

BE PART OF YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY

(Acts 2: 42-47; Ps. 118; 1Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31)

A lady who was very angry to the point of threatening to boycott the Church totally once confronted me with a question: "Why should the Church always tell me what to do? Why is the Church always interfering with other people's lives? Why can't the Church leave us alone to manage our own lives as we see fit?" Judging from the lady's rhetorical questions one would infer that she has no knowledge of the meaning of the Church. The Second Vatican Council defines the Church as: "People of God," "Body of Christ" and "Temple of the Holy Spirit." The Church, therefore, is not the hierarchy, but all of us, the people of God.

Today's first reading offers us some insights and outlines some essential marks of the early Church, which can help us understand what the Church truly is. Etymologically, the word Church is from the Greek word *ekklēsia*, meaning *community*. The Church, therefore, is a community of the People of God. It is a community that is bonded together by the Holy Spirit and characterized by communion (communal life), *koinōnia*, devotion to the apostolic teaching, (*didachē*), to the breaking of bread and to prayer (Acts. 2:44-46). The Church is where you and I are baptized and confirmed – receive Holy Communion and other sacraments. We are a Church when we gather together to worship God as a family.

Symbolically, today, some of the children of the faith community of St Bartholomew will be making their First Holy Communion. Even though they have not seen Christ physically, they believe that He is truly present in the Holy Eucharist that will be ministered to them today and always. Ours is the microcosm of the early Church; and it is imperative that we make it a family where *all who believe* should always be together and have all things in common. It does not matter how we may want to spin it; the Church is a community where love, peace, joy, understanding and acceptance of one another must exist. It is where we share together in the One Cup and One Body of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Church is a family where you and I must enjoy favor with one another, praising God with exultation and sincerity of heart, thus, Jesus said, "it is by your love for one another that all will know that you are My disciples" (John 13:34-35). During this *Year For Mass*, we are urged not to behave like Thomas by staying away from the community, but to join our fellow Catholics and to attend Mass on Sundays and Holydays of Obligation. The Lord Jesus wishes that as a community of faith you and I be disciples of peace – "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you" to share some smiles and laughs with those in the community and to comfort those in sorrow.

As we mark the *Divine Mercy Sunday*, as a faith community, we ought to know the Risen Lord has appeared to us in the Eucharist we receive at Mass. He invites you and me to share His peace with one another. He exhorts us to forgive those who offend us. Like the early Christians, He challenges us to always come together to share the Word and the Eucharist. No one is an island! You and I cannot go it all alone. We need the support of other members in the faith community. One thing is sure, He is truly present in the Bread that we share and in the Cup that we drink – "Although you have not seen Him you love Him...you believe in Him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls."

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP

PARISH NEWS



ST. BART'S SHARING COMMUNITY MEAL: This Thursday, May 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, May 6th, is First Friday. We will have our monthly Holy Hour at 1 p.m. in honor of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. On Saturday, May 7th, the Divine Mercy Holy Hour will begin at 3 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to participate in these wonderful devotions.



MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA MASSES: Next Sunday, May 8th, 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 Sunday, May 8th, and finish on Monday, May 16th.

There are cards and/or envelopes at the back of the church. 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 during the week.

The annual Holy Name Society Mother's Day breakfast will take place after the 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. Masses on Sunday, May 8th.

The **Altar Bread & Wine** for the week has been donated by the First Communion Class.



The **ALTAR FLOWERS, ALTAR CANDLES, & SANCTUARY LAMP** for this week have been donated by Louis & Angela Brusco in loving memory of Fiore Brusco.

A special thank you to Ellen Chimenti, Laurie Reardon, and the members of the Youth Group that took the time, effort, and resources to provide and plant flowers around our church on Holy Thursday in preparation for our Easter services. May God bless your thoughtfulness and generosity one hundredfold!



This Sunday evening, May 1st, immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass, our Youth Group will meet for a Game Night in the McManus Parish Center. All youth from 8th Grade up are invited.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love is everlasting."

Learn how to make the love in your marriage last forever on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter, August 12-14. For more information, call toll free (877) 697-9963, ext. 3.

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.

Couples celebrating their **50th Wedding Anniversary** anytime during 2011 are invited to attend the **Annual Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass** with Archbishop Dolan at St. Patrick Cathedral, **Sunday, May 22nd**, at 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Please contact our Rectory Office for more information. **The deadline for registrations for the Mass is Thursday, May 5th**. This event is sponsored by the Family Life/Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New York.

PLEASE HELP KEEP OUR BULLETIN GOING!

Liturgical Publications, Inc., our publisher, will have a sales representative available for the next few weeks for those individuals, businesses, and groups interested in continuing or placing advertisements in our bulletin. To place an ad, kindly contact John Elgee at 800 888-4574, ext. 3334 or jelgee@4lpi.com. We are grateful to current advertisers who renew their ads. **Please patronize our advertisers; they make this bulletin possible!**

A THANK YOU FROM THE SHARING COMMUNITY

April 18, 2011

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you on behalf of the people we serve at The Sharing Community, for your recent contribution to our efforts.

The generosity of our community and supporters is critical to our work, and assist us in helping our guests achieve a life of dignity, freedom, and self-sufficiency. Most importantly, it makes them aware that there are people out there who care.

Thank you again; your support makes a real difference in the lives of the people we serve.

Very truly yours,
Robert Zopf
Executive Director

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.



HOLY WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

- The Collection for last Sunday was \$4517.75.
- Our Easter Gifts to our Church totaled \$22,434.00.
- The Good Friday collection in support of the Holy Land totaled \$1240.25.
- The Holy Thursday collection to aid the poor totaled \$1381.00.

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



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, Carmela Massaroni, Lois Burton, Mary DeStefano, Carmella DelBene, Ann Ceriale, Dan Seratto, Mark Cianfaglione, Shawn Colon, Margaret Maccia, Nicole Ryan Betancourt, Anthony Spinner, Audrey & Alfred Falcone, and Nick Losapio.

THE 2012 MASS BOOK IS OPEN

The Mass Book for 2012 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, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.** to make arrangements or to inquire about the availability of a particular date.

Time is Running Out ...

... to enroll in St. Bartholomew's **Defensive Driving Class** that will be held on **Saturday, May 14th, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center**. This course reduces up to 4 points on your driver's license and will lower your auto liability and collision insurance premiums by **10%** for three years. The cost of the course is \$49. **To enroll, please call the Rectory** during business hours **or the instructor, Chris Morea, at (800) 492-9444**. Register now; **seating is limited**.

MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY: A Memorial Service will be held at Mount Hope Cemetery on Saturday, May 14th, at 12:30 p.m. for all the deceased buried in Mount Hope. Mass will be celebrated by Father John Riordan of St. John the Baptist R.C. Church, Manhattan.

MAY 1, 2011

Mass  *for the*
Intentions *Week*

Second Sunday of Easter

Saturday, April 30 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Ann Marie Salvaraj +

Sunday, May 1

8:30 AM Elizabeth Laredo +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Richard Raffio +

5:00 PM Deceased Members of Lucchetti & Capuano Families

Monday, May 2

Saint Athanasius, bishop & doctor of the Church

7:00 AM Brian Noonan +

9:00 AM Julieann Campisi Moroch +

Tuesday, May 3

Saint Philip & Saint James, apostles

7:00 AM Luigi Lucchetti +

9:00 AM John Dillon +

Wednesday, May 4

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Mary Criso +

Thursday, May 5

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Chelsea Fernandez +

9:00 AM Joseph Martingnetti +

Friday, May 6

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Marcello Barcello +

9:00 AM Fiore Brusco +

Saturday, May 7

Easter Weekday

9:00 AM Ann Perillo +

Saturday, May 7 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Lucille & Victor Serricchio +

Sunday, May 8

Third Sunday of Easter

8:30 AM Novena

10:00 AM Ethel Castagnozzi +

11:30 AM Paul & Maddalena Coniglio +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

MAY 1, 2011

WELCOME TO ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

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.

TODAY IS "DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY"

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



The Divine Mercy is a Roman Catholic devotion focused on the mercy of God and its power, particularly as a form of thanksgiving and entrusting of oneself to God's mercy.

The devotion as known today can be traced to a Polish nun and canonized saint, Sister Faustyna Kowalska, known as the "Apostle of Mercy", who lived from 1905-1938. It is known that anyone who seeks God's mercy will not be turned away (Matthew 7:7). "Jesus I Trust In You" are the words inscribed on a picture that Faustina had said was to be made at the request of Jesus Himself through the inner speaking of the Lord to Faustina.

In 2000, Pope John Paul II officially instituted the Feast of the Divine Mercy universally for the Catholic Church on the same day that he also canonized St. Faustina.