

## VACATIONING WITH JESUS

(Jer. 23, 1-6: Ps. 23: 1-3, 3-4, 5, 6: Eph. 2:13-18: Mark 6:30-34)

On the fourth Sunday of Easter we celebrated "Good Shepherd Sunday," when Christ reminded us that He is the Good Shepherd Who lays down His life for His sheep. Once again, the image of a shepherd dominates today's scripture readings. This image is well established throughout the entire Scripture for the simple reason that it was easily understood by the agricultural people of biblical times.

Then, kings had long been called shepherds, basically, because it was their sacred duty to instill the fear of God in their kingdom, and also to ensure that their subjects paid allegiance to no one else but God alone. They were to keep their kingdom pointed to the Lord God, and not allow it to wander away. Unfortunately, some of the kings were not truly "good shepherds." The example of that was King Jehoiakin, who succeeded his father, King Josiah, who was killed in a battle. Jehoiakin did not put his trust in the Lord's promises; rather, he relied on making treaties with pagan nations. Thus, through Prophet Jeremiah, the Lord threatened to punish the "bad shepherds" and take the Kingdom away from kings such as Jehoiakin, and hand it over to shepherds (kings) who would be willing to take good care of the Lord's flock (God's chosen people) - a true shepherd who will "gather the remnant of My flock," nourish them, and increase their number.

For forty years Jeremiah was the voice of God during all of the political upheaval and moral decay of the society at that time. He was not afraid to denounce a series of kings as weak and unworthy shepherds. Through His words today one can hear the outrage of God against the leaders who had been given the privileges of being a shepherd but who neglected their responsibilities. "Woe to the shepherds who mislead and scatter the flock of My pasture, says the LORD." The story does not end here however, but with a promise that God will "raise up a righteous shoot to David" who will be a true shepherd and who "shall do what is just and right."

God's promise by Jeremiah is made manifest in our Lord Jesus Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus presents Himself as that promised Shepherd. He is God's chosen Shepherd Who will "guide (you and me) in (the) right paths." When we trust and follow Him, He leads us back to God. He restores us to a right relationship with God so that you and I may ultimately "dwell in the house of the Lord" all the days of our life. He is the Shepherd Who will deliver us from all evil and temptations. He will do all that a true shepherd is expected to do - caring, protecting, guiding, leading and nourishing his flock. Jesus is the Shepherd Who never fails us - He will lead you and me to a "greener pasture."

In today's Gospel reading Jesus invites you and me to "come off" with Him to "a deserted place" of solitude to rest with Him. Granted, you and I have a lot going on in our lives, but Jesus knocks at the door of your heart and invites you to open it for Him. Like the Apostles, we may have worked so hard, but Jesus, the Good Shepherd, wants you to take time out and hasten to meet Him, Whose heart is always moved with pity for you, who are "like sheep without a shepherd." You must make an effort to follow Jesus, Who is present in the Holy Eucharist offered at Mass every Sunday where your physical, emotional, and spiritual hungers can be fed by Him, and Him alone.

*Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP*




Registration for Religious Education classes for public school children, running September through June, is open. Children entering the program must be 6 years

of age by December. Classes are available for children in 1<sup>st</sup> grade through High School senior year, including those with Special Education needs. Classes are available to prepare children at 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.



**ALTAR FLOWERS** for this week have been donated in loving memory of Gabriel Nanoia by Louis & Angela Brusco.

The **ALTAR BREAD & WINE, ALTAR CANDLES** and **SANCTUARY LAMP** for the week have been donated in loving memory of Gabriel Nanoia by Louis & Angela Brusco.



**THE HOMEBOUND:** St. Bartholomew's Parish wishes to show our love and care for our members who for reasons of health or infirmity cannot be with us as we gather for Mass each week. Our aim is for all parishioners who are homebound, permanently or temporarily, to be visited by a Priest and/or an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion on a regular basis.

Often we will hear of someone who is homebound but had not been receiving the Eucharist for a long time although this individual may have been, during healthier times, a very devout Catholic. Often we will hear that the person didn't want to "bother anyone" or "put anyone out." Often these individuals become our "hidden Catholics" and we sometimes don't learn of them until years later when we celebrate their funeral liturgy.

We want our sick and homebound to know they are valued members of our parish and we want to bring Jesus to them. **However, we need your help.** These individuals are often hidden in our community and only a neighbor knows of their presence. Please help by personally contacting those homebound Catholics whom you know of and telling them of our availability and deep desire to bring the Eucharist to them. We are flexible and very willing to work around their personal needs and schedules.

If you know of a homebound Catholic who would like to receive the Eucharist please contact Cheryl Duda of the Liturgy Committee on 476-6676 or the Rectory on 965-0566.

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

# welcome



We welcome **Father Francis Gargani, C.Ss.R.** to our parish community. He will be speaking to us about the role we can play to support the missionary work of the Redemptorist Fathers. You and I are invited to join in the worldwide mission of Jesus by supporting the Propagation of the Faith, through prayer and financial aid. Please, let us be generous in supporting this worthy cause of the Church's mission.

St. Bartholomew's Parish and Hudson Valley Blood Services express sincere appreciation to the 79 donors and 17 dedicated volunteers, including 11 school children, who participated in the Blood Drive on July 6<sup>th</sup>, donating 85 units of blood (61 regular and 12 ALYX - double red cell). St. Bart's has now collected 5377 units in 72 drives since our first drive in 1981. There were 7 new donors and 13 walk-ins.



Any donors who could not come to the drive can make an appointment to donate at their convenience by calling HVBS at 1-800-933-BLOOD. Ask to credit your donation to St. Bart's Group #7747. Our next Blood Drive will be held on November 23<sup>rd</sup>; please plan on joining us.

## THE 2012 ARCHDIOCESAN STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

St. Bartholomew's Church was given a goal of \$50,500 for the 2012 Archdiocesan Stewardship Appeal. **Through the participation of 212 of our families, we attained 120.74% of that goal with pledges of \$60,971.85.** Of that total, \$40,778.85 has already been paid to the Archdiocese, leaving just over \$20,000 outstanding. When all the outstanding pledges are paid, St. Bartholomew's Parish will receive a rebate of over \$10,000.

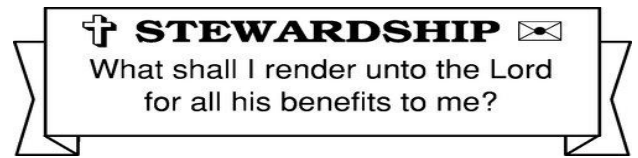
In these times of economic struggle, the sacrifice of these parishioners in support of this Appeal helps strengthen and fosters the truth that we are the Body of Christ. Thank you all for your support of this Appeal and our Parish.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** to help advertise our Religious Education Program in the community by distributing flyers on your street or contacting a business that might display a flyer in their window. Please contact Cheryl Duda (476-6676) and **OFFER TO BRING ONE OR TWO FLYERS TO A STORE/BUSINESS NEAR YOU.**

**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

<b>July 17, 2011</b>	
Adults' Contribution	\$4907.25
Children's Contribution	\$61.65
<b>Last Year's Total</b>	<b>\$4968.90</b>

<b>July 15, 2012</b>	
Adults' Contribution	\$6860.75
Children's Contribution	\$50.45
<b>This Year's Total</b>	<b>\$6911.20</b>

*"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."*

## 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, Andy DeFabritis, Maryann Tolli, Maria Marte, Ed Carpenter, 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, Mark Baum, Frank Marra, 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, Stan Buoninfante, Donna Vasconez, Mary Ann Berengur, Gene DelBene, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatkovicz, Rose Botcheller, Silvia Georgi, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Steve Oddo, Roseann Mercandetti, Paul Bolduc, Amelia Gagliardi, Louis Brusco, Josephine Daniele, Jennifer Dorsey, Valerie Riccardi, Fatima Panik, Joanne Moscarello, Marian Fletcher and Minerva Hernandez.



Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Eugene J. Tringali.

## GIANT TAG SALE - SATURDAY, AUGUST 25<sup>TH</sup> MCMANUS PARISH CENTER

Our Religious Education Department and our Youth Group plan to run a Tag Sale in the McManus Parish Center as a fund raiser. Please save the date! They are accepting donations of: **Jewelry household items bric-a-brac electronics in good working order toys & games with all their pieces etc.** Please no books! More information will be coming. For any questions or to make arrangements to drop off donations, please call Cheryl Duda on 476-6676.

JULY 22, 2012

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Mass  for the  
Intentions Week

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Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Saturday, July 21 (Anticipated Mass)**

Weekday

5:00 PM Carollee Layfaye +

**Sunday, July 22**

8:30 AM Deceased Members of Tramontozzi Family

10:00 AM Charles & Stefana Barba +

11:30 AM Lena Castaldo +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

**Monday, July 23**

Weekday

7:00 AM Joey Abraham +

9:00 AM Benjamin & Corazon Sotto +

**Tuesday, July 24**

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Robert & Tatyana Shannon (living)

**Wednesday, July 25**

Saint James, Apostle

7:00 AM Margie McShane +

9:00 AM Gabriel Nanoia +

**Thursday, July 26**

Saints Joachim & Anne, Parents of Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 AM Sister Anne Denise Brennan, S.C. (living)

9:00 AM Anthony Esposito +

**Friday, July 27**

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Frances Swetz +

**Saturday, July 28**

Weekday

9:00 AM Carmela Greco +

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**Saturday, July 28 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM Deceased Members of Victor Orsini's Family

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**Sunday, July 29**

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM Special Intention

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Paul Montalbano +

5:00 PM Frank & Carmela Legio +

*JULY 22, 2012*

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**JAMES  
APOSTLE  
JULY 25**

This James is the brother of John the Evangelist. The two were called by Jesus as they worked with their father in a fishing boat on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus had already called another pair of brothers from a similar occupation: Peter and Andrew. "He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then He called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed Him" (Mark 1:19-20).

James was one of the favored three who had the privilege of witnessing the Transfiguration, the raising to life of the daughter of Jarius, and the agony in Gethsemane.

Two incidents in the Gospels describe the temperament of this man and his brother. Saint Matthew tells that their mother came (Mark says it was the brothers themselves) to ask that they have the seats of honor (one on the right, one on the left of Jesus) in the kingdom. "Jesus said in reply, 'You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink?' They said to Him, 'We can!'" (Matthew 20:22). Jesus then told them they would indeed drink the cup and share His baptism of pain and death, but that sitting at His right hand or left hand was not His to give - it "is for those for Whom it has been prepared by My Father" (Matthew 20:23b). It remained to be seen how long it would take to realize the implications of their confident "We can!"

The other disciples became indignant at the ambition of James and John. Then Jesus taught them all the lesson of humble service: The purpose of authority is to serve. They are not to impose their will upon others, or lord it over them. This is the position of Jesus Himself. He was the servant of all; the service imposed on Him was the supreme sacrifice of His own life.

On another occasion, James and John gave evidence that the nickname Jesus gave them - "sons of thunder" - was an apt one. The Samaritans would not welcome Jesus because He was on His way to hated Jerusalem. "When the disciples James and John saw this they asked, 'Lord, do You want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?'" Jesus turned and rebuked them ..." (Luke 9:54-55).

James was apparently the first of the apostles to be martyred. "About that time King Herod laid hands upon some members of the church to harm them. He had James, the brother of John, killed by the sword, and when he saw that this was pleasing to the Jews he proceeded to arrest Peter also" (Acts 12:1-3a).

This James, sometimes called James the Greater, is not to be confused with the author of the Letter of James and the leader of the Jerusalem community.

**From *Saint of the Day*, edited by Leonard Foley, O.F.M., & Pat McCloskey, O.F.M.**

