

DO NOT BE AFRAID, JESUS LIVES!

Acts 5:12-16; Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; Rev. 1:9-13, 17-19; John 20:19-31

The mission statement of our parish reads thus, "We, the members of St. Bartholomew's Parish, will strive to work for a vibrant and loving Eucharistic community. In the spirit of Christ, we commit ourselves to the service of humanity - in our parish, neighborhood, archdiocese and the universal Church. We will strive to enrich our community spiritually and socially, and to be a family of worship and prayer for all."

The first reading of today offers us some insights and outlines some essential marks of the early Church in Jerusalem. Here we see a church that was Eucharistic in nature, but vibrant and loving in practice. We see a Church where fellowship, brotherhood and communion were the basic elements in its day-to-day existence. The word Church is from the Greek word ekklesia, meaning 'community.' The Church, therefore, is a community of the People of God, all of us. You and I form a community that is bounded together by the Holy Spirit and characterized by our common communion (communal life), koinonia, devotion to the apostolic teaching (didache) and also to the breaking of bread and prayer (Acts. 2:44-46). The Church, like any human institution, is faced with challenges and problems. In the second reading, St. John's revelation deals with a church that was in distress. It was probably written during the reign of Emperor Damitian. It was a time of severe persecution of Christians. John himself was exiled on a little island called Patmos for preaching the gospel of the risen Christ. He feared for his life, but in one of his visions, he saw "One like a Son of Man" who "touched me with His right hand and said, Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last, the One Who lives." Jesus is always present to comfort us especially in moments of trials.

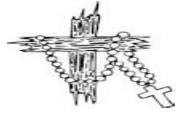
The Faith Community of St. Bartholomew is the microcosm of the early church; and it is imperative that we make it a family where "all who believe" should always be together to worship and pray. By our resolve to enrich our people spiritually and socially, all should come to esteem us because of our mutual love and outreach to our fellow brothers and sisters. Like the early church, our domestic church is not without its challenges and problems. But we must be a church that enriches members of the community with love, peace, joy, understanding and acceptance. Together, you and I who share in the One Cup and One Body of our Lord Jesus Christ must let Him touch our lives and speak tenderly to us, "Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last, the One Who lives." As members of the church, we should enjoy favor with one another, praising God with exultation and sincerity of heart, because "it is by your love for one another that all will know that you are My disciples" (John 13:34-35).

In this community of faith, whenever we gather to worship and celebrate the Eucharist, the risen Lord visits us and breathes His Spirit upon us, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you" (John 20:21). He appears to us as a worshipping community, and He sends us to share His peace with one another. He exhorts us to forgive those who offend us. Like the early Christians, He invites us to come together and share the Word and Eucharist. There is strength in unity, thus, whenever you and I come together in this community of faith, Christ is in our midst - He empowers us with the strength to fight and to defeat the devil and to subdue our enemies. Surely, there are challenges as we strive to serve and be faithful to God - there are difficulties on the paths of the leadership and the faithful of the Church, but our united effort will always embolden our resolve to succeed. Jesus urges us, "Do not be afraid!" He is always present to work many signs in our midst. He is there to forgive our sins - He is there to heal us - He is there to take away our pains - He is there to comfort us in our sorrow. Indeed, Jesus is always there to give us new life, because He holds "the keys to death and the netherworld."

Rev. Anthony M. Bessy, MSP

PARISH NEWS

The ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY meeting will be held this Monday, April 8th, at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All women of the Parish are invited.



The SANCTUARY LAMP for this week will be lit in loving memory William Wassmer.

CHILDREN'S MASS: Please make it a point to bring your child to pray with the Risen Christ at the Children's Mass next Sunday and the rest of the Sundays in April. The 10 a.m. Mass will focus on our children. The Parish Children's Choir and the Folk Group will sing at the Mass. The children are encouraged to sit with their friends and classmates during the Mass.



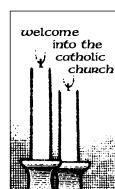
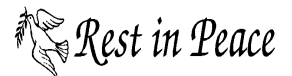
ADULT FAITH FORMATION: Adults interested in learning more about the Catholic faith or wishing to prepare for Confirmation should contact the Religious Education Office for information about the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. (RCIA) Call 914-476-6676 for further information.



Registrations for the spring semester of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, a faith formation program for the 4 and 5 year olds are being accepted now. The start date for this Montessori based program that uses a variety of hands materials is Wednesday, April 17th. Please contact Cheryl Duda listed on the cover of the bulletin to register or to schedule a tour.

Naming God: A Quandary for Jews, Christians and Muslims A free Fordham University lecture will be given by Rev. Patrick J. Ryan, S.J. and Laurence J. McGinley, Professor of Religion and Society, on Tuesday, April 9th, 6 p.m. at 12th floor Lounge, E. Gerald Corrigan Conference Center, Lincoln Center Campus, 113 West 60th Street, New York City and repeated on Wednesday, April 10th, 6 p.m. at Flom Auditorium, Walsh Library, Rose Hill Campus, Bronx. For more information call (718) 817-4745 or e-mail mcgchair@fordham.edu.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Rosanna Roth.



CONGRATULATIONS to Jack Danial, Kavia Garayua, Nyia Garayua, Raymond Molina, and Jarilyn Rodriguez, who were baptized and confirmed; and Nancy Silva who was received into Full Communion of the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil Mass. We pray that God

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

welcome them into our family of faith.

WELCOMING OUR NEW PARISHIONERS

We especially want to welcome these individuals and families who joined or returned to our Parish family since January:

Mary Cuello
Mary Decker-Alifanz
Jaclyn Dolan
Hester Hemplo

Please feel free to speak to our pastor or any of the pastoral staff if you need any assistance. Your presence in our parish family means a lot to all of us. Once again, welcome!

2014 MASS BOOK IS OPEN

The Mass Book for 2014 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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, April 10th, at 7 p.m.
Cardinal Hayes Council 3995
645 Yonkers Ave, Yonkers
(914) 709-5090 - kofc3995@gmail.com

All Catholic men in good standing with the Catholic Church and at least 18 years old are welcome to join. Please attend the Open House to learn more about who they are & what they do.

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY

Because of the rave reviews of our last trip, the next Adult Faith Formation Trip opportunity is an additional visit to **Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, Pennsylvania** to see *Noah* on **Friday, August 9th**. The \$145 price includes the bus, the show, and great Amish cuisine at Miller's Smorgasbord after the show.

YOUTH MINISTRY

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.



Tithing - God's Plan for Giving

April 1, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$8797.75
Children's Contribution	\$189.15
Last Year's Total	\$8986.90

Last year's Easter Gifts totaled \$19,770.00

March 31, 2013

Adults' Contribution	\$4805.55
Children's Contribution	\$348.60
This Year's Total	\$5154.15

This Year's Easter Gifts \$20,481.00

- The Holy Thursday collection to aid the poor totaled \$1441.45.
- The Good Friday collection in support of the Holy Land totaled \$1452.90.

"WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR OURSELVES ALONE DIES WITH US; WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD REMAINS AND IS IMMORTAL."

~ Albert Pike

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, Deacon James Byrnes, Andrea Objay, Carmen Torres, Frank Marra, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, Edith Dugan, Gary Roth, Joyann Allan, 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 Swiatkowicz, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Roseanne 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, Amada Ortiz, Karen Aprea,

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 7, 2013

Mass  for the
Intentions *Week*

Second Sunday of Easter

Saturday, April 6 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Anthony Giuriceo +

Sunday, April 7

8:30 AM Deceased Members of DiPaolo Family +

10:00 AM Mary & Ben Bajek +

11:30 AM Julieann Campisi Moroch +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Monday, April 8

Annunciation of the Lord

7:00 AM Johanne Kaminski (living)

9:00 AM Anne Frischman & Ceil Mahoney +

Tuesday, April 9

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Joseph DeMarzo +

9:00 AM Clementine & Larry D'Arienzo +

Wednesday, April 10

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Debbie DiCaprio +

9:00 AM Alphonse Miele +

Thursday, April 11

Saint Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr

7:00 AM William Wassmer +

9:00 AM Marcello Barcello +

Friday, April 12

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Madeleine Savard +

9:00 AM John Esposito +

Saturday, April 13

Easter Weekday

9:00 AM John Esposito, Sr. +

Third Sunday of Easter

Saturday, April 13 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Lucille & Carl Rossi +

Sunday, April 14

8:30 AM Carmine Nicholas Maccia +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Gino & Ann Luisa Coniglio +

5:00 PM Margaret Cedar +

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TODAY IS ***DIVINE MERCY*** **SUNDAY**



Pope John Paul II designated the Second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday; and to ensure that the faithful would observe the day with devotion, he established special graces for participating in prayers and devotions honoring God's Divine Mercy. In his homily at the beatification of Sister Mary Faustina, he reflected on the readings of the Second Sunday of Easter, saying:

"The message of the divine mercy is implicitly a message about the value of every human being. Each person is precious in God's eyes; Christ gave His life for each one; to everyone the Father gives His Spirit and offers intimacy."

The feast of Divine Mercy is both a celebration of God's merciful love and an example for us to follow. God's love for us is never more evident than when He forgives our sins. Today's Gospel describes Jesus' first appearance to His disciples after His resurrection; when He said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." Then breathing on them, He said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them; and whose you retain are retained." (John 20, 19-23)

What a great gift of His Divine Mercy we receive through our priests in the Sacrament of Reconciliation! We have a duty not only to praise this gift of His Divine Mercy, but also to be agents of mercy in the lives of other people by performing corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

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THE MIRACLE PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I come before You just as I am. I am sorry for all my sins. I repent of my sins, please forgive me. In Your name, I forgive all others for what they have done against me. I renounce Satan, the evil spirits and all their works. I give You my entire self, Lord Jesus, now and forever. I invite You into my life Jesus. I accept You as my Lord, God and Savior. Heal me, change me, strengthen me in body, soul and spirit. Come Lord Jesus, cover me with Your Precious Blood and fill me with Your Holy Spirit. **I love You, Lord Jesus. I Praise You, Jesus. I Thank You, Jesus.** I shall follow You every day of my life. Amen.

Mary my Mother, Queen of Peace, all the Angels and Saints, please help me. Amen.

From www.circleofprayer.com

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HOLD THE DATE - SATURDAY, MAY 18TH

We will celebrate Deacon Bob Clemens' 25th Anniversary as a deacon at the 5 p.m. Mass with a Dinner Reception to

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follow in the McManus Parish Center. Watch for additional information in the coming weeks.

