

WITH OR WITHOUT FAITH!

(Ezek. 2:2-5; Ps. 123: 1-4; 2Cor. 12: 7-10; Mark 6:1-6)

There is an old maxim: "Familiarity breeds contempt!" This past Wednesday was July Fourth! With honor and pride many of us celebrated the Independence Day of our beloved country. We celebrated our freedom from slavery and tyranny. We celebrated our freedom from oppression and intimidation. We celebrated a country that was founded on religious and biblical principles. This is a day when all of us as Americans are proud of our heritage and culture. We celebrate our freedom and common humanity as Americans. We are a country that is proud to *pledge allegiance to the flag*. "...One Nation, Under God..." We are a nation that is not shy to inscribe on our dollar bills: "In God We Trust." We are described as a nation with the largest number of Christians on earth; but the question is: Are we a Christian nation? Do we have the faith to stand up for what we believe? Is our nation still "One Nation Under God?" Or are we a nation where individual and communal religious liberty is threatened by decisions made by the Supreme Court and policies made by our government?

Familiarity can certainly breed contempt. Our attitude as a nation seems to show that we are too familiar with God; thus, we have taken Him out of our schools system. We claim to be a "Nation Under God," but the policies and decisions we make are often in conflict with His teachings and commands. God is taken out of our daily routine. He is no longer invited into our family and community gatherings. Yes, our individual and national "familiarity with God" has turned many into moral relativists - (anything goes for me!) The danger here is that when you and I have "known God so well" we begin to take Him for granted and ultimately question the "wisdom" of the Founding Fathers of this great nation, as to why God should be made to "rule our lives."

In one of his homilies, published by Our Sunday Visitor's Magazine, *The Priest*, Father Edward F. Steiner, rhetorically put these questions to you and me: "Are we so familiar with God that we no longer take into account what He says to us through the Scriptures? Are we so familiar with the Church that we resent its efforts to guide us in our faith and values? Do we prefer that God stay locked in our (parish) churches and tabernacles and just leave us alone? Have we reduced the notion of "the Church" to simply the place where we worship, (and) no longer accepting "the Church" as a teacher of God's way? ...Do we find ways to make the voice of Christ seem irrelevant to our lives? Do we just want Jesus to make us feel good but no longer want His message (especially those that conflict with our modern day values)?"

The people of Jesus' native town were "too familiar" with Him, thus, they refused to take Him seriously. And for that reason Jesus "...was not able to perform any mighty deed there." Indeed, "He was amazed at their lack of faith." This shows that our lack of faith may adversely affect the love God has for you and me. Our lack of faith demonstrated by our moral relativism can surely deprive us of God's bounteous blessings.

Therefore, like Prophet Ezekiel and Saint Paul, even in the midst of suffering and other challenges, you and I have to welcome the spirit of God and be faithful messengers of God who are sent to the "...(Americans), rebels who have rebelled against Me; they...have revolted against Me to this very day. (And have taken Me away from all the State's Institutions). You and I must sacrifice our time, talents and treasure to help put God back in our nation.

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP


PARISH NEWS



We are happy to welcome Father Anthony back from his mini-vacation. While we missed him, we hope he truly enjoyed his time away. Welcome back, Father Anthony!



This Sunday, July 8th, Monsignor John Kennedy will leave us to return to Rome. We want to thank him for sharing his priestly ministry with us. We wish him a safe flight and God's blessings on all his endeavors.

ALTAR SERVER NEWS

We welcome and thank our new altar servers, Fabian Anderson, Jeremy Anderson, Kiana Anderson and Cordelia Pastor, for their willingness to serve our parish in this ministry.



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

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.



Religious Education helps to build a strong foundation

The **ALTAR BREAD & WINE** for this week is donated in loving memory of Marion DeMuro by Louis DeMuro.



As you plan and enjoy your summer and vacations, please do not forget your financial obligations to our Parish. God bless and keep you all!

We should be generous in our judgments of others, for we can never really know all there is to know about another.

~ Most Reverend Desmond Tutu, Former Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Text "Freedom" to 377377 To defend your right to live your faith.

As Catholics we are constantly called to live out our faith in our daily lives. In our charities, we comfort the sick, feed the hungry, care for the poor, and protect life. In the marketplace, our values guide us. We strive everywhere to practice what we preach.

Across America, our right to live out our faith is being threatened - from Washington forcing Catholic institutions to provide services that contradict our beliefs, to state governments prohibiting our charities from serving the most vulnerable. And around the world, it's even worse - Catholics face persecution and even death for their witness.

These rights are fundamental. They belong to each and every human being. We cannot let them be trampled. We cannot remain silent.

Please join the movement to protect our right to live out our faith. Sign up to learn how you can help save our religious freedom.

Text "Freedom" to 377377
Or visit www.fortnight4freedom.org

Lost your job? Worried about job security?

Attend a Free Career Coaching Session: Catholic Charities is offering a free program by a Certified Professional Career Coach, which teaches the Dos and Don'ts of Networking and tactics for finding jobs in a difficult market. **Ann Ruecker**, MPA, MA CPMC will provide you with practical information and follow up strategies that you can take with you and use the next day. Those who attend the two part session will be eligible for individual follow up coaching sessions.

Part 1: Wednesday, July 11th from 1 - 3 p.m.

Part 2: Wednesday, July 18th from 1 - 3 p.m.

Location: Our Lady of Sorrows Church
920 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains

Doors open at 12:30 p.m. each day; light refreshments served.

For info & to register for the two-part workshop series call Catholic Charities (914) 476-2700.

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.

✠ STEWARDSHIP ✉
What shall I render unto the Lord
for all his benefits to me?

TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

July 3, 2011

Adults' Contribution	\$6032.85
Children's Contribution	\$83.50
Last Year's Total	\$6116.35

July 1, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$5737.05
Children's Contribution	\$44.50
This Year's Total	\$5781.55

The collection for our buildings and grounds totaled \$1783.15.

"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 Cianfaglione, 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 Petruolo, Cynthia Swiatkiewicz, 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, and Joanne Moscarello.

GIANT TAG SALE SATURDAY, AUGUST 25TH MCMANUS PARISH CENTER

Our Religious Education Department and our Youth Group plan to run a Tag Sale in the McManus Parish Center as a fund raiser. Please save the date! They will be accepting donations of:
Jewelry household items bric-a-brac electronics in good working order toys & games with all their pieces etc.
Please no books! More information will be coming. For any questions or to make arrangements to drop off donations, please call Cheryl Dudda on 476-6676.

JULY 8, 2012

Mass  *for the*
Intentions *Week*

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, July 7 (Vigil Mass)

Weekday

5:00 PM Teresina & Giovanni Grusco +

Sunday, July 8

8:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

10:00 AM Thomas Wyda +

11:30 AM Julieann Campisi Moroch +

5:00 PM Donald Swetz +

Monday, July 9

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Cosimo, Vincenza, & Leo Savona +

Tuesday, July 10

Weekday

7:00 AM Angelina Brusco +

9:00 AM Marcello Barcello +

Wednesday, July 11

Saint Benedict, Abbot

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Bolduc & Savard Families

9:00 AM Mary McCarthy +

Thursday, July 12

Weekday

7:00 AM Margaret Ellen Mullarkey +

9:00 AM Marion DeMuro +

Friday, July 13

Weekday

7:00 AM Intentions of John Paul Capuano (living)

9:00 AM Stephen Hickey +

Saturday, July 14

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin

9:00 AM Deborah Vetrano +

Saturday, July 14 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Ethel Castagnozzi +

Sunday, July 15

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM Oscar Starckenberg +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Julieann Campisi Moroch +

5:00 PM Donald Swetz +



SUMMERTIME PRAYER

Dear Lord,
Thank you for this summer season.
During this time, may we remember
The gift of the world You have given us.
For while each summer of our lives is different,
It is their similarities that bring joyful anticipation.
For You, there is no beginning or end,
And all things are eternal and at one time.
Yet we, who are bound to time,
See and learn all things through beginnings and
endings.
As spring ends and summer begins,
May we see Your reflection in this and every summer.
For though You are unchanging and eternal,
There is always more to discover, experience, and
learn.
Amen.

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DRIVING LESSON

A young boy had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss his use of the car. His father said



to him, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut, and then we'll talk about it."

A month later the boy came back and again asked his father if they could discuss the use of the car. His father said, "Son, I'm very proud of you. You've brought your grades up, you've studied your Bible diligently... but you didn't get your hair cut."

The young man waited a moment and replied, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that - Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair."

His father replied, "Yes, son and they walked everywhere they went."

