

LIVING FOREVER...

Daniel 12:1-3; Psalm 16: 5, 8, 9-11; Heb. 10:11-14, 18; Mark 13:24-32

This Thursday, November 22nd, is Thanksgiving Day! A day set aside for us to thank God for the many good things we have received from Him. We thank Him not just for the "Turkey" and the "Food." We thank Him for the gift of our being – for the gift of our parents – for the gift of our relatives – for the gift of our friends – for the gift of nature and the natural habitat. When we admire nature in the plants and flowers, we witness the beauty and the benevolence of God. When we contemplate nature in the waters of the ocean we see the magnificence of God. When we contemplate nature in the rocks, the hills and the mountains, we capture the greatness and the all-envisoning God.

We thank God for all His works, and we thank Him in all His works! Ironically, as we thank Him for the green and fresh plants, we must also never fail to thank Him when the plants dry and wither. The season of fall reminds you and me of the end of our lives here on earth - our lively days will one day come to an end. As we noticed during fall the once beautiful and gigantic plants shed their leaves. The leaves and the grass that were once green suddenly turn red, orange, tan, yellow or brown. As time progresses, they fall off the trees and die. When winter finally arrives, the trees stand bare without leaves and the once green fields turned mousy-brown. Everything appears dead. The trees cannot provide shade any more. So also will our lives be, our once blooming life will surely give way, and the end is imminent!

Next Sunday is the Feast of Christ, the King - the last Sunday of this Liturgical Year. As we draw near to the end of the liturgical year, today's first reading and the gospel remind us of the inevitable reality (the apocalypse) - *death* will come for all of us. There will be a final judgment. Like a scary movie, contemplating this reality can be very frightening when we relate it to ourselves. It is the Apocalypse! It is the end-time! It is time to die! The natural instinct is for us to be scared because we are uncertain of the future. As Christians we should see the apocalyptic moment as a "season of fall" while we anticipate "spring time" with a renewed hope. In John 12: 24, Jesus draws our attention to this inevitable reality when he says: "Amen, amen I say to you, unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains a single grain, but if it dies, it produces much fruit thereafter." Such are our lives as Christians, in order to have eternal life in abundance we must be prepared to live a life that will give us optimism for the future. We must prepare to die to self and live for others.

For a Christian, like you and me, all is not lost. Life does not end with fall and winter! There is hope! We are apocalyptic people. A new life will come at the advent of spring. The trees, the shrubs and the grass that appear dead, will once again bloom with new life. We are a people of hope. When you are depressed and feel overwhelmed, trust and have faith in God and He will free you from your bondage because He says: "At that time... people shall escape, everyone who is found written in the book." Christians who truly live the life of discipleship need not be afraid of the impending and inevitable end because their names will be inscribed in the "book of life" and they shall escape the final damnation. "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake;" and the faithful and the committed followers of Christ "shall live forever."

Rev. Anthony Ito Rassow MCD


PARISH NEWS


Thanksgiving
GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD!

This Thursday, November 22nd, is Thanksgiving Day. There will only be one Mass at 10 a.m. All parishioners are encouraged to come and give special thanks to God for all His blessings at the annual Thanksgiving Day Mass.

THANKSGIVING SHARING TABLE

It has been the custom at our Parish for those attending the Thanksgiving Day Mass to bring something for our sharing table. Typically this would be along the lines of a pie, special bread, a favorite dessert, candy or flowers. At the end of Mass all items on the table are blessed and all are welcome to choose an item to add to their holiday table; thus sharing our meal with our Parish family. Please give some thought to what you might bring this year.

THANKSGIVING DONATIONS

We will be providing Thanksgiving Baskets to some of our less fortunate brothers and sisters. Thank you for the non-perishables donated to date. Please bring your frozen turkey or fresh / frozen pie to the lower level of the Rectory before each Mass today and between 6:45 and 8 a.m. on Monday, November 19th.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION classes **will be held this week.**

The **ALTAR FLOWERS** for this week have been donated in loving memory of Madeleine Savard by Louise Bolduc.



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD

1:30 – 7:30 PM

MCMANUS PARISH CENTER



Please plan on participating in St. Bartholomew's Blood Drive the day after Thanksgiving. For an appointment call Tony Sciacca (423-3592).

Individuals 18-44 years old will have the opportunity to register with the National Marrow

Donor Program at the drive. Those between 45 and 60 are encouraged to register online at www.bethematch.org.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meeting will take place this Monday, November 19th, at 7 p.m. in the school. All members are encouraged to attend.



The Rectory Office will be closed this Thursday and Friday, November 22nd and 23rd.

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

BECOME AN ASSOCIATE MISSIONARY OF ST. PAUL

Father Felix Osasona, MSP will speak at all the Sunday Masses on the weekend of December 15th & 16th, to invite us to join the Associate Missionaries of St. Paul (AMSP). The AMSP are Catholic men and women who actively support the missionary work of the Missionary Society of St. Paul through their prayers, moral support, and financial assistance. Like the holy women and men in the scriptures who assisted Christ and His apostles in their work, AMSP contribute regularly their treasures, time, talent, and prayers to the missions. They help train seminarians, preparing for the priesthood, through monthly or yearly sponsorship. They commit themselves, as do the missionary priests, in love striving to revive and strengthen those parts of the Church that are weak and make them self-reliant. They are also involved in works of charity supporting the people in mission countries. Father Felix will be available after the Masses to answer any questions you may have regarding enrollment in the AMSP.

There will be an information meeting with prospective members in the school building on Wednesday, December 19th, at 7 p.m.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION TRIPS

On Friday, November 9th, fifteen of our parishioners journeyed to the Italian Cultural Center in Tuckahoe to view a documentary on Padre Pio and to tour a special Photo exhibit of his life by Elia Stelluto, who was an altar boy for Padre Pio and later become Padre Pio's personal photographer. The morning was both educational and enjoyable. Each of these trips bring new faces and provides a wonderful opportunity to meet your fellow parishioners.

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY

The next Adult Faith Formation Trip opportunity is a visit to **Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, Pennsylvania** to see *Noah* on Friday, March 22, 2013. The \$145 price includes the bus, the show, and great Amish cuisine at Miller's Smorgasbord after the show.

Congratulations to Ellen Califano for attaining her Level 1 Catechist Certification. Ellen was presented with her certification by Bishop Gerald Walsh at an Archdiocesan ceremony at Maryknoll Fathers on Sunday, November 11th. We applaud Ellen's efforts and dedication in obtaining this certification.



All women of the Parish are invited to join the Rosary Altar Society on Monday evening, December 3rd, for Mass at 6:30 p.m., followed by Christmas Dinner in the McManus Parish Center. Cost of the buffet is \$22 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 info & reservations call Carolyn (963-2622) or Maryanne (963-8885).

EUCHARISTIC 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

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

Tithing - God's Plan for Giving

November 13, 2011

Adults' Contribution	\$5581.25
Children's Contribution	\$107.10
Last Year's Total	\$5688.35

November 11, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$6054.95
Children's Contribution	\$217.25
This Year's Total	\$6272.20

"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 FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

After seeing the devastations caused by **Hurricane Sandy** which made landfall on October 29th, many Catholics, including our parishioners, throughout the Archdiocese wanted to know how they can help. This request for a show of charity prompted the Archbishop, Cardinal Dolan to send letters to all the pastors and administrators announcing that a special collection be taken in all parishes last Sunday in support of the victims of the hurricane.

You, the parishioners of St. Bartholomew's, responded generously to that call, for which I am very grateful. The money you donated for the relief efforts amounted to **\$6,485.00**. I sincerely thank you for your selfless and generous donation towards the relief efforts. A check for this amount has already been sent to the Chancery Office. Thank you! May the Almighty God bless and replenish your efforts to help those who are in need. I am proud of you!

If you were unable to contribute thus far and would still like to do so, please mark the envelope or memo on your check, "Hurricane Relief," and drop it off or mail it to the Rectory.

Father Anthony



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 Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatkiewicz, 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, Joey Bastardi, Carol Stola, and Amada

NOVEMBER 18, 2012



Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, November 17 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Sunday, November 18

8:30 AM Alexander Mikos +
10:00 AM Charles & Stefana Barba +
11:30 AM Julieann Campisi Moroch +
5:00 PM For the victims of Hurricane Sandy

Monday, November 19

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention
9:00 AM Dolores Basilone-Case & Christine Pecora (living)

Tuesday, November 20

Weekday

7:00 AM In Thanksgiving
9:00 AM Margaret Krzanowski +

Wednesday, November 21

Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 AM Rita Bolduc +
9:00 AM Patrick & Thomas Keane +

Thursday, November 22

Saint Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr – Thanksgiving Day

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

Friday, November 23

Weekday

7:00 AM Anthony Falcone +
9:00 AM Isabella Lugo +

Saturday, November 24

Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious

9:00 AM Rita & Edward Hoffmeister +

Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Saturday, November 24 (Anticipated
Mass)

5:00 PM John Henry Roth +

Sunday, November 25

8:30 AM Anthony D'Addario +
10:00 AM Frank & Carmela Legio and Family +
11:30 AM Robert Sabatelli

SHOWING FAITH BY GIVING THANKS...



In this *Year of Faith* we must recognize that the spirit of Thanksgiving is central to the life of every human being. By expressing thanks to an individual for a gift, we are clearly saying that they have enriched our lives through it and we recognize that it is a sign of the relationship that exists between them and us. It is an unfortunate reality that the simple act of appreciation is not as

essential as it once was in the minds of people.

When we were young, we were taught the virtue of writing the “bread and butter” letter to relatives and friends who remembered our birthdays or other celebrations. Sad to say Christians have adopted similar habits going back a few decades. During World War II the Church of the Holy Cross would conduct the Miraculous Medal Novena every fifteen minutes as people poured into the pews to pray for their sons and brothers to return home from the battles in the European and Pacific theatres, but once the war ended the need for the multiplicity of services rapidly decreased. Countless times we pray prayers of petition for a job, health, or family but how frequently are they matched by prayers of thanksgiving.

On Thursday, as a nation we pause, upon the instruction of Abraham Lincoln, to recall the goodness of God to us in permitting us to live in freedom and prosperity (Though it is also important to remember those suffering without shelter, food and other basic necessities.) But even that day has decreased in significance compared to Black Friday with the stores opening on the evening of Thanksgiving lest we spend too much time with family. As a Catholic people, how will we commemorate God’s gifts to us? Will we attend the parish Mass? Will we say grace at meals? Will we remember those who called us together in prior years but are no longer with us? Will we serve those who are doing without?

As Catholics we must remember that each and every celebration of the Mass is an act of thanksgiving in and of itself. We cannot afford to neglect one opportunity to express our gratitude for salvation. Our giving thanks demonstrates our acknowledgement that without God nothing exists, but with God all things are possible. Within the Mass itself, after receiving the Lord, we should use that time to enter into the intimacy of our relationship with the divine and declare with hearts burning: “My Lord and My God”. Thankfulness must be the heart of our faith.



ANNUAL RETREAT: St. Bartholomew’s **Rosary Altar Society** is holding its annual one-day Retreat for women on **Saturday, December 8th**, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, **from 9 a.m.-3p.m.** The program, *Encountering Mary as a Model of*

Gospel Living, includes attendance at the 12 noon Mass and concludes with the Exposition of the Eucharist and Benediction. Fee is \$20 and includes breakfast and lunch. All women within and outside the parish are welcome! Please call Alice Jacob at 845-363-1088 or Dolly DeRosa at 914-969-6575 to make reservations.

