

# *The Church of the Immaculate Conception*

Twenty – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 8, 2019

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

## **FOLLOWING THE MASTER**

In today's Gospel, we see that Jesus didn't hide the reality from His disciples – the cost of discipleship. He pointed out the difficulties, the hardships, and the sacrifices that would be required from his would-be followers. He told them in no certain terms that it wouldn't be easy for them, least they would say they were not told.

Let us face it. It is not easy to be a disciple of Christ. Discipleship has some practical demands that one cannot escape under pain of betraying the Gospel. Still today the Christian is told "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple" (Lk. 14:26-27).

Jesus urges us to be practical, have common sense, be prudent, and count the cost. We must not take on more than we are capable of executing. Of course, we won't know in advance what we can do until we try it. Therefore, we must not underestimate or overestimate our abilities. We must challenge ourselves in order to bring out the best in us. As Christians, do we pay heed to the misery of the needy and the groaning of the poor?

We can draw encouragement from the example of the apostle Paul who urges Philemon to take Onesimus his former slave back as a brother, to forgive him and give him a second chance (Philemon 9-10.12-17). As Christians, we struggle at every point to follow Jesus. No one is to be written off. By looking at those who are weak among us, we discover our own inadequacies. The Gospel offers hope to Christians who fail, knowing that Jesus is generous with His grace especially to those who strive to answer His call.

The lessons from the readings today: The first reading from the book of Wisdom acknowledges that God's ways cannot be understood through human thought. In the Gospel, Jesus explains what it takes to follow Him. He repeatedly frames the requirements as "whoever does not ... cannot be my disciple." We measure people's commitment to a cause by the sacrifices they are prepared to make to achieve it. We cannot hope to be genuine followers of Christ without making sacrifices. A realistic assessment of the costs and one's ability is what is required to follow Jesus. And so,

what does it mean for me to be a Christian?

How does it affect my life?

What does it take to be a disciple of Jesus?

## **BIRTH OF MARY**

Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> is the traditional date that we celebrate the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary. But since it falls on a Sunday this year, the preeminence of Sunday takes precedence. Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> was chosen since, 9 months earlier the Church celebrates Mary's Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8). The event celebrates that Mary was conceived in the womb of her mother, Anne, without original sin so as to be a pure vessel for bearing the sinless Son of God. Mary's birth was celebrated as early as the 6<sup>th</sup> century. Normally, the feast of Saints is on the day of their deaths to commemorate their entrance into eternal life. But there are 3 birthdays that are commemorated because of their importance in salvation history:

Jesus (Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>)

Mary (Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>);

John the Baptist (June 24<sup>th</sup>)

But we also celebrate their entrance into eternal life:

Jesus with His Ascension (7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter)

Mary in her Assumption (Aug. 15);

John the Baptist in his passion (Aug. 29<sup>th</sup>)

## **Stewardship**

Tithing - God's Plan for Giving on Sunday For 09/01/19 our Offering was \$3,637.00

Today's second collection is for the Organ Renovation.

Next Sunday second collection is for St. Joseph's Seminary and Cathedral Prep.

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

Hello Father Anthony and members of the parish,

Congratulations!

The parish officially reached its goal! Here are your numbers:

Goal: \$39,500 Pledged: \$40,163

Paid: \$35,936 (60% of cash paid over goal comes back to the parish as a rebate)

Participants: 128 Ave. Gift: \$314

Percent of goal: 102% (You did it! The tradition continues...!)

Overall participation: 10% (It's probably a little higher since many gifts are anonymous...)

Parish still needs 43 more participants to reach your participation goal of 168

*Thank you so much for your cooperation again this year!*

Anthony Piscitiello, Campaign Manager

The 40th Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal

To donate you can go to [cardinalsappeal.org](http://cardinalsappeal.org),

click on Donate, select an amount, and direct your gift to our Church: **Immaculate Conception, Yonkers**

Do you feel call to serve in any of the following role at the Mass?

Extra Ordinary Minister the Holy Eucharist

Altar Servers, Sacristan, Lector, Choir, Usher etc.

Call our Parish Office

Requirements to be a Godparents or a Sponsor for Sacrament of Confirmation

- A Catholic over 18 years of age
- Possess a mature catholic faith and knows, understands and participates in the Catholic Church Community
- Not the parents or Step—parents
- Fully—interested, Baptized and Confirmed in the Catholic Church and celebrates the Eucharist at least weekly.
- nHe or She must be in good standing with the Church. If married, marriage is recognized by the Church.

## **Sundays Readings:**

**First Reading:** Wisdom 9: 13-18b p. 32

No one understands heaven or earth completely, but God sends wisdom and the Holy Spirit to light up the paths of those who search for the way.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 90: 4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17 p. 33 In every age , O Lord, you have been our refuge.

**Second Reading:** Philemon 9: 10, 12-17 p. 33 White Paul was in prison, he begged Philemon to receive back the runaway slave. Onesimus, as a beloved brother and partner in Christ.

**Gospel:** Luke 14: 1, 25-33 p. 34 Jesus taught his followers the hard lesson of the cross: good accounting, careful planning, anticipating changes, decision making and finishing the job.

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

- Religious Education Registration 2019 Registration is ongoing this week and next Saturday September 14, 2019 from 12.00pm until 1:00pm.
- Join us in our Parish Hall today after 11am Mass to celebrate Our Lady Caridad del Cobre.
- . CVS has volunteered to come to our Parish and offer flu shot to all those who have not received theirs yet on

Sunday, September 22, 2019. @ 10:30 am.

- “Ignorance of the Scripture is Ignorance of Christ!” St Jerome, 5th Century Plan to join us in Bible studies beginning in the month of October every Monday in the Parish Hall both in Spanish and English language at 7:00 pm.
- Church Family Directory It is now time to make your arrangements with your family to take your photograph with LIFE TOUCH

#### **Security Camera**

The security cameras are now in place inside and outside our Church. 24 Hour Surveillance Both Video & Audio

#### **Changing Station**

Check out our newest addition, a Baby changing station, located in the Bathroom.

### **Mass Schedule for the week of September 7, to September 14, 2019 Special Intentions for this week**

#### **Saturday, September 7, 2019:**

12:05pm— Andrew Berwa + \* Berwa Family

5:00pm— Anthony & Margaret Mary Felicissimo \* Tony Felicissimo

7:30pm - Legion of Mary/ Legion De Maria

#### **Sunday, September 8, 2019:**

7:30 am – Mathew Joseph \* Bency Mathew

9:00 am – Joaquim Neto & David Estevanez \* Julia Hernandez

11:00 am - Rita Navarro \* Josefa Navarro

#### **Monday, September 9, 2019:**

8:15am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm - Carl & Vee Motta + \* Son George Motta

#### **Tuesday September 10, 2019**

8:15am - Available/Disponibile

12:05pm - Hector Rene Gabriel \*Jose Gabriel

#### **Wednesday, September 11, 2019**

8:15am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm - Mass in Remembrance of 9/11<sup>th</sup> attack

#### **Thursday, September 12, 2019:**

8:15 am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm—Margaret Cruz + \*Daughter Angelina

7:00 pm - Jacobo de Jesus + \* Grupo Carismatico

#### **Friday, September 13, 2019:**

8:15 am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm - Johnny Rios + \* Melissa Carrion

#### **Saturday, September 14, 2019:**

9:00 am— Guadalupe Reyes Perez + Former CCD Catechists

12:05 pm - Available/Disponibile

5:00pm - Mary & Stella Mustazza + \*John Prato & Family 7:30pm - Sixto Manuel Montano + \* Wilfredo Montano

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

### **Office of Veterans Services**

Our Father, on this day, we remember the innocent who lost their lives— and we pay tribute to those who gave their lives so that others might live. For many of our citizens, the wounds of that morning remain fresh. Firefighters and police officers still choke up at the memory of fallen comrades. Young children and teenagers still long for the parents who will never share the joys of their youth nor guide them to adulthood. Fellow Americans take bittersweet pride in loved ones who refused to be victims — and gave America our first victory in the war on terror.

We also remember the sacrifices made by our nation’s armed forces to keep us safe. Every one of our troops is a volunteer, and since the attack of September 11, more than two million Americans have stepped forward to put on our nation's uniform. Over 50,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, and guardsmen have suffered terrible injuries—and over 6,000 have given the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of freedom! America cherishes their memory and we pray for their families. We will never forget!

Lord, out of this suffering, we resolve to honor every man and woman lost. And we seek their lasting memorial in a safer and more hopeful world. In your name we pray. AMEN.