

THE LORD BLESSES YOUR FAMILY WITH PEACE

(Numbers 6:22-27; Ps. 67:2-8; Gal. 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-27)

It's New Year's Day! Let me begin today's reflection by saying: **Happy New Year to you!** On this day, as your Pastor, I invoke the Lord's blessings upon you and your loved ones: "May the Lord bless you and keep you!" May He bless and keep you healthy throughout this year! May He bless and keep you from every evil! May He bless and keep you faithful to His commandments! May He bless you and make His face shine upon you! May the Lord bless and keep all your loved ones healthy and happy!

Today is *World Day of Peace!* The Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, in his message for the 2012 World Day of Peace, has chosen, **Educating Young People in Justice and Peace**, as its theme. The Pope chose this theme "in the conviction that the young, with their enthusiasm and idealism, can offer new hope to the world." He addresses his message to "parents, families and all those involved in the area of education and formation (of the young people), as well as to leaders in the various spheres of religious, social, political, economic and cultural life and in the media." The Pope explains that, "Attentiveness to young people and their concerns, the ability to listen to them and appreciate them, is not merely something expedient; it represents a primary duty for society as a whole, for the sake of building a future of justice and peace."

Our young people cannot genuinely help in building a future of justice and peace if the family does not play its role as primary educator. True education in justice and peace takes place in the family since parents are the first educators. The Pope reiterates that the family is the primary cell of society; "it is in the family that children learn the human and Christian values, forgiveness and how to welcome others." The family is the first school in which we are trained in justice and peace. The Holy Father observes, "We are living in a world where families, and life itself, are constantly threatened and not infrequently fragmented. Working conditions which are often incompatible with family responsibilities, worries about the future, the frenetic pace of life, the need to move frequently to ensure adequate livelihood...all this makes it hard to ensure that children receive one of the most precious of treasures: the presence of their parents."

Peace is the greatest gift the birth of Christ has brought to us. It was through the faith of Mary that "Peace" was born for us. Through the obedience of Mary, the Lord lets His face shine upon you and is gracious to you. She is the Mother of God – the parent, the first teacher and mentor of Jesus, the "Prince of Peace." Thus, the Pope urges parents to be *present* to their children, keeping in mind that such presence "makes it possible to share more deeply in the journey of life and thus to pass on experiences and convictions which can only be communicated by spending time together." He further exhorts parents not to grow disheartened, but to "encourage children by the example of their lives to put their hope before all else in God, the one source of authentic justice and peace."

As we begin this New Year, you and I are challenged and called upon to invest time, energy and resources in the young people of our parish family. Thus, the Pope in his concluding remark appeals to everyone, "let us pool our spiritual, moral and material resources for the great goal of *educating young people in justice and peace.*"

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP

PARISH NEWS



We hope God will bless you in this New Year; and we wish you all a very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year in 2012.

The **ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY** meeting will be held this Monday, January 2nd, at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All women of the Parish are invited.



ST. BART'S SHARING COMMUNITY MEAL:

This Thursday, January 5th, we will be preparing our Sharing Community Meal. Please bring your ziti or dessert to the Rectory. Doors will open at 6:45 a.m. For information on participating in this important effort, please call the Rectory Office.

HOLY HOUR: This Friday, January 6th, is First Friday. We will have our monthly Holy Hour at 1 p.m. On Saturday, January 7th, the Divine Mercy Holy Hour will begin at 3 p.m. Every one is encouraged to participate in these wonderful devotions.



Our First FAMILY MASS in the New

Year will be celebrated next Sunday, January 8th, (the Feast of Epiphany), at the 10 a.m. Mass. Every member of the family is encouraged to attend Mass and to sit and worship together as a family. Mass will be followed by "Family

Breakfast" at the McManus Parish Center. It is also a "Bring-a-Friend" Sunday in our parish, thus you are expected to invite your friends and family members to attend any of the Masses that Sunday. All are welcome!

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



Religious Education Classes will resume their regular schedule this Tuesday and Wednesday, January 3rd and 4th.

If you or someone you know needs information on the Catholic Faith or have not been confirmed, please call the Religious Education Office for information on the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.) in our parish.



MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD



Rosalie Hall, Inc.
743 East 243 Street
Bronx, New York

December 19, 2011

Dear Father Bassey:

Thank you so much for the grand gifts which the parishioners of St. Bartholomew gave to the young mothers and their children at Rosalie Hall. We now have two buildings, each with ten children, in a combination of mothers and babies and pregnant young ladies. One is at this site and the other is on Howe Avenue, also in the Bronx.

I will never forget you and your goodness to the young mothers and children whom we serve.

Do take good care of you and your family, as well as all the parishioners at St. Bartholomew.

I continue to assure you of our grateful prayers and beg your blessings and prayers for the young women and children at Rosalie Hall.

I wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Holy and Healthy New Year.

Gratefully,
Sister Diane Prusinski, s.m.
President



"The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace." Experience His peace in your sacrament on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend, February 11 – 12. For more information, call (877) 697-9963, ext. 3 or visit www.wmearchny.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.

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.



Because the first Sunday of the month falls on New Year's Day, the Youth Group will meet on Sunday, January 8th, at 6 p.m.

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

Holy Name of Jesus School, 2 Broadway, Valhalla, NY (next to the Kensico Dam) will be hosting an Open House every first Thursday of the month. **Their next Open House is scheduled for Thursday, January 5th, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.**



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

- The **budgeted** Collection for last Sunday was \$7550.00.
- The **actual** Collection for last Sunday was \$3898.25.
- The **Christmas Collection** totaled \$29,344.50.

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

HELP US CONNECT THE WORLD WITH GOD'S WORD!

Next week we will take up the Collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) in our parish. This Collection supports the essential work that keeps the gospel message in the world; it focuses on finding new ways to bring the gospel message to **you** by working to be wherever the faithful and those seeking the faith are. CCC provides content the way **you** need it - on the Internet to strengthen marriage, in podcasts for daily readings, on television for Christmas Mass, and on Facebook for news, discussions, and sharing of the faith. Please be generous in the Collection and support this important work. CCC is how the Good News gets around to you.

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!



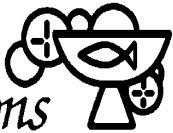
Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Alejandra Santander, Grace Raguso, Andy DeFabritis, Maryann Tolli, Maria Marte, Ed Carpenter, Barbara Rup, Jule Yaskovic, Rosalie Heit, Dolores Santamarena, Florence B. Swetz, 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, 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 Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatkiewicz, Rose Botcheller, Silvia Georgi, Angelo Capobianco, and Jimmy Maimone.

REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES, LIVING AND DEAD

Consider giving a loved one or someone 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 lighting the Sanctuary lamp for a week for your intention. Come to the Rectory Office, **Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.** to make arrangements or to inquire about the availability of a particular date.

RECITATION OF THE ROSARY: Join your fellow parishioners in praying the Rosary after the 9 a.m. Mass on weekdays and Saturday.

JANUARY 1, 2012

Mass  *for the*
Intentions *Week*

Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

Sat., December 31 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Anna & Anthony Faracco +

Sunday, January 1

8:30 AM Caroline Klee +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Julieann Campisi Moroch

Monday, January 2

Saint Basil the Great, bishop & doctor of the Church

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Zdzislaw Zulinski +

Tuesday, January 3

Christmas Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Frank Nanoia +

Wednesday, January 4

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, religious

7:00 AM Amadeu Amorim +

9:00 AM Deceased Members of Sullivan Family +

Thursday, January 5

Saint John Neumann, bishop

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Joseph R. Woska +

Friday, January 6

Christmas Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Carolina Barbieri +

Saturday, January 7

Christmas Weekday

9:00 AM No Intention

Sat., January 7 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Reverend Donald Eruaga (living)

Sunday, January 8

Epiphany of the Lord

8:30 AM Deceased Members of Zucconi Family +

10:00 AM Albert DeVito +

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Maria de Carmen Vazquez & Julio Blanco +

JANUARY 1, 2012

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY!

**We
Love
To
Serve
You!**



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.



Heavenly Father,
In this time of new beginnings,
We recall how the heavens
celebrated the birth of Christ.
We think back to the new kingdom
He proclaimed,
And remember the new life we gained in our baptism.
In this time of new beginnings,
And at the beginning if this New Year,
May we always act as good examples
Of the new life in You that all Christians have
And be the same for others.
Give us the joy that is ours
As adopted members of God's family. Amen.



