

EXPERIENCE JESUS' CLEANSING

Lev. 13:1-2, 44-46; Ps. 32:1-2, 5, 11; 1 Cor. 10:31-11:1; Mark 1:40-45



Last Sunday's readings reminded us that pain, suffering and ultimately death, form an integral part of the human condition. As we struggle and lament the endless suffering and sleepless nights we often encounter, you and I must never lose sight of the fact that Christ has come for the simple purpose of healing us, alleviating our pains, thus, taking them upon Himself. He has come so that those who are alienated from the community by their sins or by human prejudice may once again be reunited to it. Christ has come so that those who, because of sickness and suffering, are discriminated against might once again regain their dignity and freedom.

We live in a society where it is generally an honor to be identified as an individual – a society that values individualism. We are now experiencing a society that often speaks in terms of material assets rather than human assets. We live in a society that is rapidly shedding its communal identity while taking on individual identity. It is a society that is quite in contrast to that of the Old Testament and to that which Jesus lived. In the OT society, if you were not part of the group, you were as good as dead. Therefore, it was very painful to be ostracized from the community.

In the Old Testament, the book of Leviticus is devoted mostly to sanitary guidelines and regulations. Rules are laid down on how to relate to those who have communicable or infectious diseases like leprosy. Thus, today's first reading insists that "The one who bears the sore of leprosy shall keep his garments rent and his head bare...He shall declare himself unclean...He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp." Such people must be separated from the community in order to preserve the *sense of the community*. Consequently, skin diseases became outward signs of being *different* – of being *unclean* – of being *a danger to the community*. This sort of treatment was like passing a death sentence on people who belonged to a society where being part of the group was an essential identity. For them, if you were not part of the community, you were nobody. It must have been a very painful experience to be ostracized for whatever reason.

In many places around the world today people are discriminated against or ostracized from their communities for various reasons – race, color, language, religious belief and/or socio-political ideology. Terminally ill patients, the elderly and the physically and/or mentally challenged people are sometimes stigmatized and discriminated against. On the spiritual level, sin ostracizes one from the community of faithful. When one does not get rid of it through confession, sin, like leprosy eats deep into a person's soul and thus renders one *unclean*. In the end such a person needs to be made clean and be reintroduced into the community.

Jesus does not discriminate. He is forgiving and compassionate. In today's gospel, He is moved with pity, thus, He stretches out His hand and touches the leper saying to him: "I do will it. Be made clean." You must go to Jesus in the confessional – go to Him present in the Holy Eucharist – go to Him present in the Church – go to Him in prayer, and listen to Him say to you: *I will do it. Be made clean of your worries, your anxieties, your sickness, and most of all; be made clean of your sins!* Turn to Him in time of trouble and He will fill you with the joy of salvation!

PARISH NEWS



HOLY NAME SOCIETY

MEETING: This Monday, February 13th, 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 for the remaining two Sundays in February. 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.



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.)

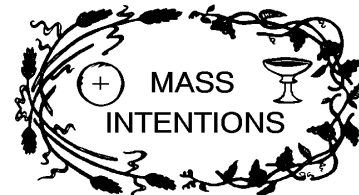
in our parish.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially William Girsch. *Rest in Peace*



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.

OPENING OF THE 2013 MASS BOOK



The Mass Book for 2013 will open on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. Come to the Rectory Office immediately following the 9 a.m. and 12 noon Masses or to the McManus Parish Center after the 7:30 p.m. Mass to have Masses offered for yourself and for your love ones, whether living or dead.

You will have the added opportunity to book Masses in the McManus Parish Center on Saturday evening, March 3rd, and Sunday, March 4th, following the Masses for Sunday obligation.

We make our friends; we make our enemies; but God makes our next door neighbor.



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, 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, Stan Buoninfante, Donna Vasconez, Mary Ann Berengur, Gene DelBene, Angelina Brusco, Mary Romanchik, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatkowicz, Rose Botcheller, Silvia Georgi, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Steve Oddo, Roseann Mercandetti, and Mary Krakowiak.

REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES, LIVING AND DEAD

Consider giving a loved one or someone 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.

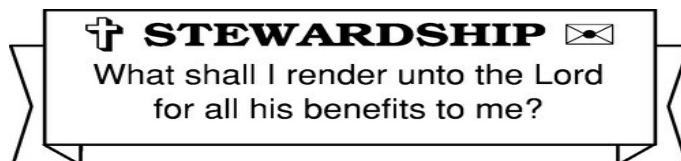
Also, you may consider offering the Altar flowers, Altar bread and wine, Altar candles, or lighting the Sanctuary lamp for a week for your intention. Come to the Rectory Office, **Mon. – Fri., 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.** to make arrangements or to inquire about the availability of a particular date.

Sunday, February 19th, we will have a combined Rite of Sending of Catechumens for Election and Sending of Candidates For the Call to Continuing Conversion at our 10 a.m. Mass. Derek Mamadoski, Gregory Anderson and Keyani Singletary will travel to St. Patrick's Cathedral the following two Sundays to be officially recognized by Cardinal Dolan prior to receiving Easter sacraments. Derek, a catechumen will be Baptized, Confirmed, and receive First Communion at our Easter Vigil; while Gregory and Keyani, both of Protestant tradition, will be received into Full Communion of the Catholic Church, also at the Easter Vigil. We congratulate them, their families and sponsors. Please keep them in your prayers.

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.

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



Tithing - God's Plan for Giving

February 6, 2011

Adults' Contribution	\$6081.15
Children's Contribution	\$176.35
Last Year's Total	\$6257.50

February 5, 2012

Adults' Contribution	6976.50
Children's Contribution	\$142.20
This Year's Total	\$7118.70

As we face the repercussions of the changes our Parish faces in the wake of the Archdiocese decision to close our school, leaving the financial fallout with our parish, more than ever the viability of St. Bartholomew's Church lies here in our pews. We are struggling to cover the expenses generated by the Archdiocesan Department of



Education's decisions and negotiations; the initial expenses of severance & pensions for the former teachers and upkeep & regulations associated with a "school building" are overwhelming.

Our Finance Committee's decision to attempt to reintroduce and revitalize **Tithing** in our Parish was not arrived at lightly. They, as the Pastor, are well aware of how often the parishioners of St. Bartholomew's Church have rallied to fix, to improve, to support our parish church, school and grounds. **Tithing** is a *formula* to help us read the *map* of our responsibilities as Christian members of this "loving Eucharistic community."

There are those who have **tithed** all along - God bless them! There are some who are generous, some who are struggling with their own crises, and some who haven't really given **Tithing** serious consideration. If we are going to weather the challenges that have recently come our way, our parish needs all of us now - our consideration, our support and most of all our prayers.


"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."

The **CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** will meet this Wednesday, February 15th, 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.

RECITATION OF THE ROSARY: Join your fellow parishioners in praying the Rosary after the 9 a.m. Mass on weekdays and Saturdays.

FEBRUARY 12, 2012

Mass Intentions for the Week



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, February 11 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Julieann Campisi Moroch +

Sunday, February 12

8:30 AM Emil & Sally Mesler +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Julieann Campisi Moroch +

5:00 PM Felix Vazquez & Jose Romero +

Monday, February 13

Weekday

7:00 AM Stanley Radzevila +

9:00 AM Joseph Martin +

Tuesday, February 14

Saints Cyril, monk & Methodius, bishop

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Bolduc & Savard Families

9:00 AM Marion Travis +

Wednesday, February 15

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Thanksgiving for Improved Health of Jorge

Thursday, February 16

Weekday

7:00 AM Luigi Lucchetti +

9:00 AM Norman & Peter Clare +

Friday, February 17

Weekday

7:00 AM Ida Greco +

9:00 AM Mary O'Neill +

Saturday, February 18

Weekday

9:00 AM Giacomo Bilancia +

Saturday, February 18 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Sunday, February 19

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM Leonore Erb +

10:00 AM Charles & Stefana Barba +

11:30 AM Carmine Nicholas Maccia +

5:00 PM Michael Petnuch +

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY!

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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VALENTINE'S DAY

The assignment of February 14th as the date to honor St. Valentine is attributed to Pope Gelasius in AD 500. But until the time of Goeffrey Chaucer there was never any association with romantic love in connection with the saint's feast day. Indeed, Chaucer's reference in a poem was actually to a different Valentine commemorated on May 2nd. Over time, the association persisted and in the Middle Ages became connected to February 14th, the feast of the martyred Roman priest Valentine - hence the color red for the celebrations of the day. Poets like Shakespeare and Donne reinforced the tradition in their verse. By the mid-1800s upwards of 25 million Valentines were being exchanged in England each year. Today, almost 200 million cards and 15 million e-cards are sent in the US.

