

TRUSTING IN JESUS!

Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8; Psalm 138: 1-5, 7-8; 1Cor. 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-1

David is a middle-aged man. He was ordained a Catholic priest a year ago. David had dreamt of becoming a priest since his childhood, but things did not work out the way he had hoped. After graduating from high school, he enrolled in a major Seminary to study for the priesthood, but unfortunately he did not do well academically. He spent most the time studying in an effort to improve his understanding of philosophical subjects, and also to improve his ability to cope with the daily rigorous spiritual exercises. At the end of the mandatory two-year philosophy program, the Seminary directors, who assessed David, decided that he couldn't continue in his study to the priesthood. Thus, he was withdrawn from the Seminary. Understandably, the decision was hard for him to accept, but David never gave up the hope of becoming a priest.

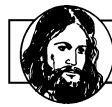
He was determined to work harder than ever before. He trusted and believed that the God Whom he knew to be a loving and caring God will never let him down. After spending almost twenty-five years studying and working in secular institutions, David decided to give it another try at becoming a priest. Having finally received a degree in philosophy, he again enrolled in a Seminary to study theology and prepare himself for the priesthood. By the grace of God, David was ordained a Catholic priest last winter. Our God is an Awesome God! He is always there to lift us up and to take care of us when the chips seem to be down.

Like David, Peter, in today's gospel, never gave up in his failed attempt to catch fish. He kept trying, but only succeeded when he submitted his will and allowed Jesus to take control of the situation: "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at Your command I will lower the nets." The grace God has given to you and me has not been ineffective. The Spirit He has poured into our hearts is not a spirit of timidity, but a Spirit of faith and courage. Do not be discouraged when you encounter difficult situations. You may have been one of the greatest sinners, but in spite of yourself, have courage and take your *troubles* to Jesus – invite Him into your own *daily activities* especially when it appears as if you are not making much progress in them – invite Him and allow Him to direct you to "a great catch of fish" in your endeavors.

Sadly, like Peter, you and I sometimes feel we are not worthy to benefit from God's bounteous love. At times, we are so caught up in our past lives, that we see nothing good, but, "Woe is me, I am doomed...a man of unclean lips..." Thus, we push God away, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." Apostle Paul in making his case about his experience of the God Who doesn't care about our past lives as long as we repent and rededicate our lives to Him, says, "I do not believe I have already reached the goal, nor do I consider myself perfect, but I press on till I conquer Christ Jesus...forgetting what is behind me, I race forward and run towards the goal, my eyes on the prize to which God has called us from above in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:12-14). God's unconditional love for us, unworthy though we are, is made manifest in the belief that, "Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures," thus, He says to you and me "See, now that (My sacred body and blood) has touched your lips, your wickedness is removed, your sin purged." Therefore, "Do not be afraid..." to go and be my committed disciple to all the nations.

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP


PARISH NEWS



HOLY NAME SOCIETY

MEETING: This Monday, February 11th, 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 at the Mass. The children are encouraged to sit with other children at a designated place during the Mass.

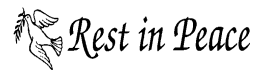


The ALTAR FLOWERS for this week have been donated in loving memory of Anthony Intrieri by Kristen Pires.



The ALTAR BREAD & WINE, ALTAR CANDLES, and SANCTUARY LAMP for the week have been donated in loving memory of Anthony Intrieri by Kristen Pires.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Joseph L. DeMarzo.



OPENING OF THE 2014 MASS BOOK



The Mass Book for 2014 will open this week on Ash Wednesday, February 13th. You may come to the Rectory Office immediately following the 9 a.m., the 12 noon, or the 7:30 p.m. Masses to have Masses offered for yourself and for your loved ones, whether living or deceased.

You will have the added opportunity to book Masses on Saturday evening, March 2nd, and Sunday, March 3rd, following the Masses for Sunday obligation.

2013 CARDINAL'S APPEAL: By now you should have received a letter from Cardinal Dolan asking for your support of *the 2013 Cardinal's Appeal*. The *Cardinal's Appeal* offers vital support to Catholic programs and ministries throughout the Archdiocese, as well as in our own parish. Please show your support by making your pledge today. Your commitment will help us reach our parish goal of \$51,000. Special thanks to all of you who have already made their gifts. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Starting this Friday and every Friday evening during Lent, we have the devotion of the Stations of the Cross in the Church at 7 p.m. (On Good Friday, Stations will be at 2 p.m. just prior to the 3 p.m. Good Friday Service). It is a Lenten tradition. Families are encouraged to participate together in preparation for Easter.

PARENTS' VALENTINE'S DAY BLESSING

God of all love,
You brought us together as man and woman
So that we might love each other
And show Your love to the world through the gift
Of the child(ren) You have given us.
Help us to be loving and kind to one another
Each day of our lives.
Bless our child(ren) with Your love in our home
And in every other place.
May Your love be shown to others,
In our family and beyond the walls of our home.
May all of us know the depth of Your enduring love
And be strengthened to share that same love
That comes from You
And is spread throughout the world.
Amen.



PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES

- Saturday, March 9th, 12 – 2:30 p.m. - Our next Family Faith Festival will take place; the theme is “*Go Out on a Limb*” to encounter Christ.
- Friday, March 15th, 7 p.m. - **St. Bart's Sweepstakes Social** in the McManus Parish Center - \$10 admission includes light refreshments.

Watch for more information in future bulletins.



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 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.

✠ STEWARDSHIP ☒

What shall I render unto the Lord
for all his benefits to me?

TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

February 5, 2012

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

February 3, 2013

Adults' Contribution	\$6032.05
Children's Contribution	\$140.70
This Year's Total	\$6172.75

The 2nd Collection for the maintenance of our buildings and grounds totaled \$1601.50.

Next weekend we will take up a second collection to help defray the expenses we have (and still may) incur for snow plowing and salting icy sidewalks and our parking lot. Please be as generous as your means allow.

***“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, Roseanne 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.

FEBRUARY 10, 2013

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, February 9 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Christine Bellino +

Sunday, February 10

8:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

10:00 AM Anthony Intrieri +

11:30 AM George Goresen +

5:00 PM Frank & Carmela Legio +

Monday, February 11

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Anthony Intrieri +

Tuesday, February 12

Weekday

7:00 AM Joseph Martin +

9:00 AM Anthony Intrieri +

Wednesday, February 13

Ash Wednesday

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Lucchetti & Capuano Families

9:00 AM Deceased Members of Pyrc & Pidany Families

12 Noon No Intention

7:30 PM Anthony Intrieri +

Thursday, February 14

Thursday after Ash Wednesday

7:00 AM Rita Bolduc +

9:00 AM Anthony Intrieri +

Friday, February 15

Friday after Ash Wednesday

7:00 AM Nick DiMucci +

9:00 AM Anthony Intrieri +

Saturday, February 16

Saturday after Ash Wednesday

9:00 AM Luigi Lucchetti +

First Sunday of Lent

Saturday, February 16 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Sunday, February 17

8:30 AM Robert Liddell +

10:00 AM Charles & Stefana Barba +

11:30 AM Carmine Nicholas Maccia +

5:00 PM John Flynn +

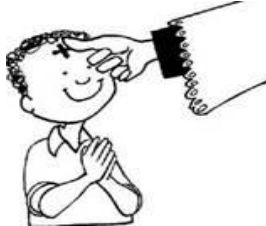
FEBRUARY 10, 2013



Metanoia is a Greek word for Lent, which connotes a change of mind and heart, altering one's mind-set toward whole new ways of thinking and acting. Lent is a period where we take a long look at where we are and try to see

where we ought to be. It involves testing our values and discerning how they stack up against the values that our Lord Jesus offers His followers. Subsequently, Lent is a time when we acknowledge our guilt for the sins that led to Christ's passion and death.

This Wednesday, February 13th, is Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of Lent. As the beginning of Lent, Ash Wednesday calls us to the conversion journey that marks the season. The readings assigned to Ash Wednesday highlight this call to conversion. The



first reading from the prophet Joel is a clarion call to return to the Lord "with fasting, and weeping and mourning." On Ash Wednesday the Church invites us to receive ashes on our foreheads as a sign that during the season of Lent we will make sincere efforts to cleanse our lives of sin, and discipline ourselves through almsgiving, prayer and fasting.

SYMBOLISM OF ASHES

As with all material things which are used as religious symbols, the symbolism of ashes is complex and difficult to understand. In themselves, ashes have little meaning, but they have their own biblical and historical context in the liturgical practices of today. Ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance (sackcloth and ashes). Consequently, when received in the light of God's revealing word, ashes can become a biblical symbol for us, and our desire to turn back to God. When we receive ashes on our foreheads, we remember who we are. We remember that we are creatures of the earth ("Remember that you are dust"). We remember that we are mortal beings ("and to dust you will return"). The reception of the ashes on our foreheads reminds us of the fact that we are God's chosen children on a journey of conversion, hence "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel." The ashes remind us that we are members of the body of Christ, and the blotch on our foreheads will proclaim that identity to others, too.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Ashes will be distributed at each Mass on Ash Wednesday. The times of the Masses are 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 12 Noon and 7:30 p.m. With the exception of those who are ill, ashes will only be distributed during Ash Wednesday Masses.

ASH WEDNESDAY and GOOD FRIDAY are days of fasting and abstinence. FRIDAYS during Lent are days of abstinence.

FASTING requires that only one full meal be taken per day. Two smaller meals that together do not equal a full meal in quantity may be taken to maintain strength. Fasting applies to those between the ages of 18 & 59; others are encouraged to participate to the extent they are able.

ABSTINENCE prohibits those who are 14 years of age and older from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and Fridays during Lent.

