

World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life

This week-end our Diocese joins the rest of the nation in emphasizing the place of **Consecrated Life** in the life of the Church. What is 'Consecrated Life'? It is God's gift of people who have dedicated their lives to serving the Lord and His Kingdom as Religious Sisters and Brothers. They make up countless religious orders such as the Franciscans, Dominicans, Salesians and Filippinis. They contribute much to the life of the Church as they teach in schools, work in hospitals, run soup kitchens and serve as ambassadors for Christ throughout the world.

They are basically divided into two categories: *contemplative*--dedicating themselves to prayer for the world (such as the Carmelite Order and the Trappists) and *missionary*--taking their work into the world (such as the Maryknollers and Jesuits.) All serve as witnesses to our Lord present and active in the world today.

Our Church is being blessed recently by a renewed interest in religious life by young people, who are looking for meaningful ways to dedicate their lives to the service of others. Pray that many young people may find fulfilling vocations in lives of service as Religious Brothers and Sisters, bringing God's Kingdom to reality by their day-by-day dedication to His Will.

Happy St. Valentine's Day

Curiously, **St. Valentine's Day** is not on the official U.S. Church calendar. Perhaps this is because there is not enough evidence of the existence of a saint by that name. That doesn't stop people from celebrating the day and using the opportunity to express love and affection and caring. Here is part of what Catholic Online—Saints and Angels says of him:

***“The Origin of St. Valentine:** The origin of St. Valentine, and how many St. Valentines there were, remains a mystery. One opinion is that he was a Roman martyred for refusing to give up his Christian faith. Other historians hold that St. Valentine was a priest jailed for defiance during the reign of Claudius. Alongside a woodcut portrait of him, the text states that Valentine was a Roman priest martyred during the reign of Claudius the Goth [Claudius II]. Since he was caught marrying Christian couples and aiding Christians who were being persecuted under Emperor Claudius in Rome [when helping them was considered a crime], Valentine was arrested and imprisoned. Whoever he was, Valentine really existed because archaeologists have unearthed a Roman catacomb and an ancient church dedicated to Saint Valentine. In 496 AD Pope Gelasius marked February 14th as a celebration in honor of his martyrdom. ...”*

“St. Valentine was a Priest, martyred in 269 at Rome and was buried on the Flaminian Way. He is the Patron Saint of engaged couples, happy marriages, love, lovers, as well as bee keepers, epilepsy, fainting, greetings, plague, travelers, young people. He is represented in pictures with birds and roses.”

The Season of Lent

The powerful, life-changing **Season of Lent** begins this week. With the ashes we wear on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday, the Church calls us to begin a solemn, world-wide, forty-day retreat. We are called, with the rest of the Church, to evaluate our lives and to see how close (or not) to the Lord we have been living. No matter what our present condition, the Lord calls us to be closer to Him. He invites us to trust in His goodness more fully, and to be His fervent apostles to the world. Plan now to take up some extra spiritual work during Lent. And allow the Sacrament of Reconciliation to be a major part of your Lent. (The Ash Wednesday Masses are listed elsewhere in this Bulletin.)

God bless you,
Father Wayne

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 14, 2010

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Charlie Lombaerde at the
Request of his wife, Carol

TUESDAY, February 16

8:00AM – John Sakach
req. by Carol Lombaerde

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 17

7:00PM – Father Gerald Lewis

SATURDAY, February 20

8:00AM – Lottie Henn
req. by Art & Maria Henn

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

February 21

8:00AM – Matt Kelly
req. by Michelle Henn

11:30AM – Chrissie Lyons

req. by Anita & CD Bernholz

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$2,112.00 – Regular Collection – February 7, 2010

\$ 430.00 - Resurrection

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$1,586.00 – Regular Collection – February 8, 2009

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,467.00 – Regular Collection – February 7, 2010

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$3,576.00 – Regular Collection – February 8, 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, Marie Furtado, 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

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*

St. Thomas the Apostle

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

MONDAY, February 15

9:00AM – Special Intention

TUESDAY, February 16

9:00AM – Intentions of Mr. & Mrs. Connors
req. by Ann Lamb & Peggy

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 17

9:00AM – Father James Gacquin

THURSDAY, February 18

No Mass

FRIDAY, February 19

9:00AM – Intentions of Maryann & Frank Delman
req. by Ann Lamb

SATURDAY, VIGIL, February 20

5:30PM – Beverly Dunlap
req. by the Blevins Family

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

February 21

9:30AM – Joseph Sz wajkiewicz
req. by John & Maria Babon

World Youth Day Fund Raiser

Due to the success of our Yankee Candle Fund-raiser this past fall, we will be holding another one now featuring their spring and summer scents. Packets are available in the gathering space of both parishes. Please return all orders by Sunday, February 21st, to we can receive our shipment in time for Easter gift giving. We continue to thank all who are helping us pilgrimage closer and closer to Madrid in August of 2011.

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 crsespanol.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Believe the Good News

Ash Wednesday is the day on which we Christians begin our Lenten journey to Easter. Although it is not a holy day of obligation, many people fill our churches to receive ashes on that mid-week day. From little children to great-grandparents, people come forward to receive the ashen cross and to hear the words, "Repent and believe in the Good News."

The earthly ashes help us to "ground" ourselves deeply into the reawakening roots of God's eternal springtime. We shake off the dead branches and stems of last year's growth and begin to sprout new growth. Through prayer, fasting and helping those in need, we become more and more like Christ.

It's good to be mindful of our human failings and our need for a fresh start. Wearing the ashen cross is an opportunity to begin again, from "ground" up. Happy Lent!

(Taken from Take Out – Family Faith on the Go)

Catechist Lenten Presentation

All catechists are reminded about our Lenten Presentation on Tuesday (Mardi Gras), February 16th at 7:00PM at the Msgr. James Gacquin Youth and Religious Education Center. Tom Brown, Director of Catechetics for the Diocese of Paterson will be our presenter.

First Reconciliation

On Saturday, February 20th, 38 children from our parishes will participate in a morning of retreat, which will be followed up with the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please keep these young parishioners in your prayer as they come to meet Jesus to receive His love, mercy and grace for the very first time through this sacrament of healing.

World Youth Day Meeting

Our next meeting will take place on Sunday, February 21st at 1:30PM in the Father Lewis Center. We will be discussing future fund-raising efforts along with finalizing our deposit payments and assuring our place for WYD 2011 in Madrid.

Lenten Family Day

Join us on Saturday, February 27th from 10:00AM until 12:00PM at the Msgr. James Gacquin Youth and Religious Education Center for a prayer service, presentation, and a variety of family activities to learn more about the Lenten disciplines of prayer, almsgiving and fasting. You must RSVP to 973-948-7004 by Ash Wednesday, February 17th so we can be properly prepared.

Friday Soup Suppers

Each Friday during Lent, the Columbiettes will be serving a meatless **Soup Supper** at the Father Lewis Center from **5:00PM to 7:00PM**. Sign up sheets will be available at both churches if you plan to join us for soup and fellowship. The first Friday Soup Supper will be on February 19th. Following the meal, **Stations of the Cross** will be prayed at St. Thomas at 7:00PM.

From the R.C.I.A.

As we begin the Season of Lent, final preparation for our R.C.I.A. Catechumens and Candidate also begins.

On February 20, all R.C.I.A. participants are invited to retreat. The topic for retreat is *Reconciliation*, and the presenter will be Bishop Emeritus Frank Rodimer.

The following day, February 21, the Catechumens will travel to the Cathedral for the Rite of Election at 4:00pm with Bishop Serratelli.

On February 27, the Rite of Call to Continuing Conversion will be celebrated with our Candidate, John, at the 5:30pm Mass.

We ask that all our Parishioners remember in prayer in a special way our Candidate, John, and Catechumens, Jim & Bill, as they continue on their journey to Full Initiation into the Catholic Church.

All adult parishioners continue to be welcome to participate in the R.C.I.A. process.

Peace be With You, Patricia Hope,
Coordinator for the R.C.I.A.

Our Why Catholic? program begins this week. We are considering: "*The Sacraments: the Celebration of Christian Mystery.*" You can still get in at the beginning and use it as a special offering to the Lord during Lent. Call the Office to register.

St. Thomas the Apostle Tricky Tray

On Friday evening, May 7th, we will be hosting our Annual Tricky Tray. If you are interested in assisting our committee in any way, please call Deirdre Burgos at 973-948-6092. All volunteers are welcome. We will be holding a meeting on Tuesday evening, February 16th at 6:00pm. Please feel free to join us in the Father Lewis Center.

Mother's Market

The Mother's Market will be hosted by our own Mom & Tots Group. Buy or sell new and gently used children's items, clothes and toys on **Saturday, March 27th** in the Father Lewis Center from 10:00am to 2:00pm. You may reserve a table to sell your items by calling Vickie at 973-948-3376.

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**.

Beyond the Parish

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.

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, February 14, 2010

St. Valentine's Day

Monday, February 15

Tuesday, February 16

10:00 a.m. STC Reflection on Readings

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

7:00 p.m. REC Catechists' Lenten Presentation

Ash Wednesday, February 17

9:00 a.m. STC Ash Wed. Mass

4:00 p.m. REC Ash Wed. Service
and C.C.D. Classes, Gr. 3, 4 & 5

7:00 p.m. SJC Ash Wed. Mass

Thursday, February 18

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

Friday, February 19

All day: STC Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

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

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

5:00 p.m. STC Columbiettes' Soup Supper

7:00 p.m. STC and SJC Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 20

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

9:30 a.m. STC First Reconciliation Retreat

1:00 p.m. STC First Reconciliation, Gr. 2

6:30 p.m. STC Knights at the Races

Sunday, February 21, 2010

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

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

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

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

3:00 p.m. STC Conf. Candidates & Sponsors

Future Events

Sat. Mar. 6 STC 10 a.m. – 12 Noon

Women's Morning Retreat

Taizé Song and Prayer at St. Thomas, 7 p.m.

Mon. Feb. 22; Mon. Mar. 8; Mon. Mar. 22

The Season of Lent begins this week. The Church invites us to plan now to make good use of this time to reflect on the direction of our lives, and to allow the Lord to become a greater part of it. We begin with **Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17th**. Here is the schedule of Masses and devotions during this holy season.

Ash Wednesday

9 a.m. Mass and ashes at St. Thomas

4 p.m. Ash Wed. Service at REC (open to all)

7 p.m. Mass and ashes at St. James

Reconciliation: Mon evenings 7p.m.--8:30 p.m.
alternating at both churches:

Feb. 22 St. Thomas; Mar. 1 St. James; Mar. 8
St. Thomas; Mar. 15 St. James; Mar. 22 St.
Thomas; Apr. 1 St. James

Stations of the Cross: Friday evenings, 7 p.m.

at both St. James and St. Thomas each week

(A Soup Supper is offered at St. Thomas each
Fri., courtesy of our Columbiettes, 5 p.m.-7 p.m.)

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. Cost will be: \$ 10.00, collected at door. Bring a friend. Call Lucy VanderPloog at 973-948-2250 for more info. Refreshments will be served.

A Catholic Men's Conference 2010 is set for **Sat. March 13th** at Seton Hall U. It is entitled: "Champions of Faith" and will bring men together to form a brotherhood to strengthen faith, family, and your identity as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Thousands of Catholic men will gather and hear some of the most dynamic Catholic speakers in the country, incl. Joe Klecko, former Jet, and Fr. Benedict Groeschel. Begins 8 a.m. with reg. & breakfast. Closes with Mass at 4 p.m. with Archbishop Myers of Newark. Cost \$ 20 (seniors and students: \$ 15) Confessions available throughout day. Register online at www.rcan.org/menscommission