

**CHRIST IS RISEN – DEATH IS CONQUERED!**

Rom. 6:3-11; Matt. 28:1-10; Acts 10:34, 37-43; Col. 3:1-4; John 20:1-9

ALLELUIA! The Lord has indeed risen as He said! On the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent Christ told us that, "...unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." In the Nicene Creed (Profession of Faith) we profess: "We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come." Apostle Paul, writing to the Corinthians about the living tradition of the Resurrection which he had learned after his conversion to Christianity, said: "In the first place, I have passed on to you what I myself received: that Christ died for our sins, as Scripture says; that He was buried; that He was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures; that He appeared to Cephas and then to the Twelve...This is what we preach and this is what you (and I) believed" (1Cor. 15: 3-11). The mystery of Christ's resurrection is a real event with manifestations that were historically verified, as the New Testament bears witness. Indeed, this is what is preached to us and it is truly what we believe. Thus Paul further contends, "if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is empty and our belief comes to nothing... And if Christ has not been raised, your faith gives you nothing, and you are still in sin. Also those who fall asleep in Christ are lost."

Rejoice, Christ is risen from the dead! Thus, the dead are not lost; neither will you and I be lost, because "the God Who raised the Lord Jesus (from death) will also raise us with His power" (1Cor. 6:14). Easter is the feast of life. This is the day, which demonstrates that "our belief has not been futile." Christ has risen from the dead! At the Easter vigil we lit our candles and celebrated Christ as our light and that of the whole world. This celebration draws on the symbolism of light versus darkness – truth versus falsehood – hope versus despair and life versus death. The fire that we lit on Easter night burns out the works of darkness in us and restores us to a new life in Christ. We, who have been dead through sin, are now freed from the grasp of Satan. Christ has risen as He said! Christ, our light, has risen from the dead, let us rejoice and be glad! For people who walk in darkness – sin, ignorance and hopelessness – Christ shines as a bright light upon us. On this night, all the baptized renew their baptismal promises because through baptism we have died to our old ways and have been raised up to a new life in Christ.

Alleluia, Christ is risen! You have been raised with Him, therefore, "seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth." In other words, do not be captivated by the glitter of life or be caught up with those things that may distract you from paying attention to the things of heaven. God has raised Christ, our light, from the dead, hence; let no part of you remain in darkness. As a believer, throughout this year, do all you can to bring the light of the risen Christ to those who have turned their backs on Him because of one reason or the other. Like Joseph of Arimathea who donated a tomb for Jesus' burial – provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry, clothing to the naked and comfort to the weary. Like Mary Magdalene –continue to search intently for the risen Lord until you possess Him Who came to die for our sakes and to save us from our sins. You and I have witnessed Him Who rose from the dead, we must proclaim Him to all men and women – "Do not be afraid! Go and tell My brothers (and sisters)..." about the good news and help bring them to the risen Christ Who is ready to heal their sickness and give relief to their pain and suffering.

*Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP*

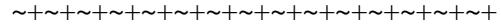
**PARISH NEWS**

**May He Bless you and yours this EASTER**



**My dear friends, Rejoice, for the Lord has truly risen!**

The Pastor, the Deacon, our Pastoral Parish Council and staff wish you and yours a Happy and Blessed Easter!



On this Easter day, I sincerely thank the Lord for the parishioners who have responded positively to my "wish-list" and have generously donated items we needed for the Palm Sunday and Easter celebrations. As always, I am humbled by your out pouring of love and generosity. I am blessed to have you as my parishioners.

The **Paschal Candle** for this Easter was donated in loving memory of Harold Smith by Josephine Smith. Two additional donations to St. Bartholomew's Church Easter Wish List were made in memory of Sister Esther Byrne by Joyce Pietrowski and Dorothy & Thomas Conroy.

I reserve my special thanks to all those who took part in preparing the Holy Week and Easter liturgies: our Liturgy Team led by Cheryl Duda, Deacon Bob Clemens, our Music Director, Erika Podoprigora, the Children, the Teen/Youth, the Adult, and the Folk Choirs, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Altar servers and the men of the Holy Name Society. I appreciate your talents, time and effort. I also wish to thank the ladies of the Rosary Altar Society, members of the Youth Group, and John McKenna for sprucing up the church for our Holy Week and Easter celebrations.

**Father Anthony**

**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? We have a program tailored to these adults. Call Cheryl Duda on 476-6676.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** There will **not** be Religious Education classes this week.

**FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

Register **now** for next year's Religious Education program. Children in public school who will be entering First Grade through High School in September are eligible for these after school and evening classes. Besides grade level classes, instruction prepares children for Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. Call Cheryl Duda (476-6676) for information.

**THE ALTAR BREAD AND WINE** for this week has been donated in loving memory of Carmine Nicholas Maccia by Margaret Maccia and Karen Maccia McKenna.



# EASTER SUNDAY

**THURSDAY, APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup>**  
**1:30 – 7:30 PM**  
**MCMANUS PARISH CENTER**



St. Bartholomew's will be conducting its 71<sup>st</sup> Blood Drive **this Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**. Our parishioners and friends have made **5181** donations to date. We run drives during holiday periods when the need for blood is great and donations are usually down. If you can donate, please call Tony Sciacca (423-3592) for an appointment; and please spread the word to your family and friends, too.

**Give Thanks - Give Blood !!!**



**HOLY NAME SOCIETY**

**MEETING:** This Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, the Holy Name Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All men of the

Parish are welcome.

Couples celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> **Wedding Anniversary** anytime during 2012 are invited to attend the **Annual Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass** with Cardinal Egan at St. Patrick Cathedral, **Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>**, at 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Please contact our Rectory Office for more information. The deadline for registrations for the Mass is Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. This event is sponsored by the Family Life/Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New York.



## WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER



*"Alleluia, He is Risen!"* His resurrection brings new life. You can bring new life to your marriage or holy orders on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend, April 27 – 29. For more information call toll free 1-877 697-9963, ext. 3 or visit [www.wwe.org](http://www.wwe.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.

**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.

## STEWARDSHIP

What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits to me?

## TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

### April 4, 2011

Adults' Contribution	\$9429.70
Children's Contribution	\$131.50
<b>Last Year's Total</b>	<b>\$9561.20</b>

### April 1, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$8797.75
Children's Contribution	\$189.15
<b>This Year's Total</b>	<b>\$8986.90</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 Santamora, 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 Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatkowicz, Rose Botcheller, Silvia Georgi, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Steve Oddo, Roseann Mercandetti, and Frances Swetz.

## 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.

## 2012 ARCHDIOCESAN STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

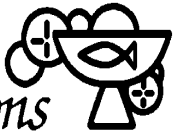
The 2012 *Archdiocesan Stewardship Appeal* is almost in its final stages in our parish. From the bottom of my heart I sincerely thank those who participated in the Annual Appeal during the **Commitment Weekend** two weeks ago. I am also grateful to those families and individuals who had already pledged. I pray God to reward you abundantly for all your sacrifices. Thank you! Below are the stats of parish pledges before the

**Commitment Weekend:**

Goal: -----	\$50,500
Pledge: -----	\$29,745
Paid: -----	\$13,000
Donors: -----	74 families
% of Goal: ----	55.9%

APRIL 8, 2012

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Mass  for the  
Intentions Week

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Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

**Saturday, April 7 (Anticipated Mass)**

Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil

7:30 PM Anthony Giuriceo +

**Sunday, April 8**

8:30 AM Deceased Members of Brusco & Nanoia Families

10:00 AM Luigi & Maria Loreta Lucchetti +

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

**Monday, April 9**

Monday within the Octave of Easter

7:00 AM Clem & Larry D'Arienzo +

9:00 AM Ann Frischman +

**Tuesday, April 10**

Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

7:00 AM Carrie Parisi +

9:00 AM Marcello Barcello +

**Wednesday, April 11**

Wednesday within the Octave of Easter

9:00 AM William Young +

**Thursday, April 12**

Thursday within the Octave of Easter

9:00 AM Mary & John Esposito +

**Friday, April 13**

Friday within the Octave of Easter

9:00 AM Ciel Mahoney +

**Saturday, April 14**

Saturday within the Octave of Easter

9:00 AM Carmine Nicholas Maccia +

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**Saturday, April 14 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

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**Sunday, April 15**

Second Sunday of Easter - Divine Mercy Sunday

8:30 AM Elizabeth & Carl Laredo +

10:00 AM Joseph Paul Prior +

11:30 AM Deceased Members of Capuano & Lucchetti Families

5:00 PM Liebert (Chippy) Masterjoseph +

APRIL 8, 2012

**WELCOME TO  
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH**

Happy Easter to all our visitors! 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.



On Easter we celebrate love,  
love coming down from heaven,  
love blanketing the earth  
in a transforming embrace;  
unique and infinite love,  
giving more than we can imagine  
for us, to cleanse our sin,  
a perfect sacrifice, Lamb of God,  
the walking, talking Word.  
He is teacher, role model, friend,  
this God in human form,  
dying, then rising from the dead,  
proving all who believe will also rise  
to have eternal life, with Him, Lord of all.  
Oh, Happy, Happy Easter!

By Joanna Fuchs

