

SALVATION IS A FREE GIFT!*(Isaiah 55:6-9; Ps. 145: 2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Phil. 1:20c-24; Matt. 20:1-16a)**"Seek the Lord while He may be found, call Him while He is near...For My thoughts are not yours thoughts, nor are your ways My ways."*

We live in a culture of retributive justice! In our country, and many other developed nations, the law demands equal pay for equal work performed. The Israelites had concluded that their conquest and captivity by other nations was as a result of their sinfulness. While in exile in Babylon, they were understandably depressed because they lost everything, including God's love. But, in today's first reading from the Book of Isaiah, the Lord assures them that it is not too late for them to return "to the Lord for mercy." He is full of compassion and abounding in mercy and love. God is forgiving, not because we are worthy, but because it is in His nature to be loving and merciful. "If You, O Lord, would treat us according to our sins, Lord, who would survive?"

The parable of Jesus in today's gospel is in great contrast to what we vie for in a society like ours. It is meant to give us some food for thought. We want rewards for doing our jobs, and the amount of reward and compensation should be commensurate with the amount of time we put into our jobs. There would be a revolt in an industry if people who worked three hours per day were to be paid the same amount as those who worked eight hours on the same job. The unions would be up in arms, and would demand "a just wage." Imagine the revolt that would take place if a student who failed every test in school was awarded an "A" at the end of the year. We would call it "unfair and unjust" if non-active members of the church were given preferential treatments when it comes to seating in the church or the reception of sacraments. Attitudes like this often lead us to think that God owes us salvation because of our "good works" or for the time we spend in His house. Think of a child who thinks that his/her parents owe him/her for doing his/her homework or the other chores he/she has to do at home.

"The Lord is near to all who call upon Him". Therefore, in our service to the community we should always have in mind Christ and treat each other as God would treat them. God's ways are not our ways! Hence, we should always see beyond the "letter of the law" and act with mercy and compassion. We should not be concerned with our rights more than we are with our generosity. What God has to give can never be earned by us no matter how faithful and sinless we are, no matter how hardworking we are. God's justice is based on generosity. God does not owe a repentant sinner a thing! We must find that same generosity within ourselves, especially if we hope to receive a generous mercy at the end of time. Our availability and service to the people should not depend on how faithfully they serve the church, or how committed they are to making financial contributions to the church. We received freely; we must give freely.

The landowner in today's parable did not need more workers in his vineyard. He recognized people who did not get hired and knew they needed help, thus he hired them. At the end of the day, he showed them kindness and compassion – those who were hired earlier and those who were hired later received the same wages as agreed upon. That is how salvation is – it is limitless and non-quantifiable! On this Catechetical Sunday, priests and catechists should always serve in love and mercy rather than seeking "fairness and justice."

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP


PARISH NEWS



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) will meet this Monday, September 19th, at 7:00 p.m. in the school. This meeting will be the last for the current Council, thus, at the meeting I shall present the members who were nominated and agreed to serve on the new Parish Pastoral Council. We encouraged all to attend.

**Bible Study**

PARISH BIBLE STUDY: Join Father Anthony and your fellow parishioners in discovering more about the Bible this Friday, September 23rd, and every Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the School. Bring a friend! Come and have fun exploring both Old and New Testaments.

Registration for Religious Education classes for public school children, running September through June, is open. Classes are available for **children in Pre-K through High School senior year**, including those with Special Education needs. Classes are available to prepare children of 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.



Religious Education helps to build a strong foundation

OUR CHILDREN'S MASS

Next Sunday, September 25th, we will have Children's Mass at the 10 a.m. Mass. We urge parents to please make it a point to bring their child to the Church every Sunday. 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.

Congratulations to our newest Christian, **Vincent Patrick Lopez**, who was baptized on Saturday, September 10th. We thank his parents and sponsors for presenting him for baptism, and we pray God to bless and keep this child and his parents in their journey of faith.



Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Jeffrey Milowe, Lena M. Castaldo, and Michael Petnuch.

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

Today, throughout the U.S., is Catechetical Sunday. Each year we celebrate the importance of the catechetical ministry by recognizing our catechists and commissioning them to serve in this ministry. We thank the following catechists and program assistants for their dedication to handing on the faith to the children, youth, and adults in our parish. Catechists: Cheryl Duda, Teresa Buoninfante, Dolores Burns, Ellen Califano, Loreta Capuano, Ellen Chimenti, Maryann Cook, Judith Elliott, Maryellen Esposito, Tina Falcone, Christine Fitzpatrick, Jeanette Giardini, Raquel Linares, Roseann Mercandetti, Bernadette Novak, Joyce Pietrowski, Marianela Rodriguez, and Maureen Schettino, Program Assistants: Paul Capuano, Alice Jacob, Eddy Lora, Pat Mahoney, Elizabeth Mulvaney, & Elena Tomanelli. Special thanks to our High School students who offer their help with our youngest children: Amanda Albanese, Christina Madera, Kenny Noesi, and Diana Venturini.



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 \$6700.00.
- The Collection for last Sunday totaled \$5222.80

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 says, "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).



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, 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, and Mary Romanchik.

Prayer for Catechists

Jesus, You told us that laborers for the vineyard would be few and that we should pray to the Lord of the Harvest in the hope that many might respond. You have answered our prayers by sending us catechists for Your vineyard.

Bless these men and women who have responded to Your call to the ministry of catechesis. May they be filled with zeal for Your Church, with care for those they catechize, and with love for Your Word of Life. Let Your Spirit come upon them so that Your Word may echo through their teaching and through the witness of their lives. Through our catechists, may the members of our parish whom they teach be transformed into witnesses to Your Word. And may these catechists receive the blessing Your Son promised to all who labor in Your vineyard.

We pray to You, gracious Father, in the name of Your Son, Jesus, the Word of Life, and in the unity of the Holy Spirit Who transforms us by that Word, one God, forever and ever,

Amen.



St. Bartholomew's Holy Name Society
Sponsors in Honor of Steve Hickey
OKTOBERFEST
SAT, OCTOBER 15TH
Following the 5 p.m. Mass

Reservations are required. A wonderful family occasion to share good food, music and fun with your fellow parishioners!

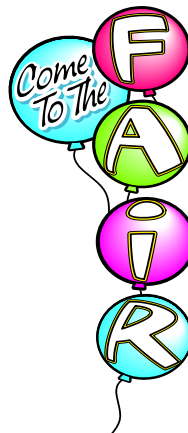
MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA: Held after the 9 a.m. Mass on Mondays.

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.

COMING SOON - OUR PARISH CARNIVAL

Thursday, September 29th - Sunday, October 2nd



VENDORS WANTED: St. Bartholomew's is inviting applications from interested persons who would like to display their merchandise at our Parish Carnival on Friday, Saturday and/or Sunday. For information or a vendor application, check our website www.saintbartsparish.org or call the Rectory Office (965-0566) during business hours. Please contact Gina Tummolo on (914) 462-6549 or at ginatre@aol.com with any questions.

We are still looking for volunteers to help at our Parish Annual Carnival, Thursday, Sept. 29th, thru Sunday, Oct. 2nd. Please indicate your availability by returning the Volunteer Form or calling the Parish Office (965-0566) or Alice Jacob (963-1686) or e-mail (aliceajacob@optonline.net). Your help with this important fundraiser is greatly needed.



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YOUTH GROUP: 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.

SEPTEMBER 18, 2011

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Saturday, September 17 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM All the People of Our Parish

Sunday, September 18

8:30 AM Carmine Nicholas Maccia +

10:00 AM Frank & Angela Nanoia +

11:30 AM Caroline Longobardi +

5:00 PM Vigilio Brizido +

Monday, September 19

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Anthony Testa +

Tuesday, September 20

Saint Andrew Kim Taegon, priest & martyr and Saint
Paul Chong Hasang, martyr & their companions, martyrs

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Paul Montalbano +

Wednesday, September 21

Saint Matthew, apostle and evangelist

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Baby Joseph Peter Vella (living)

Thursday, September 22

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Dina Florentino +

Friday, September 23

Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, priest

7:00 AM Paul Kellerman (living)

9:00 AM Christopher & Raef Fraih (living)

Saturday, September 24

Weekday

9:00 AM Thomas & Genevieve Gorman +

Saturday, September 24 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Joseph Frischman +

Sunday, September 25

Twenty-Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:30 AM Jerry Pisacreta & Betty D'Angelo +

10:00 AM Mildred & Michael Pollick +

11:30 AM Lawrence Tiplady +

5:00 PM All the People of Our Parish

SEPTEMBER 18, 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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In Celebration of Catechetical Sunday, St. Bartholomew's Adult Faith Formation will make its Parish Website Debut today. This site will feature a variety of helpful information, videos and articles to help us grow in our faith. Some present and future content will include: videos on changes in the liturgy, weekly challenges to put the gospel into action, info on parish-based trips & adult faith formation sessions.

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The site can be accessed through our parish website, www.saintbartsparish.org or contact Cheryl Duda (476-6676) to be sent a direct link.

