

## PEACE, NOT WAR!

*Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; Ps. 4:2, 4, 7-9; 1John 2:1-5; Luke 24:35-48*

A couple of weeks ago, during the Holy Week, when the Altar-servers were rehearsing for the liturgies of the *Easter Triduum*, I seized the opportunity to explain to them the importance of this solemn period, and encouraged them to conduct themselves with absolute humility and to maintain silence right after the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper until the Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection on Holy Saturday. A teenager amongst them wanted to know why it is important for them and others to act differently during this period. I told them that the simple reason is the fact that the "Author of life" is crucified, and thus, it is proper for us to acknowledge that fact, empty ourselves and be humble in our approach to life particularly throughout the *Triduum*. The teenager was surprised and remarked that he never thought of it that way, and has never heard of Christ being referred to as "the Author of life." Interestingly, in today's first reading, Apostle Peter, in addressing the Jewish people, describes Jesus as "the Author of life." This is a title, which does not appear anywhere else in the scriptures.

Jesus, indeed, is the "Author of life," Who was put to death, but has risen from the dead in order that you and I might have peace. Thus, in last Sunday's and today's gospel readings, we see Jesus appearing to His disciples and saying to them several times, "Peace be with you!" The peace that Christ brings to us is quite different from that which the world provides. Christ's peace is not the absence of war, violence, death or sickness. The peace that Christ gives is the peace that exists even in the midst of the suffering that surrounds us. It is the peace that comes with contentment in every circumstance.

After the tragic event of Good Friday, the disciples, out of fear, were looking for security rather than peace. They were caught up with fear and insecurity because of their lack of understanding of the scripture. Like the disciples, since the tragedy of 9/11 we have become very insecure. Our leaders have become desperate in their effort to "keep us safe" – they go to one war after another. We have become paranoid about strangers and those who are different than we are – we close our doors and lock ourselves inside. This we do, primarily, because we are ignorant of what Christ's promises are in the scripture. The danger is that you and I may know a great deal about the Bible – we can quote from verse after verse, but at the same time be very ignorant of Jesus' message in the scripture.

Our leaders, you, and I may claim to know God, but we must realize that there is a difference between knowing about a friend and knowing the friend. Knowing a great deal about God, the Scripture and religion does not necessarily make one a good Christian. If our leaders and we truly believe in God, we must seek peace, not war. Our ignorance of the scripture and of the teachings of the Church can thwart the progress we ought to make in our faith, and in our relationship with God and one another.

As Catholics you and I must realize that ignorance on the part of those who should know is blameworthy, thus, "Repent...and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away." May the Lord Jesus open our "minds to the understanding of the Scriptures."

**Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP**


**PARISH NEWS**


**THE ALTAR BREAD AND WINE** for this week has been donated in loving memory of John DiRodio by Teresa DiRodio.



**The SANCTUARY LAMP** for this week will be lit in loving memory of Lena Castaldo.

**CHILDREN'S MASS:** Please make it a point to bring your child to pray with the Risen Christ at the Children's Mass next Sunday. The 10 a.m. Mass will focus on our children. The Parish Children's Choir and the Folk Group will sing at the Mass. The children are encouraged to sit with their friends and classmates during the Mass.



**ADULT FAITH FORMATION:** Adults interested in learning more about the Catholic faith or wishing to prepare for Confirmation should contact the Religious Education Office for information about the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). Call (914) 476-6676 for further information.



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

Registration for the 2012 – 2013 Religious Education program for public school children, running September through June, is open. Classes are available for children entering 1<sup>st</sup> grade in September through High School, including those with Special Education needs. Classes are available to prepare children at 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.

**WEDDING JUBILEE MASS & CELEBRATION**

St. Bartholomew's couples who are celebrating their **25<sup>th</sup> or 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary** anytime this year (2012) are invited to attend the 11:30 a.m. Mass on May 20<sup>th</sup>. They will be blessed and honored during the Mass which will be followed by a Reception in the McManus Parish Center. Please call the Rectory to register and tell us how many guests you might be expecting at the Reception.



**YOU ARE INVITED** to come and share the joy with our children who will be making their First Holy Communion at the 11:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



**MARRIAGE BANNS:** This is the second publication of marriage banns between Richard Buoninfante and Carla Ceriale. If you are aware of any reason they should not marry, according to the Catholic rite, please contact the Pastor, Father

Anthony Bassey, MSP.



The two disciples recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread and their lives were changed. Let Worldwide Marriage Encounter help you recognize Jesus in your sacrament of Matrimony or Holy Orders. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is April 27-29. For more information, call toll free (877) 697-9963, ext. 3 or visit [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org).

Worldwide Marriage Encounter's mission of renewal in the Church and change in the world is to assist couples and priests to live fully intimate and responsible relationships by providing them with a Catholic "experience" and ongoing community support for such a lifestyle.

### GOOD NEWS FOR OUR PARISH

Many thanks to our wonderful parishioners who are fulfilling their pledges to our parish's *Bicentennial Campaign*. Last week, we received a semi-annual distribution of \$976.00, for a total parish benefit thus far of \$271,380.00.

This is a great tribute to your generosity and loyalty to our parish. We hope that all of our parishioners will make every effort to complete their pledges on time so that we are able to accomplish our parish projects. Thank you for your kind support.

**Our Lady of Fatima Parent School Association** will be hosting its **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Penny Social** on Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m. at 5 Strathmore Road, Scarsdale. Join them for an evening of fun & friendship, including a raffle of over 500 prizes. Take a chance at winning beautiful themed baskets, jewelry, money prizes, and authentic designer handbags. Admission fee of \$20 includes light supper, coffee and dessert. Advance reservations are recommended as seating is limited. For information contact Rosemary Borges on (914) 646-0597.

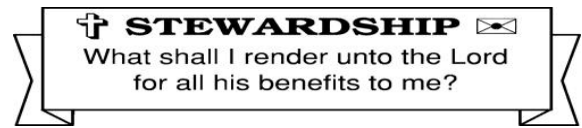
**YOUTH GROUP:** The first Sunday evening of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass, our Youth Group meets in the McManus Parish Center. All youths age 13 and up are invited.

**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.



### TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

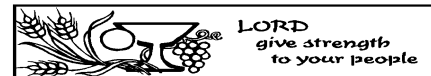
#### April 10, 2011

Adults' Contribution	\$6116.00
Children's Contribution	\$237.10
<b>Last Year's Total</b>	<b>\$6353.10</b>

#### April 15, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$7385.00
Children's Contribution	\$88.70
<b>This Year's Total</b>	<b>\$7473.70</b>

*"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."*



Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Alejandra Santander, Grace Raguso, Andy DeFabritis, Maryann Tolli, Maria Marte, Ed Carpenter, Barbara Rup, Jule Yaskovic, Rosalie Heit, Dolores Santamorena, 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, 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, Stan Buoninfante, Donna Vasconez, Mary Ann Berengur, Gene DelBene, Angelina Brusco, Mary Romanchik, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petruolo, Cynthia Swiatkowicz, Rose Botcheller, Silvia Georgi, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Steve Oddo, Roseann Mercandetti, Frances Swetz, Paul Bolduc, and Amelia Gagliardi.

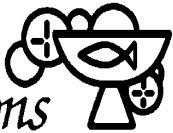
### THE 2013 MASS BOOK IS OPEN

The Mass Book for 2013 opened on Ash Wednesday and there are still many 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.

**CHARITY IN THE CITY:** The Sisters of Charity of New York are offering the 5<sup>th</sup> year of *Charity in the City*. This 2 week service program offers women volunteers, ages 18-25, a chance to live and work with the Sisters in their ministries to the poor. (Think of it as a short term Peace Corps.) Plenty of chances to visit NYC's tourist sites, too. Program runs June 2-17. Apply by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Details and application online at [www.scny.org](http://www.scny.org). Contact: Sister Mary Lou McGrath, SC at (718) 549-9200 or [mlmcgrath@scny.org](mailto:mlmcgrath@scny.org).

APRIL 22, 2012

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Mass  for the  
Intentions Week

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Third Sunday of Easter

**Saturday, April 21 (Anticipated Mass)**

Saturday within the Octave of Easter

5:00 PM Lucille & Carl Rossi +

**Sunday, April 22**

8:30 AM Pidany & Pyc Families

10:00 AM Loretta & Michael Kennedy +

11:30 AM Members of the Wong Family (living)

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

**Monday, April 23**

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Lena Castaldo +

9:00 AM Edward Siravakian +

**Tuesday, April 24**

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Gloria Bassey +

9:00 AM Frank & Carmella Gerace +

**Wednesday, April 25**

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Liberata David +

**Thursday, April 26**

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Josephine & Barney Scardino +

9:00 AM Teresa & Guiseppa Schettini +

**Friday, April 27**

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Rita Bolduc (living)

9:00 AM Stephen Hickey +

**Saturday, April 28**

Easter Weekday

9:00 AM Clare McDonald +

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**Saturday, April 28 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM Ann Marie Selvaraj +

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**Sunday, April 29**

Fourth Sunday of Easter

8:30 AM Rose & Gaetano Legio and Family

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Julieann Campisi Moroch +

5:00 PM Kathleen Gmitter +

*APRIL 22, 2012*

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## 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL PARISH RAFFLE



By now our registered Parishioners have received a letter and 3 raffle books for our latest fundraising effort. At this year's Parish Picnic, three lucky participants will take home cash prizes of **\$2,000, \$1,000, or \$500** - just in time to kick

off summer!

Raffle Books and donations can be placed in an envelope marked **Raffle** and deposited in the Sunday Collection basket, dropped off, or mailed to the Rectory Office. For the Month of May, leading up to our **June 10<sup>th</sup> Parish Picnic**, you will be able to turn in your Raffle Tickets and donations or purchase additional Raffle Tickets after each Sunday Mass, as well as at the Rectory Office. **Please make all checks payable to St. Bartholomew's Church.** Raffle Tickets are \$2 each or a book of six tickets costs \$10.

Please help make this fundraising effort a success. Good luck and God bless!



## MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA MASSES



Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, is Mother's Day. Our Parish will have a Novena of Masses for all our mothers – living and deceased. The Novena of Masses will begin on Mother's Day and finish on Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup>.

There will be cards and/or envelopes at the back of the church beginning this Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. They will also be available at the Rectory Office, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you want your mother, mother-in-law or any mother remembered in the Novena of Masses, please write out the envelope with your donation and drop it in the collection basket or bring it to the Rectory Office during the week.

