

POINTS OF INTEREST

Condolences. We offer prayerful condolences to the family of Jamileh Kaddo Mouawad, who died on March 18 and Emma Marie DeLollo, who passed away on March 19. May God give rest to his servants and consolation to their families.

Candles & Crafts Sale. The Daughters of Saint Ann will be selling decorated candles and crafts on Sunday **March 29** in the church hall before Divine Liturgy.

Exposition of the Eucharist. Be one with Jesus during the Eucharistic Adoration on Thursday April 2nd from 8-11 pm after Divine Liturgy.

Good Friday meatless meal. Before the service of the adoration of the Cross, the Community of St Ann will gather in the church hall for a meatless meal from 4.00 – 6.00 pm.

Good Friday Flowers. The Daughters of Saint Ann will be selling flowers before the Good Friday service from 4 to 6.30 pm in the church hall.

Easter Luncheon. Following Divine Liturgy on Sunday April 12 all are invited to our Easter Potluck Luncheon. A signup sheet is in the church hall for those who want to bring a dish to share with everyone.

St Ann's parishioners got talent. Do you sing, dance, act or have any other talent? Hurry and become part of our event that will be held on Sunday April 12 during our Annual Easter Luncheon potluck starting at 11 am. Register your name on the Signup sheet in the Church hall before April 5.

Bus Trip to Yankee Stadium on July 18th to attend the New York Yankees v/s Seattle Mariners game. The cost is \$100 per person. For more info contact Mike Rezey 339-9468; Al Patnode 225-3335 or Richard Peters 272-2934



Verse Of The Week

“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life..”

(Cf. Jn 6:68)

St. John Climacus

Born 525 A.D. ~ Died 606 A.D.

John Climacus was born around 525 in Palestine. As a youth, he excelled in his studies and was highly regarded by his peers. At age 16, John decided to leave the world and retired to a hermitage near Mount Sinai. For the next four years, John spent his time in prayer, fasting, meditation and discernment while preparing to take solemn vows to the religious life. Through the direction of Martyrius, John curbed his vices and worked to perfect his virtues.

After professing his solemn vows, John began to spend more of his time studying scriptures and the early fathers of the Church. He became very knowledgeable in these subjects but his humility caused him to hide his talents and not presume to share them with others. Near the end of his life, however, he wrote the "Climax" also known as "The Ladder of Paradise." This work was a collection of sayings and examples to illustrate how to live the monastic life. From this work, he received the name Climacus, a derivative from the Latin root for climax or ladder.

As John progressed in years and wisdom, many of the religious living on Mount Sinai began to seek his advice in spiritual matters. Following the death of the abbot in 600 John was chosen to replace him. John ruled until his death in 605 and always tried to lead through his own example.

Saint's Quote

“Unless we believe and see Jesus in the appearance of bread on the altar, we will not be able to see him in the distressing disguise of the poor.”

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Why Are Some Catholics Embarrassed by the Cross?

Jesus loved the cross. His death was not an accident of circumstances or the outcome of a successful plot on behalf of the Pharisees, but rather the longing of his heart. Jesus Christ came to earth for one reason only—to redeem fallen humanity—and the cross was his chosen instrument of redemption. His whole life was like an arrow shot towards Calvary. The cross was always before his eyes.

The disciples, on the other hand, they did not listen to Jesus' warnings and calls to sacrifice everything. They were interested only in the easy road. They longed for glory and a high place in the Messiah's restored earthly kingdom. To them, their journey could end in no other way. The cross? Far from loving it, they were horrified by it, repelled by it.

Jesus looked into their hearts and saw their empty ambition, their pride, their love of comfort, their vain envy of one another. His infernal enemy, Satan, had been cast from heaven for the very pride and ambition his closest friends were now displaying. And it made Jesus angry. He turned to them and assured them that if they did not embrace the cross as he did, they had no part with him. The cross that so horrified them became the one condition of their salvation.

HIDING THE CRUCIFIX

Far too often, Catholics are embarrassed by the cross. The crucifix is removed from sanctuaries. The Mass, once known as an unbloody sacrifice, the re-presentation of Calvary, is reframed as a community meal. Priests, we are told, do not offer a Victim to God the Father, but rather preside like congenial hosts at a dinner. Homilies, instead of issuing calls to self-denial, rather exhort us to a mild and tolerant affability. Talk of sin and hell and God's justice is scoffed at and is replaced by a vague and cheerful universalism. In short, many Catholics prefer the wide and smooth road. They do not see the bloody sacrifice of Christ as central to the faith — they are horrified by it like the disciples before them. To them, niceness, friendliness, and tolerance are at the heart of the Catholic faith.

Jesus Christ is repelled by this weak-kneed, milquetoast faith, and to it he thunders, "Get behind me Satan, you are a hindrance to me." For Christ still loves his cross. He still bears in his hands and in his side the wounds that purchased our salvation. To all those who would follow him, he still offers the same condition: "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

THE NARROW WAY

As we begin this Lent, we must again hear and heed the call of our Lord and Savior, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Strive to enter through the narrow gate. Take up your cross and follow me." We must reject easy and comfortable Catholicism, a Catholicism that demands nothing of us. We must not hide the crucifix, but rather gaze lovingly upon it, recalling the words of St. Paul, "We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." We must turn from the sin of our complacency and begin again to embrace the cross, for it alone is the sure way to true joy and life eternal.

Source: www.aleteia.org By Sam Guzman Catholic Gentleman



The Pope Tweets

"May every Church and Christian community be a place of mercy amid so much indifference."

@ Pontifex / Mar 23, 2015