

## SOMETHING NEW IN YOUR LIFE

*Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126: 1-6; Phil. 3:8-14; John 8:1-11*

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him may not be lost, but may have eternal life. God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world; instead, through Him the world might be saved" (John 3:16-17).

You and I may have made some wrong choices due to bad judgments! At times we feel as though Satan will not set us free no matter how hard we try - we are weighed down by our past mistakes - crushed by the guilt of our sins. The life of a Christian is a constant challenge. Sometimes it might seem depressing and hopeless, but a true Christian must always remain optimistic.

The context of today's first reading is about the optimism that existed among the Israelites even though they were held captive in Babylon. There were times they felt frustrated, but were hopeful that God would deliver them from bondage. They dreamed about the past - remembering the "good old days" when they were in a land flowing with "milk and honey." They dreaded the extension of their captivity in Babylon - they longed for the day that God, in His kindness, would take pity on them and deliver them. In today's reading, the Lord God, through Prophet Isaiah, uplifted their spirit, "Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not; see, I am doing something new!" Sometimes, it may absolutely be our own fault that our life is in a mess, but we ought to be optimistic. Whatever might have happened or befell you in the past, you must always look to the future with optimism. As far as the past is concerned, you must believe in a merciful God who is always willing to forgive a penitent sinner.

As it was in the gospel of last Sunday, the Pharisees in today's gospel are finding a way to trap Jesus. Hence, they brought before Him a certain woman they alleged was caught committing adultery, thus, according to the Law of Moses, she should be stoned to death (Deut. 22:21, Ezek. 16:38-40). Jesus knew they were malicious. Like the elders who accused Susanna of adultery (Daniel 13), the Pharisees were more interested in the "letter of the law" than in the "spirit of the law." They never cared about mercy but justice. They cared about the law not the person. Jesus knew that "God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world; instead, through Him the world might have life." He cares about the sinner not the sin. He was able to balance the law with mercy. Thus, He asked her, "Has no one condemned you?" She was terrified and must have felt unworthy and dejected. Jesus looked at her with love and compassion. At that instance she summoned courage and muttered: "No one sir." Like the father in the parable of the "prodigal son," Jesus must have hugged her and said to her: "Neither do I condemn you." His unqualified concern for the woman (a sinner) liberated her and helped in turning her life toward a God who is full of love and mercy. Instantly, she was set free from the bondage of sin and the grip of Satan, hence He said to her: "Go, and from now on do not sin anymore."

Firstly, the compassion of Jesus towards the woman teaches us that like St. Paul, you and I must forget what "lies behind but straining forward for what lies ahead..." We must embrace God's love who is kind enough to forgive our sins and exhorts us to "Go, and from now on do not sin any more. Secondly, as Christians we must be imitators of Christ and learn not to pass judgment and condemnation on others, but to show mercy to all.

**Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP**



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

**CHRISM MASS:** Mass of Chrism will be celebrated this year on Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, at 4 p.m. at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Every parishioner is encouraged to attend this beautiful ceremony, where we celebrate with the Archbishop of our Archdiocese and 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. Please arrive at the parking lot by 1:15 p.m.; we expect to be back in the lot around 6:30 p.m. Please call the Rectory on 965-0566, Monday to Friday, as soon as possible to reserve a seat.



FRIDAY, APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup>  
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!!!

The Archdiocese of New York takes the stewardship of your donations and its resources seriously. If you have knowledge of financial misconduct or suspect that it might be occurring, please report your concerns via a toll free hotline (877 820-0541), or on the internet ([www.reportlineweb.com/ADNY](http://www.reportlineweb.com/ADNY)). Both are available 24 hours per day.

**BEGINNING EXPERIENCE WEEKEND - April 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>**  
Beginning Experience is offering a healing weekend at the St. Lawrence Retreat Center in Beacon, NY. This invitation is open to divorced, widowed & separated men & women of all ages who wish to let go of their painful past and create a more peace-filled future. Reservations are required.

For information or registration, please call Brendan (845 268-8169) or Louise (845 221-2743) or email [ny.hudson.valley@beginningexperience.org](mailto:ny.hudson.valley@beginningexperience.org).

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

**DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION:** Held the First Saturday of every month at 3 p.m. All are encouraged to participate.

**HABEMUS PAPAM! – WE HAVE A POPE!!**

It was March 13, 2013 at about 1:45 p.m. (6:45 p.m. – Rome Time)! The white smoke started oozing out of the chimney in the Sistine Chapel, followed by the ringing of the giant bell about ten minutes later, indicating the election of a new Pope. About one hour later, the window of the Papal balcony opened and a senior cardinal, Jean-Louis Tauran stepped forward to announce that he has good news for us: “HABEMUS PAPAM! (WE HAVE A POPE!)” It is indeed good news for us all who, after ‘wandering around’ like ‘sheep without a shepherd’ for thirteen days after the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI, have finally got a chief shepherd, the first Jesuit Pope!

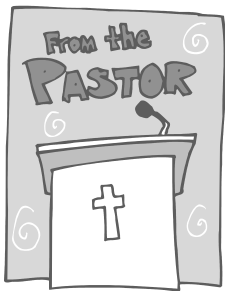
He is Jorge Mario Bergoglio. He is 76 years old, born on December 17, 1936 in Buenos Aires, Argentina to Italian parents, Mario José Bergoglio, a railway worker and Regina María Sívori, a housewife. He is one of five children. Jorge entered the Society of Jesus on March 11, 1958 and was ordained a priest on December 13, 1969. He was installed the Archbishop of Buenos Aires on February 28, 1998. On February 21, 2001, Archbishop Jorge Bergoglio was created a Cardinal by Pope John Paul II. He is the 266<sup>th</sup> Pontiff in the history of the Church. He is the first Pontiff from Latin America. He has chosen the name: Francis! As the new Pope said, “I choose the name Francis, in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi.”

We pray for our new Pope that he may have the wisdom and courage “to bring Christ to all so that all people may come to Christ”.

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY FATHER

*O God, source of all knowledge and goodness, look with favor upon your servant, whom you have chosen to shepherd your Church here on earth. Give him wisdom and courage, strength and health, compassion and knowledge. Keep him close to you as he guides the flock you have entrusted to him. Grant him by his word and example to be a faithful and holy leader and keep him in your care now and all the days of his life. Amen*

OUR EASTER WISH-LIST



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

In the spirit of Lent and in anticipation of a joyous Easter feast, I am once again inviting our parish families or individuals who can afford it 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. 3 bundles of Palms for this coming 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.

**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 March 21-24 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.



March 11, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$7924.75
Children's Contribution	\$109.65
<b>Last Year's Total</b>	<b>\$8034.40</b>

March 10, 2013

Adults' Contribution	\$5445.65
Children's Contribution	\$150.95
<b>This Year's Total</b>	<b>\$5596.60</b>

Our Collection in support of Catholic Relief Services totaled \$1778.65.

*"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 Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatkowitz, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Roseanne Mercandetti, Louis Brusco, Josephine Daniele, Jennifer Dorsey, Valerie Ricciardi, 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 and James McKee.

**Need Food? Catholic Charities Helps Families Apply for SNAP**  
Catholic Charities provides nutritional outreach & application assistance for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formally called food stamps). Staff will help determine eligibility in a free confidential prescreening, help fill out on-line applications & assist in gathering supporting documentation. For information in English or Spanish call (914) 476-2700 or email [Christine.walters@archny.org](mailto:Christine.walters@archny.org).

MARCH 17, 2013

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*Mass*  *for the*  
*Intentions* *Week*

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**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**Saturday, March 16 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM Michael Castagnozzi +

**Sunday, March 17**

8:30 AM Frank & Carmela Legio +

10:00 AM Benedetto & Nina DiChiara +

11:30 AM Frank & Carmela Legio +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

**Monday, March 18**

Feast of St. Patrick

7:00 AM Elizabeth Liptak +

9:00 AM Anna & Antonio Mirandi +

**Tuesday, March 19**

Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 AM Giuseppe & Irina DiCarlo +

9:00 AM Giuseppe & Mauretta Sacchetta +

**Wednesday, March 20**

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM Gilchrist Family (living)

9:00 AM Veronica Chappory +

**Thursday, March 21**

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM Joanne Moscarello (Living)

9:00 AM Juan Rosa Vazquez & Magdaleno Vazquez +

**Friday, March 22**

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM George Abraham, Jr. +

**Saturday, March 23**

Lenten Weekday

9:00 AM Luigi Campana +

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**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

**Saturday, March 23 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM Christine Bellino +

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**Sunday, March 24**

8:30 AM Elizabeth & Carl Laredo +

10:00 AM Gloria Brusco Flannagan +

11:30 AM Julieann Campisi Moroch +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

MARCH 17, 2013

## BLESSING OF PALMS ON PALM SUNDAY



Next Sunday is Palm Sunday. We would like to emphasize that parishioners attending the **5 p.m. Mass on Saturday** or the **11:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday**, are expected to gather at the McManus Parish Center where there will be a solemn blessing of the palms followed by a short procession to the Church. At all other Masses, Palms will be blessed and distributed in the Church.

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## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

- Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m.
- Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Confessions will **NOT** be heard on Holy Saturday

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### Easter Triduum

#### HOLY THURSDAY, March 28<sup>th</sup>

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30 p.m.

- Washing of the feet
- Reposition of the Blessed Eucharist

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#### GOOD FRIDAY, March 29<sup>th</sup>

- 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.

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#### HOLY SATURDAY, March 30<sup>th</sup>

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 31<sup>st</sup>

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

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