

## INVESTING THE GIFT OF FAITH

Prov. 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; Ps. 128:1-5; 1Thess. 5:1-6; John 15:4a-5b

Like that of last Sunday, today's gospel deals with the *parousia*, the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Final Judgment. It is a no-brainer that we can only get out of life what we put into it! Like the man going on a journey in Jesus' parable, God expects us to make good use of the faith – gifts – talents that He has bestowed on us. He wants us to take risks that will help us increase our faith in order to bear fruit that will last.

Originally, the Parable of the Talents focused on the *useless servant* who buried the one talent he received. He represents the Scribes and the Pharisees, and their attitude to the law and truth of God. They thought that it was enough by just being faithful to the *letter of the law* without showing mercy and love to their neighbors. The *useless servant* buried the master's talent so that he can hand it back to him as it is. Sometimes, you and I *bury* the gifts we received at our baptism and confirmation, thinking that God will be pleased if only we received the gifts of these sacraments, even if we ended up burying them. We feel contented just to be baptized and confirmed, without any *adventure* – we fail to take risks – commit our time – be engaged in the various Church's ministries in our parish. Absolutely, God will judge us, not according to the sacraments we have received, but according to how we use them to benefit our neighbors and ourselves.

At confirmation, God gives us differing gifts – each receives according to his / her own ability and status. It is not our talent that matters, but what matters is how we use it. In today's parable, Jesus is instructing us on how to live while we patiently wait for the coming of God's Kingdom. Like the *faithful servants* in the parable, we are to imitate our *Master*, Jesus. We have been endowed with various gifts – some few, others many. Every Christian has to use his or her gifts in building the community for their benefit and for the benefit of other people. We are to take risks with the different gifts the *Master* has entrusted to us – investing them so that God's Kingdom will grow.

Fidelity to a commitment always requires constancy, dedication, serenity, courage, perseverance and sometimes heroism. Our fidelity and dedication to the duty God has entrusted to you and me should always invigorate us to be like the *worthy wife*, whose *value is far beyond pearls*. Thus, like the *worthy wife*, if we use wisely the gifts God has entrusted to us, we shall be praised. We should use our gifts as though the end was imminent! If you are a priest, the Lord urges that you use your gifts to win souls for the kingdom. If you are a parent or a teacher, the Lord exhorts you to teach your children the values that will lead them to have a lasting relationship with Jesus. If you are a singer, sing in thanksgiving to God for all His goodness. If you are an architect or a builder, design and build a kingdom of God's love and peace for all people. If you are a doctor or a nurse, go about your work knowing that you are caring for Christ in the sick and the frail. Use wisely the talents God had generously given to you!

All in all, remember what the Lord says, "The person who is trustworthy in small matters is also trustworthy in great ones..."(Luke 16:10-11). If you want to inherit true wealth in God's kingdom, you must be committed and faithful in using the gift He has given to you, no matter how insignificant it might seem. Thus, He will say to you on the last day, "...you were faithful in small matters...Come, share your Master's joy."

## PARISH NEWS



### DONATE A WREATH OR TWO

If you would like to donate one of our Advent/Christmas wreaths in memory of your loved one, please contact Carrie or Loreen at the Rectory Office (965-0566). Each wreath costs \$100; and we need eight of them.

**REMEMBRANCE TREE OF LIFE:** We would like to remind all our parishioners of our *Tree of Life* located at the rear of the church. Many individuals and families have already memorialized their loved ones on the Tree, but there are still many vacant leaves left on the Tree. Thus we invite you to call the Rectory Office to inquire on how you can memorialize your loved ones on the *Tree of Life*.

**MEETING:** This Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, the Holy Name Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All men of the Parish are welcome.



HOLY NAME SOCIETY



The **ALTAR FLOWERS** for this week have been donated in loving memory of Madeleine Savard by Louise Bolduc.



### THANKSGIVING SHARING TABLE

It has been the custom at our Parish for those attending the 10 a.m. Thanksgiving Day Mass to bring something for our sharing table. Typically this would be along the lines of a pie, special bread, a favorite dessert, candy or flowers. At the end of Mass all items on the table are blessed and all are welcome to choose an item to add to their holiday table; thus sharing our meal with our Parish family. Please give some thought to what you might bring this year.

Our **SOCIAL MINISTRY** pantry is bare! Besides our usual needs for pasta sauces, jellies, juices, rice, tuna, cereals, canned vegetables/fruit, etc., we are holding a special **Thanksgiving Food Drive through next weekend**, please bring to church Thanksgiving appropriate, non-perishable fixings, such as stuffing, canned vegetables or fruit, boxed mashed potatoes, coffee, tea, juices, etc.



We will need **some frozen turkeys and fresh / frozen pies** on the **Sunday and Monday (November 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>)** of Thanksgiving week. Due to a lack of refrigerator / freezer storage space, we can only accept pies or turkeys at the lower level of the Rectory **before each Mass that Sunday or Monday morning between 6:45 and 8 a.m.** for distribution on that Monday morning. Thank you.

## THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>**  
**1:30 – 7:30 PM**  
**MCMANUS PARISH CENTER**

Please plan on participating in St. Bartholomew's Blood Drive the day after Thanksgiving. The Hudson Valley Blood Services truly appreciates St. Bart's willingness to conduct a drive during this especially critical time of the year. For an appointment call Tony Sciacca (423-3592).

**Give Thanks - Give Blood !!!**

**Rosary Altar Society's Bus Trip**  
**Radio City for the Christmas Show**  
**Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**



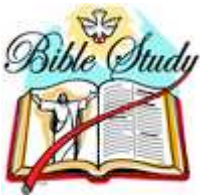
The package includes the bus, lunch & an almost all new show. For information and reservations, please call Nancy on 376-2025.



The **FINANCE COMMITTEE** will meet this Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m. in the Rectory. All members are encouraged to attend.

### IMPORTANT LECTOR MEETING

**Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m.** in the school building, all Lectors are asked to attend an important meeting with Father Anthony. Please call Cheryl Duda (476-6676) with any questions.



Our **PARISH BIBLE STUDY SESSION** will take place this Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 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.

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.



**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 for this most efficacious prayer.

**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 COLLECTION

- The **budgeted** Collection for last Sunday was \$6450.00.
- The **actual** Collection for last Sunday was \$5796.75.
- The collection for All Saints Day was \$1829.85.
- Collection in support of our buildings & grounds totaled \$2499.00.

May God bless and reward all your sacrifices for the Parish!

### CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Next weekend we participate in a special collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. For 41 years, this initiative of the Catholic Church has worked to create lasting solutions to the problem of poverty through real community change. The Campaign has funded thousand of projects nationally and more than 100 in the Archdiocese of New York that have empowered people to work together to solve community problems, create jobs, and build affordable housing. The Campaign gives us an opportunity to respond to the Gospel's call to solidarity with the poor. Please give 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!*



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, 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, Louis Petruolo, and Lawrence Girsch.

### FAMILY FAITH FESTIVAL – NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>

Our next Family Faith Festival for families with school age children will be held on **Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**; the topic is the New Roman Missal. After separate presentations for adults and children, all will unite for a family game. Reservations are required by **Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**, by phone (476-6676) or fax (965-9046).



The **CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** will meet this Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m. in Room 111 of St. John's Riverside Hospital, 967 North Broadway, Yonkers, for education & support to help cope with cancer. Call (914) 964-4441 for information.

NOVEMBER 13, 2011

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Mass  for the  
Intentions Week

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Thirty- Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

**Saturday, November 12 (Vigil Mass)**

5:00 PM Mary & Joseph Cuozzo +

**Sunday, November 13**

8:30 AM Antonio D'Addario +

10:00 AM Loretta & Michael Kennedy +

11:30 AM Paul & Maddalena Coniglio +

5:00 PM All the People of Our Parish

**Monday, November 14**

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Timothy Obasa +

**Tuesday, November 15**

Weekday

7:00 AM Maureen Butterworth +

9:00 AM William & Eva Blasko +

**Wednesday, November 16**

Weekday

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Bolduc & Savard Families

9:00 AM Antonio Yaphockun +

**Thursday, November 17**

Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, religious

7:00 AM Helen Graf +

9:00 AM Paul Montalbano +

**Friday, November 18**

Weekday

7:00 AM Christna Haughey +

9:00 AM Alexander Mikos +

**Saturday, November 19**

Weekday

9:00 AM Steven Durso +

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**Saturday, November 19 (Vigil Mass)**

5:00 PM All the People of Our Parish

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**Sunday, November 20**

Our Lord Jesus Christ the King

8:30 AM Carl Dietze, Robert & Chester Rodesky +

10:00 AM 65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Tommy & Anna

11:30 AM Carmela & Frank Legio +

5:00 PM Michael Albanese +

*NOVEMBER 13, 2011*

**WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY!**

Our warmest welcome to our visitors!  
We are glad you came to celebrate  
the Eucharist with us today. We  
thank God for you! Do not hesitate to  
let us know how we may serve you.



Every family and single adult to be considered an active parishioner of St. Bartholomew's Parish must be properly registered in the Parish, receiving and regularly using the Parish Weekly Collection Envelopes. Only in this way can the Pastor issue documents attesting to Catholic practice of the faith and Parish membership, e.g. a letter to be a Godparent or Sponsor. For further information call the Parish Office at (914) 965-0566.

If you have not registered or need to correct some of the information in our file, please fill out this form and check (X) the appropriate box below, or (you may also use the complete Registration Form found on the table at the rear of the Church); and drop the completed form into the collection basket or drop off/mail it to the Rectory. Thank you!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

- I am a visitor.
- I am interested in parish membership.
- Change of Address / Telephone Number.
- I am moving out of the Parish.
- I am going to the hospital.
- I would like to be visited by a priest / minister.
- Please send me the *Catholic New York*.
- I would like to learn more about the Catholic Faith.

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**STEWARDSHIP**

Eternal God,  
From the very moment of creation You revealed  
That every good gift has its source in You.  
You shower Your people with abundant blessings  
And provide for us with Your provident care.  
When You brought forth humankind in Your image,  
You instructed us to be stewards of Your creation.  
Help us to use wisely the gifts of the earth  
That You have bestowed on us.  
Give us wisdom to use prudently the talents  
Each one has that come from Your hand.  
Afford us the insight to see opportunities to serve  
In the time You have given to us.  
May the treasure, talent, and time we possess  
Be placed in service of You for the common good.

