

BE TRANSFORMED!*(Jer. 20:7-9; Ps. 63: 2-6, 8-9; Rom. 12:1-2; Matt. 16:21-27)*

Philosophy and religion have always tried to understand the mystery of suffering, especially the difficult problem of why good people suffer. In last Sunday's gospel, Jesus said to Peter: "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah." But, today, in sharp contrast, we hear him say to that same Peter: "Get behind Me, Satan!" One might wonder why Peter who was *blessed* a week ago turned out to be *Satan* seven days later. Jesus wants us to understand that if we want to wear

the *crown of glory* we must be prepared to wear the *crown of thorns*, because there will be no salvation without the cross. Often, like Peter, we fail to understand that when we were baptized we were baptized into the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord. We were baptized to suffer, and to carry our *crosses* and follow Him daily.

No doubt, the material sacrifices we make are important aspects in demonstrating our faith. But Apostle Paul exhorts you and me to do more: "By the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship." We must strive to please God, and God alone in all that we do and say. To be a *living sacrifice* requires a true inner conversion. It entails giving ourselves in humility and obedience to the service of God and humanity. Inner conversion is the only way you and I can attain the true essence of our worship. Attaining true inner conversion in this present age is more challenging than ever before. We live in an era of religious relativism. We live in a consumerist and materialistic society. Our youth are the targets of immoral values and pseudo gods promoted by social media. This is an era when many of our religious and political leaders often opt to be *politically correct* for fear of rejection and/or persecution by their listeners. We live in an era when many churchgoers want to hear *feel-good* messages – good music and priests that only tell them how good and blessed they are, without telling them about their responsibilities or challenging their values that are contrary to gospel teachings. Unfortunately, we live in an era when the so-called *liberals* have redefined the value of the human person in terms of pleasure. This is an era when parents prefer to "please the children rather than God" – when we worship money rather than God – when sports and politics have become the preferred religion for many. You and I live in an era when the System wants us to believe that God is irrelevant in our lives – religious practice is nothing but interference in our private and social lives.

Growing up and living in today's society poses many challenges to all, especially to the young people. Thus, St Paul cautions you and me, "Do not conform yourselves to this age..." Do not conform yourself to this age of relativism and individualism – where we value saving our own lives regardless of the cost to others. For a Christian to gain salvation while living in an age like this, he/she must "be transformed by the renewal of your mind, (so) that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect." In trying to live out the values of the gospel message, you and I are going to face similar oppositions to that of Jeremiah and Christ. The temptation, therefore, will be to shy away and try to go the easy way. But Christ exhorts us, "Whoever wishes to come after Me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me." Like Christ, we are to offer ourselves as *living sacrifices*, and be ready to suffer emotional and/or physical anguish rather than conform ourselves to the *false values of this age*, because in the end Christ will come and "repay all according to his (or her) conduct."

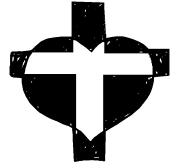
Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP



PARISH NEWS



SHARING COMMUNITY MEAL: This Thursday, September 1st, we will be providing our Sharing Community Meal. Please bring your ziti or dessert to the Rectory. Doors will open at 6:30 a.m. The Sharing Community thanks all who participate. For information on this important effort, please call the Rectory Office.



The Parish Finance Committee will meet this Thursday, September 1st, at 6:30 p.m. in the School building. All members are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

The Rosary Altar Society will hold their first meeting this Thursday, September 1st, at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center.



The members of the **Rosary Altar Society** will attend the 8:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, September 4th.

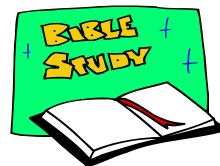


HOLY HOUR: This Friday, September 2nd, is First Friday. We will have our monthly Holy Hour at 1 p.m. On Saturday, September 3rd, the Divine Mercy Holy Hour will begin at 3 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to participate in these wonderful devotions.

The **ALTAR BREAD & WINE** for this week is donated in loving memory of Robert Charles Josephson by Paul & Loreta Capuano.



PARISH BIBLE STUDY: Starting on Friday, September 9th, we invite you to come join your fellow parishioners in discovering more about the Bible on Fridays at 7:30 p.m. in the School building. Sessions are moderated by our Pastor, Father Anthony Bassey, MSP. Bring a friend! Come study / pray the Bible with us. Come and have fun exploring the Bible!



Our **Youth Group** is holding a Car Wash on Saturday, September 10th, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., as a fundraiser. Please stop by the Car Wash to spruce up your car on the 10th. Also, any youth age 13 and up who would like to volunteer are asked to call Mrs. Ellen Chimenti on 423-0975.



Next Sunday evening, September 4th, 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.

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

COMING SOON!

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S 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.saintbartparish.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.




Volunteers!



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 (alicejacob@optonline.net). Your help with this important fundraiser is greatly needed.

Religious Education classes begin next week on Tuesday, September 6th. If you haven't already done so, please register your child now. Classes for public school children run September through June. **All Catholic children attending public schools should enroll in religious education program.** Please call (476-6676) for more information.

 **Religious Education helps to build a strong foundation**



"Family Breakfast" at the McManus Parish Center. All are welcome.

CURSILLO WEEKENDS: If you are searching for a better understanding of yourself or looking to improve your relationship with Jesus or others, consider attending a Cursillo Weekend. A men's weekend will be held mid October and a women's weekend will be held mid November. Fran and Al DioDati will briefly speak at the Masses on Saturday and Sunday, September 10 - 11, to explain the program or they can be reached on (914) 476-1189.

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 was \$5700.00.
- The Collection for last Sunday was \$5166.95.
- The Collection for the Feast of Assumption was \$883.55.

We thank everyone for their generosity to St. Bartholomew's Church. May God bless and reward all your sacrifices for the Parish!

PENNIES FOR HEAVEN COLLECTION

For the past two years, as you entered church, you might have noticed the large jug at each entrance. St. Bartholomew's Finance Committee is looking for your loose change as well as those old collections of coins lying in boxes and bags at home. We encourage you to eliminate those unsightly bulges by emptying your pockets and change purses as you arrive or leave church and drop your larger collections at the rectory during the week. It is the Finance Committee's firm belief and Father Anthony's fervent prayer that our *Pennies For Heaven Coin Drive* will help offset our day-to-day expenses. To date we have collected a total of \$1521.50.



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, Jeffrey Milowe, Gene DelBene, and Angelina Brusco.

REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES, LIVING AND DEAD

The Mass Books for both 2011 & 2012 are open and have availability. Consider giving a loved one the graces associated with having a Mass offered on their behalf; also, consider offering the Altar flowers, Altar bread and wine, Altar candles, or lighting the Sanctuary lamp for your intention. Come to the Rectory Office, **Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.** to make arrangements.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The Religious Education office needs adult volunteers to assist as monitors during class times, so there is always a second adult in the building when children are present. Monitors will not be required to teach. Please call Cheryl Duda (476-6676) this week if you can help out.



Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Antonio Lim Yaphockun, Sr.

AUGUST 28, 2011

Mass  *for the*
Intentions *Week*

Twenty-Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

Saturday, August 27 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM John Henry Roth +

Sunday, August 28

8:30 AM Robert Josephson +

10:00 AM Salvatore Guadagno +

11:30 AM Nicolantonio Romagnoli +

5:00 PM All the People of Our Parish

Monday, August 29

Martyrdom of Saint John the Baptist

7:00 AM Margaret Savage +

9:00 AM Charles & Frieda Lares +

Tuesday, August 30

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Luis Angel Blanco +

Wednesday, August 31

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Vincent Giordano +

Thursday, September 1

Weekday

7:00 AM Patrick Caffertey +

9:00 AM Charles Sweeney +

Friday, September 2

Weekday

7:00 AM Intentions of Molly & Emma (living)

9:00 AM William & Eva Blasko +

Saturday, September 3

Saint Gregory the Great, pope & doctor of the church

9:00 AM Chester & Anne Pakiela +

Saturday, September 3 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Caroline Longobardi +

Sunday, September 4

Twenty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:30 AM Mary & Nicholas Maccia +

10:00 AM John Barnett +

11:30 AM Vincent J. Campisi +

5:00 PM All the People of Our Parish
Christina Madera's 16th Birthday

