

LOVE THAT IS DIFFERENT!

Acts 14:21-27; Ps. 145:8-13; Rev. 21:1-5; John 13:31-33



"I give you a new commandment: love one another...This is how all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

The question you and I may ask is: "What is new about this commandment?" How is it different from what we have been practicing as Christians? It is different because we must love just "as I have loved you, so you should love one another." Indeed, "There is no greater love than this, to give one's life for one's friends." It is new because this love is sacrificial in nature. It is not about what you receive in return, but it is about what you give - giving until it hurts. This helps us to understand that Christ's commandment to love is the center of His teaching and the center of Christian life. This sort of sacrificial love is where we start and end our journey as Christians.

Last Sunday we read of the rejection of Paul and Barnabas by some members of the community. But in today's reading we see both of them returning to visit the church they had established in that community. Despite the harsh treatment they previously received from those who opposed them in the community, they are not afraid of revisiting them. They both manifested the "new commandment of love" in their commitment to spreading the Good News and making themselves available to the communities they served. Due to the challenges they encountered, Paul and Barnabas, acknowledged that at times it wasn't easy to be a faithful disciple of Christ, thus, they encouraged you and me as they "strengthened the spirits of the faithful and exhorted them to persevere in the faith, saying, *It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.*"

"Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him." By His willingness to suffer pain and affliction for the love of us, Jesus was glorified, and in the same token, God the Father was glorified. Likewise, Jesus is glorified when you and I graciously bear the pain that comes our way. Like Paul and Barnabas, some of us have undergone many hardships for the sake of the Kingdom of God. The challenges that you and I face in our quest to live a good Christian life should never deter us from committing ourselves to the life of sacrificial and unselfish love that Jesus wants us to live. The important thing to keep in mind is that you and I cannot bear these hardships on our own, but we need the mutual love and support of one another. Thus, Christ gives us a new commandment, "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." When we have genuine love and concern for each other, we will be able to accomplish great things within our parish community and beyond.

Definitely, there will be hardships, but your perseverance and love for each other will win you favor. Jesus reminds you and me that our love for one another is the only way "all will know that you are my disciples." We need each other's shoulder to lean on - we need each other's hand to hold us - we need each other's tongue to praise and encourage us. We must realize that Jesus is "The One Who (sits) on the throne" and "He will wipe every tear from (our) eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away." The "new order" is established - let us love one another with a sincere and genuine love!

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP

PARISH NEWS

SHARING COMMUNITY MEAL: This Thursday, May 2nd, we will be providing our Sharing Community Meal. Please bring your ziti or dessert to the Rectory. Doors will open at 6:45 a.m. The Sharing Community truly appreciates our efforts. Please keep up the good work! For information, please call the Rectory Office.



HOLY HOUR: This Friday, May 3rd, is First Friday. We will have our monthly Holy Hour at 1 p.m. in honor of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. On Saturday, May 4th, the Divine Mercy Holy Hour will begin at 3 p.m. You and your family are invited to come and adore the Risen Lord in the Eucharist.

The members of the Rosary Altar Society will attend the 8:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, May 5th.



OUR FAMILY MASS: Next Sunday, May 5th, we will celebrate our Family Mass at 10 a.m. All children and their families are encouraged to attend. However, because of Confirmation there will not be Family Breakfast this month.

YOU ARE INVITED to come and share the joy with our children who will be confirmed at the 11:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, May 5th. Please keep the candidates, their sponsors and their parents in your prayers.



MAY PROCESSION & CROWNING: On Monday, May 6th, at 6:45 p.m. St. Bartholomew's Parish will celebrate the Queenship of Mary, our Mother. Our newly confirmed and this year's First Communicants will process to the Church and crown the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary in this beautiful May devotion.



The short program is filled with devotional songs to Mary that are sure to bring back youthful memories. Please help us fill the Church to honor Our Blessed Mother.

The Altar Flowers for this week are donated in loving memory of Rita Bolduc by Louise Bolduc.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



We congratulate 20 of our children who made their First Holy Communion last Sunday, April 21st, and we welcome them to the Table of the Lord:

Alexander Brito	John Perrone
Amelia Cancel	Vincent Piarulli
Axel Castro	Sean Reardon
Jim Anthony Connors	Loryn Riker
Gabriela Flores	Michael Rizzuti
Sean Godfrey	Aubree Seguin
Ariela Gomez	Alvaro Silva
Janet Herrera	Edwin Tlatelpa
Jaelle Jenna Mejia	Kylie Vazquez
Jessica Nicolo	Thomas Wissner

Our Parish 50/50 raffle is still going on. As of today, the winner's share is over \$1500. Thank you to those who have already returned their booklets. To increase your chances to win or join in the fun, booklets are available on the church bulletin boards or at the rectory office.

MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA MASSES



Sunday, May 12th, is Mother's Day. Our Parish will have a Novena of Masses for all our mothers – living and deceased. The Novena of Masses will begin on Mother's Day and finish on Monday, May 20th.

There are cards and/or envelopes at the back of the church. They will also be available at the Rectory Office, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you want your mother, mother-in-law or any mother remembered in the Novena of Masses, please write out the envelope with your donation and drop it in the collection basket or bring it to the Rectory Office during the week.

There will be a second collection next weekend at all the Masses for the maintenance of our buildings and grounds. Please be as generous as your means allow.

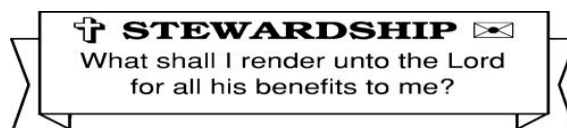


YOUTH GROUP: Because Confirmation takes place on the first Sunday of May, **the Youth Group will meet this Sunday, April 28th**, immediately following

the 5 p.m. Mass in the McManus Parish Center.

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

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



TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

April 23, 2012

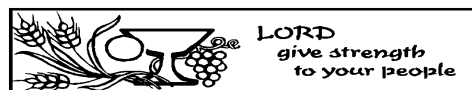
Adults' Contribution	\$6162.85
Children's Contribution	\$109.70
Last Year's Total	\$6272.55

April 21, 2013

Adults' Contribution	\$5395.70
Children's Contribution	\$115.90
This Year's Total	\$5511.60

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, Deacon James Byrnes, Andrea Objay, Carmen Torres, Frank Marra, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, Edith Dugan, Gary Roth, Joyann Allan, 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, 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.

THE 2014 MASS BOOK IS OPEN

The Mass Book for 2014 opened on Ash Wednesday and there are still many dates open in this year's Mass Book, as well. 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, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.** to make arrangements or to inquire about the availability of a particular date.


CALLING ALL SENIORS! CALLING ALL SENIORS!

Join fellow seniors for a Mass and Gathering

May 2nd

9 a.m. Mass with a Special Blessing followed by light refreshments and gathering at the McManus Parish Center

APRIL 28, 2013

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Saturday, April 27 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Ann Marie Selvaraj +

Sunday, April 28

8:30 AM Leonore Erb +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Peter & Josephine Pisacreta +

5:00 PM Frank & Carmela Legio +

Monday, April 29

Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor of the Church

7:00 AM Emily Nadal +

9:00 AM Glen McLarnon +

Tuesday, April 30

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Mike O'Shea +

9:00 AM Peter DeMattia +

Wednesday, May 1

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Giuseppe & Irina DiCarlo +

9:00 AM Louise Johnson +

Thursday, May 2

Saint Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

7:00 AM Neil Lyons +

9:00 AM Sal Macagnone +

Friday, May 3

Saints Philip & James, Apostles

7:00 AM Luigi Lucchetti +

9:00 AM Antonio & Benedita Paulo +

Saturday, May 4

Easter Weekday

9:00 AM Angelina Brusco +

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Saturday, May 4 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Lucille & Victor Serricchio +

Sunday, May 5

8:30 AM Constance Steffens +

10:00 AM Renelida & James Cabrera +

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Frank & Carmela Legio +

YEAR OF FAITH



As the Easter season continues, many parishes are planning to celebrate the First Communion of their young people. It is certainly a time of rejoicing when it is recognized that they make the People of God holier through their spiritual progress. Additionally, it is a time of gratitude for those parents who have witnessed to their own faith in bringing their children to this moment. Indeed, they are fulfilling the commitment they made to Christ and His Church when at their child's Baptism they answered affirmatively to the question: "You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training them in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring them up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?" We know, however, that this sacred pledge does not end with this Sacrament, or even Confirmation. It has no time limit.

This question itself reveals a great deal about the Church's mindset and her expectations. Formerly, it was the Godparents who spoke for the child. The reformed rites of Pope Paul VI recognize both the influence of the parents and the much lesser role today of Godparents. It takes its lead from the Second Vatican Council document: The Church in the Modern World. It teaches: "with their parents leading the way by example and family prayer, children and indeed everyone gathered around the family hearth will find a readier path to human maturity, salvation and holiness. Graced with the dignity and office of fatherhood and motherhood, parents will energetically acquit themselves of a duty that devolves primarily on them, namely, education and especially religious education." (48) One of my favorite stories demonstrating this refers to Wellington Mara, the owner of the New York Giants. At his funeral, his son, John, related a fact of his growing up: his father put the confession schedule on the refrigerator for all to see with a note: "No confession, No Santa."

Witness, constant witness is essential for a child. One does not learn how to tie one's shoe laces, ride a bicycle, or drive a car after only one experience. No parent would feed a child only one meal. If they did they would waste away and die. If a child sees how important the day of First Communion is, but then has parents who neglect to take him to Mass on Sunday, the danger of a spiritual death not only exists, but might become a foregone conclusion.

Though it is harder to state one's faith expectations to children when they get older and leave home, it is necessary. One is not naïve in knowing what might be happening elsewhere, but one has a right to expect their children to live according to their parents' moral norms when they visit or return home. Before we conclude: a word of consolation should be given to parents who have done all in their power to be faithful disciples but whose children have strayed away from the Catholic faith. When young people reach the age of majority (not necessarily maturity) mothers and fathers can do little in guaranteeing the practice of their children. It is a similar position to that of a coach in the NFL. He trains his team for six days, but on Sunday he hands off the ball. He cannot take the place of a team member who is failing to fulfill their responsibilities. Prayer is the only method by which a parent at that point can bring about a change with God's help a la Saint Monica, the mother of that once bad boy, Saint Augustine.

Let us pray for all our young people, especially those receiving First Communion and Confirmation.

