

PALMS OF LIFE, HOPE AND VICTORY!

Matt. 21:1-11; Is. 50:4-7; Ps. 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil. 2:6-11; Matt. 26:1427:66

It has been a very long and bitter winter! The heavens dumped so much snow on us, coupled with other natural disasters around the globe, that we wondered whether we were nearing the end of the world. So much money, time and energy were spent clearing the *whitish substance*, although both adults and children enjoy playing in it. When we looked out our windows or when we walked around the neighborhood, the lawns and plants seemed dead. As I spent time contemplating the meaning of all this – green grass turning brown – plants shedding their leaves and branches withering, I remember what Jesus said: “Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies it produces much fruit.” Absolutely!

Now, when we look out of the window or when we walk through the neighborhood, everything is coming back to life. The shrubs are budding, the grass is turning green, and the plants are beginning to bloom once again. The sun is coming out from the clouds much more often. There is new life on the horizon! Thanks to you, our devoted and generous parishioners, the coming of a new life is also reflected in the renovations that just took place in the interior of our church – the pews are refurbished and padded – new kneelers are installed – new comfortable and elegant altar furniture has been provided for the principal celebrant as well as the altar servers. When we look at our gardens and lawns we see the spring of new life; likewise, when we look within our church (God’s abode) we also see an element of new life. This is very comforting!

It should be comforting as we celebrate Palm Sunday today, the beginning of *Holy Week*, leading us to the *Paschal Mystery* of the crucifixion – the death and the resurrection of our Lord Jesus – because we know that even though the winter might have been very long, painful and costly, spring will always bring new life. A grain of wheat has to fall to the ground and die if it is to produce fruit! The Passion narrative that we listen to today and on Good Friday, tells the story of how Jesus was betrayed, arrested, prosecuted and condemned to die. It tells us how Jesus carried His cross, was mocked and crucified. He died so that you and I might have life and have it more abundantly. Finally, Christ rose on the third day. His resurrection is a reminder and an assurance to you and me that there is always new life after death. There is new life at spring after a bitter winter season!

In the ancient Greek and Roman pagan cultures, palms served as a symbol of life, hope and victory. Early Christians adapted it to celebrate the victory of Christ over death and the new life His resurrection brought to the world. As we gather to bless our palms and as we process solemnly with our blessed palms to *God’s Jerusalem*, the Church, we should make every effort not to lose the meaning of the events we celebrate during this *Holy Week* – washing of feet and institution of the Eucharist on Holy Thursday – veneration of the Cross on Good Friday – solemn procession with lighted candles at Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. It is important for you and me to know that this is not a period of spring break trips to the beaches and resorts. Rather, it is a period when we must take a break from every distraction and self-indulgence in order to reflect on the self-emptying love Christ has for you and me. It is a time to remind ourselves that if we are to enjoy the new life in spring, we must first of all have the courage to endure the bitterness of winter. You must die with Christ in order to rise with Him!

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP


PARISH NEWS
FOOD FOR THOUGHT!

When we began this journey forty days ago, we were told that Almsgiving – Prayer – Fasting are the “pillars of Lenten Observance.” We were also told that they are the necessary vehicles if we were to participate in this journey of salvation faithfully.

Palm Sunday 

Thank God we have finally come to the end of this journey, but it is imperative that you and I take stock of how we lived our lives during these past forty days: Has there been any conversion in my life? Have I been more committed in my prayer life? Have I given up some form of food or pleasure for self-mortification during these past forty days? Have I been able to give ALMS by helping the needy and the poor? What will I do for **Jesus** at Easter?

DONATIONS OF PALMS

Thanks very much for your generosity! The palms for this Palm Sunday have been donated by the following:

- ❖ Lou and Angela Brusco in memory of the deceased members of the Brusco & Naoia families
- ❖ Frank and Heidi Coppola in memory of Mary Cleary
- ❖ Angelina De Rosa in memory of Daniel De Rosa
- ❖ Nancy and Benjamin Pelliccio in memory of the Davi and Pelliccio families
- ❖ Joanne Pragana in memory of Albert Pragana, Mary and Joseph Cuozzo, Lucille and Victor Serricchio
- ❖ Richard and Maria Scardino in memory of the deceased members of the Scardino & D’Arienzo families
- ❖ John and Eleanor DelBene



PLEASE BRING BELLS FROM HOME to participate in the age-old tradition of ringing bells during the Gloria on Holy **Thursday**, April 21st, and for the Easter Vigil, **Saturday**, April 23rd.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS: This Friday, April 22nd, is Good Friday. Weather permitting we will have an extended Stations of the Cross outside the Church at 2 p.m. prior to the 3 p.m. Good Friday Service. As we remember the suffering Christ went through for our salvation, every Christian is encouraged to come out and participate in this solemn celebration.

**WELCOME HOME, MSGR. KENNEDY!**

Msgr. John Kennedy is coming in from Rome this weekend and will participate in our Holy Week and Easter celebrations. We wish him a happy and blessed visit with us.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

- The **budgeted** Collection for last Sunday was \$6650.00.
- The **actual** Collection for last Sunday was \$5695.20.
- The **Catholic Relief Services Collection** totaled \$1621.35.

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

EASTER DONATIONS: During Lent you were asked to give alms, pray and fast, and these you have done graciously. As we prepare to celebrate the Paschal Mystery this Easter; please plan to be generous with your EASTER GIFT to the church, so that our parish can adequately meet the demands of these challenging times and thus serve you better. For those who are not on our envelope system, there are special envelopes (**My Easter Gift to My Church**) on the tables at the back of the church for your Easter Gift. God bless!



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

MORE GOOD NEWS FOR OUR PARISH

Many thanks to our wonderful parishioners who are fulfilling their pledges to our parish's Bicentennial Campaign. Recently we received a semi-annual distribution of \$8,988.00, for a total parish benefit of \$267,747.92.

This is a great tribute to your generosity and loyalty to our parish. We hope that all of our parishioners will make every effort to complete their pledges on time so that we are able to accomplish our parish projects. Thank you very much.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29TH

1:30 – 7:30 PM

MCMANUS PARISH CENTER



Please plan on participating in St. Bartholomew's Blood Drive the Friday after Easter. We run drives during holiday periods when the need for blood is great and donations are usually down. If you can donate, please call Tony Sciacca (423-3592) for an appointment; and please spread the word to your family and friends, too.

Give Thanks - Give Blood !!!



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

- Monday, April 18th, after the 9 a.m. Mass, and 3 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 20th, brief Penance Service followed by **individual confessions** at 7:00 p.m.

Confessions will NOT be heard on Holy Saturday

EASTER TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday, April 21ST

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30PM

- Washing of the feet
- Reposition of the Blessed Eucharist

Good Friday, April 22nd

- There will be Stations of the Cross at 2:00 p.m.
- Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 23rd

Easter Vigil starts at 8 p.m.

- There will be only one service on this day.
- There will be no confessions on this day.

EASTER SUNDAY, April 24th

- Masses will only be at 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

2011 ARCHDIOCESAN STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

During this season of Lent, God calls us to renew our faith, deepen our relationship with Christ, and share our many gifts with others. Christ has set the example as the perfect Steward, "For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve; and to give His life as a ransom for many." The *Stewardship Appeal* is one way all of us can support the mission of Christ's Church in the many cities and towns of our Archdiocese. Please be thankful, intentional, and prayerful as you consider a pledge to this year's *Appeal*.

Pledge envelopes are located in the back of the church. Please bring your pledge or gift to the Rectory Office, drop it in the collection basket or mail it directly to the Archdiocese. Every gift matters. Thank you.



Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Maria Furfaro and Debra DiCaprio.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The Parish Pastoral Council will meet this Monday, April 18th, at 7:00 p.m. in the school. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting.

The **CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** will meet this Wednesday, April 20th, 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.

APRIL 17, 2011



Masses & Services

Palm Sunday

Saturday, April 16 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Sunday, April 17

8:30 AM Robert Liddell +

10:00 AM Loretta & Michael Kennedy +

11:30 AM Joseph & Paul Prior +

5:00 PM Mary Theresa Szivos +

Monday, April 18

Monday of Holy Week

7:00 AM Marcello, Elena, Stefano, & Angelina Barcello +

9:00 AM Benjamin Filippone +

Tuesday, April 19

Tuesday of Holy Week

7:00 AM Joseph Como +

9:00 AM Baby Giovanni Bomba +

Wednesday, April 20

Wednesday of Holy Week

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Bolduc & Savard Families

9:00 AM Jerry Maughan +

Thursday, April 21

Mass of the Lord's Supper

7:30 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Friday, April 22

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion

2:00 PM Stations of the Cross

3:00 PM Good Friday Service

7:30 PM Good Friday Service

Saturday, April 23

Easter Vigil

8:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Easter Sunday: Resurrection of the Lord

8:30 AM Gloria Brusco Flanagan +

10:00 AM Gloria Bassey +

11:30 AM Carmela & Frank Gerace +

WHAT WE CELEBRATE DURING THE EASTER TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday)

- The day commemorates the Last Supper of Christ and His Twelve Apostles and the institution of the Eucharist.
- During the *Gloria*, all the bells of the church are rung. They then remain silent until the Easter Vigil (children are sometimes told "the bells have flown to Rome").
- On Holy Thursday, the celebrant often celebrates the rite of the *washing of the feet*, where the feet of twelve people are washed.
- On Holy Thursday during the day, bishops celebrate the Chrism Mass, where they bless the oils for Confirmation, the Anointing of the Sick and the Catechumens. (The Chrism Mass can be celebrated on another day on Holy Week, however). In the New York Archdiocese, for pastoral reasons, it is celebrated on Tuesday of Holy Week.
- The Hosts not distributed in Communion on Holy Thursday are reserved and distributed on Good Friday, when no Mass is celebrated.
- After the Mass, the Blessed Sacrament is carried in procession to an "Altar of Repose." Then all Altars except that one are stripped.

Good Friday

- The Church mourns for Christ's death, reverences the Cross, and marvels at His life for His obedience till death.
- There is no Mass; the Eucharist is not consecrated. Communion takes place with the hosts left over from Holy Thursday.
- The church remains stripped on this day of ornate objects, including the Altar cloth and candles, as a sign of respect.
- Holy water fonts are emptied.
- On this day, the *Stations of the Cross* are often prayed either in the church or outside.
- Celebration of the liturgy of the Lord's Passion occurs in the afternoon.
- The priest wears red vestments. If a Bishop presides or helps to preside, he wears a simplex miter.

Liturgy: *The liturgy consists of three parts in the Roman Rite: the Liturgy of the Word, the Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion. The celebrant prostrates before the Altar.*

The *readings* from Isaiah 53 (about the Suffering Servant) and the Epistle to the Hebrews are read.

The *Passion narrative* of the Gospel of John is sung or read often with divided roles.

General Intercessions: The congregation prays for the Church, the Pope, the Jews, non-Christians, unbelievers and others.

Veneration of the Cross: A crucifix is solemnly unveiled before the congregation. The people venerate it on their knees. During this part, the "Reproaches" are often sung.

Communion service: The Communion of the previous day is distributed among the people.

- Even if music is used in the Liturgy, it is not used to open and close the Liturgy, nor is there a formal recessional (closing procession).

Holy Saturday (Also known as Black Saturday.)

- A day of silence and prayer which commemorates the dead Christ in the tomb. No Mass is celebrated. In cases of the danger of death, Eucharistic Hosts remaining from the Liturgies of the two previous days are used as *viaticum*.

The Tabernacle is left empty and open. The lamp or candle usually situated next to the Tabernacle denoting the Presence of Christ is put out, and the Eucharist is kept elsewhere, usually the sacristy, with a lamp or candle burning before it.