NEW LIFE IN THE RISEN CHRIST

Rom. 6:3-11; Matt. 28:1-10; Acts 10:34, 37-43; Ps. 118; Col. 3:1-4; John 20:1-9

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad! The ancient hymn, *Exsultet*, the Easter proclamation, bids us: "Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven, exult, let Angel ministers of God exult...Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice...let this holy building shake with joy. This is the night, when Christ broke the prison-bars of death and rose victorious from the underworld..."

Exult! Rejoice, because Christ has risen from the dead! Rejoice, because Mother Church, on Easter night, gave birth to five children. Let us exult and rejoice with Kavia, Jack, Jarilyn, Nyia and Raymond who were baptized into Christ at Easter Vigil. "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen!" These children, in baptism, were buried with Christ so that they can also rise with Him. Thus, Paul the Apostle contends, "Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were indeed buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life" (Rom. 6:2-4). This goes to show that by giving themselves up for baptism this Easter Vigil, Kavia, Jack, Jarilyn, Nyia and Raymond have won "newness of life" in Christ Who has risen from the dead. We exult and rejoice with them!

Christ has risen as He said! Christ, our light has risen from the dead, let us rejoice and be glad! For people who walk in the darkness of sin, ignorance and insecurity, Christ shines as a bright light upon them. On this Easter day, all of us, the baptized are invited to renew our baptismal promises because by baptism, you and I have died to our old ways and have been raised up to a new life in Christ. By Christ's resurrection, you, me and all the baptized have been raised with Him, thus we must "seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth," and do not be afraid to share the new life in Christ with your family members, friends, colleagues and neighbors. Rejoice, He is risen! Like Mary Magdalene, we ought to continue to search for the risen Lord until we possess Him who came to die for our sakes. We have witnessed Him rise, let us go out and bear witness to this great fact: "Christ, the Lord has risen from the dead, Alleluia!"

The mystery of Christ's resurrection is a real event which manifests hope, thus, Paul the Apostle argues, "If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is empty and our belief comes to nothing... And if Christ has not been raised, your faith gives you nothing, and you are still in sin. Also those who fall asleep in Christ are lost" (1 Cor. 15:17-18). No matter what the doubters and unbelievers may think or say, our belief is real and we firmly believe that those who have died in Christ are not lost. By His resurrection, Christ has awakened those who died in Him. They are not lost, neither are we! Easter is the feast of life. This is the day, which demonstrates that "our belief has not been futile." Christ has risen from the dead!

Our task today is to pay attention and adhere to Jesus' exhortation, "Do not be afraid! Go tell My brothers (and sisters)..." about the good news of the risen Christ. Invite the whole world to celebrate, "Alleluia, Christ is risen." Let all put away the work of darkness and thus embrace the light of the risen Christ, Who lives and reigns forever and ever.

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP





My dear friends, Rejoice, for the Lord has truly risen!

The Pastor and the Pastoral staff wish you and yours a Happy and Blessed Easter!



On this Easter day, I sincerely thank the Lord for the parishioners who have responded positively to my "wish-list" and have generously donated items we needed for the Palm Sunday and Easter celebrations. As always, I am humbled by your out pouring of love and generosity. I am blessed to have you as my parishioners.

The **Paschal Candle** for this Easter was donated in loving memory of the Davi and Pelliccio families by Nancy Pelliccio.

I reserve my special thanks to all those who took part in preparing the Holy Week and Easter liturgies: Fr. Daniel Oghenerukevwe, MSP; our Liturgy Team led by Cheryl Duda, Deacon Bob Clemens, our Music Director, Erika Podoprigora, the Children, the Teen/Youth, the Adult, and the Folk Choirs, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Altar servers and the men of the Holy Name Society. I appreciate your talents, time and effort. I also wish to thank the ladies of the Rosary Altar Society, members of the Youth Group, and John McKenna for sprucing up the church for our Holy Week and Easter celebrations.

Father Anthony

ADULT FAITH FORMATION - RCIA

Do you know a non-Catholic adult who wishes to explore the Catholic faith; or a Catholic who has never received First Communion or been Confirmed? We have a program tailored to these adults. Call Cheryl Duda on 476-6676.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: There will be Religious Education classes this week, Tuesday and Wednesday.

FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Register **now** for next year's Religious Education program. Children in public school who will be entering First Grade through High School in September are eligible for these after school and evening classes. Besides grade level classes, instruction prepares children for Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. Call Cheryl Duda (476-6676) for information.

HOLY HOUR: This Friday, April 5th, is First Friday. We will have our monthly Holy Hour at 1 p.m. On Saturday, April 6th, the Divine Mercy Holy Hour will begin at 3 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to participate in these wonderful devotions.



FRIDAY, APRIL 5TH 1:30 – 7:30 PM MCMANUS PARISH CENTER

St. Bartholomew's will be conducting its Annual Blood Drive this **Friday**, April 5th. We run drives during holiday periods when the need for blood is great and donations are

usually down. If you can donate, please call Tony Sciacca (423-3592) for an appointment; and please spread the word to your family and friends, too.

Give Thanks - Give Blood !!!

.....

PARISH BIBLE SHARING / STUDIES

Starting on Friday, April 12th, we invite you to come join your fellow parishioners in discovering more about the Bible **every other Friday** at 7:30 p.m. in the School building.

Sessions will be moderated by our Parochial Vicar, Father Daniel Oghenerukevwe, MSP. Bring a friend! Come study/pray the Bible with us. Come and have fun exploring the Bible!



OUR FAMILY MASS: Next Sunday, April 7th, we will celebrate our Family Mass 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. At this Masse, we will also

be welcoming our new parishioners to our parish family. All are welcome.

The members of the Rosary Altar Society will attend the 8:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, April 7th.



Bible Study

SHARING COMMUNITY MEAL: This Thursday, April 4th, 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.

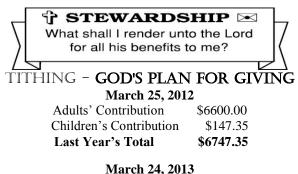
Next Sunday evening, April 7, immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass, our Youth Group will meet in the McManus Parish Center. All youths age 13 and up are invited.



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

EUCHARISTIC DEVOTION: Held the First Friday of every month at 1 PM. Please join us for this most efficacious prayer.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION: Held the First Saturday of every month at 3 PM. All are encouraged to participate.



Adults' Contribution\$6201.55Children's Contribution\$193.75This Year's Total\$6395.30

"The true purpose of **tithing** is to secure not the tithe, but the **tither**; not the gift, but the **giver**; not your money, but **you** ... for God."

"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

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, 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, 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 Swiatkowicz, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Roseanne 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,, Neil Cawley, James McKee and Christine Fitzpatrick. -----

The SANCTUARY LAMP for this week will be lit in

loving memory of William Wassmer.

MARCH 31, 2013



Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Saturday, March 30 (Easter Vigil)

8:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Sunday, March 31

8:30 AMPasqua Capuano +10:00 AMDeceased Members of Brusco & Nanoia Families11:30 AMLena Castaldo +

Monday, April 1

Monday within the Octave of Easter

7:00 AM Antonio Marchetti + 9:00 AM Richard Frischman +

Tuesday, April 2

Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

7:00 AMNo Mass9:00 AMWilliam Wassmer +

Wednesday, April 3

Wednesday within the Octave of Easter

7:00 AMNo Mass9:00 AMRaymond Shannon, Jr. & Raymond Shannon, Sr. +

Thursday, April 4

Thursday within the Octave of Easter

7:00 AM No Mass 9:00 AM Louis Nargi +

Friday, April 5

Friday within the Octave of Easter

7:00 AMNo Mass9:00 AMMsgr. Anthony Della Villa

Saturday, April 6

Saturday within the Octave of Easter

9:00 AM Special Intention

Second Sunday of Easter

Saturday, April 6 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Anthony Giuriceo +

Sunday, April 7

- 8:30 AM Deceased Members of DiPaolo Family +
- 10:00 AM Mary & Ben Bajek +
- 11:30 AM Julieann Campisi Moroch +
- 5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

WELCOME TO ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Happy Easter to all our visitors! Our warmest welcome to you! 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.

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, 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.

CHRIST IS RISEN



On Easter we celebrate love, love coming down from heaven, love blanketing the earth in a transforming embrace; unique and infinite love, giving more than we can imagine for us, to cleanse our sin, a perfect sacrifice, Lamb of God, the walking, talking Word. He is teacher, role model, friend, this God in human form, dying, then rising from the dead, proving all who believe will also rise to have eternal life, with Him, Lord of all. Oh, Happy, Happy Easter!

By Joanna Fuchs