

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

(Acts 6:1-7; Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; 1Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12)

"It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." (Acts 6:2)

I recently attended a priests' meeting where we spent almost three hours listening to fellow priests talked about nothing but how to consolidate structures, increase material output, save and invest more money. I sat there wondering whether I was at a priests' meeting or at a meeting of the brightest business executives in town. I came out of the meeting feeling frustrated and disappointed. When I shared my frustration with one of the priests, he quipped, "The Church cannot be run on the rosary alone." Very true, the Church needs money to carry out its work effectively. But when we put too much emphasize on the material, we are bound to "neglect the word of God to serve at table."

Today's first reading tackles significantly the issue of participation and cooperation in the mission of the Church. Every Christian faithful is exhorted to carry out his or her duties in the Church, and to participate actively in the different ministries of the Church. In today's first reading, we see that there was dissention in the early Church. The community had grown so rapidly that its ability to organize and take care of the pastoral and spiritual needs of its members was compromised. The immediate solution was to seek the involvement and cooperation of more members in carrying out the various duties that were present in the Church at that time.

In today's consumerist and materialistic world, there is a great temptation for us ministers of the words to be caught up with so much of the "serving at table" rather than "serving the word." The mission of the Church has always been to "heal the sick, bring comfort to the poor and the needy; and to set prisoners free." Many of us pastors have neglected this important mission; instead, we worry so much about new renovations to the rectory, the church, and how to build structures that we forget the care of the souls. We worry about how we are going to pay the bills and / or support the institutions. In today's gospel, Jesus says to you and me, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God, have faith also in Me." If we truly have faith in God, then you and I must believe that He is going to provide the necessary assistance to get His work done.

God will surely get His work done, but not without the active participation of all God's people. Sometimes ministerial and administrative burdens are inadvertently placed on the Church's leaderships, because, either they are too proud to invite the laity to participate in the work of the Church, or the laity have refused to play a more active role. When the leadership of the early Church noticed that they were distracted from ministering the word of God to the people, they decided to select from among themselves "men filled with the Spirit and wisdom" to carry out the task of serving the material and administrative needs of the Church. Likewise, in our Parish of St Bartholomew, we have various tasks that should be performed by you, the parishioners – we need people to serve on the Parish Council, Finance Committee and other committees. We need you to help "serve at tables" so that your priests can devote more time to "serving the word of God."

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP


PARISH NEWS



CHILDREN'S MASS: Please make it a point to bring your child to our Children's Mass next Sunday. The 10 a.m. Mass will focus on our children. The Parish Children's Choir will sing the Mass. The children are encouraged to sit together with other children at a designated place during the Mass.

Registration for the 2011 – 2012

Religious Education Classes for public school children, running September through June, is open. Classes are available for children entering 1st grade in September through High School, including those with Special Education needs. **All Catholic children attending public schools should enroll in a religious education program.** Children currently in the program, who have not completed their re-registration, must do so. Please call (476-6676) for more information.



ALTAR FLOWERS for this week have been donated in loving memory of Gabriel Nanoia by Louis & Angela Brusco. Additional flowers have also been donated by the Confirmation Class in memory of the deceased members of their families.

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

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION - RCIA**

Do you know a non-Catholic adult who wishes to explore the Catholic faith; or a Catholic who has never received First Communion or been Confirmed? Please help spread the word that we have a program tailored to these adults. This is an ideal time to inquire about our program. Call Cheryl Duda at 476-6676.

WEDDING JUBILEE MASS & CELEBRATION

St. Bartholomew's couples who are celebrating their **25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary** anytime this year (2011) are invited to attend the 11:30 a.m. Mass on June 12th. 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.



The **ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY** meeting will be held this Monday, May 23rd, in the McManus Parish Center immediately following the May Procession and Crowning. All women of the Parish are invited.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



We congratulate 19 of our children who made their First Holy Communion last Sunday, May 15th, and we welcome them to the Table of the Lord:

Jonathan Amico	Niall McKenna
Britney Arzola	Victor Medina
Ariella Blake	Sebastian Orozco
Michael Blake	Marina Panella
Courtney Clare	Micaela Panella
Deven James Cordero	Tyler Pelayo
Melanie DiDomizio	Giancarlo Petrino
Christopher Lattin	Christopher Suriel
Vannary Vanity Lillman	Rosa Taormina
Kaitlyn Wojda-Howley	



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

- The budgeted Collection for last Sunday was \$6000.00.
- The Collection for last Sunday was \$4530.10.

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

PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE: Meeting of the Committee will take place this Thursday, May 26th, in the Rectory at 7 pm. All members of the Committee are encouraged to attend.



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, Carmella DelBene, Ann Ceriale, Dan Seratto, Mark Cianfaglione, Shawn Colon, Margaret Maccia, Nicole Ryan Betancourt, Anthony Spinner, Audrey & Alfred Falcone, Kathleen Hayes, and Paul Montalbano.

----- **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.

The **CATHOLIC WIDOWS & WIDOWERS OF YONKERS** will hold their monthly meeting at **7:15 p.m.** on **Monday**, May 23rd, in the auditorium of Christ the King School, 740 North Broadway, Yonkers. **New Members are welcome.** For information call (914) 476-4436.

APPRECIATION OF THE FACULTY & STAFF OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S SCHOOL

Our Parish has planned a **Mass on June 11th, at 5 p.m.**, followed by a **reception in the McManus Parish Center** in appreciation of the faculty and staff of our school. All are welcome and encouraged to participate by contribution or bringing a dessert. Sign-up sheets will be available after each Mass on Sunday, June 5th. **Please plan on attending!**



MAY PROCESSION & CROWNING: On **Monday, May 23rd, at 6:45 p.m.** St. Bartholomew's Parish will celebrate the Queenship of Mary, our Mother. Our newly confirmed and this year's First Communicants will process to the Church and crown the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary in this beautiful May devotion.

The short program is filled with devotional songs to Mary that are sure to bring back youthful memories. Please help us fill the Church to honor Our Blessed Mother.



"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." Communications is one of the cornerstones of a strong marriage. Learn how to improve your communication on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter, August 12-14. For more information, call toll free (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.

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.

MAY 22, 2011

Mass  *for the*
Intentions *Week*

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Saturday, May 21 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Thanksgiving to the Blessed Mother Mary

Sunday, May 22

8:30 AM Constance Steffens +

10:00 AM Gabriel Nanoia +

11:30 AM Raffaele Falcone +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Monday, May 23

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Joyce Lamberto +

9:00 AM Rafaela Curnow +

Tuesday, May 24

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Eugene Suarino +

9:00 AM John S. DelBene +

Wednesday, May 25

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Chelsea Fernandez +

9:00 AM Timothy O'Sullivan +

Thursday, May 26

Saint Philip Neri, priest

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Julieann Campisi Moroch +

Friday, May 27

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Frances & Rocco Campana +

Saturday, May 28

Easter Weekday

9:00 AM Brian Noonan +

Saturday, May 28 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Catherine & Joseph Mole +

Sunday, May 29

Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:30 AM Harold Smith, Jr. +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Rose & Gaetano Legio & Family

5:00 PM Virgilio Brizido +

MAY 22, 2011

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY!

We
Love
To
Serve
You!



Our warmest welcome to all our visitors and parishioners! 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, 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.

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SPRINGTIME THANKS

We often consider autumn as the best time to offer thanks since the harvest time makes us most aware of the abundance of blessings. But a grateful heart knows no season and the abundance of gifts is seen at every time of year. Your advertisement on our church bulletin helps us plant seeds that grow in the hearts and minds of our parishioners. Just as the new life we see springing up in the world around us holds the promise of an abundant harvest in the months ahead, we value your support at this time of year as a sign of hope. We are grateful that you have chosen to spend your advertising dollars in support of our publication, and we encourage our parishioners to patronize our advertisers. May the seeds you plant with your ad result in a rich return.