

JESUS IS "FOOD FOR OUR JOURNEY"

(1Kings 19:4-8; Ps. 34: 2-9; Eph. 4: 30-5:2; John 6: 41-51)

In Ephesians 6:12 St. Paul cautions you and me that "Our battle is not against human forces but against the rulers and authorities and their dark powers that govern the spirits and supernatural forces of evil."

In the first reading, after Elijah dared to take on the court prophets of Baal, and by God's grace defeated them, and slayed 400 of them, Jezebel was furious and sought to kill Elijah in revenge, vowing, "May I be cursed if by this time tomorrow I have not dealt with you as you dealt with them (court prophets)" (1Kings 19:2). Elijah, realizing, that his battle was not just against human forces, feared for his life and fled into the desert. He was hungry and almost died of thirst and exhaustion. He felt abandoned by God, after he had done what God had asked him to do. He prayed for death, saying: "This is enough, O LORD! Take my life, for I am no better than my fathers."

In his desperation and frustration, Elijah asked God to take his life. He wished he were dead rather than suffer pain, dejection, and hunger. Surely, God would never abandon His chosen one. He was there for Elijah! God sent His angel to encourage and to support him. He "touched him and ordered him to get up and eat." The journey was still very far for Elijah. He needed some food and drink to sustain him for the entire journey. Thus, the angel said to him: "Get up and eat, else the journey will be too long for you!"

Like Elijah, you and I are often faced with many challenges and difficulties in life. We are tormented by fear, sickness, hatred, hunger, joblessness and poverty. We are subdued by temptations and sin. We feel overwhelmed and powerless to confront criminals who pose a danger to society and us. We are shocked and petrified by the existence of evil in our world. We are aggrieved by the loss of a loved one, by a broken or painful relationship. Sometimes we wish we were dead! We wish the world would just come to an end putting closure to our frustrations and sufferings. Like Elijah, sometimes you and I are tempted to cry out: "This is enough, O LORD! Take my life..." for I cannot bear this any longer. I am a sinner, "I am no better than my fathers." Wait a minute! Trust!

Our life here on earth is a journey! We are in a *desert*, journeying towards God's Kingdom. On our journey through this desert, we will encounter the *wild beasts* of *hatred* and *pain*. "Therefore," St. Paul exhorts, "put on the whole armor of God, that in the evil day, you may resist and stand your ground, making use of all your weapons" (Eph. 6:13). For this journey, this spiritual warfare, you and I are expected to put on God's armor - "belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, shoes of zeal on our feet with the readiness of proclaiming the gospel of peace, the shield of faith with which we can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God." "Pray at all times as the Spirit inspires you."

Most importantly, Like Elijah, we surely need *food for the journey* (*viaticum*) - the Holy Eucharist. Since our journey and our warfare are spiritual, we surely need *spiritual food* in the sacred Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thus, He assures us, "I am the living Bread...whoever eats this Bread will live forever; and the Bread that I will give is My flesh for the life of the world." Jesus is our ultimate strength and support!

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP

PARISH NEWS



This Wednesday, August 15th, we will celebrate the Feast of the **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** into heaven. It is a Holy Day of Obligation; therefore, every Catholic is obliged to attend Mass on that day in honor of our Blessed Mother, Mary. There will be a vigil Mass on Tuesday, **August 14th at 7:30 p.m.**; and on Wednesday, **August 15th**, Masses will be held at **7 a.m., 9 a.m., 12 noon, and 7:30 p.m.**

ALTAR FLOWERS for this week have been donated in loving memory of Livia Tramontozzi by Giovanna Robinson.



The SANCTUARY LAMP for this week will be lit in loving memory of Antonio Aloia.

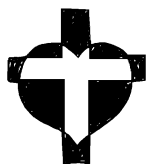
Registration for Religious Education classes for public school children, running September through June, **is open**. Classes are available for children in 1st grade through High School senior year, including those with Special Education needs. Classes are available to prepare children at all ages for the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation, regardless of any lack of previous instruction. **All Catholic children attending public schools should enroll in a religious education program.** Please call (476-6676) for more information.



OUR PARISH R.C.I.A. PROGRAM

If you or someone you know needs information on the Catholic Faith or have not been confirmed, please call the Religious Education Office listed on the cover for information on the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.) in our parish.

SOCIAL MINISTRY: Our Food Pantry has an **ongoing need**, for cereal, pasta sauces, canned fish/meat, canned fruits, rice, jelly, juices and beverage mixes. Please keep this in mind when you see sales on your trips to the supermarket. Thank you for your continuing support!



GIANT TAG SALE
SATURDAY, AUGUST 25TH
9:30 AM - 3 PM
MCMANUS PARISH CENTER
Rain or Shine

See the flyer in today's bulletin for more information.



"So be imitators of God ... and live in love, as Christ loved us ..."
Let Worldwide Marriage Encounter help you better live your sacrament of Marriage/Holy Orders. For more information on dates and locations 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.

PILGRIMAGE FOR THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES: FEBRUARY 9 – 17, 2013: Join Father David Wathen, OFM, from the Franciscan Monastery in Washington, on a Pilgrimage to Lourdes, Paris, Nevers, and Lisieux. Pilgrims will join in the celebrations for the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, will visit the place associated with the life of St. Bernadette, will visit Paris and also Lisieux, the home of St. Therese, "The Little Flower." For detailed information contact Father David: email: dwfm1400@hotmail.com or Elizabeth Grinder: (301) 740-9332, email lourdespilgrimageoffice@comcast.net.

Catholic Charities: Feeding the Hungry and Sheltering the Homeless. In uncertain economic times, homelessness is a real threat for individuals and families who have lost jobs. Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York prevents 3,300 families from becoming homeless and providing temporary apartments to 2,000 individuals each year. On any given night, Catholic Charities New York provides shelter for more than 1,500 people. Learn more at www.catholiccharitiesny.org.

The **CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** will meet this Wednesday, August 15th, at 7 p.m. in Room 111 of St. John's Riverside Hospital, 967 North Broadway, Yonkers, for education & support to help cope with cancer. Call (914) 964-4441 for information.

ADOPTION OPPORTUNITY: Baby girls in China need homes. Infants and toddlers are available. Older parents and single women are welcome. For more information call Barbara Salvesen on (845) 623-5277.

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

August 7, 2011

Adults' Contribution	\$7328.10
Children's Contribution	\$31.25
Last Year's Total	\$7359.35

August 5, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$5973.00
Children's Contribution	\$55.05
This Year's Total	\$6028.05

The collection for the Home Missions and the Church in Latin America totaled **\$1536.00.**

"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, Alejandra Santander, Andy DeFabritis, Maryann Tolli, Maria Marte, Ed Carpenter, Barbara Rup, Jule Yaskovic, Rosalie Heit, Florence B. Swetz, Clare Yaskovic, Neil Caruso, Raymond Fitzpatrick, Sr., Deacon James Byrnes, Andrea Objay, Carmen Torres, John Esposito, Mark Baum, Frank Marra, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, Edith Dugan, Gary Roth, Joyann Allan, Anna Rita Morgante, Lois Burton, Mary DeStefano, Dan Seratto, Mark Cianfagione, Shawn Colon, Margaret Maccia, Nicole Ryan Betancourt, Anthony Spinner, Audrey & Alfred Falcone, Kathleen Hayes, Marge Muraik, Stan Buoninfante, Donna Vasconez, Mary Ann Berengur, Gene DelBene, Mary Romanchik, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatkowicz, Rose Botcheller, Silvia Georgi, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Steve Oddo, Roseann Mercandetti, Paul Bolduc, Amelia Gagliardi, Louis Brusco, Josephine Daniele, Jennifer Dorsey, Valerie Riccardi, Fatima Panik, Joanne Moscarello, Marian Fletcher, Anna Bonacci, Minerva Hernandez, Paula Parente, and Barbara Olivieri.

REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES, LIVING AND DEAD

The Mass Book for 2013 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.

AUGUST 12, 2012

Mass  for the
Intentions *Week*

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, August 11 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Frank DiFilippo, Emidio DiStefano & Peter Sherlock +

Sunday, August 12

8:30 AM Robert Liddell +
10:00 AM Rose Marie Yannicelli +
11:30 AM Frank & Carmela Legio +
5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Monday, August 13

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention
9:00 AM John Henry Roth +

Tuesday, August 14

Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe, Priest & Martyr

7:00 AM Peter Lacalamita +
9:00 AM Felix Sarubbi +

Vigil Mass for the Solemnity (Assumption)

7:30 PM Leslie DeBrocky +

Wednesday, August 15

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 AM Loretta Riccardi +
9:00 AM Stephen Hickey +
12:00 Noon Patricia Schettino +
7:30 PM Deceased Members of Lucchetti & Capuano Families

Thursday, August 16

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention
9:00 AM Livia Tramontozzi +

Friday, August 17

Weekday

7:00 AM Anne Maher +
9:00 AM Eleanor Fretterd +

Saturday, August 18

Weekday

9:00 AM Doris McMahon +

Saturday, August 18 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Denis O'Flynn +

Sunday, August 19

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM Elizabeth & Carl Laredo +
10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish
11:30 AM Carl Dietze, Robert & Chester Rodesky +
5:00 PM Virgilio Brizido +

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (SOLEMNITY - AUGUST 15th)



On November 1, 1950, Pius XII defined the Assumption of Mary to be a dogma of faith: "We pronounce, declare and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma that the immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul to heavenly glory." The pope declared this dogma only after a broad consultation of bishops, theologians, and laity. There were few dissenting voices. What the pope solemnly declared was already a common belief in the Catholic Church.

We find homilies on the Assumption going back to the sixth century. In following centuries the Eastern churches held steadily to the doctrine, but some authors in the West were hesitant. However, by the thirteenth century there was universal agreement. The feast was celebrated under various names (Commemoration, Dormition, Passing, Assumption) from at least the fifth or sixth century.

Scripture does not give an account of Mary's Assumption into heaven. Nevertheless, chapter 12 of Revelation speaks of a woman who is caught up in the battle between good and evil. Many see this woman as God's people. Since Mary best embodies the people of both Old and New Testament, her Assumption can be seen as an exemplification of the woman's victory. Furthermore, in 1 Corinthians 15:20 Paul speaks of Christ's resurrection as the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep. Since Mary is closely associated with all the mysteries of Jesus' life, it is not surprising that the Holy Spirit has led the Church to belief in Mary's share in His glorification. So close was she to Jesus on earth, she must be with Him body and soul in heaven.

COMMENT: In the light of the Assumption of Mary, it is easy to pray her Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55) with new meaning. In her glory she proclaims the greatness of the Lord and finds joy in God her savior. God has done marvels to her and she leads others to recognize God's holiness. She is the lowly handmaid who deeply revered her God and has been raised to the heights. From her position of strength she will help the lowly and the poor find justice on earth and she will challenge the rich and powerful to distrust wealth and power as a source of happiness.

QUOTE: "In the bodily and spiritual glory which she possesses in heaven, the Mother of Jesus continues in this present world as the image and first flowering of the Church as she is to be perfected in the world to come. Likewise, Mary shines forth on earth, until the day the Lord shall come (cf. 2 Peter 3:10), as a sign of certain hope and comfort for the pilgrim People of God" (*Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, 68).

From *Saint of the Day*, edited by Leonard Foley, O.F.M., & Pat McCloskey, O.F.M.

