

## TIME TO MAKE SOME SACRIFICES

Gen. 15:5-12, 17-18; Ps. 27: 1, 7-9, 13-14; Phil. 3:17 – 4:1; Lk. 9: 28b-36

The Lord God said to Abram: "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so...shall your descendants be." Lent is a time to look forward rather than backward! In our spiritual life and in our relationship with God, He is the One Who always takes the first initiative to love us. In today's first reading He takes the initiative and promises Abram that his descendants shall be as many as "the stars in the sky." On his part, Abram must make some sacrifices: "Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old she-goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." After he made the contribution and fulfilled all the rituals, God made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates." Abram submitted himself to the will of God and trusted Him. He put his faith in God.

As He did to Abram, God invites you and me to make some sacrifices, because He wants to reestablish His covenant of love with us. He wants us to sacrifice our pleasures and our time - to come out of our *comfort zones* so that we may have peace and "possess the land" He has destined for us. God is requesting you and me to put to death our old and sinful ways and to turn back to Him with a contrite and upright heart. He is asking us to make some painful sacrifices during Lent and beyond. Throughout this season of Lent, the Lord is exhorting us: "not to conduct ourselves as enemies of the cross of Christ," and not to let our "stomach be our God," nor should we let "our glory be in our *shame*." We must not allow our "minds to be occupied with earthly things!" Instead, our minds must be occupied with doing good – generous in Almsgiving, resolute in Fasting and unceasing in Prayer. Lent affords you and me the privilege to remember, "The Lord is my light and my salvation..." and there is nothing I shall fear. God promises us salvation through the passion, the death and the resurrection of Christ, His beloved Son. Thus, we are invited to have an experience of God's love in all that we do.

Like Jesus, Peter, John and James, God invites you and me to go on a journey and accompany Jesus to the *mountain* where we would be *transfigured* - we must be alone with Him Who dwells in our hearts. We must encounter Him in our Lenten acts of prayer, fasting and abstinence. Jesus wants us to change from our sinful ways and thus, be transformed by the presence of His light. He wants us to experience the radiance of His light through the sacrifices that we make during this holy season and always. Through our experience and encounter with Him, Jesus wants us to have the audacity to share that radiance with others during this season of Lent. This is a gracious season set aside for us to realize that "our citizenship is in heaven." Our citizenship is not on this earth, therefore, we must stop acting and behaving like people whose "God is their stomach" and whose "glory is their *shame*." You and I must know that during Lent we are exhorted to take "a leap of faith" with Christ, and hear God, the Father, saying: "This is My chosen Son; listen to Him." Listen to Him and turn away from sins - keep the commandments! Listen to Him Who tells you to "Love God above every other thing." Listen to Him Who tells you to "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." Lent demands from you total detachment from sin and total commitment to God's covenant of love. In this way, "Christ will change our lowly body to conform with His glorified body..."

## PARISH NEWS



**HOLY HOUR:** This Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, is First Friday. We will have our monthly Holy Hour at 1 p.m. On Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Divine Mercy Holy Hour will begin at 3 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to participate in these wonderful devotions, especially during Lent when we are encouraged to focus on the Lenten Pillar of "prayer."

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** 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. Families are encouraged to participate together in preparation for Easter.



**OUR FAMILY MASS:** Next Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will celebrate our Family Mass at 10 a.m. All children and their families are encouraged to attend. Mass will be followed by "Family Breakfast" at the McManus Parish Center. All are welcome.

The members of the Rosary Altar Society will attend the 8:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.



**Anyone who needs to report an alleged incident of sexual abuse of a minor by priest, deacon, religious or lay person serving in the Archdiocese of New York is asked to contact Sister Eileen Clifford, O.P. at (212) 371-1000, ext. 2949 or Deacon George J. Coppola at (914) 861-1762. Both may also be reached via e-mail at [victimassistance@archny.org](mailto:victimassistance@archny.org). Information can also be found on the Archdiocesan website, [www.archny.org](http://www.archny.org). In keeping with the Archdiocesan policy regarding sexual abuse of minors, this information is provided to ensure that our children remain safe and secure.**

**CURSILLO INFORMATION NIGHT:** *Do you feel yourself being tugged in a thousand different directions? Are you overwhelmed by life's issues? Are you yearning for a deeper relationship with God, but you feel you're not being successful?* Then consider making a Cursillo Weekend. The dates of the next Cursillo Weekends are: **Men on April 4 – 7** and **Women on April 18 – 21**. All weekends start on Thursday at 7 p.m. and end on Sunday afternoon. Transportation will be provided. For further information call Fran & Al DioDati on (914) 476-1189.

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

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

### COME TO OUR PARISH MISSION

This Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup> through  
Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>

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.

**2013 CARDINAL'S APPEAL:** To date, 40 families have made their commitment to the *Cardinal's Appeal* effort in our parish. It would be wonderful if we could both raise our goal of \$51,000 and make a strong showing with the number of families who have committed to the *Appeal*. The *Appeal* needs all of us to play a role in order for it to be successful. Please be as generous as possible. Thank you.

**BEGINNING EXPERIENCE** is offering a healing weekend from April 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, at the St. Lawrence Retreat Center in Beacon, NY. This invitation is open to men and women of all ages who have suffered the loss of a spouse through death, divorce, or separation. It is a time to heal and a time to begin anew. Reservations are required. For information or registration, please call Brendan at 845 268-8169 or Louise at 845 221-2743 or e-mail [ny.hudson.valley@brginningexperience.org](mailto:ny.hudson.valley@brginningexperience.org).

### AN INVITATION TO OUR PARISH FAMILY FAITH FESTIVAL

We are opening our *Family Faith Festival* on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, from 12 – 2:30 p.m. to everyone in our parish. Regardless of whether you are a single adult, an empty nester, or a senior, you are invited to join our families for a simple meal, followed by fun-filled faith activities (some brought back by popular demand!). Reservations are a must (call 476-6676) and are on a first come basis. **There is no cost to attend.**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** classes will not be held this Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, but will resume on Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Augusto Elia.

 *Rest in Peace*



Congratulations to Jack Danial, Raymond Molina, Jarilyn Rodriguez, Kavia and Nyia Garayua, who officially were declared a member of the Elect by the Archbishop, Timothy Cardinal Dolan, last Sunday at St. Patrick's Cathedral. They will be initiated into the Catholic faith at the Easter Vigil,

when they are Baptized, Confirmed and receives the Eucharist for the first time. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare spiritually to receive these sacraments.

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.

### † STEWARDSHIP ✉

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

#### Tithing - God's Plan for Giving

February 19, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$5760.60
Children's Contribution	\$153.80
<b>Last Year's Total</b>	<b>\$5914.40</b>

February 17, 2013

Adults' Contribution	\$6058.80
Children's Contribution	\$141.30
<b>This Year's Total</b>	<b>\$6200.10</b>

**Our Snow Removal Collection totaled \$1634.05.**

**The Ash Wednesday collection totaled \$2100.05.**

*"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 Swiatkiewicz, 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.

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

*FEBRUARY 24, 2013*

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*Mass*  *for the*  
*Intentions* *Week*

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**Second Sunday of Lent**

**Saturday, February 23 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM Charles Sullivan +

**Sunday, February 24**

8:30 AM Leonore Erb +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Biagio & Lucia Labruzzo +

5:00 PM Michael Castagnozzi & Mary Ann Karpinski +

**Monday, February 25**

**Lenten Weekday**

7:00 AM Joyce Couto +

9:00 AM Anne Marie S. & Francis X. Byrnes +

**Tuesday, February 26**

**Lenten Weekday**

7:00 AM Msgr. Joseph F. Tracey +

9:00 AM Frank Lutomski, Sr. +

**Wednesday, February 27**

**Lenten Weekday**

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Felix Vazquez & Jose Romero +

**Thursday, February 28**

**Lenten Weekday**

7:00 AM Anna Maria Palleschi +

9:00 AM Patrick Castaldo (living)

**Friday, March 1**

**Lenten Weekday**

7:00 AM Ernie DeLinia +

9:00 AM William Mitchell +

**Saturday, March 2**

**Lenten Weekday**

9:00 AM Mary Ann Berenguer +

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**Third Sunday of Lent**

**Saturday, March 2 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM John Brusco +

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**Sunday, March 3**

8:30 AM Peter Klee +

10:00 AM Ted Bajek +

11:30 AM Rose, Leo, & Gloria Savona +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

*FEBRUARY 24, 2013*

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## **Lenten Prayer for Spiritual Renewal**

God, heavenly Father,  
look upon me and hear my prayer  
during this holy Season of Lent.  
By the good works You inspire,  
help me to discipline my body  
and to be renewed in spirit.

Without You I can do nothing.  
By Your Spirit help me to know what is right  
and to be eager in doing Your will.  
Teach me to find new life through penance.  
Keep me from sin, and help me live  
by Your commandment of love.

God of love, bring me back to You.  
Send Your Spirit to make me strong  
in faith and active in good works.  
May my acts of penance bring me Your  
forgiveness, open my heart to Your love,  
and prepare me for the coming feast  
of the Resurrection of Jesus.

Lord, during this Lenten Season,  
nourish me with Your Word of life  
and make me one with You in love and prayer.

Fill my heart with Your love  
and keep me faithful to the Gospel of Christ.  
Give me the grace to rise above my human  
weakness.  
Give me new life by Your Sacraments, especially  
the Mass.

Father, our source of life,  
I reach out with joy to grasp Your hand;  
let me walk more readily in Your ways.  
Guide me in Your gentle mercy,  
for left to myself I cannot do Your Will.

Father of love, source of all blessings,  
help me to pass from my old life of sin to the new  
life of grace.  
Prepare me for the glory of Your Kingdom.  
I ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,  
Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God. forever.

*FEBRUARY 24, 2013*

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Amen.

**Comments:**

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