

CALLED TO SERVE WITH HUMILITY

Mal. 1:14-2:2, 8-10; Ps. 131:1-3; 1 Thess. 2:7-9, 13; Matt. 23:1-12

The Israelites had returned from their exile in Babylon about 430 B.C. It was time for the reconstruction of Jerusalem. Public worship in the Temple was in bad shape – many abuses marked the restoration of the sacrificial system – the Temple priests were despondent in the execution of their priestly ministry – they failed to challenge the people on the idolatry they had imitated while in exile. They extorted from the people – kept the best animals brought for sacrifice for themselves and offered the lesser ones. They had grown self-important, and demanded special treatment. They were self-centered and had been a bad influence on the people, causing them to sin by not correcting their faults and by not giving them proper guidance. The Lord got angry and sent one of His prophets, Malachi (a name which means *My Messenger*) to them, with these words: “I will send a curse upon you... You have turned aside from the way, and have caused many to falter by your instruction; (and you have shown) partiality in your decisions...”

In the same vein, in the gospel reading we see Jesus warning His disciples against the *yoke of the Pharisees*, the religious leaders of His time, “...do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice.” Like the priests in Malachi’s time, they were interested in positions of honor rather than service; they were interested in what they could gain rather than saving souls. Our Lord sounded a strong warning to religious leaders of all ages when He said, “As for you, do not be called *Rabbi*... Call no one on earth your father... Do not be called *Master*...” In other words, the discipleship of Christ is not about juggling for position. It is not about titles and positions of authority, but it is about service. Therefore, “the greatest among you must be your servant.”

As I reflected on these readings, I realized that just as every citizen expects their political leaders to be faithful to what they claim and the promises they make, the faithful expect us, their priests and bishops, to be committed – truthful – faithful – just – fair – humble in carrying out our duties for their spiritual, emotional and material welfare. As priests and leaders of the community, we can be beneficial to the people we are serving if only we put their needs before ours, and more so always be available to serving them with humility. Like St Paul, in his letter to the Thessalonians, we must have the compassion to nurse the people of God “as a nursing mother cares for her children.” With much affection for the people whom we serve, we should truly be “determined to share with them not only the gospel of God, but our very selves as well” – sharing our time, talents, and resources – with the loving people God has entrusted to our care.

As committed Christians, you and I must endeavor not to emulate the ills and the bad examples of our leaders, but to see beyond their human inclinations, and to focus on the truth of the word of God they preached and the sacraments they administered. Thus Jesus exhorts us to “...observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example.” Let us therefore, pray unceasingly for our priests and our civil leaders that like Christ they would rather serve than be served, and give themselves entirely to the service of the people entrusted to their care.

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP

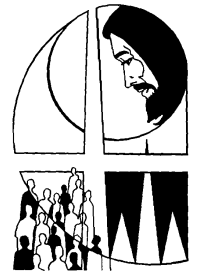

PARISH NEWS


THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS
“A FEAST OF HOPE”

This **Tuesday, November 1st**, is the Feast of All Saints and a Holy Day of Obligation. On that day we remember the many great Christians who have gone before us, the unsung heroes of outstanding love, dedication, and commitment in life. St. John described them when he said, “These are the ones who have survived the great period of trial; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” As we reflect on the meaning of this ‘feast of hope,’ we are called to be resolute in serving God even in the midst of persecutions and other forms of difficulties. Let us reflect on the *Beatitudes* and always strive to be dedicated in serving God in our neighbors with a simple, open, and contrite heart.

It is a Holy Day of Obligation; therefore, all Catholics are required to attend Mass. The Masses for All Saints Day are:

- Mon, October 31st Vigil Mass at 7:30 p.m.
- Tues, November 1st 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 12 noon, & 7:30 p.m.



“Remember those who have gone before us...”

NOVENA MASSES FOR ALL SOULS: This Wednesday, November 2nd, is All Souls day. We will have a 9-day novena of Masses for all our departed loved ones. If you would like your loved ones to be remembered at these Masses, kindly fill out the “All Souls” envelope found in your envelope packet or on the tables at the rear of the Church, include your stipend, and drop it in the Collection basket or bring it to the Rectory Office this Monday.



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

FAMILY MASS: A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND SHARE WITH OTHER FAMILIES:

Next Sunday, November 6th, we will celebrate Family Mass at 10 a.m. After the Mass, we will gather together for our usual “**Family Breakfast**” in the McManus Parish Center. The Family Mass provides an opportunity for you to get to know other families and members of the parish. Therefore, endeavor to join us every first Sunday of the month. All are welcome!



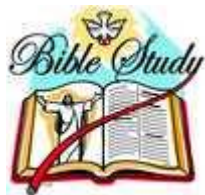
THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



SHARING COMMUNITY MEAL: This Thursday, November 3rd, we will be providing our Sharing Community Meal. Please bring your ziti or dessert to the Rectory. Doors will open at 6:45 a.m. The Sharing Community truly appreciates our efforts. Please keep up the good work! For information, please call the Rectory Office.

Our **SOCIAL MINISTRY** is having a special **Thanksgiving Food Drive**. For the next two weekends, please bring to church Thanksgiving appropriate, non-perishable fixings, such as stuffing, canned vegetables, boxed mashed potatoes, pie filling and crust mixes, coffee, tea, juices, etc. Thank you.

The members of the **Rosary Altar Society** will attend the 8:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, November 6th.



Our **PARISH BIBLE STUDY SESSION** will take place this Friday, November 4th, at 7:30 p.m. in the School. Make time to join your fellow parishioners to learn more about the many Books of the Bible in both the Old and New Testaments. Bring a friend! Come and have fun.

WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST CHRISTIAN

We welcome and congratulate our newest Christian, baby **Max Antonio Rivera**, who was baptized into the Catholic family of St. Bartholomew on Saturday, October 22nd. We thank his parents and godparents for presenting him for baptism, and we pray God to bless and keep the child and his parents in their journey of faith.



PRAYER FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Dear God,
Death as much as birth, is a part of the circle of life.
Hear our prayers for those who have died:
Those who have died suddenly;
People who have been victims of violence or war;
Men, women, & children who have died
Because of disease, famine, or neglect;
And especially our dear, departed loved ones.
Give us comfort in our grief, and hope in Your eternal love.
May all those who have served You on earth
Share in the fullness of joy in Your heavenly kingdom.
Bring us all to the glory of the resurrection. Amen.

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.



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

- The **budgeted** Collection for last Sunday is **\$6500.00**.
- The **actual** Collection for last Sunday is **\$4657.65**.
- The **Collection for the World Missions** totaled **\$1132.70**.

We thank everyone for their generosity to St. Bartholomew's Church. May God bless and reward all your sacrifices for the Parish! As St. Paul said, *"Each of you should give as you decided...not reluctantly as if obliged. God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to fill you with every good thing, so that you have enough of everything at all times, and may give abundantly for any good work"* (2Cor. 9).

REMEMBER YOUR BELOVED PARISH

Remember, *"We make a living by what we earn. We make a life by what we share."* Please remember St. Bartholomew's 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, Amadeu Amorim, Grace Raguso, Andy DeFabritis, Maryann Tolli, Maria Marte, Ed Carpenter, Barbara Rup, Jule Yaskovic, Rosalie Heit, Dolores Santamorenna, 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, 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, Eve Gammino, Stan Buoninfante, Donna Vasconez, Mary Ann Berengur, Gene DelBene, Angelina Brusco, Mary Romanchik, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Jeanne Simmons, and Louis Petrulo.

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.



This word of thanks is to all the parishioners who prayed for Stan during his ordeal with pulmonary fibrosis; which by the grace of God, culminated in a successful lung transplant.

The strength of your prayers was felt and experienced in a deep way, one which we consider to be truly miraculous. Each day we felt the hand of God in our lives. Each day we felt your prayers; and we thank each and every one of you.

Please continue to pray for Stan's complete recovery. Thank you again, for all your prayers and support.

Stan & Terry Buoninfante

OCTOBER 30, 2011

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

Thirty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time

Saturday, October 29 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Living Members of the Pisacreta Family

Sunday, October 30

8:30 AM Carl Laredo +

10:00 AM Thomas Muscente +

11:30 AM Frank & Carmela Legio +

5:00 PM All the People of Our Parish

Monday, October 31

Weekday

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Lucchetti Family +

9:00 AM Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:30 PM Deacon Anthony Mercandetti +

Tuesday, November 1

All Saints

7:00 AM All the People of Our Parish

9:00 AM Nicholas Pezzente +

12 Noon Arthur Otto Vasso +

7:30 PM Deceased Members of Capuano Family +

Wednesday, November 2

Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed (All Souls)

7:00 AM Novena

9:00 AM Barney Scardino +

Thursday, November 3

Weekday

7:00 AM Novena

9:00 AM Anthony Romano +

Friday, November 4

Saint Charles Borromeo, bishop

7:00 AM Novena

9:00 AM Ramberto & Julio Blanco +

Saturday, November 5

Weekday

9:00 AM Novena

Saturday, November 5 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Sarah Menchen +

Sunday, November 6

Thirty-Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:30 AM Adolf Steffens +

10:00 AM All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Anna DiGennaro +

5:00 PM Novena

PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY



Today, in the United States, we celebrate Priesthood Sunday. It is a day to honor our priests, to reflect upon and affirm the role of priesthood in our Church; and to show our appreciation to those who are our priests. On this day we want to thank Father Anthony and Father Donald for answering God's call and for serving as our priests.

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PRAYER FOR OUR PRIESTS

Divine Grace, which always heals that which is infirmed and supplies that which is lacking, You have called our beloved brothers to sacred ministry. Let us pray that they be confirmed and strengthened with the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Fill them with grace and counsel, that they may love You with all their hearts, all their minds, and all their strength. Grant them irreproachable conduct, steadfast faith, and good works so that they may help and guide Your people with unselfish motivation.

Grant them wisdom, let their minds be sober and watchful, so that they may be filled with works of healing and words of instruction. May they teach Your people in meekness and serve You in holiness with an undivided mind and a willing soul.

May they be the light of Your only begotten Son that the word of Your gospel may be spread and Your name may be glorified in every creature.

May they serve at Your holy altar with pure hearts and good consciences. Grant that they may prosper in all Your commandments and the keeping of Your laws, so that they may be able to minister joyfully on the day of Your coming. Amen.

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ROSARY ALTAR BUS TRIPS

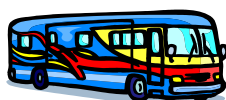
**To Reading, PA for Shopping the Vanity Fair Outlets
Saturday, November 5th**

The price is \$35 per person. For information and reservations, call Joan (476-6860) or Dolly (969-6575).

And

**To Radio City for the Christmas Show
Wednesday, December 7th**

The package includes the bus, lunch & an almost all new show. For information and reservations, please call Nancy on 376-2025.



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