

**PERSECUTING THE SHEPHERDS!***Acts 13:14, 43-52; Psalm 100:1-3,5; Rev. 7:9, 14b-17; John 10:27-30*

This Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Easter – traditionally called *Good Shepherd* Sunday because the gospel reading is taken from John 10, which portrays Christ as the Good Shepherd Who lays down His life for His sheep. For the Jews, particularly, during Jesus' time, sheep were the people's main source of meat, milk and cheese. They also provided wool for clothing. Sheep were also used regularly in liturgical sacrifice. Thus, Jesus identified Himself as a "Shepherd Who lays down His life for His sheep." Last Sunday, Jesus reminded us that by our baptism we committed ourselves to following Him. Although following Him might lead to our persecution, suffering and death, we are to remain faithful to our promises to reject Satan and all its wiles, and to obey all that the Church teaches about Jesus Christ. In today's readings we are reminded that loyalty to our baptismal promises requires sacrifice - endurance in the midst of conflict. You and I must know life is not "one joyous experience." Life has its own intricacies.

A large percentage of today's society has no love for the Church and would like it persecuted. This is not different from the society where Paul and Barnabas ministered. In today's first reading we learned that, "On the following Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord (preached by Paul and Barnabas). (But) when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and with violent abuse contradicted what Paul said." The Bible further tells us that the Jews hated the disciples so much that they "incited the women of prominence who were worshippers and the leading men of the city" to stir up "a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their territory." This action of the Jewish leaders shows that there will always be conflict with those who commit their lives to serving God and His people.

In his homily and comment on today's reading in regard to the dangers of conflict within a community, Father Edward F. Steiner writes, "Unfortunately, this (conflict) happens within the Church as well. Parishioners will leave a parish of many years if they feel they are not getting their way... The method used (by the Jews) to turn people against Paul and Barnabas was gossip and slander. This goes on within every area of our lives. If we do not like what we see or hear - or more realistically, if we feel threatened - justified or not - we attack the messenger. We do this often - to co-workers, supervisors, politicians, bosses, family and even our priests and religious. We do not just dismiss ideas; we also dismiss people. Further and worse, truth is always the first victim of gossip."

We live in a society where the majority of people take things for granted, including freedom. As preachers and/or doers of the Word, we must know that our mandate to preach and to teach does not come without challenges and persecutions. Like Jesus, the Good Shepherd, we would be hated, scorned, abused, persecuted and/or killed. But we must stand firm and never waver in our faith, believing that in the end we will be counted among "the ones who have survived the time of great distress...washed their robes...white in the blood of the Lamb." Thus, Jesus "Who sits on the throne will shelter (us)." We will not hunger or thirst anymore. The Lord will shepherd us and lead us "to springs of life-giving water." He will wipe away every tear from our eyes! Stay strong and believe that even if others fail you, Jesus, *The Good Shepherd* is always there for you.

**Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP**


**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** The Parish Pastoral Council will meet this Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the school. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting.

The Altar Flowers for this week are donated by the First Communicants in remembrance of all who could not be with them on their special day.



**The SANCTUARY LAMP** for this week will be lit in loving memory Pasquale Alessi.

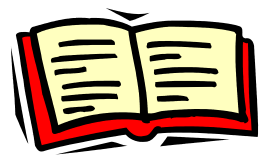
**CHILDREN'S MASS:** Please make it a point to bring your child to pray with the Risen Christ at the Children's Mass next Sunday. The 10 a.m. Mass will focus on our children. The Parish Children's Choir and the Folk Group will sing at the Mass. The children are encouraged to sit with their friends and 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.

**PARISH BIBLE SHARING / STUDIES****Bible Study**

This Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, we invite you to come join your fellow parishioners in discovering more about the Bible at 7:30 p.m. in the School building. The session 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!

**TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY**

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 9<sup>th</sup>**. The \$145 price includes the bus, the show, and great Amish cuisine at Miller's Smorgasbord after the show.

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



St. Bartholomew's Church and Hudson Valley Blood Services express sincere appreciation to the 86 donors and 22 dedicated volunteers, including 15 children, who participated in our April 5<sup>th</sup> Blood Drive, providing 86 units of blood. St. Bart's has now collected 5571 units since 1981. You can still participate by

calling (800) 933-2566. Please credit your donation to St. Bart's Group # 7747.



"My sheep hear My voice"... Come away for a weekend to listen to God's voice and His plan for your marriage or Holy Orders. The next two Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends are May 3-5 and August 9-11. For more information, call toll free (877) 697-9963, ext. 3 or visit [www.wwme.org](http://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.

Couples celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> **Wedding Anniversary** anytime during 2013 are invited to attend the **Annual Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass** with Cardinal Dolan at St. Patrick Cathedral, **Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>**, 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 4<sup>th</sup>**. This event is sponsored by the Family Life/Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New York.

**ARCHBISHOP STEPINAC HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB** presents their Spring Musical, *Evita*, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. and a matinee on May 5<sup>th</sup>, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for children under 12 and senior citizens. For ticket reservations call (914) 946-4800, ext. 200. For more information, email [theatre@stepinac.org](mailto:theatre@stepinac.org).



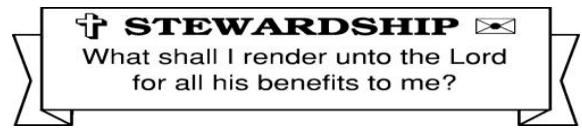
The first Sunday evening of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass, our Youth Group meets in the McManus Parish Center. All youths age 13 and up are invited.

**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

#### April 16, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$7385.00
Children's Contribution	\$88.70
<b>Last Year's Total</b>	<b>\$7473.70</b>

#### April 14, 2013

Adults' Contribution	\$5926.00
Children's Contribution	\$95.70
<b>This Year's Total</b>	<b>\$6021.70</b>

**"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 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, Bridget O'Malley, Anna Bruculeri, Peggy Clevenberg, Gerald Mazzerese, Jr., Patricia Keane, Louis Milone, Joey Bastardi, Carol Stola, Amada Ortiz, Karen Aprea, Stephen Sarich, and Neil Cawley,.

### THE 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.

APRIL 21, 2013

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

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**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 +

**Monday, April 22**

**Easter Weekday**

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

9:00 AM Brenda Sheehan +

**Tuesday, April 23**

**Easter Weekday**

7:00 AM Mary Grubiak +

9:00 AM Lena Castaldo +

**Wednesday, April 24**

**Easter Weekday**

7:00 AM Catherine Gronowski +

9:00 AM Gloria Bassey +

**Thursday, April 25**

**Saint Mark, Evangelist**

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

9:00 AM John DiRodio +

**Friday, April 26**

**Easter Weekday**

7:00 AM Rita Bolduc +

9:00 AM Josephine & Barney Scardino +

**Saturday, April 27**

**Easter Weekday**

9:00 AM Rita Bolduc +

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**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Saturday, April 27 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM Ann Marie Selvaraj +

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**Sunday, April 28**

8:30 AM Leonore Erb +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Peter & Josephine Pisacreta +

5:00 PM Frank & Carmela Legio +

APRIL 21, 2013

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

This Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Please remember in your prayers those who have answered and those who contemplate answering God's call to His service.

### PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Gracious God,  
You have blessed me with many gifts and talents.  
Grant me the wisdom to know how best to use them  
For the glory of Your name.  
Jesus calls, "Come follow Me."  
I want to follow Him and be faithful to my call.  
Help me to see in myself what You see,  
And give me the courage  
To follow wherever You may lead.  
Bless the Church with generous hearts,  
Eager to serve Your people and to spread Your Word.  
Amen.

..+..+..+..+..+..+..+..+..+..

### A FIRST COMMUNION BLESSING

As 20 of our children make their First Holy Communion this Sunday, we pray especially for them:



Good and loving God,  
Source of all that is good,  
At the Last Supper Your Son, Jesus, gave the  
sacrament of His body & blood To His  
disciples & to the whole Church. May the  
Eucharist our children have received for the  
first time today,

Keep them close to Jesus,  
And unite us in love for all God's children.  
May the presence of Christ fill the hearts  
Of all who receive Him on this first Communion day.  
May the sacrifice of Christ teach our children  
How to love others with all their heart  
And may the sacrament they received  
Help them live as worthy children of God.  
Amen.

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### MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA MASSES



Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, is Mother's Day. Our Parish will have a Novena of Masses for all our mothers – living and deceased. The Novena of Masses will begin on Mother's Day and finish on Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.

There are cards and/or envelopes at the back of the church. They will also be available at the Rectory Office, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you want your mother, mother-in-law or any mother remembered in the Novena of Masses, please write out the envelope with your donation and drop it in the collection basket or bring it to the Rectory Office during the week.

