

DON'T BE LOCKED OUT!*Wisdom 6:12-16; Ps. 63: 2-8; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Matt. 25:1-13*

One snowy day, four friends were together chatting over a game of *Domino's*. Suddenly, the subject of the discussion shifted from relationships to dying and death. The question was: What would you do if all of a sudden it were revealed that you were going to die this very night? One of them said, "I would kneel down to pray, and I would look for any available priest to hear my confessions." Another said, "I would take all my money out of the bank; some I would donate to the Church, and the rest I would take to Atlantic City." A third said, "I would call my lawyer and make sure my will was in good order." The fourth person seemed not to really pay attention to the discussion and the various answers given, which prompted the other three to request her opinion. Eventually, she looked up and said, 'I guess, I would continue to play my *Domino's game!*' She was prepared and ready at any time. That is what Jesus tells us to do in today's gospel – Be prepared!

Death is an inevitable end; it will surely come when it will come. But we do not know nor anticipate when and how it will come. Therefore, the ultimate question is: "How prepared are you for your death?" Since death is inevitable, it is pertinent that you and I prepare adequately for it. As Christians, we do not have to fear death; it has a positive end if only we are prepared for it. St. Paul says: "We do not want you to be unaware...about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope." Inasmuch as we see death as a necessary end, we should know that there is life after death. We are a people of hope – we believe that the dead will rise again on the last day and "will stand judgment before the Lord." Today's gospel reading calls on us to *stay awake* and be prepared because we do not "know neither the day nor the hour" that our sun will set and death will come.

Today's parable teaches us that procrastination can often be our worse enemy. Late preparation for a journey can sometimes lead to the missing of our flight, or if we are using an automobile it can lead to speeding which may result in traffic fines, injuries or even death. Worse still, putting off seeing a doctor can have disastrous consequences. Sometimes a doctor has to tell a patient: "Your sickness is too far advanced to do anything to save your life. You have waited too long. If you had just come in a month or two ago we could have done something to save your life." Our nonchalant attitude can sometimes lead to our death because of our inattentiveness. If a student wants to succeed and excel in his / her examinations, they must work hard and prepare adequately. The parable also teaches us that there are certain things in life that cannot be borrowed – we cannot borrow a relationship with God. You and I cannot borrow the *oil of faith*. We need to possess our own individual *oil* at all times. We cannot gain entry into eternal life via the *spiritual capital* amassed by others – our parents, spouses, friends, et cetera. Like the five wise virgins, you and I must always be prepared.

Looking down our spiritual road, like the five wise virgins in today's gospel, we should always be prepared to embrace *wisdom* when she comes to us. We should not be caught running out of time trying to make our lives acceptable to God. Just as people put off their preparation for a journey, seeing a doctor, not being spiritually prepared for our final day here on earth can have a tragic consequence – it can literally send us to hell. You don't want that to happen to you! Thus, let your *soul be thirsting for the Lord your God*, while you watch and wait! Avoid being locked out!

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP

PARISH NEWS



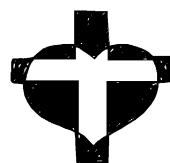
The **Rosary Altar Society** meeting will be held this Monday, November 7th, at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All women of the Parish are invited to attend.

CHILDREN'S MASS: Please make it a point to bring your child to our Children's Mass next Sunday and the rest of the Sundays in November. 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 during the Mass.



ALTAR FLOWERS for this week have been donated in honor of Joseph Bappert, Fiore Brusco, John Brusco, Daniel J. DeRosa, Anthony Giuriceo, David Jacob, Margaret Liddell, Robert Liddell, Martin Magzag, Carmine Manno, Frank Marra, Andrew J. McCormack, Gabriel Nanoia, Benjamin Pelliccio, Jerry Pisacreta, Francis J. Romano, and Harold Smith, Jr.

The **ALTAR BREAD & WINE, ALTAR CANDLES** and **SANCTUARY LAMP** for the week have been donated in honor of their Veterans by the Rosary Altar Society.



Our **SOCIAL MINISTRY** pantry is bare! Besides our usual needs for pasta sauces, jellies, juices, rice, tuna, cereals, canned vegetables / fruit, etc., we are kicking off a special **Thanksgiving Food Drive**. Starting today and continuing **through the next two weekends**, please bring to church Thanksgiving appropriate, non-perishable fixings, such as stuffing, canned vegetables or fruit, boxed mashed potatoes, coffee, tea, juices, etc. Thank you.

We will be in need of **some frozen turkeys and fresh / frozen pies** on the **Sunday and Monday (November 20th & 21st)** of Thanksgiving week. Due to a lack of refrigerator / freezer storage space, we can only accept pies or turkeys at the lower level of the Rectory **before each Mass that Sunday or Monday morning between 6:45 and 8 a.m.** for distribution on that Monday morning.

THANKSGIVING SHARING TABLE

It has been the custom at our Parish for those attending the 10 a.m. Thanksgiving Day Mass to bring something for our sharing table. Typically this would be along the lines of a pie, special bread, a favorite dessert, candy or flowers. At the end of Mass all items on the table are blessed and all are welcome to choose an item to add to their holiday table; thus sharing our meal with our Parish family. Please give some thought to what you might bring this year.



By the PASTOR

WE HAVE GONE "GREEN" - Finally

Dear Parishioners, this past August I updated you on the progress we were making in our desire to "go green" in our church lightings. I also reminded you that each bulb in our church consumed 250 watts, and that there were a total of 70 bulbs in the church. Thus, whenever the lights were turned on, 250 x 70 or 17,500 watts of energy were used.

It is my pleasure to report to you that we have now "gone green." All former halogen lighting fixtures have been replaced with more environmentally friendly fixtures, compact florescence and LED bulbs. Each of the bulbs that were consuming 250 watts is now replaced with ones that consume only 15 watts. It is our hope that in the long term we will be able reduce our electricity bill by about 35%.

The second phase of the work is to install Exit Signs in the church and also to upgrade the lightings in the McManus Parish Center.

I want to use this opportunity to thank Karen and her husband, John McKenna, who on behalf of the parish, have been liaising with the various companies and also supervised the work as it progressed. I am grateful to all of you, my parishioners for your sacrifices, patience and support.



Registration for **Religious Education Classes** for public school children is open. Classes are available for children in Pre-K through High School, including those with Special Education needs. **All Catholic children attending public schools should enroll in a religious education program.** Please call (476-6676) for more information.

FAMILY FAITH FESTIVAL – NOVEMBER 19TH

Our next Family Faith Festival for families with school age children will be held on **Saturday, November 19th**; the topic is the New Roman Missal. After separate presentations for adults and children, all will unite for a family game. Reservations are required by **Wednesday, November 12th**, by phone (476-6676) or fax (965-9046).



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 for this most efficacious prayer.



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

- The budgeted Collection for last Sunday is **\$6500.00.**
- The actual Collection for last Sunday is **\$5688.00.**

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

We need your help! We missed some of you last weekend when Mother Nature dealt us the sudden snow storm. If you have not already done so, please consider doubling up next week's donation or dropping last week's envelope off at the Rectory Office during the week. Thank you!

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, Amadeu Amorim, Grace Raguso, Andy DeFabritis, Maryann Tolle, 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, 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, Eve Gammino, Stan Buoninfante, Donna Vasconez, Mary Ann Berengur, Gene DelBene, Angelina Brusco, Mary Romanchik, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Jeanne Simmons, and Louis Petruolo.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**



Our **Rosary Altar Society** is holding a Clothing Drive. Please bring usable clothes, shoes, belts, and linens to the red doors of the McManus Parish Center on Saturday, November 12th, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. For information call the Rectory Office (965-0566) or Alice Jacob (963-1686).

NEW ROMAN MISSAL PRESENTATION

ALL PARISHIONERS are invited to learn about the liturgy changes on **Tues, Nov 8th, Election Day**, in a classroom of the school building at either 10 a.m. or 7 p.m. Because of limited space, reservations are required. Call Cheryl Duda (476-6676).



IMPORTANT LECTOR MEETING

Thursday, November 17th, at 7 p.m. in the school building, all Lectors are asked to attend an important meeting with Father Anthony. Please call Cheryl Duda (476-6676) with any questions.

NOVEMBER 6, 2011

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

Thirty-Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

Saturday, November 5 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Sarah Menchen +

Sunday, November 6

8:30 AM Adolf Steffens +

10:00 AM All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Anna DiGennaro +

5:00 PM Novena

Monday, November 7

Weekday

7:00 AM Novena

9:00 AM Dorothy Shannon +

Tuesday, November 8

Weekday

7:00 AM Novena

9:00 AM Tatyana Shannon (living)

Wednesday, November 9

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome

7:00 AM Novena

9:00 AM Sister Mary Denis Cashin +

Thursday, November 10

Saint Leo the Great, pope & doctor of the Church

7:00 AM Novena

9:00 AM Marcello Barcello +

Friday, November 11

Saint Martin of Tours, bishop

7:00 AM Dan McCarthy +

9:00 AM Stephen Hickey +

Saturday, November 12

Saint Josaphat, bishop & martyr

9:00 AM Frank & Carmela Gerace +

Saturday, November 12 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Mary & Joseph Cuzzo +

Sunday, November 13

Thirty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:30 AM Antonio D'Addario +

10:00 AM Loretta & Michael Kennedy +

11:30 AM Paul & Maddalena Coniglio +

5:00 PM All the People of Our Parish

NOVEMBER 6, 2011

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY!

**We
Love
To
Serve
You!**



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, or (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.

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VERERANS' DAY

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918 saw the beginning of an armistice that brought a pause to the hostilities of World War I. They hoped it would be "the war to end all wars." That was not to be the case. In 1938, on the eve of World War II, Congress passed a bill dedicating each November 11th "to the cause of world peace" under the title of Armistice Day. In 1954, the name was changed to Veterans' Day to honor all servicemen and women.

Remembering Veterans' Day, we pray for enduring peace and for a cessation of hostilities around the world. We pray for all who have been maimed or displaced due to wars or violence. We pray for the happy repose of the souls of those who lost their lives because of wars and violence. We pray for lasting peace in all human hearts.

