

CHRIST IS OUR LIFE

(Ezek. 37:12-14; Ps. 130:1-8; Rom. 8:8-11; John 11:1-45)

Everyone loves life! It is a fact that any form of separation can be quite painful. Couples and children of divorce go through the anguish of separation – parents and children endure the pain of separation when they have to say “good bye” to each other as the latter leaves home for school or college for the first time – then comes the pain of the ultimate separation in death. You and I may have had deaths in our families, and for some the sense of loss of a loved one can be devastating and overwhelming. In the moment of loss, sometimes you and I feel like the “dry bones” Prophet Ezekiel refers to in today’s first reading. We want to hear some words of comfort from God through a loved one; “O My people...I will put My spirit in you that you may live...”

For us Christians, while we might grieve soberly for the loss of a loved one, our grief must always possess a sense of hope. Surely, death is a lasting separation, but we know that it is a gateway to a life hereafter. For Jesus says, “Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a single grain...” Death, therefore, is a necessary end! The three readings in today’s liturgy fit together beautifully because they concern death and resurrection to newness of life.

In the first reading, through Prophet Ezekiel, the Lord tells us: “I will open your graves and have you rise from them...I will put My spirit in you that you may live.” Due to human weakness you and I have been dead through sin. We have been enslaved by sin. We have not had the ability to do the good that we want to do. We have seen ourselves doing the bad things we try to avoid. The Lord Jesus has come to free you and me from slavery to sin. Christ has come so that He may put His spirit into you and me, thus, we may live as children of light in the fullness of life He promised to the world. He wants us to die to ourselves and live for others. We must rid ourselves of all that is dark in us – free ourselves from sin and thus share in His divine life. Therefore, in the second reading, Apostle Paul warns that, “Those who are in the flesh (living in sin) cannot please God.” God wants us to abandon our sinful ways so that we can rise and live with Him in glory.

In the gospel, we are being prepared for the coming event of the *Great Paschal Mystery* when we will recall the Passion, the Crucifixion and the Death of our Lord Jesus Who has come to give His life for the salvation of the world. However, on the other side of Calvary, we see Christ Who overcomes death by raising Lazarus from the dead, in order to bring us new life. He assures us, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in Me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die.” As we prepare to celebrate this *Great Paschal Mystery* at Easter, you and I must die to our sins and live for the Lord alone. The raising of Lazarus from the dead is a sign of Jesus’ victory over death, and a sign of hope for all of us who believe. It is a sign that those of us, who are dead because of our sins, will be raised if we allow Jesus into our lives. He came so that we might be freed from the clutches of Satan. The raising of Lazarus is a sign that gives us hope that after our life here on earth, Jesus will raise up our mortal bodies to share eternal life with Him in Heaven. Jesus loves you and me and He cares a lot about us, thus, He exhorts you and me to “come out” of the grave of sin and unrighteousness so that we may have life in Him Who is *the Resurrection and the Life*.

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP

MEETING: This Monday, April 11th, the Holy Name Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All men of the Parish are welcome.

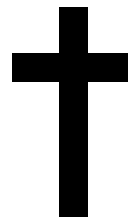


HOLY NAME SOCIETY



THE ALTAR BREAD AND WINE for this week has been donated in loving memory of Carmine Nicholas Maccia by Margaret Maccia.

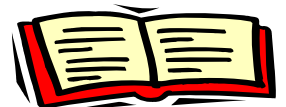
CHILDREN'S MASS: Please make it a point to bring your child to our Children's Mass next Sunday. The 10 a.m. Mass will focus on our children. The Parish Children's Choir will sing the Mass. The children are encouraged to sit together with other children at a designated place during the Mass.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS: This Friday evening we have the devotion of the Stations of the Cross in the Church at 7 p.m. On Good Friday, April 22nd, Stations will be at 2 p.m., just prior to the 3 p.m. Good Friday Service. It is a very old Lenten tradition. Families are encouraged to participate together in preparation for Easter.

Join Father Anthony and your fellow parishioners in discovering more about the Bible this Friday in the School, immediately following Stations of the Cross. Bring a friend! Come and have fun exploring both the Old and New Testaments.

Bible Study



CHRISM MASS: Mass of Chrism will be celebrated this year on **Tuesday, April 19th**, at 4 p.m. in St. Patrick's Cathedral. Every parishioner is encouraged to attend this beautiful ceremony, where we celebrate with the Archbishop of our Archdiocese and witness our priests renew their vow to serve God's people with the humility of a good shepherd. **Please come support our own parish priests.** A bus from our parking lot directly to St. Patrick's Cathedral will be available for \$19 per person. Please call the Rectory @ 914-965-0566, Monday to Friday to reserve a seat.

OUR PARISH R.C.I.A. PROGRAM



If you or someone you know needs information on the Catholic Faith or has not been confirmed, please call the Religious Education Office listed on the cover for information on the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.) in our parish.

St. Bartholomew's Religious Education Program for public school children is accepting registration applications for the 2011/2012 school year. For information, please contact Cheryl Duda at the Religious Education Office, (914) 476-6676.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

2011 ARCHDIOCESAN STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

The 2011 Archdiocesan Stewardship Appeal is in its final stages in our parish. I wish to update you on our standing following the in pew solicitation on the weekend of March 27th:

Goal: ----- \$50,200
Pledge: ----- \$33,760
Paid: ----- \$16,615
Donors: ----- 148 families
% of Goal: ----- 67%

While I appreciate that participating in the in pew solicitation can be off putting for some, I truly appreciate your attention and participation. Thank you to all who out of the kindness of their hearts are helping us climb toward our goal!

"I will put My spirit in you that you may live." Find out how to bring new life and spirit into your marriage on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter, August 12-14. For more information, call toll free (877) 697-9963, ext. 3.



Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Julieann Campisi Moroch.

IS YOUR MARRIAGE IN TROUBLE? Retrouvaille is a Catholic-based program open to married couples of all faiths. It has a proven track record of helping couples whose marriages are in serious difficulty or trouble. The next Retrouvaille weekend in the New York area will be held April 15-17, at the Madison Hotel in Morristown, NJ. For more information or to register call (732) 457-0959.

FASTING DURING LENT

In the fifth century, St. Chrysologus wrote:
"Fasting is the soul of prayer; mercy is the lifeblood of fasting. So if you pray, fast; if you fast, show mercy; if you want your petitions to be heard, hear the petitions of others. If you do not close your ear to others, you open God's ear to yourself." We take the initiative during Lent to curb our desires and exercise an opportunity to put aside what we may want so that we can be reminded of God. Every time we desire that from which we are fasting, we are reminded of why we chose to give it up; to think about God. And, when we give something up, we have more to give away, to help a brother or a sister in need because we are not using something for ourselves. Our Lenten fast is intimately connected to our Lenten sharing.

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

EUCHARISTIC 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 **\$6550.00**.
- The **actual** Collection for last Sunday was **\$7422.25**
- Collection in support of our School totaled **\$2138.95**.

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



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, John & Gary Roth, Lena Castaldo, Joyann Allan, Anna Rita Morgante, Carmela Massaroni, Lois Burton, Mary DeStefano, Carmella DelBene, Ann Ceriale, Dan Seratto, Mark Cianfaglione, Shawn Colon, Margaret Maccia, and Nicole Ryan Betancourt.

THE 2012 MASS BOOK IS OPEN

The Mass Book for 2012 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, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.** to make arrangements or to inquire about the availability of a particular date.

Catholic Charities: Supporting the Physically and Emotionally Challenged. The senior adjusting to recent blindness, the developmentally disabled child, and the emotionally challenged adult need the intensive care and support provided by Catholic Charities. Each year, Catholic Charities helps 2,700 pre-school children through early intervention and special education, and help support 1,400 individuals with mental illness in their own apartments. www.catholiccharitiesny.org

FORDHAM U. MINISTRY & RELIGIOUS ED COURSES

Fordham's Graduate School of Religion & Religious Education will offer courses in ministry, pastoral counseling and religious education to both new degree and auditing students (\$150 per class) this summer. Courses will take place at Rose Hill (Bronx campus), St. Francis Church 31st Street, Manhattan) and on-line. For information visit www.fordham.edu/gre/summer or call Dean Madden at (718) 817-4800.

APRIL 10, 2011

Mass  *for the*
Intentions *Week*

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Saturday, April 9 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Anthony Giuriceo +

Sunday, April 10

8:30 AM Peter & Josephine Pisacreta +

10:00 AM Mary & Ben Bajek +

11:30 AM Frank & Carmela Legio +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Monday, April 11

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM Marcello Barcello +

9:00 AM Vincent, Mae & Gerard Hickey +

Tuesday, April 12

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Ceil Mahoney +

Wednesday, April 13

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM Madeleine Savard +

9:00 AM Eileen Sheridan +

Thursday, April 14

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Carmine Nicholas Maccia +

Friday, April 15

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Mary & John Esposito +

Saturday, April 16

Lenten Weekday

9:00 AM Michael Albanese +

Saturday, April 16 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Sunday, April 17

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

8:30 AM Robert Liddell +

10:00 AM Loretta & Michael Kennedy +

11:30 AM Joseph & Paul Prior +

5:00 PM Mary Theresa Szivos +

