

## Fourth Sunday of Easter Mother's Day

*From the Desk of Rev. Fr. Anthony C. Ekanem, MSP:*

### ~ *Mother's Day* ~

In the Gospel today, Jesus compares Himself to a shepherd protecting His sheep, promising His disciples that He will hold them securely in the His hands. He sets up a great contrast and comparison with the Pharisees (John 9:40 - 41) with metaphorical language. He compares the Pharisees to “hired hands” who leave his sheep unattended when the wolf comes (John 10:12). Jesus, on the other hand, is the “good shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep.” We can observe the intimacy that Jesus shares with Father – “The Father and I are one” (John 10:30). This relationship among disciples (sheep), Jesus, and God will be made explicit in John 14:23.

How appropriate that wonderful image is presented on Mother's Day. Today, we honor all types of mothers (Grandmother, Godmother, Aunt, Wife, Mother-in-law, Sister, Daughter and others) who have loved us, protected us, and held us, those who have treated us with the tender loving care of the Good Shepherd. We want to honor them today and thank God for them in a special way for a practical love we receive from them. Let us also remember all our deceased who played this role too.

In the second reading, the writer beautifully expresses his vision of perseverance and determination in a simple statement, “These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” Those are encouraging words to all persevering Christians mothers who in “time of great distress” have stood by our side. For they have “washed their robes in the blood of the Lambs,” by their sacrifices, self – denial and selfless giving of themselves. This sacrifice in a way is pivotal in the mission of the early church especially with all the followers of Jesus Christ. This phrase signifies being cleansed from sin through Jesus meritorious death on the cross. Mothers have played this role in our day to day life when we are sick, when we are in trouble or in distress. God's word to us today is: no matter how righteous we are think we are, the Christian life will not shield us from disappointments and even in suffering. Therefore, we can learn from the example from the Good shepherd.

Persevering in all trial whether all disappointments, rejections, trials, by St Paul and Barnabas in their first missionary trip, they followed the customs and began their preaching in Pisidia. The Gentiles were receptive to the faith. Paul and Barnabas preached to the Gentiles, ‘Rejoicing that they have been found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name,’ (Act 5:40b – 41).

What can we learn from our Lord as a Good Shepherd or from St Paul and Barnabas on this Mother's Day? Our mothers have done a lot for us even those who are not our biological mother. Today, is one day we are challenged to go beyond biological family, our race, nationality, color, or even our tribe and appreciate the love of a good shepherd around us in our lives because Jesus has clearly shown us what selfless giving of one's self is all about. Happy Mother's Day!

### **MASS WITH ANOINTING**

Our Parish Mission will end tomorrow, May 13, 2019 with a Holy Mass and the Anointing beginning at 7:00 pm. There will be time for Confessions before then at 6:30 pm with Holy Rosary as we acknowledge the memorial of Our Lady of Fatima. We shall also call upon St Peregrine, the patron of Cancer patient to intercede with all who are affected by this serious illness. Spread the word and endeavor to bring those who need a ride to this spiritual and physical healing of our Parish Mission.

### ***Sacrament of Matrimony***

There will be a Golden Jubilee Mass on Sunday, June 2, 2019, at 2:00 pm at St. Patrick Cathedral; His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, will be the Chief celebrant. The Golden Jubilee Mass is for the couples celebrating 50 years of marriage during 2019. All those who wish to attend must contact the Parish Office to register. Pews will be reserved for Golden Jubilee couples. Additional guests will be accommodated in pews outside of the reserved section. All Golden Jubilee couples will receive a special commemorative certificate. Couples from our parish who are unable to attend the Mass the anniversary can expect a certificate through our parish. Registration will close on Monday May 13, 2019, at 5:00 pm.

### ***Church Family Directory***

As we are brainstorming on how to go about getting the exact count of how many people are registered with us, we looking into having a Parish Family Directory. If you are not registered, this is the time to contact the parish office, or use our registration form at the back of our parish bulletin. Thanks.

### ***Stewardship***

Tithing - God's Plan for Giving Sunday For 05/5/19 our Offering was \$3,756.00.00

Last week second collection for the Central and Eastern Europe we collected \$1,136.00. This week we have a second collection for our Organ Renovation.

### **2019 Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal Update**

Goal: \$39,500

Total Amount Paid: \$18,978.00

Total Amount Pledged: \$23,326.00

Number of Families: 72

Have you made your Cardinal's Stewardship Appeal yet? Every appeal from our parish community helps. No matter how much you are able to pledge, each amount helps keep our “parishes healthy and vibrant.”

You can use the pledge letters that have already arrived at your home. And if you have not received one or have never made a pledge before, it is very easy to do so online.

Just go to [cardinalsappeal.org](http://cardinalsappeal.org), click on Donate, select an amount, and direct your gift to our Church: Immaculate Conception, Yonkers

### ***Sundays Readings:***

**First Reading:** *Acts of the Apostles 13:14, 43-52 p. 22* Paul and Barnabas traveled to Antioch where they entered the synagogue to teach. Some Jews became their followers while others expelled them from the town. “ So they shook dust from their feet” and went on to Iconium.

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Psalm 100:1-2, 3, 5, p. 23*

*“We are his people, the sheep of his flock. ”*

**Second Reading:** *Revelation 7:9, 14b-17 p. 23* The author of Revelation had a vision of a large crowd of people from every nation and race, dressed in white robes and holding palm branches, standing before the lamb.

**Gospel:** *John 10:27-30 p. 24* My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life.... No one can take them out of my hand. My Father.. is greater than all...The Father and I are one.”

### **Religious Education Classes - May 18**

Religious Education Students:

May 18 - Confirmation Rehearsal for Candidates.

May 18 - Last Day of Class. Enjoy your summer!

Registration for 2019-2020 Starts on June 15.

### ***All are welcome to our Up Coming Events***

- We will round up our Parish Mission tomorrow with Mass of Anointing on Monday, May 13, 2019. - Memorial of Our Lady of Fatima.
- Fr George, MSP will be away on Monday, May 13 to visit his mother and family members in Nigeria.
- Fr Robert Kajoh, MSP will be leaving us on Tuesday, May 14 to round his studies and from there back to Nigeria.
- 39 of our brothers and sister will be confirmed on Friday, May 24, 2019 at 6:00 pm by Most Rev. Bishop Gerald T. Walsh
- Registration for Religious Education Program 2019—2020 will start on Tuesday, June 18

**Mass Schedule for the week of  
May 11 to May 18, 2019**

**Special Intentions for this week**

**Saturday, May 11, 2019:**

12:05 am – In Thanksgiving \* Ita Yager

5:00pm - Mother's Day Novena

7:30pm - Mother's Day Novena

**Sunday, May 12, 2019:**

7:30 am – Mother's Day Novena

9:00 am – Mother's Day Novena

11:00 am – Mother's Day Novena

**Monday, May 13, 2019:**

8:15am — Mother's Day Novena

12:05pm – Mother's Day Novena

**Tuesday, May 14, 2019:**

8:15am—Mother's Day Novena

12:05pm –Mother's Day Novena

**Wednesday, May 15, 2019:**

8:15am - Mother's Day Novena

12:05 pm – Rodolfo Dominguez Roja (Decease) \*Mercedes Y Gonzalo Vidals

**Thursday, May 16, 2019:**

8:15am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm – Frank Navarro \* Josefa Navarro

7:00 pm - Victoria Farciet A. \* Gonzalo Vidal

**Friday, May 17, 2019:**

8:15am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm – Soul in Purgatory \*Ita Yager

**Saturday, May 18, 2019:**

12:05 am – For the Decease members of Rodriguez & Morales Family \* Marta Vega

5:00pm - Ramon Navarro \* Josefa Navarro

7:30pm - Jose & Modesta Sanchez Anniversary \* Jose & Modesta Sanchez

**\*Indicates the person (s) who requested the Mass.**

**~Request a Mass Intention~**

Those wishing to honor a loved one during the celebration of Mass may pick up Mass cards in the parish office. Mass cards are available for the living and deceased and provided opportunities for prayerful remembrance of anniversaries, birthdays, and other special intentions. Masses are usually booked at least several months in advance so if you want the Mass, it is very important that you call the parish office well ahead of time.

**Have you offered Mass for your Mother yet?**