

## GATEWAY TO HEAVEN



I loved **The Passion of the Christ**, and still do. For one, it helped me (and many Christians) to re-evaluate our perception, understanding, and appreciation of the actual passion of Christ. We had gotten used to the handsome, bloodless (if not for a few dots of blood here and there), and almost peaceful Christ hanging on the cross. The only thing remaining was a trace of smile. But his passion was real and to many who witnessed it, an unbearable sight. That's why the women of Jerusalem wept for him.

If I were to be Jesus and had come to save everyone, and someone asked me how many would be saved (Lk 13:22-30), I probably would have sounded more like most (I hope not all) present day sales persons rather than the Jesus in the gospel today. Our loving, caring, and forgiving, Jesus is also definitely a no-nonsense teacher who tells it as it is. So, he tells his listeners that the gate into eternal life is actually narrow and many will not be strong enough to enter. What bluntness! Yet, what a wonderful reminder to us, God's children, and especially to us Christians, about the essence of God's offer of salvation!



The gate into heaven is narrow and so we must exert ourselves. No free lunch or free ride to heaven. No hitchhiking to heaven. Each of us must travel the long, often tedious miles, one step after another.

But we don't travel alone. We have One who has traveled our path before – Jesus. He assures us that if we come to him, all of us whose burdens seem to be, or are actually heavy, he'd give us some rest and help us carry them (Mt 11:28-30). We have a Mother who had also traveled this familiar path – Mary. We have brothers and sisters who have traveled this less traveled road – the saints. Let us then “strengthen (our) drooping hands and (our) weak knees” and “make straight paths for (our) feet, that what is lame may not be disjointed but healed” (Hebrews 12:11-13).


### Parish Tidbit:

- We welcome Fr. Daniel back from his vacation. I'm sure he's back refreshed and energized (not that he needs more energy). He'll be alone for the next three weeks. But I know he'll be up to the tasks.
- I leave this Sunday night for Nigeria. Again, I'm going for the 6<sup>th</sup> General Chapter of the Missionary Society of St. Paul, which will be held in Nigeria from Sept 1 to Sept 15. Five of us will be representing the US Region. I'll be back on Sept 19<sup>th</sup>. Keep us in your prayers that the Holy Spirit may be with us in our deliberations and elections of a new Superior General, Vicar General, and three Counselors.

**Blessings and Peace on you!**  
Amen.

~ Father Raphael

## PARISH NEWS

 **Religious Education helps to build a strong foundation**

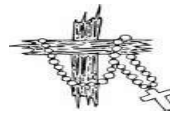
Religious Education classes begin on Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't already done so, please register your child now. Classes for public school children run September through June. **All Catholic children attending public schools should enroll in a religious education program.** Please call (476-6676) for more information.

### 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.



*Next Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, is the first Sunday of the month. We will take up a second collection at all the Masses in support of our buildings and grounds.*



### ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY

The ladies of the Rosary Altar Society will attend the 8:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup>.

**OUR FAMILY MASS** for the month of September will be celebrated on the **second Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**, when we will have the opportunity to welcome back our parish and Religious Education families from their summer vacation. The Mass will be celebrated 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.



**BEGINNING EXPERIENCE** is offering a healing weekend from October 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, at the St. Lawrence Retreat Center in Beacon, NY. This invitation is open to men and women of all ages and faiths 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. It is endorsed by the Archdiocese Office of Family and Youth and reservations are required. For information or registration please call Christine on 518 894-6964 or Louise on 845 221-2743 or e-mail [ny.hudson.valley@beginningexperience.org](mailto:ny.hudson.valley@beginningexperience.org).

### GIANT FLEA MARKET

**Saturday & Sunday - September 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

St. Casimir's Church Hall

239 Nepperhan Avenue, Yonkers

Housewares \* Clothes \* Books \* Jewelry \* Toys \* Much More

Good Food & Fun

Pierogi \* Stuffed Cabbage \* Kielbasa

**FREE ADMISSION**

## TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### IN THE VOICE OF OUR MOTHERS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> AT 3 P.M.

Mariandale Retreat & Conference Center  
299 North Highland Avenue, Ossining

A five actress live performance revealing the intimate and powerful narratives of our Biblical matriarchs as they describe their world from a woman's point of view. Refreshments will be served. Cost \$30. Contact Cheryl Duda (476-6676) **this week** to reserve your spot.



*"So strengthen your drooping hands and weak knees."* Let Worldwide Marriage Encounter strengthen your Marriage. There are upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends in September and November. For more information on dates and locations, go to: [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org) or call (877) 697-9963, ext. 3.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter's mission of renewal in the Church and change in the world is to assist couples and priests to live fully intimate and responsible relationships by providing them with a Catholic "experience" and ongoing community support for such a lifestyle.

### HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Patient Care Volunteers ~ 11<sup>th</sup> Hour Volunteers ~ Pet Therapy Volunteers

Jansen Hospice, 670 White Plains Road, Scarsdale, provides services to patients and families throughout Westchester County. Interviews for new volunteers will be conducted during the month of September. Once accepted, new volunteers will participate in an introductory training session which begins on October 8<sup>th</sup>, and meets on consecutive Tuesday afternoons for 2 hours each week for 5 weeks. **Please call Didi Marcel (961-2818, ext. 1336) for more information.**

The Youth Group is taking a summer break; therefore, the next meeting will be **Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**, following the 5 p.m. Mass, in the McManus Parish Center. All youths age 13 and up are invited.



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

#### August 19, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$6093.55
Children's Contribution	\$48.00
<b>Last Year's Total</b>	<b>\$6141.55</b>

#### August 18, 2013

Adults' Contribution	\$4888.15
Children's Contribution	\$28.75
<b>This Year's Total</b>	<b>\$4916.90</b>

The collection in honor of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary totaled \$1623.10.

### 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 Falcone, Kathleen Hayes, Marge Muraik, Donna Vasconez, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petruolo, Cynthia Swiatkowicz, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Roseanne Mercandetti, Louis Brusco, Josephine Daniele, Jennifer Dorsey, Valerie Riccardi, Fatima Panik, Marian Fletcher, Anna Bonacci, Minerva Hernandez, Paula Parente, Bridget O'Malley, Anna Brucculeri, Peggy Clevenberg, Gerald Mazzerese, Jr., Patricia Keane, Louis Milone, Joey Bastardi, Carol Stola, Amada Ortiz, Karen Aprea, Stephen Sarich, Neil Cawley, Barbara McCormack, Josephine Lehotyak, and Father Raphael Ezech, MSP.

### 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. 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.

AUGUST 25, 2013

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Mass  for the  
Intentions Week

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**Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Saturday, August 24 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

**Sunday, August 25**

8:30 AM Carl Dietze, Robert & Chester Rodesky +

10:00 AM Frank & Carmela Legio +

11:30 AM Carmela & Frank Legio +

5:00 PM Anthony Laino +

**Monday, August 26**

**Weekday**

7:00 AM Jane Byrnes Valentine +

9:00 AM Kharzneh Fraih +

**Tuesday, August 27**

**Saint Monica**

7:00 AM The Mark McCullough Children +

9:00 AM Antoinette Cordts +

**Wednesday, August 28**

**Saint Augustine, Bishop & Doctor of the Church**

7:00 AM Jane Byrnes Valentine +

9:00 AM Frank & Carmela Legio +

**Thursday, August 29**

**Passion of Saint John the Baptist**

7:00 AM In Honor of the Holy Trinity & Holy Family

9:00 AM Umberto Stangarone +

**Friday, August 30**

**Weekday**

7:00 AM Arthur Roos +

9:00 AM Gene DelBene +

**Saturday, August 31**

**Weekday**

9:00 AM Giuseppe Mondello +

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**Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Saturday, August 31 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM Daniel Pape, Jr. +

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**Sunday, September 1**

8:30 AM Mary Ann Berenguer +

10:00 AM Richard Jacob +

11:30 AM Vincent Campisi & Julieann Campisi Moroch +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

**SAINT MONICA**  
**(322? – 387)**  
**AUGUST 27<sup>TH</sup>**



The circumstances of Saint Monica's life could have made her a nagging wife, a bitter daughter-in-law and a despairing parent, yet she did not give way to any of these temptations. Although she was a Christian, her parents gave her in marriage to a pagan, Patricius, who lived in her hometown of Tagaste in North Africa. Patricius had some redeeming features, but he had a violent temper and was licentious. Monica also had to bear with a cantankerous mother-in-law who lived in her home. Patricius criticized his wife because of her charity and piety, but always respected her. Monica's prayers and example finally won her husband and mother-in-law to Christianity. Her husband died in 371, one year after his Baptism.

Monica had at least three children who survived infancy. The oldest, Augustine, is the most famous. At the time of his father's death, Augustine was seventeen and a rhetoric student at Carthage. Monica was distressed to learn that her son had accepted the Manichean heresy and was living an immoral life. For a while, she refused to let him eat or sleep in her house. Then one night she had a vision that assured her Augustine would return to the faith. From that time on she stayed close to her son, praying and fasting for him. In fact, she often stayed much closer than Augustine wanted.

When he was twenty-nine, Augustine decided to go to Rome to teach rhetoric. Monica was determined to go along. One night he told his mother that he was going to the dock to say goodbye to a friend. Instead, he set sail for Rome. Monica was heartbroken when she learned of Augustine's trick, but she still followed him. She arrived in Rome only to find that he had left for Milan. Although travel was difficult, Monica pursued him to Milan.

In Milan Augustine came under the influence of the bishop, Saint Ambrose, who also became Monica's spiritual director. She accepted his advice in everything and had the humility to give up some practices that had become second nature to her. Monica became a leader of the devout women in Milan as she had been in Tagaste.

She continued her prayers for Augustine during his years of instruction. At Easter, 387, Saint Ambrose baptized Augustine and several of his friends. Soon after, his party left for Africa. Although no one else was aware of it, Monica knew her life was near the end. She told Augustine, "Son, nothing in this world now affords me delight. I do not know what there is now left for me to do or why I am still here, all my hopes in this world being now fulfilled." She became ill shortly after and suffered severely for nine days before her death.

Almost all we know about Saint Monica is in the writings of Saint Augustine, especially his *Confessions*.

**COMMENT:** Today, with Internet searches, e-mail shopping and instant credit, we have little patience for things that take time. Likewise, we want instant answers to our prayers. Monica is a model of patience. Her long years of prayers, coupled with a strong, well-disciplined character, finally led to the conversion of her hot-tempered husband, her cantankerous mother-in-law and her brilliant but wayward son, Augustine.

**From *Saint of the Day*, edited by Leonard Foley, O.F.M., & Pat McCloskey, O.F.M.**

