

# THE Journey

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**M**y brother is a huge fan of the James Bond 007 movies. I am not a huge fan, but his interest in the films has sparked a little 007 fan fever in me as well. Anyone familiar with the James Bond character knows that he is famous for ordering his martinis 'shaken not stirred.'



Father Adam

I have recently been thinking about the PNCC, Catholicism in general and what it

means to be

## Shaken not Stirred: 007 Faith

'Evangelical or Charismatic'. Now before you throw the newsletter down in disgust thinking "oh no, Father Adam will not be turning me into no happy clap Christian," I assure you that is not my purpose. But, my purpose is to live out the Christian faith in my every day life and to share with all of you how you are to live your Christian faith in your daily lives.

What does this have to do with James Bond you ask? Well, we need our faith to be shaken, not stirred!

As Catholics, we are set in our 'Catholic' ways. Our worship is traditional (which I personally prefer), our faith is timeless, we pray, we sing hymns (I wish more folks in the pews would try singing to the Lord, it is quite enjoyable), we use incense, we adore the Eucharist, we partake of the Eucharist, we celebrate the saints and then we go home! Then, the following Sunday we return to Church and do it all over again. This is why I

have recently been thinking about the PNCC, Catholicism and the more Evangelical or Charismatic approach to the faith.

If you look through the Psalms, you will see many times verses such as "Fear the Lord" or "Praise the Lord" or "Halleluiah!". The Psalms are prayers, the prayers that our Savior prayed. The Psalms, when read aloud, may to us as 'Catholics' sound very Charismatic or Evangelical.

We are more comfortable with the clergy reciting formal prayers and the congrega-

tion re-

sponding with an "Amen." But what happens if we were to really shout out "AMEN!" Would we still be Catholics? Is our identity safe? Would the Bishop call us to inform us we are no longer a PNCC parish because we were a little too excited to be in the presence of the Lord?

Here is where I shake up the faith a bit; it feels good to our souls and to our faith when we are willing to proclaim aloud that "Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior, Amen, Alleluia!" Proclaiming your faith does not make a person any more or less 'Catholic' but instead makes one a better Christian. It is quite possible to be a traditional, liturgical Church Sunday morning and a true Charismatic or Evangelical Church outside of the Sunday liturgy.

That is my hope for our BVMC parish. That we can maintain the tradition and beauty of the Eucharistic Liturgy but find a renewed interest, or divine inspiration to become more comfortable with

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Blessed Virgin Mary of Czestochowa  
NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Parish Office Hours:  
Mon - Thu, 9am - 2pm

## Sacristan's Corner: Sacrifice



The current focus of the ongoing Monday night Bible study is the book of Genesis. (If you're dusting off the Bible on the

coffee table to follow along with this article, it's the book right in the front...you know, "In the beginning..."). Last Monday's topic was "The Command to Sacrifice Isaac." In Genesis 22, Abraham faces an incredible challenge from God. We are told that Abraham and Sarah waited to have a child for many years; Abraham is said to have been 100 years old at the time of Isaac's birth. Imagine how dear to Abraham was this miracle child.

In the chapters leading up to this point, the man who was to be known as "the father of nations", a hero of faith, the common progenitor of the Chosen People, showed himself to be somewhat lacking in the areas of honesty, obedience, and trust in God. He handed his wife over to kings, not once, but twice, to save his own skin. He cajoled and bargained with the Almighty to protect his nephew Lot during the impending destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. ("OK, Lord, will you spare the city for the sake of 20 good people? How about 15? 10?") God would not give up on Abraham. But Abraham would face a monumental test from God; not to punish him nor to humiliate him. Rather, God placed Abraham into the fire. To refine him, to strengthen him, to purify him, much like fine gold.

God said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show

you." (Gen. 22:2.) AND ABRAHAM OBEYED!!!

When they came to the appointed place, Abraham bound Isaac, and placed him on the wood on the altar, and readied the knife and the flame. Once Abraham submitted right up to the moment of truth, God stayed his hand. Finally, Abraham showed just how far his character had developed. He surrendered fully to the will of God, trusting in His ultimate love and goodness. (I'm guessing, though, for more than a few nights thereafter, Isaac slept with one eye open.)

How far will we go to submit in trust and love to God? Hopefully, we



will never have to make the kind of life-and-death choice that Abraham did. But often throughout our lives, God also gives us tests and trials. Do we put God above all else during these

tests? Is God somewhere down the list, down below material goods, physical pleasure, financial security, or maybe preserving our own self-image? Or is He Number One on our roster of priorities?

Christ tells us many times in the Gospels that, in order to follow Him, we must die to self and give all that we have, and more importantly, all that we are, to God. In Matthew 12: 46-50, we witness Jesus speaking to the crowds. He is told that His mother and brothers are outside the house, wishing to speak to Him. Pointing to His disciples, he says, "Here are my mother and brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

We are not called upon to shirk our responsibilities to our earthly family or community. "Behold thy Mother," Jesus said to John as He hung upon the Cross. He provided for His Mother as He was dying, and He provides for us in the glory

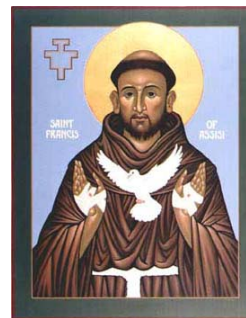
of His Resurrection. Our spiritual relationships obligate us as much as our worldly ones. When we commit ourselves to Christ, we may suffer some losses of family and friends. We may feel conflicted in our duties to God and our loved ones.

But our commitment to God must be the most important thing in our lives.

Jesus tells us that the yoke He places upon us will be "easy and light." That when we accept God's Will in our lives, we will receive the "peace that surpasses all understanding." That when we surrender in our hearts and minds and souls the things of this world, we will receive eternal life, a far greater reward than the transitory pleasures of this world can give. Abraham was tested, and so are we. He was ready to sacrifice his only son. God did sacrifice His only Son. What will we sacrifice? AMEN.

### Blessing of Animals: *Feast of St. Francis of Assisi*

On, Sunday, October 4th at 1:00pm, all are invited to bring their pets to BVMC parish for the annual blessing of animals in honor of St. Francis of



Assisi whose feast we celebrate that day. All animals, big or small are invited to come and receive their blessing.



# Getting to Know BVMC: Aldo and Kara Lira

**How long have you been parishioners of BVMC?**

10 months.

**What led you to BVMC?**

Ultimately, God. We had been searching for a church we felt comfortable with for many years. Before we moved back to NY state, we "somehow" discovered the BVMC during an internet search!



**What are your hopes for the future of BVMC?**

We hope that the BVMC will continue it's ecumenical mission in order to create and strengthen the bond between us and our fellow Christians.

**What would you say to someone who may be considering making**

**BVMC their spiritual home?**

The BVMC has been the most welcoming parish we've come across -- not to mention an amazing priest and deacon. And, you better love to eat!

In many ways, the BVMC is so traditional it appears progressive.

**Anything you care to share with your fellow BVMCers about yourselves?**

(thought we'd comment on each other since it's a joint interview)

**Aldo about Kara:** Kara is an amazing sculptor and also has an uncanny ability to attract animals and birds.

**Kara about Aldo:** Besides being a very talented painter, Aldo lived in Turkey for five years; he worked at a university there and learned to speak Turkish fluently!

Aldo has a website where you can see examples of his work: [Aldolira.com](http://Aldolira.com)



BVM Sculpture by Kara Lira

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proclaiming and living our faith in our community!

When you leave Church on Sunday, full of the Holy Spirit, share with your friends and loved ones the Good News of Jesus Christ. Proclaim aloud that "Christ is Risen" or "Alleluia, praise the Lord." Even a simple "Thanks be to God" will speak volumes of who you are as a follower of Christ, and what your faith means to you.

Shake your faith up once in a while. Do something that might take you 'out of the pew' and into the world. Stirring our faith up will not help us to grow as a parish in our community. It will only make us dizzy!

Live your faith, love your faith, don't treat it as a Sunday only faith. Share Christ with others so that our parish may continue to flourish and allow others to have their faiths shaken not stirred. Until next month, *Peace be with you!!*

## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Chopin Competition



On September 19, 2009, thirty young musicians participated in the annual Chopin Piano Competition. The participants were judged in three different categories – Young Chopin for students 8 – 11 years old, Chopin Apprentice for students 12 – 14 years old, and Chopin Master for students 15 – 19 years old. In order to qualify, Apprentice and Masters participants were required to perform a Chopin composition from a predetermined list, grouped by level of difficulty.

Dr. Patricia Keyes, from the music faculty of St. Rose and SUNY Albany, and Dr. Lok Ng, from the music faculty of St. Rose and Skidmore, had the difficult job of adjudicating the Competition. Fr. Adam and Dr. John Cetner presented the awards to the winners and runners-up at the Winners Concert on September 27<sup>th</sup> at PolishFest. The concert was well attended and enjoyed by all. The parish is grateful to Dr. Cetner for underwriting the annual Competition and to Artist Pianos in Latham for donating the beautiful Yamaha Grand Piano used in the Competition and Concert. This year's winners are posted on the PolishFest website as well as on the bulletin board.

## Saint of the Month: Ignatius of Constantinople

St. Ignatius or Ignatios (c. 797–877) Patriarch of Constantinople from July 4, 847 to October 23, 858 and from November 23, 867 to his death on October 23, 877. In the Roman martyrology of the Roman Catholic Church, he is regarded as a saint, with a feast day of October 23. Ignatios, originally named Niketas, was a son of the Byzantine Emperor Michael I Rangabe and Prokopia. His maternal grandfather was Nikephoros I.

Although he was still a child, Niketas had been appointed nominal commander of the new corps of imperial guards, the *Hikanatoi*. He was forcibly castrated (and thus made ineligible for becoming emperor, since the emperor could not be a eunuch) and tonsured after his father's deposition in 813. He founded three monasteries on the Princes' Islands, a favorite place for exiling tonsured members of the imperial house.

The Empress Mother Theodora appointed Ignatios, a staunch opponent of Iconoclasm, to succeed Methodios I as patriarch of Constantinople in 847. Ignatios soon became embroiled in the conflict between the Stoudites and the moderates in the Church, the is-

sue being whether or not to dispose of clergymen who had cooperated with



iconoclast policies in the past. Ignatios took the side of the conservative Stoudites and deposed the archbishop of Syracuse, Gregory Asbestos, the leader of the moderate party. Asbestos appealed for redress to Pope Leo IV and thus inaugurated a period of friction in relations between the Roman and Constantinopolitan churches.

In 867 Basil I the Macedonian usurped the throne and, seeking an alliance with Nicholas I and Louis II, Holy Roman Emperor, banished Photios and restored Ignatios on the patriarchal throne. Reinstated, Ignatios refused to yield to the papacy and drew Bulgaria back into the orbit of the Byzantine Church in 870. Since Ignatios and Photios pursued the same policy, the latter was recalled and reinstated as tutor to the emperor's children. When Ignatios died in October 877, Photios was reinstated as patriarch and contributed to Ignatios' sanctification.

## Prayer List

Jeff & Dawn Balak  
Silvio Brighenti  
Irene Calka  
Paul Cooke Jr.  
John Cooke  
Ben Cooke  
Jeff Durkee  
Brendan Durkee  
Jean Egan  
Kim, Gabby & Bella & Ernst Family  
Marlene Fredricks  
Alice Houser  
Emma Kelly  
Mary Kelly  
Carl Layman  
Karen & Richard Malchow  
Christina Malczewski  
Cynthia Mayhew  
Nancy Merrill  
Robert Nagle  
Genevieve Novak  
Nancy Pascale  
Elizabeth Peplowski  
Veronica Pilitowski  
Henry Radzyminski  
Stanley & Edna Radzyminski  
Michael Robochik  
John Scarchilli  
Bob Shovah  
Jean Tomaski  
Jane White

To add or remove a name from the parish prayer list please see Father Adam, thank you.

## Of Note:

### Bingo

Bingo is held every Thursday at 7:15pm. Come early and enjoy a fantastic meal prepared by the Częstochowa Polish Kitchen staff. Then try your luck at bingo. Another way to support our fundraising efforts.

### Future Articles - Your Input

The Journey is the newsletter of all the faithful of our parish. You are all invited to contribute to the monthly Journey. Please share your stories of faith, your concerns for the church or even recipes if you like! Please email or deliver any articles for the Journey to Fr. Adam.

*Thank you and God Bless!*

## Sunday Readings

**Oct. 4:** Genesis 2:18-24, Hebrews 2:9-11, Mark 10:2-16

**Oct. 11:** Wisdom 7:7-11, Hebrews 4:12-13, Mark 10:17-30

**Oct. 18:** Isaiah 53:10-11, Hebrews 4:14-16, Mark 10:35-45

**Oct. 25:** Jeremiah 31:7-9, Hebrews 5:1-6, Mark 10:46-52

**Nov. 1:** Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12a