

CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE, LARCHMONT, New York

APRIL 02, 2017

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR:

“ I shall put my spirit in you, and you shall live” Ezekiel 37:14

Pastor's Corner

MODELS OF DISCIPLESHIP

When the Gospel of John contrasts walking in the day to walking at night, we know it refers to more than getting home before curfew. What may surprise us in today's readings is that the story of the raising of Lazarus is designed to lead us to examine our own faith as disciples. Raising someone from the dead is the greatest feat of our scriptural tradition, it only happened about 10 times. But in the story of Lazarus the miracle and even Lazarus himself get short shrift compared to Jesus' interactions with disciples. In John's telling, discipleship was more important than Jesus' wonder-working and while miracles are always a nice surprise, growth in faith usually involves significant struggle.

The first phase of the challenge for the disciples comes when Jesus says he is ready to return to Judea—the area they had just left because people were preparing to stone him. Thomas speaks for the group saying in effect, “Are you stark raving mad?!” (John's more respectful translation reads: “Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you, and you want to go back there?”) Jesus' response is a typical Christ-like conundrum, “If you walk in the day, you won't stumble,” a statement so blatantly obvious that the disciples have to puzzle out what it really means.

Another way to say it is, “When you walk by the light of the world you won't stumble, but if you walk on the dark side, the light is not in you.”

By inviting the disciples to go with him, Jesus is effectively saying that when they walk in his way his own inner light will dwell in them. Thomas didn't quite get the whole import of that promise, but he did know where he stood. If Jesus were determined to head toward danger, he wouldn't leave him to do it alone: “Let us also go to die with him.” If love and loyalty count for faith, Thomas had plenty of it. Walking with the light of the world would fill in the gaps.

The second phase of the discipleship challenge came with Martha's interaction with Jesus. While the Gospels don't underline the fact, it's usually women who push Jesus to more: the Syrophenician argued for a cure for her daughter; Jesus' mother called for wine before “his hour,” and in this incident, Martha and Mary both let him know, “If you had been here, our brother would not have died.” But Martha didn't stop with what hadn't happened, she added her own open-ended request: “I know that God will do whatever you ask.”

So far Martha has recognized Jesus as a dear friend, a late-coming healer and one whose prayers get answered. When Jesus tells her that Lazarus will rise, she hears that as a traditional teaching. Explaining that her concept encompasses only a minuscule portion of God's offer he says, “I am the resurrection and the life...Do you believe this?” Martha's response, theologically correct as it sounded, didn't begin to grasp the depth of Jesus' meaning. Thus, when he called for opening the tomb, she betrayed her lingering belief in the uncompromising power of death: “Lord, there will be a stench.” But Jesus, Son of the God who promised to open the graves of the people, called Lazarus back into life.

Jesus had told Thomas and friends that with him, they could walk in his light, which meant that they could be with him in facing down death. They took that on like brave Marines: *semper fi*. At least at that moment, nothing would deter them. Jesus wanted Martha to go a step further, to realize that God is the God of life. Death does not exist for God, at least not as tragedy, not as the defining limit of life, not as punishment, and therefore, not with the meaning the world ascribes to it.

The story of the raising of Lazarus offers a variety of models of discipleship. John presents those who saw the restoration of life and came to believe. Then there's Thomas and friends whose simple, sincere faithfulness would put them on the path to living in Jesus' light. Finally we have Martha, invited to let Jesus be not just the teacher; healer and Messiah she expected, but the one who offered her is very life. Discipleship is a journey we're invited to take in the light of the God of life.

Mary M. McGlone, Preaching Resources April 2, 2017.



MASS INTENTIONS

Week of April 3rd — April 9th

Monday, April 3rd

7:45 am Ann Lavin

9:00 am Kevin Fitzgerald

Tuesday, April 4th

7:45 am

9:00 am Henk Melief

Wednesday, April 5th

7:45 am Muriel Steinmuller

9:00 am Patrick Joseph Buckley

Thursday, April 6th

7:45 am Russell Lynch

9:00 am Nicholas Nikou

Friday, April 7th

7:45 am Maura O'Friel

9:00 am Helen Crossin Kittle

Saturday April 8th

9:00 am Michael Naughton

5:00 pm Rosemarie Magazino

Sunday, April 9th— Palm Sunday

9:00 am Andre Melief

10:30 am Maurice Vincent Costello

12:00 pm Pierre Drogoul

5:00 pm Jane Hofmann

WE PRAY

For those who are ill, including: Sandy Albert, Ellen R. Barbieri, Bill Battalia, Peter Benjamin, Frank Booth, Nelly Carillon, Debbie Coangelo, Teresa Cogan, Caryn Colombo, Conall Crean, Bernier De Comes, David DiPietro, Mary Ann Dolan, Maureen Donovan, Marlene Dufort, Mark Elliott, Loren Finnell, Mary Elizabeth Fraioli, Marty Gary, Robert Glickman, Alessandria Glickman, Eleanor Gordon, Mary Haid, Kerry Hegarty, Robert Heyde, Harvey and Mary Humphrey, Carol Hrabsky, Mary Jordan, Fred Kriegel, Dorothy & Dave Lakso, Zachary Lawrence, Rose Leghorn, Lori Lamberti, Robert Mangone, Martin Martinez, Virginia McLaughlin, Bob Morris, Elizabeth Murray, Patricia Clifford Newman, Doris Nogueira, Scotty Norton, Doris O'Toole, Jack Pastor, Katherine Samon, Annmarie Shower, Susan Testa, Joan Troccoli, Rosemary Walsh, Nicholas James Walsh, Missy Wey, Mary Williams and Billy Zarcone.

May they find healing and comfort in Jesus Christ.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

We are grateful to all who contribute so generously each week. We do recommend that you use parish envelopes or **ParishPay**. Please call the rectory for details or to register.

Total Collection this week—\$7,034.00

Total ParishPay was \$4,500.00

Total Collection — \$11,534.00

Total Collection Catholic Charities— \$2,551.00

Attendance Last weekend was **895**

Thank you for your support and generosity.



PRAY THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

A classic devotion and prayer during Lent is the Stations of the Cross. Prayer booklets are available in the church and the church will remain open until 5:00 pm each day during Lent.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

Monday, April 10th — Sunday, April 16th

MONDAY Confessions 3:00—9:00 pm

HOLY THURSDAY

Mass of the Lord's Supper— 8:00 pm

Visits to Repository until 10:30 pm

GOOD FRIDAY

Tenebrae—9:00 am

Stations of the Cross,

(outdoors weather permitting) 12:00 pm

Liturgy of the Passion and

Death of Our Lord—3:00 pm

Confessions 7:00—7:30 pm

Stations of the Cross—7:30 pm

HOLY SATURDAY

Tenebrae—9:00 am

Confessions 11:00 am —12:00 pm & 4:00—5:00 pm

Easter Vigil Liturgy—8:00 pm

EASTER SUNDAY

Interfaith Sunrise Service 6:30 am Manor Park

7:45, 9:00, 10:30 am and 12:00 pm

No Evening Mass



INTERFAITH COUNCIL

The Interfaith Council will meet on **Thursday, April 6th at Sts. John and Paul Church at 9:30 am**. Dr. Charles Chesnavage talk will be "A Roman Catholic and Interreligious Perspective on Religious Education" All are welcome. Call 914-632-7735 for more info.

THE CARDINAL'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

Prayerfully Consider Your Sacrifice

The Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal serves many diverse communities across our **10 counties**. *As Disciples of Christ, we are called to share our gifts with our brothers and sisters*. Even small sacrifices can make a big impact. Please answer the call and make your commitment today. **Your donations Help to Prepare the Clergy, Support Retired Priests and Religious, Support Needy Parishes, Catholic Schools and Religious Education Programs, as well as Mission and Evangelization, to enrich our faith.**

Online donations can be made at www.cardinals-appeal.org. Donation envelopes are available in the pews and the entrances to the church. **Thank you for your generosity and support.**



AN ICON FOR OUR LENTEN SEASON

One of our parishioners who is an icon painter (or, an 'icon writer') has offered to share with St. Augustine her representation of **Christ as The Bridegroom** as a subject for our contemplation and devotion especially during the Lenten season. Please look for it to the left of the pulpit in the front of the church. A more detailed description of its meaning is on a handout on the table behind the last row of pews.



THE LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

On Wednesday, April 5 at 7:30 pm in Kenny Hall our older high school teens will lead us in walking the road to Calvary. This year, an approach involving music and movement, with the cast of characters who will draw us into the heart of this prayer experience, is new and dynamic. In this 125th anniversary of our parish, please honor our young parishioners with your presence and prayer by joining them in this rendition that will haunt and inspire you.

LENTEN FAST AND ABSTINENCE

The regulations on Lenten fast and abstinence are:

"ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT" Those who are 14 years of age or older are to abstain from meat on all the Fridays of Lent. The fundamental obligation is to make lent a penitential season, choosing practices that are adapted to one's own needs.



The items requested for April
PASTA, SOUP AND ESPECIALLY CEREAL
Donations of food can be left in the baskets at the front & side entrances to the church during the day.
Thank you for your continued generosity.



FOOD FAST

A Catholic Relief Services 7 hour Food Fast will be held on **Sunday, April 2 for TEENS** with Adult Volunteers from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm with an Empty Bowls Soup and Bread supper following in Kenny Hall.

There is enough food in the world to feed everyone, why then do so many go hungry? Pope Francis' words haunt us: "We are in front of a global scandal of around one billion people who still suffer from hunger today." **We ask teens and adults to be a part of resolving this problem.** The teens are willing to do the fast and learn with adults how to end systemic hunger by 2025. They need sponsors to support this venture. Their goal is one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) to give to Catholic Relief Services. Envelopes are in the back of the church for donations that can be placed in collection baskets at the Masses. Teen parental consent forms are also in the back of the church. Teens need to register with Sister Suzanne at srsuzanne@verizon.net or text her at 717-448-6206 by March 31. Although those teens appearing at the door on the day will also be accepted. Your monetary support and encouragement of teens to participate will be invaluable. You may choose a teen you know or sponsor the whole group doing the FOOD FAST. This venture of our teens and your support are all blessings that spell **true discipleship**.

THE EUCHARIST IN SCRIPTURE AND THE BOOK OF PSALMS

During Lent, nearly 30 parishioners are studying The Eucharist in Scripture, which emphasizes the importance of meals shared in faithful fellowship as part of our covenant relationship with God. Old Testament meals and promises provide the foundation for gospel meals with Jesus, culminating in the Last Supper as understood by Paul and in the four gospels. Another 20 parishioners have decided to complete their study of the Book of Psalms, a unique collection of the song-prayers of Israel. To study Psalms is to study prayer, ultimately to enter into prayer. The study will challenge participants to reflect on their own prayer and life experiences. This particular study will focus partly on the Psalms of Lament, which express the sorrow of the soul in distress and of the individual's and the community's need to turn to God in order to be healed or rescued. Please read along this Lent—and please keep these parishioners in your prayers during their study—as they keep you in theirs each session.



FREE 6-WEEK EMPLOYMENT/ NETWORKING SUPPORT GROUP

Sponsored by the RDC Center and given at the White Plains Education & Technology Center, 303 Quarropas St., White Plains, 6:30—8:00 pm **April 10 – May 22nd**. Topics: Job Trends, The Myers Briggs Inventory, Resume Preparation, Interviewing and LinkedIn. To register, psheridan@divinecompassion.org or 914-798-1103



PRAYER REQUESTS

There are many different ways to request prayers for your special intentions at our parish. If you would like your request to appear in the bulletin, please call the rectory, (834-1220), simply to have a name added to the list that appears in the bulletin. Separate requests (by first name or initials only) can be sent out via email to our parish Prayer Network, a group of about 40 pray-ers; please email powerpj36@verizon.net. (Please include the subject of your prayer before you send it in; the confidentiality of all is honored.)

40 DAYS FOR LIFE: MAR. 1 – APRIL 9

This spring's "40 Days for Life" campaign will be held March 1—April 9th, "40 Days for Life" is a peaceful, highly-focused, non-denominational initiative that focuses on 40 days of prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil at abortion facilities, and educational outreach with the goal of protecting mothers and their children from abortion. **To learn more about the 40 Days for Life campaign, visit: www.40daysforlife.com**

ST. AUGUSTINE'S IRISH FLEADH

People had a wonderful time at the St. Augustine Irish Fleadh on Sunday afternoon, March 19th. See the poster in the vestibule of the church! It was a great success. Bernadette Fee (fiddle) and her band the Wild Irish Rovers; Mike McGovern (vocal & accordion) and Dennis Kimak (guitar) did a great job playing wonderful Irish music, and Bernadette also instructed the participants in some dances. Many people enjoyed the festivities.

We also loved watching the 5 young dancers, of which 3 were parishioners, who performed unexpectedly to give a little show of Irish dancing in their beautiful dresses, soft shoes and wigs. The show was very enjoyable and well received!

Thank you to everyone who baked, organized, cleaned up, bought napkins, helped in the kitchen, donated balloons, made signs, brought their Irish flags and other Irish displays, washed the table cloths, etc. No task was too big or too small. The many volunteers made this a great success: Helen Waters, Mary Spollen, Nancy and Paul Lennon, Brigid Brennan, Ciara Henry, Michele Phelan, Iraci DiBuono, Ann Betkowski, Ann O'Brien, Lisa Collins, Rose Bernard, Mary Ann Mazza, Mary McCormack, Anne-Mike & Jan Karel Smeets, Jackie Shannon, Nancy Keelan, MaryAnn Fitzsimons, Jeanne Kiernan, Trish Doyle, Lorraine Hannigan, Tish Cox, & Kathy Clemens. **THANK YOU all for your time and your donations.**

The Arts & Crafts table with stickers, temporary tattoos, coloring sheets, etc. for the kids was very successful again.

There were beautiful shamrock cookies, many other cookies, delicious homemade Irish soda bread and for St. Joseph's day we also had mini "zeppoles" and "sfingis" plus juice, water, Irish non-alcoholic coffee and tea.

The St. Augustine Parish "Zero Waste" initiative members, represented by Carmen White and Karen Khor, were happy to bring their message to the people, young and old. They were grateful to have some input, and satisfied getting their message across and showing the bins with colorful and clear signs.

It was a great afternoon with lots of parishioners and friends having a grand old time.

