

**LOVING THE "UNLOVABLES"**

*(Act. 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48; Ps. 98:1-4; 1 John 4:7-10; John 15: 9-17)*

*"Love comes through me; Which will set you free  
I will give you all my love; That was sent as a gift from above*

*Love comes through you; That is always new  
You come up with the sweetest things; And I know we can handle  
whatever love brings*

*Love comes through each one of us; That makes us a must  
I don't think I'd make it without you; And your love so very true."  
- Anonymous Author*

If you were to be questioned about what you really need in life, I suppose your answers would vary. But when you come to think of it, what you ultimately need in life is nothing, but "happiness." It is happiness that brings you true joy. True happiness can only be derived, not from material things, but from the sacrifices you and I make. Thus, Jesus reveals to us, "I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and your joy might be complete." What does Jesus tell us to do? He tells us to keep His commandments – to love God with all our hearts, with all our soul and with all our strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. It is only when we genuinely love God and neighbor that your joy and mine can be assured. It is in that vein that St. John, in today's second reading, exhorts you and me, "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God." As Christians, our love of God and one another must go far beyond words and "feeling of affection."

Sadly, this doesn't always happen in a Christian community. As the early Church was growing in number, so also the challenges it was facing grew. The context of the account in today's first reading is the controversy that arose in the early Church over whether or not the Gentiles who were not circumcised could be brought into the community of faith. Peter had earlier supported circumcision as criteria for joining the faith community, and had argued that the Gentiles who did not practice circumcision could not be accepted into the community of believers. Paul, on the other hand, had argued all along that Christianity should not depend on the circumcision of the flesh, but rather on circumcision (purification) of the heart. He was so convincing that he made Peter realized that everyone has a chance to come to Christ and that anyone who accepts Jesus' commandment is welcomed to be baptized into His Church. Paul is absolutely right because Jesus Himself said, "You are My friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves...I have called you friends..."

It took a while, but Peter finally realized that "love is of God" and it goes beyond race, color of the skin, ideology, status and language. "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears Him and acts uprightly is acceptable to Him." You and I must know that Christian love is a sacrificial love for "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." The only way we can show that we love God is by loving our fellow brothers and sisters. Love is like a plant, which must be cared for daily; otherwise it withers. Jesus has chosen you and me, and has commanded us to love even those we think are "uncircumcised" – the "unlovable."

**Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP**

**PARISH NEWS**

**Happy**



**Mother's Day**

May God bless all the mothers of our Parish on this very special day! In this month of May, set aside for a special devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Mother; we ask for her intercession and protection for all mothers.

**We love you all!**

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**MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER**

Loving God,  
You wrap Your arms around Your people  
And show Your everlasting love in the same way  
A mother loves her children.  
We are grateful for the love You have taught us  
Through the mothers in our lives:  
Our own mother who brought us into this world,  
The mothers of friends who have welcomed us  
Into their homes and families,  
Our grandmothers who took time for us,  
And the mothers who have helped us  
Even though we were not their children.  
Bless all the mothers of this world today.  
May they know the fullness of love they have shared  
And be blessed every day of their lives. Amen



**HOLY NAME SOCIETY**

**ANNUAL DINNER MEETING:** This Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, the **Holy Name Society** will receive one new member (John McKenna) during Holy Mass at 7 p.m., which will be followed by a dinner in the McManus Parish Center. Contact Tom Hoffman on 476-7976 for details.

**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 designated place during the Mass.



St. Bartholomew's couples who are celebrating their **25<sup>th</sup> or 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary** anytime this year (2012) are invited to attend the 11:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. They will be blessed and honored during the Mass. Please call the Rectory to register and tell us how many guests you might be expecting at the Reception.

**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*

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Congratulations to the 12 children who were sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation here at St. Bartholomew's Church by Bishop Gerald Walsh last Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Justin Abraham  
Christian Manuel Alonso  
Jose Luis Daboin  
Amanda Marie Danial  
Arlene Katherine Guzman  
Joshua Sebastian Macancela  
Sabrina Jazmine Madera  
Daniel Jason Maldonado  
Trung Pio Nguyen  
Opeoluwa Benedicta Obasa  
Christine Bernadette Rodriguez  
Kesniela Marcella Samarita

We thank God for these children and ask all our parishioners to pray that the graces they have received from the Sacrament of Confirmation be used for their salvation and the salvation of all.



The Annual Parish Picnic sponsored by the Holy Name Society is scheduled for Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, at St. Joseph's Seminary from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Please plan on attending this great parish family event.

The **ALTAR FLOWERS** are donated this week in loving memory of Frances Nanoia by Louis and Angela Brusco.



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



Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Alejandra Santander, 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, 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 Petruolo, Cynthia Swiatkiewicz, Rose Botcheller, Silvia Georgi, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Steve Oddo, Roseann Mercandetti, Frances Swetz, Paul Bolduc, Amelia Gagliardi, Louis Brusco and Josephine Daniele.



### Tithing - God's Plan for Giving

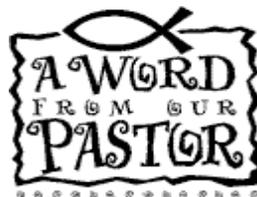
May 8, 2011

Adults' Contribution	\$5351.90
Children's Contribution	\$106.75
<b>Last Year's Total</b>	<b>\$5458.65</b>

May 6, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$7446.70
Children's Contribution	\$116.20
<b>This Year's Total</b>	<b>\$7562.90</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."*



### THE "FIRE OF LOVE"

I am so very proud of all of you! I want to sincerely thank you, the beloved parishioners and friends of St. Bartholomew's Parish, for your out pouring of love toward the Blanco family, who lost everything in the fire

that gutted their apartment two weeks ago.

I am thankful to all of you who have responded to our call to support them financially. Many of our parishioners and friends have been generous, and I am happy to share with you that since the fire incident, through your donations and support, we have been able to raise \$13,407. From our disaster fund, the parish is also donating additional \$1,593 to bring the total amount to \$15,000. A check for this amount has already been issued to our parish family affected by the fire incident.

I am grateful to all of you, and I am so very proud to be the pastor of this great parish family. I know we will always be here to look out for each other.

Donations are still welcomed, thus, if you have not already done so, and would like to help, please place either cash or check in an envelope marked "**Fire Victims**" and mail/drop it at the Rectory Office. Checks must be made out to **St. Bartholomew's Church**. (Memo: *Fire Victims*).

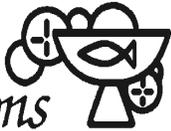
### TO ALL WOMEN OF THE PARISH!

The **Rosary Altar Society** invites all women of the Parish to join them for an evening of relaxation and fun on Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m., at *J.C. Fogarty's*, 60 Kraft Avenue, Bronxville. The price, \$25, includes pasta, salad, entrée, dessert and coffee/tea. For reservations please call Dolores (969-3388) or Josephine (476-5386) by Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>.



MAY 13, 2012

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Mass  for the  
Intentions Week

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**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**Saturday, May 12 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM Julieann Campisi Moroch +

**Sunday, May 13**

8:30 AM Ethel Castagnozzi +

10:00 AM Frances Nanoia +

11:30 AM Novena for the Living & Deceased Mothers

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

**Monday, May 14**

**Saint Matthias, Apostle**

7:00 AM Novena for the Living & Deceased Mothers

9:00 AM Kendall Hayes +

**Tuesday, May 15**

**Easter Weekday**

7:00 AM Novena for the Living & Deceased Mothers

9:00 AM Walter Campion +

**Wednesday, May 16**

**Easter Weekday**

7:00 AM Novena for the Living & Deceased Mothers

9:00 AM Grace Raguso +

7:30 PM Peter & Josephine Pisacreta +

**Thursday, May 17**

**The Ascension of the Lord**

7:00 AM Novena for the Living & Deceased Mothers

9:00 AM Christine Serricchio Bellino +

7:00 AM Lena Castaldo +

7:30 PM Michael Fusco +

**Friday, May 18**

**Easter Weekday**

7:00 AM Novena for the Living & Deceased Mothers

9:00 AM Ray Wood +

**Saturday, May 19**

**Easter Weekday**

9:00 AM Novena for the Living & Deceased Mothers

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**Saturday, May 19 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM Lucille Pragana +

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**Sunday, May 20**

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

8:30 AM Robert Liddell +

10:00 AM Charles & Mary Barba and Son +

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Novena for the Living & Deceased Mothers

## ASCENSION THURSDAY (May 17<sup>th</sup>)



The fortieth day after Easter Sunday, commemorates the Ascension of Christ into heaven, according to Mark 16:19, Luke 24:51, and Acts 1:2.

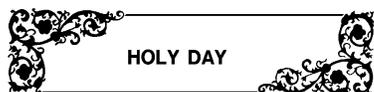
In the Eastern Church this feast was known as *analepsis*, the taking up, and also as the *episozomene*, the salvation, denoting that by ascending into His glory Christ completed the work of our redemption. The terms used in the West, *ascensio* and, occasionally, *ascensa*, signify that Christ was raised up by His own powers. Tradition designates Mount Olivet near Bethany as the place where Christ left the earth. The feast falls on Thursday. It is one of the Ecumenical feasts ranking with the feasts of the Passion, of Easter, and of Pentecost among the most solemn in the calendar, has a vigil and, since the fifteenth century, an octave which is set apart for a novena of preparation for Pentecost, in accordance with the directions of Leo XIII.

Although the place of the Ascension is not distinctly stated, it would appear from the Acts that it was Mount Olivet. Since after the Ascension, the disciples are described as returning to Jerusalem from the mount that is called *Olivet*, which is near Jerusalem, within a Sabbath day's journey. Tradition has consecrated this site as the Mount of Ascension and Christian piety has memorialized the event by erecting over the site a basilica. St. Helena built the first memorial, which was destroyed by the Persians in 614, rebuilt in the eighth century, to be destroyed again, but rebuilt a second time by the crusaders. This the Moslems also destroyed, leaving only the octagonal structure which encloses the stone said to bear the imprint of the feet of Christ, that is now used as an oratory.

Not only is the fact of the Ascension related in the passages of Scripture cited above, but it is also elsewhere predicted and spoken of as an established fact. Thus, in John 6:63, Christ asks the Jews: "If then you shall see the son of Man ascend up where He was before?" and 20:17, He says to Mary Magdalene: "Do not touch Me, for I am not yet ascended to My Father, but go to My brethren, and say to them: I ascend to My Father and to your Father, to My God and to your God." Again, in Ephesians 4:8-10, and in Timothy 3:16, the Ascension of Christ is spoken of as an accepted fact.

The language used by the Evangelists to describe the Ascension must be interpreted according to usage. To say that He was taken up or that He ascended does not necessarily imply that they locate heaven directly above the earth; no more than the words "sitteth on the right hand of God" mean that this is His actual posture. In disappearing from their view "He was raised up and a cloud received Him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9), and entering into glory He dwells with the Father in the honor and power denoted by the scripture phrase.

(Catholic Encyclopedia)



**ASCENSION THURSDAY MASS TIMES:** This Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, a Holy Day of Obligation. The Mass schedule will be as follows: Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m.; and *Ascension Thursday*, May 17<sup>th</sup>, at 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 12 Noon & 7:30 p.m.

