

A FAITH COMMUNITY OF MUTUAL LOVE

Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1John 5:1-6; John 20:19-31



Saint Luke tells us in today's first reading that after the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus, "The community of believers was of one heart and mind..." The outpouring of God's Holy Spirit upon the faithful after Christ's resurrection from the dead strengthened them and encouraged unity amongst them, thus, "no one

claimed that any of his (her) possessions was his (her) own, but they had everything in common." This passage thus reveals to us that the Church, from the beginning has always been a "community of God's people." Whenever we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, God's Holy Spirit is amongst us – binding us together as one family. The Church, therefore, is a community, which is bounded together by the Holy Spirit and characterized by the communal life of believers with one mind and heart that share their resources and talents with each other for the good of the community.

Earlier this year, our Parish Pastoral Council declared this year, "A Year of Re/Evangelization." The purpose of this is to try and encourage every parishioner to play a role in bringing the love of Christ to lapsed-Catholics/Christians, and to try and draw them back to God's Church – the community of God's holy people. The fact that the Faith Community of St. Bartholomew is the microcosm of the early Church should be a challenge for you and me to make it a family where "all who believe" should always be together and "have all things in common". We should build it into a community of love, peace, joy, understanding and acceptance where we share together in the One Cup and One Body of our Lord Jesus Christ. In this family, we should enjoy favor with one another, praising God with exultation and sincerity of heart, because "it is by your love for one another that all will know that you are My disciples" (John 13:34-35).

Our Lord Jesus, by His death and resurrection wished that as a Community of Faith, members of His Church, you and I, would be disciples of His peace, hence, He breaths upon us: "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you" (John 20: 21). He sends you and me to share our possessions with the needy – bring His mercy and love to those who are depressed and comfort to the sorrowful. He sends us to be the architects of peace and unity.

The Lord Jesus, after His resurrection, sends you and me to take part and be present at Mass so that we might encounter Him Who appears to us in the Holy Eucharist whenever we gather to celebrate as a Faith Community. The Risen Lord has appeared to us as a worshipping community, and invites us to share His peace with one another. He exhorts us to forgive those who offend us. Like the early Christians, He challenges us to always come together to share the Word and the Eucharist.

As a Faith Community, like the early church, the parishioners of Saint Bartholomew's are challenged to be true Disciples of Christ, and by our examples of love, peace and unity, endeavor to attract new members to our parish family.

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP

PARISH NEWS



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The Parish Pastoral Council will meet this Monday, April 16th, at 7:00 p.m. in the school. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting.

The **FINANCE COMMITTEE** will meet this Thursday, April 19th, at 7 p.m. in the Rectory. All members are asked to attend.

THE ALTAR BREAD AND WINE for this week has been donated in loving memory of Anthony DiPaolo by Josephine Smith.



The **SANCTUARY LAMP** for this week will be lit in loving memory of Elda Costentini.



CHILDREN'S MASS: Please make it a point to bring your child to pray with the Risen Christ at the Children's Mass next Sunday and the rest of the Sundays in April. The 10 a.m. Mass will focus on our children. The Parish Children's Choir and the Folk Group will sing at the Mass. The children are encouraged to sit with their friends and classmates during the Mass.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION: Adults interested in learning more about the Catholic faith or wishing to prepare for Confirmation should contact the Religious Education Office for information about the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. (RCIA) Call 914-476-6676 for further information.



St. Bartholomew's Rosary Altar Society wishes to thank all the women who supported their Lenten Morning Retreat on Saturday, March 31st. Their participation and involvement in the discussions which ensued, contributed much to the Rosarians' feeling of Parish community.

Catholic Charities: Feeding the Hungry and Sheltering the Homeless: In uncertain economic times, homelessness is a real threat for individuals and families who have lost jobs. Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York prevents 3,300 families from becoming homeless and provides temporary apartments to 2,000 individuals each year. On any given night Catholic Charities New York provides shelter for more than 1,500 people. Learn more at www.catholiccharitiesNY.org.

MARRIAGE BANNES: This is the first publication of marriage banns between Richard Buoninfante and Carla Ceriale. If you are aware of any reason they should not marry, according to the Catholic rite, please contact the Pastor, Father Anthony Bassey, MSP.



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



CONGRATULATIONS to **Derek Mamadoski**, who was baptized and confirmed; and **Gregory Anderson** and **Keyani Singletary** who were received into Full Communion of the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil Mass. We pray that God blesses them, their families, and sponsors; and we welcome them into our family of faith.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"Blessed are they who have not seen Me, but still believe!" It is also easy to doubt how great our marriage can be unless we trust in Him to strengthen our marriage. Find out how on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend, April 27-29. For more information, call toll free (877) 697-9963, ext. 3 or visit www.wwme.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.

WEDDING JUBILEE MASS & CELEBRATION

St. Bartholomew's couples who are celebrating their **25th** or **50th** **Wedding Anniversary** anytime this year (2012) are invited to attend the 11:30 a.m. Mass on May 20th. They will be blessed and honored during the Mass which will be followed by a Reception in the McManus Parish Center. Please call the Rectory to register and tell us how many guests you might be expecting at the Reception.



TAG SALE: Most Holy Trinity will host a Tag Sale on Saturday and Sunday, April 21st and 22nd, in the Parish Hall located in Trinity Plaza off Walnut Street, Yonkers. The hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, please call Mary Popot on 963-3046.

The **CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** will meet this Wednesday, April 18th, at 7 p.m. in Room 111 of St. John's Riverside Hospital, 967 North Broadway, Yonkers, for education & support to help cope with cancer. Call (914) 964-4441 for information

YOUTH MINISTRY

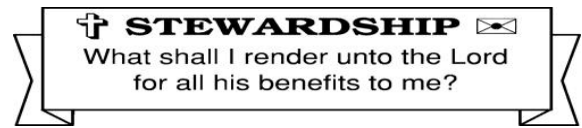
The first Sunday evening of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass, our Youth Group meets in the McManus Parish Center. All youths age 13 and up are invited.

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



TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

April 10, 2011

Adults' Contribution	\$5560.70
Children's Contribution	\$134.50
Last Year's Total	\$5695.20

Last year's Easter Gifts totaled \$22,434.00

April 8, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$5321.75
Children's Contribution	\$84.05
This Year's Total	\$5405.80

This Year's Easter Gifts (Adults) \$19,549.00

This Year's Easter Gifts (Children) \$221.00

- The Holy Thursday collection to aid the poor totaled **\$1583.80.**
- The Good Friday collection in support of the Holy Land totaled **\$1058.20.**

"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."

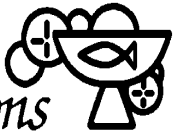


Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Alejandra Santander, Grace Raguso, Andy DeFabritis, Maryann Tolli, Maria Marte, Ed Carpenter, Barbara Rup, Jule Yaskovic, Rosalie Heit, Dolores Santamarena, Florence B. Swetz, Clare Yaskovic, Neil Caruso, Raymond Fitzpatrick, Sr., Deacon James Byrnes, Andrea Objay, Carmen Torres, John Esposito, Francis Farrell, Mark Baum, Frank Marra, 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 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.

APRIL 15, 2012

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

Second Sunday of Easter - Divine Mercy Sunday

Saturday, April 14 (Anticipated Mass)

Saturday within the Octave of Easter

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Sunday, April 15

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 +

Monday, April 16

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Amelia Navarro +

Tuesday, April 17

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Anthony DiPaolo +

Wednesday, April 18

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Bolduc & Savard Families

9:00 AM Amadeu Amorim +

Thursday, April 19

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Frank & Lena Como +

Friday, April 20

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM John DiRodio +

Saturday, April 21

Easter Weekday

9:00 AM Rita & Al DeVito +

Saturday, April 21 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Lucille & Carl Rossi +

Sunday, April 22

Third Sunday of Easter

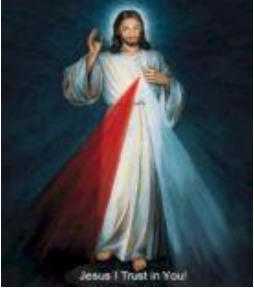
8:30 AM Pidany & Pyc Families

10:00 AM Loretta & Michael Kennedy +

11:30 AM Members of the Wong Family (living)

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

TODAY IS ***DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY***



Pope John Paul II designated the Second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday; and to ensure that the faithful would observe the day with devotion, he established special graces for participating in prayers and devotions honoring God's Divine Mercy. In his homily at the beatification of Sister Mary Faustina, he reflected on the readings of the Second Sunday of Easter, saying: "The message of the divine mercy is ... implicitly a message about the value of every human being. Each person is precious in God's eyes; Christ gave His life for each one; to everyone the Father gives His Spirit and offers intimacy."

The feast of Divine Mercy is both a celebration of God's merciful love and an example for us to follow. God's love for us is never more evident than when He forgives our sins. Today's Gospel describes Jesus' first appearance to His disciples after His resurrection; when He said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." Then breathing on them, He said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them; and whose you retain are retained." (John 20, 19-23)

What a great gift of His Divine Mercy we receive through our priests in the Sacrament of Reconciliation! We have a duty not only to praise this gift of His Divine Mercy, but also to be agents of mercy in the lives of other people by performing corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

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THE MIRACLE PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I come before You just as I am. I am sorry for all my sins. I repent of my sins, please forgive me. In Your name, I forgive all others for what they have done against me. I renounce Satan, the evil spirits and all their works. I give You my entire self, Lord Jesus, now and forever. I invite You into my life Jesus. I accept You as my Lord, God and Savior. Heal me, change me, strengthen me in body, soul and spirit. Come Lord Jesus, cover me with Your Precious Blood and fill me with Your Holy Spirit. **I love You, Lord Jesus. I Praise You, Jesus. I Thank You, Jesus.** I shall follow You every day of my life. Amen.

Mary my Mother, Queen of Peace, all the Angels and Saints, please help me. Amen.

From www.circleofprayer.com