

SERVING, NOT FOR HONOR!

Wisdom 2:12, 17-20; Psalm 54:3-8; James 3:16-4:3; Mark 9:30-37

In last Sunday's gospel Jesus asked Peter to "Get behind Me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." This happened because Peter and other disciples failed to understand that the Messiah they were expecting was not one who would come with pomp and grandeur. Instead, He was the "Suffering Servant" Prophet Isaiah spoke about in Isaiah 42: "Here is My servant Whom I uphold, My chosen one...I have put My Spirit upon Him...He does not shout or raise His voice...A broken reed He will not crush...He will make justice appear in truth." Thus, in today's gospel Jesus further explains to the disciples that the Messiah is "The Son of Man (Who) is to be handed over to men...kill Him, and three days after...the Son of Man will rise."

Generally, people like to identify and associate themselves with important people like celebrities, politicians and the powerful - some might even go a long way to get their autographs and photographs. At the time of Jesus, the Jewish culture was built around a sense of honor and shame. His disciples had the concept that the Messiah was to be a great king who would bring Israel back to its former glory. Since they perceived Jesus as possibly the Messiah, they believed that identifying with Him would bring them status and honor. Thus, they were scandalized when Jesus told them that He had to suffer and to die. They did not take Him seriously, and hence, they went ahead to discuss among themselves "who was the greatest." Jesus was disappointed and challenged them, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be last of all and the servant of all."

He further exhorted them to emulate Him in receiving and welcoming little children. "Whoever receives one child such as this in My name, receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but the One Who sent Me." In this passage, Jesus is not using the child as a symbol of innocence, but rather as a symbol of a person without honor and status - a non-person. In Jesus' culture, a child (like a woman) was one "not to be counted" among persons. They were people without honor and status - people who could not contribute to the economic or social standing of a community. In other words, Jesus is telling us to receive Him and also to emulate Him as a Messiah Who has come without status and honor, because "the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve..." (Matt. 20:28). As followers of Christ, you and I must not shy away from this symbol of powerlessness and vulnerability. We must not seek after status and honor.

Like in Jesus' culture, status and honor are also important in our culture. But today's scripture readings tell us that status means nothing in the Kingdom of God. As Christ's follower, in order to gain entry into God's Kingdom, you must be humble and willing to serve. The humility of a Christian will definitely bring about peace, honesty and stability. In contrast, "Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every foul practice." St. James rhetorically asked: "Where do the wars and where do the conflicts among you come from?" They certainly emanate from our pride and from unwillingness to allow God to take control of our lives. When we cannot control these passions they sometimes produce a dysfunctional community. In order to avoid such adversity, Jesus exhorts, "Whoever wishes to come after Me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me." Our willingness to suffer persecution for the sake of the Gospel is a requirement for those who follow Christ. The key characteristic of a Christian is his willingness to serve others in humility.

PARISH NEWS

St. Bartholomew's Rosary Altar Society sponsors

CLOTHING DRIVE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH

From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wearable clothing, linens and toys accepted. For information, call Alice Jacob (914 963-1686) or the Rectory Office (965-0566).



Religious Education helps to build a strong foundation

Registration for Religious Education classes for public school children, running September through June, is open. Classes are available for **children in Pre-K through High School senior year**, including those with Special Education needs. Classes are available to prepare children of 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.

OUR CHILDREN'S MASS

Next Sunday, September 30th, we will have Children's Mass at the 10 a.m. Mass. We urge parents to please make it a point to bring their child to the Church every Sunday. We also ask parents to encourage their children, who are in 3rd grade and above, to sign up to join the Children's Choir to sing at the Children's Mass.



PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES



Religious Education

Beginning the **first week of October**, Religious Education classes will be held on **Wednesdays from 3:45 p.m. – 5 p.m.** for Pre-K and Kindergarten children. The materials used for this *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* program are all "hands-on", such as miniature Mass items, priest vestments, a wooden Good Shepherd figure, sheep, and a sheepfold to mention a few. **Registration is limited, so please call 476-6676 for information and registration.**

FOURTH ANNUAL RETREAT DAY

For CATHOLIC TEACHERS in PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Archdiocesan Catechetical Office is sponsoring the Fourth Annual Retreat for Catholic Teachers in Public Schools on Wednesday, September 26th, a public school holiday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Maryknoll Center, 55 Ryder Road, Ossining. As the new school year begins, join Catholic teachers, both active and retired, from across the Archdiocese of New York to deepen your appreciation of your ministry as a teacher, share with colleagues, pray, and reflect. A suggested donation of \$25 is requested to help defray the cost. For information call Helen Doon (212-371-1011, 212-3822).

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Please join the Parish Pastoral Council in welcoming new parishioners to our community on Sunday, October 7th, at the 10 a.m. Mass and Family Breakfast after Mass. As part of its Evangelization efforts, the Council will plan additional welcoming events throughout the year with the hope that they become a parish tradition.

FAMILY DAY

A DAY TO EAT WITH YOUR CHILDREN

The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University encourage families to have dinner together this Monday, September 24th, to celebrate **Family Day – A Day to Eat with Your Children**. Dinner time is the ideal time to connect with your children, pray together, and share laughs. The parental engagement fostered during frequent family dinners can help your kids have a better sense of their identity, which helps them resist peer pressure, especially against substance abuse. Your children need to hear from you and you need to hear from them! Let's work to restore the sacredness of family life. Learn more at www.casafamilyday.org.



God has called us through the Gospel to possess the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let Worldwide Marriage Encounter help your marriage/holy orders radiate the glory of Christ. For more information on dates and locations call toll free 877 697-9963, ext. 3 or visit www.wmearchny.org

Worldwide Marriage Encounter's mission of renewal in the Church and change in the world is to assist couples and priests to live fully intimate & responsible relationships by providing them with a Catholic experience and ongoing community support for such a lifestyle.

MEMBERS NEEDED: From 3rd Grade right through Senior Citizen, you have the opportunity to sing the Lord's praises by joining one of St. Bartholomew's Choirs - Children's Choir, Teen Choir, Folk Group, or Adult Choir. New members are always welcome; and no experience is necessary. Please see the Music Director, Erika, or call the Parish Office at 965-0566.

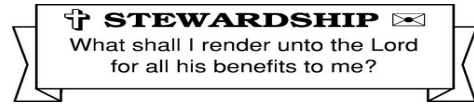


MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA: Held after the 9 a.m. Mass on Mondays.

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.



Tithing - God's Plan for Giving

September 18, 2011

Adults' Contribution	\$5593.25
Children's Contribution	\$53.00
Last Year's Total	\$5646.25

September 9, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$5622.00
Children's Contribution	\$142.65
This Year's Total	\$5764.65

The collection for St. Joseph's Seminary totaled \$1653.95.

"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 to all those who are participating in our tithing program! May God bless and reward your sacrifices! For those who are not yet tithing, I encourage you to please give it a prayerful thought. Thanks!

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, 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, Dan Seratto, 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, Amelia Gagliardi, 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, Edith D'Aquila, Anna Brucculeri, and Peggy Clevenberg.

REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES, LIVING AND DEAD

The Mass Book for 2013 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.

SEPTEMBER 23, 2012



Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, September 22 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Manuel & William Pragana +

Sunday, September 23

8:30 AM Frank & Carmela Legio +
10:00 AM Mildred & Michael Pollick +
11:30 AM Lawrence Tiplady +
5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Monday, September 24

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention
9:00 AM Josephine Sciarabba +

Tuesday, September 25

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention
9:00 AM Joseph Frischman +

Wednesday, September 26

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention
9:00 AM Frank Lutomski, Sr. +

Thursday, September 27

Saint Vincent de Paul, Priest

7:00 AM Rita Bolduc +
9:00 AM Elvin Porcel, Emilia & John DeRosa +

Friday, September 28

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention
9:00 AM Angelina Brusco +

Saturday, September 29

Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels

9:00 AM Sister Esther Byrne +

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, September 29 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Deceased Members of Ragusa Family +

Sunday, September 30

8:30 AM Lenore Erb +
10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish
11:30 AM Julieann Cammisi Moroch +

SEPTEMBER 23, 2012

5:00 PM

Lawrence Robinson +

SEPTEMBER 23, 2012

SAINTS MICHAEL, GABRIEL, & RAPHAEL ARCHANGELS

September 29



Angels are spirits without bodies, who possess superior intelligence, gigantic strength, and surpassing holiness. They enjoy an intimate relationship to God as His special adopted children, contemplating, loving, and praising Him in heaven. Some of them are frequently sent as

messengers to men from on high.

This feast celebrates three angels who were sent by God to man over the course of the ages: Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael. They are termed Archangels, the second of nine choirs of Angels, which are in descending order: Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominations, Virtues, Powers, Principalities, Archangels, and Angels.

The name Michael signifies "Who is like to God?" and was the war cry of the good angels in the battle fought in heaven against Satan and his followers. Holy Scripture describes St. Michael as "one of the chief princes," and as leader of the forces of heaven in their triumph over the powers of hell. He has been especially honored and invoked as patron and protector by the Church from the time of the Apostles. Although he is always called "the Archangel," the Greek Fathers and many others place him over all the Angels - as Prince of the Seraphim.

The name Gabriel means "man of God," or "God has shown Himself mighty." It appears first in the prophecies of Daniel in the Old Testament. This angel announced to Daniel the prophecy of the seventy weeks (Daniel, 9, 21-27). His name also occurs in the apocryphal book of Henoch. He was the Angel who appeared to Zechariah to announce the birth of St. John the Baptizer (Luke1, 11). Finally, he announced to Mary that she would bear a Son Who would be conceived of the Holy Spirit, Son of the Most High, and the Savior of the world (Luke1, 26).

The name Raphael means "God has healed." This Angel first appears in Holy Scripture in the Book of Tobit. He acts as a guide to young Tobiah on his journey to Rages, a city in the country of the Medes, east of Nineveh, to collect a debt owed to his father. The Angel binds the demon Asasel in the desert of Egypt, helps Tobiah to find a wife and recover the debt, and heals Tobit from his blindness. He then reveals his identity: "I am the Angel Raphael, one of the seven who stand before the throne of God."

PRAYER: *God, with great wisdom You direct the ministry of Angels and men. Grant that those who always minister to You in heaven may defend us during our life on earth. Amen.*

SEPTEMBER 23, 2012

From *Lives of the Saints*, revised by Rev. Hugo Hoever,
S.O.Cist., Ph.D.

