

“Welcome to the Family”

That would be roughly the equivalent of all the words used in the *Ritual of Baptism* for little babies. It is God Himself who offers these words of welcome to each newborn who is washed in the waters of Baptism. God’s family is one that spans the globe and also transcends time. This family includes every other baptized person throughout the world at present, but also includes every saint in heaven from all the ages past. All team up to welcome the newly baptized infant into our Christian community of faith, hope and love.

The *Feast of the Baptism of the Lord* follows logically from last week’s celebration of Epiphany. Last week, we recognized that all peoples are invited to have faith in Jesus. Epiphany reminds us that Jesus belongs to all of us. The Feast of Baptism today celebrates the ‘one-ness’ which faith in Jesus brings.

At our Baptism, we are immersed in this faith which Jesus brought to the earth. Jesus came to show the Father’s love in action. All His words, all His miracles and healings, were meant to show us yet another aspect of the Father’s concern for all the human race. All who are baptized share intimately in this love of the Father--and are called to spread it further.

Today we rejoice in the knowledge that the Lord has invited each of us, **individually and by name**, to be part of His world-wide family of faith. Each of us was baptized with the name of a saint, so that we could have a personal model of how to live out a life of faith. For each of us, our Baptism was the first step in a long journey that will end at the doorstep of God’s Kingdom of Heaven. Our baptismal saints are ready to help us at each step along the way. We should get to know them better.

Let us rejoice in God’s calling us into His family. Let us take a moment today to thank those who helped make our Baptism possible: our parents and godparents. And may we take a moment also to pray for that world-wide system of brothers and sisters which Baptism has given us: that all may complete their journey to the Kingdom safely.

The next time you enter a church and bless yourself with holy water, let it be a reminder to you of that generous offer that the Lord has made to you—to be baptized into His very own family.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

January 10, 2010

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Robert Lamb at the
Request of his daughter, Peggy, & Richard Gray

TUESDAY, January 12

8:00AM – James Moran

SATURDAY, January 16

8:00AM – Michael McDonnell

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 17

8:00AM – Charlie Lombaerde
req. by his wife, Carol

11:30AM – William E. Jackson

req. by Florence Oliver

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$5,249.00 – Christmas Collection – December 25, 2009

\$1,145.00 – Regular Collection - December 27, 2009

\$ 661.00 – New Year's Day – January 1, 2010

\$2,003.00 – Regular Collection – January 3, 2010

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$11,951.00 – Christmas Collection – December 25, 2009

\$ 2,768.00 – Regular Collection – December 27, 2009

\$ 718.00 – New Year's Day – January 1, 2010

\$ 2,462.00 – Regular Collection – January 3, 2010

\$ 4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Jim Mahon at the
Request of his wife, Gerry

MONDAY, January 11

9:00AM – Tom Sehrt

req. by Joanne DiMauro

TUESDAY, January 12

9:00AM – Terry Naletko

req. by Ginny Monk

WEDNESDAY, January 13

9:00AM – Jennie Davin

req. by Patricia & Debra Nebel

THURSDAY, January 14

No Mass

FRIDAY, January 15

9:00AM – Terry Naletko

req. by Joanne DiMauro

SATURDAY, VIGIL, January 16

5:30PM – Irene Leissle

req. by Scott & Carole Vealey & Children
- Bernie Reich

req. by his wife, Grace

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 17

9:30AM – William Crawford

req. by Don & Dawn Hall

TO CHRIST THE DIVINE HEALER WE PRAY FOR:

Bree Andrews, Vickie Bennett, Joseph Bruno, Eric Cerra,
Gail Collis, Jerry Cooper, Jason DeLorenzo, Geri Fawyer,
Ronnie Ferriere, Nancy Green, Eric Harper, Horace Harper,
Sharon Hubbell, Sharon Johnson, Phil Lange, Patricia Lesner,
Chuck Lombaerde, Florence Majewski, Karen Morgan,
Richard Nowicki, Joseph Peraino, Flo Puccio, Evelyn
Schweer, Deena Slain, Ray Sorg, Bill Sousa, Sandy
Townsend, Catherine Vecharello, Lisa Vergona, Tarra
Wagner and Gabriel Wyzga

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

The Baptism of the Lord

This feast marks the end of the Christmas season according to the current Church liturgical calendar. Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River and the spirit of God descending upon Him. It is on this day that Jesus began his public ministry. Even though today many Catholics are baptized as infants, our baptism still marks the beginning of our new life in Christ and also our mission. Today is a good day for you to remember your own baptism and your children's baptisms. It's also a good time to think about how the Holy Spirit is working in your life and how each member of your family can serve Christ and His Church. Light a white candle at dinner tonight to celebrate your baptism and Christ's continuing presence as the Light of the World.

Catechist Meeting

A meeting will take place on **Wednesday, January 13th at 7:00PM**. All catechists are asked to make every effort to attend this meeting.

Christmas Pageant Thank-you

Thank you to all of the parishioners who came out to see the children of our parishes present the story of Jesus' birth and the coming of the Magi. It is true affirmation to them of their importance in parish life. Thank you to our teens who narrated the story and to those who helped set-up and clean-up. Special thanks to all of the parents who encouraged their children to offer this "gift" to the Lord. May you all be blessed with a happy and holy New Year.

TV Donation

Did anyone get a new TV from Santa this year? Well, if you did and you are looking to find a new home for the old one – the Religious Education Center would welcome a 19 or 25 inch used TV. Just call – we'll be glad to come and pick it up!

From the R.C.I.A.

The R.C.I.A. adults continue to meet and for the month of January, the dates are as follows:

January 10 - The Baptism of the Lord topics are The Creed and Saints revisited

January 24 - 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time topic is Reconciliation and prep for

Our Parishes are blessed with truly devoted candidates who are questioning with much thought all that is Catholicism. Please feel free to come and be with these candidates as they continue to journey toward the Easter Sacraments. Also keep in mind as we begin 2010, that preparation of candidates for the Easter Sacraments is both parishes joy-filled responsibility and not just the R.C.I.A. coordinator. As the coordinator, I continue to extend a welcome to all adult parishioners to be with us at R.C.I.A. sessions. Peace, Patricia Hope

St. James Venison Dinner

Our dinner will be held on **Saturday, February 13th**. Tickets are \$25 per person, and they will be on sale at all Masses on January 16th and 17th.

PILGRIM VIRGIN OF FATIMA STATUE

This beautifully adorned statue is a visible reminder of the love God has shown in the Blessed Mother. Placing such a beautiful image in your home turns hearts to prayer and brings grace to those who open their hearts to any image of God's love. If you would like to have the statue of Our Lady of Fatima in your home, please contact Diana, Legion of Mary at 973-948-7601. *Pray the Family Rosary*

The Giving Tree

Thank you to all the many parishioners who purchased Christmas gifts for the Giving Tree. Because of your generosity, we were able to provide many local families, as well as mothers and children at Sunrise House in Lafayette and birth Haven in Newton with beautiful gifts to help make their Christmas special. Also, thank you to the ABATE Motorcycle Club of Milford, PA for their generous donation of toys. May you all be blessed with a very happy and holy New Year for the kindness you showed to those in need.

Don't know what to do with those Christmas Cards?

Donate your Christmas Card fronts to St. Jude's Ranch for Children in Boulder City, Nevada. The ranch deals with at-risk children. Their motto is... "with help comes hope." The children trim the fronts and attach them to new backs. The children would get \$.15 for each card made as spending money. St. Jude's would resell the new cards. If you would like to donate your used greeting cards to Chris Higgins (201-738-9968) I will see that they are sent to the ranch. St. Jude's Ranch for Children is not associated with St. Jude's Children Research Hospital in Tennessee. I will have a box in the gathering space for you to place your cards. Thank you in advance.

SAVE THIS DATE

On **Friday, January 22, 2010**, the annual Right to Life March will be held in Washington, D.C. There will be a bus leaving from St. Joseph's Church in Newton at 6 AM for anyone who wants to attend the March. The cost per person is \$20 – if this is a hardship, please call Marion, 973-293-3850. There is a sign-up sheet in the gathering space or call the parish office. All monies are due **No Later Than January 8, 2010**. Checks should be made payable to St. Thomas Church.

Beyond the Parish

Attention Men of our Parish: The 4th annual Our Lady of Mount Carmel Men's Retreat is planned for January 29 through 31 at Sacred Heart Spirituality Center. Those who attended our three previous retreats found them to be a very special time that brought them closer to God. All men are welcome; you do not need to be a member of our parish, so please bring along a friend or relative and join us for a weekend of spirituality, prayer and fellowship. For more information or to register, please contact Deacon Tony at barile@ptd.net or 973-383-3430.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISHES

STC -- St. Thomas Ch. or Fr. Lewis Center

SJC -- St. James Ch. or Church Hall

REC -- Fr. Gacquin Religious Ed. Center

Sunday, January 10, 2010

Baptism of the Lord

9:30 a.m. STC Coffee Hour after Mass

Monday, January 11

Tuesday, January 12

10:00 a.m. STC Reflection on Readings

4:00 p.m. REC Gr. 1 & 2

Wednesday, January 13

4:00 p.m. REC Gr. 3, 4 & 5

7:00 p.m. REC Catechists' Meeting

Thursday, January 14

9:30 a.m. STC Moms & Tots Group

Friday, January 15

All day: STC Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

3:00 p.m. Chaplet of Divine Mercy

4:00 p.m. Evening Prayer & Benediction

Saturday, January 16

9:30 a.m. REC Legion of Mary Mtg.

Sunday, January 17, 2010

9:30 a.m. STC C.L.O.W.

9:30 a.m. STC & REC Gr. 6-7-8 Mass & Class

11:30 p.m. SJC Coffee Hour after Mass

3:00 p.m. STC Columbiettes' Mtg.

4:00 p.m. REC Confirmation Prep.

Future Events

Fri. Jan. 22 Right To Life March, Wash. D.C.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is a beautiful way of spending time with the Lord, offering Him praise and worship, asking for assistance with personal problems, calling forth His guidance in important decisions. Adoration takes place **each Friday, after the 9 a.m. Mass at St. Thomas until 4 p.m.** The **Divine Mercy Chaplet** is recited at 3 p.m. **Evening Prayer** is prayed at 4 p.m. Or stop in anytime during the day and pay a visit. The Lord will appreciate your presence.

I Thank you very much for your generous financial support of St. James and St. Thomas during the Christmas Season. The total amounts of your donations are reported in this Bulletin. Thanks also for your help, in so many different ways, all throughout the year. It is a pleasure to be here and to share and celebrate our faith together each week. *Father Wayne*

Home Blessings. Several families have asked if a traditional Home Blessing is possible. Blessings can be scheduled on Sat. afternoons, on the hour, from 12 Noon through 4 p.m. To set up a date and time, please call the Parish Office, from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

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***Registration Form
for B-Ball Free Throw***

To be held at the Sandyston School on Sat. Jan. 23rd at 10 a.m. Boys and girls, ages 10 – 14 can enter. Proof of age (birth or baptism certificate) is required. Best of 15 throws moves on to District Competition. Sponsored by the K. of C.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____ Age: _____

School: _____

Parent's Permission: _____

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***Registration Form
For Eighth Grade Spelling Bee***

To be held at St. Thomas on Sun. Jan. 24 at 2 p.m. All 8th Grade students of our parishes and area are welcome to enter. Proof of Grade will be required. First Place winner will go on to K. of C. Competition in February. Good luck !

Name: _____

Phone #: _____ Age: _____

School: _____

Parent's Permission: _____