

Why We Fast

Fasting has always been one of the main ways of observing Lent. Here is a prayer which shows us how to unleash the incredible power contained in this time-honored practice.

Come, help us, O Lord ! O Lord, open our eyes to the contradictions that are around us and within us. Just as You confronted the Israelites long ago, help us to see our own inconsistencies. You saw through the emptiness of Your people's fasting and called them to take on a fast that would change their hearts—a fast that would lead them to care for the poor, the forgotten and the weak.

Come, Lord, and do the same for us ! Give us hearts that long, not just for Your blessings, but to do Your Will as well. Teach us to offer the kind of fast that pleases You, a fast that fills us with compassion for those oppressed by sin and injustice. Free us from our pride over having the truth, and give us hearts that burn with the desire to share Your truth. Give us opportunities to tell people about Your Kingdom, and help us to take advantage of those opportunities.

O Lord, may our fast not just be one day of physical deprivation among many days of comfort ! Instead, help us to pray throughout our fast, so that our hearts may become like Yours. Purify our faith so that we can see You in our family members, our neighbors, and our co-workers. Ignite our spirits to love the troubled and downtrodden, and to work for justice.

Heavenly Father, send us out in the name of Jesus, Your Son, to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless. Show us how to help in practical, not just sentimental, ways. Teach us to live more simply so that we can share our resources with the unfortunate. Embolden us to give, not just from our excess, but from our substance. Remove the blinders that shield us from the hurt, the need and the loneliness all around us. Help us to see all Your children as You see them, and to love them as You love them.

Lord, help us ! Our skipped meals have no value unless they are coupled with acts of mercy. And our acts of mercy are diminished when we lack prayer. Grant us wisdom to make the sacrifices of time, food and money that will bless Your people and build Your Kingdom.

Lord, allow me to be a blessing to others as I share Your truth and Your provisions with them. Amen.

--from "The Word Among Us"
Meditations for Lent, 2010

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

February 28, 2010

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of George Patterson, III at the
Request of his grandparents

TUESDAY, March 2

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

SATURDAY, March 6

8:00AM – Ed Mills
req. by Carol Lombaerde

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 7

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

11:30AM – Fred Hall
req. by Josephine Yarosz

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,145.00 – Regular Collection – February 21, 2010
\$ 406.00 – Diocesan Assessment
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$1,116.00 – Regular Collection – February 22, 2009

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$3,275.00 – Regular Collection – February 21, 2010
\$ 753.00 – Diocesan Assessment
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$3,275.00 – Regular Collection – February 22, 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, Catherine Higgins, 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 Michael McDonnell

MONDAY, March 1

9:00AM – William Drazenovich

TUESDAY, March 2

9:00AM – Special Intention

WEDNESDAY, March 3

9:00AM – Michael Sciora
req. by his sister, Josephine

THURSDAY, March 4

No Mass

FRIDAY, March 5

9:00AM – Deceased Members of the
Gray & Lamb Families
req. by Peggy & Richard Gray

SATURDAY, VIGIL, March 6

5:30PM – Joseph Urban
req. by the Wainwright Family

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 7

9:30AM – Deceased Members of the Mahon Family
req. by Gerry Mahon and 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*

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

The Sacred Season of Lent

Create memories with your family this year that they will hold in their hearts for years to come! Make the three disciples of Lent – *prayer, fasting and almsgiving* – become more than just words for “no video games or treats for 40 days.” Turn these three basic elements of Lent into deep, holy experiences for your family.

One Like Jesus – Fasting is so much more than giving up food. During Lent, we can fast from things we like to do (eat sweets, text on the phone, play video games, shop too much, etc.) or from things we should not do (treat others unkind, gossip, ignore people, use inappropriate language, etc.). By fasting, we make a sacrifice for God.

Sweet Reward – In the quiet moments before bedtime, take some time to discuss with your children the day’s sacrifice and the struggles and joys that came with and from them. (To be continued – Taken from Family Faith on the Go)

Inclement Weather Cancellation Procedure

When we are forced to cancel our Religious Education Classes or other events due to inclement weather, the cancellation will be announced on WSUS 102.3 FM radio, posted on the WSUS website and on the voice message of the Religious Education Center telephone number.

Respect Life Ministry

Come join us in praying the rosary to end ABORTION next Saturday at 10:00am across the street from Planned Parenthood at 8 Moran Street in Newton.

The **40 Days for Life** spring campaign has begun. It goes from Ash Wednesday through Palm Sunday. Anyone who can pray for an hour between 8:00am and 5:00pm at Planned Parenthood at 8 Moran Street in Newton should call Marion Cosman at 973-293-3850.

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. Following the meal, **Stations of the Cross** will be prayed at St. Thomas at 7:00PM.

Operation Rice Bowl

Lent began last week with Ash Wednesday. As part of our faith community’s observance of Lent, we ask all families in our parish Religious Education Program to participate in Catholic Relief Services’ Operation Rice Bowl – a program of prayer, fasting, learning, and giving. Rice Bowls are also available for parishioners who would like to participate in this program too. Please be sure to take home a rice Bowl packet from the gathering space in each church and follow this simple yet powerful Lenten practice. You can visit www.orb.crs.org for more information.

Girl Scout Sunday

All Girl Scouts in St. James and St. Thomas parishes are invited to participate in the annual Girl Scout Sunday Mass to be held on **March 7th** at St. Thomas Church at 9:30am. Girls should wear their uniforms to Mass.

Knights of Columbus

The Knights will be sponsoring St. Patrick’s Day Dinner on **Saturday, March 13th**, at 6:30pm. There will be live music. Tickets are \$15.00 per person. For further information, please call 973-579-1244 or chief1jc@aol.com.

St. James Annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

Our dinner will be held on **Saturday, March 20th** at 6:00pm in the St. James Parish Hall. Tickets for adults are \$15.00 and children under 12 are \$7.00. Tickets are now being sold.

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.

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.

Good Counsel

Christopher Bell, a parishioner and co-founder of Good Counsel homes helping homeless, pregnant mothers and babies, will speak at Masses next weekend. Good Counsel operates Catholic pro-life homes for pregnant women and children and a crisis pregnancy helpline (800-723-8331) and much more. Good Counsel Baby Bottles will be handed out next weekend. Please take home a bottle and fill it with spare change or a tax-deductible check and return by April 11th. You may also go online for more information and to make a safe, secure donation at www.goodcounselhomes.org. Thank you. Your gift may save a life. Your gift will certainly help a mother and baby today have a better life.

Scouting For Food

On the weekend of March 13th and 14th, Boy Scout Troop #96 will make available at both churches bags for their annual Scouting For Food Project. Please return the bags with non-perishable food the following weekend. Each year, the troop has collected over a ton of food which is equally distributed to 12 local food pantries, including the food pantry for St. James and St. Thomas. Thank you for helping to feed the hungry in our area.

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 28, 2010

Second Sunday of Lent

Monday, March 1

7:00 p.m. STC Reconciliation and Taizé

Tuesday, March 2

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

7:00 p.m. STC K of C Prayers & Meeting

Wednesday, March 3

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

Thursday, March 4

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

Friday, March 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

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

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

Saturday, March 6

**9:00 a.m. STC Women's Morning of Reflection
with author Genevieve Kineke**

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

9:30 a.m. REC Lenten Retreat, Gr. 3 & 4

10:00 a.m. Rosary Vigil at Pl. P'hood, Newton

Sunday, March 7, 2010

Third Sunday of Lent

At All Masses: Baby Bottle Drive

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.

3:00 p.m. STC Confirmation Prep.

Future Events

K of C St. Patrick's Dinner Sat. Mar. 13 STC

St. James Corned Beef Dinner Sat. Mar 20 SJC

Mothers' Market at St. Thomas

Sat. March 27 10 a.m.—2 p.m.

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

Mon. Mar. 8; Mon, Mar. 22

The Season of Lent continues. Within the Diocese of Paterson, the **Mondays of Lent** have been designated as **"Evenings of Reconciliation."** Each church of our Diocese will be open from **7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.** for the Sacrament. You are welcome to enter any Catholic church for Reconciliation. With our situation here, the schedule will be as follows:

SJC: March 1, March 15, April 1

STC: March 8, March 22

Stations of the Cross are prayed **each Friday evening, 7 p.m. at both St. James and St. Thomas** each week of Lent.

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

For Women Only: This Sat., March 6th, Genevieve Kineke, a dynamic Catholic speaker and author, will be visiting our area. 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. 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

Marian Pilgrimage. This is first, advance notice that a Diocesan-wide Pilgrimage with Bishop Serratelli is being planned for the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. The date is **Saturday, Sept. 18th**. We hope that our parishes will contribute to a strong presence at the Shrine to honor our Blessed Mother.