

***The Bells of St. Mary's
The Church of the Immaculate Conception***

**Thirty - second Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 10, 2019**

From Fr. Anthony Columba Ekanem, MSP—Pastor

JOURNEY IN HOPE AND FAITH IN TRIAL

During November, we call to mind those who have died: friends, family, members of this community, and pray for their souls. It also brings to our attention, the end of the church calendar year (November 24) with the celebration of the Our Lord Jesus, King of the Universe. But before then, we are called upon to reflect on end time; death and life - after using the readings from Book of Maccabees (2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14) and the Gospel of St Luke. (20:27-38). None of this is meant to scare us but to prepare us in our life's journey by asking ourselves some serious questions about our faith in the Resurrection. The passages affirm the Resurrection. We are a people filled with hope because we believe that death is not the end.

Death takes center stage in the readings of today, beginning with a family being tortured and killed in a scene of terrible horror. Yet, each Scripture text is full of hope. Each brother in the first reading story, 2 Maccabees 7:1-2 is willing to die, trusting in the Resurrection.

"It was from Heaven that I received these; for the sake of His Laws, I disdain them, from Him, I hope to receive them again." (2 Macc. 7:14)

- Am I willing to do this for my faith?
- Am I willing to suffer ridicule for my faith?
- Am I willing to be formed in my faith by the Scripture and the Church?

The teaching today is also about how we respond to that love, especially if we are ever persecuted or misunderstood. We need to have confidence in God. This reading gives us an account of what happens to the faith we profess in different time and place. Sometimes, we are drawn to think that only Christians undergo persecution. There are still places in the world today where the Jews, the Muslims, the Buddhists, and the Christians suffer the abuse of one kind or another.

Let us look at it further as Christians; the belief in the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead is at the very center and focus of our faith. In the world of first-century Judaism, however, not all Jews believed even in the possibility of Resurrection. For instance, the Sadducees were a party of Judaism active in the time of Jesus, descended from the priestly family of Zadok. They were literal interpreters of the written Law of Moses, which means that they were in disagreement with the position of the Pharisees, who offered an oral interpretation of the Law of Moses.

In this Gospel, the Sadducees are described as opponents to the belief in Resurrection. In the dialogue presented here, we see an example of the means of disputation that was common in first-century Judaism. The Sadducees use the case of Levirate marriage, found in the Law of Moses, to disprove belief in the Resurrection. According to [Deuteronomy 25:5-10](#), if a man died without producing an heir, the man's brother should marry his wife, and the offspring of this union would inherit the property and carry on the name of the man who had died. The Sadducees use this as an example to challenge belief in the Resurrection and make ridicule of His teaching. Jesus argues from the same written Law of Moses to show that there is Resurrection. Using the texts from the Book of Exodus ([Chapter 3](#)) that describes the encounter of Moses with God in the burning bush, Jesus shows that God is the God of the living, not the dead. Here Jesus uses the same method and texts of the Sadducees to counter them. As the Gospel text suggests, He beats them at their own game!

More importantly, in this discourse, Jesus shows the limits of our imaginations when it comes to eternal life. The Sadducees argued against Resurrection because of the limits of earthly existence. They did not imagine another possibility for existence and relationship with God. Jesus proposes that the options of resurrected life are beyond our imaginations.

In conclusion, Jesus suggests something else as well: To spend time worrying about resurrected life is to miss the whole point. The point is an eternal relationship with God is possible, for God is the God of the living, ". . . for to him all are alive."

In the Seconding Reading, St Paul beautifully sums it up for us as he did for the Thessalonians that they may remain steadfast in the pursuit of goodness; "Finally, brothers and sisters, pray for us, so that the word of the Lord may speed forward and be glorified, as it did among you, and that we may be delivered from perverse and wicked people for not all have faith." (2 Thessalonians 2:16 - 3:5)

The challenge is for all of us to remain faithful to the truth that we have discovered in our lord Jesus Christ.

- How do you imagine eternal life with God?
- What would it take for you to have the courage of the three young brothers?
- How do you stay focused on Christ each day to find strength and hope to continue our journey?

Stewardship

*Tithing - God's Plan for Giving on Sunday, 11/03/19 our Offering was \$ 3,936.00

*Today's second collection is for our Church

Property Insurance. Thank you for your generosity.

* Next week second collection is for Catholic Charity.

In observance to Veteran's Day the Rectory-Office will be closed on Monday November 11, 2019.

Next week Saturday November 16, 2019 we will have mass at 6:00pm it will be a bilingual mass. Following we will have the church

There will be an important combined Parish Pastoral and Finance Council Meeting on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Parish Rectory. Please members, endeavor to be present. Thank you.

Parish Family Directory:

Please see Dianne to make your appointment for your parish family photo for December 21 & 22 and January 4 & 5. This family photo is only for the use of the parish.

NEED FOR A NEW BOILER

We are in need of a new Boiler for the Rectory. The one we have now is having some problems and it has been serving for about 22 years or more. ATLAS WELDING & BOILER REPAIR COMPANY who maintains the Heating—system for us, are proposing we get a new one because the parts are now difficult to find or fix and are obsolete. A new one will cost about \$31,350 including labor.

Sundays Readings:

First Reading: 2 Maccabees 7: 1-2, 9-14 p. 58

Even their tortures marveled at the heroism of the seven Maccabee brothers who trusted in God and faced death with courage. They believed in the resurrection to life.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 17: 1-5, 6, 8, 15, p. 59 *Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full.*

Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 2: 16-3: 5 p. 59 *Prayed that God the Father, who consoled him, also comfort and strengthen the saints of the Thessalonian church. He asked for their prayer and gave them God's blessing.*

Gospel: Luke 20: 27-38 p. 60 *When some Sadducees tried to trap Jesus with some legal questions, he showed them God's power over life and the Lord's love for the living: God "is not the God of the dead, but of the living."*

Religious Education

November:

11/16/19 Religious Education

11/23/19 Religious Education Classes ~ [Family Catechesis](#)

[Day Families and Children 9:30am to 1:00pm](#) Please bring your donation.

11/30/19 No Religious Education Classes - [Happy Thanksgiving](#)

Prayer for Vocations

Hail Mary, full of grace; all generations call you blessed.

Hail Mother of God; when asked by the angel to bear the Son of the Most High, filled with faith, you responded: "Let it be done unto me."

Holy Mother of Jesus, at the wedding feast at Cana, you prompted your Son to perform his first sign.

Be with us as we discern our life's work and guide us in the way we are called to follow in the footsteps of your Son.

Holy Mother of the Savior, at the foot of the cross you mourned the death of your only Son.

Bless and embrace the loving parents of all priests, deacons, brothers and sisters.

Holy Mother of the Good Shepherd, turn your motherly care to this nation.

Intercede for us to the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers to the harvest in this land dedicated to your honor.

Queen of Peace, Mirror of Justice, Health of the Sick, inspire vocations in our time.

Let the word of your Son be made flesh anew in the lives of persons anxious to proclaim the good news of everlasting life. Amen.

Parish Annual Dinner Dance

Saturday, November 16, 2019

Have you made your necessary arrangements for our Parish Annual celebration coming up next Saturday? Invite your family members and friends to come and celebrate God's blessings with us. Let this be another way our Church is stepping up to kick off Thanksgiving Day spirit this year. This will take place in our Parish Hall beginning at 8 pm. We still have tables available for booking. Come celebrate with us, don't miss this fantastic celebration at St. Mary's.

**Mass Intentions for the
Week of November 9 - November 17 2019**

Saturday, November 9, 2019:

12:05 pm - Agripino Chicano + * Violet Chicano

5:00pm - Anthony & Margaret Mary Felicissimo * Tony Felicissimo

7:30pm - Efren Garcia * Esposa Hijos y Nietos

Sunday, November 10, 2019:

7:30 am - For the Parishioners

9:00 am - Johnny Rios + *Melissa Carrion

11:00 am - Juvenil Antao * Esther & Eduardo Rodrigues

Monday, November 11, 2019: Veteran's Day

8:15am - Mario Lara + * Ronaldo Sumulong

12:05 pm - Francis J. Walsh + * Catherine Reid

Tuesday November 12, 2019

8:15am - In Thanksgiving * Hannah Linus

12:05pm - Fr. James Lloyd CSP (Living) * Tony Felicissimo

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

8:15am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm - Baby Rory Rodden * Winifred & John O'Flaherty

Thursday, November 14, 2019:

8:15 am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm - Dennis M. McMahan * The Bonanno Family

7:00 pm - Accion De Gracia * Familia Tovar & Ruiz

Friday, November 15, 2019:

8:15 am - Available / Disponibile

12:05 pm - Bartolome Sable + * Jessica Sable

Saturday, November 16, 2019:

12:05 pm - The Jean Baptiste & The Pierre Family * Marie Baptiste

6:00 pm - Joseph Kunny * The Kunny Family

6:00 pm - Marco Antonio Monegro Vega +* Hilda Vega

Sunday, November 17, 2019:

7:30 am - For the Parishioners/ Para Los Parroquianos

9:00 am - Bernardo & Rafael Torres + * Maria Polanco

11:00 am - Elizabeth Russ * Genny Brown & Family

+Indicates deceased *Indicates the person (s) who requested the Mass.