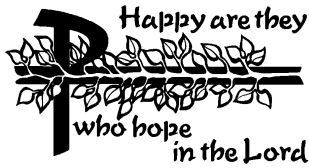


A TESTED FAITH

(Is. 56:1, 6-7; Ps. 67: 2-3, 5, 6, 8; Rom. 11:13-15, 29-32; Matt. 15:21-28)



Our God is not a god of discrimination! He is a God of all – to the immigrants as well as to the citizens – to the native as well as to the foreigners – to the believers as well as to the unbelievers – to the

Gentiles as well as to the Jews. He is the God of all!

In today's gospel, we see Jesus; after He had performed many miracles in Galilee, sought out a quiet place to rest. He broke with tradition and went to a Canaanite district (Tyre and Sidon) for some quiet time. There, at least for a time He would be safe from the hostility of the Scribes and Pharisees, and from His dangerous popularity with the Jewish people; for no Jew would be likely to follow Him into the Gentile territory. As He walked along, a Canaanite woman whose daughter was severely sick recognized Him and cried out: "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon." The woman was a Gentile who belonged to the old Canaanite stock, the ancestral enemies of the Jews. In sharp contrast to Jesus' reaction to the crowd two Sundays ago when Jesus immediately took pity on them and fed them, He instead said to the woman who made the request, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Seeming to add insult to injury, He went on: "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." Who, in today's society would not take offence by such a derogatory remark? A few would certainly feel insulted, and in a materialistic society like ours, would have sued Him for emotional and verbal abuse, or possibly for harassment. The lawyers would have had a ball!

She was a woman of love who made the misery of her daughter her own. She may have been a pagan but she had love, which is always the reflection of God's image toward His children. It was love that drew her to Jesus, a Jew and a stranger. She was also a woman of great faith – her faith grew as she came in contact with Jesus. Her faith challenges you and me to persevere and remain committed in the midst of insults, abuses and other form of difficulties in our quest to serve God. In faith, she "did Jesus homage" and said to Him: "Lord, help me." She persisted because she knew that it was only through Jesus that she could find salvation and deliverance. It was only through Him that her daughter would be healed. In the face of apparent insult and rejection, because of her strong faith, she persisted without any presumption: "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." The woman's magnanimity when confronted with rejection and frustration challenges you and me to develop a strong faith in Jesus so that when faced with painful and difficult circumstances we may be able to endure while standing firm and strong.

Remember, "I am speaking to you Gentiles (sinners, criminals, unbelievers, unfaithful, unrighteous, etc.)...God delivered all to disobedience, that He might have mercy upon all." He is the God of love for all – for you and me – for the righteous and unrighteous. If He showed love to the Canaanite woman, a Gentile, a pagan, He will likewise show mercy and love to you and me. Jesus invites you to have faith as strong as that of the Canaanite woman especially in moment of trials. Trust Him and He will surely say to you, "O My child, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." Amen!

Rev. Anthony J. Deane, M.D.



NOMINATIONS – A CALL TO SERVE!

+

THE PARISH COUNCIL NEEDS MEMBERS

My dear parishioners, I am writing to remind you that the term of our current Parish Pastoral Council will come to an end this September. Therefore, I invite you to graciously participate in the process of choosing men and women who will be willing to serve the spiritual, pastoral and stewardship needs of the parish on the Council.

The flyer you find in today's bulletin outlines the qualities of a leader we need to serve you and the community of St. Bartholomew. Pray about it. You should be kind and generous enough to fill in your name and/or others you think would be willing to serve our community as member(s) of the Parish Pastoral Council. I will personally inform those nominated and will compose a list of members who have accepted to serve.

At the end of the process, those chosen to serve as members of the Parish Pastoral Council shall be blessed and inducted at the 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, October 16th.

Please, consider this as the civic and religious duties that you have to perform for your beloved parish, and genuinely participate in the process. Thank you and God bless!
Father Anthony



Registration for Religious Education classes for public school children, running September through June, **is open**. Classes are available for children in 1st grade through High School senior year, 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.



Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Paul Montalbano, Teresa Matinez, & Reverend John F. Carson.

The SANCTUARY LAMP for this week will be lit in loving memory of Vito Traversa.



We are inviting our parishioners and friends to volunteer to help at the St. Bartholomew's Annual Carnival to be held from September 29 thru October 2, 2011. Please call the Parish Office at 914 965-0566 to register your willingness to serve. Whatever help you can provide is welcomed and appreciated. Thank you!

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

COME, JOIN US!

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY

The Rosary Altar Society was founded by the 2nd pastor of St. Bartholomew's Church, Father Mee, in 1943, for the purpose of promoting devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary among all, especially among the women of the parish. For 68 years, the Society has played an active role in promoting spiritual growth among its members and the Parish. It has also been one of the major arms of fundraising for the parish annually.

The ladies of the Society, apart from cleaning the sacred linens used at Masses, also make available items necessary for the Altar and the Sanctuary, thereby, enhancing our liturgical worship.

Members of the Society gather to worship as a group on the first Sunday of every month (September thru June) at the 8:30 a.m. Mass. They meet at 7:30 p.m. on Monday following the first Sunday to discuss and plan activities for the Society. They always close the meeting with coffee/tea and desserts.

The Society is looking for additional members; therefore, we encourage any woman of the parish who is interested in joining this illustrious group of women to call **Alice Jacob** at 914 963-1686 or the Rectory Office at 914 965-0566.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOLY NAME SOCIETY

The Society of the Holy Name of Jesus was founded by Father Mee in 1945, with the objective of promoting the spiritual welfare of the men of the parish and also promoting greater participation in parish life and cooperation among men of the parish.

For 66 years, the Society has helped by donating material assistance to the needy members of our community. They also organize various social events that often bring the parishioners together as a family.

Members of the Society gather to worship as a group on the second Sunday of every month (September thru June) at the 8:30 a.m. Mass. They meet monthly at 7:30 p.m. on the Monday following the second Sunday to discuss and plan activities for the Society. The meeting always ends with dinner and other social activities. These are men who like to have fun. Come join us!

The Society is looking for additional members. Membership is open to any practicing Catholic man, 18 years or older, who would like to "hang out" with men that will help him feel a sense of belonging in the parish family of St. Bartholomew. For further information contact Jack Bilancia at 914 376-1498 or the Rectory at 914 965-0566.

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.

As you plan and enjoy your summer and vacation, please do not forget your financial obligations to our Parish. God bless and keep you all!



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

- The **budgeted** Collection for last Sunday was **\$6000.00**.
- The **Collection** for last Sunday was **\$5292.60**.
- The **Collection** towards school expenses totaled **\$2066.75**.

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

..+..+..+..+..+..+..+..

Remember, "**We make a living by what we earn. We make a life by what we share.**" Please, remember St. Bartholomew's Parish in your Will as a lasting and loving gift to your parish family. Thanks!



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, Dan Seratto, Mark Cianfaglione, Shawn Colon, Margaret Maccia, Nicole Ryan Betancourt, Anthony Spinner, Audrey & Alfred Falcone, Kathleen Hayes, Marge Muraik, Eve Gammino, Stan Buoninfante, and Donna Vasconez.



This Monday, August 15th, we celebrate the Feast of the **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** into heaven. Because of its proximity to Sunday, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year, but we encourage our parishioners to endeavor to attend Mass on that day in honor of our Blessed Mother, Mary. We will have four Masses celebrating Mary's Assumption at 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 12 noon, and 7:30 p.m.

WESTCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER is requesting help:

1. New clothing for their *Clothing Closet for Patients in Need* (e.g. for patients who come in after an incident where their clothing is unusable). Clothes need not be expensive, but for infection control reasons must be new. Sweat pants and sweat shirts in all adult sizes, including plus sizes, and rubber soled stretchy slippers, one size fits all for men and women.

2. Clerical/Administrative Support Volunteers

3. Greeters, Guides, and Wheelchair Transport Volunteers

4. Patient Liaison Volunteers

All volunteers must be 16 years or older. Please call (914) 493-7850 and leave your name, phone number or e-mail address and mention where you saw this bulletin. Visit www.worldclassmedicine.com and click on *Make a*

AUGUST 14, 2011

Mass  *for the*
Intentions *Week*

Twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Saturday, August 13 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Loretta Riccardi +

Sunday, August 14

8:30 AM Rose Marie Yannicelli +

10:00 AM Rose O'Brien +

11:30 AM Carmela & Frank Legio +

5:00 PM All the People of Our Parish

Monday, August 15

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 AM Anthony Carbillano +

9:00 AM Frances Nanoia +

12:00 Noon Teresa Foley +

7:30 PM Deceased Members of Lucchetti & Capuano Families +

Tuesday, August 16

Weekday

7:00 AM Margaret Comiskey +

9:00 AM Deborah Vetrano +

Wednesday, August 17

Weekday

7:00 AM Peter Garafola +

9:00 AM Ann & Sean O'Farrell (living)

Thursday, August 18

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Marion DeMuro +

Friday, August 19

Weekday

7:00 AM Paul Bolduc (living)

9:00 AM John Miksad +

Saturday, August 20

Saint Bernard, abbot & doctor of the Church

9:00 AM William Gorman, Jr. +

Saturday, August 20 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Margaret Divi +

Sunday, August 21

Twenty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:30 AM Carl Dietze, Robert & Chester Rodesky +

10:00 AM All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Caroline Longobardo +

5:00 PM

AUGUST 14, 2011

**ASSUMPTION OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
(SOLEMNITY - AUGUST 15th)**



On November 1, 1950, Pius XII defined the Assumption of Mary to be a dogma of faith: "We pronounce, declare and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma that the immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul to heavenly glory." The pope declared this dogma only after a broad consultation of bishops, theologians, and laity. There were few dissenting voices. What the pope solemnly declared was already a common belief in the Catholic Church.

We find homilies on the Assumption going back to the sixth century. In following centuries the Eastern churches held steadily to the doctrine, but some authors in the West were hesitant. However, by the thirteenth century there was universal agreement. The feast was celebrated under various names (Commemoration, Dormition, Passing, Assumption) from at least the fifth or sixth century.

Scripture does not give an account of Mary's Assumption into heaven. Nevertheless, chapter 12 of Revelation speaks of a woman who is caught up in the battle between good and evil. Many see this woman as God's people. Since Mary best embodies the people of both Old and New Testament, her Assumption can be seen as an exemplification of the woman's victory. Furthermore, in 1 Corinthians 15:20 Paul speaks of Christ's resurrection as the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep. Since Mary is closely associated with all the mysteries of Jesus' life, it is not surprising that the Holy Spirit has led the Church to belief in Mary's share in His glorification. So close was she to Jesus on earth, she must be with Him body and soul in heaven.

COMMENT: In the light of the Assumption of Mary, it is easy to pray her Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55) with new meaning. In her glory she proclaims the greatness of the Lord and finds joy in God her savior. God has done marvels to her and she leads others to recognize God's holiness. She is the lowly handmaid who deeply revered her God and has been raised to the heights. From her position of strength she will help the lowly and the poor find justice on earth and she will challenge the rich and powerful to distrust wealth and power as a source of happiness.

QUOTE: "In the bodily and spiritual glory which she possesses in heaven, the Mother of Jesus continues in this present world as the image and first flowering of the Church as she is to be perfected in the world to come. Likewise, Mary shines forth on earth, until the day the Lord shall come (cf. 2 Peter 3:10), as a sign of certain hope and comfort for the pilgrim People of God" (*Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, 68).

From *Saint of the Day*, edited by Leonard Foley, O.F.M., & Pat McCloskey, O.F.M.

