

DO WHATEVER JESUS SAYS...!*Isaiah 62:1-5; 96: 1-3, 7-10; 1 Corinthians. 12:4-11; John 2:1-11*

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my call and open the door, I will come in to you and sit down to eat with you, and you with Me (Rev. 3:20).

Last Sunday, we celebrated the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Jesus. After He was baptized the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit descended like a dove, and a voice was heard from heaven saying: "You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased." Today's gospel reading focuses on Jesus' first public ministry (and miracle) after His Baptism. Jesus' miracle of changing water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana is the first manifestation of His call to minister to the people. It is also a reminder that our "ordinary" lives unfold as a follower of Christ upon our individual baptism. Christ's Baptism reminds us of our baptism and the call to discipleship.

The Israelites had sinned and had turned their back on the Lord God; hence, they were taken captive by the Babylonians. Fortunately, after spending fifty years in exile, the Persians who later took over Babylon set them free. Prior to the Israelites being freed, Prophet Isaiah prophesied, "For Zion's sake" the Lord "will not be silent" any longer, neither will He "be quiet...Until her vindication shines forth like the dawn and her victory like a burning torch." God will forgive the sins of His people, and He will bring them back from exile and reestablish them in their homeland. "No more shall people call you "Forsaken" or your land "Desolate." Even though you may have sinned against the Lord, and He may have seemingly abandoned you, Jesus is always standing at the door of your heart knocking. If you heed His voice and open the door for Him, "you shall be called by a new name...you shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the Lord." Because you are precious in His eyes, "the Lord shall marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you." He loves you and cares so much about you!

In spite of sinfulness, the Lord has called us and has endowed us with "different kinds of spiritual gifts," which we must use in service to the community. The Spirit of God that we received at Baptism and Confirmation is a manifestation of God's love and an invitation for us to become His disciples. "To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit." Whatever gifts and talents we have been given by God, are for the benefit of all in the community. You and I must know "The Lord God will not be silent or be quiet" until all the baptized have "become His disciples" and have used their gifts to help relieve the "pains and sufferings of all the people."

In today's gospel, we see Mary, the Mother of Jesus, urge the servers at the wedding feast, "Do whatever He tells you." If you and I want to be truly happy and to be able to inherit eternal life we must be ready to do whatever Jesus tells us to do. We must keep His commandments. We must respect life, especially the unborn. We must use the gifts and talents that we have for the good of the community. If you open your door and invite Jesus into your marriage, He will not only turn your water into wine, but He will turn your despair into hope; He will turn your hatred into love; and He will turn your worries into solutions. When you open your door and invite Jesus into your home, like He did to Peter's mother-in-law, He will heal you and your loved ones of your sickness. Like Lazarus, Martha and Mary, if you invite Jesus into your life, He will raise you from the dead and will give you new life. You and I only have to be willing to "do whatever He tells us," and our sins will be forgiven and whatever we ask Him in faith will be granted.

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP



PARISH NEWS




Congratulations to our newest Christian, **Avery Rose Riker**, who was baptized on Saturday, January 12th. We thank her parents and godparents for presenting her for baptism, and we pray God to bless and keep this child and her parents in their journey of faith.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) will meet this Monday, January 21st, at 7:00 p.m. in the school. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting.



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 with other children at a designated

place during the Mass.

ATLANTIC CITY TRIP

The Rosary Altar Society is running a trip to Atlantic City's Taj Mahal next Saturday, January 26th, at 9 a.m. The cost is \$40 with a slot credit return of \$30. For further information and reservations, call Carolyn (963-2622) or Dolly (969-6575).



FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS CAMPAIGN January 27th – February 3rd

Catholic Charities is once again running its *Feeding Our Neighbors Campaign* to restock the food pantries and soup kitchens of the Archdiocese of New York. Last year with our help the Campaign was a success, providing food for 575,000 meals. This year's goal has been set for one million meals. Our parish along with the other parishes and Catholic schools in the New York Archdiocese will be joined this year by the Catechetical Department, ArchCare, the Office of Youth Ministry, and the United Jewish Appeal Federation (UJA); we are asked to make a special effort to feed our hungry neighbors.

Expect the large donation boxes to appear next weekend, January 26th – 27th. Our donations will support our Food Pantry and that of St. Peter's Church in Yonkers; and once again our Social Ministry Committee will organize, tally, and report our donations to Catholic Charities. Thank you for doing your part to make this Campaign a success!

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'S BIRTHDAY: This Monday, January 21st, is a legal holiday; the Rectory Office will be closed; and there will only be one Mass at 9 a.m. that day.



SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Dear Lord,
Now more than ever,
Your Church is fragmented throughout the world.
In our search for You
We have divided ourselves
Rather than seeking You
As one united people on our pilgrim way.
Help all those who call upon Your name
To show Your light to the world as one family,
One holy nation,
One royal priesthood,
And united as one, holy, catholic and apostolic church. Amen.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Our Parish is planning a Sweepstakes Social on Friday, March 15th. The Sweepstakes Social Committee will hold a **Volunteer Meeting this Thursday, January 24th, at 7 p.m.** in the McManus Parish Center. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with this fundraiser is asked to attend this meeting. If you are unable to make this meeting, please leave your name and number at the Parish Office during the week.

Evangelical Catholicism: The Church of the 21st Century
Free Lecture by George Weigel

St. Joseph's Seminary on Friday, February 15th, at 7:30 p.m.

George Weigel is a Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics & Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. and one of America's most prominent Catholic writers and intellectuals. He is the author of numerous books, including a best seller, *Witness to Hope: The Biography of Pope John Paul II*; and serves as the Vatican analyst for NBC News. His column, *The Catholic Difference*, is syndicated in newspapers all over the country.



Rest in Peace Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Roberto Alvarado.

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 AM Mass on Mondays.

EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTION: Held the First Friday of every month at 1 PM. Please join us for this most efficacious prayer.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION: Held the First Saturday of every month at 3 PM. 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

January 15, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$4251.85
Children's Contribution	\$91.95
Last Year's Total	\$4343.80

January 13, 2013

Adults' Contribution	\$6125.80
Children's Contribution	\$186.50
This Year's Total	\$6312.30

\$1527.90 was collected in support of the Catholic University of America and Catholic Communications.

"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."

"WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR OURSELVES ALONE DIES WITH US; WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD REMAINS AND IS IMMORTAL."

~ Albert Pike

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, Andy DeFabritis, Maria Marte, Barbara Rup, Jule Yaskovic, Rosalie Heit, Florence B. Swetz, Clare Yaskovic, Neil Caruso, Raymond Fitzpatrick, Sr., Deacon James Byrnes, Andrea Objay, Carmen Torres, Frank Marra, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, Edith Dugan, Gary Roth, Joyann Allan, Anna Rita Morgante, Lois Burton, Mary DeStefano, Mark Cianfaglione, Shawn Colon, Margaret Maccia, Nicole Ryan Betancourt, Anthony Spinner, Audrey & Alfred Falcone, Kathleen Hayes, Marge Muraik, Stan Buoninfante, Donna Vasconez, Gene DelBene, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatkowicz, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Steve Oddo, Roseann Mercandetti, Louis Brusco, Josephine Daniele, Jennifer Dorsey, Valerie Riccardi, Fatima Panik, Joanne Moscarello, Marian Fletcher, Anna Bonacci, Minerva Hernandez, Paula Parente, Barbara Olivieri, Carol Swetz, Bridget O'Malley, Anna Brucculeri, Peggy Clevenberg, Gerald Mazzerese, Jr., Patricia Keane, Louis Milone, Joey Bastardi, Carol Stola, Amada Ortiz, Karen Aprea, Stephen Sarich, and Neil Cawley.

REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES, LIVING AND DEAD

Consider giving a loved one the graces associated with having a Mass offered on their behalf. Also, you may consider offering the Altar flowers, Altar bread and wine, Altar candles, or lighting the Sanctuary lamp for a week 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.

JANUARY 20, 2013

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, January 19 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Joseph & Lucy Laudadio +

Sunday, January 20

8:30 AM Rosa Troia +

10:00 AM Josephine & Anthony Brucculeri +

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Angelina Brusco +

Monday, January 21

Saint Agnes, Virgin & Martyr - Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday

9:00 AM Donald Alleva +

Tuesday, January 22

USA Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Elsie Selvaratnam +

Wednesday, January 23

Weekday

7:00 AM George Abraham +

9:00 AM Jack Gronowski & William Bruder +

Thursday, January 24

Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

7:00 AM Rev. Patrick J. Mee +

9:00 AM Angela de Simone +

Friday, January 25

Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle

7:00 AM Maria Loreta Lucchetti +

9:00 AM Aristide Scipioni +

Saturday, January 26

Saints Timothy & Titus, Bishops

9:00 AM John J. Esposito, Sr. +

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, January 26 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Geri Maselli +

Sunday, January 27

8:30 AM Elizabeth Laredo +

10:00 AM Mary & Nicholas Maccia +

11:30 AM Clement Giuriceo +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE vs. WADE – WHAT A TRAGEDY!

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Supreme Court ruling on Abortion (the Roe v Wade case) this Tuesday, January 22nd, we think of the adverse effects the practice of abortion is having on us as individuals and as a society.



Reproduced below is a discussion of one of the issues included in the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Political Responsibility Statement:

“Human life is a gift from God which all of us are called to protect, nurture, and sustain. The right to life, the most basic of all human rights, must be protected by law. Abortion has become the fundamental human rights issue of our day because it is the deliberate destruction of a human being before birth.

The United States, avowedly a defender of the weak, has one of the highest legal abortion rates and the most extreme abortion policy of any industrialized Western nation in the world. There are now more than 1.5 million abortions every year in the United States, over 4,400 a day, with well over 95 percent performed for economic or social reasons. Thousands of unborn children are killed each year in the final months of pregnancy.

We support policies and laws that encourage childbirth over abortion, and urge government and the private sector to provide programs that assist pregnant women and their children, especially those who are poor. We support efforts to prohibit domestic and foreign abortion funding, as well as efforts to protect states from having to fund abortions contrary to their own laws. We reject the 1973 Supreme Court abortion decisions which deny legal protection to unborn children, and we support efforts to prohibit or restrict abortion legislatively and to provide constitutional protection for unborn human life. Laws and policies on medical research, health care, and related issues must respect and protect human life from the moment of conception.”

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Prayer to End Abortion

Lord God, I thank You today for the gift of my life,
And for the lives of all my brothers and sisters.
I know there is nothing that destroys more life than abortion,
Yet I rejoice that You have conquered death
by the Resurrection of Your Son.
I am ready to do my part in ending abortion.
Today I commit myself
Never to be silent,
Never to be passive,
Never to be forgetful of the unborn.
I commit myself to be active in the pro-life movement,
And never to stop defending life
Until all my brothers and sisters are protected,
And our nation once again becomes
A nation with liberty and justice
Not just for some, but for all,
Through Christ our Lord. Amen!

