

“Do This In Memory of Me”

During this ‘*Year of the Priest*’ I have never been more conscious of the true work of the Priesthood: to keep alive the Covenant.

What does that mean ? From the beginning of humankind’s existence, God showed in many ways that He desired an active and intimate relationship with the people of His world. The orderliness and reliability of creation was God’s first way of showing His love and providence to all. Then in due time, He chose one small group from among many—the Jewish people—starting with Abraham, to demonstrate His wishes to be a part of their lives. The miraculous deliverance from hopeless slavery in Egypt, the daunting journey to the Promised Land, the constant admonitions of the prophets, were all ways that God continued, throughout the centuries, to woo His people—as if wooing a bride—into a deeper relationship with Himself.

Jesus, as we celebrated at Christmas, came as the climax of this pursuit of an intimate union with His people. Jesus, even unto the cross, testified to and demonstrated the Father’s love for all His children. At the Last Supper, Jesus made God’s commitment to us clear. Taking the cup of wine from the Last Supper table, He declared to the disciples around Him: “This is the cup of My blood, *the blood of the new and everlasting covenant*. It will be shed for you and for all, so that sins may be forgiven. *Do this in memory of Me.*”

The only barrier between God and His people--is sin. Yet in Jesus’ suffering and death, He has absorbed the evil of sin in Himself—and thus made the complete union with God the Father available to all.

And we keep that Covenant–Relationship going each time we celebrate the Last Supper. Each Mass renews Jesus’ sacrifice, which is the greatest demonstration of God’s love. Each Mass keeps alive the promise of God to care for His people—and to watch over His world.

When you go to Mass each Sunday, listen carefully to those Words of Consecration. As you receive Our Lord in Holy Communion, realize that you are actually taking part in that very same Last Supper. You are doing your part, as a disciple today, to keep God’s presence and blessings available to the world.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 31, 2010

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Josephine Car at the
Request of the Car & Batko Families

TUESDAY, February 2

8:00AM – Eleanor Bryant
req. by Rose Keefer

SATURDAY, February 6

8:00AM – Father John Hewetson

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 7

8:00AM – Florence Jankowski
req. by the Jankowski Family

11:30AM – Father John Tully

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,241.00 – Regular Collection – January 24, 2010

\$ 550.00 - Resurrection

\$1,129.00 – Haitian Relief (to date)

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$1,341.00 – Regular Collection – January 25, 2009

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,759.00 – Regular Collection – January 24, 2010

\$1,478.00 – Haitian Relief (to date)

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$3,496.00 – Regular Collection – January 25, 2009

TO CHRIST THE DIVINE HEALER WE PRAY FOR:

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

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Bill Strong at the
Request of his wife, Shirley & Daughters

MONDAY, February 1

9:00AM – Carolyn Lewis
req. by Mary Flexer
- Justin Burgos
req. by his wife, Deirdre

TUESDAY, February 2

9:00AM – James Moran & Owen Barr
req. by Mary Flexer

WEDNESDAY, February 3

9:00AM – John Carroll
req. by Sr. John Marie

THURSDAY, February 4

No Mass

FRIDAY, February 5

9:00AM – Robert Lamb
req. by his wife, Ann

SATURDAY, VIGIL, February 6

5:30PM – Intentions of Bill & Jo Healey
req. by the Mendez Family

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 7

9:30AM – Joseph Wolf
req. by Marion & Dave
-Angelo Damone
req. by his daughter, Frances & Family

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*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Instruction on the Holy Mass

As a way to celebrate the *Year of the Priest* in our parishes and also to give some necessary instruction to our students and their parents on the sacredness and importance of the Holy Mass, all students and their parents are requested to be present at St. Thomas the Apostle Church for this session with our pastor, Father Wayne, as follows:

Grade 2 – Tuesday, February 2nd from 4:00PM until 5:15PM
Grades 3, 4 and 5 – Wednesday, February 3rd from 4:00PM until 5:15PM

Parents are asked to be seated with their children in the church. (Please note: First grade will meet as usual on February 2nd at the Religious Education Center)

Confirmation Preparation Session Change of Time

Next Sunday, February 7th, our class time has been changed to 12:30PM until 2:00PM for all to enjoy the Super Bowl.

Parents Formation Session for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation

Our next sacramental formation session will take place on Monday, February 8th at 7:00PM at the Msgr. James Gacquin Youth and Religious Education Center for parents who are presenting their children for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation. Sister Theresa Kelly, FMA of the Sacred Heart Center will be our presenter. This is a mandatory session required by the Diocese of Paterson for all parents presenting their children for the sacraments of the Church.

St. Blaise and the Blessing of Throats

St. Blaise was a bishop in Armenia, a country near Turkey. He is said to have died a martyr in about 315. While much is not known about him, there are some interesting stories about St. Blaise. According to one story, the Romans arrested him because of his faith. On his way to prison, he stopped to help a boy who had a fish bone caught in his throat. Another story tells that while he waited in prison for his execution, St. Blaise was given food and a supply of candles by a woman who he had helped.

We call on St. Blaise to protect us from throat ailments. On St. Blaise's Feast Day, February 3rd, or on the Sunday closest to his feast day, priests use candles to bless throats. They place crossed candles on the throats of those receiving the blessing and ask God to deliver them from throat ailments. Why crossed candles? Candles may be used because Candlemas Day comes the day before St. Blaise's feast day.

Helping Haiti

Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the official international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Catholic Church, is responding to victims of the massive earthquake in Haiti. To donate, please call 1-877-HELP-CRS, donate online at www.crs.org or send a check to Catholic Relief Services, PO Box 17090, Baltimore, MD 21203-7090. In the memo portion of your check, please write: Haiti Earthquake. For more information, go to crs.org and crspanol.org.

Please Note

Coffee Hour for February is scheduled for **Sunday, February 21st** and the February **Pot Luck Dinner** will be held on **Saturday, February 27th**.

Blood Donors Helping Haiti

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Blood Drive in the Father Lewis Center **TODAY, Sunday, January 31st** from 8:00am to 2:00pm. For each blood donation received, New York Blood Services will contribute \$1.00 to the U.S. Fund for UNICEF to support their relief efforts in Haiti. Donors may also donate any Advantage Points accumulated back to NYBC in support of Haitian relief. Please donate to a very worthy cause!

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 boxes at both churches for you to place your cards. Thank you in advance.

St. James Venison Dinner

Our dinner will be held on **Saturday, February 13th** at the Port Jervis Naval Ship.

Beyond the Parish

Dinner Dance/Auction:

Saint Joseph Regional School will hold its annual Dinner Dance/Auction at Perona Farms on Saturday, February 27th at 6:30pm. The cost of the tickets is \$75.00 per person. All proceeds will directly benefit the building of a new library/media center for the school. Anyone interested in attending should contact Jessie Martin at 973-948-0373. All are welcome.

Raffle Tickets: the weekend of Feb. 6 & 7 after each Mass:

During the weekend of February 6 & 7 (after each Mass) Saint Joseph School will be selling raffle tickets for an entertainment package that includes a 52" Sharp Aquos LCD flat screen T.V. with JVC 1,000 watt iPodiPhone digital DVD home theater system (total value \$2,400.00). Tickets are \$25.00 each or 5 for \$100.00. The winner will be drawn at the SJRS Dinner Dance/Auction on 2/27/10. Winner need not be present. Raffle tickets can also be purchased by contacting Julia Campbell at 973-383-8084.

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 31, 2010

At All Masses: Blessing of Saint Blaise

8 a.m.--3 p.m. STC K of C Blood Drive

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

4:00 p.m. REC Confirmation Prep.

Monday, February 1

11:00 a.m. REC Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, February 2

10:00 a.m. STC Reflection on Readings

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

7:00 p.m. STC K of C Monthly Mtg

Wednesday, February 3

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

Thursday, February 4

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

Friday, February 5

All day: STC Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

3:00 p.m. STC Chaplet of Divine Mercy

4:00 p.m. STC Evening Prayer & Benediction

Saturday, February 6

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

Sunday, February 7, 2010

8:00 a.m. SJC Coffee Hour after Mass.

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

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

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

12:30 p.m. REC Confirmation Prep.

Future Events

Sat. Feb. 13 6:00 p.m. St. James Venison Dinner
at Port Jervis Naval Ship

Sat. Mar. 6 STC 10 a.m. – 12 Noon
Women's Morning Retreat

Haitian Relief. The task of healing the injured, feeding and sheltering the homeless and rebuilding a nation will continue for years to come. Thank you for your help in this effort, by your donations on Sunday. The report of our collections is elsewhere in this Bulletin.

Our Why Catholic? program is a combination of evangelization and continuing education for adults. Our new series is entitled: "*The Celebration of Christian Mystery*" and will be a study of our Seven Sacraments. The Sacraments are at the center of our faith, and are the sources of our direct connection with Jesus. You will come to understand better the power and strength that each Sacrament has to offer. Join us for six hours, during the six weeks of Lent, and come to appreciate them more. Let this be your "extra effort" for the Lord during Lent. You will be greatly rewarded.

For Women Only: A dynamic Catholic speaker and author, Genevieve Kineke, will be visiting our area on **Sat. March 6th**. She will be leading a **Women's Morning of Reflection** at St. Thomas Church. The hours are 9 a.m. till 12 Noon. Genevieve is the author of a very insightful book: *The Authentic Catholic Woman*, which shows in many surprising ways how women's faith can be expressed in everyday life. Plan now to take time out to be refreshed by her perceptive observations and suggestions. Bring a friend. Call Lucy VanderPloog at 973-948-2250 for more info. Oh yes, refreshments will be served.

Do you know someone experiencing grief, divorce, financial stress, spiritual crisis, cancer diagnosis, job loss, chronic illness, loneliness? Would you like to know how to help them and what to say? The Sacred Heart Center in Newton is hosting a half-day **Workshop sponsored by the Stephen Ministry**, which works to minister to people in distress. The date is Sat. Feb. 27th, from 9 a.m. till 1 p.m. Our parishes will pick up the \$ 15 cost for any parishioners who wish to attend. Simply call the Office at 973-948-2296 to register. More info next week.

St. James' Resurrection Fund. Our thanks to the Columbiettes for their gift of \$ 530 towards the St. James Fund for our major repair projects. This amount comes from their recent Cookie Caper at St. James. Our goal is to raise \$ 40,000 to cover the several needs identified on the St. James premises. We are asking each parish family to contribute \$ 300 by Easter. Thank you for all who are helping us to keep our parish secure.