

## REJECTING SATAN'S DECEIT!

(Gen. 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps. 51; Rom. 5: 12-19; Matt. 4: 1-11)

Today is the first Sunday of Lent! In last week's bulletin, I had already paved the way for you to kick-start your preparation to enter into the Season of Lent with a sincere contrite heart, bearing in mind the call to conversion throughout this season of grace. It is imperative for us to compare the demand of our Lenten obligation with a three-legged tripod stand (three pillars of Lent: **Almsgiving, Prayer and Fasting**), which needs all three legs to stand securely in order to perform its duty effectively. If any one of the legs is missing, the tripod is rendered nonfunctional. It's good for nothing and might as well be thrown away.

The season of Lent demands us to be generous with our resources, sharing them with those who are in need (**Almsgiving**). It requires us to spend more time with God, thanking Him for the many good things He has done for you and me, worshipping Him for His divine love and petitioning Him to grant us our heart's worthy desires. It requires us to depend entirely on God's love and call on Him each day (**Prayer**). The season of Lent also requires us to deny ourselves the pleasures of this life for the salvation of our souls. It requires you and me to abstain from actions and deeds that would injure our souls and separate us from the love of God. It demands us to mortify our bodies and discipline our minds in our dealings with God's creation (**Fasting**). These three are considered the "three traditional pillars of Lenten observance." Lent, therefore is a season when we humble ourselves and recognize the suffering of others and thus reach out to them with love through almsgiving. It is a season when we humble ourselves and show our dependency on God's love and call on Him in prayer. It is a season when we mortify our bodies and refrain from the things that lead us away from God by fasting.

On Ash Wednesday, the prophet Joel exhorted you and me to "Rend your hearts and not your garments." St. Paul, on the other hand, urged us, on behalf of Christ, to "be reconciled to God." This, indeed, is the message of Lent. We must humble ourselves, acknowledge our sins, take responsibility for them, and ask God for pardon and thus resolve to be faithful to our baptismal promises by rejecting Satan and all that contradicts the truth of the gospel of Christ. We must "rend our hearts and not our garments." In other words, during Lent and always, we must genuinely repent from our sinfulness. Our repentance should not just be an external show of grandeur, but it should truly be a genuine conversion of heart. True conversion should lead us to reconcile with God by renouncing Satan and thus commit ourselves to promoting the values of Christ's gospel.

In today's first reading, we see how Adam and Eve were tempted and how they saw that the "tree was good for food, and pleasing to the eyes" and how they were "desirable for wisdom," thus, they fell into temptation and sinned. Like Adam and Eve, you and I often see the object of temptation as "good for food, and pleasing to the eyes". Sometimes we like to boast how successful we are, and how smart or how wise we are. We often imagine how wonderful these *objects of temptations* are. Consequently, in an effort to satisfy our quest for wealth, our lustful desires, and/or our desire for false wisdom we fall into temptation and commit sin. On the contrary, in today's Gospel, we see the One Who was able to subdue His pride and temper His hunger for material things. We see Jesus Who refused to be fooled by Satan, or to use His position and authority for His self-gratification. We see the One Who refused to use either His influence or His power for His own selfish end. He was hungry, but refused to "turn stone into bread". We see Jesus Who overcomes the temptations of our daily lives, and by that noble act He identifies with us and encourages us to be strong when we are faced with temptations.

Let us pray that Jesus Christ will give us the strength to overcome the devil and all his trickery as we journey through life, especially in these forty days of Almsgiving, Fasting and Prayers.

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP

## PARISH NEWS



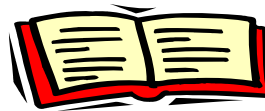
HOLY NAME SOCIETY

**MEETING:** This Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, the Holy Name Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All men of the Parish are welcome.

**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.



## Bible Study



Join Father Anthony and your fellow parishioners in discovering more about the Bible this Friday and every Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the School. Bring a friend! Come and have fun exploring both the Old and New Testaments.

## OUR PARISH R.C.I.A. PROGRAM

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



**St. Bartholomew's Religious Education Program for public school children will be accepting registration applications shortly for the 2011/2012 school year. For information, please contact Cheryl Duda at the Religious Education Office (914) 476-6676.**

Blessed



**THE ALTAR BREAD AND WINE** for this week has been donated in loving memory of Joseph Aloia by Theresa DiRodio.

**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.



## ALTAR SERVER NEWS



We welcome and thank our new altar servers, Rachele Batac, Kurt Nuguid, and Kesniela Samarita for their willingness to serve our parish in this ministry.

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

### THE 2012 MASS BOOK IS OPEN



The Mass Book for 2012 opened last 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, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.** to make arrangements or to inquire about the availability of a particular date.

**YEAR FOR MASS:** Did you notice? Today at church you see a beautiful new banner that has been purchased to inspire our people and to support the hope of our Archbishop Timothy Dolan, to make this time in our lives a special **YEAR FOR MASS**.

By displaying this banner during the remaining months of 2011, our parish aims to strengthen our own appreciation of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and to offer an invitation to parishioners and neighbors to come to Mass more often.

Sunday is the great day that our Lord rose from the dead. Mass in church on this day brings us together as His family. That is why the banner's message says: **Come to Mass, In the Lord's House, On the Lord's Day.**

**Are you or a loved one in need of homecare?** Whether short term rehabilitative care or long term skilled nursing care is required, **St. Cabrini's Long Term Home Health Care Program** offers individuals health services in the comfort and privacy of their own home. Our highly trained and professional staff members take great pride in the high-quality, reliable home care services they have been providing to the residence of Westchester County since 1985. For a free phone consultation or for more information please call (914) 693-6800, ext. 550.

**CATHOLIC SINGLES:** The NY Catholic Alumni Club offers a varied program of social, spiritual, cultural, sports, & community service activities to single Catholics (no age restrictions). For info send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: NYCAC c/o Voekel, 327 East 238<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx, NY 10470.

**MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA:** Held after the 9 a.m. Mass on Mondays.

**EUCHARISTIC 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.



### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

- The **budgeted** Collection for last Sunday was \$6620.00.
- The **actual** Collection for last Sunday was \$6147.20.
- Collection in support of our School totaled \$1989.45.

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

Next weekend we will take up our final collection of this winter season for **snow removal**. As I'm sure you all remember this was an especially snowy and icy year, please be as generous as you can. The \$4702.90 we have collected to date barely touches the \$11,125.00 our snow removal and salting has cost so far this winter.



Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Alejandra Santander, Amadeu Amorim, Gloria Flanagan, Grace Raguso, Andy DeFabritis, Maryann Tolli, Maria Marte, Julieann Moroch, 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, Christine Bellino, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, Mildred Moscarello, Edith Dugan, John & Gary Roth, Lena Castaldo, Joyann Allan, Anna Rita Morgante, Frank Marra, Carmela Massaroni, Lois Burton, Mary DeStefano, Carmella DelBene, Ann Ceriale, Dan Seratto, and Mark Cianfaglione.

### WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"Give me back the joy of your salvation." Find the joy that may be missing in your marriage on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is April 9 – 10 (1 night weekend). For more information call toll free 1-877 697-9963, ext. 3.



Couples celebrating their **50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary** anytime during 2011 are invited to attend the **Annual Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass** with Archbishop Dolan at St. Patrick Cathedral, **Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**, at 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Please contact our Rectory Office for more information. The deadline for registrations for the Mass is Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. This event is sponsored by the Family Life/Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New York.

The **CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** will meet this Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**MARCH 13, 2011**

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*Mass &  for the Intentions  for the Week*

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**First Sunday of Lent**

Saturday, March 12 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Leonard Revellese +

Sunday, March 13

8:30 AM DiPaolo & Fancello Family

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Carmela & Frank Legio +

5:00 PM Sofia Vasquez +

Monday, March 14

**Lenten Weekday**

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Michael Albanese +

Tuesday, March 15

**Lenten Weekday**

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Barbara May Wedlick +

Wednesday, March 16

**Lenten Weekday**

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Bolduc & Savard Families +

9:00 AM Patrick & Marion Keane +

Thursday, March 17

**Lenten Weekday**

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Mary & John Esposito +

Friday, March 18

**Lenten Weekday**

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Salvatore Guadagno +

Saturday, March 19

**Saint Joseph, husband of Blessed Virgin Mary**

9:00 AM Joseph Mangione +

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Saturday, March 19 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Michael Castagnozzi +

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Sunday, March 20

**Second Sunday of Lent**

8:30 AM Frances Nanoia +

10:00 AM Patricia Dimitro +

11:30 AM Vincent DiBatista +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

**MARCH 13, 2011**

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**SAINT PATRICK,  
BISHOP (415? ~ 493?)  
MARCH 17**

Legends about Patrick abound; but truth is best served by our seeing two solid qualities in him: He was humble and he was courageous. The determination to accept suffering and success with equal indifference guided the life of God's instrument for winning most of Ireland for Christ.

Details of his life are uncertain. Current research places his dates of birth and death a little later than earlier accounts. Patrick may have been born in Dunbarton, Scotland, Cumberland, England, or in northern Wales. He called himself both a Roman and a Briton. At 16, he and a large number of his father's slaves and vassals were captured by Irish raiders and sold as slaves in Ireland. Forced to work as a shepherd, he suffered greatly from hunger and cold.

After six years, Patrick escaped, probably to France, and later returned to Britain at the age of twenty-two. His captivity had meant spiritual conversion. He may have studied at Lerins, off the French coast; he spent years at Auxerre, France, and was consecrated bishop at the age of forty-three. His great desire was to proclaim the Good News to the Irish.

In a dream vision it seemed "all the children of Ireland from their mothers' wombs were stretching out their hands" to him. He understood the vision to be a call to do mission work in pagan Ireland. Despite opposition from those who felt his education had been defective, he was sent to carry out the task. He went to the west and north, where the faith had never been preached, obtained the protection of local kings and made numerous converts.

Because of the island's pagan background, Patrick was emphatic in encouraging widows to remain chaste and young women to consecrate their virginity to Christ. He ordained many priests, divided the country into dioceses, held church councils, founded several monasteries and continually urged his people to greater holiness in Christ.

He suffered much opposition from pagan druids, and was criticized in both England and Ireland for the way he conducted his mission.

In a relatively short time the island had experienced deeply the Christian spirit, and was prepared to send out missionaries whose efforts were greatly responsible for Christianizing Europe.

Patrick was a man of action, with little inclination toward learning. He had a rocklike belief in his vocation, in the cause he had espoused.

One of the few certainly authentic writings is his *Confessio*, above all an act of homage to God for having called Patrick, unworthy sinner, to the apostolate.

There is hope rather than irony in the fact that his burial place is said to be in strife-torn Ulster, in County Down.

COMMENT: What distinguishes Patrick is the durability of his efforts. When one considers the state of Ireland when he began his mission work, the vast extent of his labors (all of Ireland) and how the seeds he planted continued to grow and flourish, one can only admire the kind of man Patrick must have been. The holiness of a person is known only by the fruits of his or her work.

From *Saint of the Day*, edited by Leonard Foley, O.F.M., & Pat McCloskey, O.F.M.