

HE EMPTIED HIMSELF FOR US!

Lk. 19:28-40; Is. 50:4-7; Ps. 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil. 2:6-11; Lk. 22:14-23:56

"Christ Jesus, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave...becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

Today is Palm Sunday - a day when the universal Church gathers to celebrate the triumphant entry of Christ into Jerusalem to accomplish the Paschal Mystery of his suffering, death and resurrection. This day is otherwise called Passion Sunday, because the theme of Christ's suffering, crucifixion and death begins with the reading of the passion narrative. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, which is the heart of the Church year. The word holy is used to describe this week because it highlights the week as unique and most holy in the yearly cycle of Christian Calendar.

When we began this Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday, Prophet Joel exhorted us "To return to (the Lord) with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning; Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the Lord, your God." During this season of Lent, you and I have been "fasting, weeping and mourning" while waiting for the glory of the Lord. We have been preparing ourselves as we anticipate the Easter mysteries. The Passion narratives which we hear today and Good Friday and culminates in the proclamation of the resurrection of our Lord, is an invitation for us to engage and to contemplate on the unqualified love of God for us. Jesus Christ, even though He was God emptied Himself and suffered a shameful death on the cross, so that, by His wounds you and I might be saved.

Unlike few other liturgies, Holy Week liturgy engages us, a worshipping community, in bodily movement. We solemnly process on Passion Sunday with blessed palms - the people of God and their priests gather together with their bishop (archbishop) to bless the sacred oils - parishioners gather with their parish priests to celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday when, as imitators of Christ's simplicity and humility, they stooped down to wash the feet of the faithful - on Good Friday, we all move silently and reverently to kiss the Cross - on Easter Vigil we all gather together to light the fire and the Paschal candle, and thus process joyously with lighted candles into the Church where the Exsultet is proclaimed and ultimately we commemorate Christ's triumph over death at Easter. All these liturgical acts culminate in our proclamation of the faith and the renewal of our baptismal promises on Easter Sunday. We are a people on the move through history, caught up body and spirit in the unfolding drama of the cross and resurrection.

The "drama of the cross and resurrection" invites us to imitate Christ in His selfless love for humanity. Our love for our fellow brothers and sisters must be a love that goes beyond lip service - a love that frees us from pretenses and help us to die to ourselves and live for others. Thus, the Lord Jesus says, "This is my commandment: Love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this, to give one's life for one's friend" (John 15:13). On Good Friday, we celebrate the manifestation of Christ's love for us when He delivered Himself to "evil men" to be crucified in order to take away our sins. Therefore, the Passion of Christ, which we commemorate on Good Friday, is a story of true love - a love that is always present despite appearances to the contrary. In the Passion, faced with His imminent crucifixion and death, Jesus said: "Now my soul is in distress...Father, save me from this hour...But, I have come because of this hour...Father, glorify Your Name!" The Passion itself might be a disheartening story - a sad one, indeed, but it is a story of our liberation. "Unless the grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain; but if it dies, it produces much fruit" (John 12:24). This is the paradox of our Christian faith; Christ had to die so that we might have life. We are also called to die to self if we must bear fruit for others to benefit. Unlike Judas, we must not kill the Jesus Who lives in us - unlike Pilate, we must not shy away from speaking the truth - unlike Peter, we must always stand up for our Christian belief. Do not take sides with the majority, the powerful and/or the influential members of the society to persecute Jesus in the voiceless, the poor and the simplest of men.

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP

PARISH NEWS



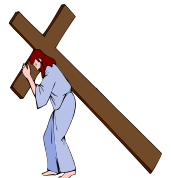
St. Bartholomew's Church Sweepstakes

Social was a success and fun for all who participated! The Sweepstakes Committee worked tirelessly to ensure that the event became a success for the parish and participants alike. There were some attractive prizes to be won, and beyond expectations, the winners were many and

diverse! The committee headed by Kelly Foley was comprised of very dedicated women and men. My heartfelt thanks and appreciation go to them and to all the volunteers for their selfless services to our beloved parish. Many thanks to individuals, groups and businesses who donated prizes for the event. Thank you all, and may God Almighty bless you and your loved ones for all your sacrifices.

CHRISM MASS: You are invited to attend this year's Chrism Mass this Tuesday, March 26th, at 4 p.m. at St. Patrick's Cathedral, where we celebrate with our Archbishop, Timothy Cardinal Dolan. We will witness our priests renew their vow to serve God's people with the humility of a good shepherd. Please come support our own parish priests. Due to the generosity of a friend of our parish, a motor coach will travel from our parking lot directly to St. Patrick's Cathedral at the cost of \$12 per person. Parishioners who have reserved seats on the bus are expected to arrive at the parking lot by 1:15 p.m.; we expect to be back in the lot around 6:30 p.m.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: This Friday, March 29th, is Good Friday. We will have Stations of the Cross in the Church at 2 p.m. prior to the 3 p.m. Good Friday Service. As we remember the suffering Christ went through for our salvation, every Christian is encouraged to come out and participate in this solemn celebration.



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

ADULT FAITH FORMATION - RCIA

Do you know a non-Catholic adult who wishes to explore the Catholic faith; or a Catholic who has never received First Communion or been Confirmed? We have a program tailored to these adults. Call Cheryl Duda at 476-6676.

FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Register now for next year's Religious Education program. Children in public school who will be entering First Grade through High School in September are eligible for these after school and evening classes. Besides grade level classes, instruction prepares children for Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. Call Cheryl Duda (476-6676) for information.

Religious Education classes will not be held this Tuesday, March 26th. Classes will resume on Tuesday, April 2nd.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION



WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR PALM DONORS

Thank you very much for your generosity! The palms for this Palm Sunday have been donated by the following:

- ❖ Richard and Ellen Califano in memory of Helen & Pete Pietrowski
- ❖ The Capasso and Riker families in memory of Rose Capasso
- ❖ The DeFeo and DiRodio families in memory of the DeFeo and Pisacreta families and the DiRodio and Aloia families
- ❖ Angelina De Rosa in memory of Daniel De Rosa
- ❖ The Gregorio family in memory of Albert Gregorio and Tony Cognatello
- ❖ Larry and Carolyn Mesler in memory of Sally and Emil Mesler and Frances and Rocco Campana
- ❖ Joanne Pragana in memory of Albert Pragana, Mary & Joseph Cuozzo, Lucille & Victor Serricchio, and Christine Bellino
- ❖ Richard and Maria Scardino in memory of the deceased members of the Scardino & D'Arienzo families
- ❖ Dennis and Jan Stevenson in memory of Anna Wassmer
- ❖ Anna Maria Vitullo in memory of the Antonio Vitullo family and Nicolantonio and Carmela Romagnoli



FRIDAY, APRIL 5TH

1:30 – 7:30 PM

MCMANUS PARISH CENTER

St. Bartholomew's will be conducting its Annual Blood Drive the **Friday** after Easter. We run drives during holiday periods when the need for blood is great and donations are usually down. If you can donate, please call Tony Sciacca (423-3592) for an appointment; and please spread the word to your family and friends, too.

Give Thanks - Give Blood !!!



"I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus!" A Christian Life is a journey to Heaven. Let Worldwide Marriage Encounter strengthen your marriage/holy orders as you make this journey. The next Weekends are May 3-5 & August 9-11. For more information, go to www.wwme.org or call toll free (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.



Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Genevieve Pylypyshyn and Patricia Roth



March 18, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$7274.20
Children's Contribution	\$121.50
Last Year's Total	\$7395.70

March 17, 2013

Adults' Contribution	\$6928.45
Children's Contribution	\$162.45
This Year's Total	\$7090.90

Our Snow Removal Collection totaled \$1875.20.

"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."

"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 Petruolo, Cynthia Swiatkowicz, 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, Neil Cawley, James McKee and Christine Fitzpatrick.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Couples celebrating their **50th Wedding Anniversary** anytime during 2013 are invited to attend the **Annual Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass** with Cardinal Dolan at St. Patrick Cathedral, **Sunday, June 23rd**, at 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Please contact our Rectory Office for more information. The deadline for registrations for the Mass is Tuesday, June 4th. This event is sponsored by the Family Life/Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New York.

MARCH 24, 2013



Masses & Services

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Saturday, March 23 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Christine Bellino +

Sunday, March 24

8:30 AM Elizabeth & Carl Laredo +

10:00 AM Gloria Brusco Flannagan +

11:30 AM Julieann Campisi Moroch +

5:00 PM Silvia Casasnovas (living)

Monday, March 25

Monday of Holy Week

7:00 AM Concetta Darretta +

9:00 AM Dominic & Donata Longo +

Tuesday, March 26

Tuesday of Holy Week

7:00 AM Nicholas Marcello +

9:00 AM Anthony Bonacci +

Wednesday, March 27

Wednesday of Holy Week

7:00 AM Janet (living)

9:00 AM Alice Olsen +

Thursday, March 28

Holy Thursday

7:30 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Friday, March 29

Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord

2:00 PM Stations of the Cross

3:00 PM Service – No Mass

7:30 PM Service – No Mass

Saturday, March 30

Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil

8:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Sunday, March 31

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

8:30 AM Pasqua Capuano +

10:00 AM Deceased Members of Brusco & Nanoia Families

11:30 AM Lena Castaldo +

MARCH 24, 2013

Holy Week SERVICES

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Throughout the Archdiocese of New York, Lenten Reconciliation Monday (March 25th) gives Catholics the opportunity to go to any parish for confession between the hours of 4 and 8 p.m.

Confessions will NOT be heard on Holy Saturday

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EASTER TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday, March 28th

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30PM

- Washing of the feet
- Reposition of the Blessed Eucharist

Good Friday, March 29th

- There will be Stations of the Cross at 2:00 p.m.
- Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Holy Saturday, March 30th

Easter Vigil starts at 8:00 p.m.

- There will be only one service on this day.
- There will be no confessions on this day.

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EASTER SUNDAY, March 31st

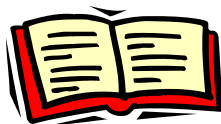
- Masses will only be at 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

PLEASE BRING BELLS FROM HOME to participate in the age-old tradition of ringing bells during the Gloria on **Holy Thursday, March 28th**, and for the **Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 30th**.



Bible Study

PARISH BIBLE SHARING / STUDIES



Starting on Friday, April 12th, we invite you to come join your fellow parishioners in discovering more about the Bible **every other Friday** at 7:30 p.m. in the School building. Sessions will be moderated by our Parochial Vicar, Father Daniel Oghenerukevwe, MSP. Bring a friend! Come study/pray the Bible with us. Come and have fun exploring the Bible!

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 date of the next Women Cursillo Weekend is: **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.

