

INDEPENDENCE FROM GOD?

Zech. 9:9-10; Ps. 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14; Rom. 8:9, 11-13; Matt.11: 25-30



This Monday is July 4<sup>th</sup>, when we celebrate our independence as a nation. Those of you who are familiar with the history of this country will agree with me that 1776 was one of the most tumultuous periods in the history of this beautiful country. Therefore, when the Second Continental Congress on July 2, 1776 adopted a resolution stating that the American states “are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states”, our ancestors had a cause to rejoice and to thank God. Hence we have as our motto: ***In God We Trust***. Thus, on Independence Day, we are celebrating the *right to be* and the freedom God gave us.

In the first reading Prophet Zechariah looks forward to a meek and gentle Savior riding on an ass, Who will banish the trappings of war, chariot, and horse, and proclaim peace to the nations. This is the Savior, Who was born in a manger in order to teach us humility. Around the world today, millions of people are suffering because their leaders lack the meekness and the simplicity that was demonstrated by our Savior, Jesus Christ. Such leaders continue to take pride in “living in the flesh.” As shown in some of the legislative acts passed and signed into law by our political leaders, our nation is largely “living in the flesh” instead of “living in the spirit.” Godless politicians who just want to be *politically correct* unfortunately ignore the nation’s principles that our founding fathers built on God. St Paul, in his Letter to the Romans, cautions such politicians, “Brothers and sisters: You are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you...put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.” As Christians, we should always allow the Spirit of God to dwell in us so that we might live for others and die to ourselves. Jesus suffered and died for us in order to teach us humility. We should imitate our founding fathers, who gave up luxury and pleasure and shed their blood fighting for the freedom and the independence we now enjoy. Let us emulate their self-sacrifice, faith, trust and dependence on God!

In today’s gospel Jesus thanks God the Father for hiding “these things from the wise and the learned” and for revealing them “to little ones.” As we celebrate and thank God for the freedom and independence we enjoy today, Christ wants us to realize that it is not by our own wisdom and might that we achieved the good things we enjoy. His message to us is that we should humble ourselves like the little children because “the kingdom of God belongs to such as these” (Mk 10:13). When we go about our daily tasks with humility and with a spirit of service, God will certainly bless us. On the other hand when we and / or our politicians behave as if there is no God, and when we deliberately abuse the freedom and the independence He has given to the people of this great nation, posterity will have nothing to be proud of or live for.

In the present political and economic climate, our God’s given freedom and independence is being attacked by hunger, illiteracy, joblessness, poverty and economic hardship. Thus, we must turn to Christ, Who exhorts us to “Come to Me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest...Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and humble of heart, and you will rest for yourselves.” True happiness cannot be found in *political expediency*, but in God Who is the source of all that we have.

Rev. Anthony Ita Rassey, MSP

PARISH NEWS

ENJOY YOUR REST, FATHER ANTHONY!

As our pastor heads off for a well deserved vacation, we pray that the Lord protects him during his travels, recharges his batteries, and brings him safely home to St. Bartholomew’s parish.



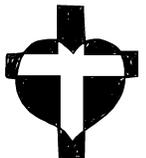
Wishing all of you a happy, safe Fourth of July and a summer filled with good times, good friends, good health of spirit, mind and body. Please keep the Lord in your thoughts and keep the rest of us in your prayers!

The ALTAR BREAD & WINE for this week is donated in loving memory of Catherine Schweizer by Ann Olsen.



The ALTAR FLOWERS are donated this week by the Rosary Altar Society in celebration of Independence Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>.

SHARING COMMUNITY MEAL: This Thursday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 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. The Sharing Community thanks all who participate. For information on this important effort, please call the Rectory Office.



**Religious Education Registration** helps to build a strong foundation for Religious Education classes for public school children, running September through June, is open. 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.

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.



## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

July 10, 2010  
Year of the Mass

Dear Friends in the Lord:

When we are told that the Lord calls each of us to be co-missionaries and co-evangelizers of the Church, as was Saint Paul and the other apostles, we do not often realize how much mission work there is to be done in the United States. There is far more than you or I could ever imagine.

The annual *National Black and Indian Mission Collection* which has been taken up in parishes across the nation for more than twenty-five years, enables the Church in the United States to provide desperately required pastoral, educational and spiritual assistance to some of the neediest of our brothers and sisters in the Lord. From the inner-cities of the rural south, to the deserts of the southwest, to the wilderness of Alaska, grants from the annual appeal make it possible for the Church to assist our Black Catholic communities.

With this letter, I invite you to be as generous as you possibly can in making a sacrificial offering to this crucially important and necessary ministry of the Church.

With gratitude and prayerful best wishes, I am,

Faithfully in Christ,  
Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan  
Archbishop of New York



#### CELL PHONE ALERT

As you join us for sacred worship, we remind you to please **TURN OFF** your cell phone. Let your focus be on Prayer and the Presence of Jesus among us.

**REGISTERED NURSE NEEDED:** The Franciscan Sisters of Peace, a small congregation of women, seek a currently licensed R.N. to oversee the health care needs of its members. The candidate must be currently licensed and experienced; college graduate preferred; knowledgeable in geriatrics; good communicator and collaborator; possess good management skills and good physical health; and hold a driver's license. Position is full time with health benefits.

Send resume to: Congregation Minister, Franciscan Sisters of Peace, 20 Ridge Street, Haverstraw, NY 10927.

**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.



### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

- The **budgeted** Collection for last Sunday was **\$5850.00**.
- The **Collection** for last Sunday was **\$5484.15**.

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

The Church's National Collection for Black and Indian Missions in the United States will be taken up at all the Masses next **weekend, July 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>**. Through your gifts you join your sacrifice to those who sacrifice daily to lead others to Christ - you become a co-missionary. Please donate as your means can afford. For those who did not receive envelopes in the mail, they are available on the tables at the back of the Church.



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 Santamarena, 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, Lois Burton, Mary DeStefano, Carmella DelBene, Dan Seratto, Mark Cianfaglione, Shawn Colon, Margaret Maccia, Nicole Ryan Betancourt, Anthony Spinner, Audrey & Alfred Falcone, Paul Montalbano, Marge Muraik, Kathleen Hayes, Eve Gammino, Marian DeMuro and Ann Olsen.

#### REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES, LIVING AND DEAD

The Mass Books for both 2011 & 2012 are open and have availability. Consider giving a loved one the graces associated with having a Mass offered on their behalf; also, consider offering the Altar flowers, Altar bread and wine, Altar candles, or lighting the 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.

#### WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER



*"Come to Me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest."* Married couples, come away and rest from life a while on the next Marriage Encounter Weekend, August 12 – 14. Please register early; call toll free 1- 877 697-9963, ext. 3 or visit [www.wmearchny.org](http://www.wmearchny.org) for more information.

#### TAKE NOTE OF OUR NEW WEBSITE

*We want to thank Kevin Albanese who developed our website in 2007 and has faithfully maintained and updated it through May of this year. We also want to welcome and thank Fred Madera who has taken on the responsibility of developing and maintaining our new website, [www.saintbartsparish.org](http://www.saintbartsparish.org). Pay a visit to the website and let us know if you have any suggestions or advice.*



*JULY 3, 2011*

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*Mass*  *for the*  
*Intentions* *Week*

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Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

**Saturday, July 2 (Vigil Mass)**

5:00 PM Peter DeMattia +

**Sunday, July 3**

8:30 AM Mary Ann Karpinski +

10:00 AM Anthony Fontanello, Sr. +

11:30 AM All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Jose Angel Ocasio +

**Monday, July 4**

Weekday - Independence Day

9:00 AM Shirley L. Green +

**Tuesday, July 5**

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Sean Woods +

**Wednesday, July 6**

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Lester Spear +

**Thursday, July 7**

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Teresina & Giovanni Brusco +

**Friday, July 8**

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Catherine Schweizer +

**Saturday, July 9**

Weekday

9:00 AM Patricia Schettino +

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**Saturday, July 9 (Vigil Mass)**

5:00 PM Robert Tolli +

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**Sunday, July 10**

Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:30 AM All the People of Our Parish

10:00 AM Ethel Castagnozzi+

11:30 AM Rose, Leo, & Gloria Savona +

5:00 PM John Barnett

