

COME TO THE WATER...!

Exodus 17:3-7; Ps. 95:1-2, 6-9; Rom. 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42

The Church continues to grow in our time! Two weeks ago, five of our catechumens, Jack Daniel, Kavia Garayua, Nyia Garayua, Raymond Molina and Jarilyn Rodriguez, were among the many who were "elected" by the Archbishop, Cardinal Dolan, at St. Patrick's Cathedral in preparation for the Sacrament of Initiation this Easter. These catechumens have come to us thirsty for "Living Water," Jesus Christ. For the past two years, they have been on a journey of faith together with their directors and sponsors. They have been searching for Christ, and today we are going to celebrate the "First Scrutiny" in readying them for the reception of the sacraments at Easter Vigil.

Although we are in liturgical Year C, the celebration of our catechumens requires that we use the readings from Year A lectionary. Today's first reading is deliberately chosen to fit the gospel reading, in which Jesus promises the Samaritan woman that He will give her the water of life. It is an obvious fact that in the dry climate of Palestine, water is a symbol of salvation. Therefore, in the first reading, it is not unusual that the Israelites complained when they were faced with thirst aggravated by the scourging desert sun and heat. They confronted Moses: "Why did you ever make us leave Egypt?" They wanted to go back to Egypt where they could die honorably as slaves rather than die shamefully as animals in the desert under the pretext of freedom. Water is vital to one's survival especially when going on a long journey.

Our catechumens have surely begun their "journey of faith." Jack, Kavia, Nyia, Raymond and Jarilyn are definitely thirsty for this *Living Water*. They have discovered that "No one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit" (John 3:5). Thus, like the Samaritan woman, they are asking, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty..." (John 4:15). Together with the catechumens, you and I are on a journey of faith! In this journey, like the Israelites, we are often faced with hardship in various forms. We are often tempted. There are different demands made of us in our families, in our work places, in our community and in the church. We are faced with the material and financial obligations to support our families, church and community.

Often, life can be tough and stressful. We sometimes feel the *scourging heat* of being faithful to our commitments - the demands of sacrificing our time and our treasure for the good of those in need. We may be challenged by the absence of love, unity and peace in the family - diagnosis of serious ailment - the loss of a loved one. It is sometimes very difficult to remain faithful upon recovery from substance abuse. When you or I are faced with such difficulties, we are tempted to "go back to Egypt" - to go back to our *old ways*. As a result, we fail to appreciate all the good deeds and the good things God has done for us. In any situation, we should count our blessings and give thanks to God for His goodness to us. Now is the time to stop whining and complaining about the difficulties we face in our Christian journey. We must believe and trust in God's benevolent love. If we trust in Christ, even when we go through a rough patch, He will be there to provide for our basic needs. He will strengthen us and lead us to His everlasting glory. Christ assures us that: "Whoever drinks the water (He) shall give will never thirst". And, "Come to Me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:18). Therefore, "If today you hear His voice, harden not your

PARISH NEWS

Thank You!



You all will agree with me that we had a successful Lenten Mission this past week. The turnout was impressive and encouraging. On behalf of all of you, I heartily thank **Father Jack Rasthschmidt**, our Mission preacher, for a wonderful reflection and for sharing his faith, spirituality and personal experiences with us. We pray that as individuals

and as a community we are able to put back the *wheels on our wagon*, and together move it forward with love.

A "big thank" you to Deacon Bob, Cheryl Duda, our ever dependable men and women of the parish Social Ministry Committee, and everyone who helped to make the Mission a success. I pray that the lessons we learned and the love we experienced during the three-day Mission may transform our lives and make us strong and faithful disciples of Christ.

The **ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY** meeting will be held this Monday, March 4th, at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All women of the Parish are invited.



SHARING COMMUNITY MEAL: This Thursday, March 7th, 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.

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.



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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

OUR 2013 EASTER WISH-LIST



In the spirit of Lent and in anticipation of a joyous Easter feast, I am once again inviting you, our parish families or individuals, who can afford to assist the parish in purchasing the following liturgical items needed for the Holy Week and Easter ceremonies:

1. 1 Paschal (Easter) Candle @ \$450
2. 10 bundles of Palms for Palm Sunday @ \$60 each

Please, note that any of the above items can be donated in memory of your loved ones; and will be so noted in the Easter Bulletin.

Thank you for always responding whenever I call upon you to step forward and assist our parish in any way possible.

CARDINAL'S ANNUAL APPEAL 2013

As stewards and Disciples of Christ, we recognize that all the goods and riches in our lives are gifts from God. Strengthened by the Eucharist, we respond to God's generosity in our lives with gratitude by using and sharing our gifts in service of others. Please share your gifts and make a gift to the 2013 Cardinal's Appeal.

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.

AN INVITATION TO OUR FAMILY FAITH FESTIVAL

We are opening our *Family Faith Festival* next Saturday, March 9th, from 12 – 2:30 p.m. to everyone in our parish. 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.**



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 a.m. Mass on Mondays.

EUCHARISTIC 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.

† STEWARDSHIP ☒

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

Tithing - God's Plan for Giving

February 26, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$5934.00
Children's Contribution	\$115.40
Last Year's Total	\$6049.40

February 24, 2013

Adults' Contribution	\$5669.70
Children's Contribution	\$122.50
This Year's Total	\$5792.20

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION: Next week, our parish will take up the *Catholic Relief Services* collection, which supports six Catholic agencies that touch more than 100 million lives around the world. The funds from the collection help to provide food to the hungry, welcome and support to displaced refugees, and invaluable life skills to those seeking a better life. **How will you help?** Next week please give generously to the *Catholic Relief Services* collection - **Jesus in disguise.**

"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 Swiatkovicz, 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.

MARCH 3, 2013

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

Third Sunday of Lent

Saturday, March 2 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM John Brusco +

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

Monday, March 4

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM Antonio Darretta +

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

Tuesday, March 5

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM Ellen Dorothy Jean +

9:00 AM Theresa Iannelli +

Wednesday, March 6

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM Catherine Moore +

9:00 AM Jovita Romero, Sofia Vazquez, & Julio Blanco +

Thursday, March 7

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM John Verno +

9:00 AM Father Donald's Intentions

Friday, March 8

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM Frank Lutomski, Jr. +

9:00 AM Martin Clarke +

Saturday, March 9

Lenten Weekday

9:00 AM Rita Bolduc +

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Saturday, March 9 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Deceased Members of Pisacreta Family +

Sunday, March 10

8:30 AM Anthony DiPaolo +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Joan Sepp +

5:00 PM Patricia Arcoleo +

