

“WALK BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT”

Ezek. 17:22-24; 2 Cor. 5:6-10; Mark 4:26-34

In his poetry, **“With God, Nothing Is Impossible,”** Rusty Lindquist wrote:

“Perched upon the precipice of the past, And engulfed in the darkness of doubt, You gaze at the chasm of change before you. Fear’s destructive power presses upon you, It clouds your vision and erodes your commitment. It stifles your thoughts and saturates your senses. You wonder if it’s possible, if you should even try, But then you remember...”

I am a child of Royal birth; My Father is King, of Heaven and earth. My spirit was born in the courts on high, A child beloved, a Prince am I.

Sparked by hope, and spurred by the spirit, You realize that with God, nothing is impossible.”

In our first year in the Seminary, we were introduced into the *Ignatian Spirituality*. One of the spiritual exercises was to contemplate the mystery of life. We often take for granted the life that we live - without any thought about how you and I go to bed at night and get up in the morning - how we grow from a couple of inches to several feet. Have you ever wondered what makes the plants and the grass in the field grow? How do they manage to produce flowers and fruits in *due season*? The most frightening, but realistic spiritual exercises I did in my first year in the Seminary was to contemplate my last days here on earth, my death, my burial and ultimately, the decaying of my flesh. Like it or not, one day, you and I will surely “leave this body (behind) and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we (must) aspire to please Him, whether we are at home or away.”

We often set goals in life. You and I have expectations in life, and we always hope to achieve good results. We spent much of our energy planning, organizing and executing what we hope will bring us a good result in the end. Dedicated parents rear children and hope that they will be successful so that they can be proud of them. A dedicated priest sacrifices his time and energy hoping that he will win souls for God. Sometimes we fail to understand that God is the one that “grows the seed and nurse the plants.” It is necessary that our hopes be realistic, or else they will lead to our disappointment and even despair when things do not go the way we want them to. The first paragraph of today’s Gospel reading tells us of human helplessness and despair. The farmer in the parable does not make the seed grow - he does not even understand how it grows. God is the one Who makes the seed grow.

If God makes the seed grow, how would He not take care of you whom He has created in His own image. Prophet Ezekiel, in the first reading, consoles his troubled and despairing fellow Israelites. He is assuring you and me that “for man, a thing might be impossible, but for God it is possible.” Thus, “I, the Lord will plant it...lift high the lowly tree...and make the withered tree bloom.” Do not let the problems of life and the challenges you face each day weigh you down. You must always “walk by faith, not by sight.”

As we honor all our fathers on this Fathers’ Day, we pray that in all families, fathers will always be a sign of love and reconciliation. We pray that, all fathers will be a sign of strength and devoted faith in their families. May they put their trust always in God and also teach their children to do the same.

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP

PARISH NEWS

HAPPY FATHER’S DAY TO ALL THE FATHERS OF OUR PARISH – WE LOVE YOU ALL!

May God bless each and every father in our Parish today and throughout the coming year.



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) will meet this Monday, June 18th, at 7:00 p.m. in the school. All members are encouraged to attend.

CHILDREN’S MASS: Please make it a point to bring your child to our Children’s Mass next Sunday. 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 together with other children at a designated place during the Mass.



CALENDAR

The representative of each Parish Committee and group within the Parish, vying for use of the McManus Parish Center, are reminded that the calendar meeting will take place **this Thursday, June 21st, at 7 p.m.** in the school building. Please save the date!



ALTAR FLOWERS for this week have been donated in loving memory of Fiore Brusco and Gabriel Nanoia by Louis & Angela Brusco.



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

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.

It is easier for a father to have children than for children to have a real father.
~ Pope John XXIII

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FATHER'S DAY PRAYER



God our Father,
You govern and protect Your people
And shepherd them with a father's love.
You place a father in a family as a sign
Of Your love, care, and constant protection.
May fathers everywhere be faithful to the
Examples shown in the Scriptures: steadfast
In love, forgiving transgressions, sustaining
The family, caring for those in need.
Give Your wisdom to fathers
That they may encourage and guide their children.
Guide every father with the Spirit of Your love
That they may grow in holiness
And draw their family ever closer to You.
Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 6th

1:30 – 7:30 PM

MCMANUS PARISH CENTER



St. Bartholomew's Parish will be conducting a **Blood Drive** the Friday after the 4th of July. Please help support this important effort; and thank you to all who have participated in our past drives.

We are traditionally asked to run drives during holiday periods when the need for blood is great and the donations are usually down. Your support is just one of many things that make St. Bartholomew's Parish special. If you can donate, please call Tony Sciacca (423-3592) for an appointment. Also, please encourage your family & friends to participate.



Congratulations to the winners of our First Annual Parish Raffle, drawn at last Sunday's Parish Picnic:

- 1st Prize - Ellen & Richard Califano
- 2nd Prize - Helen Hanrahan
- 3rd Prize - Tom Covelli (Putnam Valley)

We want to thank everyone who participated in this annual initiative to raise funds for our parish upkeep. The total amount taken in by the Raffle was \$6535. A total of \$3500 was given out as prizes. The net gain for the parish was \$3035.

Once again, thank you to all of you who took part in the Raffle and to all who turned out to be with other parishioners and friends in our fun-filled Parish Family Picnic. God bless you all!

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

June 12, 2011

Adults' Contribution	\$5044.55
Children's Contribution	\$97.65
Last Year's Total	\$5142.20

June 10, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$5639.45
Children's Contribution	\$48.50
This Year's Total	\$5687.95

The collection for our buildings and grounds totaled \$1371.95.

"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!



Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Alejandra Santander, Andy DeFabritis, Maryann Tolli, Maria Marte, Ed Carpenter, Barbara Rup, Jule Yaskovic, Rosalie Heit, Florence B. Swetz, Clare Yaskovic, Neil Caruso, Raymond Fitzpatrick, Sr., Deacon James Byrnes, Andrea Objay, Carmen Torres, John Esposito, 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 Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatkowitz, Rose Botcheller, Silvia Georgi, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Steve Oddo, Roseann Mercandetti, Paul Bolduc, Amelia Gagliardi, Louis Brusco, Josephine Daniele, Jennifer Dorsey, Valerie Riccardi, Fatima Panik, and Joanne Moscarello.



Nicholas Arzola
Christian Desiderio
Louis DiNardo
Alonzo Espinal

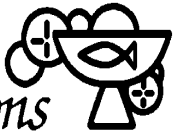
Congratulations to the 9 children from our parish who were sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Eugene's Church by Bishop T. Gerald Walsh last Sunday, June 10th.

Gabriela Fermin
Leana-Rae Hernandez
Michelle Marcello
Brittany Pezzola

Liane Sousa

We thank God for these children and ask all our parishioners to pray that the graces they have received from the Sacrament of Confirmation be used for their salvation and the salvation of all.

JUNE 17, 2012

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, June 16 (Anticipated Mass)

Weekday

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Sunday, June 17

8:30 AM Carmine Nicholas Maccia +

10:00 AM Fiore Brusco & Gabriel Nanoia +

11:30 AM George & Eleanor Tiplady +

5:00 PM Novena for the Living & Deceased Fathers

Monday, June 18

Weekday

7:00 AM Novena for the Living & Deceased Fathers

9:00 AM Deceased Members of Luigi Campana Family

Tuesday, June 19

Weekday

7:00 AM Novena for the Living & Deceased Fathers

9:00 AM Julianne Campisi Moroch +

Wednesday, June 20

Weekday

7:00 AM Novena for the Living & Deceased Fathers

9:00 AM Virgilio Brizido +

Thursday, June 21

Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious

7:00 AM Novena for the Living & Deceased Fathers

9:00 AM Harold & Georgianna O'Mara +

Friday, June 22

Weekday

7:00 AM Novena for the Living & Deceased Fathers

9:00 AM Fr. Anthony's Intentions (Ordination anniversary)

Saturday, June 23

Weekday

9:00 AM Novena for the Living & Deceased Fathers

Saturday, June 23 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Teresina & Luigi Pagnotta +

Sunday, June 24

The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

8:30 AM Carmine Manno +

10:00 AM Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Novena for the Living & Deceased Fathers

JUNE 17, 2012

From June 21st to July 4th, the U.S. Catholic Bishops are recognizing a *Fortnight for Freedom* to draw special attention to current threats to religious liberty. As we approach the celebration of the birth of our nation, people of faith are reminded that our nation's founders embraced freedom of religion as an essential condition of a free and democratic society. We encourage all parishioners to pray each day during the fortnight for the preservation of religious freedom and to attend Mass on July 4th, to support this nationwide effort.

THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES MANDATE

THE THREAT REMAINS

On January 20th, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a mandate that virtually all private health care plans must cover sterilization, drugs that cause early abortions, and contraception. The rule offered an exemption for "religious employers" that was so narrow that it offered no protection to the vast majority of religious organizations and individuals. On February 10th, the Administration made this rule final, and said it would give a "compromise" to religious organizations, but offered only vague promises of future "accommodation." The threat from this mandate still remains. Religious institutions - including our own Catholic hospitals and agencies - will still be forced to pay for "services" that violate their convictions. Cardinal Dolan has called this mandate "an unprecedented intrusion" upon religious freedom, and should be opposed not just by Catholics, but by all Americans. Do we really want our government to force churches and religions to violate their beliefs? Think about it.

For more information and to find out what you can do about it, see www.archny.org/about-us/hhs-mandate/ or www.usccb.org/conscience.

PRAYER FOR THE PROTECTION OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

O God, our Creator,

Through the power and working of Your Holy Spirit,
You call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world,
Bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel
To every corner of society.

We ask You to bless us
In our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty.
Give us the strength of mind and heart
To readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened;
Give us courage in making our voices heard
On behalf of the rights of Your Church
And the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.

Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father,
A clear and united voice to all Your sons and daughters
Gathered in Your Church
In this decisive hour in the history of our nation,
So that, with every trial withstood
And every danger overcome -
For the sake of our children, our grandchildren,
And all who come after us -
This great land will always be "one nation, under God,
Indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

