday, October 1 (Vigil Mass)**

5:00 PM Ida & Angelo Greco +

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**Sunday, October 2**

Twenty-Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:30 AM Robert Liddell +

10:00 AM All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Carole Ferraro +

5:00 PM Stephanie DeRosa (living)

SEPTEMBER 25, 2011

**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.

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**REMEMBER YOUR BELOVED PARISH**

Remember, **"We make a living by what we earn. We make a life by what we share."** Please, remember St.

***SEPTEMBER 25, 2011***

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*Bartholomew's Parish in your Will as a lasting and loving gift  
to your parish family. Thanks!*

