

OUR FAMILY LIFE!

1Sam. 1:20-22, 24-28; Psalm 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; 1John 3:1-2, 21-24, Luke 2:41-52

"Family is first and foremost the primary field where the seed of evangelization should be planted, therefore, married people have a special task of working for the building up of the People of God...Parents are the primary agents of evangelization and...have the responsibility and the right to give their children Christian education" Vat. II, GS, 52.

In today's second reading, St. John reminds us, "Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. And so we are." We are indeed God's children, because like the old Christian maxim goes, "The family that prays together stays together!" The unity and the strength of a family will always be made manifest in their ability to pray and worship together as God's children. When a family prays together, it will have the strength to endure difficulties – the faith to bear with one another – the power to overcome temptation.

Today's families are challenged in so many ways. They are enticed and hypnotized by the materialistic world to spend money on unnecessary items – coerced by our technologically oriented society to spend time on video games, Internets, iPods, etc., rather than build a relationship with our fellow human beings. Many children spend time alone, rather than interact with other family members, even during major family gatherings. The nucleus family is broken! Parents are "too busy making ends meet," while on the other hand; children are "too busy expending the means." There is no time left for them to pray, eat, relax, play and/or to worship God together as a family. Sadly, there is breakdown of the traditional family and its values – filial respect for authority – exercised responsibly by parents – and a rise in a culture of youth violence. The culture that has deemphasized the importance of family values, has unintentionally, sadly, helped in shaking the moral fabric of our society. Many have lost faith in God and His Church, and even in the government. Many children may rightly feel their parents and society have let them down.

The challenges that families face today are not peculiar to our own time, even the Holy Family faced similar challenges, but the difference is that many of our family have "taken God out of the equation." On this feast of the Holy Family, and always, Christian Parents (and godparents) must remember it is the Christian marriage and the Christian family that build up the Church (and society). The vitality of the Church-as-Family can only be effective insofar as all Christian families become authentic "Domestic Churches." Hannah, in the first reading, made a promise to God, "Once the child (Samuel) is weaned, I will take him to appear before the Lord and to remain there forever; I will offer him..." She later made good on her promise. At Baptism, parents (and godparents) make a similar promise to the Lord, to raise their child in the Catholic faith and to teach them all that the Church teaches – to love God above all things and to love others as themselves. Thus, it is the primary duty of parents to devote time and energy to educating and instructing their child in the ways of the Lord. Like Hannah and Elkana, and like Mary and Joseph, they have the obligation to bring their child to the "Temple for the feast of the Passover" during Mass on Sundays and Holydays of Obligation – teach them good values – direct them in the way of God. Every Christian parent should model Hannah and Mary in making good their promise to raise their child in a manner pleasing to God and beneficial to society. Parents must pray for themselves and for their child and must "rededicate" them and their entire family to the Lord. Our families must model that of Jesus, Mary and Joseph – a family of mutual respect, reverence, patience, joy, peace and love. May all our children, like Jesus, "advance in wisdom and age and favor before God and man."

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP

PARISH NEWS



NEW YEAR'S DAY Tuesday, January 1st

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mother of God

Just as we begin all things with prayer, this New Year's Day, every Catholic is encouraged to begin the year by attending Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God; which is a holy day of obligation. As a parish family we will honor our Blessed Mother, Mary, and also pray for peace in our world. The times for Masses are as follows:

- Monday, Dec. 31st 5 p.m. Vigil Mass
- Tuesday, Jan. 1st 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.
- **There will be no 5 p.m. Mass on New Year's Day.**

OUR MONTHLY FAMILY MASS

will be celebrated **next Sunday, January 6th**. The Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. All children and their families are encouraged to attend. Mass will be followed by "Family Breakfast" at the McManus Parish Center. All are welcome!



We invite everyone to join the Parish Pastoral Council in welcoming new parishioners to our community next Sunday, January 6th, 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.



The **Altar Bread & Wine, Altar Candles, and Sanctuary Lamp** for this week have been donated in loving memory of Frank Nanoia by Lou and Angela Brusco.

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



Just a reminder, that Religious Education classes will resume after the holidays, on Tuesday, January 8, 2013.

All Catholic children attending public schools should enroll in a religious education program. Please call (476-6676) for more information.

WWW.SAINTBARTSPARISH.ORG

Check out recent additions to the St. Bartholomew's Adult Faith Formation website which can be reached through our Parish website, listed above. Through the Adult Faith Formation tab, you can be linked to hear Msgr. John Kennedy's weekly Vatican Radio talk show. During this Year of Faith when we are asked to revisit the Catechism of the Catholic Church, you can register your email address to receive a short section of the Catechism each day. Within a year you will have received the entire Catechism! Contact Cheryl Duda (476-6676) if you have difficulty reaching this site.



ST. BART'S SHARING COMMUNITY MEAL: This Thursday, January 3rd, we will be preparing our Sharing Community Meal. Please bring your ziti or dessert to the Rectory. Doors will open at 6:45 a.m. For information on participating in this important effort, please call the Rectory Office.

HOLY HOUR: This Friday, January 4th, is First Friday. We will have our monthly Holy Hour at 1 p.m. On Saturday, January 5th, the Divine Mercy Holy Hour will begin at 3 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to participate in these wonderful devotions.



"Blessed are they who dwell in Your house, O Lord!" Come and see what graces are available to your marriage/holy orders on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are February 9/10 and March 1 - 3. For more information, call (877) 697-9963, ext. 3 or go to www.wwme.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 and responsible relationships by providing them with a Catholic "experience" and ongoing community support for such a lifestyle.

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY – FEBRUARY 10, 2013

Longest Married Couple Search

The search begins for the longest married couple in the Archdiocese of New York! To enter couples must be sacramentally married for a minimum of 65 years and reside in the Archdiocese of NY. The longest married couple(s) will be honored on Sunday, February 10th, at St. Patrick's Cathedral at the 10:15 a.m. Mass with a reception to follow.

For further information or to make reservations contact Izabella Nagle on 646 794-3190 or at izabella.nagle@archny.org. Mail entries to: Family Life + Respect Life Office, 1011 First Avenue, New York, NY 10022, Attention: Izabella Nagle. The deadline for entries is January 30, 2013.

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

RECITATION OF THE ROSARY: Join your fellow parishioners in praying the Rosary after the 9 a.m. Mass on weekdays and Saturdays.

Because of early Christmas closings collection information for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas will be reported on January 6, 2013.

PARISH SUPPORT: Next Sunday, January 6th, we will take up a second collection in support of our Parish buildings and grounds. Please endeavor to donate generously.

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!

"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



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 Swiatkowitz, 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, Amada Ortiz, Karen Aprea, Stephen Sarich, and Neil Cawley.

REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES, LIVING AND DEAD

The Mass Book for 2013 is open and has availability. Consider giving a loved one the graces associated with having a Mass offered on their behalf. Also, you may consider offering the Altar flowers, Altar bread and wine, Altar candles, or lighting the Sanctuary lamp for a week 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.

YOUTH GROUP: 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.



Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Aristide Scipioni.

DECEMBER 30, 2012

Mass  *for the*
Intentions *Week*

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Saturday, December 29 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Frank & Carmela Legio & Family +

Sunday, December 30

8:30 AM Caroline Klee +

10:00 AM Lenore Ciccone +

11:30 AM Robert Sabetelli +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Monday, December 31

Seventh Day within Octave of Christmas

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM John & Nancy Gaffney +

Vigil for the Solemnity of Mary

5:00 PM Caroline Klee + (Vigil Mass)

Tuesday, January 1

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

8:30 AM Donato Sacchetta +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Vincent J. Campisi +

Wednesday, January 2

Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Jennifer Sacaradis +

Thursday, January 3

Christmas Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Frank Nanoia +

Friday, January 4

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Deceased Members of the Sullivan Family +

Saturday, January 5

Saint John Neuman, Bishop

9:00 AM No Intention

Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, January 5 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Deceased Members of Ragusa & Orsini Families

Sunday, January 6

8:30 AM Frances Starkenberg +

10:00 AM Anthony Fontanello, Sr. +

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Frank & Carmela Legio +

YEAR OF FAITH



Time and time again we are reminded that the family is the backbone of any society. By the placement of the Feast of the Holy Family within the octave of Christmas the Church once again reminds us as well that the family is the strength of the Church through which its mission to lead all souls to Christ is fulfilled. The Second Vatican Council

teaches us about this reality in many of its documents. Especially noteworthy are the thoughts expressed by the Council Fathers in the Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People: "The mission of being the primary cell of society has been given to the family by God Himself. This mission will be accomplished if the family, by mutual affection of its members and by family prayer, presents itself as a domestic sanctuary of the Church; if the whole family takes its part in the Church's liturgical worship; if, finally it offers active hospitality, and practices justice and other good works for the benefit of its brothers suffering from want."

These words might remain pious platitudes unless as a community each family stands ready to put them into effect and witness to their truth in faith. There is an expression from Roman law that one cannot give what they do not have. Parents cannot give to their children a fruitful experience of spousal love and affection and ultimately parental love and affection unless they demonstrate it daily, especially when they might not be "feeling such." After a day of trial and tribulation it is especially important for the couple to give time to each other to vent and most importantly, to heal one another. Don't think that all Joseph's customers were delights or all of Mary's days were fulfilling. "Quality time" with the children is a much overused concept because many do not know what it means. To shop in the Mall is not necessarily quality time unless for example, it is an occasion for a parent to sit down with their child and discuss what is going on in their lives.

Of course, what is most important is the witnessing of Catholic values in the family. Sunday Mass should be a central event in everyone's life. A good practice might be to make sure it is followed by a leisurely breakfast during which the homily might be discussed and the points of the readings. The family gathered in prayer is certainly a good building block for the first church of a young family. There are many wonderful stories about biblical figures and saints which could be read in the evening. And it must be acknowledged that there are wonderful DVD's covering the same subjects. We have pictures of family members, what about adding some statues or pictures to the home décor reminding us of our origins and destiny. We must not forget apostolic works that can be done by families especially with their parishes: soup kitchens, midnight or breakfast runs, efforts for our domestic and foreign missions. The Holy Family has shown the way; let us follow them from here to eternity.

