

## CHALLENGING THE *STATUS QUO*!

(Amos 7: 12-15; Ps. 85: 9-14; Eph. 1:3-14; Mark 6:7-13)

Who wants change? Many of us do not like changes! Two years ago when the Church's hierarchy announced that there were going to be changes made in the Roman Missal, many Catholics were upset. Who needs change when we are so used to and comfortable with the status quo? Change in any form is always difficult to handle or to accept. Why try to fix a thing that is not broken? Well, it may not have been broken, but does it serve the interests of all, or only that of a few?

The context of today's first reading tells us about Prophet Amos who called for social justice for all in the society. Amos, a native of Tekoa, lived in the Southern Kingdom of Judah, about six miles from Bethlehem. Although, he was a businessman (a shepherd and a dresser of sycamores), the Lord called him to prophecy in Bethel, the Northern Kingdom, where Amaziah served the king as priest of the Sanctuary. Amaziah was a professional religious person paid by the king - to offer prayers and preside over religious ceremonies in the king's palace. Thus, Amaziah favored a religion that stands for the *status quo*. He was patriotic and loyal and was loath to "rock the boat," which might unsettle the constituency. In contrast, Amos was a layman called by God to preach against the injustices prevalent at his time - he was sent to preach against the *status quo*.

Amos was blunt in his rebuke of the Israelites who have turned away from God by practicing injustice and oppressing the poor and the powerless. He refused to tow the line of the *smooth talkers and praise singers*. He blamed the religious and civil leaders for the social injustices that prevailed at the time. Amaziah, the priest was not happy with his rebukes and ordered him out of Bethel. He slighted him and accused him of coming to preach in Bethel for the sole purpose of making a living. Amos denied that he ever wanted to be a prophet but "the Lord took me from following the flock and said to me, Go, prophesy to My people Israel."

The Church has a mission to preach the Good News and to evangelize. She has the mandate to preach against injustice - to preach love and peace. She has a mission to form and inform consciences. Unfortunately, like Amaziah, some of the Church's leaders have failed to exercise the authority Christ has given to them "over unclean spirits." They have allowed the "unclean spirits" of *relativism* and *political correctness* to flourish in our society. They have chosen to *please the king*, rather than challenge the policies and practices that deny justice to the oppressed, food to hungry, care to the sick, love to the rejected and shelter to the homeless.

The lesson of today's scripture readings points to the fact that the work of the Church is not exclusively reserved to the priests and religious. Like Amos, every Christian has a responsibility to promote social justice. You and I have been sent out "two by two" to preach repentance to all peoples. We must not be content with the status quo, but must emerge from our *comfort zones* and take our religious and political leaders to tasks for preferring to please the powerful and the mighty, rather than fighting for the rights of the weak, poor and defenseless. We must remember the words of Pope Benedict XVI that "the direct duty to work for a just ordering of society...is proper to the lay faithful (you). As citizens of the State, (you) are called to take part in public life in a personal capacity. So (you) cannot relinquish (your) participation in...different economic, social, legislative, administrative and cultural areas, which are intended to promote organically and institutionally the common good."

## PARISH NEWS



**Religious Education** helps to build a strong foundation

Registration for Religious Education classes for public school children, running September through June, is open. Classes are available for children in 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

If you or someone you know needs information on the Catholic Faith or have not been confirmed, please call the Religious Education Office for information on the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.) in our parish.



**RCIA SPONSORS NEEDED:** We have four candidates in the RCIA process who need a sponsor to proceed with their initiation into the Catholic faith.

A sponsor is an active Catholic that is willing to be a companion on the journey. Sponsors find their role to be one that enriches and deepens their own faith as well. It is a very rewarding experience. To be a sponsor one must be baptized and confirmed Catholic, who regularly attends Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. If the sponsor is married, the marriage must have been celebrated in a Catholic Church in the presence of a bishop, priest, or deacon and if single, the sponsor must **not** be in a relationship contrary to the Church's beliefs and teachings on the Sacrament of Marriage. Please contact Father Anthony or Cheryl Duda for further information.

### MARRIAGE BANS



This is the third and final publication of marriage bans between Mary Jane George Edattel and Sandeep Samuel Masih; if you are aware of any reason they should not marry, according to the Catholic rite, please contact the Pastor, Father Anthony Bassey, MSP.

**ITALIAN FESTIVAL:** The annual Festa Italiana (6 p.m. to midnight) of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 92 South Lexington Avenue, White Plains end today, Sunday, July 15<sup>th</sup>. Music & entertainment, Italian food & desserts, American fare, espresso bar, air conditioned casino, and much more! Immediately preceding the Festa, please join the **Procession of the Statue of Our Lady of Mount Carmel** for a public procession of prayer to honor the Virgin Mary today at 4 p.m. (Assemble in front of the Church at 3:30 p.m.) followed by the 5 PM Mass.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** for this week have been donated in loving memory of Anthony Intrieri by



## FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



**Congratulations** to our newest Christian, **Madelyn Kennedy**, who was baptized on Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup>. We thank her parents and sponsor for presenting her for baptism, and we pray God to bless and keep this child and her parents in their journey of faith.

### CATHOLIC CHARITIES COMMUNITY SERVICE JOB

**OPENING:** Catholic Charities Community Services currently has a Full Time Position for a Food Stamp Outreach Worker for Putnam/Northern Westchester counties who will work from various areas throughout the county educating low income individuals about the benefits of Food Stamps, administering pre-screenings, assisting with application completion, and follow up on Food Stamp applications.

Outreach workers may be scheduled to attend each site only once or they may be scheduled to attend multiple times throughout the year. Workers will be assigned to work either alone or with a partner depending on scheduling needs.

Applicants must submit a resume and cover letter highlighting relevant past experience and qualifications, and state their position of interest and desired compensation. Please send resume and cover letter to [ccjobs@archny.org](mailto:ccjobs@archny.org) or Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, Human Resources Department, 1011 First Avenue – Floor 11, New York, NY 10022 or fax (212) 826-8795.



*At all the Masses for next Sunday we will be visited by a representative of the Redemptorist Mission Cooperative, Reverend Francis Gargani, C.Ss.R. We are invited to join in the worldwide mission of Jesus by supporting the Propagation of the Faith, through prayer and financial aid. There will be a second collection to help support this worthy cause.*

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Mary Romanchik.



**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** to help advertise our Religious Education Program in the community by distributing flyers on your street or contacting a business that might display a flyer in their window. Please contact Cheryl Duda (476-6676).

**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

July 10, 2011

Adults' Contribution	\$4838.35
Children's Contribution	\$52.00
<b>Last Year's Total</b>	<b>\$4890.35</b>

July 8, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$5332.85
Children's Contribution	\$61.10
<b>This Year's Total</b>	<b>\$5393.95</b>

**The collection for Black & Indian Missions totaled \$995.05.**

*"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."*

### 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 lasting and loving gift to your parish family. Thank you!*



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, 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 Cianfagione, 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, Mary Romanchik, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatkiewicz, Rose Botcheller, Silvia Georgi, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Steve Oddo, Roseann Mercandetti, Paul Bolduc, Amelia Gagliardi, Louis Brusco, Josephine Daniele, Jennifer Dorsey, Valerie Riccardi, Fatima Panik, Joanne Moscarello, Marian Fletcher, and Anna (Nina) Bonacci.

### GIANT TAG SALE - SATURDAY, AUGUST 25<sup>TH</sup> MCMANUS PARISH CENTER

Our Religious Education Department and our Youth Group plan to hold a Tag Sale in the McManus Parish Center as a fund raiser. Please save the date! They will be accepting donations of: **Jewelry household items bric-a-brac electronics in good working order toys & games with all their pieces etc.** Please no books! More information will be coming. For any questions or to make arrangements to drop off donations, please call Cheryl Duda on 476-6676.

The **CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** will meet this Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m. in Room 111 on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of St. John's Riverside Hospital, 967 North Broadway, Yonkers. Call (914)

JULY 15, 2012

---

*Mass Intentions for the Week*



---

**Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Saturday, July 14 (Vigil Mass)**

**Weekday**

5:00 PM Ethel Castagnozzi +

**Sunday, July 15**

8:30 AM Oscar Starkenberg +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Julieann Campisi Moroch +

5:00 PM Donald Swetz +

**Monday, July 16**

**Weekday**

7:00 AM Cynthia Ann McCarthy +

9:00 AM Frances Swetz +

**Tuesday, July 17**

**Weekday**

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Al Martini +

**Wednesday, July 18**

**Weekday**

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Deceased Members of Gennaro DelBene Family

**Thursday, July 19**

**Weekday**

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Anthony Intrieri +

**Friday, July 20**

**Weekday**

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Margaret & Michael Hickey +

**Saturday, July 21**

**Weekday**

9:00 AM Mary Brewus +

\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday, July 21 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM Carollee Layfaye +

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday, July 22**

**Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:30 AM Deceased Members of Tramontozzi Family

10:00 AM Charles & Stefana Barba +

11:30 AM Lena Castaldo +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

*JULY 15, 2012*

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

Our warmest welcome to our visitors! 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.

Every family and single adult to be considered an active parishioner of St. Bartholomew's Parish must be properly registered in the Parish, receiving and regularly using the Parish Weekly Collection Envelopes. Only in this way can the Pastor issue documents attesting to Catholic practice of the faith and Parish membership, e.g. a letter to be a Godparent or Sponsor. For further information call the Parish Office at 914-965-0566.

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 (you may also use the complete Registration Form found on the table at the rear of the Church); 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.

.....



