

**LEAVE BEHIND YOUR "SINFUL PLEASURES"***Gen. 22:1-2,9-13,15-18; Ps. 116:10, 15-19; Rom. 8:31-34; Mark 9:2-10*

The story of Abraham's faith cuts across the beliefs of major religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. His story brings out a timeless message to all who wrestle with the problem of fidelity, faith, and trust in a future. It teaches you and me that there is always a way out if we dare to persevere – hoping against all hope.

It all started when the Lord God called Abram to leave his father's land, his household "for the land I will show you" (Gen. 12:1-7) – a land unknown to him. He later became a wealthy and successful man, but without a child of his own. The Lord had told him: "Do not be afraid...I am your shield; your reward will be very great!" (Gen. 15:1). He and his wife, Sarah fasted, prayed and waited for the Lord to fulfill His promise and give them a child. But their desire did not materialize. In his frustration, Abram said: "My Lord, Yahweh, where are Your promises? I am still childless and... You have given me no children, so a slave of mine will be my heir" (Gen. 15:2-3). Abram's perseverance and trust in God paid off. The Lord, in His mercy, later granted his request, and his wife, Sarah, bore him a son whom he named Isaac.

Today's first reading tells us how God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only beloved child, Isaac. For many, such a request would have been seen as bizarre and outrageous. But Abraham never questioned God's intention for such an *extreme* request. He trusted in God, thus he was prepared to sacrifice his only son – the very "thing" that he loved dearly. He believed in the promise God made to him when he was first called to leave his land and go to a land that he did not know (Gen. 12:1-4). When God calls you, He promises you "a hundredfold here on earth and eternal life thereafter, but not without persecution" (Matt. 19:28-29). When God calls you to "follow Me," like Abraham, He makes "outrageous demands" of you. He calls you to sacrifice the "familiar and the more comfortable present" for the "unknown future." He calls you to a life of spiritual and emotional detachment from material things and persons. He calls us to leave our "comfort zones" behind and take on a new life of sacrifice that will in turn lead us to eternal life with Him in His Kingdom.

The Lenten season affords you and me the opportunity to take a leap of faith – leaving behind the comfortable, but sinful life, we may have been living; and thus, to go on a journey with Jesus to the Mountain where we might experience the light of His transformation. Like Abram, He wants us to sacrifice our pleasures and thus embark on a long and painful journey unto a *mountain of possibilities*. God requires you and me to put to death our old and sinful ways and to turn back to Him in faith.

*Leaving behind our comfort zones for an uncertain future for God's sake can be challenging and sometimes overwhelming. Abraham did it and received God's abundant blessings. You can also do it. St. Paul assures you and me that if God is for us, nothing and nobody can be against us. If Jesus was willing to sacrifice His life for you, how much more will He take care of your material and emotional needs. He always rewards those who are faithful to His commands. God's command today is that we must listen to Christ, His beloved Son. Like Christ, we must be willing to make some painful sacrifices during this Lent and beyond – by dying to self and living for others. The sacrifices we make by way of almsgiving, prayer and fasting, will help us to experience the radiance of God's light, as the Apostles did on the Mountain.*

**Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP**


**PARISH NEWS**


The **ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY** meeting will be held this Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All women of the Parish are invited.

**OPENING OF THE 2013 MASS BOOK**

The Mass Book for 2013 opened on Ash 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, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.** to make arrangements or to inquire about the availability of a particular date.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:**

Every Friday evening during Lent, we have the devotion of the Stations of the Cross in the Church at 7p.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.



**CHILDREN'S MASS:** Please make it a point to bring your child to our Children's Mass for the remaining 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.

The **ALTAR BREAD & WINE, ALTAR CANDLES, and SANCTUARY LAMP** for this week have been donated in loving memory of John Brusco by Louis & Angela Brusco.



Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially George Abraham, Jr. and Mary Chillo.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



Dear fellow Parishioners and Friends,

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you all for the beautiful Retirement Party held in my honor. I am overwhelmed by the generosity and love you showered me with that day. I will never forget you and look forward to seeing each of you soon and often!

Thank you, again for a truly memorable send-off!

Love,  
Carrie D'Angelo

Congratulations to Derek Mamadoski, who officially was declared a member of the Elect by the Archbishop, Timothy Cardinal Dolan, last Sunday at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Derek will be initiated into the Catholic faith at the Easter Vigil, when he is Baptized, Confirmed and receives the Eucharist for the first time. Congratulations to Derek, his sponsor, and his family. Please keep him in your prayers as he prepares spiritually to receive these sacraments.



**YOUTH MINISTRY** 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.



**LORD**  
give strength  
to your people

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, 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 Petruolo, Cynthia Swiatkiewicz, Rose Botcheller, Silvia Georgi, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Steve Oddo, Roseann Mercandetti, and Mary Krakowiak.

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

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

**EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTION:** Held the First Friday of every month at 1 PM. Please join us for this most efficacious prayer.

**DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION:** Held the First Saturday of every month at 3 PM. All are encouraged to participate.



### TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

#### February 27, 2011

Adults' Contribution	\$5324.50
Children's Contribution	\$192.30
<b>Last Year's Total</b>	<b>\$5516.80</b>

#### February 26, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$5934.00
Children's Contribution	\$115.40
<b>This Year's Total</b>	<b>\$6049.40</b>

The Ash Wednesday collection totaled \$2126.60.

### Ten Points for Tithing and Blessings

1. Tithe in faith - have faith about presenting your tithe by hearing God's Word **on** your tithe. (Romans 10:17)
2. Prove God with your tithes - give your tithes, declaring your expectation **that** He will bless you (Malachi 3:10-12)
3. Tithe with rejoicing - rejoice in every good thing God has **done** for you. (Deuteronomy 26:11)
4. Worship God with your tithe - remember God's goodness towards you. (Prov.3:9-10)
5. Bring your tithe to Jesus - it is Jesus you are presenting your tithe to. (Hebrews 6:20)
6. Bring your tithe to your home church - if you want enough supply in your house be sure your tithe is providing supply in His house. (Malachi 3:10)
7. Tithe with all diligence - this lifts your material affairs into God's sphere of care and fosters your good stewardship.
8. Give your tithe before tax - your increase is before tax and your tithe is **on** your increase.
9. Tithe inheritances and all types of windfalls - these are part of your increase; they are how God increased you.
10. **Petition** God as you tithe - your giving of tithes puts you in a special position **of confidence** as you ask for God's provision **and** prospering.

***Our journey so far concerning tithing may appear to have yielded little or no fruit. That is not true! There are some individuals and families who have responded generously to the call to tithe. To them, I am very thankful and I pray God to reward all those who are making enormous sacrifices to support the work of our beloved parish.***

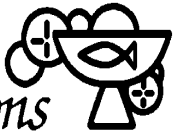
*"The true purpose of tithing is to secure not the tithe, but the tither; not the gift, but the giver; not your money, but you... for God."*

### 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!***

MARCH 4, 2012

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Mass  for the  
Intentions Week

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Second Sunday of Lent

**Saturday, March 3 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM Deceased Members of Pisacreta Family +

**Sunday, March 4**

8:30 AM Peter Klee +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Antonio Darretta +

5:00 PM Julio Blanco +

**Monday, March 5**

**Lenten Weekday**

7:00 AM Special Intention

9:00 AM Clara Maimone +

**Tuesday, March 6**

**Lenten Weekday**

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Steven O'Malley +

**Wednesday, March 7**

**Lenten Weekday**

7:00 AM Catherine Moore +

9:00 AM Thomas M. Fallon +

**Thursday, March 8**

**Lenten Weekday**

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Delia & John Tighe +

**Friday, March 9**

**Lenten Weekday**

7:00 AM Improved Health of Patrick Keating

9:00 AM Frank Lutomski, Jr. +

**Saturday, March 10**

**Lenten Weekday**

9:00 AM Giacomo Bilancia +

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**Saturday, March 10 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM Marcello Barcello +

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**Sunday, March 11**

**Third Sunday of Lent**

8:30 AM Joyce Couto +

10:00 AM Catherine Moore +

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Jovita Romero & Sofia Vazquez +



