



Bethany Charismatic Catholic Church

April 2023

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Bishop: THE MOST REV. RAYMOND CONTOIS
Assistant Pastor: FATHER JUDE PAIYAGALA BADUGE DON
Deacon: REV. MR. ROBERT MORRISSETTE
Deacon: REV. MR. PAUL LAFLAMME

“At Bethany there is no Past, only the Present and Future Hope !”

According to fiction, heroes can subdue ferocious monsters, obtain healing potions to save lives, and free trapped mortals from evil enchantments. Real-life heroes tend to be somewhat less colorful, but no less powerful in their own way. Persistence, and the ability to make possible the seemingly impossible, mark what one might call a quiet form of heroism. A good example is the work of Greg Mortenson, whose book “Three Cups of Tea” recounts his efforts to establish schools in some of the remotest parts of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Courage under fire is another form of heroism, and it was much in evidence on Jan. 8 when a gunman attacked US Representative Gabrielle Giffords, along with other people around her. Courage was ably expressed by the woman who grabbed the attacker’s cartridges when he was attempting to reload, and by the two men who subdued him.

Moments of heroism such as these express the presence of love, intelligence, wisdom, strength, and goodness. They suggest how each of us can, in our own way, be a hero and turn the world in a more healing direction.

Sometimes material conditions threaten to impede our heroic nature. For some, the economic crisis continues to dull hope. Frustration with governments or social conditions has led some to passively accept an atmosphere of anger. As well, personal lies and innuendoes can have a similar influence.

Each of these needs to be actively resisted, just as one would resist the suggestion that engaging in illegal actions is legitimate. We have to remember that everyone is capable of the heroic and healing action that shifts thought away from passivity and toward active insistence on divine Love as the only motivator and guide.

Taking this stand not only puts one firmly on the side of divine Love, it also offers protection under the two laws Jesus gave humanity: “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.... Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself” (Matt. 22:37, 39).

These spiritual laws demand resistance to whatever would dull our bright-shining, God-given spirituality. They also provide the opportunity to be healers following the powerful model Jesus provided.

Although He was deeply compassionate toward those in need of healing, Jesus minced no words with opponents seeking to derail His healing work. At one point, He addressed the self-centered pride of people in a synagogue so directly that they were infuriated and wanted to kill him. Yet the Bible reports, “He, passing through the midst of them, went his way” (Luke 4:30).

Jesus’ selfless unity with Spirit guided Him. His heroism when He faced His accusers and Pilate, and as He endured the crucifixion, is the highest standard of spiritual courage ever set. It has been the model for many others in the centuries since. By conquering sin, disease, and death – and showing how others could also conquer evil – Jesus made it possible for us to be heroes, too. In His final remarks to His disciples He said, “In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). He overcame the world through His obedience to the Father and He demonstrated consistent proof of God’s love for humanity. Christ’s rich love for each individual also gives us the right to “be of good cheer” and is a characteristic that shouldn’t be overlooked.

Anger and hatred are definitely *not* of good cheer, and ultimately they can’t conquer. When one is not of “Christly good cheer,” it’s worthwhile to ask what is influencing one and why. This may reveal new insights into the influences on our mental doorsteps, and how to address them in a healing manner. The willingness to challenge hateful thoughts by insisting on the reign of Love in one’s heart and life is essential if one is to truly be a healer.

Even in the dark hours, the light of Jesus’ life provides powerful examples of how to respond to hatred with healing love. His ability to view humanity through the lens of divine Spirit reveals Love’s immediate regenerating power, and encourages our own prayers on behalf of our families, communities, and nations.

Jesus defined heroism by being a healer, and saints and prophets have presented His message in forms that people can apply to better themselves and the world. All who love the Bible and the healing power of Christ can – and should – join Him and His other followers in this heroic work.

In His Light,

Bishop Raymond Contois

167 Dunhamtown Rd. Brimfield, Massachusetts U.S.A.
Just 1 mile off route 20

Web Page: www.bethanyccc.org
Phone: (413) 324 - 1164

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 607, Palmer MA 01069

WEEKLY MASSES

Saturday - - Cancelled

Sunday - 9:00 AM *

Wednesday- - Cancelled

RECONCILIATION & PASTORAL MEETINGS

By Appointment (413) 324-1164



Dates to Remember

April 2023

2nd: SUN. 9:00 AM Palm Sunday Mass



5th: Wed. 7:00 PM Chrism Mass

6th: Thur. 7:00 PM Holy Thursday Mass

7th: Fri. 10:00 AM Stations of the Cross

7:00 PM Good Friday Service



8th: Sat. 8:30 PM Easter Vigil Mass

9th: SUN. 9:00 AM Easter Sunday Mass



16th: SUN. 9:00 AM Lord's Day Mass

23rd: SUN. 9:00 AM Lord's Day Mass

30th: SUN. 9:00 AM Lord's Day Mass

April Schedule

Eucharistic Ministers Ministers of the Word

2nd	Clergy Only		Beth, Ron	
9th	Clergy Only		Catherine, Charlann	
16th	Clergy Only		Ron, Jayne	
23rd	Clergy Only		Beth, Sandy	
30th	Clergy Only		Darryl, Ron	

Bethany Food Drive

We will continue collecting non-perishable food items for area food pantries. Please drop off your donations of canned goods and dry goods, and leave them in the foyer.

Thank You for your constant generosity.



"Hunger never takes a vacation."



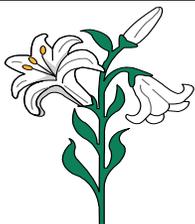
Prayer Requests

"As a community, we support each other through prayer in communion with Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Please let us know of your prayer requests."

Christ is Risen!

Life is the time that is granted to us to express concretely the potential riches which each of us bears and to make our contribution to the common progress of mankind. Life is the time that is given to us to embody in ourselves and in history the values of love, goodness, joy, justice and peace to which the human heart aspires.

John Paul II



During the season of Lent we will have a special collection at Lords Day services to buy Lilies to decorate the chapel for Easter Sunday. Please consider an additional donation to beautify the House of the Lord.



Be sure to Check out our Web Site at www.bethanyvcc.org for more information about Bethany Charismatic Church.



Easter

Dear God, strengthen my faith that I may seek each day to live my life a little more in the life of Your Spirit.

Claire King

