

STEADFAST IN FAITH

Zech. 12:10-11; 13:1; Psalm 63: 2-9; Gal. 3:26-29; Luke 9: 18-24

This Sunday is the 12th Sunday in the Ordinary Time of Liturgical Year C. Tomorrow is June 24th; the feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist. In today's gospel, when Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" Some said, "He was John the Baptist..." This gives testimony to what Jesus said about John in Matthew 11:11: "I assure you that John the Baptist is greater than anyone who has ever lived." John the Baptist was a great man because he did not only prepare the way for Jesus, but he suffered and died for what he believed. He died for the Truth! Like the great prophet Jeremiah, God called John the Baptist before he was born. His parents were advanced in age. His mother was barren, but God can always make possible what human beings may consider impossible: "Have no fear ...because I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord." In Luke 1:13, the Lord, through His Angel said to John's father, Zechariah: "Do not be afraid ... because your prayer has been heard."

Couples who have known each other for a number of years and possibly even gotten married would be the first to admit that knowing one another is an ongoing process. In fact, it should be in order to remain exciting. So also is our relationship with Christ, it is an ongoing process. You and I learn to grow each and every day in our relationship with Jesus. In your busy daily schedule, if Jesus were to stop by and ask you, "Who do you say that I am?" I wonder what your answer to Him would be. It is funny that when things are going well with us we have a different picture and perception of God than when things are not going the way we want them to go.

However, the God we worship is a God that manifest Himself to us even in our lowly state, "The Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised." You and I have much to learn about Jesus. By the example of His life, He teaches us not to run away from the challenges that we face in our effort to serve Him in our fellow brothers and sisters. Jesus knew that those who would follow Him would sometimes have to risk their lives in order to be His true followers. As St. Peter exhorts us, we must resist the Tempter and be "steadfast in faith, knowing that your fellow believers throughout the world undergo the same sufferings" (1 Peter 5:9). There are Christians in Communist, Islamic and dictatorial countries that are being persecuted every day. You and I are fortunate that the greatest suffering or sacrifice most of us have to deal with as Christians is to keep the Commandments and to give up one hour a week to attend Mass – still many find even that too hard.

To such people, Jesus says, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it." Like John the Baptist, you and I may find God's call and our mission very overwhelming and intimidating, but we must trust and listen to the Lord say to us, "Do not be afraid," because "with the Lord everything is possible." Like the Psalmist, when we are confronted with difficulties we must let go of ourselves and cry out, "My soul is thirsting for You, O Lord my God." You must remain steadfast and confident that "The God of all grace Who called you to His eternal glory through Christ Jesus will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you after you have suffered a little" (1 Peter 5:10).

Rev. Anthony Ita Basse, MSP




This Saturday, June 29th, at 5 p.m. **all our parishioners** are invited to a Mass and a dinner in honor of our outgoing pastor, Father Anthony Basse, MSP who is transferred to the Archdiocese of Chicago effective July 1, 2013.

It is our hope that you will join us to say "Thank You" and express our appreciation for the work Father Anthony has done in our parish in the past eight years. ***If you haven't already signed up to attend, please notify the Parish Office (965-0566) by this Wednesday, June 26th.***

SOCIAL MINISTRY: Please don't forget our Food Pantry this summer. We have an **ongoing need**, for non-perishable staples, especially rice, boxed mashed potatoes, pasta sauces, boxed macaroni & cheese, ketchup, mustard, juices, canned fish/meat, and canned fruits. Please keep this in mind when you see sales on your trips to the supermarket. Thank you for your continuing support!



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 at the Mass. The children are encouraged to sit together with other children at a designated place during the Mass.

ALTAR FLOWERS for this week have been donated in loving memory of Angelina Brusco 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 Angelina Brusco.

SAVE THE DATE

GIANT INDOOR TAG SALE

Saturday, July 13th



Donations will be needed and accepted beginning Monday, July 1st. Call the Parish Office (965-0566) to arrange to drop off donations during the week or bring them by after the Sunday Masses on July 6th & 7th. All proceeds will support our Religious Education Program and our Youth Group.



FRIDAY, JULY 5th
1:30 – 7:30 PM
MCMANUS PARISH CENTER

St. Bartholomew's will be conducting its 75th **Blood Drive** in the 32 years since starting in 1981. St. Bart's parishioners and

friends have made 5571 donations to date. 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.

The **Separated and Divorced Ministry** of the Family Life/Respect Life Office is searching for volunteers, preferably persons who are divorced or separated who would be willing to facilitate a support group in their parish. Persons interested should contact Carmen Noschese, Ministry Coordinator, on (917) 848-7002 or (212) 371-1011, ext. 3194. All facilitators will receive training and on-going follow-up regarding this important and much needed ministry.



"My soul is thirsting for You, O Lord My God." You can quench your thirst for God by living His plan for your marriage/holy orders. Learn how on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend, August 9-11. For more information, call toll free (877) 697-9963, ext. 3 or visit www.wwme.org.

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.

Our **Parish Youth Group** will meet on Sunday, July 7th, in the Msgr. McManus Parish Center immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass. All youths age 13 and up are invited.

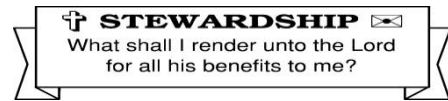


MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA: Held after the 9 a.m. Mass on Mondays.

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



TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

June 17, 2012	
Adults' Contribution	\$5853.35
Children's Contribution	\$78.20
Last Year's Total	\$5924.55

June 16, 2013	
Adults' Contribution	\$6127.90
Children's Contribution	\$78.00
This Year's Total	\$6205.90

"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, Andy DeFabritis, Maria Marte, Barbara Rup, Jule Yaskovic, Rosalie Heit, Florence B. Swetz, Clare Yaskovic, Neil Caruso, Deacon James Byrnes, Andrea Objay, Carmen Torres, Frank Marra, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, Edith Dugan, Gary Roth, Joyann Allan, 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, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatkiewicz, 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, 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.

2014 MASS BOOK IS OPEN

The Mass Book for 2014 opened on Ash Wednesday and there are still many dates open in this year's Mass Book, as well. Consider giving a loved one or someone (living or deceased) who has a special place in your life the graces associated with having a Mass offered on their behalf. You may have a thanksgiving Mass offered for your loved ones or for yourself on such occasions as birthdays, wedding anniversaries, etc. Also, you may consider offering the altar flowers, altar bread and wine, altar candles, or sanctuary lamp for your intention. Come to the Rectory Office, **Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.** to make arrangements or to inquire about the availability of a particular date.

JUNE 23, 2013

Mass  for the
Intentions *Week*

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, June 22 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Father Anthony 22nd Ordination Anniversary

Sunday, June 23

8:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

10:00 AM Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart

11:30 AM Luciano Labruzzo +

5:00 PM Novena for Our Living & Deceased Fathers

Monday, June 24

Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

7:00 AM Novena for Our Living & Deceased Fathers

9:00 AM Father Donald's Ordination Anniversary

Tuesday, June 25

Weekday

7:00 AM In Honor of the Holy Trinity & Holy Family

9:00 AM Marcello Barcello +

Wednesday, June 26

Weekday

7:00 AM Charles E. Bassegy, Sr. +

9:00 AM Jennie Salerno +

Thursday, June 27

Weekday

7:00 AM Carmela Sacchetta (living)

9:00 AM Happy Birthday, Father Anthony

Friday, June 28

Saint Irenaeus, Bishop & Martyr

7:00 AM Intentions of Missionary Society of St. Paul

9:00 AM Angelina Brusco +

Saturday, June 29

Saints Peter & Paul, Apostles

9:00 AM Dennis Madonia +

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, June 29 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Teresina & Luigi Pagnotta +

Sunday, June 30

8:30 AM Anna & Martin Magzag +

10:00 AM Frank & Carmela Legio +

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Angelina Brusco +

OUR CHURCH & THE CHANGING WORLD



It is unfortunate that some terms become so misused that their original meaning is obscured. One such term is prophecy. In the media today, Nostradamus is referred to as a prophet. Some televangelists declare themselves to be prophets, promising alternatively gloom and doom or prosperity for the believer. Others of the more secular

ilk, would like to tell us who is getting married in the future or divorced, who is having a baby, and where the next natural disaster is apt to hit. For us as Christians as well as our Jewish brothers and sisters the true prophet is one who "stands in the breach." He or she proclaims God's judgments and mercy. Like Amos, John the Baptist, Catherine of Siena, and more recently Mother Teresa and Dorothy Day, they show us the will of God as we strive to reform ourselves and the world in the face of the power of evil and nihilism. It can be argued that the Second Vatican Council under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit is truly for us a prophetic voice.

The final document: *The Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et Spes)* though written fifty years ago and promulgated in 1965, certainly fits the description of a prophetic warning that should awaken in every human heart the necessity for personal reflection and universal action. Before many of the "advances" in science, technology, and politics we have in our midst, the Council Fathers alerted all to the path we seem to be on as a civilization. "The spiritual uneasiness of today and the changing structure of life are part of a broader upheaval, whose symptoms are the increasing part played on the intellectual level by the mathematical and natural sciences (not excluding the sciences dealing with man himself) and on the practical level by their repercussions on technology. The scientific mentality has wrought a change in the cultural sphere and on habits of thought, and the progress of technology is now reshaping the face of the earth and has its sights on the conquest of space. ... The accelerated pace of history is such that one can scarcely keep abreast of it. The destiny of the human race is viewed as a complete whole. ... Mankind substitutes a dynamic and more evolutionary concept of nature for a static one and the result is an immense series of new problems calling for a new endeavor of analysis and synthesis." They go on to describe attitudes and morals in such a way that one might suspect they were in a time machine which landed in 2013.

Like all prophecies, the future is not determined. Freely man can choose to move away from those situations that have caused dehumanization, cultural depression, and domestic and worldwide conflict. We can make it our purpose to join with others of good will to rid our society of bigotry and hatred, we can choose to teach our children the ways of conservation of goods and appreciation of their value, and we can take the time to enjoy our spouses and children and experience the art, music, and writings of a generation now past but has much to say to us. We can rejoice that the Lord has given us the understanding of the bishops most of whom are now in eternity but whose contribution to our faith experience is extremely relevant. How do we turn our society towards the life-giving values of Christ and His Church? It is not to be always negative. But it is to identify those elements in our community which are positive, work with others who share our understanding, and to remove the elements which are destructive by witnessing in our own lives to the great gifts we have received from the Almighty. We are created for joy, let us live that way.

