

**CHOOSE TO BE A PRACTICING CHRISTIAN***(Deut. 11:18, 26-28, 32; Ps. 31:2-4, 17, 25; Rom. 3:21-25, 28; Matt. 7: 21-27)*

Adam was a sixteen-year-old high school sophomore. He had grown to become very stubborn and was considered a threat to his fellow students and teachers at school. He was not doing well at school, failing his tests and exams. He was always involved in fights, and had been suspended from school on several occasions. He was very disobedient and mean to his mother at home. She was very worried and concerned about him. Thus, she asked for the help of her parish priest and requested him to speak with her son, Adam, privately. The priest obliged, and invited the young man in for a chat. During the two-hour conversation, Adam revealed to the priest that his mother, a single parent, had not been a good influence in his life. Although she had done her best to provide for his material needs, she had not provided for his emotional and spiritual needs. She had not shown good example in her relationships and moral life. "Probably, I am modeling her life!" Adam added, in frustration.

Many families have experienced a similar tragedy! The choices we make in life have consequences – they may either affect us directly or those who are dear to us. The context of today's first reading, is when Moses observed that the people he led out of Egypt had made some wrong choices and had refused to obey God's commandments, he exhorted them to "Take these words of mine into your heart and soul" (Deut 11: 18). In the second reading St. Paul reminds us that although we have all sinned, it is only by God's grace that we are saved. The Lord loves us in spite of our sins, and He wants us to be saved with Him in Heaven. He wants you and me to make choices that will bring us life – choices that will not cause us injury or harm – choices that will give us lasting joy and happiness. "I set before you here, this day, a blessing and a curse: a blessing for obeying the commandments of the Lord, your God...a curse if you do not obey..." (Deut. 11:26-28; 30:19). I urge you to, therefore, choose "blessing" that you might live and be happy ever there after!

At our Baptism, the Lord intended you and me to live a life that will win us eternal life with Him in Heaven. He exhorted us to observe His commandments, norms and laws so that "you will live and increase, and...your God, will give you His blessings..." He urged us to "choose life that you and your descendants may live" (Deut. 30:15-16). The bad choices that Adam's mother made, unfortunately, adversely affected not just her, but also her son. Adam's bad choices in the end affected him and his relationship with other kids and the teachers. The lesson we all should learn from today's gospel is that "Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of My Father in heaven." In other words, as Christian parents and leaders, we should always lead not just by our words, but also by our good deeds. You and I should avoid making choices that will estrange us from Jesus, and might make Him say to you or me, "I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers." Jesus is telling you and me it is only those who make good and meaningful choices that "will enter the kingdom of heaven."

The teachings of the Church may seem unreasonable or futile to some of us. At times, the laws and commandments of God may sound unattainable and meaningless to you and me, but they are meant to win us life. When we humble ourselves, persevere and remain faithful to the Lord's commandments, then we act "like a wise man that built his house on rock. The...floods came...the winds blew...But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock" (Matt. 11:25). When your faith and values are built on God, you will be able to overcome temptations and surely the Lord will be your "Rock of safety."

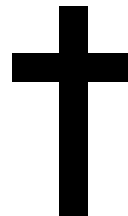
**Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP****PARISH NEWS**

The **ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY** meeting will be held this Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All women of the Parish are invited.

**OPENING OF THE 2012 MASS BOOK**

The Mass Book for 2012 will open this week on **Ash Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**. Come to the Rectory Office immediately following the 9 a.m. and 12 noon Masses or to the McManus Parish Center after the 7:30 p.m. Mass to have Masses offered for yourself and for your loved ones, whether living or dead.

You will have the added opportunity to book Masses in the McManus Parish Center on Saturday evening, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, following the Masses for Sunday obligation.



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Every Friday evening during Lent, we have the devotion of the Stations of the Cross in the Church at 7p.m. On Good Friday, Stations will be at 2 p.m., just prior to the 3 p.m. Good Friday Service. It is a very old Lenten tradition. Families are encouraged to participate together in preparation for Easter.

**CHILDREN'S MASS:** Please make it a point to bring your child to our Children's Mass for the remaining Sundays in March. The 10 a.m. Mass will focus on our children. The Parish Children's Choir will sing the Mass. The children are encouraged to sit with other children at a designated place during the Mass.

**Bible Study**

Join Father Anthony and your fellow parishioners in discovering more about the Bible this Friday and every Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the School. Bring a friend! Come and have fun exploring both the Old and New Testaments.

The **SANCTUARY LAMP** for this week will be lit in loving memory of Leonard Revellese.



*To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you.*

~ Lewis B. Smedes

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Be a wise couple and build your marriage on the rock. Learn how on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter, April 9-10 (1 night weekend). For more information, 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.

Couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary anytime during 2011 are invited to attend the Annual Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass with Archbishop Dolan at St. Patrick Cathedral, Sunday, May 22nd, at 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Please contact our Rectory Office for more information. The deadline for registrations for the Mass is Thursday, May 5th. This event is sponsored by the Family Life/Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New York.

2011 ARCHDIOCESAN STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

As stewards and Disciples of Christ, we recognize that all the goods and riches in our life are gifts from God. Strengthened by the Eucharist, we respond to God's generosity in our lives with gratitude by using and sharing our gifts in service of others. Please share your gifts and make a gift to the 2011 Archdiocesan Stewardship Appeal.

The Cardinal Spellman High School's Dramatic Society (The Cardinal's Players) will present Hairspray on Friday, March 18th (8 p.m.), Saturday, March 19th (8 p.m.), and Sunday, March 20th (2:30 p.m.). Tickets for Adults are \$10 and Students/Senior Citizens are \$8. Tickets at the door will cost \$15. Please enter the school through the bronze doors located on Baychester Avenue. For information call (718) 881-8000, ext. 265.



Road to Jerusalem - Lenten Scripture Sharing

Wednesdays during Lent, beginning March 9th 10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. or 7 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

Franciscan Retreat Center, 49 Jackson Ave, Hastings-on-Hudson There is a \$25 fee, which includes a booklet. Please let Sister Pat or Sister Judy know if you plan to attend (914 478-3696).

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.



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

- The budgeted Collection for last Sunday was \$6620.00.
The actual Collection for last Sunday was \$5039.80.

We thank everyone for their generosity to St. Bartholomew's Church. May God bless and reward all your sacrifices for the Parish!

Next week our parish will take up the Peter's Pence Collection. This Collection allows the Holy Father to cast the light of Christ upon the world by providing emergency assistance to those who need it most around the globe. Please be generous in next week's Peter's Pence Collection.



Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Alejandra Santander, Amadeu Amorim, Gloria Flanagan, Grace Raguso, Andy DeFabritis, Maryann Tolli, Maria Marte, Julieann Moroch, Ed Carpenter, Barbara Rup, Jule Yaskovic, Rosalie Heit, Dolores Santamorena, Florence B. Swetz, Clare Yaskovic, Neil Caruso, Raymond Fitzpatrick, Sr., Deacon James Byrnes, Andrea Objay, Carmen Torres, John Esposito, Francis Farrell, Mark Baum, Christine Bellino, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, Mildred Moscarello, Edith Dugan, John & Gary Roth, Lena Castaldo, Joyann Allan, Anna Rita Morgante, Frank Marra, Carmela Massaroni, Lois Burton, Mary DeStefano, Carmella DelBene, Ann Ceriale, Dan Seratto, and Mark Cianfaglione.

REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES, LIVING AND DEAD

Consider giving a loved one the graces associated with having a Mass offered on their behalf. Also, you may consider offering the Altar flowers, Altar bread and wine, Altar candles, or lighting the Sanctuary lamp for a week for your intention. Come to the Rectory Office, Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. to make arrangements or to inquire about the availability of a particular date.

IONA GRAMMAR SCHOOL, a private Catholic boys' school for Grades K-8, invites interested parents and their sons to an OPEN HOUSE on Friday, March 18th, from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Iona Grammar School is located at 173 Stratton Road, New Rochelle. For additional information, please call John Morash, Director of Admissions, at (914) 633-7744, ext. 18 or e-mail jmorash@ionagrammar.org.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: STRENGTHENING FAMILIES & RESOLVING CRISIS: Each year more than 3,000 families are helped to stay together through services that prevent children from being placed in foster care; 4,000 families are given financial assistance in a crisis and 26,000 helped with social services and counseling - all by the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of NY. To learn more visit www.catholiccharitiesny.org.

St. Raymond High School for Boys is celebrating its 50th Anniversary with a Gala on April 1st, at Villa Barone Manor. For information call (718) 824-5050, ext. 105.

**MARCH 6, 2011**

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*Mass  for the Intentions  for the Week*

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**Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Saturday, March 5 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Marge Merlino +

Sunday, March 6

8:30 AM Peter Klee +

10:00 AM Ted Bajek +

11:30 AM Ralph Licciardone +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Monday, March 7

**Weekday**

7:00 AM John Wilson +

9:00 AM Jovita Romero & Julio Blanco +

Tuesday, March 8

**Weekday**

7:00 AM Mary Wilson (living)

9:00 AM Frank Umbrino +

Wednesday, March 9

**Ash Weekday**

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Capuano & Lucchetti Families +

9:00 AM Frank Umbrino +

12 Noon Tom & Maria Keane +

7:30 PM Neil Scarpelli +

Thursday, March 10

**Lenten Weekday**

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Rafael Falcone +

Friday, March 11

**Lenten Weekday**

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM No Intention

Saturday, March 12

**Lenten Weekday**

9:00 AM Anna D'Amato +

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Saturday, March 12 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Leonard Revellese +

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Sunday, March 13

**First Sunday of Lent**

8:30 AM DiPaolo & Fancello Family

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Carmela & Frank Legio +

5:00 PM Sofia Vasquez +

