

DO YOU LOVE ME MORE THAN THESE...?

Acts 5:27-32, 40-41; Psalm 30:2, 4-6, 11-13; Rev. 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

In Jeremiah 17: 5-8 we read: "Thus says the Lord: Cursed is the one who trusts in human beings, who seeks his strength in flesh, whose heart turns away from the Lord. He is like a barren bush in the desert that enjoys no change of season...Blessed is the person who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is the Lord. He is like a tree planted besides the waters..."

Following Christ is not just a call but it is also a commitment. At baptism (and confirmation), you and I made a commitment when asked: "Do you reject Satan?" And we responded, "I do!" Many made a commitment, when on their wedding day, they said: "I do!" Some, on their ordination day, said: "I am!" In other words, *I do* commit myself to Jesus and His teaching through the Church. We commit ourselves to our families - to our work and to what we hold dear to ourselves and to what we believe to be true.

We live in a society that is more and more relativistic. More and more people are becoming disinterested in making commitments. Many in society frown upon "organized religion" simply because they do not want to commit themselves to the demands of belonging to such groups. In this country, our relativistic tendencies have allowed many to think that it is all right for a minor to purchase the "Morning After Pill" without her parent's permission. It has allowed some to think that it is all right to destroy innocent lives just because they believe it is inconvenient to be pregnant. Our relativism has induced many to be nonchalant when lives are destroyed with weapons of war. Our relativism has turned us into a society that condones the destruction of human embryos in the name of seeking a cure for illness - a society that tends to worship the creatures rather than the Creator. Our relativism drives some of us to love material things "with all their hearts" far and beyond their love for God, the Creator.

In today's Gospel, Jesus asked Simon Peter, "...Do you love Me more than these?" Earlier, in Matthew 4: 18-22, Peter made a commitment to follow Jesus, when he and his brother, Andrew left their boat and their father behind to follow Jesus. Initially, they were thrilled and excited; thus, they left everything behind and followed Jesus. But, when the going got tough, together with the other disciples, they fled. Peter denied that he ever knew Jesus. It probably seemed boring after Jesus died. There was a vacuum in the disciples' life. It was a moment of despair and emptiness. The void had to be filled. Thus, forgetting the commitment he had made, Peter said, "I am going fishing." "I am going back to my *old ways!*" The other disciples followed, "We also will come with you." In moments of temptation and trial, we often forget the commitment we made to God, to our spouses and/or to ourselves.

Today, you and I are challenged to profess whether we love Jesus "more than these." Do you love Him more than your "convenience?" Do you love pleasure more than Jesus? Do you love to follow the masses rather than suffer ridicule for practicing what the Church teaches? You and I must not forget that following Christ is a life-long commitment. In fact, "Once the hand is laid on the plough, no one who looks back is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62). Remember, in today's Gospel, the Apostles were only able to make a "great catch of fish" with Jesus' help. Therefore, if you and I want to gain something greater than life itself, we must prefer to love Jesus more than anything else. Let's strive to do that in practical terms!

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP

PARISH NEWS



THE ALTAR BREAD AND WINE for this week has been donated in loving memory of Carmine Nicholas Maccia by Margaret Maccia & Karen Maccia McKenna.

The **Finance Committee** will meet this Tuesday, April 16th, at 7 p.m. in the Rectory. All members are asked to attend.



YOU ARE INVITED to come and share the joy with our children who will be making their First Holy Communion at the 11:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, April 21st. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

Registrations for the spring semester of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, a faith formation program for the 4 and 5 year olds are being accepted now. The start date for this Montessori based program that uses a variety of hands on materials is this Wednesday, April 17th. Please contact Cheryl Duda on 476-6676 to register or to schedule a tour.



HOLY NAME SOCIETY

MEETING: This Monday, April 15th, the Holy Name Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All men of the Parish are welcome.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Raymond Fitzpatrick and Carol Ann Swetz.



RCIA SPONSORS NEEDED: We have three candidates in the RCIA process who need a sponsor to proceed with their initiation into the Catholic faith.

A sponsor is an active Catholic that is willing to be a companion on the journey. Sponsors find their role to be one that enriches and deepens their own faith as well. It is a very rewarding experience. To be a sponsor one must be baptized and confirmed Catholic, who regularly attends Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. If the sponsor is married, the marriage must have been celebrated in a Catholic Church in the presence of a bishop, priest, or deacon and if single, the sponsor must **not** be in a relationship contrary to the Church's beliefs and teachings on the Sacrament of Marriage. Please contact Father Anthony or Cheryl Duda for further information.

RECITATION OF THE ROSARY: Join your fellow parishioners in praying the Rosary after the 9 a.m. Mass on weekdays and Saturdays.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

HOLD THE DATE - SATURDAY, MAY 18TH

We will celebrate Deacon Bob Clemens' 25th Anniversary as a deacon at the 5 p.m. Mass with a Dinner Reception to follow in the McManus Parish Center. Watch for additional information in the coming weeks.

CHILDREN'S MASS: Please make it a point to bring your child to pray with the Risen Christ at the Children's Mass the remaining two Sundays in April. The 10 a.m. Mass will focus on our children. The Parish Children's Choir and the Folk Group will sing at the Mass.



The children are encouraged to sit with their friends and classmates during the Mass.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION: Adults interested in learning more about the Catholic faith or wishing to prepare for Confirmation should contact the Religious Education Office for information about the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). Call 914-476-6676 for further information.



SHEMA YOUNG ADULT GROUP from St. Peter's Church in Yonkers invites young adults to the first ever **Yonkers Young Adult Mass on Saturday, April 20th, at 7 p.m. in St. Eugene's Church**, 32 Massitoe Road, Yonkers. Mass will be followed by social time at the Pizza Beat Restaurant, Central Avenue, Yonkers.

Mass will be held monthly on the third Saturday of every month in a different parish each time and will be followed by social time at a nearby restaurant. Young Adults from all area parishes are invited to attend and bring friends. For further information, contact Angie Velazquez (914 689-4554 or angiev8787@gmail.com) or Father Shane Johnson (914 215-3557).

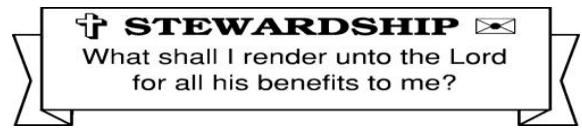
Our Lady of Fatima Parent School Association will be hosting its 16th Annual **Penny Social** (card party) on **Friday, May 3rd**, at 6:30 pm, 5 Strathmore Road, Scarsdale, New York 10583. Come join them for an evening of fun and friendship as they raffle over 500 prizes. Take a chance at winning beautiful themed baskets, jewelry, money prizes and authentic designer hand bags. Admission fee is \$25 per person which includes a light supper, coffee & dessert. For further information, please contact Rosemary Borges on 914 646-0597.

St. Casmir's School is holding *Thanks for the Memories* Card Party on Friday, May 10th. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Admission \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. For information call (914) 965-2730.

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

EUCHARISTIC 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.



TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

April 8, 2012	
Adults' Contribution	\$5321.75
Children's Contribution	\$84.05
Last Year's Total	\$5405.80

April 7, 2013	
Adults' Contribution	\$6595.30
Children's Contribution	\$125.00
This Year's Total	\$6720.30

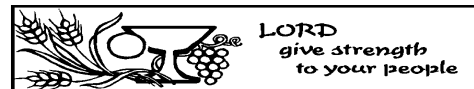
The 2nd Collection for the maintenance of our buildings and grounds totaled \$1654.50.

"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, 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, Gene DelBene, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatkowitz, 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, Neil Cawley, and Christine Fitzpatrick.

Because of the rave reviews of our last trip, the next Adult Faith Formation Trip opportunity is an additional visit to **Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, Pennsylvania** to see *Noah* on **Friday, August 2nd**. The \$145 price includes the bus, the show, and great Amish cuisine at Miller's Smorgasbord after the show. Because of the popularity of these shows, tickets need to be purchased now.

APRIL 14, 2013

Mass  *for the*
Intentions *Week*

Third Sunday of Easter

Saturday, April 13 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Lucille & Carl Rossi +

Sunday, April 14

8:30 AM Carmine Nicholas Maccia +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Gino & Ann Luisa Coniglio +

5:00 PM Margaret Cedor +

Monday, April 15

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Msgr. William B. Duggan +

9:00 AM Anthony Laino +

Tuesday, April 16

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Anne Marie & Francis Byrnes & Deceased Grandchildren

9:00 AM Denis Horbatuk +

Wednesday, April 17

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Intentions of Holy Trinity & Holy Family

9:00 AM Carmela Pisacreta +

Thursday, April 18

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Bolduc & Savard Families

9:00 AM Ben Filippone +

Friday, April 19

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Elsie Kelly Byrnes & Bernard Byrnes, Jr. +

9:00 AM John Bryce +

Saturday, April 20

Easter Weekday

9:00 AM Sallianne DeVito +

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Saturday, April 20 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Christine Serricchio Bellino +

Sunday, April 21

8:30 AM Loretta & Michael Kennedy +

10:00 AM Joseph Paul Prior +

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Francis Farrell +

YEAR OF FAITH



In the midst of Eastertide Holy Mother Church reminds us of our origins as we listen to the words of the Acts of the Apostles and the various accounts of the Risen Lord's appearances to the disciples. Each gives us insight into the nature of our faith community. Our Creed, given us by the Fathers of the Councils of Nicaea and

Constantinople, defines it succinctly: "I believe in the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) teaches that the oneness of the ecclesial community is "because of her source...The Church is one because of her 'soul.' It is the Holy Spirit" (813). Though visibly diverse, for example, in liturgical rites, there are bonds of unity which are enumerated in the CCC: "profession of our faith received from the Apostles; common celebration of divine worship...apostolic succession through the Sacrament of Holy Orders" (815). It is, therefore, a great grief to all Christians that the prayer of Jesus at the Last Supper calling for "one shepherd and one flock," is not a reality. Too often scandal has been given where the followers of Christ are in a tug of war rather than a fraternal embrace.

The Catechism then goes on to recognize: "The Church is held, as a matter of faith, to be unfailingly holy...The Church is the holy People of God and her members are called saints" (823). This teaching of the Constitution on the Church from the Second Vatican Council calls us into a closer walk with Christ for He is the cause of the holiness of the Church. The signs of this holiness in us, as Popes Benedict and Francis have taught us so eloquently in our time, is charity. This is what creates a contrast with the world. Its consumerism and materialism must be confronted by our prioritizing the needs of others in sharing our "daily bread."

Cardinal Dolan recently highlighted for all of us the traditional meaning of "catholic." When questioned as to whether the Church excludes anyone, he quickly responded in the words of James Joyce defining Catholicism as "here comes everybody." There is no segment of the population which is excluded from being part of the Church. In fact, the Second Vatican Council sought to exploit the aspects of commonality with people outside of the communion of faith, stressed love for them, while recognizing aspects of life and tradition which hamper the fullness of unity. Though some act as if this is a new teaching, it is not.

The final mark of the Church is that of being apostolic. Again the CCC reminds us that she is built upon the foundation of the Apostles called by Christ. We possess and share the same teachings. And finally, they strengthen the Church from their thrones in heaven as their successors, the bishops, provide us with guidance and wisdom on earth. Though some would seek new paths built upon post-modern consciousness, we revel in the fact that rooted in the past; we stand firmly in the present in our witness to Christ reaching out to a future in much need of wisdom, love, and mercy.

Come to Church! Meet the Lord! Care for your brothers and sisters!

