

**PETER CLAVER
PRIEST (1581 - 1654)
SEPTEMBER 9TH**



A native of Spain, Peter Claver left his homeland forever in 1610 to be a Jesuit missionary in the New World. He sailed into Cartagena (now in Columbia), a rich port city washed by the Caribbean. He was ordained there in 1615.

By this time the slave trade had been established in America for nearly one hundred years, and Cartagena was a chief center for it. Ten thousand slaves poured into the port each year after crossing the Atlantic from West Africa under conditions so foul and inhuman that an estimated one-third of the passengers died in transit. Although the practice of slave trading was condemned by Pope Paul III, it continued to flourish.

Peter Claver's predecessor, Jesuit Father Alfonso de Sandoval, had devoted himself to the service of the slaves for forty years before Claver arrived to continue his work, declaring himself "the slave of the Negroes forever."

As soon as the slave ship entered the port, Peter Claver moved into its infested hold to minister to the ill-treated and miserable passengers. After the slaves were herded out of the ship like chained animals and shut up in nearby yards to be gazed at by the crowds, Claver plunged in among them with medicines, food, bread, brandy, lemons and tobacco. With the help of interpreters, he gave basic instructions and assured his brothers and sisters of their human dignity and God's saving love. During the forty years of his ministry, Claver instructed and baptized an estimated 300,000 slaves.

His apostolate extended beyond his care for slaves. He became a moral force, indeed, the apostle of Cartagena. He preached in the city square, gave missions to sailors and traders as well as country missions, during which he avoided, when possible, the hospitality of the planters and owners and lodged in the slave quarters instead.

After four years of sickness which forced the saint to remain inactive and largely neglected, he died on September 8, 1654. The city magistrates, who had previously frowned at his solicitude for outcasts, ordered that he should be buried at public expense and with great pomp.

He was canonized in 1888, and Pope Leo XIII declared him the worldwide patron of missionary work among black slaves.

COMMENT: The Holy Spirit's might and power is manifested in the striking decisions and bold actions of Peter Claver. A decision to leave one's homeland never to return reveals a gigantic act of will, difficult for the contemporary mind to imagine. Peter's determination to serve forever the most abused, rejected and lowly of all people is stunningly heroic. When we measure our lives against such a man's, we become aware of our own barely used potential and of our need to open ourselves more to the jolting power of Jesus' Spirit.

QUOTE: Peter Claver understood that concrete service like the distributing of medicine, food or brandy to his brothers and sisters could be as effective communication of the word of God as *verbal* preaching. As Peter Claver often said, "We must speak to them with our hands before we try to speak to them with our lips."

From *Saint of the Day*, edited by Foley & McCloskey

PARISH NEWS



HOLY NAME SOCIETY

MEETING: This Monday, September 9th, the Holy Name Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All men of the Parish are welcome.

OUR CHILDREN'S MASS RESUMES

Next Sunday, September 15th, we will have our first Children's Mass after the summer break. We urge parents to please make it a point to bring their child to the Children's Mass at 10 a.m. every Sunday with the exception of the first Sunday of the month, which is the Family Mass. 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.



**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES
BEGIN THIS WEEK**



Religious Education helps to build a strong foundation

Afternoon and evening classes for Public School students begin this Tuesday, September 10th. Evening classes are reminded to report to the church for this Tuesday only. **All Catholic children attending public schools should be enrolled in a religious education program.**

ALTAR FLOWERS for this week have been donated in loving memory of Frances Nanoia by Louis & Angela Brusco.



The **ALTAR BREAD & WINE, ALTAR CANDLES** and **SANCTUARY LAMP** for the week have been donated in loving memory of Frances Nanoia by Louis & Angela Brusco.

PARISH BIBLE SHARING / STUDIES

Bible Studies is resuming this month and will be held on the **2nd & 4th Friday of each month at 7 p.m.** in the school building, beginning this Friday, September 13th. These sessions will be moderated by our Parochial Vicar, Father Daniel Oghenerukevwe, MSP. Bring a friend! Come and have fun exploring the Bible.



VOLUNTEER MENTORS NEEDED

In just one hour per week, you can impact a child's life by helping them with their literacy skills. Either during the day or after school, children need your help. **There is a special need for bi-lingual mentors to work with students who have recently arrived in the United States and attend the Yonkers Public Schools.**

For information, contact Randee Ginsberg at 914-423-5009 rginsberg@jcy-wcp.com. Sponsored by the *JCY - Westchester Community Partners*.

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

COME, JOIN US!

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY

The Rosary Altar Society was founded in 1943, for the purpose of promoting devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary among all, but especially among the women of the parish. For 70 years, the Society has played an active role in promoting spiritual growth among its members and the Parish. It has also been one of the major arms of fundraising for the parish annually.

The ladies of the Society, apart from cleaning the sacred linens used at Masses, also make available items necessary for the Altar and the Sanctuary, thereby, enhancing our liturgical worship.

Members of the Society gather to worship as a group on the first Sunday of every month (September through June) at the 8:30 a.m. Mass. They meet at 7:30 p.m. on the Monday following the first Sunday to discuss and plan activities for the Society. They always close the meeting with coffee/tea and desserts.

The Society is looking for additional members; therefore, we encourage any woman of the parish who is interested in joining this illustrious group of women to call **Joan Liddell** at 914 476-6860 or the Rectory Office at 914 965-0566.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOLY NAME SOCIETY

The Society of the Holy Name of Jesus was founded in 1945, with the objective of promoting the spiritual welfare of the men of the parish and also promoting greater participation in parish life and cooperation among men of the parish.

For 66 years, the Society has helped by donating material assistance to the needy members of our community. They also organize various social events that often bring the parishioners together as a family.

Members of the Society gather to worship as a group on the second Sunday of every month (September thru June) at the 8:30 a.m. Mass. They meet monthly at 7:30 p.m. on the Monday following the second Sunday to discuss and plan activities for the Society. The meeting always ends with dinner and other social activities. These are men who like to have fun. Come join us!

The Society is looking for additional members. Membership is open to any practicing Catholic man, 18 years or older, who would like to "hang out" with men that will help him feel a sense of belonging in the parish family of St. Bartholomew. For further information contact **Jack Bilancia** at 914 376-1498 or the Rectory at 914 965-0566.

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

✠ **STEWARDSHIP** ✉
What shall I render unto the Lord
for all his benefits to me?

TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

September 2, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$7363.90
Children's Contribution	\$79.00
Last Year's Total	\$7442.90

September 1, 2013

Adults' Contribution	\$5054.40
Children's Contribution	\$37.65
This Year's Total	\$5092.05

The second collection in support of our buildings and grounds totaled \$1018.30.

SEMINARY COLLECTION



Next Sunday, September 15th, you will have the opportunity to help train a priest by supporting St. Joseph's Seminary in a second collection. Please, endeavor to be as generous as possible. 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, Deacon James Byrnes, Andrea Objay, Carmen Torres, Frank Marra, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, Edith Dugan, Gary Roth, Joyann Allan, Lois Burton, Mary DeStefano, Mark Cianfaglione, Shawn Colon, Margaret Maccia, Nicole Ryan Betancourt, Anthony Spinner, Audrey Falcone, Kathleen Hayes, Marge Muraik, Donna Vasconez, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatkowicz, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Roseanne Mercandetti, Louis Brusco, Josephine Daniele, Jennifer Dorsey, Valerie Riccardi, Fatima Panik, Marian Fletcher, Anna Bonacci, Minerva Hernandez, Paula Parente, Bridget O'Malley, Anna Brucculeri, Peggy Clevenberg, Gerald Mazzerese, Jr., Patricia Keane, Louis Milone, Joey Bastardi, Carol Stola, Amada Ortiz, Karen Aprea, Stephen Sarich, Neil Cawley, Barbara McCormack, Josephine Lehotyak, Father Raphael Ezeh, MSP, Lawrence Girsch, Fran Romano, and Patricia DeRosa.

2014 MASS BOOK IS OPEN

The Mass Book for 2014 opened on Ash Wednesday and there are still 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.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Sylvia R. Giorgi.

 *Rest in Peace*

SEPTEMBER 8, 2013

Mass  for the
Intentions *Week*

Twenty- Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, September 7 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Christine Serricchio Bellino +

Sunday, September 8

8:30 AM Mary & Nicholas Maccia +

10:00 AM Frances Swetz +

11:30 AM Lena Castaldo +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Monday, September 9

Saint Peter Claver, Priest

7:00 AM Lucille Kochalein +

9:00 AM John Jost +

Tuesday, September 10

Weekday

7:00 AM Marty & Sue Ball (living)

9:00 AM Marcello Barcello +

Wednesday, September 11

Weekday

7:00 AM Fallen Members of the NYPD +

9:00 AM Frances Nanoia +

Thursday, September 12

Weekday

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Bolduc & Savard Families

9:00 AM Sofia Shannon +

Friday, September 13

Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

7:00 AM Donato Sacchetta +

9:00 AM Stephen Hickey +

Saturday, September 14

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

9:00 AM Anthony Ciarnella +

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, September 14 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Frank & Angela Nanoia +

Sunday, September 15

8:30 AM Deceased Members of Joseph Family

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Frank & Carmela Legio +

5:00 PM Rafael Vazquez & Luis Mercado +

SEPTEMBER 8, 2013

RECOVERY SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 8TH

Today the Church in New York is celebrating **Recovery Sunday**. You are requested to affirm and pray for all those individuals and their families who are struggling with and in recovery from addictive illnesses. Addictive illnesses are many; among them are addictions to alcohol, drugs, relationships, and gambling. May we never fail to share Christ's love with these brothers and sisters!



**SOME OF THE REASONS
WHY WE NEED RECOVERY SUNDAY**

- ❖ Addiction is the #1 health problem in America.
- ❖ It afflicts 1 out of 10 people sitting in church pews.
- ❖ Untreated addiction costs America \$400 billion per year in lost work productivity, health care expenditures, crime, motor vehicle crashes, etc.
- ❖ About 18 million Americans struggle with alcoholism, 6 million with addiction to drugs, and 6% of all Americans are addicted to gambling.
- ❖ Every day 36 people die and approximately 700 are injured due to car accidents involving alcohol and/or drugs/medications.
- ❖ 9 million children in America live with at least one parent that has the illness of addiction. Children in foster care who are removed from homes where addiction is active spend, on average, 27 months in foster care; increasing the need for social agencies to have child care programs.
- ❖ When a family is struck with addiction the effects go far beyond what numbers and statistics can describe – the emotions of failure, depression, anger, confusion & sheer terror.
- ❖ Every day millions of people struggle with addiction and millions more watch with feelings of hopelessness, as addiction coldly and systematically destroys lives.
- ❖ 20% of all Americans have used prescription drugs for non-medical reasons.
- ❖ Every adult American pays nearly \$1,000 per year for the damage incurred by addictive illnesses.
- ❖ 85% of all prison inmates are there due to alcohol/drug related crimes. One year of incarceration costs \$18,400. One year of out-patient addiction treatment costs \$4700.
- ❖ You and I are affected in one way or another. Prayers work miracles!



A RECOVERY PRAYER

We pray for those who suffer from addiction
Look upon them with compassion,
Restore to them the assurance of Your unfailing mercy,
Remove the fears that attack them,
Take away the feelings of low self-worth,
And strengthen them in the work of their recovery.
And to those who care for them,
Give patient understanding
And the persevering love
That can only come from You.
Lord, in Your mercy please grant these requests.
Amen.

