

GOING TO THE CARWASH!

Is. 43:18-19, 21-22, 24-25; Ps. 41:2-5, 13-14; 2Cor. 1:18-22; Mark 2:1-12

It is true that when your car is dirty you can take it to reliable carwash center to have it cleaned! After it has been washed, you pray that it doesn't rain or snow; and while driving you will be extra careful and try not to muddy the car again, at least in the next few days or weeks. If it inadvertently gets dirty again, you would not be ashamed to return to the carwash center. This is how it is with Confession! When your soul is stained by sin, you need to immediately go to the *Carwash of the soul* – the Confessional.

When you and I profess the Apostle Creed, we say: I believe in...the forgiveness of sins. We believe in the cleansing away of Original sin by the waters of baptism. We believe in the forgiveness of sins (committed after baptism) – they can only be taken away by the sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). There are people, Catholics and non-Catholics, who question the authority of the Church when it comes to the forgiveness of sins. They claim that they can confess their sins directly to God. They do not need any intermediary. God is the only One Who can forgive sins. These people undoubtedly think like the Scribes, who, in today's gospel challenged Jesus: "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming. Who but God alone can forgive sins?" Of course, it is only God Who can forgive sins, but what we must realize is that He does that through His prophets and priests. Whenever you and I go to confession, we are encountering God Who is ready to forgive us our sins.

In 2 Samuel 12:1-13, after David had sinned and Nathan had rebuked him, he humbly confessed his sin and said to Nathan: "I have sinned against the Lord," Nathan said to David: "The Lord God has forgiven your sin; you shall not die." You and I know that Nathan was not the one who forgave David's sin, but he was transmitting God's forgiveness to David and assuring him of it. God the Father sent our Lord Jesus Christ for the sole purpose of forgiving us our sins, healing us, and taking away our iniquities; thus, you and I must "know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth." The priest, who sits in the confessional, is sitting there in *persona Christi* – in the person of Christ. More than Nathan, the priest acts in the name of Jesus – he has authority to convey God's forgiveness on a repentant sinner.

As we saw the last two Sundays, for the Old Testament people there was always a correlation between illness and sin. For them, if one suffered from leprosy he/she was to be ostracized from the community – a paralytic was forbidden to approach the holy bread in the Temple – the lame were presumed to have done something wrong that necessitated God's punishment, and thus, he/she must not approach the Temple to receive the holy bread. In the Christian context, when we sin, we inevitably alienate ourselves from the community of faithful – we become estranged from God's love. Like the paralytic, in order for you or I to be restored into the Christian community, we need to go to Jesus, in the Confessional, to confess our sins, and thus receive absolution.

Therefore, as we prepare to enter into the Season of Lent this Ash Wednesday, let us make a trip to the *Carwash* to cleanse our souls, and thus, listen to Jesus say to you and me: "Child, your sins are forgiven," and hence you are cleansed, thus, I say to you, "Remember not the events of the past, the things long ago consider not; see, I am doing something new!" Indeed, the Lord is doing something new – He forgives your sins of the past, and you must turn away from them and live a new life in Jesus.

Rev. Anthony Ita Basse, MSP

PARISH NEWS

President's Day: This Monday, February 20th, is Presidents' Day, a legal holiday. The Rectory Office will be closed and there will be only one Mass at 9 a.m.



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) will meet this Monday, February 20th, at 7:00 p.m. in the school. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting.



CHILDREN'S MASS: Please make it a point to bring your child to our Children's Mass next Sunday, February 26th. 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.

FAMILY FAITH FESTIVAL

It's Family Faith Festival time again. Come join us on Saturday, March 10th, starting at 12:30 p.m. Share a meal and prayer while enjoying fun, faith based activities. Open to all parish families with children ages 6-12. Call Cheryl Duda (476-6676) in the Religious Education office to make a reservation for your family.



CONGRATULATIONS to our newest Altar Servers: Sarah Breheny, Madeline Cesaitis, Jason & Jordan Hernandez, Raymond Moniz III, Jayden Ocasio, and Isabella Piarulli. We thank not only the children, but also their parents who support their efforts by bringing them to practices and for their assignments.



WELCOME! We would like to welcome our newest Hospitality Minister, **John McKenna**. John, thank you for your warm smile at the door and your willingness to serve our community.



NEW LECTORS

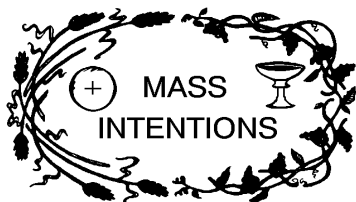
Richard Califano and **Edward Cesaitis** are our newest Lectors. We thank them for stepping forward to proclaim God's Word in this important ministry.



THE ALTAR BREAD AND WINE for this week has been donated in loving memory of Antonio Vitullo by Anna Maria Vitullo.

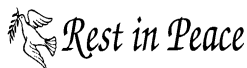


OPENING OF THE 2013 MASS BOOK



The Mass Book for 2013 will open this week on **Ash Wednesday, February 22nd**. Come to the Rectory Office immediately following the 9 a.m. and 12 noon Masses or to the McManus Parish Center after the 7:30 p.m. Mass to have Masses offered for yourself and for your love ones, whether living or dead.

You will have the added opportunity to book Masses on Saturday evening, March 3rd, and Sunday, March 4th, following the Masses for Sunday obligation.



Rest in Peace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Christine Serricchio Bellino.



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

REMEMBER YOUR BELOVED PARISH

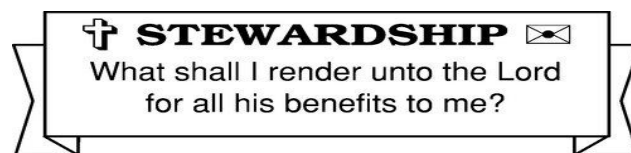
Remember, "We make a living by what we earn. We make a life by what we share." Please remember our Parish in your Will as a lasting and loving gift to your parish family. Thank you!

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.

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

February 13, 2011

Adults' Contribution	\$5155.00
Children's Contribution	\$96.35
Last Year's Total	\$5251.35

February 12, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$6188.95
Children's Contribution	\$145.95
This Year's Total	\$6334.90

The Peter's Pence collection totaled \$1766.80.

We want to specially thank those parishioners, who, in the last two weeks have seriously considered the invitation to tithe, and have selflessly and generously adjusted their contribution to the parish based on their actual incomes. We pray God to bless you in all the sacrifices that you make.



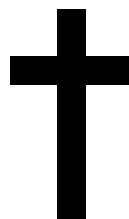
Church
Support

Both tithing and stewardship are part of a spiritual way of life that calls us to use all of our resources for the service of the Gospel. Everything we are and everything we have comes from God. Offering back to God something of what he has given us is part of how we worship and give thanks to God.

Tithing is the practice of giving back ten percent of what we earn. It comes from the Old English word for ten. The first scriptural example of tithing came from Abraham giving a tenth of his possessions to the priest Melchizedek. He did so as an act of thanksgiving to God. Stewardship calls us to use well all that we have and all that we are, placing all things in service of others. Stewardship helps us see the good we can accomplish by making God and our spiritual life the most important values in our life. Whatever wealth we accumulate in this life stays here. We can't take it with us! Both tithing and stewardship help us remember that nothing is mine or even ours; all belongs to God.

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"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."

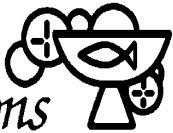


STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Starting this Friday and every Friday evening during Lent, we have the devotion of the Stations of the Cross in the Church at 7p.m. (On Good Friday, Stations will be at 2 p.m. just prior to the 3 p.m. Good Friday Service). It is a Lenten tradition. Families are encouraged to participate together in preparation for Easter.

The **CATHOLIC WIDOWS & WIDOWERS OF YONKERS** will hold their monthly meeting on Monday, February 20th at 7:15 p.m. in the Father Anthony Hall next to St. Ann's Big Church, 31 College Place, Yonkers. Please call (914) 476-4436 for more information. New members are welcome.

FEBRUARY 19, 2012

Mass Intentions for the Week



Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, February 18 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Sunday, February 19

8:30 AM Leonore Erb +
10:00 AM Charles & Stefana Barba +
11:30 AM Carmine Nicholas Maccia +
5:00 PM Michael Petnuch +

Monday, February 20

Weekday - President's Day

9:00 AM Carmela & Nicolantonio Romagnoli +

Tuesday, February 21

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention
9:00 AM Joseph Krzanowski +

Wednesday, February 22

Ash Weekday

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Lucchetti & Capuano Families
9:00 AM Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin Mary
12 Noon Anthony DiPaolo +
7:30 PM No Intention

Thursday, February 23

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention
9:00 AM Sharon Siravakian +

Friday, February 24

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention
9:00 AM For the Improved Health of Mary Krakowiak

Saturday, February 25

Lenten Weekday

9:00 AM Stephen Hickey +

Saturday, February 25 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Michael Costagnozzi & Mary Ann Karpinski +

Sunday, February 26

First Sunday of Lent

8:30 AM Joyce Couto +
10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish
11:30 AM Charles Sullivan +
5:00 PM Monsignor Joseph F. Tracey +



Lent Begins...this Wednesday, Feb. 22nd

Metanoia is a Greek word for Lent, which connotes a change of mind and heart, altering one's mind-set toward whole new ways of thinking and acting. Lent is a period where we take a long look at where we are and try to see where we ought to be. It involves testing our values and discerning how they stack up against the values that our Lord Jesus offers His followers. Subsequently, Lent is a time when we acknowledge our guilt for the sins that led to Christ's passion and death.

ASH WEDNESDAY

This Wednesday, February 22nd, is Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of Lent. As the beginning of Lent, Ash Wednesday calls us to the conversion journey that marks the season. The readings assigned to Ash Wednesday highlight this call to conversion. The first reading from the prophet Joel is a clarion call to return to the Lord "with fasting, and weeping and mourning." On Ash Wednesday the Church invites us to receive ashes on our foreheads as a sign that during the season of Lent we will make sincere efforts to cleanse our lives of sin, and discipline ourselves through almsgiving, prayer and fasting.



SYMBOLISM OF ASHES

As with all material things which are used as religious symbols, the symbolism of ashes is complex and difficult to understand. In themselves, ashes have little meaning, but they have their own biblical and historical context in the liturgical practices of today. Ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance (sackcloth and ashes). Consequently, when received in the light of God's revealing word, ashes can become a biblical symbol for us, and our desire to turn back to God. When we receive ashes on our foreheads, we remember who we are. We remember that we are creatures of the earth ("Remember that you are dust"). We remember that we are mortal beings ("and to dust you will return"). The reception of the ashes on our foreheads reminds us of the fact that we are God's chosen children on a journey of conversion, hence "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel." The ashes remind us that we are members of the body of Christ, and the blotch on our foreheads will proclaim that identity to others, too.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Ashes will be distributed at each Mass on Ash Wednesday. The times of the Masses are 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 12 Noon and 7:30 p.m. With the exception of those who are ill, ashes will only be distributed during Ash Wednesday Masses.

ASH WEDNESDAY and **GOOD FRIDAY** are days of **fast and abstinence**. **FRIDAYS** during Lent are days of **abstinence**.

FASTING requires that only one full meal be taken per day. Two smaller meals that together do not equal a full meal in quantity may be taken to maintain strength. Fasting applies to those between the ages of 18 & 59; others are encouraged to participate to the extent they are able.

ABSTINENCE prohibits those who are 14 years of age and older from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and Fridays during Lent.

