

A TIME OF CLEANSING

Ex. 20:1-17; Ps. 19:8-11; 1Cor. 1:22-25; John 2:13-25

A traffic officer was on a routine patrol when he noticed a driver running the red light. “Wham-wham,” goes the siren, and the unfortunate driver was pulled over. “Do you realize what you have just done?” asked the traffic officer. “I have no idea, officer,” replied the driver. “You just ran a red light!” The officer retorted. “Sir, I am a very respectable man in the community,” the guilty driver continued, “I did watch carefully, to my right and to my left. I made sure that there was no traffic approaching before I went though the red light...by the way, it does not make any sense for me to be waiting at the red light when there is no other vehicle within sighting distance...” At the end of his defense and argument, the traffic officer ticketed him. The law is the law! Sometimes it might not make any sense to you, but it must still be kept for the sake of order and safety.

Last week, at our annual Lenten Recollection, the Archbishop, Timothy Cardinal Dolan, told us how he received a letter from someone questioning why he is interfering in other people’s private lives. “Why should you or the Church for that matter tell people how to live their lives?” The writer went on, “Why must the Church make laws forbidding the use of contraceptives? People should be allowed to make their choices and live their lives the way they want!”

Of course, people have the right to make choices, but have you ever imagine how chaotic it would be if we were a *lawless* society? There are those who would be quick to dismiss God’s laws (The Ten Commandment) as unnecessary and unattainable. There are some who would like us to do away with the Constitution – civil, criminal, traffic or sanitary laws. Can you imagine what would happen if we were ruled by the whims and caprices of our politicians or dictators – what our community would turn out to be if individuals were to behave and act as they please? Sometimes, you and I appreciate the law as long as it favors us. We get mad if someone runs a red light or drives recklessly – we want justice exerted if someone were to cause us harm, physical or emotional. But, on the other hand, we sometimes become unreceptive to God’s Laws or even civil laws. There is always chaos when people become nonconforming and do not allow the laws to work as they were originally intended.

Today’s Scripture deals with God’s laws – the Ten Commandments, which formed part of the Sinai Covenant between God and His people. They are far more superior to civil laws. The objective of the Commandments is to bring about respect and love for God and our fellow human being. They were given so that the people of God could love and worship God above all things and love their neighbor as themselves. The existence of the law is not an end, but a means that will lead us to holiness and eternal life if we obey and live by it. As we see in today’s gospel, God’s children have not always been faithful to His Laws – you and I have sometimes turned the Temple of God (our bodies) into a “den of thieves” by flouting God’s laws and by committing sins.

Jesus, in cleansing the Temple, demonstrates to us that Lent is a time of cleansing – a time for self-introspection – to make amends in areas where we have not been faithful to God and His commandments. This week’s Parish Mission will surely afford us the opportunity to recommit ourselves to God and be faithful to our baptismal promises.

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP

PARISH NEWS



MEETING: This Monday, March 12th, the Holy Name Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All men of the Parish are welcome.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Every Friday evening during Lent, the devotion of the Stations of the Cross is held in the Church at 7 p.m. Families are encouraged to participate together. We will also have the Stations of the Cross at 2 p.m. on Good Friday, just prior to the 3 p.m. Good Friday Service.



CHILDREN’S MASS: Please make it a point to bring your child to our Children’s Mass the next two Sundays in March. 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 with other children at a designated place during the Mass.



The **SANCTUARY LAMP** for this week will be lit in loving memory of Leonard Revellese.



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

The **Rosary Altar Society** appreciates all the clothing donation from our Parishioners and friends this past weekend. They especially appreciate the invaluable assistance of Ms. Joyce Pietrowski.



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, March 31st, from 9 a.m. to 12 Noon
A Lenten, Morning Retreat

Sponsored by the Rosary Altar Society

CHRISM MASS: Mass of Chrism will be celebrated this year on **Tuesday, April 3rd**, at 4 p.m. in St. Patrick’s Cathedral. Every parishioner is encouraged to attend this beautiful ceremony, where we celebrate with the Archbishop of our Archdiocese and witness our priests renew their vow to serve God’s people with the humility of a good shepherd. **Please come support our own parish priests.** A bus from our parking lot directly to St. Patrick’s Cathedral will be available at cost. As soon as possible please call the Rectory on 965-0566, Monday to Friday to reserve a seat.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



OUR 2012 EASTER WISH-LIST

In the spirit of Lent and in anticipation of a joyous Easter feast, I am once again inviting you, our parish families or individuals, who can afford to assist the parish in purchasing the following liturgical items needed for the Holy Week and Easter ceremonies:

1. 1 Paschal (Easter) Candle @ \$450
2. 10 bundles of Palms for Palm Sunday @ \$60 each.

Please, note that any of the above items can be donated in memory of your loved ones; and will be so noted in the Easter Bulletin.

Thank you for always responding whenever I call upon you to step forward and assist our parish in any way possible.

2012 STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

\$7,500,000 of the funds raised through the *Appeal* helps needy schools and parishes throughout the Archdiocese. While continuing the great tradition of educating our youth and providing spiritual refuge and enlightenment, many of our parishes and schools need assistance to meet their day to day requirements. Invest in your faith and parish community and make your gift to the *2012 Archdiocesan Stewardship Appeal*.

Free ESL Classes: The Sisters of Charity are offering free evening English as a Second Language classes. Learn to read and write in English and improve everyday conversation skills.

First-time participants may register on March 19th and 21st, 4 – 7 p.m. at the Sisters of Charity Administration Center at Mount St. Vincent, 6301 Riverdale Avenue (at West 263rd Street), Bronx. Returning students may register by phoning the office.

Classes are held on Mondays and Wednesdays, 6 – 8 p.m., beginning March 26th, and ending on May 16th. For more information contact Luz Reyes Devine on (718) 549-9200, ext. 244 or ldevine@scny.org.



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

March 6, 2011

Adults' Contribution	\$7999.90
Children's Contribution	\$136.75
Last Year's Total	\$8136.65

March 4, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$7636.10
Children's Contribution	\$146.40
This Year's Total	\$7782.50

"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 Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatkowitz, Rose Botcheller, Silvia Georgi, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Steve Oddo, and Roseann Mercandetti.

COME TO OUR PARISH MISSION

This Monday, March 12th - Wednesday, March 14th

**Immediately Following the 9 a.m. Mass
OR**

7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Each Evening

For more information, please call the Rectory Office or see the flyers on the Church bulletin boards.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION: Next week, our parish will take up the *Catholic Relief Services* collection, which supports six Catholic agencies that touch more than 100 million lives around the world. The funds from the collection help to provide food to the hungry, welcome and support to displaced refugees, and invaluable life skills to those seeking a better life. **How will you help?** Next week please give generously to the *Catholic Relief Services* collection - **Jesus in disguise.**

MARCH 11, 2012

Mass Intentions for the Week

Third Sunday of Lent

Saturday, March 10 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Marcello Barcello +

Sunday, March 11

8:30 AM Joyce Couto +

10:00 AM Catherine Moore +

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Jovita Romero & Sofia Vazquez +

Monday, March 12

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM Leonard Revellese +

9:00 AM Anthony DiPaolo +

Tuesday, March 13

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Robert Josephson +

Wednesday, March 14

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Bolduc & Savard Families

9:00 AM Denise Huggins +

Thursday, March 15

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Vincent, Mae, & Gerard Hickey +

Friday, March 16

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Thomas Colangelo +

Saturday, March 17

Lenten Weekday

9:00 AM Giacomo Bilancia +

Saturday, March 17 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Vincent Campisi +

Sunday, March 18

Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:30 AM Michael Castagnozzi +

10:00 AM Joseph LaVeglia +

11:30 AM Vincent J. Campisi +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

