

## THE LORD'S COMING IS COMFORTING!

(Is. 40: 1-5, 9-11; Ps. 85: 9-14; 2Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8)

*Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God.*

A few weeks ago the President announced that by the end of this year, the war in Iraq will finally be over and he will order all the troops to withdraw and return home to their families for the Christmas holidays. Since the announcement, the families of the soldiers have been preparing and waiting in hope and anticipation for the return of their love ones from the war zone. Waiting can be a tantalizing experience. Families are biding their time and praying that nothing bad happens to their loved ones in the war zone between now and Christmas. Just like the families of the troops in Iraq wait anxiously for the safe return of their loved ones, spouses wait eagerly for the arrival of their newborn baby. Preparations are made. Baby-showers are organized, and necessary items are acquired. Close friends and family members are often invited to wait expectantly and to share in the joy and fun of welcoming loved ones from trips, or the newborn baby.

Last Sunday's readings paint a picture of a people overwhelmed by trepidation and despair but enlightened by hope and dependency on God. Today's readings reflect on repentance and new beginnings. The context of today's first reading reveals the anxiety and the desperation of the Jewish exiles in Babylon. They are desperately waiting for freedom. Prophet Isaiah is consoling them and encouraging them to have hope. He assures them that God will intervene and bring them back from slavery to freedom. He is exhorting the people to have hope and be prepared for God's intervention in the coming of the Messiah – to "make straight...a highway for our God." With the assurances of hope, the coming of the Lord will enable "every valley to be filled in, and every mountain and hill to be made low; and the rugged land to be made plain..." The Lord is coming to bring us back from the *foreign land* of pain and suffering – a *land* of fear and antipathy – a *land* where babies are aborted without any qualms of conscience – a *land* where unemployment and homelessness permeate – a *land* where sickness and hunger torment God's people. For us all, the Lord is coming this Advent and "His glory shall be revealed." Whatever our problems in life might be, you and I should be hopeful and take heed of what the Lord says through Isaiah, "Comfort, give comfort to My people..."

Like those anticipating the return of their loved ones from exile – from overseas trips – the birth of a child – we must plan and prepare adequately throughout this Advent for the coming of the Lord at Christmas. Advent is a time for a new beginning! This is a time of grace that affords us an opportunity for a spiritual *start over*. It gives us the opportunity for true conversion! It is a time to ponder and to establish a new relationship with God, so that *the day of the Lord will not come like a thief upon us*. During this season we are challenged to look at our lives afresh. It's a time for us to humble ourselves, and like John the Baptist, admit that, "One mightier than I is coming...I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of His sandals." We can do this by acknowledging our sins and confessing them; by reaching out to the poor, the less privileged and the weak. As one puts much energy into praying, preparing, and waiting patiently for the day of the safe return of a loved one or the birth of a child, you should all the more, prepare effectively by "conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God."

Rev. Anthony Ho, Pastor, MSP

## PARISH NEWS



### HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION:

This Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a Holy Day of Obligation; therefore all Catholics are required to attend Mass on that day. Times for the Masses are as follows:

- Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m., there will be a vigil Mass.
- Thursday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 12 noon, and 7:30 p.m.

Religious Education Classes will be held this Tuesday and Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, as usual.

*The Rectory Office will be closed this Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, for the Holy Day of Obligation.*

**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 December. The 10 a.m. Mass will focus on our children. The Parish Children's Choir will sing the Mass, and the children are encouraged to sit with other children at a designated place during the Mass.



We will have *Lessons and Carols* - an **Advent Reflection** - on **Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**, at 7 p.m. in the Church.

*Have you recently visited the Adult Faith Formation section of our parish website?* This site features a variety of helpful information, videos and articles to help us grow in our faith. The site can be accessed through our parish website, [www.saintbartparish.org](http://www.saintbartparish.org)

The **ALTAR BREAD & WINE** for this week is donated in loving memory of Harold Smith, Jr. by Josephine Smith.



### POPE'S INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

**General Prayer Intention:** "That all peoples may grow in harmony and peace through mutual understanding respect."

**Mission Intention:** "That children and young people may be respected and preserved from all violence and exploitation."

**REMEMBRANCE TREE OF LIFE:** We would like to remind all our parishioners of our *Tree of Life* located at the rear of the church. Many individuals and families have already memorialized their loved ones on the Tree, but there are still many vacant leaves left on the Tree. Thus, we invite you to call the Rectory Office to inquire on how you can memorialize your loved ones on the *Tree*

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



### OUR PARISH GIVING TREE

In keeping with the true spirit of Christmas, we have the opportunity to share our resources with several charities who serve the disadvantaged (Immaculate Conception's Needy Families, Rosalie Hall in the Bronx, and Richmond Hill). Each of these charities has specifically requested that we focus on gifts that address the practical needs of their clients. Please take

an ornament(s) from the tree in the back of the church. **It is important that this ornament, indicating gender and gift specific information, be securely attached to your wrapped package.** Please return all packages to the church by Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your continued support in this very special season of giving.

All women of the Parish are invited to attend the **Rosary Altar Christmas Party**, to be held this Monday evening, **December 5<sup>th</sup>**. Cost of the buffet is \$20 per person, and if you are able, a small gift for a cancer patient at Rosary Hill. There will be an optional "grab bag" for \$15. For information & reservations, call Carolyn Mesler (963-2622) or Maryanne Romano (963-8885).

### Rosary Altar Society's Bus Trip Radio City for the Christmas Show Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

The bus will be leaving St. Bartholomew's parking lot at **9 a.m.**  
For information, please call Nancy on 376-2025.



### CREATE A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

Take advantage of charitable gift annuity rates ranging from 6.5% to 9.8% before they expire on December 31, 2011, and receive secure fixed payments for life, while providing for St. Bartholomew's Parish. To learn more, please call the Office of Gift Planning at (646) 794-3317 or e-mail them at [giftplanning@archny.org](mailto:giftplanning@archny.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 for this most efficacious prayer.

**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 COLLECTION

- The **budgeted** Collection for last Sunday was \$6500.00.
- The **actual** Collection for last Sunday was \$4913.95.
- The **Thanksgiving Day Collection** totaled \$2884.00.

May God bless and reward all your sacrifices for the Parish!

Next Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, there will be a second collection to help support the retired religious of the New York Archdiocese.

### 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, 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, Louis Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatowicz, Donald Swetz, Rose Botcheller, and Silvia Georgi.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Pasquale Perrotta and Agnes Oroffa.



### REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES, LIVING AND DEAD

Consider giving a loved one or someone 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 lighting the Sanctuary lamp for a week for your intention. Come to the Rectory Office, **Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.** to make arrangements or to inquire about the availability of a particular date.

### FIRST TIME EVER: CATHOLIC ADS ON NETWORK TV

Starting December 16<sup>th</sup>, catholicscomehome.org will begin airing TV ads nationwide, inviting relatives, friends, and others to return home to the Catholic Church. Help now to usher in the largest family reunion in Church history! Pray and spread the word by

DECEMBER 4, 2011

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Mass  for the  
Intentions Week

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Second Sunday of Advent

**Saturday, December 3 (Vigil Mass)**

5:00 PM Josephine Giuriceo +

**Sunday, December 4**

8:30 AM Oscar Starkenberg +

10:00 AM All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Frank & Carmela Legio +

5:00 PM Gloria Payne +

**Monday, December 5**

Advent Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Harry Brewus +

**Tuesday, December 6**

Advent Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Marcello Barcello +

**Wednesday, December 7**

Saint Ambrose, bishop & doctor of the Church

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Jan Gramalia +

7:30 PM Patricia Cherico +

**Thursday, December 8**

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 AM Patricia Keane +

9:00 AM Corazon & Benjamin Sotto +

12 Noon Raymond Shannon, Jr. & Sr. +

7:30 PM Julieann Campisi Moroch +

**Friday, December 9**

Advent Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Marcello Barcello +

**Saturday, December 10**

Advent Weekday

9:00 AM Regina & Frank Bartolomeo +

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**Saturday, December 10 (Vigil Mass)**

5:00 PM Albert Pragana +

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**Sunday, December 11**

Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM All the People of Our Parish

10:00 AM Joseph Prior +

11:30 AM Carl Dietze, Robert & Chester Rodesky +

5:00 PM Robert Jacobson +

*DECEMBER 4, 2011*

**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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**YOUTH RALLY**

**GOT JOY?**

**DATE** - Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

**TIME** - 7 P.M. - 11 P.M.

**WHERE?**

St. Joseph's Seminary  
201 Seminary Avenue, Yonkers

***DECEMBER 4, 2011***

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**IT'S FREE**

Sponsored by Catholic Youth Ministry – Yonkers Vicariate

