



Bukás Loób sa Diyós

(Open in Spirit to God)

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC COVENANT COMMUNITY
DISTRICT OF NEWARK

COVENANT NEWS

Church of St. Anne - 325 Second Avenue, Garwood, NJ 07027

Volume 30 Issue 3

Special LENT Edition

Feb 14 – Mar 30, 2024

“For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life” (Jn 3:16)

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SUNDAY READINGS

(Liturgical Year - Cycle B, Year II)

LENT: ● Pray ● Fast ● Give ●

February 15- March 31 2024

February 18 - Gn 9:8-15 / Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/1 Pt 3:18-22/
Mk 1:12-15

February 25 - Gn 22:1-2, 9A, 10-13, 15-18/ Ps 116:10, 15,
16-17, 18-19/ Rm 8:31b-34/ Mk 9:2-10

March 3, 2024 - Ex 20:1-17/ Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/
1 Cor 1:22-25/ Jn 2:13-25

March 10, 2024 - 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/ Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-
5, 6/ Eph 2:4-10/ Jn 3:14-21

March 17, 2024 - Jer 31:31-34/ Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15/
Heb 5:7-9/ Jn 12:20-33

March 24, 2024 - Is 50:4-7/ Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-
24/ Phil 2:6-11/ Mk 14:1—15:47

March 31, 2024 - Acts 10:34A, 37-43/ Ps 118:1-2, 16-17,
22-23/ Col 3:1-4/ Jn 20:1-9



**A
WALK
THROUGH
HOLY
WEEK**



COMMUNITY WORD

Christ's passion, death and resurrection fulfills God's great love for His people.

ORDER

"Whoever serves me must follow me..." (Jn 12:26)

PROPHECIES

1. Look to Me with radiant joy and My peace comes to you; rest in my love.
2. I need your mercy for My people, not your sacrifice to please Me.
3. Let your compassion for others manifest your love for Me.

DIRECTIONS

1. During the season of Lent:
 - Devote time for reflection and meditation on God's word and live it.
 - Go to confession and receive Holy Communion regularly.
 - Persevere in prayer and visit the Blessed Sacrament.
2. Strengthen your intimacy with God by loving, caring, helping and giving alms to the needy.
3. Make a simple act of kindness to make a difference in the life of a sister or a brother.
4. Imitate Christ by denying yourself, taking up your cross and following His ways.

**For God so loved
the world that
He gave his only
Son**

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February 14, 2024



**Valentine's
Day!**
**Ash
Wednesday**



***"A clean heart
create for me, God;
renew within me a
steadfast spirit."
(Psalm 51:12)***

LENT: ● Pray ● Fast ● Give ●

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PRAYERS

Prayer for 2024, The Year of Prayer

Loving Father, send us your Spirit as we embark on our pilgrimage of prayer this year.

Bless us that we may “rediscover the centrality of prayer . . . prayer with simplicity and in accordance with Christ’s heart . . . with the joy and commitment of being men and women of prayer. Prayer that comes from the heart.” (from Pope Francis)

May we be blessed with the grace of deepening our personal prayer life that we may get to know your Son more intimately.

May we be blessed with the inspiration to participate in communal prayer, most especially in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, that we may deepen our union of minds and hearts as a community.

May we be blessed with the opportunity for silence and reflection that we may become more discerning and learn to find you in all things and in our experiences in the day to day.

May we be blessed with a renewed love for your Word in Sacred scripture that we may integrate in our lives the values and message of your Good News.

May we be blessed with the fruits of prayer, to love and serve you and others, to be contemplatives in action. May this year be a Season of Grace to prepare our mind, heart, and spirit for the coming Jubilee Year of Hope.

Amen.

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The Emergence Prayer

Community Prayer for the Selection of Leaders

Heavenly Father, as members of the BLD Community, we gather in prayer as we are united in our mission to serve and glorify You. You are the source of love, unity, and wisdom. We humbly come before You to seek Your divine guidance in the selection of the new leaders for our Global Community. May your Holy Spirit guide us in choosing our leaders in accordance with your Holy Will.

We lift our minds and hearts in prayer for...

The Nominators, that they all participate in the emergence process to choose the next leaders with much prayer and spirit-filled discernment, and not by popularity.

The Nominees, that they willingly embrace the call to serve and accept the outcome of the discernment process with open hearts, recognizing it as Your divine calling and anointing.

The Emergence Overseers and incumbent leaders, that they have the dedication, fairness and patience to facilitate an orderly nomination process.

The Appointing Authority, our Community Spiritual Director and the Council of Servant Leaders, that they be inspired by Your divine wisdom as they discern the next leaders of our community.

We pledge to know Your will through prayer, sacrifices, and the guidance of Your word. May Your peace, love, truth and joy be upon us in Bukás Loób sa Diyós as we go through this emergence process. Together we claim Your presence in the Emergence process, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Mother Mary, Seat of Wisdom, pray for us. Amen.

UPDATE: Link to The BLD Emergence Process Video - <https://youtu.be/11wDMdD6TFk?si=IK8eo6W1XULc76EK>

NEWS #1

BLD members get reminded of Home

About Homecoming... The Community's 2024 Lenten Retreat

About 100 members of BLD Newark gathered at St. Anne's in Garwood, NJ on March 2, Saturday, for the Community's 2024 Lenten Retreat. In attendance were many who have been active all along as well as brethren whom we've missed seeing at BLD in recent years. Fr. Jim Worth, Pastor of St. Joseph's in Maplewood, NJ served as the event's Spiritual Director. And just as he did when he served as director during last fall's Life-in-the-Spirit-Seminar, Fr. Jim left everyone with a treasure trove of spiritual insights and takeaways, particularly regarding our relationships with our God and with each other. The Parable of the Prodigal Son, which was the Gospel Reading for last Saturday, perfectly set things up for the gist of Fr. Jim's two talks that afternoon in which he expounded on the Father's love from the perspective of our coming Home.



He began by re-telling the story, but enhanced it with comments and insights that added depth and intimacy to our comprehension of the parable. Citing that sometimes we need a little drama in order for us to wake up, he pointed out the audacity of the prodigal son when he demanded his share of the family's wealth from the father. In our thoughts and prayers, Fr. Jim wondered out loud, do we do the same when we ask for things of our God?

In the parable, the father simply gave the younger son his share without hesitation. But to this, Fr. Jim added that the father must have done so because he hoped that his son would go boldly into the world to fully experience a wonderful life. Alas, however, the son squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation, until he was left with despair and just two choices – to somehow, sneak back into his father's estate or to do the right thing.

And, as we all know by now, he did the right thing.

More than that however, Fr. Jim emphasized that even before the son came back, the father had already forgiven him. The lavishness of the father's forgiveness was evident when he ordered a feast be celebrated for the son's homecoming. He pointed out how the son was treated like royalty when the father instructed that a ring (probably with all of its symbolism about the family's wealth and ancestry) be placed on the son's finger.

Fr. Jim then turned his focus to our own coming home to the Father. “Worship is our home,” he declared. “Without worship, we are homeless.” We go home whenever we put God first. Our prayer life increases when we do that, and it diminishes when other things take first priority. When we feel spiritually dry, it’s time to go back to worship. While we are still likely to make mistakes, it’s our worship that will lead us home, where the Father painfully waits for us.

The afternoon also included table discussions where members responded to some questions that echoed those that were originally posed in the BLD Global initiative of Leading Like Jesus:

- What is Jesus calling me to do that I have been resisting or finding reasons not to fulfill?
- What have I realized about my life purpose and values and how can I glorify God with them?
- What will I do now that I have realized my calling or vocation, which I believe are what Jesus wants me to do?



After the discussions, Fr. Jim returned the focus to home... first by stating that coming home is not the end but is just the beginning. Then asking: What are you going to do when you get home? And: How do we maintain the homecoming feeling?

He then suggested that when we feel stuck, we shouldn’t just go on auto-pilot, but that we should find different ways, and even different places, to pray; maybe search for new and creative ways to connect with God. Instead of using a worldly checklist and calendar to get through our days, we should make an appointment with God where our spiritual list includes appreciating the present moment. As for what to do, he said, get involved and stay connected. And always, pray... for prayer is both “a privilege and a grace.”



In his concluding remarks, Father solidified the picture of home that he had been trying to paint all afternoon. He described it as a place where everything we want is right in front of us. Home is what keeps us connected. We can all appreciate the peace that can be found in “coming home.” We find it when we are with our families, our friends, and our community. And we are truly blessed when we find our home in God. Coming home to God in this life gives us a foretaste of Heaven. Thanks to BLD, there are people around us who are helping us come home to God, to worship, to Heaven.

Speaking of heaven, one of the lasting images to emerge from the afternoon was of a BLD member being shown by God the roomful of other people who found their way to heaven because of that member. This touched many of us there, with the unanimous conclusion that that is what we’re tasked to do in BLD. So that someday, Father God will point out to us also, the crowds of countless others who will be up there too because of us and our example... all of us up there in our collective home in Heaven.



NEWS #2

BLD DISCIPLES' ASSEMBLY

The Disciples' Assembly, on Saturday, March 23rd, started with a spirit-filled mini-worship led by the District Committee of Emergence Overseers (DCEO), the team that is managing the emergence process. Its members are Macrina (Jemma) Reyes (Chairwoman), ME#18, Roald Almero, ME#54, Craig Carey, ME#53, Denise Miguel, ME#45 and Corazon Veloso, SPE#22. Despite the inclement weather, with God's grace, around 75 disciples of our beloved Bukas-Loob sa Diyos (BLD) Community safely made it to the Assembly at St. Anne's Church in Garwood, New Jersey to gather and discuss two important matters:

1. The Emergence Process, scheduled on April 6, Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
2. The Ongoing Search for a Suitable Home for BLD Newark



Agenda 1: EMERGENCE PROCESS

Jemma, on behalf of the DCEO, presented a detailed explanation of the emergence process - how it works and the schedule of activities on April 6. She started by asking a question: "Who has the **"HOTS"** for Jesus?" She requested the audience to raise their hands, and almost everybody did. She, then, explained that **"HOTS"** stood for **H**umility, **O**bedience, **T**rust, and a **S**ubmissive heart. Those who raised their hands were each given a red heart sticker to be attached on the left side of their chests to remind them that they love Jesus and that they have the **"HOTS"** for Jesus. They also gave away St. Michael necklaces for the cancer survivors, and anybody who would like one.

Jemma proceeded to explain that the Emergence Process involves selection process, waiting on the Lord's invitation, submission to God's Will, and a call to higher responsibility. It is NOT an election exercise, a popularity contest, for seeking or aspiring for position, nor for achievement of ambition. The Emergence Process is a toil for the appointing authority to discern the selection of leaders, a process of short-listing qualified nominees, and a participation of the covenanted members in the selection of community leaders. While they were not able to present a planned 20-minute BLD Emergence Process Video from Raul and Marie Garcia, ECSL from Manila, due to technical difficulty, the video link (<https://youtu.be/11wDMdD6TFk?si=IK8eo6W1XULc76EK>) was later distributed via email.

For those who are not familiar with the Emergence Process or were not able to attend the assembly, the following is a detailed overview of various criteria, qualifications, roles and responsibilities, and activities surrounding the emergence process. This will shed some light into the many things involved in the process.

Emergence Overseers Criteria

1. On Honesty - Honest and reliable in adhering to the process of emergence; a critical role in the success of emergence and ensuring its integrity

2. On Confidentiality - Observe absolute confidentiality of results; no information disclosed even after appointments are made
3. On Accountability - Accountable for documentation of the entire process, results readily verified if need arises; independent and impartial, and not compromising process; and working knowledge of computer applications

The Community Committee of Emergence Overseers (CCEO) supervises the management of the emergence, ensures that the implementing policies and guidelines are followed, coordinates with the District Committee of Emergence Overseers (DCEO) and gives instructions needed for compliance of emergence procedures.

The District Committee of Emergence Overseers (DCEO) oversees and supervises the management of the emergence on the district level and ensures that the implementing policies and guidelines are followed, including the specific instructions issued by the CCEO to the DCEO. The DCEO reports and coordinates with the CCEO, who communicates directly with the respective DCEOs on all matters relating to the emergence.

A question about “How do Nominees and Nominators prepare for the Nomination Day” was posed.

1. On the District Level, covenanted members (Nominators) prayerfully discern and nominate their leaders (Nominees).
2. On the Global Level, the Community Spiritual Director (CSD), prayerfully, discerns and selects Council of Servant Leaders (CSL) and Cluster Shepherds (CS). CSL, prayerfully, discerns and selects the DCS.
3. The Discerning Body does not rely, solely, on the quantitative result of nomination, but evaluates other considerations that may have bearing on the nominee.

Who are the Qualified Nominators?

1. Active covenanted members with 50% attendance in Community Worship/Eucharistic Celebration/Word Sharing Circle (WSC).
2. Newly covenanted members, who are active prior to the Emergence date. Exemptions are subject to CSL approval.

What leadership positions are to be emerged?

1. Council of Servant Leaders (CSL)
2. Cluster Shepherds (CS)
3. District Council of Stewards (DCS) – Pastoral, Evangelization, Formation, Mission, Management

Qualifications of CSL and CS Nominees:

1. Qualified Nominators per Official Nominator’s List
2. Continuously active as covenanted members for at least five (5) years preceding the emergence cut-off period
3. 75% attendance in Corporate Worship and 75% in WSC
4. Served or are serving in any two (2) of the following assignments: LSS or Encounter Sharers, Teacher, DLC Member (Ministry Coordinators, Homestead Shepherds, or DIP Shepherds)

Qualifications of DCS Nominees:

1. Qualified Nominators per Official Nominator’s List
2. Continuously active as covenanted members for at least three (3) years preceding the emergence cut-off period
3. 75% attendance in Corporate Worship and 75% in WSC
4. Served or are serving in any one (1) of the following assignments: Worship Leaders, LSS or Encounter Sharers, Teacher, DLC Member (Ministry Coordinators, Homestead Shepherds, or DIP Shepherds)

The Community Spiritual Director (CSD) is the appointing body for the Council of Servant Leaders (CSL) and Cluster Shepherds (CS). The Council of Servant Leaders (CSL) is the appointing body for the District Council of Stewards (DCS).

Who and How to Nominate

1. Nominator discerns from among the listed nominees.
2. For CSL and DCS - select 5 couples indicating Apostolate preference for each; cannot designate nominee to more than one (1) apostolate nor two (2) or more nominees to one apostolate, couple nominees cannot write their own names on the form.
3. For CS - selects 3 couples.
4. Nominees for CS can also be nominees for DCS.

The nominees for CS and DCS who were present that day were prayed over by Cluster Shepherds, Reuben and Cherry Vibar.

The Nomination Day on Saturday, April 6th, from 9 am to 3 pm will begin with a Eucharistic Celebration. Members were reminded to:

- a. PRAY for the Holy Spirit's guidance
- b. REVIEW the Nominees' List
- c. ACCOMPLISH Nomination Form
- d. REVIEW Nominations
- e. SUBMIT Nomination Form



Additional instructions on Nomination Day

1. Nominate ONLY those listed in the Nominees' List and to the positions where their names appear.
2. Cannot nominate self nor spouse. Otherwise, nomination will be INVALIDATED.
3. CAMPAIGNING is NOT ALLOWED

Many other topics were covered and provided detailed explanations at assembly. This includes Nominators Registry, Nomination Form Completion; Absentee Ballot; and Tabulation of Results. For any questions about the Emergence Process, please send an email to the DCEO at dceo2024@bldnewark.com.

Agenda 2: SEARCH FOR A SUITABLE HOME FOR BLD NEWARK

The second agenda of the day was presented by Alan Cam, Mission DCS. He took the floor to discuss the ongoing search for a suitable home for BLD Newark. The DCS provided an overview of the three sites that have been visited as prospective locations for the community.

1. Immaculate Heart of Mary & St. Patrick Catholic Church, 215 Court Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07206
2. St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, 120 Hoboken Road, East Rutherford, NJ 07073
3. Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church, 1219 Paterson Plank Road, Secaucus, NJ 07094

One criterion is the that the church location must be within the Archdiocese of Newark since this is where we have our designation as a "Lay Association of the Faithful".

Community members asked questions and were encouraged to send suggestions for possible sites to consider by sending email to DCS@bldnewark.com.

Let us continue to pray for our families, our members, and our community.

May all have a blessed Easter and a moment of solitude and peace with our Lord, Jesus Christ.

FEATURE

A WALK THROUGH HOLY WEEK, YEAR C

[Click HERE to view](#)

Originally Published in 2022, CN Vol. 28 #10 April 8
Republished on Holy Week 2024

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REFLECTION

The Thirteenth Station: The Descent from the Cross

Joseph of Arimathea, a secret disciple of Jesus, was permitted by Pilate to take the Body of Jesus and prepare it for burial according to Jewish tradition. Jesus was taken down from the Cross and placed on His Mother's lap; she received her Son with utter sorrow and tenderness.

Look at the image of the Pieta: Mother Mary, with Jesus on her lap, tenderly gazing at her beloved Son. Mary endured the terrible pain of witnessing her Son suffer through His Passion and Death. When Mary and Joseph presented the Child Jesus at the Temple, Simeon prophesied that Mary would endure the piercing of a sword. How painful it must have been for Mary to cradle her Son's body on her lap.

This image makes me think of the caregivers, especially those who choose or accept responsibility to care for loved ones, elderly parents, sick relatives or friends, or special children who must rely completely on others to care for them. In every circumstance, no matter how hard it may be, caregivers who, reluctantly or willingly, accept the responsibility to take care of others are gifts to those in need. But the opportunity to take care of others, especially one's parents, is an even greater gift for the caregiver, even as we agonize over our ability to take care of them.



We ask ourselves if we can do it; we experience fear and reluctance; we come up with many reasons why we cannot do it; but through prayer and discernment, deciding to care for a parent or loved one can bring peace to our hearts. Our parents brought us into this world, loved us, and took care of us; isn't it right for us to care for them in their old age, to give back the love they gave to us? Like Mary, we can share our loving gaze with those we love. Let us embrace the gift of serving them while they are still with us here on earth. As caregivers, we get to see and touch the face of Jesus through them, for we are fulfilling the second greatest commandment: to love our neighbors as ourselves, which includes our parents and loved ones.

Lord Jesus, grant us the courage to trust in Your will, to love You above all things, and to love our neighbors as You do. Grant us Your Mother's courage and strength; in her Fiat, she willingly said Yes to bear You in her womb, and courageously held your lifeless Body in her loving embrace. We cannot imagine Mary's pain in witnessing You suffer as You willingly carried the Cross and died to save us. With her intercession, may we care for the sick, the needy, and especially aging parents, as Mary cared for You. Show us how to love our neighbors as ourselves, and as Mary and You love us.

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DEACON'S CORNER

The Seven Petitions of the Lord's Prayer

Originally published March 2022, Lent

The seven petitions of the Lord's Prayer emphasize various attributes of God that help us place our needs and desires in proper perspective. The first three center on God. Only by focusing on our Father in heaven can we find the attitude that puts our own needs in perspective. The next four center on our needs—body, soul, and spirit—and the needs of others.

PETITION	THE LORD'S PRAYER	GOD'S ATTRIBUTE	MEANING
	Our Father in heaven,	Gods' Love	God is a loving Father
1	Hallowed be your name,	God's Holiness	God's name is holy
2	Your kingdom come,	God's Sovereignty	There is no one above God, our King
3	Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.	God's Authority	God's will is perfect
4	Give us today our daily bread;	God's Providence	Our needs are met by our heavenly Father
5	And forgive us our debts (trespasses), as we forgive our debtors (those who trespass against us);	God's Mercy	Forgiveness is our greatest need
6	And do not subject us to the final test,	God's Protection	Trials prove our faith and develop character
7	But deliver us from the evil one.	God's Deliverance	We are more than conquerors through Christ

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COUNSELS

February 18, 2024

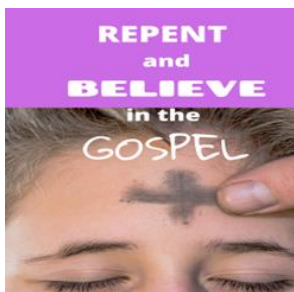
1st Sunday of Lent

Gn 9:8-15 / Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/ 1 Pt 3:18-22/ Mk 1:12-15

NEW! Click [HERE](#) → [Praise and Worship Song Playlist](#)

THEME	ORDER	DIRECTION(S)	PROMISE(S)
We honor God's covenant of love when we repent and believe in the gospel.	<i>"Repent, and believe in the gospel."</i> <i>(Mk1: 15b)</i>	1. Honor our covenant pledges so we can sustain the growth of our community. 2. Do examination of conscience regularly.	<i>"...he shows sinners the way. He guides the humble to justice and teaches the humble his way."</i> <i>(Ps 25:8b-9)</i>

Way of Love and Truth



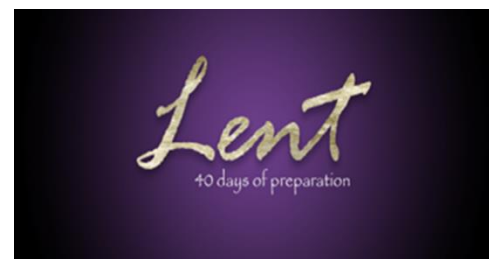
"Repent, and believe in the gospel." (Mark 1:15) This is the message of the scripture readings for the First Sunday of Lent - the holy season that starts on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter.

Lent is essentially an act of prayer, fasting and almsgiving spread out over 40 days and nights that we hope will bring us closer to Christ and leave us changed after a closer encounter with Him.

In the Bible, the number 40 is often associated with periods of testing, trial or preparation. In the first reading, Noah and his family were in the ark for 40 days and nights during the Great Flood, after which, God made His covenant to him that never again would He bring flood to destroy all life on earth. God sealed His promise to Noah with a rainbow that appeared in the clouds after the rain.

The Noachic Covenant is the first explicit covenant God made directly with man. Noah and his descendants were instructed to be fertile and multiply and to follow God's commands. Later, God made another covenant with Abraham, and then, another with Moses, when He presented the Ten Commandments. Similarly, Mark's Gospel speaks of how Jesus, after His baptism by John the Baptist, was driven into the desert by the Holy Spirit, so that He could prepare for His great mission by praying and fasting. He stayed there for 40 days and nights and was tempted by Satan. After having rejected the temptations of Satan, Jesus returned to Galilee to begin His public ministry.

God's saving of Noah and his family from the Great Flood by commanding him to construct the ark, does not only prefigure our baptism of water, but more so, the coming of Christ to save mankind by dying on the cross for



our sins. Jesus is the true and final Ark of Deliverance. He embodies the New and Everlasting Covenant of Grace promised by God, where Jesus mediates the relationship between God and humans and other living creatures. However, while the Noahic Covenant is unconditional (the Great Flood would not happen again to destroy creation), our salvation in the New Covenant is dependent on our being repentant of our sins and believing in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. This is what Lent is all about, as we pray and fast and practice self-control. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil and began a new life in Christ.

We are God's creation; and when we repent of our sins and believe in the gospel of Christ, we honor God's Covenant of Salvation in Jesus, whose coming down to earth signaled that the Kingdom of God is at hand. And this is the overarching theme of Lent.

We should all be honored and humbled that God always fulfills His covenant promises and seals them. In the case of the Noahic Covenant, He sealed His promise with the appearance of a rainbow. In the case of the Covenant of Salvation in Jesus, he sent the Holy Spirit, so that we have an in-dwelling God, whose temple is our heart.

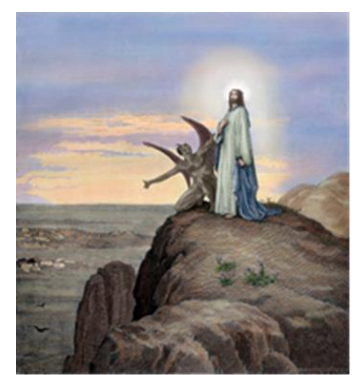
While God is faithful in fulfilling His covenant with us; what about us? Are we faithful in fulfilling our own covenant with the Lord?

As disciples in the BLD Community, we try our best to keep our 5-point or 8-point covenant pledges that we signed with God, but we know that it is not easy. We find that life in community is laden with jealousy, selfishness, and unforgiveness. And the inherent attachments to our earthly desires create problems for us. Yes, we are in the world, but we should not be of the world. Otherwise, the evil one will find easy prey in us to commit sin.

And it is this weakness and acute awareness of our wretched human nature that draws us to this community, because it is here that we can best live God's commandments. We seek the Lord in humility that we may bathe in His living waters and be healed. We look to Jesus' life, that we may imitate Him, who is pleasing and perfect in the eyes of our Father.

As the Body of Christ, we look to each other in community for support through intercessory prayers, teachings, and pastoral care. We endeavor to shepherd each other as the Good Shepherd has shown us. We teach each other, not so much through words, but through actions.

In the Gospel of Mark, we see that although Jesus is True God, He is also True Man. In His human form, Jesus demonstrated how He was subject to Satan's temptations and how He overcame them and remained sinless. He, also, showed us that because He went through the same experience of being tested, He can very well identify with us, when we call on Him for help. Like Jesus, who stayed in the desert to pray and fast, this Lent is the best time for us to look for a quiet place, away from distractions to reflect on our life in solitude and confront the "negative spirits" that dwell within us. These are the things that give us divided hearts and stand in the way of God's love. Perhaps we are grieving the loss of someone we love. We need time to confront the pains and the sufferings from such a loss and offer them at the foot of Jesus' cross.



Repentance, forgiveness, and faith in God are central to this season of Lent. To proclaim the Gospel from our hearts, we must turn from our sinful ways, forgive others, as we ask forgiveness from them, and express our faith by saying "yes" to God's will for us.

None of these is easy to do, which is why repenting, believing and proclaiming the Gospel is a lifelong mission. This is why we need Lent: to make sure that our journey is headed towards the right direction; that we follow God's ways when we heed His call for true repentance.

It is only when we remain humble and obedient to God's Will, when we fulfill our part in the covenant of salvation through His Son Jesus, that God will guide us to justice, to His **"way of love and truth"**. (Ps 25:8b-9)

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COUNSELS

February 25, 2024

2nd Sunday of Lent

Gn 22:1-2, 9A, 10-13, 15-18/ Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19/ Rm 8:31b-34/ Mk 9:2-10

NEW! Click [HERE](#) → Praise and Worship Song Playlist

THEME	ORDER	DIRECTION(S)	PROMISE(S)
We honor God's covenant of love as we faithfully obey Him to transform our heart and mind.	<i>"This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him."</i> <i>(Mark 9:7)</i>	1. Listen to the Lord in prayer and scripture. 2. Put others before yourself.	<i>"I will bless you abundantly...because you obeyed my command."</i> <i>(Gn 22:17a, 18b)</i>

Metamorphosing Through the Lord

The theme for the second week of Lent affirms that we honor God's covenant of love when we faithfully obey Him to transform our heart and mind. As we go into the season of Lent, we offer our sacrifices - fasting, almsgiving and prayer- with the hope that, by accepting our daily crosses, we may grow closer to our Lord Jesus. By sharing in His suffering endured for the sake of our salvation, we are sharing His death on the cross so that we may finally share in the glory of His resurrection.



We hear about Abraham's faith in the first reading, and we wonder if anybody in his right mind could actually even think of giving up his most beloved son to be sacrificed. But Abraham did. He followed perfectly all the steps given by God as he was told, even though, at the start of the 3-day journey to the mountain, his heart grieved because he had given up his son for dead. God did intervene, sparing Isaac's life, and providing a ram in his place to be offered up for the holocaust - a burnt sacrifice. Abraham named the site Yahweh-yireh "On the mountain the Lord will see" and "Yahweh-jireh" which means "God will provide."

This place is known today as "jireh-shalom (Jerusalem). The Lord's messenger said to him: ***"I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son"*** (Gn 22:12). He had obeyed perfectly in fear of God, in reverential awe giving up control over his own life to God.

Later, the angel of the Lord delivered God's promise, ***"I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore"*** (Gn 22:17). God completed the 3 covenants He made with him. The first 2 are promises of land (nation)

fulfilled in Moses, then of name (king and Royal dynasty) fulfilled in David and lastly this worldwide blessing which was fulfilled in Jesus.

The reading from Psalm 116 gives us a glimpse of the faithfulness of Israel to God when it cries out: ***"I believed even when... I am greatly afflicted."*** Then ***"To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving and I will call upon the name of the Lord"*** and ***"My vows I will pay... in the courts of the house of the Lord in...Jerusalem."***

In the Second Reading St. Paul tells us about God's faithfulness to us when He offered up His own Beloved Son for our salvation. Just like Abraham, God ***"did not spare His own Son but handed Him over for us all"*** (Rm 8:32). Jesus died for us on the cross, at the hands of mortals.



The Gospel tells the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus Christ before the very eyes of Peter, James and John, His inner circle among His disciples. Jesus ***"was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white"*** (Mk 9:2-3). They were given a privileged glimpse of Jesus's Glorified body - this was a foretelling of their future encounters with this same Glorified body after His resurrection.

Also, they witnessed Jesus' conversing with Moses and Elijah. In their minds, the time of the Promised Messiah's coming was happening that very moment because the Law (Moses) and the Prophet (Elijah) were both in the same place as Jesus. These were the two great pillars of Israel's tradition, whose authority was coming from the same God. But the disciples' minds could not comprehend this awesome wonder, they were terrified. Realizing that something all-good was happening but unable to comprehend it, Peter said some foolish thing about three tents. But then the cloud came - the biggest shelter we can imagine, bigger than all the tents together. When the cloud came, the Holy Spirit, the power of the Most High, overshadowed everyone. God's voice could be heard saying: ***"This is my Beloved Son"*** driving home the point with words heard earlier by John the Baptist at Jesus's baptism - an earlier affirmation of Jesus's status, (Matt. 3:17). God continued: ***"Listen to Him."*** revealing that Jesus is the fulfillment of both Law and Prophets and from now on Israel is to listen to Jesus and Him Alone. He is revealed not only as God but also as the Messiah in the form of a King just as it was prophesied through the ages.

It has been said: "It's wonderful to find inspiration in a shining vision of Jesus, but the message to the church then and now is that witnessing glory is one thing, following is another. After the vision is over, you look up and see, as the apostles did, 'Jesus only,' and you realize that, to get to the further glory of eternal life, you have to follow him to the cross." - (USCatholic.org)

The Greek word used in the Gospel is metamorphosis. "Meta" means beyond. "Morphe" means form. Jesus, the carpenter from Nazareth, has been transformed beyond His human form into Someone so much more. His deepest identity, His deity, for He is God and has now been revealed with great clarity and overwhelming luminosity.

The Glorified Christ reminds us of His saving power over us. We have to constantly claim our belief in Him as our personal God and Savior and profess that the only way back to the Father is through our Lord Jesus Christ. Our fallen nature has always lured us into the ways of the world and the flesh, but only when we ourselves become transformed by repenting, confessing, and washing ourselves clean of the dark stains of sin and evil can we truly be ready to be Christ's vessel of change and transformation. Change is never easy. Change always has to start with you and me.

In our lives we should focus not so much on giving up something for Lent but on giving more of ourselves. We can give up food when we are fasting, but we need to give more of our time, talent, and treasure in the service of the poor and our neighbors who are in need. We should partake of the Sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist and especially during Lent, and appreciate that this is the most visible Transfiguration available to us every day. The bread and the wine, by the power of the

Holy Spirit, is transformed into Someone and becomes Jesus's Real Presence. With Christ's sacrificial death for us in mind, and having seen a glimpse of His glory in the future, we can be steadfast in our faith. Like Abraham, who never gave the Lord any ifs or buts, we must be willing to give up a piece of ourselves so we can enter by the narrow gate into the Lord's Kingdom.

PRAYER: Blessed Are You, O God. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for willingly carrying the wood of the Perfect Sacrifice up the steep hill. You are the One Whom God has provided, the Perfect Offering for the atonement of our sins. You have drawn us into Your inner circle and like Peter, James, and John, we have been given an awesome glimpse of the Transfiguring Love that can only come from You. You gave us new life - fresh, clear, and super luminous in fulfillment of all God's covenant promises. I lift up our sacrifice of praise and thanks to You for all You have done and for Who You Are. You have always been good; You have always been faithful to me. In Your Name Jesus this I pray. Amen.

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COUNSELS

March 3, 2024

3rd Sunday of Lent

Ex 20:1-17/ Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/ 1 Cor 1:22-25/ Jn 2:13-25

THEME	ORDER	DIRECTION(S)	PROMISE(S)
We embrace Christ's work of redemption by keeping God's commandment.	<i>"Love me and keep my commandments."</i> <i>(Exodus 20:6)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Devote time for reflection and meditation on God's word and live it. 2. Go to confession and receive Holy Communion regularly. 3. Persevere in prayer and visit the Blessed Sacrament. 4. Strengthen your intimacy with God by loving, caring, helping and giving alms to the needy. 5. Make a simple act of kindness to make a difference in the life of a sister or a brother. 	<i>"The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul...giving wisdom to the simple."</i> <i>(Psalm 19:8)</i>

“...everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life”

This reflection can be found in the official Facebook Account of the Bukas Loob Sa Diyos Catholic Charismatic Covenant Community – Global - <https://www.facebook.com/BldWorldCovenantCommunity>

What does it mean to believe in Jesus Christ and what is His truth? Faith in Christ means believing that He is a living example of the way of life that pleases God, and that the goal of true Christians is to grow into His likeness (cf. Eph 4:11-16). Christ Himself is the Truth. He said, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me,”** (Jn 14:6). Our attitude towards truth determines the outcome of our lives. If we don’t love truth and resist it, we resist salvation. But if we do love truth we embrace salvation and we receive the reward: the crown of life. Jesus is the Word of God who became flesh who dwells among us (Jn 1:14). God’s word is true, so truth is the life of Jesus which is to be manifested in us (cf. 2 Cor 4:10). Truth is the light that shines into our lives and reveals what we are really like by nature. It reveals the way that we must walk on in order to be transformed into the image of Christ (cf. Rom 8:29).

The first step towards the truth of Christ is when we acknowledge that we are sinners in need of forgiveness, atonement, and justification. As the light of Jesus shines into our life we are caused to repent of our sins. Then He shows us that even though we are forgiven, because of our sinful nature, we need to acknowledge that we are powerless to overcome sinful temptations. As we humbly acknowledge our helplessness, the Holy Spirit may come to fill us, enlighten us, lead us, and give us the strength and power to keep all that God commands us. We are enabled to give up our own will and do God’s will instead. In other words, we can overcome sin when we submit to the power of Jesus by His Spirit – **“And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life,”** (1 Jn 5:20).

There is no greater blessing than to constantly walk in the truth. It is a process with the help of the Holy Spirit where we constantly develop and progress in our sanctification and transformation into the image of Christ. As we walk in the path of holiness, we will be set free from sin, from its power and consequences (cf. Jn 8:32). The Spirit of Truth will guide us in this process. The more willing and obedient we are and quick to acknowledge the truth, the quicker our progress will be. Loving the truth transforms us in Christ – **“All of us, gazing with unveiled face on the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, as from the Lord who is the Spirit,”** (2 Cor 3:18). When we judge ourselves and put to death whatever the deceptions we may have about ourselves, by faith, we are transformed into the image of the glory of Jesus Christ.

Believing in Jesus and in His truth leads us to spiritual transformation. As the promise this week says, **“...everyone who believes in him may have eternal life,”** (Jn 3:15).

There is this man who graduated from a premier Catholic school, yet he considered himself an atheist and did not live up to his marriage vows. A friend was able to convince him to attend a Marriage Encounter and Life in the Spirit Seminar that led to his conversion and transformation. He accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior. The couple has now dedicated themselves as “workers in the vineyard” serving in the community as ministry coordinators. To the newfound life of believing in Jesus and living in His truth, it is no longer he who lives, but Christ who lives in him. There is peace in his life, founded on strength, and this peace is but a shadow of peace to come in the eternal life which Christ promises.

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COUNSELS

March 10, 2024

4th Sunday of Lent

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/ Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6/ Eph 2:4-10/ Jn 3:14-21

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THEME	ORDER	DIRECTION(S)	PROMISE(S)
We embrace Christ's work of redemption by believing in Him and living His truth.	<i>"For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works...live in them." (Ephesians 2:10)</i>	1. Imitate Christ by denying yourself, taking up your cross and following His ways.	<i>"...everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." (Jn 3:15)</i>

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned

In the heart of every Christian believer lies a profound call to believe in God and live the truth. That means, we need to live the life of Christ, Who is undeniably the Truth Himself. It means to be holy as the Father is holy, to be Christ to others, to be men and women for others. It means to repent, to be remorseful over past wrong doings and to change our ways. It means to believe that by the grace of Christ, we have been redeemed.



Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned, is the prayer of repentance in *Ps 51:3a*. Many Christians have different ways of asking for forgiveness of sins. For us, we avail ourselves of our Sacrament of Reconciliation by going to confession regularly. Often the season of Lent is a time when "a man looks squarely at the sins he is guilty of, takes responsibility for them, and thereby opens himself again to God and to the communion of the Church in order to

make a new future possible" (CCC 1455).

We beg for complete absolution when we go to confession. The Sacrament transforms us into a completely new person, re-connected to God. It must be done with complete surrender to His Divine mercy. **"God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ...by grace"** (Ephesians 2:4-5).

By grace you and I have been saved. Graciously our Lord God gives us the hope that everything He touches is renewed. Everything we did that did not praise Him, He forgives and forgets. Our hearts should bring us to make amends and if possible, rectify the harm we may have caused. And most importantly, we ought to change our ways and avoid our past mistakes, striving to live more righteous lives, all in the Name of Jesus, our Lord, Savior and Redeemer.

The theme for this week is, "we embrace Christ's work of redemption by believing in Him and living His truth." Our Lord is ever faithful to us, trusting, always prepared and gracious in giving us His compassion and mercy. By looking up to Him on the Cross we are reminded that He died a most painful death to redeem us from our sins. A huge ransom was paid for our wrongdoings.

As a community united in the Spirit, let us look up to Him on His Cross that saved us and transformed our being into His likeness. Let us live His truth and show that we are truly His disciples by the love we bear for one another, as mentioned in our BLD Unity Prayer... we pray Jesus for the same unity of heart and mind, that in You, we too, may be one with the Father.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

In one of our Medical Missions, I think in Bohol, every public commuter vehicle had a scripture verse written on it for everyone to read and take to heart. The main message of that quote from St. John’s Gospel (*John 3:16*) embodies the everlasting love of God. It promises that, if **we believe in Him, we have eternal life.**

Let us take it to heart and turn it into action, glorifying the Lord, Who loves us so much that He gave His life to redeem us.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, forgive my sins and help me to remain faithful and to be worthy of Your eternal life. Give me strength to bear my sufferings and respond by believing in You and living Your Truth. I shall hold on to You alone, for You are HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON GIVEN TO THE WORLD BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE FOR US. In Your Name, Jesus. Amen.

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COUNSELS

March 17, 2024

5th Sunday of Lent

Jer 31:31-34/ Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15/ Heb 5:7-9/ Jn 12:20-33

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THEME	ORDER	DIRECTION(S)	PROMISE(S)
We embrace Christ’s work of redemption when we follow Him and serve His people.	<i>“Whoever serves me must follow me.”</i> <i>(John 12:26)</i>	1. Glorify God by serving Him, His people and His community.	<i>“When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.”</i> <i>(Jn 12:32)</i>

JESUS, THE SERVANT KING

As we inch closer to Holy Week, this Sunday’s readings set before us the inspiring example of the perfect obedience of Christ and what it means to us disciples who are struggling to follow Christ. We cannot imagine that Jesus felt good about how His own family doubted Him, and that His friends betrayed Him. Even so, Jesus remained faithful to His covenant. He knew that caring for others and putting the love of God and neighbor ahead of His own desires would cause a rebirth of God’s people.

This very thought should put us all to shame, for what repayment does the very best of us make for the incredible love Jesus has shown us? We grumble and complain when some small cross is laid on our shoulders. We complain if life is not running smoothly for us; we cannot understand why God should let certain things happen to us, His disciples! But see for a moment what Jesus did when the Son of God was on earth. Born and reared in poverty, insulted, and offended by those He wanted to teach; quickly forgotten by those who benefited by His miracles, hounded by His enemies, and betrayed by one who had been His disciple for over two years and who had sat at the table with Him that same night, deserted in His moment of trial by the very ones who had sworn undying allegiance to Him. Then followed the torments wished on Him by His enemies – those He had come to save: the mock trial and condemnation, His scourging at the pillar, the crowning with thorns, the carrying of the cross and finally the three hours of intense torture and agony while His body hung on the cross. The next time we are tempted to grumble and complain, try to compare our willingness to suffer those crosses with the crushing cross and passion our Savior Jesus Christ gladly accepted for us and not for His own sake.

Jesus said, ***“Whoever serves me must follow me”*** (John 12:26). He exhorts us to make sacrifices in heeding His call to service. This is true for those who join the medical mission, make nursing home visits, and serve in soup kitchens, for those who teach in parish-based CCD classes, or extend a helping hand to a needy neighbor. Still, there are some of us who avoid accepting tasks that involve any form of sacrifice. Our motto seems to be: “As long as I’m living, I want to enjoy life.” Not that it is wrong. But some people exploit things for their own personal benefit. Enjoying life is subjective. For some it may mean acquiring riches, the comforts of luxury, and prestige. For others it means good health, respect, close family ties, peace in the family, serving others and, above all, a close relationship with God.

Even when there is a desire to offer our services to others in need, the initiative still remains ours. Human as we are, and because of the gift of free will which man was endowed with, we decide what to do and how to do it. We control the level and intensity of our servanthood. But even our sacrifice or servanthood could be manipulated. We decline a call for LSS shepherding, to serve in a ministry, or refuse a community assignment or a leadership position because the role and responsibilities are not to our liking. I pray that these are only conjectures. But are we really servants, when we choose when, where and how long we will give our time, talents, and energy?

This Sunday’s Scripture readings exhort us to imitate Jesus. We are told that to be a disciple of Christ, we have to follow in His footsteps, and this means walking along the path of pain, suffering and humiliation. Jesus our God revealed Himself in servanthood. He gave up a privileged position, a position of majesty and power. Yet, He experienced the most despicable and horrifying form of death, death on the cross. Not only did He know human uncertainties and fears, but He also experienced the agony, pain, and total degradation of the bloody torture and death of a convicted criminal.

In the story of Christ’s Passion, death, and resurrection, we see the price of ultimate servanthood, the price of becoming a slave. We sense how close God wants us to be with those who suffer. To follow in Jesus’ footsteps is to be willing to die to self and have a conscious desire to walk His way.

May we be strengthened to share our stories of dying and rising with one another, for through all our daily dying and rising, Christ leads us to the Almighty Father. May our sufferings open our eyes of faith so that we can see more clearly. And by our serving others thru BLD, may we, as His disciples and as a community, be able to share in Christ’s work of redemption.

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COUNSELS

March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, Year B

Is 50:4-7/ Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24/ Phil 2:6-11/ Mk 14:1—15:47

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THEME	ORDER	DIRECTION(S)	PROMISE(S)
We embrace Christ's work of redemption when we share in His suffering.	<i>"Remain here and keep watch."</i> <i>(Mark 14:34)</i>	1. Leave your old self and follow Christ, meet Him at "The Eucharist" 2. Take and eat, "The Bread of Life" and be transformed by what you eat 3. Serve Him with all your heart as Christ gave it all. Trust in Him, especially during your trials for His Covenant is forever.	<i>"The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced...I shall not be put to shame."</i> <i>(Is 50:7)</i>

"Redemptive Suffering"

"My God, my God, why have you abandoned me" (Mt 27:46)

The **Palm Sunday** readings highlight the *volatility* of life, from praising to denouncing, from **"Hail to The King"** to **"Crucify Him,"** and from Life to Death. In an instant, the joy turned into sorrow, and friendship to bitter enemies.



Today we see *humanity* at its worst, where *free will* can easily be swayed by fear, emotions, and corrupted perceptions, leading to poor judgments, when we lose focus on the *absolute truth* which is the **Word of God**, where **Love** is the *absolute truth* because

"God is Love."

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (Jn 1:1)

The Incarnation is the Word of God made flesh, where the Love of God became *tangible*. Jesus is the Face of God, as God's Love is the Life of Christ; His Passion, Death, and Resurrection animated; His *agape love* for us - *to will the good of the other*, His ultimate, and unconditional Love.

***“For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him might not perish
but might have eternal life”***

(Jn 3:16)

Jesus is the *eternal love* of the Father for us, God’s Word (Logos) sent through His only Begotten Son to show us the *Way* to love.

Christ, the Son of God, willed to humble Himself, to be *fully human* except for sin, and dwell with us, to show us a relationship founded on *unconditional LOVE*.

Jesus, the Son of Mary showed us how to *live*, and how to *suffer*. He showed us the JOY of giving one's life for the sake of the other. Jesus gave His life to conquer the power of death, so we may *live forever*.



*Jesus took the bread, said the blessing,
broke it, and gave it to them, saying,
“This is my body, which will be given for you”
And likewise, after they had eaten
He took the cup, again said the blessing, saying,
“This is the cup of my blood,
The blood of the new covenant,
which will be shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of SINS”*

(paraphrased Lk 22:19-20)

Christ, on the night before He suffered, gave us the Eucharist, His very own Body, Blood, and Divinity, for us to receive. This Memorial is God’s ETERNAL GIFT, a timeless sacrifice that TRANSCENDS ALL TIME given for our salvation. It is an ETERNAL OFFERING that is *Re-Presented* at every Mass so we may be transformed into *His likeness* as we participate in His Paschal Mystery.

Christ is the *Primordial Sacrament of God* and He is inviting you and me to leave our old selves and be part of His *Everlasting Covenant*.

CCC 1116 teaches us that sacraments give us the *grace* that comes forth from the Body of Christ.

Through the sacraments, the transforming power of God’s grace is communicated: He cleanses our imperfections, and *dwells* in us. He *feeds our souls* so we may continue the mission of Salvation as we serve each other in this community. He gives us the grace to strengthen our weakened body during this journey, especially during our trials. We will find *our strength* when we *put our trust in Him* and resign everything to God’s will. Through our sufferings, as we embrace our crosses, we allow ourselves to join *in the Salvific Nature of Christ's Incarnation* and be part of *His redemptive mission*.

Today, we see the *paradox* of love and betrayal, the victory won in death. Jesus made a triumphant entry to Jerusalem, was hailed as *King*, was greeted with shouts of “*Hosanna in the highest.*” The crowds adored Him and cheered for Him as the Redeemer who would free Israel

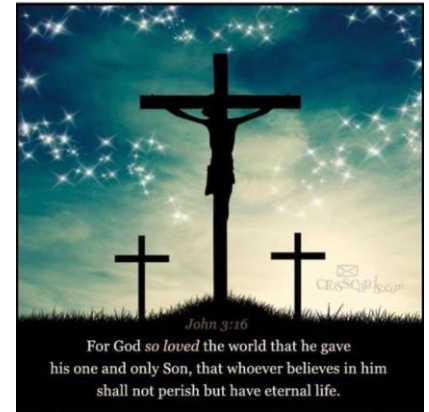
from the oppression of the Roman Empire; and 5 days later, they chanted “*Crucify Him.*” Many have seen Christ's death as a defeat, but those who believed saw victory through the eyes of FAITH. On that CROSS, they did not see DEATH or HUMILIATION, instead they saw the SAVING POWER of LOVE that gives LIFE, fully revealed at Christ's Resurrection.

JESUS took upon Himself the sin of the world so that we may be saved. He DIED, so we may LIVE. It is from the Body of Christ, that comes forth “*Blood and Water*” the fountain of God’s Grace and Mercy - the very source of the Holy Spirit, at work in us, fulfilling the promise of the New and Eternal Covenant.

In *Mathew 28:20* it says, “*And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.*”

Stay awake and be vigilant especially when serving Him, for “Through Him, with Him, and in Him” we will never be alone; we shall never be disgraced, nor be put to shame, but shall live with Him, as we continue to serve God by serving His people now and forever. Amen.

The biggest decision you'll make in life... believe in Him.



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COUNSELS

March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34A, 37-43/ Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/ Col 3:1-4/ Jn 20:1-9

THEME	ORDER	DIRECTION(S)	PROMISE(S)
We embrace Christ's work of redemption when we testify to His resurrection.	<i>“...bear witness that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”</i> <i>(Acts 10:43)</i>	1. Share the Light and Goodness of Christ by your actions of worship and service.	<i>“When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.”</i> <i>(Col 3:4)</i>

HAPPY EASTER!!!

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION ~ PRAISE & WORSHIP

Holy Rosary (8:00 PM)	Every Friday
First Friday and other Eucharistic Celebrations (8:30PM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">February 2 – Special Blessings for the Medical Missionaries / YLSS #27 SalubunganMarch 1April 5 - 1st Friday; April 12 – YLSS Invocation Mass
Praise and Worship Weekly (Starts at 8:30PM)	Feb 9 Feb 16 Feb 23 Mar 8 Mar 15 Mar 22 Mar 29 – Good Friday – No worship Apr 12 April 19 April 26
Solo Parents Ministry	2 nd and 4 th Friday
Singles Ministry	3 rd Friday
Youth Ministry	2 nd and 4 th Fridays
Mark 10	3rd Friday of the Month

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

INTERCESSORY MINISTRY	Please join the nightly (Mon-Thu) community prayers via Zoom . Everyone is most welcome to join. Zoom ID: 2265467380 / PW: 750109 @6:30PM Contact: Ram & Clair Bautista
NURSING HOME VISITATION	2nd Saturday EVERY OTHER MONTH Alaris Nursing Home, 135 S Center St, Orange, NJ 07050 c/o Alan & Tess Cam (201) 233 6991
FEEDING THE HOMELESS	3rd Saturday of the Month Sisters of Charity, Newark, NJ Contact: Rene & Claire Monje 973-460-2001
GOLDEN YEARS MINISTRY	ROSARY every Wednesday 1:00 PM via Facebook Messenger Group Contact: Juliet Coronado 201-736-9995

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FORMATION APOSTOLATE - TEACHING MINISTRY CALENDAR

2024 TEACHING SCHEDULE

IN-PERSON CDFP TEACHINGS

Every 3rd Saturday of the Month, 1:00-5:00 pm
St. Anne's, Garwood, NJ

VIRTUAL CDFP TEACHINGS

Every 2nd Wednesday of the Month, 7:00-9:00 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4215094856?pwd=eVJhcjhzZFE4Qk50aDUwZlIHWXlvQT09&omn=88323835043>

Meeting ID: 421 509 4856 | Passcode: JESUS

All are invited especially Post LSS class of ME 53-55, SE 38-41 and SP 20-23

Suggested teachings via Formed

<http://watch.formed.org/videos/whole-40-making-a-spiritual-plan-for-lent>

[Understanding Palm Sunday - FORMED](#)

<https://watch.formed.org/carousel/videos/formed-live-understanding-palm-sunday>

<http://watch.formed.org/videos/the-last-days-the-passion-and-death-of-jesus-the-christ>

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Refer to emails from the Ray and Susie Atienza for more details.

There is also a link in the Resources portion of the Covenant News.

LENTEN OBSERVANCES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

ASH WEDNESDAY	February 14
LENTEN RETREAT	March 2, Saturday, 10 AM – 4:00 PM Church of St. Anne, Lower Church
DISCIPLES/ NOMINATORS ASSEMBLY	March 23, Saturday, 9 AM – 3:00 PM Church of St. Anne, Bethlehem Room
PALM SUNDAY	March 24, Sunday
HOLY WEEK	March 25 to 30
EASTER SUNDAY	March 31, Sunday
GENERAL EMERGENCY NOMINATION DAY	April 6, Saturday, Starts 10:00 AM Church of St. Anne

YOUTH LIFE IN THE SPIRIT
SEMINAR (YLSS #27)

April 12-14,
Friday - Church of St. Anne
Saturday – Sunday – Divine Mercy Parish

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LORD'S PROVISION (Prior Week/s):

Collections at St. Anne, E-Giving and Mailed Checks:	Prior Weeks' Collections						YTD
	2/16	2/23	3/1	03/8	03/15	03/22	
Tithes & Love Offerings	\$1,413.70	\$1,413.00	\$1,514.88	\$1,643.83	\$1,633.70	\$1,835.00	\$18,197.08
Mission	\$---	\$35.00	\$270.00	\$283.00	\$30.00	\$785.00	\$8,873.00
BLD Academy	\$50.00	\$20	\$---	\$121.00	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$491.00
Financial details are available to all members through treasury@bldnewark.com DONATE TO BLD NEWARK - https://www.bldnewark.com/donations.html THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT							

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RESOURCES

Please note a copy of this Covenant News is available at www.bldnewark.com

PREVIOUS ISSUES OF THE COVENANT NEWS:

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A Walk Through Holy Week – Click [HERE](#)

February 1- 14, 2024 - Click [HERE](#)

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January 16-31, 2023 Issue - Click [HERE](#)

January 1-15, 2023 Issue - Click [HERE](#)

December 31, 2022 – Click [HERE](#)

WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT:

- * **Holy Week Resources:** [Understanding Palm Sunday - FORMED](#)
- * **NEW!** Follow the official Facebook Account of the Bukas Loob Sa Diyos Catholic Charismatic Covenant Community – Global –
<https://www.facebook.com/BldWorldCovenantCommunity>
- * **NEW!** FORMED- <https://leaders.formed.org/promote/#app>; <https://formed.org/signup> -
For more details, please refer to the email send by Susie Atienza on September 2, 2023.
- * **Protecting God’s Children Certification** - https://www.bldnewark.com/safe_environment.html
- * **Archdiocese of Newark** - <https://www.rcan.org/>
- * **Vatican News** - <https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>
- * **USCCB Daily Readings** - <https://bible.usccb.org/readings/calendar>
- * **NEW!** Amen App from Augustine Institute-
<https://www.augustineinstitute.org/program-and-resources/amen>
- * **Bishop Barron Sunday Sermons** - <https://www.wordonfire.org/videos/sermons/>
- * **Bible in a Year Podcast** - <https://media.ascensionpress.com/category/ascension-podcasts/bibleinayear/>
- * **NEW!** Hallow App - <https://hallow.com/>
- * **Reflections from my Rocking Chair** - <https://rockingchair.blog/>

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